

Section 300: Instruction

Interscholastic Athletics/Co-Curricular Activities

Code #370.00AR

The Tri-County Area School District Co-Curricular Code encompasses all the Board approved Co-Curricular and Club activities, which include:

Athletic Activities—Baseball, Boys Basketball, Boys Track, Cheerleading, Cross Country, Football, Girls Basketball, Girls Track, Soccer, Softball, Volleyball, Wrestling, and any other athletic activity endorsed and sponsored by the District.

School-Sponsored and other Co-Curricular Activities— Dance Courts (Homecoming, WinterFest, Prom), Environmental Education, FFA, Forensics, Jazz Band, Majorettes/Color Guard, Math League, National Honor Society (NHS), Pep Band, Quiz Bowl, School-to-Work, School Play, Show Choir, Student Council, Yearbook.

All participants/ athletes, including managers, statisticians, and audiovisual persons who travel with the team shall comply with all the rules of eligibility in the Co-Curricular Code and general rules of conduct established by the school district for the day-to-day operation of the regular school day. All students who will, or may, participate in any Co-Curricular activity/ program at any time during the school year must abide by all Co-Curricular eligibility code rules year round.

It is the aim of the Tri-County Area School District to provide a variety of co-curricular opportunities for students to compliment the academic and co-curricular parts of their high school years. Students may participate in co-curricular activities sponsored by Tri-County Area Schools. Along with the privilege of participating in these, various activities go certain limitations and responsibilities. In order for the goals of the Co-Curricular program to be met, it is important that both students and their parents know, understand and follow the rules, which apply, to co-curricular participation. This code shall apply to all students in grades 5 through 12 who participate in interscholastic athletic competition or other school sponsored co-curricular activities.

I) Co-Curricular Council

- A) Membership shall be made up of the athletic director and all coaches/advisors
- B) Functions
 - 1) To submit Co-Curricular policy and philosophy for administration and School Board approval.
 - 2) To suggest changes in policies or general rules of behavior or general training rules.
 - 3) To discuss and take action on violations of the Co-Curricular code.

II) Co-Curricular Review Board

- A) Membership shall be made up of two coaches, two advisors, the athletic director, principal and guidance counselor.
- B) Members shall be appointed annually by the principal, athletic director and guidance counselor.
- C) Function: To hear and review appeals where applicable.
- D) Coaches/advisors may also file appeals on behalf of students.

III) Eligibility Rules

A) Documentation

- 1) Each athlete must have proof of a physical examination (in the form of a *parent-signed* physical card) on file in the Athletic Director's office *prior* to participating in practices for any co-curricular activities.
- 2) Each athlete must have a *parent-signed* Athletic Participation Form on file in the Athletic Director's office *prior* to participating in practices for any co-curricular activities.
- 3) Each athlete must have a parent signed concussion information -When in Doubt, Sit Them Out and athletic emergency information card on file in the Athletic Director's office *prior* to participating in practices for any co-curricular activities.

B) Equipment

- 1) Students must return all school-issued equipment (from participation in a prior activity/season) or pay the expense for replacement of this equipment before being able to participate in any other athletic activities. If missing equipment is not returned prior to the first contest of the next season, a criminal referral for stolen property will be issued to the student (e.g. equipment issued for a fall sport must be returned by the first contest of the winter athletic season, *regardless* of participation by the student).

