



**Proposed Procedures for Violations by
Students
Participating in School Sponsored
Activities and Athletics**

For the purpose of the application of these guidelines, students participating in athletics, extra and co-curricular activities for any public forum, including but not limited to performances, service activities, and events shall be considered.

Board Approved 5-21-07

Bethlehem Area School District
Policy Violation Guidelines for Students Participating in School Sponsored
Activities and Athletics

Student extra and co-curricular activities and athletic activities are an extension of the educational experience that the district chooses to offer to all students. Therefore, student participation is voluntary and is a privilege, not a right. Those students who choose or who are chosen to participate in activities must be aware of the *K-12 Student Code of Conduct* for the Bethlehem Area School District. Each participant is expected to operate within the framework of these rules and regulations. For the purpose of the application of these guidelines, students participating in extra and co-curricular activities for any public forum, including but not limited to performances, service activities, and events shall be considered.

This document is designed to further amplify and clarify expectations as outlined in the board policies and within the *K-12 Student Code of Conduct* regarding policy violations for students involved in school sponsored activities and athletic teams.

DEFINITIONS

The following definitions shall apply:

- (a) **Activity/Athletic Expulsion** – loss of participation privileges in the district's activity and/or athletic program.
- (b) **Activity/Athletic Suspension** – exclusion for a given duration from practices, competitions, events, and any other functions (trips, banquets, etc.) related to the activity. A suspension shall not necessarily be limited to the season during which the infraction occurred, but may be imposed during subsequent seasons. Where applicable, the suspended student's name may be removed from activity records, from award consideration, and from similar recognitions.
- (c) **Extra-curricular Season** – the specified duration of time the activity/club is scheduled to meet. Year-long activities will be considered on a semester-by-semester basis.
- (d) **Hazing** – any activity that recklessly, intentionally or unintentionally endangers the mental health, physical health or safety of a student for the purpose of initiation or membership in, or affiliation with any organization including but not limited to a sport or extra-curricular activity recognized by the Board of School Directors.

Endangering the physical health includes but is not limited to any contact of a physical nature such as whipping; beating; branding; forced calisthenics; exposure to the elements; forced consumption of any food, alcoholic beverage, drug, or controlled substance, or other forced activity that could adversely affect the physical health or safety of the individual.

Endangering the mental health includes but is not limited to any activity that would subject an individual to unusual mental stress, such as sleep deprivation, prolonged exclusion from social contact, forced conduct which might result in extreme embarrassment, or any activity which could adversely affect the mental health or dignity of the individual. Any activity, if made part of an initiation, shall be presumed to be hazing, even if the participant willingly participates.

- (e) **Probation** – imposed for school related offenses that result in students being ineligible to participate in extra-curricular activities until such probation is formally lifted by the board or administration.
- (f) **Review Committee** – body to conduct informal hearings, comprised of two building administrators, the assistant superintendent, and the athletic director/activity advisor.
- (g) **Sport Season** – the interval commencing with the approved PIAA starting date of practice or the first day of practice, whichever is later, and terminating with the final competitive event for the sport.
- (h) **Substantiated** – found to have committed a stated offense based on an investigation of the event and evidence gathered.
- (i) **Uniform** – articles of clothing, or equipment in possession bearing the school or school district name, symbols, or markings making it possible to distinguish a person’s affiliation to the school or school district.

GENERAL GUIDELINES

The actions and consequences noted below are to be read in addition to and in conjunction with the applicable board policies and the *BASD K-12 Student Code of Conduct*. The actions listed below represent serious violations and may result in the consequences as listed with each action in addition to penalties imposed those through the *K-12 Student Code of Conduct*.

1. ***Possessing, using, delivering, or selling alcohol or any controlled substance as defined by the Controlled Substance, Drug, Device, and Cosmetic Act while on school property, or at a school sponsored activity, or while on the way to or from a school sponsored activity, or in uniform regardless of location. The term possession includes but is not limited to having previously ingested alcohol, a controlled substance, or drug while on the way to school or to school sponsored activities.***

Consequence:

- a) As defined in *K-12 Student Code of Conduct*
- b) Immediate suspension from the activity for the duration of the season. Should the violation occur within forty-five (45) calendar days of the end of the season, the suspension will carry into the subsequent season

for a minimum of forty-five (45) days. Violators will be referred to the school's Student Assistance Team (SAT) for possible assessment recommendation. Student may not participate in any activity as defined under these guidelines until the assessment has been completed and until any assessment recommendations have been followed, if applicable.

- c) The student must request a reinstatement review with the building principal to have the suspension(s) from activities lifted. Should reinstatement take place, the student may not assume any leadership role within the organization such as squad captain, section leader, officer position, and the like.

2. Action as stated in #1 above occurring off site and not at, or on the way to or from any school sponsored activity during the athletic or activity season.

