

## 13: EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

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ETHS offers a broad array of extracurricular activities for students to participate in an area of interest beyond the classroom. Participation in student activities can provide enjoyment and at the same time teach discipline, leadership, teamwork, respect for rules and healthful living habits. **Participation in extracurricular activities is a privilege, not a right.** Each student who participates in an extracurricular activity represents not only himself/herself but ETHS as well. Student participants in extracurricular activities always bear the responsibility of representing themselves as good citizens and positive role models. ETHS has the authority to restrict or revoke a student's privilege to participate in an extracurricular activity.

### EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITY CODE

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The Illinois High School Association (IHSA) requires that students must pass four subjects from the previous semester to be eligible to participate. ETHS requires students to maintain a minimum 2.0 GPA from the previous semester to be eligible. For eligibility purposes, physical education is included in the GPA. *Students who do not meet both the IHSA and ETHS requirements cannot participate until the next semester.* A weekly check of in-season participants' grades is done to be sure they are passing four required classes. If they are not passing the classes, they may not participate in contests, meets, or performances for the next week, Monday through Saturday. Students whose weekly grade check reflects at least two classes with a C- or lower will be required to attend academic support sessions to maintain eligibility. **An N/C or incomplete grade will be computed as an F for the purpose of athletic/extracurricular eligibility.**

**Code Participants.** Students ("participants") involved in any ETHS-sponsored extracurricular activity which publicly represents ETHS are responsible for adhering to the rules of this code. Public representation includes, but is not limited to, the following: interscholastic athletics, public performances, interscholastic competition, conferences or summits, printed publications, and video/audio/internet productions. Participants of co-curricular activities that require performances as part of an academic grade are not included under this code.

**Period and Scope of Code.** Extracurricular participants are expected to adhere to the code not only during their scheduled season of activity, but also during the entire regular school attendance year, including weekends and school holidays. This code is also in effect during periods before and after the regular school attendance year when athletic teams are formally practicing or when other school activities subject to the code are in progress. The code is in effect throughout a participant's high school career at ETHS.

This code applies to any ETHS participant, before or after school hours, on or off school property, whose conduct at any time or place has a direct or immediate effect on the safety and welfare of the school community. School officials are not expected to monitor off-campus activities; however, if violations of this code are brought to their attention, the appropriate administrator will be notified and the administrator will take action.

**School Discipline.** Participants are also responsible for adhering to the rules in *The Pilot*. If a participant is suspended from school (inside or outside), he/she is not allowed to practice, participate, or attend the activity on or during the day(s) of the suspension. The participant may return to his/her activity the day following the suspension. The rules of behavior as

detailed in *The Pilot* are also in effect for participants during their participation at school-sponsored activities.

**Violations.** The following behaviors are unacceptable and violate the Extracurricular Activity Code:

1. Use, distribution or possession of tobacco, alcohol, or other mood-altering chemicals, or abuse of prescription or non-prescription drugs, as stated in *The Pilot*.
2. Attending a gathering or riding in a vehicle where there is a verified report of drinking or drug use or open alcohol.
3. Any inappropriate behavior, as set forth in *The Pilot*, that results in a 5-day out of school suspension. This includes, but is not limited to, violations such as: cheating; fighting; gambling; verbal abuse which is disruptive or which is profane, vulgar or obscene; robbery, theft or vandalism of any school, personal or public property; and participation in illegal gang activities, including gang-related intimidation or harassment.
4. Any criminal offense. If arrested for a criminal offense, a student will be immediately suspended, and the school will determine if he or she is still eligible to participate pending the outcome of an investigation.
5. Any gross unsportsmanlike conduct while a participant in or spectator at an ETHS sponsored event.
6. Any hazing, bullying, or harassment of any kind. Hazing is defined as any activity expected of someone joining or participating in a group that humiliates, degrades, abuses, bullies, harasses, cyberbullies, or endangers them or others regardless of a person's willingness to participate.

