

Board Policy 503.4
VINTON-SHELLSBURG COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS/GOOD CONDUCT CODE
FOR STUDENT ACTIVITY PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS

STATEMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

The Board of Education of the Vinton-Shellsburg School District offer a variety of voluntary activities designed to enhance the classroom education of its students. Students who participate in extracurricular, co-curricular, or intra-curricular activities serve as ambassadors of the school 365 days of the year, both in and out of school. Students who wish to exercise the privilege of participating in extracurricular, co-curricular, or intra-curricular activities must conduct themselves in accordance with the board policy and must meet the eligibility criteria established by the Board, administration, and individual activity coaches and sponsors.

APPLICABLE ACTIVITY PROGRAMS

The following activities are covered by, but not limited to, the Board's policy and these rules:

1. Athletics
2. Fine Arts
3. Elected offices, including royalty
4. Clubs and organizations
5. Any other school activity where the student represents the school outside the classroom, (i.e. overnight trips, etc.)

CONDUCT REQUIREMENTS

1. Academically, a student must be in good standing according to the IHSAA and IGHS AU guidelines.
2. A student must abide by the Vinton-Shellsburg Community School District's Good Conduct Code at all times.
3. A student must abide by any additional specific rules that the coach/sponsor of the activity has established.

The Administration will approve such rules.

GENERAL STANDARD

Good Conduct consists of behavior which reflects the generally accepted social and moral requirements of the community, is legal, and at all times reflects respect for and sensitivity to other persons regardless of nationality, gender, religion, race or disability. Good Conduct means that people show respect for the rights, property, and dignity of others.

Responsible behavior includes but is not limited to the following:

1. Conducting yourself in a manner that shows respect for others; not fighting, abusing others, hazing or threatening others, behavior that requires removal from school.
2. Showing respect while using property- the school, a friend's, or another school district's. At no time will a responsible student steal, damage, or maliciously harm another's property.
3. Not going to parties or functions or placing yourself in situations where substances are being illegally used. Even if you're not using the substance yourself, you could be charged with possession- which is a violation of the Good Conduct Code
4. Not using profanity, insubordinate or disrespectful actions or language, belligerent talk, or intimidation of others.
5. Showing respect for school procedures and causing no school or class disruptions.
6. Being in school every day, unless ill, and being on time. Dependability and punctuality are extremely important habits to cultivate.

VIOLATIONS OF THE GOOD CONDUCT CODE

Violations of the Good Conduct Code include but are not limited to the following:

1. Selling or distributing illegal drugs, alcoholic beverages, controlled substances, tobacco products, or imitation substances purported to be these.
2. Possessing, using, or being under the influence of illegal drugs, alcoholic beverages, controlled substances, tobacco products, imitation substances, e-cigarettes, vaping, or drug paraphernalia.
3. Participation in any conduct which is illegal in Iowa except for simple misdemeanor traffic violations.

DETERMINATION OF VIOLATION

When it comes to the attention of school officials that a student is suspected of violating the Good Conduct Policy or the rules of a specific extracurricular activity, the Principal, or his/her designee will determine whether the student has committed a violation. The following are a list of the ways an investigation can begin:

- **When the school receives communication from law enforcement.**
- **When a student self reports.**
- **When parents report their child.**
- **When a school employee directly witnesses a violation.**
- **When there is evidence presented to an Administrator that is deemed sufficient by that Administrator to begin an investigation.**

Prior to making a final determination that there has been a violation, the Principal, or his/her designee shall perform an appropriate investigation, including notifying the student orally or in writing of the allegations against the student and the basis of the allegations. The student shall be given an opportunity to respond to the allegations. Parents will be included in the process.

The Vinton-Shellsburg School District may determine that there has been a violation of its Good Conduct Rule whether or not criminal charges have been filed, whether a student's trial is pending, or whether or not the student is found guilty by a court of law.

Once the determination is made that a student has violated the Vinton-Shellsburg Good Conduct Rule, the Principal, or his/her designee shall make a determination of the appropriate penalty. The student and his/her parent(s) shall be informed in writing of this decision (the nature of the violation and the determination of the penalty) by mailing the same to the student's residence (or other address if the parents have a different address on file for mailing purposes with the school) within two school days of the determination. In addition, the parent(s) will be notified orally, if possible.

