

## **TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 211**

### **ATHLETIC & COMPETITIVE ACTIVITY POLICIES & PROCEDURES FOR DISTRICT 211**

One purpose of the athletic and competitive activity program is to provide students wholesome competition on an interscholastic level. A necessary corollary to this purpose is the development in students of a sense of dedication and the establishment of high standards of conduct and attitude. Because participants represent their school, they are expected to represent high standards of morality and conduct. Student conduct is expected to be exemplary the year round.

In order to participate in the athletic and competitive activity program, the student and his/her parents shall be required to attend a mandatory pre-season meeting at which parents and the student will be informed about training and participation rules and the function of the Athletic/Activity Board.

Misconduct among participants shall include offenses such as the possession or use of tobacco in any form, possession or use of alcohol or drugs, theft, dishonesty, and other misconduct. Students who are found to be involved in such misconduct will face disciplinary action according to procedures outlined in section B, Disciplinary Procedures. When alcohol or drugs in any form are present at student parties, it is recommended that students involved in athletics or activities leave the party immediately.

A participant who admits to a drug, alcohol, or tobacco-related problem to a school staff member before a reported rule violation occurs will be referred to the principal. The principal will hold a conference with the student and his/her parents. After considering all information pertinent to the student's problem, the principal will decide the best course of action to help the student. The principal will confer with the administrator directing athletics and student activities at the District office before releasing the decision.

#### **A. THE ATHLETIC/ACTIVITY BOARD**

The Athletic/Activity Board is the disciplinary arm of the athletic and competitive activity program. It is composed of the following individuals:

- Athletic/Activity Director — Chair
- Selected members of the coaching/activity staff
- District 211 central administration representative

The Student Assistance Program Coordinator will receive notification of all Board meetings. When there is a need for the Athletic/Activity Board to meet because of a rule infraction by a student in a competitive activity, the director of student activities will serve on the Board in lieu of the division head for athletics.

The Board shall meet after a request has been presented to the athletic/activity director by the activity sponsor or coach to consider a disciplinary case involving an athlete or individual in a competitive activity (Cheerleaders, Chess Team, Debate Team, Flag Squad, Math Team, Model United Nations, Pom Pon Squad, Scholastic Bowl Team, Science Bowl Team, Science Olympiad, Special Olympics, Speech Team, Student Congress Club, and Worldwide Youth for Science and Engineering Club). The Athletic/Activity Board shall weigh the evidence that is presented and, after considering the best interests of the student and the school, make a decision on the disposition of the student's case.

## **B. DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES**

After a participant has been given an opportunity for due process and there is reason to conclude that the student has violated Athletic/Activity Policies based upon available information, he/she will be suspended from practices and/or competition pending a disciplinary review and decision by the Athletic/Activity Board. The parent will be notified in writing of the rule violation and will be requested to attend a Board meeting related to their student. The Board will meet at the earliest opportunity, but no later than 10 school days from the date of written notification of the Board meeting to consider the status of the student and render a decision. Generally, the following process will be observed for both in/out-of-season violations.

1. The Athletic/Activity Board verifies that the participant has been made aware of rules of the sport or activity.
2. Upon notice to the administration, either verbal or written, of an alleged violation of the rules, the student will be informed by the athletic/activity director of the nature of the offense and suspended from practice and/or competition. The athletic/activity director will notify the student to appear at a meeting of the Board. Parents will be notified of the rule violation and requested to appear at the meeting. If the violation occurs out-of-season, the participant will be informed by the administration and the same procedures will be followed.
3. The Athletic/Activity Board will meet to review the situation. The Board may invoke one or more of the following:
  - a. Dismiss the charges.
  - b. Place the student on probation for a specific length of time.
  - c. Invoke a suspension.
    1. A minimum penalty for first violation of possession/use of alcohol, tobacco in any form, or drugs will be 25% of the scheduled contests. (Tournaments, multiples, invitationals, and double headers count as one contest at the participant's level of competition.)
    2. When a suspension is invoked for a drug, alcohol, or tobacco violation, the student must attend and successfully complete an educational program recommended by the Athletic/Activity Board. The cost of the educational programs will be the responsibility of the student's parents.
    3. The penalty for theft and dishonesty will be established by the Board after review of the severity of the infraction.
    4. When a suspension is invoked, the Athletic/Activity Board will determine the season in which the penalty will begin.
  - d. Drop the student from the sport or activity for the remainder of the season.
  - e. Drop the student from participation in athletics or activities for the remainder of his/her time in high school.
4. The decision of the Board will be communicated in writing to the parent of the student.

## **C. GENERAL RULES**

Suspected violations and/or rumors are to be directed to the student's immediate coach or sponsor. It is hoped that the coach or sponsor can serve in a counseling role and directly inform the participant of the allegations and the importance of correcting an improper image. The District Director of Student Activities should be consulted if any doubt exists regarding the convening of an Athletic/Activity Board.

Revised: May, 2002