

**EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES
RULES AND ELIGIBILITY
Grades 7 - 12**

GOALS & PHILOSOPHY

Findlay City Schools believes that all participants covered by these rules are students who have a strong influence both in our community and among the student body. With this opportunity comes the responsibility of being a good role model. Thus, these rules are designed to discourage all participants in extra-curricular activities from the use of drugs, alcohol, and tobacco in any form.

These rules are established for the benefit and well-being of the students. Your support and encouragement for your student to abide by these rules is vital. These rules are in effect year round. **The Board may require that students pay reasonable fees to participate in extracurricular activities.**

RESPONSIBILITY OF SCHOOL, COACHES AND ADVISORS

Prior to the first meeting/event of the season, coaches and advisors are to hold a meeting open to parents and students for the purpose of reviewing these rules and additional rules specific to a sport or activity, eligibility guidelines, and any other information relative to the sport or activity. We strongly encourage parents and their children to review these rules together.

ELIGIBILITY

In order to remain eligible to participate in extracurricular activities, students must adhere to the following requirements:

- A. The current Ohio High School Athletic Association minimum standards:
 - 1. A student in grades 9-12 must have passed five or more credits during the preceding grading period.
 - 2. A student in grades 7-8 (includes incoming 9th graders) must have received passing grades in 75% of the subjects in which he/she is enrolled during the preceding grading period.
- B. Maintained a minimum 1.5 GPA in the previous grading period.
- C. Received no more than one F in classes in which he/she was enrolled during the preceding grading period, whether for full or partial credit.
- D. After a student completes eighth grade, or is otherwise eligible for high school extra-curricular activities, the student may be eligible for a period not to exceed eight semesters taken in order of attendance, whether the student participates or not.

It is strongly recommended students/athletes carry more than the minimum five credits since some classes are worth one full credit, some 1/2 credit, etc. **Summer school grades may NOT be used for eligibility purposes** in accordance with the Ohio High School Athletic Association standards.

If a student received home schooling in the grading period preceding the participation, the student must meet any academic requirements established by the State Board of Education for the continuation of home school to be eligible to participate in the program.

If a student did not receive home schooling in the grading period preceding participation, the student's academic performance during the preceding grading period must have met any academic and non-academic standards, as well as financial requirements established by the District for eligibility to participate in the program.

Any student who commences home schooling after the beginning of the school year and at that time was considered ineligible to participate in extracurricular activities for failure to meet academic requirements or any other requirements will be ineligible to participate in the same semester the student was deemed ineligible.

NOTE: Districts are required to allow students in grades 7 – 12 enrolled in district-sponsored community schools to participate in the district's extracurricular activities. The district may require these students to enroll in and participate in no more than one academic course in the district as a condition for participation.

ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS

A student must be in attendance at school by 11:20 a.m., regardless of the start time, until the end of the school day, the day of a contest/competition to be eligible. Special circumstances such as doctor appointments, funerals, and college visitation dates are permitted on a case by case basis and must be approved by the Athletic Director (sports) or Principal (other extra-curricular activities).

OUT-OF-SCHOOL SUSPENSION

Any student suspended from school by out-of-school suspension shall be declared ineligible to participate during the period of suspension. Two-day (or more) suspensions that include Friday and Monday or vacation days shall render a student/athlete ineligible for all competitions/performances over the weekend or until the return to regular classes.

HAZING/BULLYING

Students may not engage in hazing/bullying and may not violate Board Policy JFCF. Though 'hazing' falls under the guidelines of ORC 2903.31 and Board Policy JFCF, it is important to address it in these rules. In part, no student may do any act or coerce another, including a victim, to do any act of initiation into any athletic team or club that causes or creates a substantial risk of mental or physical harm to any person. No person shall recklessly participate in the hazing of another. No administrator, employee or faculty member shall recklessly permit the hazing of any person. In addition to being subject to school disciplinary procedures, a person guilty of hazing is subject to punishment under ORC 2903.31.

ADDITIONAL RULES

As approved by the Principal or designee, additional rules, such as curfew, appropriate attire, etc., may be added at the discretion of the head coach for each sport, or advisor to any club. All additional rules must be presented in writing to all participants and their parents/guardians at required parent meetings.

SELF-REFERRAL

An initial self-referral (seeking help for drug or alcohol problems) reported by the student/athlete to the student/athlete's coach, advisor or another staff member will be treated confidentially and will not be subject to disciplinary action. A self-referral will become a first offense if:

1. A law enforcement agency is involved in the investigation of a potential violation or charges have been filed.
2. Existence of a potential violation is known by any staff member.
3. A self-referral may be used only once during the 7-12 career of a student/athlete.

