

**Athlete Codes of Conduct** - A firm and fair policy of enforcement is necessary to uphold the regulations and standards of the county and school. The community, school administrators and the coaching staff feel strongly that high standards of conduct and citizenship are essential in maintaining a sound program. The welfare of the athlete is our major consideration. Any conduct which results in dishonor to the athlete, the team, the school, or the community will not be tolerated. Notwithstanding the consequences discussed in this handbook, any act at school or away from school, which results in any discipline by school administration; or any act at school or away from school which, in the opinion of the Principal reflects in a negative manner on the school, athletic program, or activity may result in removal from the team or event or lessened participation opportunities. Behavioral expectations and prohibitions apply 365 days a year, 24 hours a day, in and out of the specific extracurricular season, and on or off school grounds. In addition to the individual penalties associated with this handbook, all athletes fall under the jurisdiction of local school rules and policies and the Fulton County Code of Conduct (LINKS TO ALL PARTS OF OPERATING GUIDELINES JD (Parts A, B, and C)).

**Ethics Rule:** Acts of unacceptable conduct, such as, but not limited to, disruption of school, theft, vandalism, disrespect, immorality, or violations of the law tarnish the reputation of everyone associated with the program and will not be tolerated. Due to the serious nature of violations of the Ethics Rule, the appropriate coach, the athletic director and the principal shall establish procedures to determine the penalty according to the degree of the infraction.

**Bullying and Hazing:** The Fulton County School District expressly prohibits the bullying of any person by any means or method, at school, on school property, or at school-related functions. [Policy JDB and Operating Guideline JD](#)

**Training Rules/Regulations:** Training rules/regulations about substance abuse cannot be compromised to allow participation in GHSA Extracurricular Activities. The athlete who uses tobacco, alcohol, illegal drugs, or any type of mood altering substance found in legal over the counter products jeopardizes team morale, team reputation, and team success and does physical harm to himself/herself ([Operating Guideline JD](#)).

1. Use of Tobacco - Student athletes shall not use tobacco at any time, during the season and/or off-season..
2. Use of Alcoholic Beverages - Student athletes shall not consume alcoholic beverages at any time, during the season and/or off-season.
3. Use of Illegal Drugs or Mood Altering Substances - Student athletes shall not use illegal drugs or mood altering substances at any time, during the season and/or off-season.

**Penalties for Violation of Training Rules With Alcohol or Drugs (Non-Felony)**

A. Chemical Use

1. An athlete, regardless of quantity, shall not:
  - a. Buy, be in possession of, or use a beverage containing alcohol at any time;
  - b. Be in possession of, or use tobacco at any time;
  - c. Use, consume, possess, buy, sell, or distribute any controlled or other illegal or mood-altering substance at any time.
2. Athletes are responsible for their off-season and out-of -school behavior. These rules apply to an athlete's entire high school career.
3. It is not a violation for an athlete to be in possession of a controlled substance specifically prescribed for the student's personal use by his/her doctor.
4. Athlete possession of substances containing alcohol under parent supervision for religious purposes will not be considered a violation of this policy.

B. Penalties for violation include:

Tobacco:

1. First Violation:  
After confirmation of the first violation during out-of season or during the sport's season, the athlete will receive coach's administered discipline.
2. Second Violation:

After confirmation of the first violation during the season, the student will lose a minimum of 20% or up to a maximum of 100% of his/her remaining competitions/events. If the first violation occurs out-of-season, the determination of the penalty is at the discretion of the coach and/or principal. The athlete may be permitted to try out for the sport but will lose a minimum of 20% or up to a maximum of 100% of his/her remaining competitions/events. The athlete may be prohibited from ever representing his/her school in inter-scholastic activities at any time in the future.

#### Alcohol/Drugs/Controlled Substances

##### 3. First Violation:

After confirmation of the first violation during the season, the student will lose a minimum of 20% or up to a maximum of 100% of his/her remaining competitions/events. If the first violation occurs out-of-season, the determination of the penalty is at the discretion of the coach and/or principal. The athlete may be permitted to try out for the sport but will lose a minimum of 20% or up to a maximum of 100% of his/her remaining competitions/events.

