

MSDWC ATHLETIC CODE OF CONDUCT

ATHLETIC CODE

Participation in interscholastic athletics within Metropolitan School District of Wabash County (MSDWC) is a privilege open to students who maintain the requirements of the MSDWC Athletic Code, MSDWC Athletic policies, the Indiana High School Athletic Association, and the specific policies of their sport. Student-athletes in violation of any of these requirements are no longer considered in “good standing” and are not eligible for athletic participation according to the specified sanctions. Any student-athlete who becomes a member of a MSDWC team must hold himself or herself up to standards and live up to expectations that would make this community proud.

A MSDWC student-athlete must not reflect discredit upon the school nor create disruptive influence on the discipline, good order, moral, or educational environment in the school in order to remain eligible. Any student-athlete who has removed themselves from a team either explicitly (i.e. informing a coach or school representative) or implicitly (i.e. ceasing to attend practices or a contest without the coach’s permission) is no longer considered a team member in “good standing” and will therefore be subject to sanctions specified under the Athletic Code Penalties.

If a code violation occurs outside an athlete’s sport season, the code will be applied in the next season the athlete participates in, providing that athlete has been out for that sport in the previous year.

Any member of a MSDWC athletic team during his or her sport’s season, out of season while school is in session, or during vacation periods which includes the summer months will be subject to the Athletic Code. If a student-athlete uses or has in his or her possession tobacco, alcohol, drugs, or controlled substances unless prescribed by a doctor, he or she will be subject to the Athletic Code Penalties.

The MSDWC athletic staffs take the position that at no time should students choose to use tobacco, alcohol, or drugs unless prescribed by a doctor. Choices that one makes have a direct impact on the directions one takes as an individual grows into adulthood. Choices of whether to drink or not to drink alcohol and choices of lifestyles in one’s environment have great impact on young individuals. It is also understood that the first line of responsibility should rest with the parents in the home to supervise the growth and development of their student-athlete. It is also recognized that young people will make choices while growing up and should be made responsible for those choices. Respect, responsibility, understanding, and enforcement, of the Athletic Code is important for the athletes, coaches, and parents.

Athletic Code Penalties

The following are punitive results of code violations administered from the athletic department, which are minimal when the school becomes aware of the violation. If any of the following violations occur within the last two (2) weeks of the regular season or during the IHSAA Tournament Series, the athlete will forfeit participation in any remaining events (ex: awards, contests, award banquets, etc.). When the parents bring it to the attention of the athletic department, there may be a reduction penalty.

The policy is in effect for 365 days a year, 24 hours a day. Offenses accumulate in grades 7 and 8; however, they will not be carried over to grades 9-12. Offenses will accumulate in grades 9 - 12. These are not in addition to and not in lieu of sanctions imposed by the school for violating school rules or policies.

A. Policy on Alcohol, Tobacco, and Controlled Substances

1. First Offense of possession and, or using alcohol, tobacco, or controlled substances: unless prescribed by a doctor, the student will miss 50% of the season schedule or the student will miss 25% of the season schedule plus voluntary cooperation with a substance counselor (NHS & SHS has an “in house” Bowen Center counselor available).

Second Offense of possession and, or alcohol, tobacco, or controlled substances: unless prescribed by a doctor, the student will miss 100% of one year’s athletics or 100% of the season schedule plus voluntary cooperation with a substance counselor (NHS & SHS has an “in house” Bowen Center counselor available).

2. First Offense of the dealing and, or selling and, or distributing of alcohol, tobacco, or controlled substances: the student will be automatically suspended for one year from activities and will be recommended assistance.

Second Offense of the dealing and, or selling and, or distributing of alcohol, tobacco, or controlled substances: the student will not participate in any activities for the remainder of grades 7 and 8 or grades 9-12 depending on the student’s classification.

Third Offense or different combinations will be handled by the respective athletic director and building principal.

