

Seymour High School

Co-Curricular Code of Conduct



I. Philosophy

The Seymour Community School District believes co-curricular activities are an integral part of the total educational process. Through participation in these opportunities, students can have experiences not ordinarily obtainable in the general curriculum. These activities enhance the total educational experience by providing unique opportunities for participants to enrich their lives and learn lessons of personal growth, sportsmanship, and teamwork.

Although co-curricular activities are a valuable part of the total educational experience, participation in them is a privilege, not a right. This privilege carries responsibilities and expectations which promote growth towards becoming a responsible member of society. Participants must abide by the rules and responsibilities that apply to each co-curricular program in which they are involved in order to continue participating in these activities.

II. Goals of Co-Curricular Activity Participation

- A. To assist in the development of the body and mind of the students and to promote healthful living
- B. To be a source of fun, enjoyment, and school participation
- C. To teach attitudes of responsibility, cooperation, and teamwork and help participants realize that participation in curricular activities is a privilege with accompanying responsibilities
- D. To teach self-discipline, loyalty, personal pride, and respect for others
- E. To strive for excellence and the will to be successful, gain confidence, and to reach one's potential
- F. To teach a model for teamwork and cooperation toward a common goal
- G. To provide school experiences in an effort to develop school spirit, community, and commitment, and thereby developing a sense of connectedness

Coaches and advisors of co-curricular activities have the ability to establish and implement additional rules and consequences specific to the program that coincide with the stated goals. Students who fail to meet academic or conduct expectations may receive further consequences according to each activities' rules.

III. Definition of Co-Curricular Activities

Category	Activity
1. Sports The District’s Co-Curricular Code and the WIAA govern interscholastic athletics. WIAA standards and other applicable federal and state rules apply to this Code.	Fall Cross Country (Boys & Girls), Dance, e-Sports, Football, Golf (Girls), Soccer (Boys), Swim & Dive (Girls), Volleyball
	Winter Basketball (Boys & Girls), Bowling, Dance, e-Sports, Hockey (Boys & Girls), Swim & Dive (Boys), Wrestling
	Spring Baseball, e-Sports, Lacrosse (Boys & Girls), Golf (Boys), Soccer (Girls), Softball, Track & Field
2. Performance-based, Competitive, and Leadership Activities	Academic Decathlon, Fall Play, FBLA, FFA, Forensics, managers of athletic teams, Musical production, and Robotics.

IV. Participation Requirements

To coincide with the ideals and values taught through participation in co-curricular activities, the following rules and expectations have been established. Rules and expectations are in effect 365 days a year. The Co-Curricular Code of Conduct will be enforced for the participant’s entire enrollment period, beginning with first agreement of the code. Once an eligibility meeting is attended, the new code is in effect. Seymour High School students, who choose to participate in co-curricular activities defined in this Co-Curricular Code of Conduct must comply with the following:

- A. Attend an eligibility meeting with a parent
- B. Indicate understanding of and consent to rules and expectations in this code by signing the Code Acknowledgement form
- C. Submit a Medical Consent Form

Required for Category I Activities only*

- D. Sign and submit the Acknowledgement of Warning
- E. Sign and submit a physical/alternate year card
- F. Sign and submit WIAA Eligibility Form
- G. Sign and submit concussion Agreement Form
- H. Sign and submit Health Information Disclosure Authorization and Treatment Consent

*Bowling and e-Sports only need to complete requirements A, B, and C.

V. Attendance

All co-curricular participants must be in school four class periods of the school day in order to practice or participate. Exceptions may be granted by an administrator for special circumstances, such as a funeral or college visit.

Ongoing and/or erratic school attendance problems may warrant suspension from practice and/or competitions and will be imposed at the discretion of the high school administration.

Students participating in Category I activities need to attend seven team practices before participating in a contest or event. The Activities Director can make exceptions to this requirement for extenuating circumstances.

VI. Academics

In order to participate in co-curricular activities without being academically ineligible or on academic probation a student must:

- Meet all Seymour High School academic requirements defining a full-time student
- Have no failing grades (including incompletes) in a grade reporting period

Notes:

- Grade reporting periods are defined as mid-term and end of term/trimester dates.

A. Category I Activities

A student who has (a) failing grade(s), including incompletes, may regain eligibility on the 16th school day by completing an Academic Standing Form indicating successfully reaching all criteria above. This form needs to be submitted to the Activities Director for approval. If the criteria is not successfully met, the student will remain ineligible until there are no failing grades.

A fall term ineligible student may regain their eligibility after the lesser of (1) 21 consecutive calendar days beginning with the date of the earliest allowed competition date in a sport or (2) one-third of the maximum number of games/meets allowed in a sport (rounded up if one-third results in a fraction). A student may erase their ineligibility status related to the last grade-reporting period of the school year through summer school courses.

