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District 77 Policy 539

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## **539 ELIGIBILITY AND TRAINING RULES**

### **I. PURPOSE**

As member schools of the Minnesota State High School League (MSHSL), Mankato East High School and Mankato West High School and the students who represent these schools are governed by eligibility and training rules in all league sponsored activities. It is the policy of District 77 to extend MSHSL eligibility and training rules to all 7-12 students participating in any District sponsored activity including students attending school at Dakota Meadows Middle School and Prairie Winds Middle School.

### **II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY**

#### **Category of Activities:**

A) Category I Activities: Those League-sponsored activities in which a member school has a schedule of interscholastic contests exclusive of League-sponsored tournaments:

1. Athletic Activities: as listed in MSHSL ByLaw 501.00
2. Fine Arts Activities:
  - a) Debate:
  - b) Speech activities, including One-Act Play, when a school schedules a season of interscholastic contests.

B) Category II Activities: Those League-sponsored and District 77 activities in which a member school does not have a schedule of interscholastic contests exclusive of League-sponsored tournaments:

1. Fine Arts Activities:
  - a) Speech activities, including One-Act Play.
  - b) Music activities. (MSHSL Solo Ensemble and/or Large Group Competitions)
  - c) Visual Arts
2. District 77 Activities:
  - a) Dance Company/Orchesis
  - b) DECA
  - c) Knowledge Bowl
  - d) Math League

- e) Drama Production
- f) Chamber Singers/Chamber Orchestra/Jazz Band/West Connection
- g) VEX Robotics

C) Category III Activities: Other school sponsored clubs and activities which have been approved by the School Board and have a paid staff supervisor.

D) Category IV Activities: Homecoming/Snow Week Royalty and National Honor Society.

A. Mood-Altering Chemicals

**Rule:** Regardless of the quantity, a student shall not

- (1) use or consume, have in possession a beverage containing alcohol;
- (2) use or consume, have in possession tobacco;
- (3) use or consume, have in possession, buy, sell, or give away any other controlled substance or drug paraphernalia.
- (4) use or consume, have in possession, buy sell or give away products containing or products used to deliver nicotine, tobacco products and other chemicals.
  - a. "Tobacco products" means: any product containing, made, or derived from tobacco that is intended for human consumption, whether chewed, smoked, absorbed, dissolved, inhaled, snorted, sniffed, or ingested by any other means, or any component, part or accessory of a tobacco products
- (5) use or consume, have in possession, buy, sell or give away any substance or product where the intent of such use of the substance or product is to induce intoxication, excitement, or stupefaction of the central nervous system, except under the direction and supervision of a medical doctor. Such substances or products shall include, but are not limited to, synthetic drugs, gasoline, glue, aerosol devices, bath salts, and any substances addressed by Minnesota or Federal Law.

It is not a violation for a student to be in possession of a controlled substance specifically prescribed for the student's own use by his/her doctor. This rule applies year-round.

1. **Category I Penalties:**

- a) First Violation: After confirmation of the first violation, the student shall lose eligibility for the next TWO (2) CONSECUTIVE INTERSCHOLASTIC CONTESTS OR 14 CALENDAR DAYS OF A SEASON, WHICHEVER IS GREATER. During the period of ineligibility the student will meet with his/her counselor for a preassessment interview consistent with the District 77 Student Assistance Policy. No exception is permitted for a student who becomes a participant in a treatment program. The student shall participate in practice sessions during the period of ineligibility. If the entire penalty is not completed in a season, then the remaining portion must be completed in the

next season of competition.

Parents will be informed of the action taken by school personnel.

b) **Second Violation:** After confirmation of the second violation, the participating student shall lose eligibility for the next **SIX (6) CONSECUTIVE INTERSCHOLASTIC CONTESTS OR 21 CALENDAR DAYS WHICHEVER IS GREATER**. No exception is permitted for a student who becomes a participant in a treatment program.