APPEAL PROCESS

A student or parent contesting the declared ineligibility of a student based on the rules in this policy shall be required to state the basis of their objections in writing, and also their request for an oral hearing, addressed to the building principal. The building principal shall then notify the activities director and review committee (building administrators, two teachers, and a coach of another sport/activity) and schedule a meeting with the committee as soon as possible after receipt of such objections, giving at least five days' written notice of said hearing, unless a shorter time is mutually agreeable. The committee shall consider the evidence presented including statements by the appellant's legal counsel and make written findings of its decision within five days of the hearing, mailing a copy forthwith to said appellant. The student will not be eligible during an appeal. If student requests further appeal, they may obtain review of this determination to the superintendent by contacting the superintendent in writing within 3 business days of the Review Board's decision. The penalty will be in effect until reviewed by the superintendent. The superintendent will make a determination on the violation. If the student is still dissatisfied, he or she may seek further review by the school board by filing a written appeal with the board secretary within 3 days of the superintendent's decision.

A special meeting of the board will not be called. The review by the board will be in closed session unless the student's parent (or the student, if the student is 18) requests an open session. The grounds for review by the school board are limited to the following: the student did not violate the Good Conduct Rule; the student was given inadequate due process in the investigation and determination; or the penalty is in violation of the Handbook Rule or Board Policy. The penalty will remain in effect pending the outcome of the meeting with the board. If the school board reverses the decision of the administration, the student shall be immediately eligible and shall have any record of the ineligibility period and violation deleted from the student's record.

PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS

First Offense- student will miss 20 consecutive calendar days beginning on the day of the student's first event or activity after the violation has been given.

Second Offense- student will miss 60 consecutive calendar days beginning on the day of the student's first event or activity after the violation has been given.

Third Offense- student will miss all events and activities for one calendar year from the time of incident

Fourth Offense- student will miss all activities for the rest of their high school career and automatically appear before the review committee.

If a student is declared ineligible he/she is expected to practice with the team during the period of ineligibility. The student is expected to start and finish the full season for the penalty to be deemed fulfilled. Nothing in this policy precludes the application of a more severe penalty than the one indicated for a violation if the violation is serious enough as determined by the administration. During the period of ineligibility the Administration has the right to restrict any volunteer school activities or trips where the student would be representing the Vinton-Shellsburg School District.

APPLICATION OF THE GOOD CONDUCT CODE

Appropriate student behavior is required by and impacts all extracurricular, co-curricular, and intra-curricular activities in which a student participates. If a student is participating in multiple activities at the same time the student loses privileges under this policy, the loss of privileges shall apply to each activity in which he/she is participating.

If at the time of the violation the student is not currently participating in any activity, then the loss of privileges shall apply to the first activity in which the individual participates.

A student must begin involvement in an activity from the date on which that activity starts and will not be allowed to join an activity in progress unless the coach/sponsor provides written permission and the student has no outstanding Good Conduct Code violations.

If a student joins an activity with an outstanding Good Conduct Code violation, the student may not quit that activity prior to the end of the activity's season or the school year if the student wishes to get credit for satisfying the Good Conduct Code penalty provision. A disciplinary action may carry over from one activity to another activity and may carry over from one school year to the next.

GOOD BEHAVIOR PROVISION

After the 2nd or 3rd offense, if a student remains free of violations for one calendar year following the completion of a period of ineligibility, he or she will return to a 2nd Offense penalty for any subsequent violation. The student's 1st Offense will always remain on their record.

CLEAN SLATE

Students will enter the 9th grade with a clean record.

- **These will vary from year to year, depending on schedule.**

PHYSICAL EXAMINATION

Every year each student who wishes to participate in athletics shall present to the activities director or the school nurse a health certificate signed by a licensed physician prior to his or her participation. The examination is valid for one calendar year.

PARTICIPATION WAIVER

I, the undersigned parent/guardian, do hereby grant permission for my son/daughter to participate in athletics while attending the Vinton-Shellsburg Community Schools.

I acknowledge and understand that while participating in athletics there is a possibility that my son/daughter may sustain physical illness and/or injury (minimal, serious, or catastrophic). I further acknowledge and understand that my son/daughter is assuming the risk of such physical illness and/or injury by his/her participation, and I further release the Vinton-Shellsburg School District, the IHSAA, the IGHSAU as well as its representatives from any claims for personal illness and/or injury that my son/daughter may sustain while participating in athletics.

I further acknowledge and understand that the Vinton-Shellsburg School District and the IHSAA and the IGHSAU have established rules and regulations regarding conduct (V-S Good Conduct Policy), safety, and sportsmanship by which my son/daughter must abide in order to retain the privilege of participating in co-curricular and extracurricular activities.

In order that my son/daughter may receive necessary medical treatment in the event he/she may sustain illness and or injury during the period of the above activity, I hereby authorize the Vinton-Shellsburg School District to obtain medical treatment for my son/daughter for such illness or injury. I hereby hold the School District and its representatives harmless in the exercise of this authority. I further acknowledge and understand that I will be responsible for any medical bills that may be incurred in behalf of my son/daughter for physical illness and/or injury that he/she may sustain during activity.

