

# MOUNT BAKER SCHOOL DISTRICT ATHLETIC CODE

## I. STATEMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

The primary purpose of athletic programs in the Mount Baker School District is to promote the physical, mental, aesthetic, social, emotional and moral well-being of the students through participation and competition.

The athletic program is an important and integral part of the total school program. The opportunity for participation is open to all students regardless of individual differences. Through voluntary participation, the student gives time, energy, talent and loyalty to the school and community. Because participation in the program is considered a privilege the student accepts the training rules, regulations, and responsibilities unique to the individual sport in which they participate. Because participants are representatives of Mount Baker Public Schools when they perform in public they are expected to conduct themselves at all times in a manner that will reflect the high standards, ideals, and traditions of their team, school and community.

Participation also requires that the student maintains successful performance in academics. In order to remain in good standing as defined by this Athletic Code, a Mount Baker School District athlete must demonstrate good citizenship and success in the classroom. Those students who violate the athletic code may be subject to discipline which could include permanent removal from participation in school district athletic programs.

## II. 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 from the first day of practice until the last day of the season. The Athletic Code is to be signed once in junior high and once in senior high school. In addition, 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.

## III. 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) prior arrangement between the participant's parent/guardian and the coach for the student to ride with the parent/guardian; or (3) approval by building Principal for permission to ride with others. This request must be in writing by the parent/guardian in advance and directed to the building Principal or designee. (4) Approval by coach 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 the 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.

#### IV. 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. An unexcused absence will be treated as a truancy until it is excused by the Attendance Office by the end of the next school 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 from a parent/guardian or emancipated student prior to the student's absence.

If a student is absent the last school day of the week, and the competition is on a non-school day, the student must bring to the coach a signed statement from the parent that permission is given to participate. It is recommended that the coach call the parent in regard to the nature of the absence. Truancy, (an absence not sanctioned by parent/guardian or school from any portion of a class or practice) will be dealt with as follows:

- a. First offense - suspension for next practice.
- b. Second offense - suspension for next event/competition.
- c. Third offense - suspension for remainder of season and is considered an exceptional misconduct violation under IV F.

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. The WIAA requires that each participant pass a minimum of four (4) 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, and shall be ineligible during this time.
2. The Mount Baker School District requires each participant to maintain passing grades in all assigned classes to remain eligible during the current semester. Participants will be monitored every two (2) weeks, beginning the third week of each sport season. 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 two week period will be put on academic probation in that class and will have one week 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 one (1) week probation period will be suspended from participating in games or events for that week and any subsequent weeks until the academic situation is rectified and the student is passing. The participant's parent or guardian will be notified of such suspension. The week of probation and suspension is defined as Monday to Monday.
  - d. After the initial one (1) week of suspension, 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 a signed note or verbal confirmation from the teacher in whose class the student was failing.

C. Possession and or Use of \* Tobacco, Alcohol, Drugs and Drug Paraphernalia - 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:

- \*\* 1. First offense during high school - (a) During an athletic season and up until the last contest in that sport, the participant will be suspended for twenty-one (21) sport season days (excluding Sundays) from participating in any game, performance, contest, competition or event. (b) During the twenty-one days, the student must complete an alcohol/drug assessment with an approved Intervention Specialist and if counseling is recommended be properly scheduled to attend an Alcohol/Drug Education Insight class or a tobacco cessation class.
- 2. Second offense during high school - (a) Suspension for remainder of the athletic season or twenty-one (21) sport season days, whichever is longer. (b) The student will be required, at own expense, to submit to a tobacco/alcohol/drug 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 tobacco/alcohol/drug 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.
- 3. Third offense during high school - (a) 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 re-instatement of eligibility. This appeal must be submitted in writing to the school principal.
- 4. 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.

\* In addition to the above, the Mount Baker School District Tobacco policy states that: Students who are found to be in possession of, or using tobacco in any form on school district property or at school sponsored events will be placed on short term suspension (up to 5 days) for the first offense. This suspension will be held in abeyance only if the school administration received confirmation from an official agency that the student has enrolled in a tobacco cessation class. Should the class not be completed, the suspension could be reinstated.

**Please Note: Students and/or parents who are interested in quitting the use of tobacco should call Lifequest at St. Joseph's Hospital at 384-1005, extension 6464.**

\*\* Self report of violations - 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. The Principal or Athletic Director will be informed immediately. The violation is still considered a first offense.

D. Washington Laws and Student Eligibility - Washington law (RCW69.41.020-69.41.050) prohibits the possession, sale, and/or unauthorized use of Legend drugs (legend drugs are defined as any drug that is prescribed by a doctor), including anabolic steroids. A violation shall be considered a violation of the Athletic Code and shall subject the student to disciplinary actions, which may include suspension for the remainder of the season or the remainder of his/her high school career.

E. Citizenship Standards - All participants should be an example of good citizenship around the school, in the classroom and during turn-outs. Conduct which materially and substantially interferes with the educational process will not be tolerated.

- 1. Any participant referred to the administration for disruptive behavior will be made aware of the possible consequences of their actions and may receive disciplinary action.
- 2. Upon second referral that requires administrative action, the participant will be declared ineligible for the following week.
- 3. If there is a third referral, the participant will be suspended for the remainder of the season.

E. Exceptional misconduct - Unlawful acts or delinquent behavior including, but not limited to, violations requiring administrative action as established in the Rules and Regulations for students in the Mount Baker School District. Violations will be dealt with as follows:

- 1. First offense - The participant will be suspended for twenty-one (21) calendar days from participation in any game, performance, contest, competition or event.

Self-report of violations - 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 within seventy-two (72) hours. The Principal or Athletic Director will be informed immediately. The violation is still considered a first offense.

2. Second offense - Suspension for the remainder of the athletic season.

3. Third offense - Suspension from participating in all athletic programs within Mount Baker School District for the remainder of the student’s high school career.

## V. COACHES STANDARDS

Any additional rules or regulations established by the coach not covered above, 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.

## VI. 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 office.

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.”

## VII. VERIFICATION OF UNDERSTANDING

To be eligible for, and prior to participation, a verification card signed by the student and parent/guardian indicating they have received, read, understand, and agree to abide by the Athletic Code must be submitted once upon entering Junior High, and once upon entering Senior High School. This will be kept on file in the office of the Principal.

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