

TO: Dr. Kent Mutchler

FROM: Tom Rogers
Jim Kafer

RE: Geneva High School Code of Conduct Revision

DATE: Wednesday, August 7, 2013

Enclosed is a revised Code of Conduct for Geneva High School's Extra-Curricular Activities (ECA) Program. As defined in the Code, an ECA program encompasses those activities which are outside of the regular curriculum and not related to coursework and grades. While participating in the regular educational program is a right afforded to each student, participating in any ECA program is a privilege that carries with it additional responsibilities and expectations. In order to maintain the high standards and integrity expected of our ECA program, we believe some changes to the Code are warranted.

The changes are based on formal feedback received from many Geneva High School teachers and coaches, along with informal feedback from parents and students. The information provided by these stakeholders has been incorporated in the enclosed document. A draft of the document was supported by those teachers and coaches that participated in the process.

The revisions to the Code can be summarized in the following manner:

- Code violations will result in contest suspensions rather than only calendar days. Previously, there was no proportional equity in the consequences. For example, under the previous Code a first offense resulted in a one game suspension. One football game is a much greater penalty than one baseball game. With the revision, the penalties would be 20 percent, 50 percent or 1 year, and would apply once a student begins an ECA program.
- The revised Code will be enforced year-round. Under the previous Code if a student had a violation in the off-season, regardless of whether it was the first or second offense, the student would very likely not miss any competition.
- To address the concern of an athlete going out for another sport to nullify the penalty, the athlete must complete any sport in good standing in order to be reinstated.

The well-being of our students is our top priority. The Geneva High School Code of Conduct is intended to help our students make positive decisions while participating in a well-rounded ECA program.

Please contact me if you have additional questions.

PART IV - EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

CODE OF CONDUCT

Mission Statement: The goal of the extra-curricular program at Geneva High School is to provide students with opportunities and direction in developing:

- a positive attitude
- self-discipline
- commitment
- leadership
- teamwork
- respect for rules, themselves, and others
- healthy living habits

The Geneva High School administration and faculty believe that participation by students in a well-rounded extra-curricular activities (ECA) program is appropriate and desirable. An ECA program is defined as those activities which are outside of the regular curriculum and not related to coursework and grades. While participating in the regular educational program is a right afforded to each student, participating in any ECA program is a privilege that carries with it additional responsibilities and expectations. Therefore, in order to participate in the ECA program, students must not only follow all guidelines set forth in the Student Handbook but also the additional expectations set forth in the Code of Conduct. These expectations reflect the educational philosophy and mission of Geneva High School.

GENERAL EXPECTATIONS & CONSEQUENCES

The Code of Conduct is in effect twelve months of the year, seven days a week, twenty-four hours a day, in and out of school zones, until graduation. Violations of the Code of Conduct that occur in a school zone may include additional consequences.

ACADEMIC/ATTENDANCE EXPECTATIONS/CONSEQUENCES

A student who participates in the ECA program is expected to:

1. Pass five academic classes each week and every semester.

A student not passing five academic classes each week will be ineligible to participate in contests/events/performances the following week. A student not passing five academic classes each semester will be ineligible to participate in contests/events/performances the following semester.

2. Attend all classes all the time unless excused by parents. Class cutting/truancy is not acceptable.

If a participant cuts a class or is truant during a season or after auditions, that student will be ineligible to participate in the next contest or performance. Individual team/organization sanctions may also be applied.

3. Attend four class periods in order to be qualified to practice, compete, or perform on any given day unless otherwise authorized by the Principal, Athletic Director, or Designee.

TEAM/ORGANIZATION EXPECTATIONS/CONSEQUENCES

A student who participates in the ECA program is expected to:

1. Attend practice, contests, awards nights, and/or any other function related to the activity.
2. Travel on school-arranged transportation to all events related to the activity, unless pre-approved and accompanied with a written note.
3. Be responsible for all equipment, materials, and/or clothing issued and the return of same at the conclusion of the activity.
4. Display appropriate conduct including respect of persons and property at all times.
5. Follow all team/organization rules as outlined by the coach/sponsor.

If a problem occurs with the Team/Organization Expectations, the sponsor/coach with assistance from the Principal, Athletic Director, or Designee will be responsible for appropriate disciplinary action. This may include losing the privilege of participating in the extra-curricular activity.

BEHAVIORAL EXPECTATIONS/CONSEQUENCES

A student who participates in the ECA program is expected to follow all rules set forth in the Student Handbook.

If a problem occurs with a behavioral expectation set forth in the Geneva High School Student Handbook during the season or after auditions, the Principal, Athletic Director, or Designee, with assistance from the coach/sponsor, will be responsible for appropriate disciplinary action. In addition, in the case of every out of school suspension, a student will lose eligibility for a minimum of one competition or performance. Repeated behavior problems will result in losing eligibility for a longer period of time. Behavioral expectations will also include, but are not limited to, engaging in activities outside the school community that would be grounds for arrest or citation in the criminal or juvenile court system.

CHEMICAL USE EXPECTATIONS/CONSEQUENCES

A student who participates in the ECA program is expected to:

Not use/possess alcohol, other illegal/inappropriate chemical substances, tobacco in any form, and paraphernalia for drug use; arrange for the sale or exchange of any of the aforementioned; or attempt to obtain any of the aforementioned at any time during high school career including vacation periods.

If a violation of the Code of Conduct Chemical Use Policy occurs, a student will need to fulfill the following consequences in order to regain/maintain eligibility.

First Offense: Must provide confirmation of enrollment and completion of a school approved prevention/intervention program and follow all recommendations. In addition, the student will be ineligible for 20% of a season's contests or performances (per IHSA scheduling guidelines). If the violation occurs out-of-season or the penalty cannot be completed prior to the end of the season, it will be applied to the next activity in which the student participates.

Second Offense: Must provide confirmation of enrollment and completion of a school approved prevention/intervention program and follow all recommendations. In addition, the student will be ineligible for 50% of a season's contests or performances (per IHSA scheduling guidelines). If the violation occurs out-of-season or the penalty cannot be completed prior to the end of the season, it will be applied to the next activity in which the student participates.

Third Offense: The student will be ineligible from all ECA programs for one calendar year. Reinstatement prior to one calendar year may be considered if confirmation of enrollment and completion of a school approved prevention/intervention program are provided. A meeting with parents and Principal, Athletic Director, or Designee will determine if reinstatement is warranted.

Fourth and/or Subsequent Offenses: Permanent removal from all ECA programs.

CODE OF CONDUCT POINTS OF EMPHASIS:

- If season concludes before suspension is completed, ineligibility will carry over to the next activity in which the student participates.
- If the period of time between a violation and an activity is 12 months or more, the athlete shall not serve an additional penalty.
- An ineligible student shall attend all practices or rehearsals but will not "suit up" for games or performances.
- If a student fails to complete an activity in which they are serving a penalty for a code of conduct violation the full penalty will be attached to the next activity in which the student participates.
- All penalties involving the Code of Conduct are cumulative throughout high school.