

**DARIEN HIGH SCHOOL
EXTRA-CURRICULAR AND ATHLETIC
ELIGIBILITY AND PARTICIPATION CONTRACT**

Participation in the Darien High School extra-curricular and athletic program is both an honor and a privilege and, as such, carries a responsibility for the student to follow rules and regulations including the following:

I. Participation Rules:

Any use, involvement with* or possession of illegal drugs or alcohol, or use of any form of tobacco at any time during the period of participation in an extra-curricular activity or athletic team, on or off campus, will result in appropriate disciplinary action.

* "Involvement with" such substances shall be broadly construed, and shall include, but is not limited to the following situations:

- A. Personal possession or use of such drugs, alcohol or tobacco, at any time at any place; or
- B. Being in a motor vehicle when alcohol or drugs are illegally present, regardless of whether the student is the driver or passenger or whether the student is in personal possession of any such alcohol or drugs; or
- C. Permitting the illegal consumption of alcohol or use of drugs in one's home or premises; or
- D. Being in a building or on premises or otherwise in the company of others, including but not limited to fellow students, when alcohol or drugs are/have been used or possessed illegally.

The appropriate disciplinary action under these rules is separate from any other discipline that may otherwise be imposed. Disciplinary action under these rules will be determined by consideration of all the facts and circumstances of a particular situation, but shall include as a minimum the following penalties:

For Offenses Involving Drugs and Alcohol:

1. First offense after signing an "eligibility and participation contract" for any extra-curricular activity or athletic season:

The student will be suspended from membership and participation in all activities related to that extra-curricular or athletic team (including team practice) for fourteen (14) calendar days. The student will also be required to meet with a drug and alcohol counselor prior to re-entry into the activity or team from which he/she was suspended.

2. Second offense after signing an "eligibility and participation contract" for any extra-curricular activity or athletic season:

For Athletics:

- i – If the second offense occurred within the same season as the first offense: The student is suspended for the rest of the season.
- ii – If the second offense occurs in a different season than the first offense: The student will be suspended from participation (including practice) for 28 calendar days.

For Extra-Curricular Activities:

The student is suspended from all extra curricular activities for 28 days.

The student will also be required to meet with a drug and alcohol counselor on a weekly basis during the 28 day suspension.

3. Third offense after signing an "eligibility and participation contract" for any extra-curricular activity or athletic season: The student is suspended from all extra-curricular and athletic participation for the remainder of the school year.

For Offenses Involving Tobacco:

All offenses regarding use of tobacco will result in the student being suspended from membership and participation in all activities related to that extra-curricular activity or athletic team for seven (7) calendar days.

II. Enforcement Procedures:

- A. Darien High School students and their parents shall sign an “*eligibility and participation contract*” acknowledging acceptance of these rules before participation in any extra-curricular or athletic activity. Parents will be notified if the eligibility and participation contract is violated and of the disciplinary action taken.
- B. Once an eligibility and participation contract is signed, that document remains in force for the remainder of the school year for all extra-curricular and athletic activity participation.
- C. A student who signed the eligibility and participation contract for an activity that is no longer in session is still considered to be under the umbrella of the eligibility and participation contract. As such, if that student violates any of the rules at any point until the end of the year, he/she will be suspended from participation in any activity from the time of the violation for the appropriate duration (which may coincide with the initial days of an upcoming activity). The student will also accumulate a “strike” even if he/she is not active in any specific activity at the time of the violation.
- D. The school Administration is responsible for the administration and enforcement of the extra-curricular eligibility and participation contract and their determination under these rules shall be final.
- E. The Director of Athletics is responsible for the administration and enforcement of the athletic eligibility and participation contract and his/her determination under these rules shall be final.
- F. Due to the interdependence of athletic and other extra-curricular violations, collaboration in decision making and information-sharing will take place between the Athletics Director and the rest of the school administration during any participation contract violation.
- G. Violation of the Eligibility and Participation Contract may result in longer suspensions, loss of leadership positions, and ineligibility for awards from the extra-curricular activity or athletic team, as determined by the advisor, coach, and/or organizational guidelines.

The safety of students is our primary concern and Darien High School does not wish to penalize students attempting to act responsibly in situations not of their own making. Therefore, a student who has not used and is not in possession of any of the above substances will not be considered for extra-curricular or athletic offenses in the following instances:

- a. Immediately leaving the premises where any of the above substances are/have been used or possessed illegally;
- b. Assisting someone who has used or overused any of the above substances by contacting a responsible adult, or by transporting them to a safe location. Any person who cannot be roused should be transported to the emergency room by EMS personnel (**CALL 911**).

I / We Understand and accept the above eligibility and participation rules as well as the consequences for violation of those rules, for extra-curricular and athletic activities.

Printed Name of Student

Signature

Date

Printed Name of Parent or Guardian

Signature

Date