

**HILBERT SCHOOL DISTRICT  
GRADE 7-8 CO-CURRICULAR CODE**

NOTE: THIS CO-CURRICULAR CODE APPLIES TO STUDENTS THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE  
CALENDAR YEAR

I. PHILOSOPHY

Co-curricular activities are an integral part of the Hilbert School District's commitment to developing the student as a whole person. The best program combines the classical ideal of a "sound mind in a sound body" with a dedication to teaching the lasting values of personal integrity, responsibility, courage, perseverance, self-esteem, positive attitude, sportsmanship and teamwork. These values, instilled and nurtured by a properly directed athletic program, benefit students not only during their active participation in co-curricular athletics, but also during their adult lives, when the lessons learned on the playing fields will help them make wise decisions and valuable contributions to the larger community.

The Hilbert School District offers a broad and varied range of co-curricular experiences. The 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade program serves as a transition from recreational play to more organized and structured teams. Participants are expected to attend daily practice. The emphasis at this level encourages skill development and participation, along with an increased level of commitment, teamwork, and competition.

While at this developmental level, the School District of Hilbert's ultimate goal is teaching the student athletes HOW to be successful. There are valuable lessons to be learned from all practices and contests, no matter what the outcome. A program's win/loss record is often a deceiving barometer of success. It is the belief of the School District of Hilbert that there are several aspects essential to the development of an attitude of success.

- Enjoy it – Students only have a few years during their life to experience the camaraderie, excitement and fun inherent in co-curricular athletics.
- Take Risks – Students will never know true success without learning from failure.
- Develop Individual skills – The daily rigorous practicing of fundamental and complex skills is crucial to gaining confidence as an individual.
- Make a Commitment – In order to be successful a student athlete must be responsible and place the highest priority on health, academics and training. All team members are valuable and each team member needs to know that they can count on the others to be there. There may be conflicts, but learning how to make choices is one of the most valuable life lessons an athlete takes from a good program.
- Manage Time – This essential organizational skill is critical to the success of those who are serious about academics and athletics.
- Develop Teamwork – A group of individuals working together to accomplish a common goal will achieve greater results and enjoy the experience more if individuals do not concern themselves with who gets the credit (or the blame). A student athlete will learn to channel their skills and abilities into a role, which best suits their team.
- Practice Sportsmanship – The student athlete represents the school and community. They are to do it with pride and constraint. The student athlete will learn to channel their emotional energy into constructive and productive action. When a competition is over, they will "win with humility, lose with dignity".

Participation in co-curricular activities is a privilege which carries additional responsibilities. The standards outlined in this code will help to ensure that students serve as a credit to themselves, their parents, their school, and the community.

It is recognized that personal problems can interfere with the health and well-being of students and their ability to participate in co-curricular activities. This code therefore includes provisions for support, in order to help students achieve their full potential.

## II. PURPOSE

This code is designed to:

- A. Promote the health and well-being of all student participants in grades 7-8.
- B. Establish appropriate standards of conduct.
- C. Provide fair and equitable consequences for code violations.

## III. SCHOLASTIC ELIGIBILITY

This code applies to all students participating in any co-curricular activity where students represent the school to the public.

Students must be enrolled in a program approved by the Board of Education that includes participation in an activity covered by this policy.

Students must receive passing grades for all marking periods, both quarters and semesters, or action will be taken under this code.

## IV. SCHOLASTIC ELIGIBILITY SUSPENSIONS

1. Students with one or more incompletes will be suspended but may regain eligibility if incompletes are made up within 10 school days after a grade reporting period.
2. Students receiving one or two "F" grades or incompletes may maintain their eligibility, but they must comply with a remediation plan developed by the faculty. If a student does not comply with the remediation plan, eligibility will be suspended for the remainder of the quarter. Students with one or two "F" grades who retain their eligibility will be suspended for 10% of the contests or activities.
3. Students receiving three "F" grades will be suspended until the end of the next grading period.

## V. VIOLATIONS

At a minimum, the following list of penalties will be applied for any violation that occurs to any area of the Co-curricular Code. This code goes into effect when the student begins participation in grades 7-8 co-curricular activities. Violations between seasons will be applied to the next activity.

The Co-curricular Counsel has sole discretion to impose disciplinary action and penalties for any infraction covered under Section VIII and IX of this code.

Any students violating Section VI of the co-curricular code will be required to participate in and follow through with all recommendations of the Student Assistance Program (SAP) listed below:

1. A referral will be made to the SAP coordinator.
2. An AOD screening will be conducted.
3. A mandatory meeting will be conducted with the parent, student and other appropriate individuals. The purpose of this meeting will be to review the results of the screening and discuss recommendations.

a. First Offense

The student will be suspended from participating in (10%) of the number of games, performances, or contests listed below:

- 1 = Wrestling, Track
- 2 = Basketball, Volleyball

b. Second Offense

The student will be suspended from participating in all co-curricular activities for the remainder of his/her MIDDLE SCHOOL career.

Failure to follow the SAP recommendations will result in the suspension from co-curricular activities being increased from 10% to 25% of games, performances, or contests listed in (a.) above.

Students who are injured and not able to practice or participate in co-curricular activities prior to violating the co-curricular code will have to be cleared by a doctor, and eligible to practice or participate in co-curricular activities, before serving their suspensions.

## VI. ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUGS, SMOKING AND CHEWING TOBACCO

Acts involving alcohol and/or other drugs are prohibited by this code. The term "acts" includes, but is not limited to, the following examples: use, possession, purchase, attempting to purchase, selling, obtaining for others, loitering in taverns. This list of examples is meant to elaborate on the term "acts" and should not be considered an exhaustive list of the acts which constitute a violation of this code.

