

ATHLETICS AND ACTIVITIES CONDUCT CODE

Est. June 2006
Last Revised July 2010

I) PREAMBLE

In order to accomplish the vision, values and purpose of Mercer Island High School, it is necessary to communicate and enforce appropriate standards for all participants in student activities. Participation in school activities is a privilege not a right and if the community is to truly identify with its schools through athletics and activities, it is important that participants conduct themselves in a manner that the school and community can be proud of. This code applies to all WIAA sanctioned or MIHS approved club sports; cheer and drill squads; all music ensembles and all elected positions. Students participating in these activities (and their parent/guardians) must sign the Athletics and Activities Conduct Code acknowledgement included in the *Athletics Package*.

The key to successfully applying the code is information. Without credible information, determining appropriate disciplinary action becomes challenging. Therefore, after gathering reliable information and investigating allegations, sanctions are imposed in every incident where it has been determined that a violation of the code has occurred. As with any student discipline case, the privacy of the student and their family is protected and the disciplinary action is not a public matter.

All students who participate in an athletic and/or activities program at Mercer Island High School must comply with school district policies and the MIHS Code of Student Conduct. Student participants are accountable to their coaches, advisors and school administrators for their behavior at all times, in other words "24/7". Students who participate in the MIHS athletic or activities program are subject to the Athletic and Activities Conduct Code from their first participation in high school until they graduate or leave the school (including all school breaks).

Any student participant who engages in behavior that which interferes with, and/or is detrimental or perceived to be detrimental to the school's educational, athletic or activities programs will be subject to discipline, probation, suspension or expulsion from the activity and may also be subject to additional disciplinary action not related to the activity. Such acts shall include, but not be limited to those listed below. Engagement in any of the acts below by any student participant, on or off school premises, during instructional and non-instructional time, will constitute sufficient cause for discipline, probation, suspension or expulsion from school activities and may result in additional disciplinary action beyond the activity.

- ✓ disruptive conduct;
- ✓ disobedience of reasonable instructions of school authorities;
- ✓ violation of the MIHS Code of Student Conduct
- ✓ unauthorized absence from a practice, game, rehearsal, meeting etc. as defined by each coach or advisor;
- ✓ academic dishonesty
- ✓ vulgarity or profanity;
- ✓ intimidation, hazing or harassment (including racial/gender/sexual orientation and cyber bullying) of another student or employee;
- ✓ assault of another student or employee;
- ✓ possession or use of any dangerous weapons or objects;
- ✓ use, distribution, sale or possession of tobacco, alcoholic beverages, drugs and/or related paraphernalia including being present where substances are available or being used.
- ✓ the charge or conviction of any criminal act as defined by law.

If a student is suspended from school outside of the Athletics and Activities Conduct Code, the student is also suspended from athletics and activities for the duration of the suspension.

II) DISCIPLINARY ACTION (SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION)

- Prior to imposing any disciplinary action, a conference will be conducted with the student participant as follows:
 - The Athletic Director (athletics) or Associate Principal (activities) will present to the student participant a verbal and/or written notice of alleged misconduct and violation(s) of the code and any evidence of the allegation(s).
 - The student participant and his or her parents will be provided the opportunity to present an explanation.
- Following the conference with the student participant, the Athletic Director or Associate Principal may impose corrective actions, suspension, expulsion or other sanctions.
 - If the Athletic Director imposes athletic suspension or expulsion, the student participant will be verbally notified of the action taken. Written notice will be sent by mail to the parent/guardian containing the following information:
 - The action taken (suspension, expulsion, etc.).
 - The reason for such disciplinary action.
 - The right to an informal conference.
- A copy of the disciplinary action notice will be sent to the Principal.

