

Activities Code Updates January 2024

Several changes to the Activities Code were adopted at the January regular school board meeting which will take effect immediately.

Why were changes made for this school year?

Changes were made to the consequences and penalties portion of the Activities Code for immediate implementation for several reasons:

- Previous policy did not reflect the District's belief that students need opportunities to learn from their mistakes, specifically first-time offenders
- This part of the code had not been updated in over 10 years

All participants and one parent/guardian must review the changes to the Activities Code to remain eligible for the rest of this school year. Regardless of signature, this new policy will be implemented effective January 25, 2024.

DUE DATE: FEBRUARY 16, 2024

How were these changes decided on?

All coaches and advisors were invited to be a part of the Activities Code review process in October & November. The following coaches participated in reviewing our Code, as well as every school's code in the Northern Lakes Conference:

Coach Graves - Girls BBall , Coach Wilsens - Volleyball, Coach Eckardt - Boys Basketball
Coach Robrecht - Softball, Coach Paulsen - Softball, Mr. Krombos - Activities Director
and Mrs. Zutavern - Principal

This committee met several times and made recommendations for changes to our Code. All coaches were then given an opportunity to review their recommendations and give input before it was brought to the Board of Education in December. These changes were formally approved at the January regular school board meeting.

Conduct Violations - Additional Information

Additional penalties based on violations to the student handbook may be assigned based on the nature and severity of the violation. This may include pre-expulsion or expulsion agreements.

If a student goes out for an activity to satisfy a penalty, they must complete the season in good standing. The student must be an active participant in all practices and contests as well as follow participation rules and expectations for the specific activity.

It is expected that students cooperate fully with school administration, law enforcement, or other outside agencies if a conduct violation is suspected. If a student refuses to participate in an investigation to determine if a conduct violation occurred, the investigation will be conducted without their statement. If there is evidence to suggest a code violation occurred, the student will be disciplined accordingly.

Group I: WIAA & MS Sports Changes

No changes were made to the percentage of season lost as this is consistent with the Northern Lakes Conference. However, this information was added to clarify how a suspension is served:

Students serving a suspension for a violation are required to be at all scheduled practices, contests, and/or activities in order for the suspension to be fulfilled. Students are expected to sit on the bench for the duration of each scheduled contest in plain clothes and follow directions from their coaches as to how they can support their team (unless the team is dismissed early from school to travel). Failure to abide by these expectations will result in the suspension not being served.

Dual-sport athletes (i.e. participating in baseball and golf simultaneously) will serve the designated penalty in both sports. These students will need to communicate with both coaches to properly serve their penalties.

Group II: School-Sponsored Activities Changes

Group II - School-Sponsored Activities

Academic Competitions (i.e. Northern Lakes Art Show, Welding Competition, Solo/Ensemble & Large Group)

1st Violation: 10 Hours of Community Service

2nd Violation: Loss of Participation for One Calendar Year

3rd Violation: Banned for the Rest of High School

Activities that Last Entire School Year (i.e. SADD)

1st Violation: Loss of Participation for 45 School Days

2nd Violation: Loss of Participation for One Calendar Year

3rd Violation: Banned for the Rest of High School

Activities w/Specific Start/End Date (i.e. Trap Club, Drama Club, Fishing Club, Forensics)

1st Violation: 10 Hours of Community Service

2nd Violation: Loss of Participation for One Calendar Year

3rd Violation: Banned for the rest of high school

Students participating in Group I & Group II Activities simultaneously will only be required to serve the Group I penalty. If the student does not successfully complete the season and serve their full penalty in their Group I Activity, the Group II penalty will apply.

Students that are only in a Group II Activity will be suspended until the consequence is served.

Group III: Elected Positions & School Honors Changes

Organizations with rules/bylaws (National Honor Society, Student Council, Class Officers) - Follow the rules of the organization. Administration will inform the Activity Advisor of the violation. The Activity Advisor will notify the Activities Director of the determination.

These rules will now be attached as appendices to the Activities Code and are available on the school website by clicking [here](#). Rules for Class Officer positions were developed by High School teaching staff.

Group III: Elected Positions & School Honors Changes

Dance/Homecoming Court

- 1st Violation - Ineligible for next dance/homecoming event court.
 - A student can regain good standing/eligibility by completing 15 hours of community service as outlined in the Activities Code, meet all other eligibility requirements (i.e. passing grades, prom work hours, etc.) and have no other major behavior infractions. Community service hours must be completed at least one week prior to event court nominations.
 - If an infraction occurs within one calendar week of the dance/event, the student will be ineligible with no opportunity to complete community service hours. If the suspension is being served in the school day prior to the dance/event, the student will not be allowed to attend the dance/event.
- 2nd Violation - Ineligible for one calendar year with no opportunity to redeem good standing/eligibility.
- 3rd Violation - Ineligible for dance/homecoming court for the remainder of their high school career.

Special Awards Changes

Students who violate the code will be ineligible for any special awards during the season of participation or any season in which the suspension is served. This includes team captain, all-conference, academic all-conference, all-area, and all-state.

Special award opportunities presented on behalf of the Elcho High School coaching staff are available to students who have upheld and maintained the ideals of our school district's values, have met the criteria for the award, and are selected by coaches and administrators. Conduct violations will be reviewed and considered by nominating coaching staff if applicable.

Community Service Changes

Community service hours will not be counted if they occurred during the school day (i.e. calling in absent to complete hours or leaving scheduled classes to complete hours) or if they occurred during commitments they should be fulfilling within their current activity (i.e. activity practice/performance, scheduled competitions, etc.)

Presence at Parties Changes

Mere Presence Policy

Presence at gatherings where alcohol or other drugs are being illegally used and/or dispensed is strictly prohibited. Students are expected to leave immediately and encourage as many other students as possible to do so.

Students are not prohibited from attending weddings, reunions, anniversaries, graduation parties, or other ceremonial functions where alcohol is being legally served, but they may not consume alcohol or be in possession of alcoholic beverages even though they have parental permission.

*Note: Parental permission does not override the provisions of this code.

Transportation - Addition

Prior to this review, no language existed regarding student transportation for school-sponsored activities. This language was added for clarity to students, parents, and coaching staff:

All students are required to use school transportation to and from school-sponsored events. School transportation may include school vehicles driven by coaching or teaching staff. Students will be permitted to ride home with their own parents/guardians after an event and will be required to sign out at the end of the event with the coach. Students may be permitted to ride home with another student's parent/guardian if written permission from their parent/guardian is given to the coach and/or Activities Director prior to the event. Students will not be allowed to ride home from events with other students.

Exceptions to this rule will only be made under extreme circumstances with advanced notice and will require approval from administration.

Football, Baseball, & Golf Transportation

Football players may be permitted to transport themselves to and from the practice field in Pearson if written permission is given to the coach and/or Activities Director prior to the start of self-transporting.

Football players transporting other students to the practice field will be permitted for practices only if written permission is given to the coach and/or Activities Director from each parent/guardian prior to the start of self-transporting.

Baseball and softball players are not permitted to drive their vehicles to the practice fields after school from the student parking lot.

Golf players may be permitted to transport themselves to and from Bass Lake Golf Course if written permission is given to the coach and/or Activities Director prior to the start of self-transporting.

Golf players transporting other students to and from Bass Lake Golf Course will be permitted for practices only if written permission is given to the coach and/or Activities Director from each parent/guardian prior to the start of self-transporting.

Next steps to ensure you are eligible to keep participating:

A full version of the updated Activities Code can be found [here](#).

Complete the NEW Google form [here](#).

Yes, that was a lot to read!

If you have questions, please
contact Mrs. Zutavern.

We want students to learn from their mistakes, but participation in activities and athletics is a privilege for those that follow school rules and expectations.
