



ATHLETICS PURPOSE STATEMENT

The purpose of the Mount Baker High School Athletic Program is to learn life's lessons and have fun through competition, teamwork, and sportsmanship which builds a solid foundation to learn and grow as our student/athletes strive towards success in a positive environment.

I. SCOPE OF ATHLETIC CODE

The rules and regulations contained in this athletic code pertain not only to athletes but to cheerleaders and other students in supporting roles, such as managers, statisticians, etc. They will be in effect from the time of receipt to the termination of your athletic eligibility in the Mount Baker School District. This includes the scope of the entire school year beginning with the first day of fall sports practice and ending on the last day of the school year. The Athletic Code will be in effect beyond the school year for all students whenever they are participating or acting as representatives of the school (i.e., practice, games, trips, camps, tours, etc.) It is sincerely hoped that these established regulations will also encourage students to maintain high standards of conduct throughout the year.

II. GENERAL RULES

- A. WIAA rules must be followed in all cases of eligibility, transfer, physical examinations, insurance coverage, starting dates, use of school equipment, etc.
- B. No athlete may quit one sport and turn out for another after the season has begun without the mutual consent of the coaches.
- C. Participants must travel to and from contests away from Mount Baker in transportation provided by the school. The only exceptions permitted are: (1) injury to a participant which would require alternate transportation; (2) approval by Administration for permission to ride with others. This request must be in writing by the parent/guardian in advance and directed to the Administration; or (3) Approval by coach or Administration for permission to ride with others may be granted under extenuating circumstances.
- D. Any display of unsportsmanlike conduct toward a teammate, opponent or official during a practice or contest will result in counseling by the coach and possible discipline or suspension.
- E. Participants will commit no unlawful acts nor engage in any delinquent behavior.
- F. Participants will not possess, use, provide or be under the influence of alcoholic beverages, narcotics, legend drugs including anabolic steroids, other drugs, controlled substances, inhalants, or other intoxicants (including, but not limited to glue, petroleum liquid or gas) unless prescribed by a medical practitioner. In addition, participants will not possess, provide, sell or purchase drug paraphernalia including that which may be used for inhaling or "huffing."
- G. Participants will not possess or use tobacco in any form.
- H. Students participating must meet the dress and grooming standards deemed appropriate by school administration and coach. Coaches will notify participants as to the standards they expect.
- I. A participant shall not engage in conduct detrimental to the team or to the school.
- J. A participant shall not steal or use another person's property without permission.
- K. A participant is expected to attend all scheduled practices, meetings, contests or events whether or not school is in session. If a student finds it is necessary to miss any of the above, prior arrangements must be made with the coach.
- L. Issued equipment belongs to the Associated Student Body of Mount Baker School District. The loss or

misuse of this equipment will be the financial obligation of the participant. Until this obligation is fulfilled, the student/ athlete will not be allowed to participate in further competition or to receive awards.

- M. Completion of the athletic season is required for the student to be eligible for a letter or other team or individual award. (Exception: injury which limits participation.) No awards shall be given to any student suspended for the season for Athletic Code violation.

III. PROCEDURES FOR RULE INFRACTION

- A. **Student Attendance Rules** – A student must be in school the entire day in order to participate in games or practices on that day. Students should make every attempt to satisfy this rule, but it is understood that there will be exceptions. Acceptable exceptions are:
 - 1. A completed prior excuse form on file in the office.
 - 2. A signed statement from a doctor verifying an appointment.
 - 3. A phone call or e-mail to the school attendance secretary or appropriate office staff from a parent/guardian or emancipated student prior to the student's absence.
 - 4. As approved by the Athletic Director or building Administration.
- B. **Academic Standards** – Participation in athletics requires successful performance in academics. The academic standards place proper emphasis on student achievement in the classroom to maintain eligibility.
 - 1. **Preceding semester grades:** The WIAA requires that each participant pass a minimum of five (5) full-time subjects to be eligible for competition the following semester. Each participant who fails to make this requirement shall be placed on probation during the first five (5) weeks of the succeeding semester for High School and the first three (3) weeks for Junior High, and shall be ineligible during this time.
 - 2. **Current grades:** The Mount Baker School District and the WIAA require each participant to be a full-time student and to maintain passing grades in all assigned classes to remain eligible during the current semester. Participants will be monitored every 1-2 weeks, according to the preset grade check schedule. Eligibility for all participants will be determined as follows:
 - a. Each participant is eligible providing they are passing all classes.
 - b. Each participant receiving at least one (1) failing grade in a class at the end of a 1-2 week period will be put on academic probation in that class and will have 1-2 weeks in which to bring up the grade to passing. Students will be notified by their counselor, coach, or the Athletic Director.
 - c. Each participant receiving a failing grade in a class after a 1-2 week probation period will be suspended from participating in games or events until the academic situation is rectified and the student is passing. The participant's parent or guardian will be notified of such suspension.
 - d. A student is eligible to come off the suspended list as soon as they are passing. In this case, the Athletic Director or an administrator must have confirmation from the teacher in whose class the student was failing.
- C. **Use of Illegal Substances** – The Mount Baker School District recognizes that chemical dependency is a serious illness and the use of tobacco, alcohol, narcotics, controlled substances and other drugs, including inhalants, is a violation of the law. Athletes are advised not to be present more than five (5)

minutes at any function where alcohol and/or illegal drugs are involved. The Principal or designee will implement the following disciplinary action as a result of a participant's offense for use, consumption, possession or sale of tobacco, alcohol and illegal drugs and/or drug paraphernalia and exceptional misconduct. NOTE: The substance abuse offenses will accumulate throughout the students high school career and disciplinary action will be based on the number of cumulative offenses, not just on the offenses during a given year.

