

ATHLETICS AND ACTIVITIES CODE

Est. June 2006

Revised August 2008

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 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 acknowledgement at the end of this code.

A 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.

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.

- ✓ disruptive conduct;
- ✓ disobedience of reasonable instructions of school authorities;
- ✓ refusal to identify oneself;
- ✓ unauthorized absence from a practice or game, defined by each coach or advisor;
- ✓ cheating during athletic contest or practice;
- ✓ Academic Integrity
- ✓ vulgarity or profanity;
- ✓ destruction or defacing of school or public property;
- ✓ intimidation;
- ✓ hazing or harassment (including racial/gender/sexual orientation and cyberbullying) of another student or employee;
- ✓ assault of another student or employee;
- ✓ stealing and/or possession of stolen property;
- ✓ possession or use of any dangerous weapons or objects;
- ✓ use, distribution, sale or possession of tobacco, alcoholic beverages, drugs and/or related paraphernalia. Possession includes both physical and constructive possession, and;
- ✓ the charge or conviction of any criminal act as defined by law.

If a student is suspended from school, the student is also suspended from athletics and activities for the duration of the suspension.

II) DISCIPLINARY ACTION (SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION)

Athletics

- Prior to imposing any disciplinary action, a conference will be conducted with the student participant as follows:
 - The Dean of Students 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 Dean of Students may impose corrective actions, suspension, expulsion or other sanctions.
 - If the Dean of Students 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 student participant's 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 suspension or expulsion notice will be sent to the Principal.

Activities

- Prior to imposing any disciplinary action, a conference will be conducted with the student participant as follows:
 - The Dean of Students 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 Dean of Students may impose corrective actions, suspension, expulsion or other sanctions.
 - If the Dean of Students imposes suspension or expulsion from the activity, the student participant will be verbally notified of the action taken. Written notice will be sent by mail to the student participant's 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 suspension or expulsion notice will be sent to the Principal.

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

FIRST VIOLATION: Whether in season or out of season, students will generally be suspended for a period of time between 15 days and the duration of the current season. For 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.

In situations where there is an absence of physical possession or use, yet there is dominion or control over the substance, or knowledge that substances are available or being used, student participants have a responsibility to remove themselves from the situation.

If students self-refer to their advisor or coach or an administrator, the incident is considered an educational opportunity rather than a disciplinary matter. A self-referral is considered a first offense 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 will not be suspended from their activity. Students may not be entitled to the self-referral process if the police are investigating the matter.

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 completed 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 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.

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 Dean of Students 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.

V) REINSTATEMENT PROCESS:

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

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 Dean of Students. 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 or designee

- The Principal or designee 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.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

STUDENT: I have read and understand the Athletics and Activities Code. I understand the intent of this code and the consequences of my failure to comply with it.

Signature of Student _____ Date _____

PARENT: I have read the Athletics and Activities Code and will work with school officials to ensure my student abides by it. I am aware that my student has read the code and by his/her signature has agreed to abide by it.

Signature of Parent/Guardian _____

Date _____