PLEA FOR HELP

Any student who admits to using illegal substances prior to being selected for random testing will be afforded the opportunity to attend counseling - paid for by the individual and subject to the next five random tests, again paid for by the student - without penalty or loss of extracurricular (one-time only in lifetime).

DRUG/ALCOHOL ABUSE

Rule 1 - Distribution

A student shall not knowingly transmit, sell, give, exchange, distribute or purchase or offer to transmit, sell, give, exchange, distribute or purchase any drugs, drug paraphernalia, tobacco, and/or alcohol at any time for any purpose is prohibited at all times. These rules are in effect year round.

A. First Offense

1. The participant shall be denied participation privileges for one calendar year from the date of the infraction.
2. The participant shall assign himself/herself to an Education and Awareness program approved by the Principal or designee and successfully complete the program before regaining participation privileges.
3. The participant shall serve 20 hours of community service approved by the Principal or designee. The participant shall make a written proposal for the community service hours to the Principal or designee and have the written approval by the Principal or designee.
4. The opportunities for leadership roles and awards may be impacted by the action(s) of the participant.

Before regaining participation privileges, the participant must also:

- Appear before the Principal or designee;

- Make a statement explaining why he/she should regain his/her participation privileges
- Accept the Principal or designees directives regarding his/her participation privileges.

B. Second Offense (A second offense occurs any time in a participant's career after a first offense violation.)

- **(Middle School (grades 7-8, ending on the last day of eighth grade) and High School (grades 9-12, beginning after the last day of eighth grade) are considered separate careers.)**

The participant shall be denied participation privileges in the extra-curricular program for the remainder of his/her career.

Rule 2 – Possession/Use

The possession or use of drugs and/or drug paraphernalia (except as medically required) or a positive drug test, tobacco, and/or alcohol, or being under the influence of drugs or alcohol (except as a consequence of required medical use) is prohibited at all times. Participants are encouraged to set a proper example in all areas of participation. These rules are in effect year round.

A. First Offense – “Honesty Clause”

1. The participant shall be denied participation privileges for one calendar year from the date of the infraction. This denial of participation privileges may be reduced to 50% of the regularly scheduled games, performances, events or competitions upon meeting the requirements listed in (1) and (2) below.

As extra-curricular activities provides an opportunity to develop learning experiences, maturity, values and character an, “honesty clause” may be used to support correcting behavior.

- A. Upon first questioning by the administration/principal/designee, if the student in question is “honest and forthright” about the situation when questioned the “first time” discipline may be reduced to 20% of the regularly scheduled performances, events, or competitions upon meeting requirements listed in (1) and (2) below. The reduction to 20% would eliminate the 50% discipline based on the student's honesty the “first time” approached by administration/principal/designee.
- B. As part of the “Honesty Clause” if a child IS NOT forthcoming and honest the first time questioned at the preliminary meeting of the investigation, the 20% will be eliminated and consequences will remain at 50% of the regularly scheduled games, performances, events or competitions upon meeting the requirements listed in (1) and (2) below.
- C. The “Honesty Clause” may be used only during a first offense on Rule 2A as a one-time tool in correcting behavior.

If the participant cannot sit out the required number of suspended games, performances, events or competitions in the current season, the percentage of games, performances, events or competitions missed in the current season (including tournaments) will be calculated. The remaining percentage (of the original 50% or 20% suspension) will be used to calculate how many additional games, performances, events or competitions will be missed in the next season of participation, even if this season goes into a new school year.

- In cases where the suspension is reduced to 20% or 50% the number will be rounded off to the nearest whole number.

The student must participate in the extra-curricular activity from the first day through the last day (including the year-end banquet). If the student is not considered a member of the extra-curricular activity for one or more days of its season, then none of the contests/competitions involving that activity shall be counted toward the 50% or 20% reduction in participation privileges.

1. The participant shall assign himself/herself to an Education and Awareness program approved by approved by the Principal or designee, and successfully complete the program **before** regaining participation privileges.
2. The participant shall serve 20 hours of community service approved in advance by the by the Principal or designee. The participant shall make a written proposal for the community service hours to the Principal or designee and have the written approval by the Principal or designee.
3. The opportunities for leadership roles and awards may be impacted by the action(s) of the Participant.
4. The student will be encouraged to utilize resources within and outside the school (i.e. Principal, Athletic Director, Counselor, health services) to provide ongoing support during the period of the suspension.

