

Chapter 9: Extra-Curricular Activity Code

Extra-Curricular Activities – Philosophy

At Tremont High School, extra-curricular activities are considered to be an important part of the total school experience.

The intent of the various programs is to give students the opportunity to develop a cooperative attitude, leadership skills, and good sportsmanship. It is, however, the responsibility of the student and his or her parents to monitor the amount of extra-curricular involvement so that the student's academic progress is not hindered, the following policies pertain to extra-curricular activities:

Academic Eligibility

Weekly Eligibility

To retain eligibility in all school-sponsored athletics and activities, a student may have no more than one failing grade in a class during the current grading period in the week preceding his or her eligibility. Weekly eligibility will be based on the grade from the grading period at the time the eligibility report is created. Grades will begin being calculated for eligibility at the end of the third week of each semester.

The weekly eligibility report will be done on the final day of each week. Students that are deemed ineligible will not be allowed to participate the week following the report (Monday through Sunday). Students can regain eligibility by meeting weekly eligibility criteria at the next weekly eligibility check.

Eligibility Based on Semester Grades

A student who is failing one or more classes at the nine-week midterm point or end of the semester will be ineligible to participate in school-sponsored athletics and activities for the following three weeks of classes. If the student is passing all courses at that time, he/she will regain eligibility.

Athletes that failed a high school course for 2nd semester of the previous school year will be deemed ineligible for the first week of contests in their fall sport. In sports that include multiple levels of play (F/S and varsity), an ineligible student-athlete must sit out of at least one contest at each level during the first two weeks of contests in that particular sport. For example, a sophomore football player would have to sit out of the first Friday varsity game and the first F/S game the following Monday before regaining eligibility.

Extra-Curricular Participation at THS

- All students must have a current physical exam and be properly insured before they will be allowed to practice or participate.
- Participants in all activities at THS are expected to represent their school and community in a positive manner.
- Coaches and sponsors may have additional behavior and participant expectations for each program.

Purpose

This activity code is an attempt to state the district's expectations and to influence the positive behavior in those individuals who are choosing to represent Tremont District #702.

The administration and staff of District #702 understand that responsible behavior rests with the individual. However, it is also the position of District #702 that participating in extra-curricular activities is a privilege. Thus, certain additional responsibilities are expected of those who receive the benefits provided by these extra school activities.

This activity code applies to all students who choose to represent Tremont District #702 including athletics, fine arts, student council, scholastic bowl, speech, plays and any other type of activity that involves interscholastic competition, public performance or other public meetings in which the school is represented.

This code is in effect year round. 8th grade students are considered freshmen immediately after the last day of 8th grade.

Requirements

Participants in extra-curricular activities at Tremont Schools will be subjected to the stated consequences and disciplinary actions if they violate any of the rules listed below:

- Students at Tremont High School will be prohibited from activities involving the possession, smoking, or chewing of tobacco products, including vaping devices, equipment, juices, etc.
- Students at Tremont High School will be prohibited from activities involving the illegal possession, consumption, sale, delivery, or transport of alcohol. In addition, they may not be present during activities where illegal alcohol is present.
- Students at Tremont High School will be prohibited from activities involving the possession, consumption, sale, delivery, or transportation of drugs, look-alike drugs, or any mind-altering substances, including vaping devices, equipment, juices, etc.
- Students at Tremont High School will be prohibited from attending events involving, but not limited to, possession, smoking, chewing, consumption, sale, delivering or transporting of tobacco, alcohol, drugs, look-alike drugs or mind-altering substances.
- Students at Tremont High School will not engage in any illegal activities in or out of school, which bring discredit to the students, parents, community, school district or their team.

Procedures

All reported alleged violations will be thoroughly investigated by the principal, athletic director and appropriate coach. The investigation process will include but not be limited to:

1. Questioning each student involved or thought to be involved.
2. Using tickets issued or information gathered from law enforcement during the investigation to question other students
3. After information has been gathered, a determination will be made in regards to the violation and the penalty to be assigned as a result of the violation.

Communication Sequence

Once an activity code violation investigation begins, the following sequence of questioning and communication will be utilized:

- Students who may have been involved with a violation are questioned.
- Parents of students who were questioned are called to discuss the results of the investigation.
- If students are found to be in violation, a letter is sent to the parents to outline the violation, the penalty, and the date of possible reinstatement.

Consequences for the violations of these rules include, but are not limited to, the following:

Attendance Violation

The Board of Education and administration believes that students should avoid gatherings where alcohol and/or drugs are being consumed illegally. However, attendance only is not on the same punishment level as possession or consumption and different consequences have been established:

- **Consequences: Attendance**
 - FIRST AND SECOND OFFENSE
Suspension from all regularly scheduled contests at the following levels by sport:
 - Football, Golf, Cross-Country, Dance and Track: 1 game or match
 - Volleyball, Basketball, Wrestling: 2 matches
 - Cheerleading: 3 games
 - Baseball/Softball: 4 games
- *Any offense (attendance or otherwise) will count toward the athlete's total number of offenses.*

Activity Code Violations

- FIRST OFFENSE: Suspension from all activities for one half of the regularly scheduled events; or, one-third of the regular events and twenty hours of service to be monitored by the school. Penalties are assigned at the point when a student is participating in a sport or activity.
- SECOND OFFENSE: Suspension from all contests and activities for one calendar year from the date of the penalty assessment.
- THIRD OFFENSE: Suspension from all activities for a minimum of two calendar years.
- **Consequences for violations of the activity code may only be applied to activities in which the student has a history of participation as deemed sufficient by the school administration. In other words, students may not serve suspensions for activity code violations in activities in which they have not previously participated. This is to prevent students from joining a team or program for the sole purpose of serving a suspension.**

Felonies

Students involved with felony activity may be assigned additional consequences that take into consideration the seriousness of their offense as determined by the administration.