B. Self-Disclosure. Any student who self-discloses to an appropriate school official a need for help with personal alcohol or drug dependency, may not be subject to suspension, expulsion, or co- or extracurricular ineligibility. If school personnel learn of a dependency prior to self-disclosure, suspension, expulsion, or co- or extracurricular ineligibility will not be waived. Self-disclosure is intended for students seeking to get the help they need, not dodging consequences. Student-athletes disclosing after being “caught” does not apply. Violations that occur after self-disclosure will be subject to penalties stated in the Code. Self-disclosure will only be permitted one time during a student’s school career.

C. School Disruptions. Any athlete that is in violation of school rules such as truancy, suspension, classroom disruption, or other punishable acts is not in accordance with the Athletic Code and will be disciplined by the already established school rules. The athlete may further be dealt with within the structure of each coach’s rules for his or her sport. If an athlete is suspended out of school for any reason, they will be ineligible for all contests during the term of the suspension. Athletes serving in-school suspension or out-of-school suspension cannot practice during the suspension time, nor attend any events. (Freshmen may be exempt from the previous rule requirement.)

D. Multiple Offenses. Any athlete who has multiple (school) offenses or (code) violations (2 or more), may be suspended or excluded from athletic participation for (up to) one (1) full year. (Freshmen may be exempt from the previous rule requirement.)

E. Team Obligations. Loyalty and commitment are vital to the success of any athletic program. Any student-athlete who becomes a team member in “good standing” assumes an obligation to the team and their teammates. Any student-athlete who has removed himself or herself from a team either explicitly (i.e. informing a coach or school representative) or implicitly (i.e. ceasing to attend practices or a contest without the coach’s permission) is no longer considered a team member in “good standing” and will therefore not be eligible for any individual or team post-season awards or participations in any team functions. Any student-athlete who has removed himself or herself from a team without the coach’s

permission may not begin participation on another school team until the preceding team's season has been completed. MSDWC student-athletes who fail to complete all season obligations in a school sport including participating in all events in which they are scheduled will face suspension of up to 30% of the next sports season in which they participate providing they complete the season in "good standing" and also providing they have been a member of the team for that sport in the previous year. (Freshmen may be exempt from the previous rule requirement.)

F. Travel. All athletes must travel to and from athletic contests in transportation provided by the athletic department unless previous arrangements are made by the athlete and his or her parents with the coach for that sport, for exceptional situations.

INTERPRETATIONS: • The School Administrators are charged with implementing any athletic suspensions. The length of a suspension is based upon the number of contests. Suspensions are calculated according to the events that are known to take place (the official schedule and the first game of the Sectional). Example: 9 football games and 1 guaranteed Sectional game equals 10 games to figure suspension. Suspension will not be refigured with the advancement of a team into the post season. Scrimmages will not be used in calculating suspensions but participation will not be allowed. Suspension calculations will be rounded to the next full game. It is at the coach's discretion to permit the athlete to practice or sit with the team during a contest.

- The athletic season is defined as commencing with the first practice (IHSAA dates) and ending with the final event for that sport. Penalties for violations do take effect immediately upon verification upon any violation and will include games in succession, (i.e. season schedule, tournaments, and state series, in order of competition).

- If the violation of the Code does not allow the athlete to complete the sport season, then the athlete will not be considered in "good standing" and therefore will forfeit all letters and awards for that sport season. If an athlete has an unexcused (team) absence for the last contest of that sport season, he or she will forfeit all letters and awards for that sport season, be suspended from team activities (banquet etc.) and not be allowed to participate in 30% of the next sports season in which the individual participates and successfully completes the season in "good standing".

- If the violation of the Code occurs in the last part of a sport season and the violator cannot fulfill the terms of his or her violation in that sport, the suspension does carry over until the suspension is fulfilled. This includes the next sport, providing the student-athlete has been out for that sport in the previous year (freshmen may be exempt from the previous rule requirement), or the same sport next year (i.e. if the suspension is for the two football games with only one remaining, then the athlete must also miss his or her first basketball game, wrestling match, or baseball game until the suspension has been fulfilled).

- If there are two violations to be considered (Code of Conduct and Academic Eligibility), then Code violation suspension is to begin once grade eligibility is maintained. The two violations are not to be served simultaneously. An athlete cannot serve a suspension of an activity they are not eligible to participate.