Before regaining participation privileges, the participant must also:

- Appear before the building Athletic Director/Principal;
- Make a statement explaining why he/she should regain his/her participation privileges;
- Accept the Athletic Director's /Principal's directives regarding his/her participation
- privileges.

B. Parking Pass Holders

A positive result from the MRO or an altered sample will constitute a first positive and the following consequences will be applied. Student parking privileges will be suspended for 90 school days. The student must complete an Education and Awareness program approved by the principal. It will be the responsibility of the student to schedule, attend, and assume all costs of this program, including any required follow-up drug tests, prior to the reinstatement of privileges. The Education and Awareness program will determine the length and closure of the program. All

confidential information will be released to the Principal. If a student fails to complete the program, the student will not regain his/her parking privileges for a full calendar year.

C. Second Offense (A second offense occurs any time in a participant's career after a first offense violation. Middle School (grades 7-8, ending on the last day of eighth grade) and High School (grades 9-12, beginning after the last day of eighth grade) are considered separate careers.)

1. The participant shall be denied participation privileges in the extra-curricular program for one calendar year from the date of the violation.
2. The participant shall assign himself/herself to an education and awareness program approved by the Athletic Director/Principal/Designee and successfully complete the program before regaining participation privileges.
3. The participant shall serve 20 hours of community service approved in advance by the Principal or designee. The participant shall make a written proposal for the community service hours to the Principal or designee and have the written approval by the Athletic Director/Principal/Designee.
4. The opportunities for leadership roles and awards may be impacted by the action(s) of the Participant.
5. The student will be encouraged to utilize resources within and outside the school (i.e. Principal, Athletic Director, Counselor, health services) to provide ongoing support during the period of the suspension.

Before regaining participation privileges, the participant must also:

- Appear before the Principal or designee
- Make a statement explaining why/she should regain in his/her eligibility;
- Accept the Principal or designee directives regarding his/her eligibility.

D. Third Offense (A third offense occurs any time in a participant's career after a second offense violation. Middle School (grades 7-8, ending on the last day of eighth grade) and High School (grades 9-12, beginning after the last day of eighth grade) are considered separate careers.)

1. The participant shall be denied eligibility in the extra-curricular program for the remainder of his/her career.

Rule 3 – Conduct

Conduct and the penalty for such conduct, if any -- will be evaluated case-by-case, taking into consideration the following factors, among others:

1. The degree to which the participant/conduct poses a threat or risk to the safety and well-being of others;
2. The degree to which non-action by school officials would be viewed as condoning or indifference to the conduct;
3. The degree to which the conduct brings discredit to the Findlay City Schools and its programs;
4. The status of the matter under the criminal or juvenile justice system, if any such system is involved. Determinations by school officials under this rule are not dependent on such status or any conclusion reached under such a system.

Recognizing that participation in athletic/extracurricular activities is a privilege, not a fundamental right, and that such participation represents the Findlay City Schools to the community at large, a condition of such participation is that each student at all times -- both within and outside the school day and on or off school property -- **will** maintain good citizenship within the community.

(Middle School (grades 7-8, ending on the last day of 8 th grade) and High School (grades 9-12, beginning after the last day of 8 th grade) are considered separate careers).

PROCEDURAL PROCESS IN EVENT OF A VIOLATION

- A. If a rule violation is suspected, the Coach and/or Athletic Director, or Advisor will have a preliminary meeting with the participant(s) involved.
- B. The participant shall be provided an opportunity to explain his/her side of the story.
- C. If the Coach and/or Athletic Director or Advisor determines that a rule violation has occurred, the Coach and/or Athletic Director or Advisor will meet with the participant and provide written notice of the disciplinary action and the reasons for that action.
- D. Personal contact will be made by the Athletic Director/Advisor (or designee) to the parents, followed by written notice of the disciplinary action and the reasons for that action.

APPEAL

The participant shall be given the right to appeal the decision of the Coach and/or Athletic Director or Advisor. The student may not participate in contests, competitions or performances during the appeal process, but may practice at the discretion of the Coach/Advisor.

A written request for appeal must be received within five school days following the appellant's receipt of the written decision being appealed. The appellant will be provided a written decision within five school days following a hearing.

An appeal may be made to the school principal. All parties mentioned above may be called together for a hearing. Either or both parties may be represented by persons of their choosing. The principal will provide a written decision on this appeal.

COSTS

All costs for any rehabilitation program or counseling for a tobacco, alcohol, or drug violation under these rules shall be the responsibility of the participant.

