

## GOOD CONDUCT RULE

### **A. STUDENT ELIGIBILITY FOR CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES:**

Participation in school activities is a privilege. School activities provide the benefits of promoting additional interests and abilities in the students during their school years and for a lifetime.

Students who participate in extracurricular activities serve as ambassadors of the school district throughout the calendar year, whether away from school or at school. Students who wish to have the privilege of participating in extracurricular activities must conduct themselves in accordance with board policy and must refrain from activities that are illegal, immoral, or unhealthy.

Students who fail to abide by this policy and the administrative regulations supporting it may be subject to disciplinary measures. The principal shall keep records of violations of the good conduct rule.

### **B. APPLICABLE SPORTS AND ACTIVITIES:**

The following sports and activities are covered by the board's policy and these rules: Students in grades 7<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade whom participate in athletics, drama productions, speech contests, FFA, Shooting Sports, National Honor Society, all co-curricular clubs/organizations, all honorary and elected offices (e.g., Homecoming King/Queen/court, class officer, student government officer or representative), local, regional and state contests and performances for cheerleading and drill team, dance or any other sport and activity where the student represents the school outside the classroom are covered by this policy.

### **C. ENFORCEABLE PERIOD**

This policy is in effect year round, 365 days per year and applies to a student's behavior in and outside of school. Violations are cumulative from 7<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> grade and again cumulative from 9<sup>th</sup> grade through the end of a student's 12<sup>th</sup> grade eligibility.

### **D. PUNISHABLE BEHAVIORS:**

To retain eligibility for participation in Montezuma Junior High and High School co-curricular activities, students must conduct themselves as good citizens both in and out of school at all times. Students who represent the school in an activity are expected to serve as good role models to other students and to the members of the community.

A student may lose eligibility under the Good Conduct Rules (GCR) for any of the following behaviors:

- Possession, use, or purchase of tobacco products to include e-cigarette, vaporizers, or any future electronic nicotine delivery systems, regardless of the student's age.
- Possession, use, or purchase of alcoholic beverages, including beer and wine (having the odor of alcohol on one's breath is evidence of "use");

- Being in attendance at a function or party where the student knows or has reason to know that alcohol or other drugs are being consumed illegally by minors and failing to leave despite having a reasonable opportunity to do so;
- Possession, use, purchase, or attempted sale/purchase of illegal drugs, or the unauthorized possession, use, purchase, or attempted sale/purchase of otherwise lawful drugs;
- Engaging in any act that would be grounds for arrest or citation in the criminal or juvenile court system (excluding minor offenses such as traffic or hunting/fishing violations), regardless of whether the student was cited, arrested, convicted, or adjudicated for the act(s);
- Exceedingly inappropriate or offensive conduct such as assaulting staff or students, gross insubordination (talking back or refusing to cooperate with authorities), hazing or harassment of others. Such harassment does not have to rise to the level of violating the school's anti-bullying/harassment policy, but rather may include inappropriate and/or disparaging comments to or about others, whether made verbally, in writing, or by electronic means (e.g., text messages, electronic mail, or posting on social networking sites). Examples of such harassment includes, but is not limited to: threats; inappropriate comments about the traits of an individual or group; creating parodies to make fun of others; posting or otherwise sharing potentially embarrassing photographs, drawings, video, or depictions of others without permission. NOTE: This could include group conduct! This rule is not intended to prevent a student from expressing his/her religious or political beliefs.

#### **E. GOOD CONDUCT COMMITTEE:**

Whenever a student is alleged or suspected to have violated the Good Conduct Rules (GCR), the principal and or athletic director shall investigate the facts concerning such allegations. If there is clear and credible evidence that there has been a violation of the GCR (student self-reports, parent of the student reports or notification provided by law enforcement), the student will be informed of the violation and the principal will impose the appropriate consequence. If a student is alleged or suspected to have violated the GCR and through an investigation the principal finds just cause to pursue the matter, the principal will meet with the student to inform him/her of the allegation or suspicion, inform the parent(s)/guardian(s) of such meeting and take the matter to the Good Conduct Committee for a determination. The purpose of the Good Conduct Committee is to review the evidence found during the investigation and determine if there has been a violation of the GCR.

