

ATHLETIC AND EXTRA-CURRICULAR CODE

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Schedules can be viewed on the school web site under "MECS Athletics" or go to <https://www.centerstateconference.org/public/genie/1162/school/74/>

The establishment of an athletic code reflects the school district's concern for the safety and wellbeing of its students in conjunction with the academic program. The Middle/High School, its administration, teachers, staff, and coaches set rules for team membership, attendance, and eligibility for the interscholastic sports program at MECS. This code abides by the Board of Education Policy.

There is no perfect policy. Situations occurring that do not meet the specifics of this policy will be dealt with in the spirit of the policy.

Team Membership

As a participant in interscholastic athletics, the student has a responsibility to the team and to the school to maintain high standards of physical and mental fitness and citizenship. The athlete must also recognize a responsibility to adhere to the rules and regulations applicable to the student body.

As a participant in extracurricular activities, the student has a responsibility to the activity they are participating in and to the school to maintain high standards of mental fitness and citizenship. The student must recognize also a responsibility to adhere to the rules and regulations applicable to the student body.

All candidates for participation in extracurricular activities must complete and return to the coach/advisor the emergency medical and parental permission forms.

Additionally, prior to participation in any practice, all athletes must have completed a physical examination. This physical must be done yearly. A copy of that examination's results must be on file with the school nurse.

No student may join a team or try out for another team or club after one half (1/2) of a season has expired. Prior to the halfway point of any season, a student wishing to switch from one team to another may do so with prior approval of both coaches/advisor and the director of athletics/principal.

A player may withdraw from an interscholastic team under the following circumstances:

1. On those teams in which cuts are required, the athlete may withdraw or leave the team prior to the final cut date without consequence.
2. On those teams where no cuts are required, an athlete may withdraw from the team prior to the team's first contest without consequence.

A student participating in extracurricular activities may withdraw from their activity under the following circumstances:

1. On those activities in which student participation is limited, the student may withdraw prior to cuts are made without consequence.
2. On those activities in which there is no participation is limited, the student may withdraw prior to date set by advisor.

After these dates any student resigning or quitting the team/activity must communicate their wishes in writing or verbally to the coach/advisor, who will then forward the information to the athletic director/principal. The student may meet with the athletic director/principal to discuss reasons for leaving. Based on the circumstances of the student's reason for leaving, suspension could result.

If the student decides to appeal the suspension, a committee will be formed to hear the appeal.

Failing one or more subjects, the student is on extra-curricular probation, but could face suspension if the following are not followed.

- Must stay with teacher(s) during week
- Must get teacher to fill out form
- Must return form in to main office on last day of school each week.
- Office will give eligibility slip to participate.

Parent/Coach Relationship

When a child becomes involved in the program, parents/guardians have a right to understand what expectations are placed on the child. This begins with clear communication from the coach of the program. Before the start of each sports season, coaches review the athletic code with team members. If concerns arise, please feel free to contact the coach. If necessary, a contact can also be made with the athletic director, should any concerns continue to be unresolved.

Transportation

The district will follow established practice regarding transportation of student/athletes to contests/activities. For health, safety, and school district liability purposes, all student/athletes MUST ride to and from away contests/activities in MECS school buses. An exception may be made when the parent or legal guardian has provided the coach/advisor with a written statement in the form of a note or sign out sheet indicating that the parent/guardian and only that parent/guardian will provide

transportation of his /her child. Any parent/guardian wishing their son/daughter ride home with another responsible adult must provide a written note to the athletic office the morning of the contest. Notes can be written for the season. Weekend or vacation events must be submitted on the last regular school day for approval by the athletic director. These sign outs are on the back of the medical permission form. See page 12

Sportsmanship: Student, Parents, Coaches, Advisors, Spectators

The Board of Education, administration, staff, and students all agree to adhere to and abide by the Codes of Behavior and Ethics for spectators, student athletes and coaches of Section III Code of the New York State Public High School Athletic Association. The section III Code of Behavior for Student Athletes is adopted as the Code of Behavior for Student Athletes at MECS.

The student/athletes at MECS are expected to:

- Demonstrate self-control and respect for others at all times whether it's officials, spectators or other athletes.
- Remember that participation in athletics/extracurricular activities is a privilege that is not to be abused by students through unsportsmanlike conduct.
- Treat opponents/others with respect. Shake hands after the contest and congratulate them on their performance.
- Respect the integrity and judgment of the officials/coaches/advisors/opponents.
- Remember that, while in uniform, your behavior is a reflection on your team, the school, and the community.
- Accept and abide by the rules and regulations of the game.

