

## BOARD PROCEDURE

Descriptive Code: IDE

### Competitive/Non-Competitive Extracurricular Activities Grades 6-12

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Date: May 4, 2009

#### PURPOSE:

The Georgia board of Education and the Columbia County Board of Education have established rules to regulate all competitive interscholastic activities in grades 6-12 within the school year. These procedures will supplement the policy with additional guidance in carrying out policy IDE.

#### DEFINITIONS:

- A. School Year - August 1 through the end of the school year for students
- B. GHSA - Georgia High School Association

#### REQUIREMENTS:

- 1) All students participating in competitive interscholastic activities must be on track and meet eligibility requirements each succeeding semester. Students participating in GHSA events must meet GHSA eligibility requirements.
- 2) A student or group of students participating in competitive interscholastic activities outside the school or school day in a school-sponsored activity is required to meet eligibility requirements.
- 3) Students must take a minimum of five courses for participation. The courses must be listed in the Columbia County approved course offering list and the student must be given Carnegie unit credit or promotion credit if a passing score is achieved. They must also meet the "on track" requirement with high school credit. Students who are ineligible for competitive interscholastic activities must be allowed to continue in their scheduled classes. Grades cannot be affected because the student cannot participate in competitive interscholastic activities. The student must be allowed to make a full grade in class.
- 4) Ineligible students cannot practice with the team or program. Ineligible students cannot try out for a team or program even though the team or program will not be in operation until the next school year.
- 5) Each school with any grades 6-12 must produce an eligibility list each semester. This list will show the grade, student's name and day of his/her first practice. The list is to be given to each coach and/or sponsor of any competitive interscholastic activity to ensure that only eligible students participate. The list must be retained by the principal in the school for five years.
- 6) Eighth graders promoted to the ninth grade during the year must meet the first on-track test upon completion of one school year (two semesters).
- 7) A student is ineligible on the first day of the next semester if he/she has not passed five subjects the preceding semester, except for the beginning of the fall semester when eligibility shall be declared at the time the student has passed five or six courses the preceding semester and is on track. Summer school is an extension of the spring semester. If a student received an incomplete for a subject that will be used to establish eligibility, he/she may complete make-up work that will change the incomplete to a grade provided this opportunity is available to all students. A student is ineligible during these 14 days and cannot practice or play until he or she passes five subjects.

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- 8) The athletic program shall not interfere with the instructional program. The school schedule shall be planned so that practice sessions shall be held after the six-hour instructional day. Physical education classes shall not be designed to provide practice or instruction for interscholastic athletics. No physical education class shall be composed exclusively of B-team and/or varsity athletes. The class must follow a physical education course guide, and athletes cannot be separated from non-athletes for an activity.
- 9) All out-of season practice is prohibited by this policy during the school year (August 1 through the end of the school year for students). The officially adopted dates of the Georgia High School Association shall be followed by all grades 6-12. Spring football practice for grades 6-12 is permitted for ten consecutive days in May after all regular season games and matches in all other sports are completed. If district, region or state playoffs in other sports are in progress, the participating players are excused from spring football for the duration of the playoffs. Out of season practice for all other sports is prohibited. The practice cannot interfere with final tests. A school may hold an inter-squad game, but may not play another school.
- 10) The officially adopted beginning and ending dates of the listed activities of the Georgia High School Association shall be followed by all grades 6-12.
- 11) No student, i.e., player, trainer, cheerleader, etc., may participate in more than one basketball game per week on a day preceding a school day. It is permissible to schedule and play a B-team game on one day and varsity game on another day. It is also permissible to play girls on one day and boys on another day. The first game of a two-game set must begin at or before 6:00 p.m. Georgia time. Only two games may be played after 6:00 p.m. If only a single game is played, it must begin at or before 6:00 p.m. This rule applies to regular season games only. Varsity teams are allowed to participate in the regional and state tournaments without regard to the number of games per week or time limitation. Regular season games on any day not preceding a school day have no time limitation.
- 12) Vocational Opportunities Clubs of America (VOCA) membership is excluded from the requirements of this policy. However, VOCA students must meet all requirements of this policy if they participate in any competitive interscholastic activities except the VOCA Club.
- 13) Junior-senior proms, homecoming courts, senior superlatives, awards banquets and student audiences for dances, games, concerts and pep rallies are not covered by this policy.
- 14) This policy does not cover programs during the summer (from the end of school for students to August 1); however, no pressure can be applied for a student to participate in summer activities as a condition for making the team or participating in activities during the school year.
- 15) Schools must be prepared to document their local policies and provide an audit trail on all students participating in competitive interscholastic activities.
- 16) Schools must retain for audit purposes the eligibility list by semester and the student's permanent record confirming eligibility by semester.
- 17) Upon request of the Georgia Department of Education, schools should be prepared to produce evidence that only eligible students were allowed to participate. Such evidence could include rosters, scorebooks, newspaper reports, yearbooks and testimony from a coach, sponsor or student.