**Consequences.** Code violations accumulate throughout a student's high school career at ETHS. The following consequences are in addition to those provided in the District 202 disciplinary policies as stated in *The Pilot*. A participant must participate for the entire length of his/her activity in order for the consequences to be considered fulfilled. A student who drops out of an activity will be required to fulfill the consequences of his/her violation in the next activity in which he/she participates. Each coach or sponsor, with approval from the appropriate administrator, may develop additional rules for his/her specific activity.

**First offense:** A participant is required to successfully complete a school-based intervention program appropriate to the infraction (if a program is available). In addition, the participant is suspended for five consecutive days of the activity, including practices, rehearsals, contests, and performances occurring during this five-day period (not to exceed one calendar month). In addition, if there is no contest or performance during this five-day suspension period, then first offenders will also be suspended the next contest or performance. If the violation occurs prior to the start of the activity, students will be permitted to attend the full tryout/audition, if required, in order to participate in that activity. The suspension will take place immediately following the conclusion of tryouts/auditions. If the participant chooses not to complete the school-based intervention program, the consequence is doubled. *Regarding theatrical productions, i.e. YAMO, winter musical:* If a student violates the code during the last two weeks of rehearsal or during performances, the student is suspended from participating in the next equivalent activity or theatrical production as determined by the sponsor and administrator. All school-based intervention program requirements as stated above apply.

**Second offense:** A participant is suspended from competitions/performances for a maximum of 1/3 (one-third) of his/her season and is required to successfully complete the school-based intervention program appropriate to the infraction. For athletics, the number of competitions in a season is defined by the maximum number of competitions allowed during the regular

## EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

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season by the IHSA. Attendance or participation at practice/rehearsal during the suspension is mandatory. *Regarding extracurricular culminating performance-based activities with three or fewer total performances*, the student will forfeit two performances.

**Third offense:** A participant is suspended from all activities for one calendar year and is required to successfully complete the school-based intervention program appropriate to the infraction.

**Fourth offense:** A participant is no longer eligible to participate in ETHS high school extracurricular activities for the duration of his/her high school career.

**Senior Code violation:** Any senior who has completed his/her extracurricular activity and commits a code violation is given a choice of either successfully completing a school-based intervention program appropriate to the infraction or going on social probation, which includes no participation in prom or graduation ceremonies.

**Self-Reporting.** If a participant has no prior Extracurricular Activity Code violations, his/her voluntary admission of alcohol or drug use to a school administrator will not result in a suspension, but will be considered the participant's first Extracurricular Activity Code offense. All school-based intervention program requirements as stated above still apply. The purpose of this provision is to assist students in changing behaviors and to allow them to seek help. Voluntary admission must occur prior to any school personnel or police being aware of the incident through other sources than the student.

**Procedure.** Participants charged with any of the above violations will be informed by an administrator of the nature of the charges and the facts gathered, and he or she will be given an opportunity to respond before any consequences are imposed. If a participant disagrees with the administrator's final decision, a written request for appeal must be received by the AP for Educational Services within three school days of the participant being informed of the decision. The written request must include a statement of the reasons for the student's disagreement and any special circumstances which apply to the situation which should be considered during the appeal. The appeal for athletics shall be before the Assistant Superintendent/Principal. The appeal for all other non-athletic extracurricular activities shall be before the AP for Educational Services. The decision of this administrator shall be final.

## ABSENCE FROM SCHOOL ON DAY OF ACTIVITY

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If you are absent from school for five (5) periods or more on the day of an activity, you are ineligible for any activity on that day unless the absence has been approved in writing by the Assistant Superintendent/Principal. Exceptions may be made by your coach or activity sponsor: 1) for a medical absence pre-arranged with the coach or advisor, or 2) for a death in your family. If you are absent from school on a Friday before a Saturday event, you may be withheld from Saturday activities at the sole discretion of the coach or activity advisor.