C) Academic Eligibility

- 1) Academic Eligibility checks for students will be conducted at the conclusion of each of the four (4) nine (9)-week grading periods of the school year. To be considered for co-curricular eligibility, students must have full-time status, as defined by school and DPI requirements. Academic Eligibility rules apply to *ALL* co-curricular activities/events listed as subject to this policy and follow the procedures outlined below. For activities/events that are single-time occurrences (e.g. Homecoming Court, WinterFest Court, Prom Court, NHS Trip, etc.), a student's most recent eligibility status - either from the end of a nine (9)-week grading period or from a subsequent 15-day check (as defined below) - will be used to determine his/her ability to participate.
 - a) At the time of each respective nine (9)-week grading period posting, the current (or final) SEMESTER grade (S1 or S2) will be referenced to determine academic eligibility.
 - i) As work completed during summer school affects semester grades, academic eligibility for fall co-curricular events (based on Semester 2 grades) *can* be regained by participation in summer school.
 - b) Regarding subsequent 15-day checks that take place during each nine (9)-week grading period (defined in greater detail below), the current SEMESTER (S1 or S2) progress status will be used to determine if a student initially placed under Academic Probation or Academic Ineligibility status has improved his/her eligibility status.
- 2) Full Eligibility
 - a) A student is considered Fully Eligible to participate in co-curricular activities if he/she earns one (1) or less failing grades/incompletes during a nine (9)-week grading period. A student's Full Eligibility status earned at the nine (9)-week grading period holds for the entirety of the subsequent nine (9)-week grading period (i.e. Students achieving this status after a nine (9)-week grading period *are not subject to 15-day progress checks* during the subsequent nine (9)-week grading period).

3) Academic Probation

- a) A student is placed on Academic Probation if he/she earns two (2) failing grade/incomplete during a nine (9)-week grading period.
 - i) Students on Academic Probation may still practice, but are prohibited from participating in contests and from traveling to away contests.
 - ii) Academic Probation status for students will be checked/evaluated based on current semester grades at pre-determined 15-day progress checks (Day 15 and Day 30, respectively) during each nine (9)-week grading period. On the first school day following each 15-day progress check (Day 16 and Day 31, respectively), students may regain Full Eligibility status if they meet the academic criteria outlined in III.C.2.a. above. If at the first 15-day progress check they do not meet the requirements for Full Eligibility, then they retain Academic Probation status until the subsequent 15-day progress check or until the nine (9)-week grading period ends, as applicable. If at any of these 15-day checks a student earns Full Eligibility status, he/she will remain Fully Eligible for the remainder of the nine (9)-week grading period.
 - iii) Students who are on Academic Probation at the start of the school year (based on their performance during the second semester of the previous school year) will follow the WIAA standards for regaining eligibility. These standards specify different timelines for checking/evaluating academic progress, and allow these checks to take place at the earliest date reached by either of the following options:
 - Twenty-one (21) days from the date of the earliest allowed competition in that sport (including the date of that competition). Scrimmages are not considered competitions.
 - One-third (1/3) of the maximum number of competitions allowed in a sport/co-curricular activity (rounded up to the next full contest).As necessary, students in this specific situation will also have the opportunity to regain their Full Eligibility status throughout the first nine (9)-week grading period via pre-determined 15-day progress checks in the fashion described in III.C.3.a.iii. above.
 - iv) For School-Sponsored and other Co-Curricular Activities that do not include contests, students who are on Academic Probation may attend regularly scheduled meetings and practices. However, these students will not be permitted to take part in performances (e.g. Pep Band, Show Choir, etc.). Additionally, these students may not participate in associated field trips that would cause them to miss school (e.g. FFA, Student Council, Environmental Education, etc.). These students will not be eligible for selection on Dance Courts.

4) Academic Ineligibility

- a) A student is considered Academically Ineligible if he/she earns three (3) or more failing grades/incompletes during a nine (9)-week grading period.
 - i) Students declared Academically Ineligible are prohibited from any participation in co-curricular activities.

ii) Students designated as Academically Ineligible *who intend to participate in a co-curricular activity during the subsequent nine (9)-week grading period will log at least two (2) hours (one hundred twenty (120) minutes) of time receiving documented academic support each week. This documented academic support can be in the following forms:*

- *Tutoring/study sessions with teachers.*
- *Participation in the TC Writing Lab during study hall time.*
- *Guided study hall in the alternative education classroom.*
- *Participation in the TC Homework Center.*
- *Participation in Working Lunch*

Monitoring of this expectation is the combined responsibility of the student, coach/advisor, and the supervising adult providing academic support. Failure to comply with this expectation will result in a student losing the opportunity to regain Full Eligibility status at the subsequent 15-day progress check (outlined in III.C.4.a.iii. below).

