

WHITEHALL HIGH SCHOOL
EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES CONDUCT CODE
(Revised July 27, 2000)

PHILOSOPHY STATEMENT:

The extracurricular activities program of the Whitehall-Coplay School District is designed to promote the growth and development of our students. Since these programs are an integral part of the school's educational philosophy, participation in extracurricular activities is a privilege contingent upon compliance with established rules. The regulations set forth in this code are designed to positively promote the growth, development, and team spirit orientation of our students. The success of our programs will therefore, depend upon each participating student developing himself/herself to the fullest extent and accepting his/her responsibility to the activity, while exercising the ability to develop and fulfill all classroom responsibilities.

I. Definition of a Participant in a Whitehall High School Extracurricular Activity:

Any student whose name appears on the athletic academic eligibility checklist; on any musical organization roster; club or school organization including intramural activities during the previous or current school year.

II. Period of Applicability:

The regulations set forth in this code are in effect from the first legal practice date for fall extracurricular activities (or the first day of school for all other students) until the last day of the school year. In the event that an individual or school sponsored team/organization continues to participate beyond the last day of school, the student will be expected to adhere to all rules until the completion of the last event.

III. Extracurricular Goals and Objectives:

The ultimate goal of extracurricular offerings is to encourage each participant to become an effective citizen in a competitive, democratic society through the accomplishment of specific objectives:

- A. To provide opportunities for lasting friendships, not only within the Whitehall community, but other communities as well.
- B. To give students an early understanding that participation in extracurricular activities is a privilege not a right which carries responsibilities with it.
- C. To teach that a penalty follows the violation of a rule.
- D. To provide students the opportunity to participate and to develop a desire to excel to the best of their ability.
- E. To provide students the opportunity to practice good citizenship, by developing emotional control, cooperation, and dependability.
- F. To develop self-discipline, respect for authority, and the spirit of hard work; to place the organization and its objectives higher than any personal desires.
- G. To enjoy extracurricular activities by acknowledging the personal rewards derived from extracurricular programs and to give sufficiently of oneself in order to preserve and improve all school programs.
- H. To promote morale, school spirit and loyalty by providing activities which the whole community can support.
- I. To continue to improve by establishing a goal and diligently practicing skills while adhering to desirable habits and characteristics necessary to develop the individual.

Any student participating in Whitehall High School extracurricular activities, any club, musical or school sponsored organization will be required to abide by the rules listed in the Whitehall High School Key and Whitehall-Coplay District Policy Manual. Any major violation or repeated minor violation of the policies listed in the Whitehall-Coplay District Policy Manual will result in the penalties described below.

IV. Extracurricular Activity Eligibility:

To be eligible to participate in extracurricular activities at Whitehall High School, all students will be required to meet the following eligibility standards:

A. Appropriate School Behavior

1. Appropriate Student Behavior as determined by the Extracurricular Conduct Code, The Whitehall High School Key and the Whitehall-Coplay District Policy Manual.

B. Attendance in School

1. To participate in any extracurricular activity a student must be in attendance at school before 11:05 AM, excused, and 8:30 AM unexcused on the day of the activity.

2. Exceptions to the above rule would be a doctor appointment, a family or medical emergency, or extenuating circumstances. These exceptions would require a note from the student's parent/guardian and would be reviewed by the administration and the coach/advisor. They would determine the eligibility of the student to participate.
3. Normal detention procedure applies for accumulation of lates and will be enforced during practice, games, or extracurricular activities on detention days as is applied to the rest of the student body.
4. Students who are suspended from school or have multiple days of in-school may not participate until the suspension has been completed.

NOTE: All students participating in PIAA sanctioned events are subject to PIAA regulations for eligibility.

C. Suspension/Resignation:

1. Should a participant athlete/student be suspended from an activity, he/she may not join another activity during that athletic season or semester extracurricular activity.
2. Should a participant be cut or choose not to participate on one team, he/she may try-out for another team before that sport/activity season has ended.

