

St. Marys Memorial Athletic Code of Conduct

The Board of Education recognizes the value to the students of the District and to the community of a program of interscholastic athletics for students as an integral part of the total school experience.

The program should foster the growth of school loyalty within the student body as a whole and stimulate community interest in athletics.

The game activities and practice sessions should provide many opportunities to teach the values of competition and good sportsmanship.

The program of interscholastic athletics should provide students the opportunity to exercise and test their athletic abilities in a context greater and more varied than that which can be offered by a school or the School District alone. It should also offer an opportunity for career and educational development.

For purposes of this policy, the program of interscholastic athletics shall include all activities relating to competitive sport contests, games, events, or sport exhibitions involving individual students or teams of students of this District with those of another district.

For purposes of this policy, seasons are as defined by the OHSAA in-season calendar (official start date for each sport and concludes at that sports last competitive competition) which include the Fall, Winter and Spring. Each season's interscholastic sports are as follows:

Fall-Football, Soccer, Cross Country, Volleyball, Golf, Girls Tennis, Cheerleading,

Winter-Basketball, Wrestling, Cheerleading, Bowling, Swimming

Spring-Baseball, Softball, Boys Tennis, Track

ELIGIBILITY

A) The Board shall determine the standards of eligibility to be met by all students participating in the interscholastic program. Such standards shall require that each student be in good physical condition, be free of injury, and have fully recovered from illness before participating in any interscholastic athletic event. In addition to the eligibility requirements established by the Ohio High School Athletic Association, to be eligible for any interscholastic extra-curricular activity, a student in grades seven through twelve must meet the following requirements:

- 1) Students in grades seven through twelve must receive a passing grade in a minimum of five (5) one credit courses or the equivalent each grading period.
 - a. High school students receiving grades on a trimester schedule must receive a passing grade in four of five courses.
 - b. High school students enrolled in Post Secondary Education Option (PSEOP) and Tri-Star will have their grades evaluated at the conclusion of the trimester grading period. Students in PSEOP and Tri-Star must have the minimum classes required and passing grades to establish or maintain eligibility.
 - c. Middle school students receiving grades on a trimester schedule must receive a passing grade in four of five courses or five of six courses.
 - d. Students enrolling in the 7th grade for the first time are eligible for the first grading period regardless of previous academic achievement.
- 2) In addition to the above requirements, students must have achieved a minimum GPA of 1.00 on a 4 pt scale or a 2.0 on a 12 pt scale during the previous grading period.
- 3) A student who receives an "F" maintains his/her eligibility providing all of the above requirements are met.

B) If school is in session on the day of an athletic contest, the student athlete must be in attendance at school by 9:45am of the school day in order to be eligible to participate in that day's athletic contest unless specifically excused from this rule by the principal or through attendance at a school-sponsored event.

C) There is no participation in athletic contests by a student during any out-of-school suspension.

D) A high school student athlete must not have attained the age of 20, and a junior high athlete must not have attained the age of 15 before August 1st, to be eligible for the current school year.

E) A member of an interscholastic squad or in an individual sport (bowling, tennis, golf, swimming and diving, cross country, track and field and wrestling) shall not participate in a contest as a member of a non-interscholastic squad or as an individual in the same sport during the school's interscholastic season.

F) If a student is removed from a sport for disciplinary reasons, s/he is ineligible for participation in any sport until the next season begins.

G) If a student leaves a team, s/he is ineligible for participation in any interscholastic sport until the season is completed, unless given permission to join another team by the athletic director and the two (2) head coaches involved

H) The eligibility of a transfer participant must be established by school records or other verification from the sending school. The responsibility for establishing eligibility rests with the receiving school. The transfer student shall facilitate the receiving school in accessing the student's school records.

I) Students are allowed to participate in two co-curricular sport activities during the same season. Students wishing to participate in two sports during the same season will need to obtain a request form from the athletic director and follow the guidelines set down by the athletic department involving dual sport participation.

Students identified as disabled under R.C. 3323 and the IDEA are subject to the eligibility standards established by this policy unless specifically exempted by the express terms of their individualized education program (IEP). An IEP can specify the criteria by which a grade will be determined for (a) course(s), given the individualized student's disability.

The St. Marys City School District does not carry medical insurance for students involved in extracurricular activities. The student's parent/guardian bears the sole responsibility to pay for medical care that may result from the student's participation in athletics.

Since the primary purpose of the athletic program is to enhance the education of participating students as indicated in this policy, the Board places top priority on maximum student participation and the values of good sportsmanship, team play, and fair competition.

