

## **DOWNTOWN AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT**

### **CO-CURRICULAR CODE OF CONDUCT**

The primary purpose of the Co-Curricular Program within the Downingtown Area School District is to promote the physical, mental, social, emotional and moral well being of the participant. As a District we strive to make the programs in our schools a positive force in preparing youth for an enriching and vital role in America.

The Co-Curricular Program is an important and integral part of the total school program and is open to all students. Through voluntary participation, a student gives time, energy, and loyalty to the program. He/she also accepts the rules/regulations and responsibilities that are unique to each of these programs. In order to contribute to the welfare of the group, the participant must willingly assume these obligations since this role demands that the individual make sacrifices not required of non-participants.

Participation in co-curricular activities is a privilege. By voluntarily participating in co-curricular activities, students are agreeing to be bound by the Co-Curricular Code of Conduct. No student is entitled to participation. If a student violates this Code of Conduct, the privilege of participation may be temporarily suspended or permanently revoked.

- 1) Participants must travel to and from contests/activities, away from Downingtown, on transportation provided by the school.
- 2) Use of or possession of tobacco, alcoholic beverages, drugs, narcotics, or hallucinating agents by student participants is prohibited.

#### **(a) TOBACCO**

- (i) First Offense: The individual will be suspended from the activity for five (5) school days and referred to the building principal for action under the Discipline Code. During this time period, the individual should be recommended to the Student Assistance Program for further assistance. At the end of this period, following counseling by the head coach/activity sponsor and the building principal, a decision regarding further competition will be made.
- (ii) Second Offense: The individual will be suspended for the remainder of the season and referral of the student to the building principal for disciplinary action under the Discipline Code.

#### **(b) ALCOHOL**

- (i) First Offense: The individual will be suspended from the squad/activity for a minimum of ten (10) school days and referred to the building principal for action under the Discipline Code. During this time period, the individual should be recommended to the Student Assistance Program for further assistance. At the end of this period, following counseling by the head coach/activity sponsor and the building principal, a decision regarding further participation will be made.

(ii) Second Offense: The individual will be suspended for the remainder of the season and referral of the student to the building principal for disciplinary action under the Discipline Code.

(c) DRUGS, NARCOTICS, HALLUCINATING AGENTS

All offenses: Suspension for the remainder of the season and referral of the student to the building principal for disciplinary action under the Discipline Code. The individual shall be recommended to the Student Assistance Program for further assistance.

3) Before any disciplinary action under this Co-Curricular Code is taken, the following Investigative Procedure will take place:

Alleged violations of the Co-Curricular Code shall be reported to the co-curricular sponsor/athletic director and/or an assistant principal. Such reports will be investigated in a timely manner by the co-curricular sponsor/athletic director and assistant principal. The student involved and the coach/activity sponsor of the activity shall be informed in writing of the alleged violation and the investigation. The investigation shall include but not be limited to interviews of the student involved and any witnesses. When the investigation is complete, the co-curricular sponsor/athletic director and assistant principal will make a presentation of all information gathered to the building principal. The building principal shall provide the student and parent a summary of the information gathered and give the student and his/her parents an opportunity to be heard and present information relevant to the alleged violation. Based on the information presented by the co-curricular sponsor/athletic director and/or assistant principal and the student and parent, the building principal will make a determination of whether a violation occurred. The determination of the principal shall be final. The co-curricular sponsor/athletic director and assistant principal shall notify in writing the parents, the student and the coach/activity sponsor of the action taken. The appropriate discipline will be imposed according to the degree of the infraction. Until a final determination has been made by the building principal, the student may continue to participate as a member of the team/activity.