D. Conduct of a Student Participant in Extracurricular Activities:

1. Ejection for misconduct during an extracurricular activity.
 - a. 1st offense – consequence at coach's and/or advisor's discretion
 - b. 2nd offense – suspension from one activity or competition
 - c. 3rd offense – administrative review
2. Profanity is unacceptable at any time. All offenses will be addressed by the coach and/or advisor.
3. Conduct unbecoming of a student participant during an activity or competition will be addressed by the coach/advisor.
4. An extracurricular participant shall abide by the Whitehall High School Extracurricular Activities Conduct Code as printed or explained. Any infraction by the participant will be handled by the administration and the coach or advisor:
 - a. if a violation involves an exclusion, in-school or out, the extracurricular participant will be suspended from extracurricular activities during the exclusionary period. He/she becomes eligible the next calendar day immediately following the last day of exclusion. If multiple days occur for an exclusion, the athlete is ineligible until the exclusion is completed.
 - b. if an extracurricular participant has detention, after serving the required time, he/she will report to the coach or advisor directly.
5. Tobacco: The following regulations have been developed by The Whitehall-Coplay School District in order to discourage our students from using, possessing, or distributing tobacco and tobacco products.
 - a. If the offense takes place on school property, administration will enforce the school code.
 - b. In addition, if the offense occurs on school property or at a school sponsored/approved function, and the school administration has verified the offense, it will be addressed by administration, and the result will be:
 - 1st offense – 3 week suspension from the sport or activity and will continue into the next sport or activity if the season and/or semester ends in less than 3 weeks
 - 2nd offense – will result in removal from the sport or activity for the rest of the athletic season or remainder of the semester for all extracurricular activities. In either case the removal should not be less than 6 weeks and will continue into the next sport or activity in which the student participates.
6. Alcohol and Other Drugs: The following regulations have been developed by the Whitehall-Coplay School District in order to discourage our students from using, possessing or distributing drugs and alcohol products.
 - a. No student shall use, possess, or distribute alcohol, drugs, steroids controlled substances, look-alikes, or possess drug-related paraphernalia on school property or during a school sponsored/approved activity.
 1. If the offense takes place on school property or during a school sponsored/approved activity, the following will apply:
 - a. 1st offense for use or possession
 - i. 3 to 10 day suspension from school
 - ii. dismissal from the team/activity for the remainder of the season for a sport or semester for activities
 - iii. 6 weeks will be the minimum amount of suspension time from an activity or sport and continue into the next sport or activity if the season or semester ends in less than 6 weeks.

- iv. referral to SAP
 - v. referral for a drug and alcohol evaluation at the Lehigh County Drug and Alcohol Intake Unit and compliance with all recommendations
 - b. Distribution of alcohol, drugs, steroids, controlled substances, look-alikes or drug related paraphernalia:
 - i. 10 day suspension from school and possible recommendation for expulsion
 - ii. dismissal from the team/activity for the remainder of the season or semester (6 weeks will be the minimum amount of suspension time from an activity or sport)
 - iii. referral to SAP
 - iv. referral for a drug and alcohol evaluation at the Lehigh County Drug and Alcohol Intake Unit and compliance with all recommendations.
- 2. If the participant does not follow the procedure and recommendation in either a or b, he/she will not be permitted to participate in any future Whitehall extracurricular program until the student/athlete comes into compliance.
 - b. Prior to any investigation or involvement, a student with a drug and alcohol problem may voluntarily come forward to request assistance without consequence. He/she will be evaluated by the Lehigh County Drug and Alcohol Intake Unit and must follow the recommendations they set forth. However, once a student participant has been properly evaluated and appropriate recommendations set forth, the student participant must cooperate with the recommendations to participate in extracurricular activities. If the participant does not follow the treatment, he/she will be dismissed from the current school activity and will not be permitted to participate in any future Whitehall extracurricular activities until the participant comes into compliance.

V. Removal or Dismissal From a Team/Activity

The removal or dismissal from a team/activity may be reduced to 3 weeks for violators in sections (IV 6A, 1a only) as per the following conditions:

- A. Student/parent must obtain prior approval (from the high school principal) for participation in a community service activity.
- B. Student and parent must submit documentation of completion of 15 hours/week for 3 weeks (total of 45 hours) of approved community service. Both student and parent must each meet this 45-hour requirement.
- C. Reduction in the length of removal from team/activity will only be considered for 1st offenses in sections (IV 6A ,1a only)

VI. Due Process (The following format of Due Process will be, used in all extracurricular investigations to evaluate allegations of misconduct and behavior modification options.)

- A. All allegations will be investigated by the High School principal or his designee.
- B. If sufficient evidence is found to warrant a possible violation of the activities code, a student hearing shall ensue.
- C. Notify parents/coaches/and students in a meeting of the findings to discuss the ramifications of the offense.
- D. Review consequences, and discuss positive options to modify the behavior.

VII. Activities Conduct A parent or legal guardian and the student participant must sign the Extracurricular Code consent form and return it before the opening day of the season or the semester. This will assure the coach and/or advisor that the student and parent/guardian will agree to uphold its standards. Athletics and activities are a privilege and this form must be signed prior to any individual participating in athletics or extracurricular activities.