A student receiving an incomplete grade may regain immediate eligibility upon completion of the incomplete coursework. Incomplete work must be completed within two weeks of the grade-reporting period or the incomplete grade becomes a failing grade, and eligibility can then be obtained on the 16th school day.

B. Category II Activities

Category II activities are mostly one-time activities and not subject to WIAA rules. Accordingly, a student who has (a) failing grade(s), including incompletes, will be on

academic probation. The student will remain eligible if all requirements of the probation are met.

A student on academic probation must report to the classes in which he/she has a failing grade during WYN for two weeks. The student may regain regular eligibility on the 16th school day by completing an Academic Standing Form indicating successfully reaching all criteria above. This form needs to be submitted to the Activities Director for approval. If the criteria is not successfully met, the student will remain on probation until there are no failing grades.

C. Exemptions

A student who is enrolled in any state-approved special education program may be eligible for participation in activities if he/she is making satisfactory progress in his/her total school program as indicated by his/her IEP or as determined by the building administrator.

D. Concurrent Participation

Students in Category I and Category II Activities concurrently are required to follow both the academic ineligibility and academic probation guidelines as stated above.

VII. Conduct Standards

Co-curricular student participants are expected to display high standards of behavior that coincide with the goals of the activities. The participant who complies with these standards demonstrates a desire to dedicate him or herself to self-improvement as well as to enhance the best interests of fellow teammates, coaches/advisors, and the school. Conduct that is contrary to healthy involvement or interaction, good citizenship, ethical considerations or actions that potentially violate the law are not acceptable and will result in consequences.

A. Examples of such conduct include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Possession, use, sale, transfer, distribution, or purchase of any controlled substance, intoxicant or tobacco/nicotine product or related paraphernalia is not permitted. Such substances include, but are not limited to: alcoholic beverage, illegal drugs, anabolic steroids, tobacco and nicotine in any form, inhalants, and prescribed medications used in a manner other than that for which they are directed.
- Possession, use, sale, transfer, distribution, or purchase of CBD oil without a doctor's recommendation/prescription.
- Possession, use, sale, transfer, distribution, or purchase of any products that look-a-like or resemble the items stated above is not acceptable.
- Hosting, sponsoring, or organizing a party/gathering at which a controlled substance is being used.
- Being present where controlled substances or intoxicants are being consumed/used; the student is expected to immediately leave the premises/situation in which prohibited activity is occurring.
- Gross misconduct, vandalism, harassment, or theft.

- A civil or criminal infraction.
- Insubordination
- Unsportsmanlike conduct; the essential elements of character and ethics are at the core of the educational foundation of co-curricular activities. Any person may receive consequences including suspension from participation or attendance at co-curricular activities for acts of poor sportsmanship.

B. Disruptive or Detrimental Conduct

A student acting in a manner considered disruptive of the educational process, or the decorum of the school, including bullying, or encouraging others to do so, may be disciplined. If a student's actions lead to a suspension out of school, that student will likely be viewed as violating this code.

Students should avoid placing themselves in situations where their guilt or innocence, regarding the code of conduct, may be questioned.

VIII. Fulfilling Code Violations

Failure to abide by established rules result in withdrawal of the privilege to participate.

A. Category I Activities

First Offense

The consequence shall be suspension for 10% of the scheduled events of the season.

Second Offense

The consequence shall be suspension for 25% of the scheduled events of the season. A student can reduce this to 15% of scheduled events of the season if the student takes responsibility for his/her actions and completes 10 hours of approved community service.

Third Offense

The consequence shall be suspension for 75% of the scheduled events of the season. If any of the three code violations the student has committed involve alcohol or other drugs, the student will be required to complete an alcohol or other drug abuse (AODA) assessment or any other treatment deemed necessary by the assessment agency or the district or follow through with all subsequent recommendations. All students need to have a parent/legal guardian attend and complete the assessment/class. The cost of the assessment is the responsibility of the parent/guardian. Proper documentation must be submitted to the Activities Director to show enrollment in an assessment/class and also upon successful completion. A student can reduce this to 50% of scheduled events of the season if the student takes responsibility for his/her actions and completes 20 hours of approved community service.

Fourth Offense

The consequence shall be ineligibility for all Category I and Category II Activities for the remainder of his/her high school career. After one year, the student can ask the Board of Education for reinstatement.

Notes

- During suspension, student-athletes cannot suit-up.
- As per WIAA rules, if any conduct identified in this code result in a student being ineligible for one or more WIAA tournament competitions, the student is disqualified for the remainder of the total tournament series in that sport.
- If a student is completing community service to reduce a suspension, the student is ineligible for participation up to the percentage of contests aligned with the offense until successful completion of the required hours and the Community Service Verification Form.
- All community service must be pre-approved by the Activities Director or Principal. The Community Service Verification Form will be used to record community service.

B. Category II Activities

First Offense

The consequence shall be suspension for 10% of the scheduled events or 10 hours of community service.