## SUSPENSIONS AND DETENTIONS

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If you have one or more truanancies or have been suspended from school, you will be suspended from participation in athletic and extracurricular activities. If you have more than 10 unserved detentions, you will be suspended from participation in athletic and extracurricular activities. (See "Detention Probation").

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## ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

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**Semester Eligibility.** Academic success for all ETHS students is a priority of the school. In order to participate in an extracurricular activity, a student must have earned a minimum 2.0 GPA for the semester immediately preceding his/her participation. Summer school grades are included in second semester grades. For eligibility purposes, an NC or a grade of Incomplete is computed as an F.

**Extracurricular Activity Program.** Students who do not meet the 2.0 GPA requirement may be eligible for the Extra-curricular Academic Plan (EAP). The EAP provides the participant with academic support for the entire semester, allowing the participant to participate in extra-curricular activities for that semester. In order to qualify for this one-time opportunity, a student must either be:

- A freshman/sophomore who earned between a 1.70-1.99 GPA the previous semester
- A junior/senior who earned between a 1.70-1.99 GPA the previous semester and has a cumulative GPA of 2.0 or above

EAP participants are placed on academic probation and must attend the EAP study hall every Monday from 2:45-3:30pm for the entire semester. EAP participants who do not meet these expectations will be suspended from the activity for the remainder of the semester. Students may access this EAP opportunity only once during their high school career.

**Weekly Eligibility and Required Academic Support.** The Illinois High School Association has specific academic requirements, which must be met on an ongoing basis. Specifically, a participant must be passing a minimum of four classes in order to participate in contests, meets, or performances for the next week beginning on Monday. Weekly grade checks are done for participants while they are participating in their activity to determine their eligibility.

Student-athletes must be passing a minimum of four classes in order to participate the next week beginning on Monday. Student-athletes who have at least two (2) classes with a grade of C- or below, are still eligible to participate, but are placed on Study Table and must attend three (3) academic tutorials the next week in order to maintain eligibility to participate in their activity.

**Practice Eligibility Program (P.E.P.).** A student who does not meet the ETHS academic eligibility requirements for extracurricular activities, but meets the IHSA requirements, may still have an opportunity to participate if the following provisions are met:

- The student passed four or more classes the previous semester. NC's and Incompletes are considered as failing grades.
- The coach/director/sponsor selects the student to be part of their activity.
- The student does not compete/perform during the semester in which they are ineligible. The student may sit/stand with the team during the event, but is not allowed to dress in the game uniform.
- The student participates in the EAP which requires mandatory attendance at the EAP study hall every Monday from 2:45-3:30pm for the entire semester.

**Availability of the Extracurricular Activity Code.** This code is posted and available in the Athletic Office, Student Activities Office, Fine Arts Office, on the ETHS website, and in *The Pilot*. All participants and their parents/guardians are expected to have obtained a copy of the code from one of these sources, and to have read the code prior to the students' participation in an extracurricular activity. Participation in an extracurricular activity constitutes a student's understanding of, and agreement to abide by, the provisions of the code. Any questions regarding the code should be addressed to the coach or sponsor of the activity. Any specific rules developed by a coach/sponsor will be posted in an appropriate location and distributed to each participant.

**Other Requirements for Participation.** To register for participation in any sport, all student athletes must complete and submit the ETHS Athletic Permit Form to the ETHS Athletic Office (G-183).

## FUND RAISING

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Fund raising of any sort, including candy and food, must first be approved by the AP for Educational Services, or his/her designee. **Students who do not represent a school-sponsored organization may not solicit funds at school.** Officially recognized groups may raise money in the building and in the community. Door-to-door solicitation is discouraged and must be specifically approved. Students may not raise money or solicit funds without this prior approval. Advisors, coaches, sponsors, and teachers can obtain the Request for Fund-raising forms from the AP for Educational Services, Student Activities Director, Athletic Director, Fine Arts Chair, Community Service Coordinator, or on the ETHS website. **All students selling items in school must have a Fund-Raising Approval Card issued by the AP for Educational Services.** Foods brought from home for student or community consumption must be purchased, ready-to-eat and be wrapped in the original packaging with ingredients listed in order to reduce the risk for food related allergic reactions and food borne illness. Students who violate this policy will have their items confiscated. Fund raising should not interfere with classroom activities.

