

651 ATHLETIC, FINE ARTS AND ACTIVITY ELIGIBILITY AND CHEMICAL ABUSE

I. PURPOSE

Student athletic and activity participation is dependent upon Minnesota State High School League and the school district's eligibility policies. All participants in interscholastic and activity programs will comply with the policies of participation and academic eligibility to maintain the privilege of involvement in these programs.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

Students who violate the Minnesota State High School League ("MSHSL") and/or the school district eligibility policies are disciplined in accordance with those policies regarding loss of participation and involvement. The district follows the policies set by the MSHSL, as stated in the "Official Handbook" under Bylaws. The district also imposes penalties, in addition to those specified in the MSHSL eligibility bylaws, as defined in this policy and/or the district's policy on student discipline (Policy 506 – District-wide Student Discipline).

Students participating in all activities are required to maintain satisfactory academic progress towards graduation.

Students who violate school policy or otherwise engage in conduct detrimental to the team, school or community will be disciplined in an appropriate manner including possible suspension or dismissal from the team/activity. It is the students' responsibility to review school policies.

III. DEFINITIONS

- A. District activities include, but are not limited to, debate, speech, one-act play, band, Jazz Band, Rainbow Strings, choir, orchestra, all special instrumental and vocal music ensembles, Knowledge Bowl, Mock Trial, Robotics, Math Team, FFA, DECA, musicals, theater productions, pit orchestra, production technical crews, yearbook, newspaper, Student Council and Archery.
- B. For athletics, the season starts as soon as the student athlete registers and signs the forms for a particular sport. For district activities, the activity starts as soon as the student registers, signs the eligibility forms or attends the first meeting, whichever occurs first.

IV. ELIBILITY VIOLATIONS AND PENALTIES FOR ATHLETICS

Please refer to the Student Eligibility Bylaws of the MSHSL (www.mshsl.org) for a complete description of eligibility violations. The following is a list of the school district penalties for violating such policies. The school administration will determine whether a violation has occurred.

A. First Violation

After a violation has been determined, the student athlete loses eligibility for the next two consecutive interscholastic contests or two weeks, 14 calendar days, of a season in which the student athlete is a participant, whichever is greater.

B. Second Violation

After a violation has been determined, the student athlete loses eligibility for the next six consecutive interscholastic contests or three weeks, 21 calendar days, whichever is greater in his or her current or next season of participation.

C. Third or Subsequent Violation Penalty

1. The student shall lose eligibility for the next 12 consecutive interscholastic contests or four weeks, 28 calendar days, whichever is greater, in which the student is a participant. A student who chooses to become a participant in a treatment program may become eligible for participation after a minimum period of six weeks after entering treatment if all of the following conditions are met:

- a. The student is assessed as chemically dependent,
- b. enters treatment voluntarily, and
- c. the director of the treatment center certifies that the student has successfully completed the treatment program.
- d. The treatment option cannot be used for the first or second violation.

Successful completion of a chemical dependency treatment program will satisfy only the most recent violation. Any other violations for which the penalty has not been satisfied must still be served in full.

D. Progressive Penalties

Penalties shall be progressive beginning with the student's first violation and continuing throughout the student's high school career. Penalties shall be served consecutively.

E. Denial Disqualification

A student athlete is disqualified from all interscholastic athletics for nine additional weeks beyond the student athlete's original period of ineligibility when the student athlete denies violation of the rule and is allowed to participate and then is subsequently found guilty of the violation.

F. Meeting Required

After any violation, the student athlete must meet with the activities director before continued participation is allowed.

V. ELIGIBILITY VIOLATIONS AND PENALTIES FOR DISTRICT ACTIVITIES

Please refer to the Student Eligibility Bylaws of the MSHSL (www.mshsl.org) for a complete description of eligibility violations. The following is a list of the school district penalties for violating such policies. The school administration will determine whether a violation has occurred.

A. All Violations

After a violation has been determined, the student activity participant will meet with the activities director to determine the period of suspension depending on the activity and total number of contests for that activity.

B. Concurrent Participation

For students participating in athletics and a district activity, the student will serve the suspension in both activities concurrently. The student will meet with the activities director to determine the period of suspension for the non-athletic activity.

C. Progressive Penalties

Penalties shall be progressive beginning with the student's first violation and continuing throughout the student's high school career. Penalties shall be served consecutively.

D. Denial Disqualification

A district activity participant is disqualified from all district activities for nine additional weeks beyond the student's original period of ineligibility when the student denies violation of the rule and is allowed to participate and then is subsequently found guilty of the violation.

E. Meeting Required

After any violation, the student athlete must meet with the activities director before continued participation is allowed.