The Board further adopts those eligibility standards set by the Constitution of the Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA) and shall review such standards annually to ascertain that they continue to be in conformity with the objectives of this Board.

The Board further directs that only those students may participate in the program of interscholastic athletics that have:

- 1) Maintained a satisfactory academic record;
- 2) Attended school regularly;
- 3) Demonstrated good citizenship and responsibility;

- 4) Returned all school and athletic equipment;
- 5) Refrained from participation in a contest on a non-interscholastic team, or as an individual in the same sport during the school's season;
- 6) Submitted to the athletic department all required athletic forms such as physicals, emergency medical, OHSAA authorization, athletic acknowledgment of team rules, etc.

In order to minimize health and safety risks to student-athletes and maintain ethical standards, school personnel, coaches, athletic trainers, and lay coaches shall not dispense, supply, recommend, or permit the use of any drug, medication, or food supplement solely for performance-enhancing purposes. The Superintendent shall cause to be posted in all locker rooms in buildings that include students in any grade higher than the sixth grade, the following:

“Warning: Improper use of anabolic steroids may cause serious or fatal health problems, such as heart disease, stroke, cancer, growth deformities, infertility, personality changes, severe acne, and baldness. Possession, sale, or use of anabolic steroids without a valid prescription is a crime punishable by a fine and imprisonment.”

The Superintendent shall develop appropriate administrative guidelines for the operation of the Athletic Program and a Code of Conduct for those who participate. Such guidelines should provide for the following safeguards:

- A. Prior to enrolling in the sport, each participant shall submit to a thorough physical examination by a District approved physician; parents shall report any past or current health problems along with a physician's statement that any such problems have or are being treated and pose no threat to the student's participation.
- B. Any student who is found to have a health condition which may be life-threatening to self or others shall not be allowed to participate until the situation has been analyzed by a medical review panel that has determined the conditions under which the student may participate. The District shall assume no liability for any student with a health condition who has been authorized to play by the parents and their physician but not by the District.
- C. Any student who incurs an injury requiring a physician's care is to have the written approval of a physician prior to the student's return to participation.

Students will be further informed that participation in interscholastic sports is a privilege and not a right, and that they may be prohibited from all or part of their participation in such activities by authorized school personnel without further notice.

In order to support the High School Athletic Association's program to strengthen sportsmanship, ethics, and integrity, the Board commits itself to:

- A. Adopt policies (upon recommendation of the administration) which reflect the District's educational objectives and promote the ideals of good sportsmanship, ethics, and integrity
- B. Establish standards for athletic participation which reinforce the concept that athletic activities are a privilege, not a right
- C. Attend and enjoy school athletic activities, serving as a positive role model and expecting the same from parents, fans, participants, coaches, and other school personnel
- D. Support and reward participants, coaches, school administrators, and fans who display good sportsmanship

E. Recognize the value of school athletic activities as a vital part of education.

USE OF DRUGS, ALCOHOL, AND TOBACCO

Students involved in the athletic program of the St. Marys City Schools shall not at any time use, have in their possession, or participate in the transportation, sale, or furnishing of illegal or “look alike” drugs, related controlled substances, drug paraphernalia, alcohol, or prescription drugs for which the student lacks a valid prescription, which is made illegal by the Ohio Revised Code. Nor shall they at any time have in their possession any form of tobacco. Students will be typically considered in violation of the athletic code of conduct through the filing of criminal/delinquency violation charges by any law enforcement or court agency, direct admission from the student or parent, or through direct observation by school personnel. Penalties that are not fully served during the season will carry over into the next athletic season in which the athlete participates.

A. First Offense:

Student athletes who violate the above rules will be declared ineligible to participate in the number of contests equal to 20% of the team’s regular season games, excluding scrimmages. This penalty will be reduced to the number of contests equal to 10% of the team’s regular season games if the athlete enrolls, at their own expense, in a substance treatment program approved by the principal. The athletic director will determine the actual length of the ineligibility based on successful completion of a substance treatment program. The coach may enforce other penalties in addition to the suspension if it is included in the team’s individual training rules. If the violation occurs during an off-season for the student athlete, the coach may assess her/his own consequences in which the athlete participates. The student-athlete may not be eligible for post-season athletic awards.

A student-athlete who has a suspension imposed for an offense may not join a sport that is already in session for the purpose of serving the penalty prior to the start of the next sport’s season.