## TRAVEL

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All students shall travel to athletic and other extracurricular events and return home from these events with the team or organization on which you compete or participate in by use of school- approved means of transportation. A written waiver of this rule may be issued by a coach, advisor, or administrator upon advance written request of your parent/guardian and provided the parent/guardian appears and accepts custody of you. In no case shall a waiver be issued unless the alternate means of transportation anticipated by the waiver will be provided by your parent/guardian. Verbal requests shall not be honored and verbal permissions shall not be valid.

## USE OF THE BUILDING AFTER SCHOOL

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ETHS encourages you to take part in supervised activities after school and on Saturdays, when appropriate. You are expected to leave the building once your activity is over. When you stay after school for an activity or on Saturday, keep your personal property with you. Avoid visiting your hall locker outside of school hours.



**Illinois High School Association  
(For 2011-12 School Term) (Revised 3/8/11)**

**Key Provisions Regarding IHSA Rules**

**Eligibility Rules**

When you become a member of an interscholastic team at your high school, you will find that both your school and the IHSA will have rules you must follow in order to be eligible for interscholastic participation. The IHSA's rules have been adopted by the high schools which are members of IHSA as part of the Association's constitution and by-laws. They must be followed as minimum standards for all interscholastic athletic competition in any member high school. Your high school may have additional requirements, but they may not be less stringent than these statewide minimums.

The principal/official representative of your school is responsible to see that only eligible students represent the school in interscholastic competition. Any question concerning your eligibility should be referred to your principal/official representative, who has a complete copy of all IHSA eligibility rules, including the Association's due process procedure. Only the IHSA Executive Director is authorized to make formal rulings on eligibility, so if your principal/official representative has questions or wishes assistance in answering your questions, the principal/official representative should contact the IHSA Office.

Information contained here highlights some of the most important features of the IHSA by-laws regarding interscholastic eligibility. It is designed to make you aware of major requirements you must meet to be eligible to compete in interscholastic competition. The information here is only a general description of major by-law provisions and does not contain the statement of the by-laws in their entirety. You can review the by-laws at [www.ihsa.org](http://www.ihsa.org).

You may lose eligibility for interscholastic competition if you are not in compliance with IHSA by-laws. Remember, if you have any questions regarding IHSA rules, please contact your principal/official representative.

**1. Attendance**

A. You may represent only the school you attend. Participation on a cooperative team of which your school is a member is acceptable.

B. You must be enrolled and attending classes in your high school no later than the beginning of the 11th school day of the semester.

C. If you attend school for ten (10) or more days during any one semester, it will count as one of the

eight (8) semesters of high school attendance during which you may possibly have eligibility.

D. If you have a lapse in school connection for ten (10) or more consecutive school days during a semester, you are subject to ineligibility for the rest of the semester. The specific terms of your extended absence must be reviewed by the Executive Director to determine if it is "lapse in school connection" or not.

**2. Scholastic Standing**

A. You must pass twenty (20) credit hours of high school work per week. Generally, twenty (20) credit hours is the equivalent of four (4) .5 credit courses (two full credits).

B. You must have passed and received credit toward graduation for twenty

(20) credit hours of high school work for the entire previous semester to be eligible at all during the ensuing semester.

**3. Residence**

Your eligibility is dependent on the location of the residence where you live full time with your parents, parent who has been assigned custody by the court, or court appointed legal guardian.