The Good Conduct Committee will be appointed by the principal and consist of:

1. Athletic director
2. Two (2) out-of-season coaches/sponsors
3. Two (2) non-coaching teachers

The principal is a non-voting member of the committee and will act as mediator and presenter of information to the committee.

The student has the option to meet with the committee to present his/her side of the story. The principal will present the evidence gathered during the investigation. By majority vote the committee will determine if the student violated the GCR and apply the consequences as expressed below.

At the conclusion of the committee's meeting, the principal will inform the student and student's parent(s) or guardian(s) of the committee's decision.

The Good Conduct Committee reserves the right to make adjustments in the application of the rules and penalties based on the unique and unforeseen circumstances of a student on a case-by-case basis.

#### **F. PENALTIES:**

Any student who, after a hearing before the Good Conduct Committee, is found to have violated the GCR is subject to a loss of eligibility as follows, these penalties are cumulative beginning in 7<sup>th</sup> grade and will start over again beginning in 9<sup>th</sup> grade:

- First Offense - 30 calendar days of competitive ineligibility (For "mere presence" violations, see "Reduction in Penalty")
  - Second Offense – 60 calendar days of competitive ineligibility (For "mere presence" violations, see "Reduction in Penalty")
  - Third or More Offenses – 365 consecutive calendar days of ineligibility (For "mere presence" violations, see item "Reduction in Penalty")
1. For a First and Second Offense penalty, the ineligibility period BEGINS immediately if the student is in the competitive portion of a sport or activity OR with the 1<sup>st</sup> competitive date for the sport and or activity the student is a participant in and ENDS with the last competitive date of a sport and or activity the student participates in as set by the school. The 30 or 60 calendar days will occur during the competitive portion of a student's sport and or activity participation. See section "G" for a list of the competitive start and end dates for all applicable sports and activities.
  2. The 365 consecutive calendar days of ineligibility starts with the 1<sup>st</sup> competitive date for the sport and or activity the student is a participant in and ends exactly 365 consecutive calendar days later.
  3. An ineligible student shall attend all practices or rehearsals but may neither "suit up" nor perform/participate.
  4. If a student drops out of an activity prior to completion of the ineligibility period, the full penalty or the remainder of the penalty, at the administration's discretion, will attach when the student next seeks to go out for a sport or activity.

#### **G. BEGINNING AND ENDING DATES OF SEASONS:**

The athletic director will compile the beginning and ending competition dates of all sports and activities to use when enforcing the penalties for the GCR.

#### **H. VIOLATIONS OCCURRING DURING INELIGIBILITY:**

If a student is ineligible at the time of a violation of the GCR, the penalty for the new violation will not begin until the student regains eligibility from the previous violation. Example: A student academically ineligible for a quarter [or "semester"] is found to have been in possession of tobacco, a GCR violation.

When the student is again academically eligible, the penalty attaches. Example: A student violates the GCR and is ruled ineligible for 30 days. While ineligible, the student again violates the GCR. The second penalty (60 days) attaches when the first penalty (30 days) is completed.

#### **I. REDUCTION IN PENALTY:**

Honesty Provision (for 1<sup>st</sup> violation only) - If a student comes forward to a coach, administrator, or activity sponsor to self-report a violation of the GCR immediately upon the next school day after the violation occurred, the student's penalty might be reduced by 10 calendar days for a first violation. There is no Honesty Provision for additional GCR violations.

A student who violated the “mere presence” provision of this policy shall serve no more than one-half (1/2) of the established penalties for the first, second, or third/subsequent violations.