iii) Students designated as Academically Ineligible will be checked/evaluated based on current semester grades at pre-determined 15-day progress checks (Day 15 and Day 30, respectively) during each nine (9)-week grading period. On the first school day following each 15-day progress check (Day 16 and Day 31, respectively), students may improve their status to Fully Eligibility OR Academic Probation if they meet the academic criteria outlined in III.C.2.a. or III.C.3.a. above. If they do not meet the requirements for Full Eligibility or Academic Probation, then they retain Academic Ineligibility status until the subsequent 15-day progress check or until the nine (9)-week grading period ends, as applicable. If at any of these 15-day checks a student earns Full Eligibility status, he/she will remain Fully Eligible for the remainder of the nine (9)-week grading period. Student eligibility movement at either of these 15-day checks can only move in the direction of improving eligibility status (i.e. Students can move from Academic Ineligibility to Academic Probation OR Full Eligibility, and, if applicable, from Academic Probation to Full Eligibility, but cannot revert to a more restrictive status (e.g. Academic Ineligibility) during a nine (9)-week grading period once advancing forward).

iv) Students who are Academically Ineligible at the start of the school year (based on their performance during the second semester of the previous school year) will follow the WIAA standards for regaining eligibility. These standards specify different timelines for checking/evaluating academic progress, and allow these checks to take place at the earliest date reached by either of the following options:

- Twenty-one (21) days from the date of the earliest allowed competition in that sport (including the date of that competition). Scrimmages are not considered competitions.
- One-third (1/3) of the maximum number of competitions allowed in a sport/co-curricular activity (rounded up to the next full contest).

As necessary, students in this specific situation will also have the opportunity to regain their Full Eligibility status throughout the first nine (9)-week grading period via pre-determined 15-day progress checks in the fashion described in III.C.4.a.ii. above.

- v) For School-Sponsored and other Co-Curricular Activities that do not include contests, students who are Academically Ineligible may attend regularly scheduled meetings and practices, as long as such meetings and practices do not cause them to miss other classes. However, these students will not be permitted to take part in performances (e.g. Pep Band, Show Choir, etc.). Additionally, these students may not participate in associated field trips that would cause them to miss school (e.g. FFA, Student Council, Environmental Education, etc.). These students will not be eligible for selection on Dance Courts.

5) Incompletes

- a) Until amended, grades marked "Incomplete" will be considered as failing grades and used in determining student eligibility based on the rules outlined in section III.C. Upon the amendment of "Incomplete" grades, student eligibility will be assessed based on the criteria outlined in section III.C.
- b) Students with "Incomplete" grades may appeal their ineligibility to the Co-Curricular Review Board.

IV) Conduct

- A) Participants/athletes are reminded that they represent the school at athletic contests and elsewhere. Therefore, their appearance and conduct must meet high standards. Violations will be dealt with by the principal, athletic director, and/or the coaches in accordance with the school's Discipline Code
 - 1) Violations of school rules/ conduct shall also be a violation of the Co-Curricular Code, and the student is to be disciplined accordingly as established by the principal, athletic director, and/or coach.
 - a) An individual in grades 7-12 who reaches the 4th step on the Discipline System (2 after school detention) will receive a 1 game suspension from the current season.
 - b) An individual in grades 7-12 who reaches the 5th step on the Discipline System (1 OSS) will receive a 2 game suspension from the current season.
 - c) An individual in grades 7-12 who reaches the 6th step on the Discipline System (3 days of OSS) will be suspended for 25% of the total contests in the current season (rounded up to the next full contest), with penalties carrying into subsequent seasons and/or school years, as necessary.
 - d) An individual in grades 7-12 who reaches the 7th step on the Discipline System (5 days of OSS) will be suspended for 50% of the total contests in the current season (rounded up to the next full contest), with penalties carrying into subsequent seasons and/or school years, as necessary.
 - e) An individual in grades 7-12 who reaches the 8th step on the Discipline System (5 days of OSS and possible expulsion) will be suspended from all extra-curricular activities until that individual meets the approved requirements established for being reinstated

to school. At an absolute minimum, individuals who reach this level on our disciplinary system will be suspended for the entirety of an athletic season.

- f) Any participant/athlete who is placed in juvenile or adult correctional facility by court order, probation agent or social worker will be suspended for 50% of the total contests in the current season (rounded up to the next full contest), with penalties carrying into subsequent seasons and/or school years, as necessary.

