

**Gwinnett County Public Schools**  
**Code of Conduct for Athletes**

Participation in interscholastic athletic competitions is a privilege extended to the students by the Board of Education. Students participating in Georgia High School Association (GHSA) extracurricular athletic activities act as representatives of Gwinnett County Public Schools (GCPS). All students are expected to conduct themselves in such a manner as to meet the highest standards of GCPS at all times.

The Code of Conduct is designed to establish high expectations and standards for all students participating in GHSA sanctioned athletic activities. All students, parents, and coaches understand that the top priority is academic achievement. The Code of Conduct establishes high expectations regarding behavior and consistent consequences when violations occur.

The Code of Conduct goes into effect on the first day a student joins a GCPS athletic team. The Code remains in effect for the entire calendar year, including time when school is not in session.

The offenses and consequences listed below are in addition to (not in lieu of) any school or criminal consequences associated with the student misconduct.

All consequences listed in this Code of Conduct are minimum standards. The Coach has the discretion to set consequences over and above the minimum standards.

**CODE OF CONDUCT VIOLATIONS AND CONSEQUENCES**

**Violation A: Students given Long-Term (exceeding ten days) Suspension (With or without GIVE option)**

Consequence: Ineligible to attend or participate in any athletic or extracurricular activity during time of suspension

**Violation B: Arrest for, or charged with the commission of any act that is a felony or would constitute a felony if committed by an adult.** (regardless of location or time of the alleged act; in or out of school)

Consequence:

1. Immediate suspension from all participation until such time as:
  - a. School officials determine that the student did not commit the act(s) or other felony conduct; or
  - b. Local prosecutors dismiss or drop all pending charges and petitions; or
  - c. The student pleads guilty to a misdemeanor charge, in which case refer to Violation D listed in this Code; or
  - d. The student is convicted and sentenced to a felony or is adjudicated delinquent in the Juvenile Court of conduct in which if committed by an adult could be charged as a felony and serves any and all portions of the sentence including all periods of probation.

For the following violations (C, D and E), the school administration must have valid evidence and/or verification of the violation as defined in the following:

1. Self-admitted involvement by the student
2. Witnessed student involvement by the sponsor, coach, or any staff member
3. Parent admission of their student's involvement in tobacco, alcohol or other drugs
4. Verified by official police report given to the school
5. Evidence of violations through investigation by school officials

**If the offense occurs at school or on school property (at any time), off school grounds, at a school-sponsored activity, function, or event or en route to and from school, the student will be subject to the actions described in the Student Conduct Behavior Code (Policy JCD) and the following consequences for extracurricular activities.**

**Violation C: Tobacco (any type)**

Consequence: 1<sup>st</sup> Offense - Consequence determined by approved local school athletic / extracurricular policy  
2<sup>nd</sup> Offense - Suspension from athletic extracurricular competition for a minimum of 10% of the remainder of the season  
3<sup>rd</sup> Offense - Dismissed from team but allowed to try out for subsequent athletic extracurricular activities after that sport/activity has completed its season

**Violation D: Alcohol/Other Drugs (Possession and/or Use)/Misdemeanor Criminal Law Violations**

Consequence: Coach/Sponsor and Administrator will meet with the student and parent(s) or guardian.  
1<sup>st</sup> Offense – Consequence determined by approved local school athletic/ extracurricular policy  
2<sup>nd</sup> Offense - Suspension from athletic extracurricular competition for a minimum of 20% of the remainder of the season  
3<sup>rd</sup> Offense – Suspension from all athletic extracurricular activities for the remainder of the school year

**Violation E: Violations of school rules that result in ISS or OSS**

Consequences: In-School Suspension - Participation may resume when student is released from ISS. Student cannot participate on the day s/he is released from ISS.  
Out-of-School Suspension (Short Term – not exceeding 10 days) – Participation may resume after suspension is served – Policy JDD

**Violation F: Hazing**

Hazing (as a condition or precondition of gaining acceptance, membership, office, or other status in any school or school organization, subjecting a student to an activity which endangers or is likely to endanger the physical health or emotional well-being of a student, regardless of a student's willingness to participate in such activity).

**All instances of hazing will be immediately referred to administration.**