

NORTH CEDAR SENIOR HIGH

STUDENT ELIGIBILITY FOR EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

GOOD CONDUCT CODE

The Board of Directors of the North Cedar Community School District offers a variety of voluntary activities designed to enhance the classroom education of its students. Students who participate in extracurricular activities serve as ambassadors of the school throughout the calendar year, whether away from or at school. Students who wish to exercise the privilege of participating in extracurricular activities must conduct themselves in accordance with board policy and must refrain from activities that are illegal, immoral, unhealthy, or highly inappropriate. Participation in these activities is a privilege, conditioned upon meeting the eligibility criteria established by the board, administration, and individual activity coaches and sponsors. The principal shall keep records of violations of the Good Conduct Rule.

I. Good Conduct Rule

The following activities are covered by the board's policy and these rules:

Athletics, instrumental and vocal music performances (all non-graded activities), drama productions, speech contests, FFA, all honorary and elected offices (e.g., Homecoming King/Queen/court, Prom King/Queen, class officer, student government officer or representative), state contests and performances for cheerleading and competition squad, or any other activity where the student represents the school outside the classroom . (National Honor Society participants will follow the national guidelines.)

To retain eligibility for participation in North Cedar Senior High School extracurricular activities, students must conduct themselves as good citizens both in and out of school at all times. Students who represent the school in an activity are expected to serve as good role models to other students and to the members of the community.

Before participation in any activity is permitted, all students who wish to participate in co-curricular activities shall receive a copy of the Good Conduct Code and shall sign an agreement indicating that they will abide by the Good Conduct Code.

II. Violations

A student may lose eligibility under the Good Conduct Rule for any of the following behaviors:

- possession, use, or purchase of tobacco products, regardless of the student's age;
- possession, use, or purchase of alcoholic beverages, including beer and wine;
- possession, use, purchase, or attempted sale/purchase of illegal drugs, or the unauthorized possession, use, purchase, or attempted sale/purchase of otherwise lawful drugs;
- being in attendance at a function or party where the student knows or has reason to know that alcohol or other drugs are being consumed illegally by minors and failing to leave despite having a reasonable opportunity to do so.

- engaging in any act that would be grounds for arrest or citation in the criminal or juvenile court system (excluding minor offenses such as traffic or hunting/fishing, violations), regardless of whether the student was cited, arrested, convicted, or adjudicated for the act(s);
- exceedingly inappropriate or offensive conduct such as serious hazing or harassment of others.
NOTE: This could include group conduct!

If a student transfers in from another Iowa school or school district and the student had not yet completed a period of ineligibility for a violation of a Good Conduct Rule in the previous school, the student shall be ineligible if the administration determines that there is general knowledge in our school district of the fact of the student's misconduct or violation in the previous district.

III. Determination of a Violation

When it comes to the attention of school officials that a student is suspected of violating the Good Conduct Policy or the rules of a specific extracurricular activity, the Principal, or his/her designee will determine whether the student has committed a violation. The following are a list of the ways an investigation can begin:

- When the school receives communication from law enforcement.
- When a student self reports.
- When parents reports their child.
- When a school employee directly witnesses a violation.

Prior to making a final determination that there has been a violation, the Principal, or his/her designee shall: (i) be informed of the allegations and (ii) perform an appropriate investigation; and the student shall (i) be notified, orally or in writing, of the allegations against the student and the basis of the allegations and (ii) be given an opportunity to respond to the allegations. Parents will be included in the process.

The North Cedar Community School District may determine that there has been a violation of its Good Conduct Rule whether or not criminal charges have been filed, whether a student's trial is pending, or whether or not the student is found guilty by a court of law as long as there is reasonable evidence to support the finding of a Good Conduct Rule violation.

Once the determination is made that a student has violated the North Cedar Good Conduct Rule, the Principal, or his/her designee shall make a determination of the appropriate penalty. The student and his/her parent(s) shall be informed in writing of this decision (the nature of the violation and the determination of the penalty) by mailing the same to the student's residence (or other address if the parents have a different address on file for mailing purposes with the school) within two school days of the determination. In addition, the parent(s) will be notified orally, if possible.

IV. Penalties for Violation(s)

Any student who, after investigation by the administration, is found to have violated the Good Conduct Rule, during the school year or summer, is subject to a loss of eligibility as follows:

First Offense Within the Student's High School Career shall make him/her ineligible for **one-third (1/3)** of the interscholastic program(s) he/she is currently participating in.