***NOTE: Suspensions will carry over to the next season if necessary. Students may earn back one step for 9 weeks with no offenses. Students will earn 2 steps back over the summer.

- 2) Any individual who receives 2 or more ejections from a WIAA contest shall be referred by the Principal, Athletic Director and Coach for further discipline. If a student receives no other infractions/WIAA ejections for a period of two school years, he/she will have the slate wiped clean and have a clear record. A violation after this would be penalized as a first offense.
- B) Possession, use, or being under the influence, or being party to the distribution/transfer/sale (including intent to sell) of alcohol, other illegal drugs, controlled substances, mind altering substances (e.g., bizarro, inhalants, salvia, spice, synthetics, etc.), look-alike alcohol/drugs, huffing or inhaling toxic substances, tobacco (including smokeless tobacco, all other products or substances that contain tobacco, such as cigars, cigarettes, pipe tobacco, chewing tobacco, and snuff), or any form of electronic cigarette (e-cig) or vaping device/material is prohibited. This prohibition includes possessing paraphernalia/devices associated with the use of any of the above items, regardless of the actual presence of illicit material (e.g. alcohol, tobacco, controlled substances, etc.). This prohibition does not apply to the authorized use of a prescription drug by a student with the written permission of his/her parent/guardian and physician.
- 1) Penalties for violation of this rule shall be:
 - a) First offense in grades 5-12: Suspension for 25% of the total contests in the current season (rounded up to the next full contest), with penalties carrying into subsequent seasons and/or school years, as necessary. In the event that an athletic season is shortened by cancellations (not postponements), those cancelled contests will replace suspension-assigned contests with the understanding that minimum of one active contest will be served under suspension.
 - b) Second offense in grades 5-12: Suspension of 50% of the total contests in the current season (rounded up to the next full contest), with penalties carrying into subsequent seasons and/or school years, as necessary. In the event that an athletic season is shortened by cancellations (not postponements), those cancelled contests will replace suspension-assigned contests with the understanding that a minimum of two active contests will be served under suspension.
 - c) Third offense in grades 5-12: A suspension of one calendar year from all activities and no awards will be given.
 - d) Fourth offense in grades 5-12: A permanent suspension from all extra-curricular activities, except as provided for below.

Penalties as listed above may be reduced by the Co-Curricular Review Board in view of extenuating circumstances such as voluntary participation in a rehabilitation program or other evidence of rehabilitation.

- 2) All violations listed above will be referred to law enforcement
 - 3) If a student receives no other penalties of this code for a period of two school years, he/she will have the slate wiped clean and have a clear record. A violation after this would be penalized as a first offense.
- C) Athletes will abide by the Athletes Creed:

As an athlete in a Tri-County athletic program, I understand that I am a representative of my family and Tri-County High School. I understand that participation in athletics is a privilege and not a right. I will show respect for my parents, teachers, teammates, our school, coaches, opposing teams, and all equipment issued to me. I recognize the importance of good behavior and proper language. As an athlete I understand and accept my responsibilities to the team. I accept that there may be consequences for unwise decisions like skipping a practice or violating the athletic code. I will follow all the rules that Tri-County and the WIAA impose. I will play within the rules of the game and demonstrate good sportsmanship. I will show respect for officials and their calls. I fully understand that I must earn a starting spot or playing time. I will have a positive attitude, be prepared and properly equipped for all practices and games. I understand that coming to all practices and giving one hundred percent effort is paramount to the success of the team.

To this end I pledge.

V) Attendance

- A) Participants/athletes are expected to attend all practices. They may be excused from practice only by the head coach/advisor.
- B) Penalties for unexcused absences from practice and tardiness to practice will be levied by the head coach/advisor. An unexcused absence may result in dismissal from the activity.
- C) Injury or illness will be the only legitimate excuse for missing a regularly scheduled activity. Other reasons may be cleared by the coach/advisor.
- D) No student will practice or participate in a game or meet unless he/she has been present in school all day on the date of the event unless he/she is excused by the Principal/Athletic Director.
- E) Students who participate in an event on a school night are expected to arrive at school on time the following day or they will be suspended from practice on that day. Any exceptions to this must be approved by the Principal or Athletic Director.
- F) Students who are absent from school without an excuse or who are suspended from school shall not be permitted to take part in any extra-curricular or co-curricular activities that take place on those days.