RELATIONSHIP OF THESE RULES TO THE DISTRICT'S CODE OF STUDENT CONDUCT

These rules supplement the District's Code of Student Conduct and are administered independently of that code. A violation of these rules may also independently violate the Code of Student Conduct and result in the participant's suspension or expulsion from school or the participant's removal from a curricular or extracurricular activity under the provisions of that Code in addition to any disciplinary penalty that is called for under these rules.

RELATIONSHIP OF THE RULES TO TRANSFER STUDENTS

A student who transfers into the Findlay City School district and has documented information of violation of any of the rules identified above from the previous school system automatically enters at the level of the second offense.

DEFINITIONS

Alcohol: Any liquor, wine, beer, or other beverage containing intoxicating substances.

Education and Awareness Program: A program approved by the Principal or designee consistent with the Lifestyle Risk Reduction philosophy of the Findlay City Schools.

Students under the age of 18 may:

1. Gain their education and awareness through a program approved by the Athletic Director/Principal at the student's expense.
2. Gain their education and awareness through meetings with the Principal or designee. The number of meetings will be at the discretion of the Principal or designee.

Students over the age of 18 may:

1. Gain their education and awareness by attending one of the court approved programs at their own expense and follow up with up to three meetings with the DFS Prevention Specialist. The number of meetings will be at the discretion of the DFS Prevention Specialist.

Denial of Participation: The loss of game, performance, competition or event participation with the team/activity. The number of events denied participation shall be counted from the date of the contact with parents and student. The student may still practice with the group with the advisor/coach's approval.

Distributing: Making available to or passing on to another individual (even if not for profit) any alcohol, drug, or tobacco/nicotine (including but not limited to e-cigarettes, e-liquid, and vaping devices) products.

Drugs: Any drug listed in schedule I through V of the "Controlled Substances Act," 21 U.S.C. § 801 et al., but at a minimum includes, marijuana, cocaine, opiates (morphine, heroin, codeine), amphetamines, phencyclidine (pcp), barbiturates, LSD, MDMA (Ecstasy), propoxyphene, anabolic

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steroids, methadone, benzodiazepines, and any drug not approved for medical use by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration or the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. Drugs include any drugs being used illegally, such as a prescription drug that was not legally obtained or is not being used for its intended purpose or in its prescribed quantity. Drugs also include alcohol and nicotine.

Drug Paraphernalia: Equipment or apparatus designed for or used for the purpose of measuring, packaging, distributing, or facilitating the use of drugs, including, but not limited to, pipes, roach clips, syringes, hypodermic needles, and cocaine spoons or kits, e-cigarettes, e-liquids and vaping devices.

Establishment of Guilt: Guilt of a violation of the Code of Conduct may be substantiated by 1) admission of guilt, 2) conviction, or 3) other reliable evidence.

Extra-curricular Participant: Any Findlay High school or middle school student participating in extracurricular activities (as defined by the Ohio Revised Code) including athletics and activities sponsored by the Findlay City Schools which are not required by the graded course of study approved by the Findlay City Schools.

Leadership Position: Any elected or appointed office in a school recognized sport, club or activity. Examples include, but are not limited to, captain designation on a team, or squad leaders in music.

One Calendar Year: 365 consecutive days from the date of the infraction.

Parent: The student's parent (unless the rights of that parent have been restricted by court order or legal agreement), guardian, or legal custodian.

Possession: Alcohol, tobacco, drug, or drug paraphernalia (including but not limited to e-cigarettes, e-liquid, and vaping devices) physically on or in student's body; or physically within his/her personal property (i.e. book or gym bag, coat, etc.); being present in a car or other confined area where alcohol or controlled substances are being used or are present.

Practice: Scrimmages, previews and exhibition games are considered as practice and do not count toward the percentage of regularly scheduled games an individual is denied participation.

Regularly Scheduled Games, Meets or Matches: Regular season games scheduled as of the start of a team's regular season. This does not include scrimmages, previews or exhibition games.

Second Offense: Any offense that is dealt with sequentially after a first offense.

Tobacco: Any product with tobacco/nicotine or any other substance containing tobacco/nicotine or paraphernalia (including but not limited to e-cigarettes, e-liquid, and vaping devices) as an ingredient that is smoked, chewed, inhaled, vaped or placed against the gums.

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Awards: Awards voted or created by a coach/advisor at the conclusion of a season. This includes, but not limited to, "Most Valuable Player", "Most Improved" type awards. This does not include varsity letter awards earned through guidelines set at the beginning of a season.

Under the Influence: Manifesting signs of chemical or alcohol misuse, such as staggering, reddened eyes, odor on breath, nervousness, falling asleep in class, memory loss, abusive language, or any other behavior not normal for the particular student.

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