

SECTION VI

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES – CODE OF CONDUCT

Students who participate in extracurricular activities must be aware that their personal conduct and attitude reflect high standards of respect, loyalty, positive attitude, and morality. Such participation is a privilege and not a right. Because student activity participants represent their school and community, their conduct is expected to exemplify high standards.

It is the responsibility of the student and his or her parent(s) or legal guardian(s) to be familiar with the standards of student conduct and the Code of Conduct.

6.1 CODE OF CONDUCT

A. Purpose

1. Students who participate in extracurricular activities for the G.I.S.D. serve as representatives of the District in the community and to other communities across the state.
2. Student participants serve as role models and leaders among their peers.
3. The G.I.S.D. educational mission is to encourage the highest standards of sportsmanship, character, and respect for oneself and others.
4. G.I.S.D. has a substantial interest in reducing student misconduct and substance abuse among all its students including those who participate in extracurricular activities.
5. Students should be provided with clear guidance from the G.I.S.D. regarding expectations of their conduct, the consequences that can result from misconduct, and how their actions can affect participation in the extracurricular activity program.

B. Code Flexibility

This Code is designed to provide guidance to participants, coaches or sponsors, and school officials in the handling of expected student behavior and the consequences of student offenses. Nothing in this Code shall be deemed to prevent building principals from deviating from this procedure where, in their professional judgment, the severity or other unique characteristics of the infraction indicate that the procedures do not adequately address the problem created by the student's behavior. The spirit of this Code permits flexibility for principals to ensure the efficient management and control of the educational environment.

C. Right To Apply

G.I.S.D. reserves the right to apply the provisions of the Code of Conduct if the school officials' judgment, the conduct in question negatively affects the safety,

morale, smooth operation, discipline, and educational environment or substance abuse deterrence goals of the school.

6.2 REQUIRED BEHAVIOR

- A. Abstain from the use or possession of alcohol, drugs, or tobacco products.
- B. Maintain high standards of conduct as a student and as a citizen.
- C. Refrain from committing criminal or delinquent acts.
- D. Do not attempt to circumvent any rules or guidelines of the Gadsden Independent School District and the New Mexico Activities Association.
- E. The practice of hazing is strictly prohibited. Any player or member of an athletic-related team involved in any hazing activity shall be subject to the school district's disciplinary sanctions or consequences. Hazing will not be permitted as a condition of membership in any group or organization connected with the Gadsden Independent School District. Hazing is defined as follows:
 - 1. To harass by exacting unnecessary, disagreeable or degrading tasks or activities, which may result in physical or psychological harm to an individual?
 - 2. To intentionally play abusive and humiliating tricks on an individual.

6.3 DUE PROCESS

- A. An alleged violation of the Code of Conduct is addressed by the building principal.
- B. The building principal shall conduct a reasonable investigation of all allegations, with the extent and thoroughness of the investigation being determined by the severity of the allegation and the reliability and availability of evidence supporting or undermining the allegation.
 - 1. If the alleged violation potentially involves a felony crime, sexual harassment, or physical or mental abuse, **the building principal will immediately notify the Superintendent.**
 - 2. All other violations will be addressed by the building principal following guidelines of the G.I.S.D. Notification shall be given to the Athletic Director who in turn, will inform the Superintendent.
 - 3. Violations involving alcohol, drugs, or weapons will be referred by the principal to the Superintendent for a long-term suspension hearing as per school district policy.
- C. Before determining or rendering a decision of an alleged violation, the building principal shall make a reasonable effort to permit the student to present his or her position regarding the issue.
- D. If there is a reasonable suspicion that the alleged violation did, in fact, occur, disciplinary consequences, if any will be determined by the administrative staff.. A copy of such notice shall be sent to the Athletic Director.

6.4 CRITERIA TO DETERMINE A VIOLATION OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT

- A. Criteria That Shall Be Addressed By the Building Principal
 1. Is the allegation directly in violation of the stated guidelines?
 2. Has due process been followed in addressing the problem with the student?
 3. Were other GISD rules broken?
 4. Did the alleged violation occur during school time or at a school-sponsored event?
 5. Has the alleged violation been reported and received in a timely manner?
 6. Is the incident so recent that discipline by the school will still have effectiveness as a teaching and learning process?
 7. Is the conduct connected to the school or does it have negative implications toward the school?
 8. Is the nature of the conduct something other than a “status offense” – alleged offense committed but has no impact on the school or individual (i.e.: speeding or reckless driving ticket).

- B. Responses shall be measured by the building principal to decide if a violation did occur.

6.5 CONSEQUENCES

- A. Shall be handled by school principal as per school district policy

- B. Suspension from participation
 1. Suspension shall begin as follows:
 - a. In-season – Suspension shall begin immediately and continue through the designated length of the suspension. If suspension overlaps into the off-season or summer, the remainder of the suspension shall carry over to the next competitive season of the suspended student-athlete.
 - b. Off season or summer period – Suspension shall begin at the start of the STUDENT’S next competitive season.

 2. Activity participation – The student is not allowed to participate in practices, games, meetings, or events that are associated with the extracurricular activity.

 3. Competition(s) – Designated as the GISD scheduled and sanctioned day or days of competition in which the student is eligible to participate. The student is not allowed to play or participate in any or all games or events scheduled and sanctioned for that or those designated suspension day(s).

 4. School Conference – Prior to reinstatement from a suspension, a student participant must attend a parent conference to include the parent or legal guardian, the administration, and the head coach or sponsor.

6.6 VIOLATION OF ANY CRIMINAL STATUTE AND ACTIVITY PARTICIPATION

A violation of any criminal statute shall be regulated within the legal limits of the GISD district. Rules of conduct shall be reasonable exercises of the school's authority in pursuance of legitimate educational and related functions. Such acts include the crime of willful interference with the educational process of any school or activity in the district.

A. Shall be in effect

1. At all GISD schools and facilities
2. Whenever the students are subject to control of school authority
3. Any time the action is determined, by the building principal, to cause disruption to the educational mission of GISD or detracts from the educational environment or affects safety, morale and efficiency of a school or GISD.

B. Violation of rules governing prohibited or regulated activities.

An extracurricular activity student participant may appropriately be disciplined, including removal from the activity program, for violating rules governing prohibited or regulated activities. The existence of a specific rule is not a prerequisite for disciplining student conduct, which endangers or appears to endanger the health or safety of students and school personnel. Within legal limits, appropriate discipline actions may be taken against student participant regardless of whether or not criminal charges are filed.

C. Consequences

Disciplinary action shall be accomplished by the building principal and can include, but is not limited to short-term suspension, and a recommendation to the Superintendent for long-term suspension, or expulsion.