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- 18) The affected student may appeal his or her ineligibility to the No Pass/No Participate Ad Hoc Committee of the State Board of Education.
- 19) The local school system must report suspected violations of Board Policy IDEA to the State Department of Education. The state superintendent of schools will use the staff of the Georgia Department of Education to investigate the case and report any violations to the Professional Practices Commission or to the State Board of Education with a recommendation for corrective action.
- 20) The local school system must submit to the Georgia Department of Education a description of any program designed exclusively to combat drug and alcohol abuse and/or drunk driving in order for the program to be considered for exemption under this policy.
- 21) A student must be present at least one-half (3 1/2 hours) of the school day in order to participate in any school sponsored competitive interscholastic activity on that day.
- 22) Students assigned to alternative school, in-school suspension, or out-of-school suspension for disciplinary reasons lose their eligibility to participate in extra-curricular activities during the suspension. An assigned disciplinary suspension is considered to have ended when the student returns to the regular class setting the following school day.
- 23) Any student in a grade 6-12 that has been charged, indicted, confined, or convicted of a felony or a serious misdemeanor crime, shall be suspended from participation in extracurricular activities during the time of any such legal proceedings against the student. The student may apply to the principal of the school for a waiver from the prohibition after the initial suspension as well as after termination of the criminal matter. The student shall bear the burden of proving that the alleged violation is either without probable cause or that the offense is of such a minor nature that the principal should exercise his/her discretion in lifting the prohibition. This waiver to the principal will be made by the student and the student's parent/guardian. The waiver should include the following information:
  - a) Name and date of birth of student
  - b) Name of school and grade student is attending
  - c) Name of extracurricular activity student is requesting to participate in (i.e., football, band, etc.)
  - d) Date and location student was charged, indicted, confined or convicted of felony/misdemeanor crime
  - e) Brief explanation of criminal charges (i.e. felony – possession of controlled substance, serious misdemeanor crime, etc.)
  - f) Brief description of the reason why the principal should allow this student to continue extracurricular activities
  - g) Any evidence that may support this request (The principal shall consider factors such as the seriousness of the offense, the likelihood of conviction, the impact on the school, student population, the extracurricular program and whether the criminal violation is in conflict with the ideas and goals of the extracurricular program)
  - h) Signatures of student and student's parent/guardian making this request for a waiver

Upon receipt of the waiver, the principal will either approve or deny the student's and the student's parent/guardian request within three school days. The principal will then send to the Associate Superintendent of Student Support the request for a waiver made by the student and the student's parent/guardian and his/her decision regarding the waiver.

In the event the student is exonerated through the legal process, the student shall be eligible for participating with the approval of the school principal. The principal may withhold permission from the student to enter extracurricular programs until all necessary legal documents are produced.

This shall not apply to extracurricular academic honor organizations with existing policies and procedures for disqualification of students charged with criminal offenses.

### **MIDDLE SCHOOLS (Grades 6-8)**

The middle schools of Columbia County must abide by all aspects of Policy IDEA and all of the regulations and procedures. In addition, the following regulations apply:

- 1) It is permissible to have a group, such as a band or chorus, perform for a PTA, civic group, etc., and for the program to extend beyond the 7:00 p.m. deadline.
- 2) It is permissible to schedule and play a game or match in one sport on one day and another game or match in another sport on another day, providing the game or match is completed within four hours of the schools dismissal time and all participants are eligible.
- 3) **For each athletic team, no more than two contests may be scheduled during any one week. An exception to this rule may be made to accommodate the scheduling of make-up games.**
- 4) A student can participate in only one contest preceding a school day.
- 5) Teams having players in grades seven and eight must not play more than 60 percent of the number of regularly scheduled games played by the high school varsity in any given sport. One tournament, not to exceed four games, may be played in addition to the regular season games.
- 6) Teams having players below grade seven must not play more than 50 percent of the number of regularly scheduled games played by the high school varsity in any given sport. One tournament, not to exceed four games, may be played in addition to the regular season games.
- 7) To be eligible to participate in competitive interscholastic athletics a middle school student must not have attained his or her 15<sup>th</sup> birthday prior to May 1<sup>st</sup> preceding the year of participation.
- 8) Football practice shall not begin prior to GHSA provisions. A minimum of six games shall constitute a season.
- 9) Softball season shall begin in accordance to GHSA provisions. A maximum of ten contests shall constitute a softball season. Eight games will constitute a season for B-team softball. A pre-season tournament is permissible, not exceeding four games.
- 10) The basketball season will start in accordance to GHSA provisions. The school will play a minimum of 12 contests during the season. Semester exam dates will be considered when necessary.
- 11) Soccer shall be scheduled during February and March. A maximum of six games shall constitute a season. A pre-season tournament may be played not exceeding four games.
- 12) Baseball shall be scheduled no earlier than March 1<sup>st</sup>. A minimum of 12 contests with a maximum of

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- 13) 15 shall constitute a baseball season. A minimum of eight games will constitute a season for B-team baseball. No practice during spring break.
- 13) Track shall be scheduled no earlier than March 1. A minimum of three inter-league track meets shall be held. No practice during spring break.
- 14) Tennis may be scheduled for either the fall or spring. Not less than five matches shall constitute a season. Each school participating will provide separate teams for girls and boys. Each match will consist of three singles and two doubles. Each individual match will consist of an eight-game pro set and no add scoring.
- 15) Golf may be scheduled for either the fall or spring. Not less than five matches shall constitute a season. Each school participating will provide separate teams for girls and boys.

**\*When there is one coach serving the girls' and boys' teams of any one sport, the coach must insure that equal time and commitment, along with separate practices, are provided to each team.**

\*\*The principal or athletic director should contact the Deputy Superintendent's Office before deviating from these procedures.

**ADOPTED: 12/8/87 (Replaces IDEA 4/27/99)**

**REVISED: 12/13/88,7/11/89,4/10/90,11/21/90,11/6/91,11/13/92,1/22/93,04/27/99,8/7/00,2/3/03, 9/20/04, 7/10/07**

**COLUMBIA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION**