

R 5600.1 Extra-Curricular Code of Conduct

The Ridgewood Board of Education, administrators, coaches and activity advisors, in conjunction with parents and students who are selected to represent Ridgewood High School in athletic or activity expect that members conduct themselves as responsible representatives of their schools. These activities are considered a privilege and not a student right so the school may remove the privilege if necessary. Students who participate in sports or student activities shall be expected to exemplify high standards of behavior. Students whose actions or conduct relate to the safety, security and well-being of students, staff, or school grounds, and whose behavior is determined to materially and substantially interfere with the requirements of appropriate discipline in the operation of the school or its programs, should be subject to disciplinary consequences, following the extracurricular code. All reports of suspected violations will be reported to the Athletic Director and/or the Assistant Principal for Student Services. After an alleged violation of the code been verified by either school personnel, judicial or law enforcement agencies the appropriate disciplinary consequences will be imposed by the Athletic Director and/or Assistant Principal.

The Ridgewood High School extracurricular program provides staff and coaches a unique opportunity to assist young people. Ridgewood High School, therefore, advocates training and awareness to help administrators, athletic directors, coaches, staff, participants and their families to respond to problematic adolescent behavior including alcohol, tobacco and other drug use and criminal or quasi criminal behavior.

General Implementation: Extra-curricular Code Violations

The Ridgewood High School Extra-curricularCode acts to supplement all of our disciplinary policies, not to supplant them.

1. The code applies to all extracurricular activities in which a student participates. As a result, consequences are assigned to every extracurricular activity. A student leadership role will be evaluated upon each offense with the possibility of removal at any time.
2. The term of activity or athletic event encompasses all organizations which are now operating or which may be created after this policy is in effect.
3. Consequences for multiple violations must be served consecutively. A suspension may be carried over from one sport or activity season into another. If a student cannot fulfill a suspension in the current sport or activity, the remaining consequences carry over to the next season/activity.



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4. School officials are not expected to monitor off-campus, non-school activities. However, violations of Categories II and III of the Extra-curricular Code will be subject to the consequences stated in the Code regardless of the place or time of such violations throughout the calendar year, or whether such violations occurred at school, school-related or non-school related activities, provided that such violations are reasonably confirmed by a preponderance of facts including information from police reports. Unsubstantiated information (i.e. rumors and/or hearsay) will be reported/shared with parents.
5. A student charged with any illegal activity by the police will face immediate consequences as outlined by the Extra-curricular Code. Under N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.6, a Board has the authority to “impose a consequence on a student for conduct away from school grounds including on a school bus or at a school sponsored function that is consistent with the district Board of Education’s code of student conduct.” The Board, however, can only exercise that authority when:
 - a. It is reasonably necessary for the student’s physical or emotional safety, security and well-being or for reasons relating to the safety, security and well-being of other students, staff or school grounds pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:25-2 and 18A:37-2 N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.6(a)1] and
 - b. the conduct which is the subject of the proposed consequence materially and substantially interferes with the requirements of appropriate discipline in the operation of school N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.6(a)2].
6. Any uniforms and equipment distributed to students must be returned to the coach/advisor at the end of each season/activity. If not returned, students shall be held responsible for the value of the uniforms and equipment. This pertains to damaged, misplaced or stolen uniforms and equipment. Failure to return items will result in students not being permitted to participate in any athletic program or activity until this obligation is met.

Special Program Consequences

These consequences apply to students participating in the ALPS Program and the Freshmen F.O.C.U.S. Peer Counselors.

Category I - All consequences apply.



Category II - Zero tolerance. Students will be removed from the program for the remainder of the year. Students may apply for reinstatement with evidence of rehabilitation efforts including participation in the Check Point Program.

Category III - All consequences apply.

Category I

General offenses not listed in Categories II and III such as, but not limited to, cheating, gambling, bullying, fighting, verbal abuse, theft vandalism, unsportsmanlike behavior, or conduct which would constitute a misdemeanor under Federal or New Jersey law, while in school, or school property, or as representative of a Ridgewood High School sport or activity.

Consequences: Category I consequences pertain to all offenses that occur during school or related activities.

First Offense

Students who do not meet the requirements of the Extracurricular Code are subject to the following:

1. Notification to and/or a conference with the Advisor and/or Athletic Director/Assistant Principal and the Guidance Counselor.
2. One or more of the following:
 - a. conference with advisor/coach;
 - b. conference with student leaders and advisor/coach;
 - c. conference with advisor/coach and parent;
 - d. conference with advisor/coach, Assistant Principal, Athletic Director and Grade Level Advisor;
 - e. removal from participating in the immediate activity or performance;
 - f. suspension from participating in the immediate activity or performance;
 - an offense which occurs while engaged in an athletic activity will result in a suspension from the next athletic contest;



- an offense which occurs while engaged in any other activity will result in a suspension from the next event in that activity;
 - the offense which occurs outside of either of the above described situations will result in a suspension from the next event, either athletic or activity;
- g. return home from field trip at parent(s) expense;
- h. ineligibility for further field trips or contests (number to be determined);
- i. financial restitution;
- j. personal apology;
- k. school/community service;
- l. referral to school support personnel/group or program;
- m. referral to outside agency;
- n. behavioral contract;
- o. other consequences deemed suitable for the situation;
- p. decrease or deny responsibilities in activity.

Second and Subsequent Offenses

Students who do not meet the requirements of the Extracurricular Code are subject to any of the consequences applied to a first offense.

Category II

Offenses related to alcohol, tobacco and other drug violations.



Behavioral Requirements

Ridgewood High School students must abstain from any act, attempt or intent to possess, use, obtain, manufacture, sell or distribute any controlled substance, including alcohol, inhalants, other drugs, anabolic steroids, or any substance purported to be or presented as an illegal, controlled, or intoxicating substance or drug paraphernalia such as but not limited to pipes, bongs, rolling paper, etc.

Ridgewood High School students must abstain from possession, smoking, and the use of tobacco products. "Tobacco products" include but are not limited to cigarette, cigar, pipe, or tobacco in any other form including smokeless tobacco which is any loose, cut, shredded, ground, powdered, compressed, or leaf tobacco that is intended to be placed in the mouth without being smoked.

All coaches and/or advisors of the student's extracurricular activities will be notified by the Athletic Director and/or Assistant Principal of a violation for the health and safety of the student. Category II offenses include student behavior at school, school related and non-school related activities at all times throughout the calendar year. The police department may be notified.

The Code applies to all activities/athletics in which a student participates. As a result, consequences will be assigned to every extracurricular activity. A student leadership role will be evaluated upon each offence with the possibility of removal at any time.

When, in the judgment of the Principal or the Principal's designee, it has not been established there was a violation, but there is reasonable basis to believe that a prohibited tobacco, alcohol, or other drug use and/or possession may have occurred. All information available will be given to the student's counselor, crisis intervention counselor and parent.

Consequences: Students who do not meet these expectations regardless of place or time will be subject to the following consequence:

First Offense Consequences – Category II

1. Conference with the Athletic Director and/or Assistant Principal;
2. Conference with Crisis Intervention Counselor;



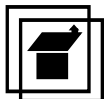
3. Successful completion of the Check Point Program (student and parent(s));

If the Check Point Program has been previously completed, the student and parent must complete an assessment from an approved agency/hospital and successfully complete the recommendations from the said assessment (at student/parent expense). Proof of the completed assessment and recommendations must be submitted to the Assistant Principal. Failure to complete the assessment and recommendations will result in the loss of eligibility until the assessment and recommendations are completed.

4. A first tobacco offense will result in the successful completion of the Smoking Cessation/Information Program the student must attend.
5. A one week (7 days) suspension from the program/team/activity. This will include all practices and games/performances/contests/meetings.
6. Police may be notified.

Second Offense Consequences

1. Conference with Athletic Director, and/or Assistant Principal;
2. Conference with the Crisis Intervention Counselor;
3. Obtain an assessment from an approved outside agency/hospital and successfully complete the recommendations made from said assessment (at parent/student expense);
4. A second tobacco offense will require successful completion of the Check Point Program if not already completed (Students and Parents). Failure to complete the approved program shall result in the loss of eligibility until the approved program has been completed;
5. A one month (28 days) suspension from the program/team/activity. This will include all practices and games/performances/contests/meetings;
6. Police may be notified.



Third and Subsequent Offenses Consequences

Upon confirmation of a third violation and subsequent violations, the student extracurricular participant shall lose eligibility for participation in all extracurricular activities for one (1) full calendar year, commencing upon the date of such confirmation.

1. Obtain an assessment from an approved outside agency/hospital and successfully complete the recommendations made from said assessment (at parent/student expense).
2. A mandatory conference with the Assistant Principal and/or Crisis Intervention Counselor, the parent(s) and the student extracurricular participant is required for reinstatement. Following such conference the Principal may, but shall not be obligated, to reinstate such student's eligibility.

Category III

Severe offenses such as, but not limited to hate crimes, hazing, criminal assault, sexual assault or such conduct which would constitute a felony under Federal or New Jersey criminal law.

Behavioral Requirements

Ridgewood High School students must abstain from committing, participating in, assisting other persons in committing or participating in or being a party to any of the following acts:

1. A hate crime. A hate crime is any threat, intimidation, harassment, physical touching, vandalism, property damage, or any act which would constitute a violation of Federal or New Jersey criminal laws, committed by reason of the actual or perceived race, color, creed, religious ancestry, gender, sexual orientation, physical or mental disability or national origin of another individual or group of individuals;
2. Hazing of any person or group of persons;
3. Harassment (including, but not limited to harassment over the Internet) against any person or group of persons, or directed against any person or group of persons;
4. Any act committed with the intent to cause significant physical harm to persons or significant damage (exceeding \$500) to property;
5. Any act which would constitute a felony under Federal or New Jersey criminal law.



Consequences

Students who do not meet the Category III expectations shall, without exception, be subject to all of the following consequences and other consequences deemed appropriate by the principal:

1. Upon confirmation of a violation, the student athlete/activity participant shall lose eligibility for participation in activities and/or sports for one (1) full calendar year, commencing upon the date of such confirmation;
2. The Principal or Principal's designee shall notify law enforcement officials, as warranted;
3. After the student has served the one year suspension from participation eligibility, the student may obtain reinstatement by attending a conference with the Principal or the Principal's designee and the student's parent(s). Following such conference, the Principal may, but shall not be obligated to, reinstate such student's eligibility.

Adopted: 9 February 2015

