



INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC PROGRAMS

Purpose

District athletic programs are a privilege available to all students who meet the basic academic and attendance requirements established by the Iowa High School Athletic Association and the Iowa Girl's High School Athletic Union. Through out the calendar year all student athletes in the athletic program serve as ambassadors of the Ames Community School District. Therefore, the District maintains high expectations for all participants in its athletic program. Coaches may have other conduct expectations/ consequences not covered by this policy.

Violation

Student athletes who engage in illegal and/or ticketed actions anywhere, excluding laws and ordinances regulating the use of motor vehicles under which a violation is classified as a simple misdemeanor, are suspended from the athletic program pending completion of an investigation. The athletic director will begin an investigation of a student athlete through information obtained from staff members, law enforcement officials, juvenile court officers, and the student/parent(s)/guardian(s) in question. Cooperation of the student is vital to the investigative process and thus, is rewarded through reduced consequences.

Consequences

A student who self-reports his/her offense to a head coach, administrator, or the athletic director within 72 hours will receive a reduction in game dates missed. Game suspensions will take place in the sport the student athlete is currently involved in or his/her next sports season whenever that occurs. Student athletes will also be required to perform 5 hours of community service within the athletic department per offense as described by the athletic director.

SUSPENSION GUIDELINES ATHLETICS

# of Athletic Game Dates Regular season only	Self Report #1 Offense	No Self Report #1 Offense	Self Report #2 Offense	No Self Report #2 Offense	3 rd offense one year suspension from date of infraction
7-10	1	2	3	4	
11-15	2	3	4	5	
16-21	3	4	5	6	
22+	4	5	6	7	

*Post Season competition will be figured into suspension dates if applicable.

*Suspension dates above will occur regardless of the number of games scheduled on a date (tourney, double header, etc.)

Important Notes

- All disciplinary rules of policy JG, Student Conduct Code apply to interscholastic athletics.
- A student athlete who incurs a violation after self-reporting or being reported will have a conference (in person or by phone) with the athletic director to review the details of the consequences. Parent(s)/guardian(s) will be notified in writing of the suspension and are welcome to attend the suspension conference.
- During the suspension, the student athlete is required to attend practices but will not dress for the suspended competitions.



- A student who quits the sport prior to completion of the suspension or the season will not be credited for any suspension service time.
- When assessing the penalty the head coach will validate enforcement of game dates based on the level of competition the athlete has been classified up to that point. Junior varsity athletes on a varsity team will follow a varsity schedule timeline in dates of suspension.
- If fewer game dates remain to be played at the time of the violation, the ineligibility shall carry over into the next sports season in which the student participates.
- Good Conduct violations will accumulate over a four-year period while the student is in high school.
- All students begin high school with a clean slate. High School begins the day after the last scheduled class day for eighth grade.
- The student athlete must “earn” his/her prior status back on the team as determined by the coach.

Due Process

Whenever a student is declared ineligible by the athletic director/principal for a good conduct violation, the following shall apply:

- A. The student and his/her parent(s)/guardian(s) shall be invited to the school for a conference. At that time, the length of the period of ineligibility and a specific explanation of the reasons for ineligibility will be given in writing; open discussion will follow.
- B. Should the student and/or his/her parent(s)/guardian(s) feel the penalty is unjustified or unfair, they may appeal within Five (5) days of written notice in the following manner:
 1. A three-member panel shall review the case. The review panel shall be appointed by the principal within two (2) days of the appeal and shall consist of three (3) staff members to be chosen by the student if desired.
 2. The student and his/her parent(s)/guardian(s) shall be notified when and where the review panel will meet, and they shall be allowed to appear before the review panel. The panel shall meet within a period of three (3) days of their appointment by the principal.
 3. The review panel shall consider the circumstances and evidence and make its findings and recommendation in writing to the student and parent(s)/guardian(s) and to the principal within two (2) days. Responsibility for the decision rests solely and finally with the principal.
 4. Following the decision, the student and/or his/her parent(s)/guardian(s) shall be given Five (5) school days to file an appeal with the Superintendent.
 5. During the appeal procedure, the student will be ineligible. Every effort will be made to ensure a timely process during the appeal process.
 6. When an appeal is submitted after the last day of school, the limit shall consist of all weekdays, Monday through Friday.

Adopted: January 11, 2011