Before being declared eligible following suspension for the second violation, the student shall show evidence in writing that he/she has sought or has received counseling from a community agency or professional individual such as a school counselor, drug counselor, medical doctor, psychiatrist, or psychologist. The student shall participate in practice sessions during the period of ineligibility. If the entire penalty is not completed in a season, then the remaining portion must be completed in the next season of competition.

Parents will be informed of the action taken by school personnel.

c) **Third Violation:** After confirmation of the third or subsequent violations, the participating student shall lose eligibility for the next **TWELVE (12) CONSECUTIVE INTERSCHOLASTIC CONTESTS OR 28 CALENDAR DAYS, WHICHEVER IS GREATER**.

Before being declared eligible following suspension for the third or subsequent violations, the student shall show evidence in writing that he/she sought or has received counseling from a community agency or professional individual such as a school counselor, drug counselor, medical doctor, psychiatrist, or psychologist. The student shall participate in practice sessions during the period of ineligibility. If the entire penalty is not completed in a season, then the remaining portion must be completed in the next season of competition.

A student who chooses to become a participant in a treatment program may become eligible for participation after a minimum period of six weeks after entering treatment if all of the following conditions are met:

- a. the student is assessed as chemically dependent,
- b. enters treatment voluntarily, and
- c. the director of the treatment center certifies that the student has successfully completed the treatment program.
- d. The treatment option cannot be used for the first or second violation.

Successful completion of a chemical dependency treatment program will satisfy only the most recent violation. Any other violations for which the penalty has not been satisfied must still be served in full.

Parents will be informed of the action taken by school personnel.

d) The period of ineligibility shall begin the day of the confirmation of a violation by a principal or activities director.

e) Penalties shall be progressive beginning with the student's first participation on a 7-12 team or activity and shall continue throughout the student's secondary school career. Penalties shall be served consecutively.

f) Denial Disqualification: A student shall be disqualified from all interscholastic athletics for nine (9) additional weeks beyond the student's original period of ineligibility when the student denies violation of the rule, is allowed to participate and then is subsequently found guilty of the violation.

## 2. **Category II Penalties:**

a) First Violation: The penalty for the first violation is ineligibility for participation in the next officially scheduled public performance or competition (Orchesis/Dance Company/Drama Production would miss the next performance in which admission is charged). The student will also meet with his/her counselor for a preassessment interview consistent with the District 77 Student Assistance Policy. No exception is permitted for a student who becomes a participant in a treatment program.

b) Second and Subsequent Violations: The penalty for a second and subsequent violation is ineligibility for participation in the next two officially scheduled public performances or competitions (Orchesis/Dance Company/Drama Production would miss the next two performances in which admission is charged). Before being re-admitted to activities following suspension for the second and subsequent violations, the student shall show evidence in writing that he/she has sought or has received counseling from a community agency or professional individual such as a school counselor, drug counselor, medical doctor, psychiatrist or psychologist. Parents will be informed of the action taken by school personnel. Penalties shall be progressive beginning with and throughout the student's participation in an activity.

## 3. **Category III Penalties:**

a) First Violation: The penalty for the first violation is eight (8) hours

alternative service, determined by the advisor and an administrator.

b) Second and Subsequent Violations: The penalty for a second and subsequent violation is twelve (12) hours alternative service, determined by the advisor and an administrator. Any subsequent violations will result in the loss of membership for the remainder of the academic year. Penalty will not apply if it is a curricular class.

c) Students who represent the school district in non-State High School League extracurricular activities are governed by the rules stated in sections A, B, and C of this policy. Penalties shall be accumulative beginning with the student's first participation with a 7-12 organization or activity and shall continue throughout the student's secondary school career. A student who violates eligibility rules loses all leadership positions held at the time that the violation occurs.

**4. Category IV Penalties:**

a) The student will lose the nomination or membership if the violation occurs once a member is nominated or selected. If the student has not completely served a penalty for a previous violation, the student will not be considered for nomination or membership.