Second Offense

The consequence shall be suspension for 25% of the scheduled events or 20 hours of community service.

Third Offense

The consequence shall be suspension for 75% of the scheduled events or 40 hours of community service. If any of the three code violations the student has committed involve alcohol or other drugs, the student will be required to complete an alcohol or other drug abuse (AODA) assessment or any other treatment deemed necessary by the assessment agency or the district or follow through with all subsequent recommendations. All students need to have a parent/legal guardian attend and complete the assessment/class. The cost of the assessment is the responsibility of the parent/guardian. Proper documentation must be submitted to the Activities Director to show enrollment in an assessment/class and also upon successful completion.

Fourth Offense

The student is ineligible for all Category I and Category II Activities for the remainder of his/her high school career. After one year, the student can ask the Board of Education for reinstatement.

Notes

- If the consequence is community service the student is ineligible for participation until successful completion of the required hours and the completion of the Community Service Verification Form.
- All community service must be pre-approved by the Activities Director or Principal. The Community Service Verification Form will be used to record community service.

C. Application of Code Violations

Suspensions are applied to the current, next season of participation, or a combination thereof. Percentages of individual events are rounded off to the nearest whole number with a minimum of at least one contest. Penalties carry over to subsequent co-curricular activities. If a student is in both categories I and II activities, the student must fulfill requirements for both types of activities. If a student wishes to join an activity after the season has started and he/she has to serve a suspension for a code violation, that student must have the approval of both the Activities Director and the varsity head coach or adviser to be part of the team. If approved, the student will be on probationary status with the team for the duration of the season. He/she will need to complete the code violation requirements.

D. Self-reporting

A student whose conduct violates the code may report the violation to an administrator, his/her advisor, their head coach, or the varsity head coach of that sport in person, by phone, by email, or by text message. The communication must be specific regarding the violation. If the student does so within 24 hours of the violation, the student may be eligible for a reduced penalty if it is the student's first conduct violation and the student truthfully completes the Co-Curricular Self-Referral. The reduced penalty is 5% of scheduled events (Categories I and II) or 5 hours of community service (Category II only). Any violation that is being investigated by law enforcement or school officials before the time of self-reporting is not eligible for a reduced penalty.

E. Active Participation

During the season in which the participant is fulfilling his/her suspension, the student is expected to continue to actively participate in all team activities and/or fulfill all team related requirements for the remainder of the current season. A student must remain in good standing as an active participating member of the team or group for the entire season or full length of the activity in order to serve a suspension. If the student does not remain an active participant in good standing he/she will need to petition to have contests he/she sat out be considered as served. A three person panel from the Co-curricular Committee will review the petition. The student will be allowed to put in writing reasons the events should be counted for the panel to review. If the panel approves the petition, the events the individual did not participate in will be counted and the remaining of the events to be served will need to be completed in his/her next activity in order to regain eligibility. If the panel denies the petition, the student will need to serve the entire suspension in its entirety the next full season in which he/she participates.

F. Felonies

Any student who is charged or has charges pending against by the district attorney with a felony-level offense shall be suspended from all activities including practices and referred to the Activities Director or Principal for a hearing with the administration.

G. Awards Limitation

Students with conduct violations may not be eligible for special awards during the season of participation or any season in which the suspension is served. Students may also not be eligible for certain awards at the conclusion of their high school career.

The above guidelines are established as minimum consequences that shall be imposed. The District expressly reserves the right to impose a penalty deemed appropriate for each individual situation and case.

IX. Appeal Process

Any student who has received a code violation has the right to appeal. The appeal must be submitted to the Activities Director or Principal within ten business days of the initial decision. The appeal must be in writing and must include the rationale for the appeal. The student is ineligible during the appeal process.

A group consisting of one coach, one adviser, two staff members, and one administrator will review the appeal. The coach and adviser cannot be someone who has the student who is appealing as one of the participants in their activity. A hearing will be run by a non-voting administrator in which a quorum of the group will be present. The participant's appeal and the reasoning for the original decision as presented by an administrator will be heard. This group will make a final decision on the consequence based on the evidence presented to them at the hearing.

X. Dropping Out or Removal from Activity

A participant who quits or is dropped for disciplinary reasons from a Category I activity cannot participate in another Category I activity until the original activity is completed, unless approved by the Activities Director or Principal.

XI. Transportation

All students must travel to and from activities by school transportation only, unless designated otherwise in advance. A student may travel home with his/her parents/legal guardian only, provided the parent/legal guardian filled out a Transportation Release Form and it is on file with the coach/adviser. A coach/adviser may accept or deny this request at his/her discretion.

Non-discrimination Statement

The Seymour Community School District does not discriminate against students on the basis of sex, race, color, religion, age, nation origin, ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital or parental status, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression or physical, cognitive, emotional or learning disability in its education programs or activities.