Consequence:

- a) Immediate suspension from any activity for the duration of the season. Should the violation occur within forty-five (45) calendar days of the end of the season, the suspension will carry into the subsequent season for a minimum of forty-five (45) days as defined under these guidelines and referral to the school's SAT. Should the offense occur when the SAT is not functioning, the principal and/or athletic director or activity advisor will make a referral to a licensed provider appropriate to the offense for an assessment recommendation. Failure to complete an assessment will result in continued suspension from any activity as defined under these guidelines until the assessment and compliance with recommendation is conducted.
- b) Second offense results in permanent suspension from any activity as defined under these guidelines.
- c) The student must request a reinstatement review with the building principal to have the suspension(s) from activities lifted. Should reinstatement take place, the student may not assume a leadership role within the organization such as squad captain, section leader, officer position, and the like.

3. Action as stated in #1 above occurring off site and not at, on the way to or from a school sponsored activity during "out of season."

Consequence:

- a) Suspension from any activity as defined under these guidelines for a minimum of fifteen (15) calendar days beginning at the start of the activity season.
- b) Second offense results in suspension from any activity as defined under these guidelines.

- c) The student must request a reinstatement review with the building principal to have the suspension(s) from activities lifted. Should reinstatement take place, the student may not assume a leadership role within the organization such as squad captain, section leader, officer position, and the like.

4. *Possessing or using tobacco in any form while on school or while attending, or participating in a school-sponsored activity.*

Consequence:

- a) As defined in the *K-12 Student Code of Conduct* and other penalties as allowed by district policy.
- b) First offense results in activity suspension for a period of not less than five (5) calendar days.
- c) Second offense results in activity suspension from any activities as defined under these guidelines for ten (10) calendar days.
- d) A subsequent offense will result in additional suspensions or expulsion from the activity for the remainder of the season.

5. *Intentional damage (vandalism) or theft of school or person's property from any location on school property or off school property during any school sponsored event or related to any school sponsored activity.*

Consequence:

- a) As defined in *K-12 Student Code of Conduct*, see district discipline for possible penalties including administrative probation, suspension, or expulsion depending on the severity of the offense and other penalties, including referral to law enforcement authorities as allowed by district policy.
- b) Immediate activity suspension from any activities as defined under these guidelines for up to seven (7) calendar days, depending on severity of the incident, payment of restitution, or return of property.

6. *Failure to return activity equipment.*

Consequence:

- a) Suspension from any activity program participation as defined under these guidelines until equipment is returned or paid for.

7. Acts that constitute a violation of the applicable criminal code(s) whether or not delineated as part of the K-12 Student Code of Conduct.

Consequence:

- a) As defined in *K-12 Student Code of Conduct* as applicable.
- b) Immediate activity suspension from the activity for a minimum of forty-five (45) calendar days, or the remainder of the season, or the school year depending upon the severity of the offense.
- c) The student must request a reinstatement review with the building principal to have the suspension(s) from activities lifted.

8. Failure to carry out the directions or rules and regulations established by the activity advisor. (Such rules and regulations must be distributed in writing to all students and be approved by the principal and activity director.)

Consequence:

- a) As established by each activity advisor.

9. Any improper conduct, which either violates district policy or constitutes behavior inappropriate for a district student representative.

Consequence:

- a) As established by each activity advisor, may include suspension from the activity or expulsion depending on the nature of the violation.
- b) As defined in the applicable section of the *K-12 Student Code of Conduct*.

Procedural Guidelines for Student Activities and Athletic Program
Policy Violations

- (1) If an infraction is reported, the activity advisor shall notify the principal of the alleged conduct or violations. Either the administrator or the advisor, at the direction of the administrator, shall investigate to determine if a violation of the code has occurred.
- (2) If, after investigation, a violation of the code can be substantiated, the advisor, after consultation with the principal and district athletic administrator if applicable, shall impose the appropriate consequence by giving written notice to the student, the student's parents or guardian, the activity advisor if applicable, and the principal. Imposition of disciplinary consequences by the activity advisor is in addition to any disciplinary penalty imposed by the principal pursuant to district policy.
- (3) The student or parent/guardian may appeal the advisor's decision to the principal who will convene a Review Committee to hear the appeal and render a decision. Such decision will be made within ten (10) business days of the appeal. During the ten (10) business days, the initial disciplinary action imposed will remain in effect. Appeal of the discipline penalties imposed by the principal under district policy is governed by the school code.
- (4) If the parent or student is not satisfied with the decision of the Review Committee, a second appeal meeting may be requested within five (5) business days of the decision. The appeal shall be in writing and directed to the Superintendent of Schools or designee. The superintendent or designee has complete discretion whether or not to hear the appeal. If the superintendent or designee decides to hear the appeal, such meeting shall be conducted within ten (10) business days of the date of the appeal. If such meeting is granted, the initial disciplinary action will remain in effect. The appeal meeting shall be informal and the decision of the superintendent or his/her designee shall be final.
- (5) Once a suspension or activity expulsion has been imposed, the student will not be permitted to participate in any activity unless the recommendation for suspension/expulsion is reversed after appeal.
- (6) An expulsion includes forfeiture of any school related awards for that season.
- (7) Nothing in the code shall preclude any building principal or assistant principal from suspending or excluding a student from an activity for any violation of the disciplinary rules of the Bethlehem Area School District even if the offense committed by the student would also be an offense under the terms of the *K-12 Student Code of Conduct*.
- (8) These penalties for policy infractions and discipline imposed there under are not limited to the season in which the infraction occurred.