You may be eligible if you are entering high school as a freshman and:

A. You attend the public high school in the district in which you live full time with both of your parents, custodial parent or court appointed guardian; or

B. In the case of a multiple school district, you attend the public high school in the attendance area where you live full time with your parents, custodial parent or court appointed guardian; or

C. You have paid tuition to attend a public school for a minimum of 7th and 8th grades in a district other than the one where you live with your parents, custodial parent or court appointed guardian and you continue to pay tuition as a high school student in that same district; or

D. You attend a private/parochial school located within the boundaries of the public school district where you live with your parents, custodial parent or court appointed guardian; or

E. You attend a private/parochial high school and have attended a private/parochial school for 7th and 8th grades, or for any four (4) grades from kindergarten through eighth grades; or

F. You attend the private/parochial high school which one or both of your parents attended; or

G. You attend a private/parochial high school located within a thirty (30) mile radius of the residence where you live with your parents, custodial parent or court appointed guardian.

#### 4. Transfer

A. In all transfer cases, both the principal of the school from which you transfer and the principal of the school into which you transfer must concur with the transfer in writing on a form provided by the IHSA Office. ***You cannot be eligible when you transfer until this form is fully executed and on file in the school office.***

B. If you transfer after classes begin for the current school term, you will definitely be ineligible for thirty days from the date you start attending classes at the new high school. In addition, you will be ineligible for that entire school term in any sport in which you engaged in any team activity, including but not limited to tryouts, drills, physical practice sessions, team meetings, playing in a contest, etc. at the school from which you transferred. For example, if you were out for cross country at the school from which you transfer and transfer after classes have started for the school term, you will be ineligible for cross country that entire school term at the new school.

C. If you transfer attendance from one high school to another high school, you will be ineligible unless:

1 Your transfer is in conjunction with a change in residence by both you and your parents, custodial parent or court appointed guardian from one public school district to a different public school district;

2 Your transfer is between high schools within a public school district and both you and your parents, custodial parent or court appointed guardian change residence to the district attendance area for the school to which you transfer;

3 Your transfer is from a private/parochial school to your home public high school, you are entering a public high school for the first time, and the principals of both your former and the new school concur with your transfer;

4 Your transfer is from one private/parochial school to another private/parochial school located within a thirty (30) mile radius of the residence where you live with your parents, custodial parent or court appointed guardian, you are changing high schools for the first time, and the principals of both your former and the new school concur with your transfer;

5 Your parents are divorced or legally separated; you transfer to a new school in conjunction with a modification or other change in legal custody between your parents by action of a judge; and required court documents are on file at the school into which you transfer;

D. If you transfer in conjunction with a change in legal guardianship, a ruling on your eligibility must be obtained from the IHSA Office.

E. If you transfer attendance from one school to another while you are ineligible for any reason, the period of ineligibility imposed prior to your transfer or

the period of ineligibility that would have been imposed had you stayed at the school, will be enforced at the school to which you transfer, even if you are otherwise in compliance with the by-laws.

F. Any questions about your eligibility in any of these instances must be resolved by a formal ruling from the IHSA Executive Director.

G. In all other transfer situations, a ruling by the IHSA Executive Director is necessary to determine your eligibility. This ruling must be obtained in writing by the principal/official representative of the school into which you transfer before you participate in an interscholastic athletic contest.

#### 5. Age

You will become ineligible on the date you become twenty (20) years of age, unless your twentieth (20th) birthday occurs during a sport season. In that case, you will become ineligible in regard to age at the beginning of the sport season during which your twentieth (20th) birthday occurs.

#### 6. Physical Examination

You must annually have placed on file with your principal/official representative a certificate of physical fitness, signed by a licensed physician, physician's assistant or nurse practitioner in order to practice or participate. Your physical examination each year is good for only one (1) year from the date of the exam. The physician's report must be on file with your high school principal/official representative.

#### 7. Amateur Status

A. If you win or place in actual competition, you may accept a medal or trophy for that accomplishment, without limit to its cost. Your school may provide IHSA state champions with championship rings/mementoes.