**B. Sexual, Racial, Religious Harassment/Violence and Hazing Violations**

**Rule:** A student shall not violate the, Racial, Religious Violence or Hazing bylaws of the Minnesota State High School League and District 77. This rule applies year-round.

**1. Penalties for Category I Activities:**

a) Sexual, Racial, Religious Harassment and Hazing Violations: Same as chemical violations for athletics (see IIA - #1 above).

b) Sexual, Racial, Religious Violence and/or Hazing Violations: After determination of the violation of the Sexual, Racial, Religious Violence and/or Hazing rules the student shall lose eligibility for the next twelve (12) calendar months.

Penalties for Sexual, Racial, Religious Violence and/or Hazing Violations shall be progressive beginning with the student's first participation with a 7-12 organization or activity and shall continue throughout the student's secondary school career.

**2. Penalties for Category II Activities:**

a) Sexual, Racial, Religious Harassment and Hazing Violations: Same as

chemical violations for Category II (see IIA - #2 above).

b) Sexual, Racial, Religious Violence and/or Hazing Violations: After determination of the violation of the Sexual, Racial, Religious Violence and/or Hazing rules the student shall lose eligibility for the next twelve (12) calendar months.

Penalties for Sexual, Racial, Religious Violence and/or Hazing Violations shall be progressive beginning with the student's first participation with a 7-12 organization or activity and shall continue throughout the student's secondary school career.

**3. Penalties for Category III Activities:**

a) Sexual, Racial, Religious Harassment and Hazing Violations: Same as chemical violations for Category III (see IIA - #3 above).

b) Sexual, Racial, Religious Violence and/or Hazing Violations: After determination of the violation of the Sexual, Racial, Religious Violence and/or Hazing rules the student shall lose eligibility for the next twelve (12) calendar months.

Penalties for Sexual, Racial, Religious Violence and/or Hazing Violations shall be progressive beginning with the student's first participation with a 7-12 organization or activity and shall continue throughout the student's secondary school career.

**4. Penalties for Category IV Activities:**

a) The student will lose the nomination or membership if the violation occurs once a member is nominated or selected. If the student has not completely served a penalty for a previous violation, the student will not be considered for nomination or membership.

**C. Scholarship (Academic Progress)**

Students must be making satisfactory progress toward the school's requirement for graduation. The rule is interpreted for Category I, II and III as follows: A student loses eligibility when it is determined he/she is not going to graduate four years after entering ninth grade because of credit deficiencies. In addition, each secondary school may develop additional guidelines relating to scholarship.

**D. Student Code of Responsibilities:**

Participation in interscholastic activities is a privilege which is accompanied by responsibility. As a student participating in League sponsored activities, I understand and accept the following responsibilities:

1. I will respect the rights and beliefs of others and will treat others with courtesy and consideration.
2. I will be fully responsible for my own actions and the consequences of my actions.
3. I will respect the rights and property of others.
4. I will respect and obey the rules of my school and the laws of my community, state and country.
5. I will show respect to those who are responsible for enforcing the rules of my school and the laws of my community, state and country.

Penalty: A student who is dismissed from school or who violates the Student Code of Responsibilities is not in good standing and is ineligible for a period of time as determined by the school principal acting on the authority of the local School Board. The League specifically recognizes that certain conduct requires penalties that may exceed those penalties typically imposed for first violations.

***Legal References:*** None

***Cross References:*** Minnesota State High School League Bylaws 108.00 (Scholastic Eligibility), 205.00 (Chemical Eligibility), 209.00 (Sexual/Racial/Religious Harassment/Contact and Hazing in League-Sponsored Athletic and Fine Arts Activities), 206.00 (Good Standing and General Eligibility Requirements)  
District 77 Policy 510 (School Extra-Curricular Activities, Co-Curricular Activities, and Student Organizations)  
District 77 Policy 542 (Bullying Prohibition Policy)