Additional conditions related to athletes' sportsmanship

- An athlete ejected from a contest for unsportsmanlike conduct will be suspended from the next athletic contest.
- An athlete who has been ejected for a second time in the same season will be dismissed from the team.
- An athlete who strikes or otherwise physically assaults an official, a coach, a player, or any other person in attendance at any athletic contest or practice will be subject to an extended suspension from athletic competition. The athletic director, principal, and the coach will determine the length of the suspension from participation in conjunction with the superintendent.

The principal may impose further disqualification.

Citizenship

Student/athletes have the responsibility to treat others with respect. They choose words and actions, which will not hurt others. They use positive language when communicating with each other. They consider the feelings of all. They resolve disagreements without physical contact. All who attend and work in our school system take pride in themselves and in their work by being respectful, responsible and reliable.

Attendance

Good attendance allows a student to compete at a higher level in the classroom and in extracurricular activities. Students must recognize that absence from a practice or contest is prohibited, unless legally absent from school or excused from practice in advance by the coach. Any student who is illegally absent from school on the day of a contest/activity or on the Friday before a Saturday contest/activity is prohibited from participating in that contest/activity. Any student who participates in an extracurricular activity and is arriving late to school must report to the main office by 10 am with a documented excuse signed by a parent in order to participate in the next scheduled practice or contest. Frequent tardiness could result in a loss of participation in the sport/activity.

The building principal or Athletic Director must approve the reason for tardiness. Legal excuses, which may extend or nullify the 10:00 AM deadline, include:

- Medical Appointment
- College Visit
- Obtaining a Driver's License
- School Activity
- Court Appointment
- Religious Function

- Counseling Appointment
- Family Illness or Death in the Family

Students must realize that they are responsible for all missed classroom work. Arrangements should be made with the classroom teacher and the coach to make up all missed work. Students who fail to make these arrangements may be subject to penalties such as loss of practice time or playing time. A student who leaves school due to illness may not return to participate in any event that same day. Furthermore, students must realize that attendance at school is important and student must be in attendance in school prior to and/or following any appointment.

*** All equipment issued to a student must be returned to the coach/advisor at the conclusion of participation. The student must pay for school property, equipment, or uniforms not returned to the school.**

Use of Alcohol or Tobacco

The use of any alcoholic product and/or smoking device, is a violation of the Athletic Code. All student athletes will be subject to the following procedures:

- First offense in the school year
 - The athletic code established a probationary situation for an athlete found to have used alcohol or tobacco.
 - The athlete will be suspended from competition for either one or two contests, depending upon the length of season:
 - Sports seasons of more than 12 contests: 2 game suspension
 - Sports seasons of 12 or less contests: 1 game suspension
 - Also, the athlete will be asked to participate in a locally developed counseling program.
 - This probation allows the opportunity to participate in practices, unless:
 - A conflict occurs in conjunction with the counseling program.
 - The suspending event involves a suspension from school for alcohol and/or tobacco at school events or on school property.
- Second offense in the school year:
 - An athlete who has served probation according to the "first offense" procedures (above) and who is found to have used alcohol and/or tobacco again will be disqualified from participation in any sport for one calendar year. In addition, the athlete must engage in additional counseling and must finish that counseling program before contest participation in the next sport. The counseling program undertaking must be satisfactory to a review committee made up of the athletic director, principal and the coach.

Use of Illegal Drugs or Dangerous Substances

IMMEDIATE SUSPENSION: A meeting will be held between the student, parent/guardian, athletic director, and principal to determine length of suspension.

School Suspension Implications

Suspension from school in the form of in-school suspension will disqualify the student athlete from participation in practice and/or contests throughout the suspension period. Although students are not allowed to participate, they are expected to attend all practices and contests unless otherwise approved by coach/advisor. For the purpose of athletics/extracurricular activities, suspensions will end at midnight of the last day of the suspension. Students suspended out of school will miss a minimum of one contest, whether that contest is scheduled during the suspension period or not. Students, while serving an out of school suspension, should not participate in any practices, and are prohibited from attending any contests during this period.

Medical Information

A student must have an updated physical every school year. After an injury or an illness requiring a doctor's care, an athlete must have a written note from the doctor allowing participation in athletics again. If an athlete is injured in a contest or a practice, he or she should report the injury immediately to the coach. On the next school day, the student should report to the nurse's office to inform the nurse of the injury.

Appeal Process

Any student and his or her parents have the right to appeal any decision regarding participation in athletics to the Superintendent, Board of Education, and the Commissioner of Education

Health and Safety

- The health and safety of our student athletes are very important to us. If you have any concerns, please feel free to contact us at any time.
- Enclosed you will find an informational sheet about concussions and what to look for. Parents see their children on a regular basis if you suspect or are concerned of a possible concussion again please feel free to contact us. By signing the athletic code, you acknowledged that you have read the informational sheet.