B. For participating in competition in an interscholastic sport, or for athletic honors or recognition in a sport, you may receive any type of award (except cash, check or legal tender) that does not exceed \$75 fair market value. There is no limitation on the value of your school letter.

C. The amateur rule does not prohibit you from being paid to referee, receiving pay for teaching lessons or coaching in a little kids league, etc. It only applies to your own competition in an athletic contest.

D. If you violate the amateur rule, you become ineligible in the sport in which you violate. You must be reinstated by the Executive Director before you may compete again.

#### 8. Recruiting of Athletes

A. The by-laws prohibit recruiting of high school students for athletics. If you are solicited to enroll in or transfer to a school to participate in athletics, you are being illegally recruited and your eligibility is in jeopardy.

B. You will lose your eligibility if you enroll in or transfer to a school in response to recruiting efforts by any person or group of persons, connected with or not connected with the school, related to athletic participation.

C. You will lose your eligibility if you receive special benefits or privileges as a prospective student-athlete which are not uniformly made available to all students who attend your school.

D. You may not receive an “athletic scholarship” or any other special benefit from your school because you participate in athletics.

E. It is a violation for any student-athlete to receive or be offered remuneration or any special inducement which is not made available to all applicants who apply to or enroll in the school.

F. It is also a violation to induce or attempt to induce or encourage any prospective student to attend any member school for the purpose of participating in athletics, even when special remuneration or inducement is not given. Please remember that you may not be offered or receive any benefit, service, privilege or opportunity which is not also provided or made available to all prospective students at that school. Note: If you are interested in finding out more information about a school, contact the principal/official representative or an administrator at the school, not a member of the coaching staff.

## **9. School Team Sports Seasons**

A. Each sport conducted by IHSA member schools has a starting and ending date. Your school may not organize a team, begin practice or participate in contests in a given sport until the authorized starting date. Your school may not continue to practice or participate in contests after the authorized ending date. This means that:

1. During the school year, you may not participate on a non-school team coached by any member of your school’s coaching staff unless it meets specific criteria established by the by-laws.

2. No school coach may require you to participate in an out-of-season sport program as a requirement for being a member of a school team.

B. Violation of the sport season by-laws will result in penalty to you and/or to your school’s coaching personnel.

## **10. Playing in Non-School Competition**

A. During the time you are participating on a school team in a sport at your high school, you may neither play on a non-school team nor compete in non-school competition as an individual in that same sport or in any skill of that sport.

B. If you participate in non-school competition during a sport season and subsequently wish to join the school team in the same sport, you will not be eligible.

C. If you wish to participate in a competition sponsored and conducted by the National Governing Body, or its official Illinois affiliate for the sport, your principal/official representative must request approval in writing from the IHSA Office prior to any such participation.

D. You may try out for a non-school team while you are on your school’s team in that same sport, but you may not practice, receive instruction, participate in workouts, or participate in competition with a non-school team in that same sport until you cease being a member of your school’s team. You cease being a member of your school’s team when the team(s) of which you are a member terminates for the school term.

E. You will become ineligible if you participate on, practice with or compete against any junior college, college or university team during your high school career.

## **11. All-Star Participation**

A. After you have completed your high school eligibility in the sport of football, basketball, soccer or volleyball, you may participate in three (3) all-star contests in any of these sports and still play for other school teams, provided the high school season in that sport has been completed. You may lose your eligibility for other interscholastic sports if you play in all-star competition in any of these sports under any other conditions.

B. You are not restricted from participating in all-star competition in sports other than football, basketball soccer or volleyball, except that you may not do so during the school season for the sport.

## **12. Misbehavior During Contests**

A. If you violate the ethics of competition or the principles of good sportsmanship, you may be barred from interscholastic athletic contests, either as a participant or spectator or both.

B. If you are ejected from a contest for unsportsmanlike conduct, you will be ineligible for your team’s next contest. You are also subject to other penalties.

**The complete set of IHSA By-laws and Policies is available at [www.ihsa.org](http://www.ihsa.org)**