4) **The rules and regulations in this Code shall apply to any violation that may occur during "In-season" participation on and off school premises.**

**"In-season" participation begins with the first day of practice or participation and ends with the last contest, meeting, or practice, whichever is the later date. When a participant is suspended for the number of days/weeks indicated, the participant may not participate in the activity until the suspension is completed. In the case of a student involved in interscholastic sports, the student must still report to practice, but may not dress, may not be in or around the bench area, may not travel, or in any way take part in contests or scrimmages for the duration of the suspension.**

- 5) Any conduct that results in dishonor to the student participant, the team/activity or the school will not be tolerated. Any acts of unacceptable conduct, such as, but not limited to theft, vandalism, disrespect, immorality or criminal acts, tarnish the reputation of everyone associated with the Co-Curricular Program and will not be tolerated. All unacceptable conduct shall be reported to the co-curricular/athletic director and/or the assistant principal who will then follow the Investigative Procedure and a determination of consequence will be made as set forth in Page 2 Statement #3 above. The consequence imposed shall range from a five (5) day suspension from the team/activity to suspension for the remainder of the season, depending on the severity of the infraction as determined by the building principal. The building principal shall be guided by the disciplinary action listed in the Discipline Code for a similar infraction in determining the appropriate consequence to impose. Until a final decision has been made, the student may continue to participate as a member of the team/activity.
  
- 6) Every student is required to do satisfactory schoolwork in at least four (4) Carnegie Units of study or the equivalent.

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## **ADDENDUM A – P.I.A.A. DASD ATHLETIC PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS**

The Downingtown Area School District, along with the majority of the public schools in Pennsylvania, is a member of the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association (“P.I.A.A.”). The P.I.A.A. requires the following:

- 1) A contestant shall be discouraged from participating on an outside sport team while a member of the Downingtown Area School District (DASD) Team. Contestants must inform the DASD head coach of their involvement with outside sports when the “outside” season coincides with the DASD team’s season. DASD athletes are waived for participation in out of school sports teams through the building principal’s annual letter to P.I.A.A., Article VIII, Section I-A of their by-laws. Athletes shall be required to strictly adhere to the individual team rules and regulations of their particular DASD sports team.
- 2) Each student must have a physical examination before he/she will be permitted to participate in any interscholastic sport.
- 3) The parent must sign a permission form for the student to participate in any sport.
- 4) Every student is required to do satisfactory schoolwork in at least four (4) Carnegie Units of study or the equivalent.

In addition to the School District Secondary Schools Code of Discipline (“Disciplinary Code”), the following regulations are in effect and apply to student athletes. The consequences imposed under this Athletic Code are in addition to and supplement those consequences that may be imposed under the Discipline Code.

- 1) Each coach has the responsibility to know and to inform team members and parents of school and P.I.A.A. regulations and to enforce those rules in an appropriate manner.
  - a) The administration also believes that it is the obligation of parents of the participants to inform the principal, athletic director and/or the head coach of a pending or actual violation of these rules and regulations.
- 2) A participant is required to attend all practices unless excused by the coach or building principal.
  - a) If an emergency arises making it necessary for a student to leave school and the coach is not available, the student may leave a message in the office for the coach.
  - b) If, for any reason, the student is to be excused from any particular practice, a written request from the parent is to be presented to the coach.
  - c) Each coach has a specific practice time. A participant who is late, without a teacher’s excuse, will make up the time after practice.
  - d) It is the school policy that a participant will be excused for assistance in schoolwork. Any lateness caused by discipline must be made up after practice.

- 3) Any participant who has left the squad other than for a physical reason or grades shall not be permitted to return. Any participant in a school sport should realize the importance of attending each practice and game. Only in emergencies will a student be excused from practice or games.
  - a) When a participant leaves the team for any reason, except in an emergency, his/her position will permanently be filled.
  - b) After the season has begun, no athlete may quit one sport and try out for another without mutual consent of both coaches.
- 4) A display of unsportsmanlike conduct toward an opponent or official or the use of profanity during a practice or contest will result in counseling by the head coach and/or the building principal with penalties to be determined according to the degree of the infraction.
- 5) Consistent with the concept that interscholastic athletics are a part of the educational system and consistent with the established goals of health, safety, and sportsmanship, the following guidelines for “New” Season and “Out-of-Season” regulations are set forth:
  - a) The basic responsibility of administrators and athletic coaches is to provide students who are participating in interscholastic athletics with a worthwhile, educational experience.
  - b) All sports have a defined season and no sport shall operate to the detriment of any other sport.
  - c) The student shall have the opportunity to participate in as many interscholastic athletic experiences as is reasonably possible, and anything that serves to prevent this opportunity is contrary to the philosophy of the P.I.A.A. and Downingtown Area School District.
  - d) All P.I.A.A. member schools must comply with the defined season for each sport. Within each defined season, member schools may sponsor sports teams that compete against other member schools which follow all P.I.A.A. policies, rules and regulations. Outside of the defined season for sports, member schools may be involved with sports activities such as training programs, recreational activities, “Open Gym”, and clinics and camps provided that the school does not sponsor teams, and provided that any participation by coaches and/or students be as private citizens and is voluntary as described below. Coaches and/or students acting as private citizens, and on a voluntary basis, may participate on teams that are not affiliated with their school or other member schools during time “Out-of-Season” as described below.
- 6) Any sports activity that occurs outside of the sport’s regularly scheduled season does not fall within the jurisdiction of P.I.A.A. except as set forth in the immediately preceding paragraph and as follows:

- a) The coach and other personnel representing the school shall not require an athlete to participate in a sport or training program for a sport outside of the P.I.A.A.'s defined sport's season. The participation of students in any sport activity that occurs outside of its defined season must be voluntary.
  - b) In order to maintain eligibility to represent a member school in football, a student shall not participate in organized contact football camps, clinics, drill practices, games, scrimmages or similar contact activities outside of the P.I.A.A. defined football season.
  - c) The school's name, nickname, interscholastic athletic uniform, interscholastic athletic equipment, interscholastic athletic health/first-aid supplies may not be used by community organizations and groups. The school's name, nickname, and interscholastic athletic uniforms may not be used by students; however, the principal may permit students to use the school's interscholastic equipment and the school's interscholastic health/first-aid supplies. Additional rules and regulations from the head coach must be approved by the principal and athletic director.
- 7) In any sports program, there will be a certain number of injuries, some serious, some minor. We ask that all students report immediately all injuries to the coach so that proper care may be given.
  - 8) A student who has been injured and has had medical treatment ' cannot participate again until the date indicated by the student's physician or by the school's athletic trainer.
  - 9) In some sports programs, mouth guards are mandatory; however, students in any sport may obtain a mouth guard from the athletic trainer.
  - 10) Participants must travel to and from contests/activities, away from Downingtown, on transportation provided by the school. An exception would be granted only if injury to a participant would require alternate transportation.

## **ANABOLIC STEROIDS**

By law, Act 93 prohibits the use of anabolic steroids by any pupil involved in school related athletics. The law requires that every school district shall include education regarding the dangers of anabolic steroids with any other drug and alcohol program required by law. The law outlines minimum penalties for any pupil found in violation of the rules and regulations, which are: 1. For a first violation – suspension from school athletics for the remainder of the season. 2. For a second violation – suspension from school athletics for the remainder of the season and for the following season. 3. For a third violation – permanent suspension from school athletics. No student shall be eligible to resume participation in school athletics unless there has been a medical determination that no residual evidence of steroids exists. The board may require participation in any drug rehabilitation, testing or other program as a condition of reinstatement to a school athletic program.

Before any suspension provided for under these rules shall take effect the student and parent/guardians shall be verbally advised by the head coach and/or athletic director of the alleged violation and the student will have an opportunity to explain or justify the action. The "Due Process" procedure will be administered in all cases. If, after such conference the head coach is satisfied that a suspension is justified, the student shall be notified.

The rules and regulations in this code shall apply to any violations, on and off school premises, during the season of participation.

## **POLICY ON ATTENDANCE PRIOR TO A SCHOOL ACTIVITY OR ATHLETIC EVENT**

- A. Students **MUST** be in attendance by 10:00 a.m. on the day of the scheduled activity or athletic contest in order to participate.
- B. A student/athlete **may not** participate in or attend any school activity on a day the student has an absence.
- C. School events (concerts, field trips, dances, etc.) and athletic contests scheduled on Saturday require proper attendance on the previous Friday.

## **EQUIPMENT**

School equipment borrowed by the student athlete is his/her responsibility. He/she is expected to keep it clean and in good condition. Loss of any equipment is the athlete's financial obligation. He/she cannot participate in another sport or activity until equipment is returned or financial obligation for lost equipment is satisfied.