#### **J. ELIGIBILITY DURING IN-SCHOOL AND OUT-OF-SCHOOL SUSPENSION:**

Students suspended from school (both in-school and out-of-school) are not eligible to participate (practice or otherwise) or compete during the days they are suspended. A violation that warrants a suspension could be categorized as a GCR violation if it meets the criteria listed above.

#### **K. TRANSFER RULE:**

If a student transfers in from another Iowa school or school district and the student had not yet completed a period of ineligibility for a violation of a GCR in the previous school, the student shall be ineligible if the administration determines that there is general knowledge in our school district of the fact of the student's misconduct or violation in the previous district.

#### **L. FORFEIT OF LETTER AND AWARDS:**

Students who are ineligible at the conclusion of an activity shall not receive a letter or award for that activity.

#### **M. DUE PROCESS:**

Any student who is found by the administration or the Good Conduct Committee to have violated the GCR may obtain review of this determination to the superintendent by contacting the superintendent within 3 days of being advised of the violation. The penalty will be in effect until reversed.

If the student is still dissatisfied, he or she may seek further review by the school board by filing a written appeal with the board secretary at least 24 hours prior to the next board meeting. A special meeting of the board will not be called. The review by the board will be in closed session unless the student's parent (or the student, if the student is 18) requests an open session. The grounds for review by the school board are limited to the following: the student did not violate the GCR; the student was given inadequate due process in the investigation and determination; or the penalty is in violation of the

Handbook Rule or Board Policy. The penalty will remain in effect pending the outcome of the meeting with the board.

If the school board reverses the decision of the administration, the student shall be immediately eligible and shall have any record of the ineligibility period and violation deleted from the student's record.

#### **N. EDUCATION AND AWARENESS:**

No junior or senior high student shall participate in any extra-curricular activity until such student and their parent(s)/guardian(s) have reviewed the Good Conduct Policy, and completed and returned the Participation Form acknowledging receipt of the Rules and responsibilities which the policy places upon the participating student. Clerical error or oversight shall not be grounds for an appeal of a penalty. The Participation Form will be completed and returned annually.

All coaches and sponsors of co-curricular activities will hold an annual event for participants and their parent(s)/guardian(s) to review the Good Conduct Rules and other team/activity rules and expectations.

#### **O. STUDENTS NOT OUT FOR CO-CURRICULARS:**

Students who violate the GCR are not in any co-curricular activities may be subject to forfeiture of any additional school activities during the school year as determined by the school principal. Some examples may include, exclusion from homecoming/prom court, dances, etc.

#### **P. ACADEMIC CONSEQUENCES:**

There will be no academic consequences for the violation (e.g., detention, suspension, expulsion from school, or grade reduction/withholding) unless the violation of the GCR occurred (a) on school grounds, (b) at a school event regardless of location, or (c) the violation has a direct and immediate negative impact on the efficient operation of the school despite occurring off school grounds/time.

#### **Q. EJECTION FROM A GAME/ACTIVITY:**

As per Iowa High School Athletic Association and Iowa Girls High School Athletic Association guidelines - Any student at any level grades 7-12 who is ejected from a school-sanctioned event will be required to:

- Miss the next regularly scheduled, rescheduled, or contracted date
- Take the NFHS Coach Education/Certification Program elective course "Sportsmanship - It's Up to You." The course must be viewed prior to being able to return and participate in an interscholastic contest and the certificate of course completion must be sent to the IHSAA/IGHSAA office. There is no cost to this course.

Legal Reference: Bunger v. Iowa High School Athletic Assn., 197 N.W.2d 555 (Iowa 1972).  
In re Jason Clark, 1 D.P.I. App. Dec. 167 (1978).  
Iowa Code §§ 280.13, .13A (2010).  
281 I.A.C. 12.3(6); 36.15(1).

Cross Reference:           502   Student Rights and Responsibilities  
                                  503   Student Discipline  
                                  504   Student Activities

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