The typical period of ineligibility for Varsity participation for the first offense would be as follows: (excluding scrimmages)

Cross Country	3 meets	Football Cheerleading	3 games
Football	3 games	Volleyball	5 dates

Basketball	7 games	Choir	2 non graded events*
Basketball Cheerleading	7 games	Musical	1 performance
Wrestling	5 dates	(excluding matinee) all performances but will participate backstage	
Wrestling Cheerleading	5 dates	Spring Play	1 performance
Golf	4 meets	(excluding matinee) all performances but will participate backstage	
Track	4 meets	Speech	1 contest date / competition date
Baseball	7 dates	FFA	4 continuous months, removal from office*
Softball	8 dates		
Competition Cheer Squad	1/3 of dates		
Band	2 non graded events*		

*Non Graded events for Band include: *All State, BIG EAST Honor Festival, BIG EAST Honor Band, BIG EAST Jazz Band Contest, BIG EAST Large Group Band Contest, State Small Group Contest*

*Non Graded events for Choir include: *All State, State Small Group Contest - Solo and Ensemble, BIG EAST Honor Chorus and Festival, Opus*

*Senior students that have a Good Conduct violation would be ineligible for the Homecoming court. Their penalty would be reduced by one event **within other activities**.

* FFA ineligibility does **NOT** apply to: *Fruit Sales or any Community Service Projects*.

Second Offense Within the Student's High School Career will result in the student being declared ineligible for **2/3** of the interscholastic program(s) he/she is currently participating in. The student will also be required to do 10 hours of community service for a civic organization or a non-profit group. The school will also recommend that the student seek an evaluation and, if recommended, treatment from a recognized substance abuse facility at the student's or student's family expense.

The typical period of ineligibility for Varsity participation for the second offense would be as follows: (excluding scrimmages)

Cross Country	6 meets	Track	8 meets
Football	6 games	Baseball	14 dates
Football Cheerleading	6 games	Softball	16 dates
Volleyball	10 dates	Band	4 non graded events*
Basketball	14 games	Choir	4 non graded events*
Basketball Cheerleading	14 games	Musical	2 performances
Wrestling	10 dates	Spring Play	2 performances
Wrestling Cheerleading	10 dates	Speech	2 contests / competitions
Golf	8 meets	FFA	8 continuous months*

Third or More Offense Within the Student's High School Career will result in the student being declared ineligible for 12 months from all interscholastic programs. Additionally, students will no longer be eligible to participate in; FFA.

1. The period of ineligibility attaches immediately upon a finding of a violation if the student is eligible for and currently engaged in an extracurricular activity and, if not, or if not completed

- during the current activity, is begun or carried over to the time the student seeks to go out for the next activity or contest.
2. However, if the period of time between a violation and an activity is twelve calendar months or more, the student shall not serve an ineligibility period for the violation.
 3. An ineligible student shall attend all practices or rehearsals but may not "suit up" nor perform/participate.
 4. A student that has a violation that wants to go out for an activity they must start the activity on the first day of practice to be allowed to be able to participate.
 5. If a student drops out or is removed from an activity prior to completion of the ineligibility period, the full penalty will attach when the student next seeks to go out for an activity, subject to the 12-month limitation above.
 6. If a student violates the Good Conduct Rule while ineligible due to an earlier violation, the penalty for the subsequent offense will attach at the completion of the earlier penalty.
 7. Any offense(s) occurring under the District's previous policy shall count cumulatively toward any offense(s) under this Good Conduct Code.

Reduction in Penalty

A student who has been to have violated one or both of the provision described above prohibiting conduct that would be grounds for arrest or citation, or conduct that is grossly inappropriate or offensive, may seek to reduce the penalty by entering into a Behavior Agreement. The Agreement shall be in writing and shall include, but not limited to, an oral apology for the student's behavior to affected parties, restitution where appropriate, and a presentation before elementary and middle schools regarding the inappropriateness of the student's behavior. The degree of reduction of the penalty in such situations shall rest with the administrator, but in event shall the reduction exceed one -third of the penalty.

A student who violates the "mere presence" provision of this policy shall serve no more than one-half of the established penalty for the first, second and/or third/subsequent violation.

Violations Occurring During Ineligibility

If a student is ineligible at the time of a violation of the Good Conduct Rule, the penalty for the violation will not begin until the student regains eligibility. Example: A student academically ineligible for a quarter [or "semester"] is found to have been in possession of tobacco, a Good Conduct Rule violation. When the student is again academically eligible, the penalty attaches. Example: A student violates the Good Conduct Rule and is ruled ineligible for three events. While ineligible, the student again violates the Rule. The second penalty attaches when the first penalty is completed.

Letters and Awards

Student who are ineligible during an activity shall not receive a letter or award for that activity that year.

Appeals

Any student who is found by the administration to have violated the Good Conduct Rule may obtain review of this determination to the superintendent by contacting the superintendent within 3 business days of being advised of the violation. The penalty will be in effect until reversed.

If the student is still dissatisfied, he or she may seek further review by the school board by filing a written appeal with the board secretary at least 24 hours prior to the next board meeting. A special meeting of the board will not be called. The review by the board will be in closed session unless the student's parent (or the student, if the student is 18) requests an open session. The grounds for review by the school board are limited to the following: the student did not violate the Good Conduct Rule; the student was given inadequate due process in the investigation and determination; or the penalty is in violation of the Handbook Rule or Board Policy. The penalty will remain in effect pending the outcome of the meeting with the board. If the school board reverses the decision of the administration, the student shall be immediately eligible and shall have any record of the ineligibility period and violation deleted from the student's record.