III) DISCIPLINARY ACTION FOR THE POSSESSION, USE AND/OR SALE OF ALCOHOL, TOBACCO AND/OR ILLEGAL DRUGS:

SELF REFERRAL: If students self-refer to their advisor, coach or an administrator, the incident is considered an educational opportunity rather than a disciplinary matter. A self-referral is considered a first violation and students will be required to meet with the MIHS Drug and Alcohol Counselor or other qualified individual acceptable to the school. Students who self-refer may not be suspended from their activity. Students may not be entitled to the self-referral process if the police are investigating or have investigated the matter. If charged with an offense that is a violation of the Athletics and Activities Conduct Code, the self-referral option will not be made available to the student.

FIRST VIOLATION: Whether in season or out of season, students will be suspended for a period of time from their activity or sport. Typically, a first violation will not exceed 15 school days. For violations involving possession, use or sale of alcohol, tobacco and/or illegal drugs, students must also complete an evaluation with the MIHS Drug and Alcohol Counselor or other qualified individual acceptable to the school. During the time of suspension, students will be prohibited from participating in games, performances, matches, practices. Participants may also be prohibited from attending other team/group activities at the discretion of the coach and/or Athletic Director.

In situations where there is an absence of physical possession or use, yet there is knowledge that substances are available or being used, student participants have a responsibility to remove themselves from the situation. Failure to do so at the earliest possible opportunity constitutes a violation of the Athletics and Activities Conduct Code.

If the violation occurred out of season, any suspension will be served beginning with the first practice days (defined as beginning with the first day that final team rosters are set) during the next sports season in which the student participant participates; also, the student participant will miss the first interscholastic contest to follow this suspension if no interscholastic contest should fall within the suspension period.

SECOND VIOLATION: Whether in season or out of season, a second violation will result in expulsion from all student activities for one calendar year and the student must complete a dependency assessment for drug, alcohol or tobacco offenses with the MIHS Drug and Alcohol counselor or other qualified individual acceptable to the school.

Once this occurs, the expulsion may be reduced to a suspension; however, a second violation that occurs in the same athletic season as the first violation will result in suspension for at least the remainder of that athletic season.

THIRD VIOLATION: Whether in season or out of season, a third violation will result in expulsion from all student activities for the remainder of their high school career.

IV) DISCIPLINARY ACTION FOR THE POSSESSION, USE AND/OR SALE OF LEGEND DRUGS INCLUDING ANABOLIC STEROIDS:

Any possession, sale, and/or use of legend drugs (**RCW 69.41.010 identified substances**) including anabolic steroids are considered a violation of this code and students will be subject to the student to the following disciplinary action:

FIRST VIOLATION: The student participant will be immediately ineligible for interscholastic competition in the current interscholastic sport program for the remainder of the season. Ineligibility will continue until the next sports season in which the student participant wishes to turn out. In order to be eligible to participate in the next interscholastic sports season, the student participant will meet with the Athletic Director to request approval to participate.

SECOND VIOLATION: A student who violates for a second time will be ineligible and prohibited from participating in the activity for a period of one calendar year from the date of the second violation.

THIRD VIOLATION: A student participant who violates for a third time is prohibited from any future involvement in student activities for the remainder of their high school career.

V) REINSTATEMENT PROCESS:

Students will be permitted to return to their activities following a suspension after a reinstatement meeting with the Athletic Director.

If the code violation was related to drug, alcohol or tobacco use there must be confirmation from the MIHS Drug and Alcohol Counselor or other qualified individual acceptable to the school that the student has met with them and that any recommendations from counselor have been followed through on.

VI) APPEAL PROCESS

- **Informal Conference**

Any student participant, parent or guardian who is aggrieved by any suspension or expulsion under this code has the right to an informal conference with the Athletic Director (athletics) or Associate Principal (activities). Any request for an informal conference will be made within five school days of receipt of the written notice of the disciplinary action.

- **Formal Conference**

Any student participant, parent/guardian who may be aggrieved following the informal conference may appeal to the Principal for a formal conference.

- The Principal will notify the student participant and the student participant's parent/guardian in writing of their decision within five school days following the meeting.
- The discipline, probation, suspension or expulsion will continue notwithstanding the implementation of the appeal process.