1. **Possession and or Use of Tobacco, Alcohol, Drug Paraphernalia, and Exceptional Misconduct**

- a. **First offense during high school** – (1) During an athletic season and up until the last contest in that sport, the participant will be suspended for twenty-one (21) (Ten (10) days for tobacco) sport season days (excluding non-competition or non-practice days) from participating in any game, performance, contest, competition or event, and from practice for half of the days of the suspended period. (2) If suspension is due to alcohol during the twenty-one days, the student must complete an assessment with an approved Intervention Specialist and if counseling is recommended be properly scheduled to attend an Alcohol Education Insight class.
- b. **Second offense during high school** – (1) Suspension for twenty-one (21) sport season days (could extend into the following season). (2) The student will be required, at own expense, to submit to an evaluation by an approved community agency or individual to be completed within ten (10) school days from the time of the incident. The student must complete the evaluation and comply with the recommendations prior to participating in any game, performance, contest, competition or event in the next athletic season. Written verification or compliance with results and recommendations will be provided to school authorities.
- c. **Third offense during high school** – Suspension from participating in all athletic programs within Mount Baker School District for the remainder of the student's high school career. A student who has completed an approved treatment program and provides recommendation from that treatment program will be given favorable consideration in an appeal for reinstatement of eligibility. This appeal must be submitted in writing to the school principal.

D. **Illegal Drugs and Controlled Substances** – Penalties for the possession, use or sale of drugs (drugs obtained through prescription, RCW 69.41.020-050) and controlled substances (RCW 69.50) shall be as follows:

1st Violation – A participant shall be immediately ineligible for interscholastic competition in the current interscholastic sports program for the remainder of the season. Ineligibility shall continue until the next sports season in which the participant wishes to participate unless the student accesses the assistance program outlined (below.)

An athlete that is found to be in violation of WIAA Rule 18.26.2 (Legend drugs and controlled substances) shall have two options:

1. The athlete will be ineligible for participation in contests for the remainder of that interscholastic sports season and must meet with the school administration in order to be eligible to compete in the next interscholastic sports season. The school principal will have the final authority regarding the student's participation in further interscholastic sports programs.
2. The athlete may choose to seek and receive help for a problem with use of legend drugs or controlled substances. Successful utilization community assistance programs may allow him/her

to have eligibility reinstated in that athletic season, pending recommendation by the school administration.

2nd Violation – A participant who again violates any provision of RCW 69.41.020 through 69.41.050 or of RCW 69.50 shall be ineligible for interscholastic competition for a period of one (1) calendar year from the date of the second violation.

3rd Violation – A participant who violates for a third time RCW 69.41.020 - 69.41.050 or of RCW 69.50 shall be permanently ineligible for interscholastic competition.

****Self report of violations and/or cooperation with School Personal** – Up to fourteen (14) days of the twenty-one (21) calendar day suspension may be waived for “first time” violations when the violation is voluntarily reported by the student or the parent/guardian to the coach or an administrator, by the end of the next school day or the student cooperates with School Personal. The Principal or Athletic Director will be informed immediately. For tobacco, up to five (5) of the ten (10) days may be waived. The violation is still considered a first offense.

IV. COACHES STANDARDS

Any additional rules or regulations established by the coach not covered in this document must be consistent with the Athletic Code and approved by the Principal and the Athletic Director. Any additional rules and regulations must be in writing, kept on file in the school, and each participant must be informed of such rules and regulations and be provided a copy of them. Sanctions for Athletic Code infractions described earlier in the Code are district minimums. Sport-specific coaches may, if they comply with the timeline and written notice requirements, make such sanctions in their sport which are more serious and/or strict.

V. DISCIPLINE/SUSPENSION AND GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

When coaches or school officials receive information of a possible athletic code violation, a school official will meet with the individual(s) alleged to have violated the code and will relate the allegations. If after conferring with the individual(s), the school official determines that the athletic code has been violated, she/he will place the individual(s) on immediate suspension from participating in any game, performance, contest or event. A school official will attempt to contact the parent/guardian by phone and will send written notice of the alleged violation and resulting suspension within two school days of declaring the individual(s) suspended.

A. The principles for determining violations are as follows:

1. Proof of violation must be established by any one of the following:

- a. Positive identification of a student violation by a teacher/administrator or law enforcement officer.
- b. Accusations made by parents/adults who are willing to testify against alleged student violation of the code.
- c. An investigation of a student violation, revealing sufficient facts to prove the violation.

2. Degree of violation should not be of concern.

3. Penalize the violation per athletic code.

B. Discipline - Grievance Procedure – For any suspension from an athletic program as set forth in WAC 180.40.240. This section of the WAC reads as follows:

“Any student, parent, or guardian who is aggrieved by the imposition of discipline shall have the right to an informal conference with the building principal or his or her designee for the purpose of resolving the grievance. During such conference, the student, parent, or guardian shall be subject to questioning by

the building principal or his or her designee and shall be entitled to question school personnel involved in the matter being grieved. Subsequent to the building level grievance meeting, the student, parent, or guardian, upon two school business days' prior notice, shall have the right to present a written and/or oral grievance to the superintendent of the district or his/her designee. If the grievance is not resolved, the student, parent, or guardian upon two school business days' prior notice, shall have the right to present a written and/or oral grievance to the board of directors during the board's next regular meeting. The board shall notify the student, parent, or guardian of its response to the grievance within ten school business days after the date of the meeting. The discipline action shall continue notwithstanding the implementation of the grievance procedure set forth in this section unless the principal or his or her designee elects to postpone such action."

VI. VERIFICATION OF UNDERSTANDING

To be eligible for, and prior to participation, verification signed by the student and parent/guardian indicating they have received, read, understand, and agree to abide by the Athletic Code as signed in the annual eligibility form. This will be kept on file in the office of the Athletic Secretary.