B. Second Offense:

The athlete will be declared ineligible to participate in any sport for one calendar year (365 days) from the date of violation of the code of conduct. The student may ask the principal for a reinstatement in athletics after six (6) months from the date of denial provided he/she has completed a substance abuse program approved in advance by the principal and paid for by the athlete. Student-athletes are not eligible to achieve or receive a post-season athletic award during the second offense ineligibility period.

A student-athlete who has a suspension imposed for an offense may not join a sport that is already in session for the purpose of serving the penalty prior to the start of the next sport’s season.

C. Third Offense:

The athlete will be declared ineligible to participate in any sport for the remainder of his/her high school years. Student-athletes are not eligible to achieve or receive a post-season athletic award during the third offense ineligibility period.

D. Self-Referral Program:

Any student-athlete may employ a “self-referral” procedure, allowing the student an avenue to seek guidance, assessment/counseling and /or treatment in regard to use of alcohol, drugs, and tobacco. Voluntary referrals do not carry punitive consequences. A self-referral, however, is not to be used by students as a method to avoid consequences once an alcohol and/or drug policy violation has occurred. All self-referrals by a student-athlete must begin by informing a staff member, coach/advisor, or Athletic Director/Administrator. The St. Marys City Schools believes it is extremely

important to keep the lines of communication open between parents, students, coaches, teachers, and administrators. Parents and students shall be encouraged to discuss problems in a confidential manner with school personnel without punitive consequences, regardless of a student's level of participation in extracurricular and/or athletic activities. Disciplinary action may result from other infractions concerning the code of conduct.

The Building Administrator will maintain a current list of community treatment and evaluation providers, which will be available to parents and students employing this self-referral procedure, as well as to any student found in violation of this Code of Conduct. The cost of assessment and/or treatment is the sole responsibility of the student, parents or guardians.

GENERAL ATHLETIC RULES AND REGULATIONS

Any student involved in the St. Marys City Schools athletic program is expected to abide by all of the following rules and regulations:

- 1) Student athletes shall not at any time take part in crimes or other acts against individuals or property or otherwise violate the district's Student Code of Conduct. The Code of Conduct includes, but is not limited to: disruption of school, theft of school or other property, damage of property, assault, gambling, cheating, abusive or offensive language or gestures, disrespect, and failure to comply with other standards of discipline, attendance, and dress.
- 2) Student athletes shall not participate in acts that bring embarrassment to the team, school, or community.
- 3) Student athletes shall not be disrespectful toward teammates, coaches, administrators, referees, or opponents. They shall not be disobedient to coaches, teachers, administrators, referees, or others in authority over their school athletic program.
- 4) Student athletes will be required to ride to and from athletic events by means of transportation provided by the Board of Education unless excused from this requirement by their head coach and with prior written approval from their parent or legal guardian.
- 5) Student athletes shall not engage in hazing, which is defined as any action of initiation or other action that involves coercing another to do or initiate any act against any student or other organization that causes or creates a substantial risk of causing mental or physical harm to any person.

In addition to the above rules, each head coach may establish additional training rules and regulations for his/her individual sport. Any such list of rules shall be given to team members in writing and submitted to the participants no later than the team's first practice. The participant and the parents of the participant will be provided copies of this policy and any additional rules or expectations of the head coach. The athletic policy and any additional rules are to be signed by the participant and parents and returned to the head coach to indicate awareness of the district's athletic policies and team rules. A copy of these additional rules will be filed with the athletic director.

- 6) Discipline for violation of the above rules, up to and including immediate dismissal from the team, will be at the discretion of the athletic director and head coach. More severe disciplinary action, however, including suspension from school or a recommendation for expulsion must be determined by the assistant principal or principal.

The procedure to be followed upon learning of a possible infraction of athletic department or team rules and regulations is:

- 1) Upon learning of an infraction of any of the rules or regulations, either by his/her own observation or upon information brought to his/her attention, the principal, athletic director, or other administrator will investigate the validity of the accusation.
- 2) If it is determined that a rules violation has occurred, the athletic director will determine what level of offense has taken place. The athletic director will then notify both the student and his/her parents in writing within five (5) days regarding the incident, the penalty imposed, and of any additional consequences given by the coach.
- 3) An exception to this procedure will be for accusations of hazing. In such cases, Board policy requires that the incident be reported directly and immediately to the Superintendent. The procedure for investigation and determination of disciplinary action in cases of alleged hazing, therefore, will be at the Superintendent's discretion.