##### 4. Second Violation:

After confirmation of a second violation during the season, the athlete will lose 100% of his/her season schedule. The athlete may be prohibited from ever representing his/her school in inter-scholastic athletic activities at any time in the future. If the second violation occurs out-of-season, the athlete will lose a minimum of 20% or up to a maximum of 100% of his/her competitions/events in the sport of which the student is about to participate in or compete in following the second violation.

These rules and consequences in addition to any other school discipline under the Code of Conduct. Because the rules are consistently applied in all Fulton County Schools, an athlete may not regain eligibility by merely transferring to another Fulton County School.

***Self-Referral by the Student.*** An athlete who wishes to seek information, guidance, counseling, and assessment with regard to use of tobacco, alcohol, and other drugs may take advantage of our self-referral program. If a student fails to self-report and is caught violating the above-stated rules regarding tobacco, alcohol, and other drugs, that student may be subject to harsher penalties.

#### **Criminal Activity:**

Parents/guardians and/or students must report any arrest of a student or behavior in which law enforcement is involved, to their high school administration or coach within two weeks (14 calendar days) of the arrest or behavior. The two week time frame includes weekends, school holidays and summer vacation. Failure to report arrest or behavior will result in the student's consequences for the behavior in question being doubled and possible additional consequences for failure to report the behavior.

**Felonies (Including Felonies Relating to Drugs or Alcohol):** A student who is arrested for, or charged with a felony or charged with an act that would constitute a felony if committed by an adult shall be automatically suspended from interscholastic GHSA activities. Students will not be permitted to participate in preseason activities. The student shall remain suspended until: (1) The charges are completely dismissed; (2) The charges are reduced to a misdemeanor in which case the student may be subject to penalties outlined for misdemeanors or alcohol/drugs; (3) The student is found not guilty; or (4) The student successfully completes the consequences assigned by the judge or agreed to by the student, including probation or diversion, the student may be permitted to participate in extracurricular activities. Evidence that the probation period has expired, fines have been paid and/or community service has been completed is required.

If a student has been arrested or charged with an offense, but the matter has been expunged, sealed, removed from a student's record, or the behavior has not been prosecuted (*nolle prosequi*), that student should present or obtain documentation as required by the school to determine the circumstances of the matter. These circumstances may not be sufficient to lift the student's consequences.

**Misdemeanors Not Related to Drugs and Alcohol:** A student who is arrested for, charged with, or found guilty of a misdemeanor shall receive consequences as outlined below. However, minor offenses that result in fines alone may be dealt with in the discretion of the coach and Principal or designee. However, any student who is accused of a misdemeanor alcohol/drug offense or a misdemeanor DUI will receive consequences as "Penalties for Violation of Training Rules With Alcohol or Drugs" above.

1st and Subsequent Offenses: Minimum suspension from activities for one (1) school day up to a maximum of permanent suspension from extracurricular activities.

If the student produces proof that the charges are completely dismissed or the student is found not guilty, these consequences may be lifted. If a student has been arrested or charged with an offense, but the matter has been expunged, sealed, removed from a student's record, or the behavior has not been prosecuted (*nolle prosequi*), that student should present or obtain documentation as required by the school to determine the circumstances of the matter. These circumstances may not be sufficient to lift the student's consequences.

***Individual Coach's Rules:*** Coaches may establish general rules and regulations with the approval of the athletic coordinator and principal for their respective activities. Coaches may also address unique situations and issue consequences to athletes in accordance with the circumstances involving the athlete and his/her membership on the team. These rules, pertaining to a particular activity, must be given by the coach in writing to all team members and explained fully at the start of the season. Penalties for violation of team rules will be in writing and shall be administered by the coach. Copies of all additional team rules by coaches are on file in the local athletic office.