

POLICY AND GUIDELINES FOR OFF-CAMPUS CONDUCT BY STUDENTS ENGAGED IN EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

The Board of Education of the Commerce Public Schools recognizes that: (1) Participation in school sponsored and sanctioned extracurricular activities is a privilege and not a right; (2) Off campus conduct by a student, who has been permitted to represent Commerce Public Schools in competitive and non-competitive extracurricular activities, can reflect either positively or negatively on the Commerce School System, its faculty and other students; and (3) the use of drugs and alcohol has been shown to have an adverse effect upon a student's training and performance in many extracurricular activities.

It is therefore the policy of the Board of Education of the Commerce Public Schools that:

- A. Any student, who is now or will be representing Commerce Public Schools in competitive and/or non-competitive extracurricular activities, shall not engage in any activity, whether on or off campus, which violates the criminal laws of the State of Oklahoma or any other State or Federal government and in addition, any such student shall refrain from the improper or illegal use of alcohol or other mind altering substances or controlled drugs;
- B. Before any student will be permitted to represent Commerce Public Schools in competitive and/or non-competitive extracurricular activities, the student and the student's parent(s) or guardian(s) must agree to abide by this policy.

GUIDELINES FOR VIOLATION OF POLICY

All disciplinary action imposed for violations of this policy as authorized below shall be in addition to any action or punishment required by the judicial and/or other governmental agencies and the Oklahoma Secondary Activities Association.

FIRST OFFENSE: Within one week of receiving information indicating a violation of this policy by any student, the involved principal, with input from the sponsors of all extracurricular activities in which the student is or might be involved, shall determine (a) whether the evidence establishes to their satisfaction or to a majority of them that the student has committed an act which violates this policy, and that the violation is both serious and of sufficient importance that it justifies disciplinary action. If so, the principal shall determine: if suspension is an appropriate disciplinary action; and the dates when the suspension will begin and end for each extracurricular activity.

Unless circumstances exist justifying either more or less suspension time, it is a recommendation, but not a requirement that suspension for a first offense should be for a minimum of ten percent (10%) the scheduled competitions/games of the in season activity or non-seasonal activities, as well as non competitive organizations.

While a student is serving his/her suspension, non-contact practice such as running, conditioning and/or weight training will be allowed. The student will not be allowed to participate in any scheduled events or activities.

SECOND OFFENSE: If a student violates this policy for a second time, the student shall immediately be suspended from participating in all extracurricular activities for a total of eighteen (18) continuous and successive school weeks. Such suspension will extend into a succeeding school year(s) if necessary to fulfill the suspension.

THIRD OFFENSE: If a student violates this policy for a third time, the student shall immediately be suspended from participating in all extracurricular activities for life. Such suspension will extend into succeeding school year(s) if necessary to fulfill the suspension.

APPEALS: Any student suspended from participating in extracurricular activities, including his or her parent(s) or guardian(s), shall have a right to appeal by filing with the Superintendent A Notice of Appeal which shall specify in writing the action of which complaint is made and the relief requested.

SHORT TERM SUSPENSION: If the suspension is for ten percent (10%) or less of the scheduled competitions/games of the in season activity or non-seasonal activities, as well as non competitive organizations, the superintendent shall hear any evidence offered by the student and the principal and render a decision on the appeal within ten (10) days of the appeal. On appeal the superintendent may modify the suspension, establish new dates or provide for more or less days of suspension. The decision of the superintendent shall be final, unless the decision by the superintendent is to suspend the student for more than ten percent (10%) of the scheduled competitions/games of the in season activity or non-seasonal activities, as well as non competitive organizations, in which event, a further appeal may be made to the Board of Education as provided below.

LONG TERM SUSPENSION: If the suspension is for more than ten percent (10%) of the scheduled competitions/games of the in season activity or non-seasonal activities, as well as non competitive organizations, the superintendent shall docket the matter for discussion and possible action at the next Board of Education meeting. At that meeting the Board may either hear the appeal or postpone the appeal to a date certain for a special meeting of the Board. In order to properly rule upon the appeal, the Board may hear evidence in executive session or public session, but the vote to render a decision on the appeal must be made in public session and recorded in the minutes.

After hearing the evidence, the Board may modify the suspension, establish new dates or provide for more or less days of suspension. The decision of the Board shall be final.

If the appeal is while school is in session, the Board must make a decision on the appeal within sixty (60) days, otherwise the decision on the appeal must be made no later than thirty (30) days following the start of the next school year.

During the pendency of the appeal to the Board, the student shall not be suspended from extracurricular activities until a decision on the appeal has been made, unless the Board, on application of the superintendent and by a two-thirds (2/3) vote, finds that the circumstances are such that the suspension should be ordered during the appeal.

By signing below, the student and his or her parent(s) or guardian(s) signify their agreement to the above policy.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We hereby acknowledge that we have received a copy of the above Board of Education policy, understand the same, and agree to its terms in order for _____ to engage in extracurricular activities sponsored by the Commerce Public Schools.

Sponsor's Signature

Date

Student's Signature

Date

Parent's Signature

Date