

# ATHLETIC CODE

Students selected to a Mansfield ISD athletic team must recognize this distinction as an honor and privilege and must be held accountable to a greater standard than that of the general school population. The student athlete is a recognized representative of the individual school as well as the district and as such must demonstrate the highest levels of character and behavior.

It is the responsibility of the Athletic Director and each coach to insure this high level of expectation. Coaches must monitor the character and behavior of team members **in and out of season, in and out of uniform, and on and off campus**. The inordinate amount of time coaches spend in various curricular and co-curricular activities provides a unique opportunity to observe, assist, and intercede to help the student athlete make good decisions.

MISD supports education and awareness training on adolescent chemical use issues, including chemical dependency, substance abuse and special issues affecting district student athletes in a helpful, non-punitive way.

## Section 1: Athletic Code Violations

The Athletic Code in conjunction with the Student Code of Conduct identifies a broad range of behaviors that are detrimental to the progress and success of our athletic programs:

- Falsification of a signature or information on any UIL required pre-participation forms
- Acts of unsportsmanlike conduct during the sport season in which the athlete is involved including but not limited to cheating, fighting, verbal abuse of officials, contestants, coaches, or spectators
- Violation of dual participation policy
- Any violation of the MISD student code of conduct

## Section 2: Progressive Discipline

Any MISD athlete will be subject to disciplinary action if he/she commits any violation of the Athletic Code. The Athletic Code utilizes a philosophy, endorsed by the district, known as “progressive discipline”. Progressive discipline means there are different levels of student misbehavior with corresponding levels of appropriate disciplinary consequences. In a system of progressive discipline, two students who have committed the same offense may receive different consequences. The reason for this is that one student may be a first-time offender, having no previous infractions on record, while the other student may have a previous history of misbehavior.

- A. Level I: Any misbehavior classified as a Level I offense by the MISD student code of conduct or a violation of team rules.**
- B. Level II: Any misbehavior classified as a Level II offense by the MISD student code of conduct, violation of the dual participation policy, acts of unsportsmanlike conduct, the falsification of UIL forms or repeated Level I violations.**
- C. Level III: Any Level III violation of the MISD student code of conduct or repeated Level I or II violations of the Athletic Code.**
- D. Dual Participation: Any first offense dual participation violation will result in one-game suspension. On the second offense, the athlete will be released from the team.**

## Section 3: Consequences

**A student has no ordained right to participate in athletics. It is a privilege that has been granted to you. Therefore, it is possible that the privilege can be taken away. This will be the decision of the head coach and could take place at any Level after a parent conference has been held.**

- A. Level I:** A Level I violation will be handled on a case-by-case basis by the head coach and will not necessarily result in a report of infraction.

**B. Level II: First offense.** A Level II violation will result in a report of infraction and suspension from all athletic contests for two (2) consecutive interscholastic events, or two weeks of the season, whichever is greater, with the student expected to participate in all practice sessions during that time. The student will not be allowed to suit up or travel with team for competitions. No exception is permitted for a student who becomes a participant in a treatment program. Any infraction by an athlete requires the coach to conference with the parents. If drugs or alcohol are involved, a mandatory conference with the substance abuse coordinator and/or the Athletic Director or Campus Coordinator, the head coach, the parent(s) or legal guardian(s), and the student athlete is required for reinstatement. The athlete may not practice until his or her coach determines that it is appropriate and in the best interest of the player and the team.

**Level II: Second offense**

After confirmation of a second violation, the student shall lose eligibility for six (6) consecutive weeks. The student is required to continue attendance in practice but may not participate in athletic contests. This suspension may be carried over from one sports season into another and/or from one year into the next year. The athlete must complete the season during which the penalty is being served.

If drugs or alcohol are involved, a mandatory conference with the substance abuse coordinator and/or the Athletic Director or Campus Coordinator, the head coach, the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) and the student athlete is required for reinstatement. The athlete may not practice until his or her coach determines that it is appropriate and in the best interest of the player and the team.

**C. Level III or Third Level II offense:**

After confirmation of a third violation or, a Level III violation of the MISD Student Code of Conduct, the student shall lose interscholastic eligibility for one full calendar year.

If drugs or alcohol are involved, a mandatory conference with the substance abuse coordinator and/or the Athletic Director, the head coach, the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) and the student athlete is required for reinstatement. The athlete may not practice until his or her coach determines that it is appropriate and in the best interest of the player and the team.

These sanctions apply to all athletes whether or not they are actively engaged in their sport(s) at the time of the violation.

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*Please print*

Athlete's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Year of Graduation \_\_\_\_\_

**I understand and agree to abide by all the provisions of the Athletic Code of Mansfield Independent School District.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Athlete's signature*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Date*

**I understand and agree to support all the provisions of the Athletic Code of Mansfield Independent School District.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Parent's signature*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Date*