VI) Awards and Banquets

- A) Each head coach/advisor will set up standards for each activity. These shall be published and posted prior to the season involved.
- B) Awards such as letters, MVP, MIP and so on shall be given out in a ceremony to be held at the school after the conclusion of each of the school sports seasons (fall, winter, and spring).
- C) Banquets may be held after the conclusion of each of the school sports season to honor the coaches/advisors and participants/ athletes involved in the activity during each of the seasons.

VII) Miscellaneous

- A) During any period of suspension, the participant/athlete shall not participate in the activity(ies) other than practice.
- B) Minor training rules infractions are a matter between the participant/athlete and his/her coach/advisor.
- C) Violations, which have more serious or legal implications for the student, the team, or the school, shall be reviewed by the principal and/or the Co-Curricular Council.
- D) Participants/athletes have the right to appeal any decisions of the coach/advisor, the principal, the Co-Curricular Review Board and the district administrator. The appeal process shall progress from step to step in the order listed in the preceding sentence. A decision by the district administrator may be appealed to the Board of Education.
- E) Participants/athletes have the right to be accompanied by parents and/or to be represented by legal counsel at any step of the appeal process.
- F) Quitting is construed as a team member not attending practice or games/meets though still attending school, or by stating such intentions to the coach/advisor. A student, who quits an activity, must get an "Intent to Quit" form from his/her coach/advisor and fill it out. It must be signed by the participant/athlete, parent and coach/advisor. If this signed form and all equipment issued are turned in within five school days of quitting, the participant/athlete will be considered in good standing and eligible to participate in other Co-Curricular activities.
- G) Evidence of violations must be turned in by adults such as a police officer, staff member, parent, or coach/advisor. In all cases, a student's confession will be accepted as true and as adequate proof of guilt.
- H) Parents/guardians or family members are not to approach any member of the coaching staff to discuss game strategy or playing time 24 hours prior to or after an athletic contest, nor are they permitted to address the coach for such issues during a contest. The first report an incident like this will require the parent, student-athlete, coach, and athletic director to meet and discuss the issue. If warranted (due to the severity of the offense or due to repeated refusal to follow this rule), consequences including suspensions from attendance at one (1) or more future contests or police referral may be issued.
- I) At any co-curricular event (Home OR Away), either at Tri-County or any other site, those in attendance are expected to display sportsmanship-like behavior. An individual or group who willfully

interferes with or interrupts the proper order or management of a school-sponsored co-curricular event (by an act of violence, boisterous conduct, obscene or abusive language, or unsportsman-like conduct toward coaches, players, athletic trainers, or officials, or disobeys board policies or administrative rules) may be warned and/or removed from the event. Anyone whose behavior disrupts a contest to the degree that he/she is removed from an event will be suspended from attending *at least* the next two (2) contests (depending on the severity of the offense). In the event that the same spectator is removed from *any* subsequent contest during a school year (regardless of whether or not it is during the same season), he/she will be suspended from attendance for *at least* the remainder of the current (at the time of the most recent offense) sports season. This suspension may be levied for a longer period of time depending on the severity of the offense. In ALL cases in which a spectator is removed from a contest, a police referral *MAY* be issued (depending on the severity of the disruption). NOTE: Referrals to administration made *AFTER* an event by coaches, players, athletic trainers, or officials regarding concerning behavior by a spectator will be investigated and, when warranted, addressed in the same manner outlined above (regardless of whether or not the spectator was removed from the contest in question). No refund of admission charges will be paid. (Code 833)

- J) The Board of Education provides transportation to and from extra-curricular events. Students must obtain prior written permission from their coach/advisor and the principal/Athletic Director if they are not riding the team bus to a contest or event. Failure to ride the bus to an event will make the participant ineligible for this event. The coach may waive this in an emergency situation. For the return trip, written permission must be granted by the coach.

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This code will supersede all other copies of the Co-Curricular Code for the Tri-County Area School District.

Prior Approval: June 25, 2019
Attorney Review:
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