

Policy on Student Participation in External Events

German European School Manila (GESM)

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Purpose

GESM students are active members of the wider community and often seek opportunities to showcase their talents and initiatives. This policy ensures that participation—whether formally supervised by the school or undertaken independently by students—reflects the values of Respect, Integrity, Responsibility, Independence, and Compassion, while safeguarding students and protecting the school’s integrity.

Categories of Participation

1. School-Supervised Events

- Events initiated, organized, or directly supervised by GESM staff.
- Students represent the school formally, wear uniforms or use the school name/logo, and are under school authority.
- All such events must be approved through the GESM Event Request Form and authorized by school leadership.

2. Student-Initiated External Events (Without Formal Supervision)

- Events where students wish to participate independently, yet identify themselves as GESM students or use the school’s name or logo.
- These require prior approval by school leadership (Management or relevant Head) before any public association with GESM is made.

Conditions for Student-Initiated External Events

1. Approval Requirement

- Written approval must be obtained in advance from school leadership, including event details, organizers, purpose, and supervision arrangements.
- Approval may be conditional or denied if the event is not aligned with school expectations.

2. Conduct and Representation

- Even without formal supervision, students are bound by the GESM Student Code of Conduct.
- Behavior, attire, communication, and online presence must remain appropriate and respectful.

3. Restrictions

- Dangerous or unsafe events (as assessed by school leadership) cannot be undertaken under the GESM name.
- Political events or collaborations with politically active organizations are strictly prohibited.
- Events that contradict school values (e.g., involving discrimination, substance abuse, or exploitation) cannot be associated with GESM.
- Students may not wear the GESM uniform or use school symbols without authorization.

4. Image and Reputation

- Students must recognize that their actions in these contexts reflect directly on GESM.
- Misconduct, even without school presence, will lead to disciplinary measures.

CAS (Creativity, Activity, Service)

- CAS activities follow the same conditions as outlined above, as well as the IBO guidelines for CAS.
- Students are encouraged to design and participate in CAS projects, but these must receive approval from the CAS Coordinator before being counted as CAS experiences.
- Only CAS activities/events that are supervised by GESM staff and approved via the GESM Event Request Form are formally recognized as GESM-endorsed.

Liability, Parental Waivers, and Transportation

- GESM cannot be held liable for events organized solely by students, parents, or third parties without proper GESM supervision and official approval.
- In such cases, supervision and responsibility rest with the student and their family.
- GESM's liability applies only to events that have been formally approved and are directly supervised by authorized school staff.
- Participation in all GESM-organized external events and in certain on-campus events outside regular school hours is conditional upon parents/guardians signing a waiver of liability. This waiver acknowledges the inherent risks of participation and confirms shared responsibility between families and the school.
- Transportation:
 - If school official transportation is not provided, GESM is not liable for students' travel to and from venues.
 - Responsibility for transport arrangements in such cases rests entirely with parents/guardians.
 - Teachers are not permitted to transport students in their private vehicles. Exceptions may only occur in rare, pre-authorized circumstances approved by school leadership.

Sporting Events

- Selection: Participation and team selection are entirely at the discretion of the GESM sports teachers/coaches.
- Health & Safety: Students must be fit to play, with parental confirmation and, when required, medical clearance. Proper sports attire and protective gear are mandatory.
- Sportsmanship: Students are expected to uphold fair play, respect for referees, coaches, and opponents at all times.
- Parental Conduct: Parents attending games or tournaments represent the school community and are expected to refrain from interfering with referees, coaches, or opposing teams.
- Travel: For events abroad or requiring air travel, additional parental consent, proof of insurance, and full compliance with travel/hosting rules are mandatory.

Performance Events (Music, Drama, Arts)

- Selection: Participation in school concerts, drama productions, or external performance events is at the professional discretion of the responsible GESM music, drama, or arts teachers.
- Parental Conduct: Parents are asked to respect teachers' artistic and pedagogical choices and refrain from pressuring staff for their child's participation in particular pieces, solos, or roles.
- Representation: As with sporting events, students and families represent the school community at performances both in school and externally, and must demonstrate behavior consistent with GESM values.

Cost of Participation

- GESM will always strive to support students financially when possible, but support must be distributed fairly to ensure that resources do not benefit only a small group.
- As a general rule, the cost of participation in external events is the responsibility of parents and families.
- Certain events, particularly those involving a significant number of students, may be partially subsidized by GESM where budgets allow.

Participation Expectations

- In line with Philippine law, GESM cannot make external events mandatory for students.
- However, all GESM events are designed to support student character development, leadership, and the curriculum.
- Students are therefore strongly encouraged to participate, as these experiences are an integral part of holistic education at GESM.

Disciplinary Consequences

- Removal of permission to represent GESM in any external context.
- Withdrawal of approvals for future activities.
- Disciplinary action according to the **GESM Student Code of Conduct**, up to suspension or expulsion in serious cases.