## VII. ATTENDANCE AT SCHOOL, PRACTICE, GAMES

- A. To participate in games, practices, contests, or performances, students must attend a full day of school unless prearranged and/or excused by the principal. **(Any student who is sick and not in attendance for any part of the school day of a scheduled contest or activity will not be allowed to participate that day.)**
- B. Athletes will be required to attend all practices and games unless prearranged and excused by the coach. Unexcused absences will be dealt with by the coach.
- C. Students must travel with the group to and from contests unless parents make personal arrangements with the staff member in charge.
- D. School disciplinary detentions and suspensions take precedence over all co-curricular activities.

Students on suspension or detention cannot practice or participate in co-curricular activities until the penalty time is served.

#### VIII. VIOLATION OF SCHOOL RULES

- A. Students may be suspended from participation in practices and/or contests for violation of school rules. School rules are explained in Section XV of the Student Handbook. The imposition of suspensions under this part of the code is at the discretion of the principal.

#### IX. CRIMINAL ACTS

- A. Any participant who commits or is charged by legal authorities with committing a criminal act may be suspended from all co-curricular activities and referred to the Co-curricular Counsel (athletic director, designated board member(s), building principal) for further disposition. Any other violation of a municipal ordinance, as well as violations covered under state statute 961, (e.g. possession of a controlled substance), whether or not charged with a county ordinance or municipal violation, is considered a crime under this policy. Penalties will be administered on a case-by-case basis.
- B. If after a participant is charged with a criminal act and subsequent investigation or court action determines the participant not guilty, all action of the building administrator or his/her designee shall be negated, the participant returned to his/her activity as a member in good standing, and any award or recognition earned by the participant shall be given to him/her.

#### X. CONDUCT UNBECOMING A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SCHOOL

- A. Students who commit acts of vandalism, or engage in other activities that could bring discredit to themselves and/or the school, are subject to disciplinary action and penalties under this policy.
- B. At a minimum, the imposition of disciplinary action and penalties under this part of the code shall be those penalties outlined in Section V of this code. The Co-curricular Counsel (athletic director, designated board member(s), building principal), however, may impose disciplinary action and penalties under this code at their discretion beyond the minimum if they deem circumstances warrant it.

#### XI. INSURANCE

- A. The school will not purchase insurance to cover athletic injuries.

#### XII. NOTIFICATION AND VERIFICATION

- A. This code shall be published and remain on file with the Hilbert Board of Education. Copies will be available to all interested parties.
- B. This code will be distributed to each student at the preseason meeting or on the first day that he/she reports for a co-curricular activity.

Additional rules determined by each coach or advisor shall also be written and distributed to each student at this time. A copy shall be placed on file with the athletic director and/or school principal.

Students should read all items and ask for clarification by the coach or advisor of any items not understood.

- C. A parent or legal guardian will be required to attend one preseason meeting each year to discuss the co-curricular code and sign a copy of the code. Any parent or legal guardian that is not able to attend the preseason meeting must request a meeting with the athletic director, coach/advisor, or principal to discuss the code.

Students will not be allowed to participate in a co-curricular activity if a parent or legal guardian has not attended a meeting or had a conference with the athletic director, coach/advisor, or principal to discuss the code.

- D. The responsibility for enforcing this code lies with the student, his/her parents, the coaches/advisor, and the school administration.
- E. All athletes must turn in the appropriate WIAA physical card before they will be allowed to practice.

### XIII. DUE PROCESS

- A. Students facing the loss of eligibility under this code will have the following rights:

1. A written notice which will:

- a. Identify the specific provision of the code which was allegedly violated or which permits action to be taken against the student, identify the specific incident(s) or facts which have given rise to the allegation of a violation of the code, and include an explanation of the discipline which may be imposed on the student as a result of the violation.
- b. State that the student has a right to request a hearing before the principal and that the student has the right to be represented at this hearing. Also include the statement that should the student choose not to avail him/herself of this hearing the principal will make a determination based upon the information which is available to him/her.
- c. State that should the student consider the decision of the principal to be adverse to the student's interests, he/she may appeal the decision to the district administrator within five school days.

2. A hearing:

- a. A student accused of violating any provisions of this code shall be provided an opportunity for a hearing before the Hilbert Middle School principal prior to the next co-curricular event or within (5) school days of the written notification that the student has been accused of a violation of the code, whichever is sooner. The time for conducting this hearing may be extended at the request of the student and/or his parents. Should the student or parents request postponement of the hearing, the student will not be permitted to participate in any co-

curricular events pending the outcome of the postponed hearing. Should the student wish to appeal the decision of the principal, written notice of the appeal must be given to the district administrator within (5) days of the receipt of the principal's decision. A hearing before the district administrator will be scheduled within (5) school days of the appeal request.

- b. The appeal process ends with the district administrator.
3. To know accusers:
    - a. Any person accusing a student of breaking any provision of this code must sign a statement which details the violation. This signed statement will be made available to the student, parent and staff member in charge upon request. The accuser must also be available for attendance at any subsequent conference where the violation will be discussed or the punishment appealed.
    - b. The principal and staff member in charge may take action based only on hearsay with no evidence or accusers. This action is limited to asking the student if the hearsay information is true. Penalties will only be imposed if the student admits a violation, or if there is an accuser.

#### NONDISCRIMINATION

The school district shall not discriminate in student participation in co-curricular activities, standards and rules of behavior, disciplinary action or facilities usage on the basis of sex, race, national origin, ancestry, religion, creed, pregnancy, marital or parental status, sexual orientation or physical, mental, emotional, or learning disability.

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