Chemical Dependency Problem

Any student who is experiencing a chemical dependency problem and comes forward desiring help in seeking treatment before the administration or appropriate coaching staff is aware of specific violation of the activity code, may not be required to face the activity code process; but will receive counseling and treatment restrictions, as well as participation limits, as part of his or her rehabilitation process.

Middle School Transition

This activity code will be applied to middle school students; however, these students will start over with clean slates upon becoming high school students.

Middle school students are considered to become high school students immediately following their eighth grade promotion ceremony. Violations in the summer between eighth grade and the start of high school will be considered high school violations.

Reinstatement Petition

A student who has been suspended for a second offense and has served at least ninety days counting student attendance days and/or athletic season attendance days may petition for reinstatement. A student may only apply for reinstatement one time in a high school career.

Reinstatement may occur if the student:

- Demonstrates a changed behavior
- Sought and completed a counseling program
- Maintained acceptable academic standards

Penalties may be reduced by 2/3 vote of the Activity Council

ACTIVITY COUNCIL:

- 2 Students
- 1 Community Leader
- 2 Teachers
- 2 Coaches
- Principal
- Athletic Director

Principal, Athletic Director, and Applicable Coaches Role

- Investigate incidents
- Present information
- Communicate with students and parents.
- Determine violation and assign consequences.
- Serve on Activity Council

Activity Council Role

The AC will be convened to act upon all submitted petitions for reinstatement. During the hearing they will strive to evaluate the sincerity behind the student's effort to seek counseling and change behavior. The AC will determine if a reduction in penalty is warranted based on the evidence presented.

Appeals concerning the length of penalty may be made if there are extenuating circumstances. The AC will listen to the student and determine if the penalty should be reduced.

Due Process

If a student does not agree with the decision made in regard to the violation and/or suspension, the student may appeal to the Superintendent and Board of Education within ten days of the decision.

Approved Counseling Program

The administration and parents will work together to determine appropriate counseling programs.

Extra-Curricular Programs Governed by the Activity Code

- **Activities**
 - School Play
 - Chorus and Band Contests
 - School Clubs
 - Student Council
 - Yearbook
 - Speech
 - Scholastic Bowl
 - FFA
 - Roboteers
 - Dance Court
- **Athletics**
 - Baseball
 - Basketball
 - Cheerleading
 - Cross Country
 - Dance
 - Football
 - Golf
 - Soccer co-op
 - Softball
 - Swimming co-op
 - Track and Field
 - Volleyball
 - Wrestling
- ***Or any other interscholastic athletic team or activity affiliated with Tremont High School***

Additional Rules and Expectations

Coaches and sponsors have the right to establish general and specific team rules above and beyond the Activity Code (provided these rules are deemed appropriate by the principal and/or athletic director). The rules will include the

consequences for failure to comply with the stated guidelines and should be distributed in the pre-season.

Final Note on Penalties and Guidelines

The administration and Board of Education reserve the right to waive, alter or modify any penalties or guidelines as necessary due to extenuating circumstances

Crowd Expectations for Home and Away Contests

Extra-curricular activities have always enjoyed an enthusiastic following at Tremont High School. The administration and faculty appreciate the support of the students and parents at extra-curricular activities. Fans are strongly encouraged to follow guidelines below:

- Be enthusiastic in a positive manner
- Cheer for Tremont; not against other schools
- Vulgarly or obscene language or gestures will not be tolerated
- Conduct that represents yourself, our school, and our community in a positive way

Failure to follow these guidelines can result in an immediate ejection from the activity and possible additional consequences

Dance Court Policy

1. Prom Court shall be nominated by the Junior Class and shall consist of five (5) junior boys and five (5) junior girls. The King and Queen shall be selected by members of the Junior and Senior classes.
2. Homecoming Court shall be nominated by the Senior Class and shall consist of five (5) senior boys and five (5) senior girls. The students who served as Prom King and Queen shall not be eligible to serve on the Homecoming Court. The Homecoming King and Queen shall be voted on by the entire student body.
3. The prior year's Prom King and Queen will be recognized at the Homecoming festivities and will ride in the Homecoming parade.
4. A foreign exchange student shall be eligible to serve on any dance court.

School Dances

The following are specifically prohibited at school-sponsored dances: drugs, alcohol, sexually explicit dancing (ex. Grinding, dirty dancing, etc.), and any dancing which may result in disruption or injury (ex. Moshing). "Contact" dancing must be limited to 2 people. A student or guest will receive one warning for inappropriate dancing. If the behavior persists, the student or guest will be asked to leave the dance and parent/guardian will be notified.

TREMONT HIGH SCHOOL HANDBOOK: A FINAL NOTE

The provisions in this handbook are not to be considered as irrevocable, contractual commitments between the school and student. Rather, the provisions reflect the current status of rules, practices, and procedures as currently practiced and are subject to change without prior notification.

Furthermore, this handbook is not considered the only resource for all District policy, procedures, or regulations. The Tremont Board of Education Policy Manual and the Illinois School Code are available in the District #702 Central Office.

We invite your input as we continue to update and improve this document and our policies each year.