VI. VIOLATIONS AND LEADERSHIP POSITIONS

A. MSHSL Student Code of Responsibility

Any Student Code of Responsibilities violation as defined in the Student Eligibility Bylaws of the MSHSL (www.mshsl.org) occurring after a student is named captain of a team, or named to a position of official leadership within an extracurricular activity, will result in the loss of the leadership position for the first season for which the student has been selected as a leader. A student with two such violations will not be eligible for any extra-curricular position for one calendar year. This exclusion includes but is not limited to class officer positions, homecoming court/royalty and A-Club presidency.

B. Criminal Conduct

A student named to a position of official leadership within an activity is suspended from a position of official leadership upon confirmation that he/she has been formally charged with a criminal offense. Criminal offense includes misdemeanor and felony offenses as defined under state law. This suspension includes class officer positions and homecoming court/royalty. The suspension is in effect until there is confirmation of the resolution of the charge against the student. If the criminal conduct is confirmed, the student will lose any leadership position for the duration of his/her activities or high school career. This exclusion includes class officer positions and homecoming court/royalty.

VII. APPEALS

Any appeals of penalties imposed under this policy will follow the process set forth by the MSHSL.

VIII. ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY

MSHSL policy states that in order to maintain scholastic eligibility a student is to be making satisfactory progress toward graduation. In Alexandria, the student must meet the credit requirements listed below to be on track for graduation. In addition, the student must be passing all classes at the time of the periodic grade check.

A. High School Students Credit Requirement

9th Grade: To be eligible Semester 1, student needs 0 credits

9th Grade: To be eligible Semester 2, student needs 3.25 credits

10th Grade: To be eligible Semester 1, student needs 7.25 credits

10th Grade: To be eligible Semester 2, student needs 10.5 credits

11th Grade: To be eligible Semester 1, student needs 14.5 credits

11th Grade: To be eligible Semester 2, student needs 17.75 credits

12th Grade: To be eligible Semester 1, student needs 21 credits

12th Grade: To be eligible Semester 2, student needs 25 credits

Graduation: 29 credits minimum

B. Failure to Meet Credit Requirement

High school students who do not meet the credit requirements will be ineligible for participation until the credit requirement has been met.

C. Passing Grades Requirement

High School students failing a class at mid-quarter will be considered “academically ineligible” to participate in co-curricular activities until they are passing. Ineligible means that a student cannot compete or perform with a co-curricular activity, or miss school because of a co-curricular activity. The student may still attend practices.

Administration will meet with the student and inform the coach/director/advisor of the student’s ineligibility. The classroom teacher will indicate when the student has regained eligibility. It is the student’s responsibility to get the “proof of progress” signed and delivered to the Activities Office.

Middle School students failing a class during a periodic grade check will be considered “academically ineligible” to participate in co-curricular activities for the designated duration set forth by the middle school administration. Ineligible means that a student cannot compete or perform with a co-curricular activity, or miss school because of a co-curricular activity. The student may still attend practices.

IX. TRANSFER STUDENTS

Transfer student eligibility will be determined by his or her placement in the appropriate grade and semester level upon entering Alexandria Public Schools, along with their calculated grade point average. They will then adhere to the same guidelines outlined above. For participation in MSHSL-sponsored activities, MSHSL Transfer Bylaw 111 will be followed to determine eligibility. All transfer students must meet with the activities director prior to participating in any activity.

X. HOMESCHOOLED STUDENTS

Students who are home schooled must be in compliance with state requirements for home schooling and may participate in athletic/activity programs offered by the school district provided:

- A. The student is responsible for any fees associated with the activity.
- B. The student completes an application for participation, which is submitted to the activities director. The application must be submitted ten days prior to the start of the activity.
- C. The student is a resident of the district and participates in the activity at the school in the attendance area, as determined by the school board.
- D. The student agrees to abide by all rules applicable to requirements of enrolled students.
- E. The home school institution shares documentation demonstrating the student is making progress towards graduation.

XI. PRIVATE AND CHARTER SCHOOL STUDENTS

The MSHSL does not permit participation in league-sponsored activities without a cooperative sponsorship as per Bylaw 403. The school district and the private/charter school boards/board of directors must agree to formally apply for cooperative sponsorship for specific athletics/activities for a private/charter school student to participate in these activities. In addition, all private and charter school students must meet the academic requirements of their own school in order to be eligible.

XII. MONITORING PROCESS

The counselors, coaches/advisors/directors and activities department will be jointly responsible to monitor student eligibility. Upon determination of credit ineligibility, a notification form will be sent to parents/guardians of the student and a plan for reinstatement of eligibility provided.

Cross References:

Policy 506 (District-Wide Student Discipline)

Policy Adopted: 6/15/87

Policy Revised: 8/20/18, 9/27/21, 2/26/24
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