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## 510 - SCHOOL ACTIVITIES AND ELIGIBILITY

### I. ACTIVITY PHILOSOPHY

The philosophy of the activities program at Detroit Lakes is such that activities are considered an integral part of the school's program of education, which provides experiences that will help participants physically, mentally, socially, emotionally, and morally. The element of competition and winning, though it exists, is controlled to the point that it does not determine the nature of the program. We consider this to be educationally and psychologically sound, because of the training it offers for living in a competitive society. Participants are stimulated to want to win and excel, but the principles of good sportsmanship prevail at all times to enhance the educational values of programs.

We believe that participation in activities, both as a participant and as a spectator, is an integral part of the educational experience of each student. Such participation is a privilege (not a right) that carries with it responsibilities to the school, to the activity, to the student body, to the community, and to the student him/herself. The school has the authority to revoke the privilege when a participant does not conduct him/herself in an acceptable manner. Rules, regulations, and programs are valueless unless the individual affected by them are made better because of the experience.

### II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

As a member district of the Minnesota State High School League (MSHSL), the Detroit Lakes Public Schools agrees to abide by and enforce all of the Articles of Incorporation, Constitution, Bylaws and Regulations of the League.

In addition, the MSHSL rules regarding eligibility shall:

- A. Be extended to include all activities which are a part of the extra-curricular and co-curricular programs of Detroit Lakes High School.
- B. Extend to any middle school student who participates in an event or program at the middle or high school level.
- C. Apply to the 12-month calendar year and any portion of an activity season which occurs prior to the start of the school year or after the close of the school year.

### III. EXPECTATIONS OF STUDENTS INVOLVED IN SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

A positive and supportive educational image of the Detroit Lakes Public Schools is important to all school district entities as well as the community of Detroit Lakes as a whole. For this reason, the school

district expects that every student will be held to a high standard of behavior and conduct, both at school and away from school, including nights, weekends, and vacation periods.

Students, who choose to participate in athletics and/or activities and thus represent the school district and our community, are held to a higher standard of behavior and conduct than students who choose to not be participants. In order to participate, all students involved in activities must agree to abide by the bylaws of the MSHSL, the policies of the Detroit Lakes Public Schools, and the laws of our state and country. Failure to comply with the stated bylaws, policies and/or laws could jeopardize a student's privilege of participation in school activities.

For students who are selected to represent the school district in positions of status, we expect that their behavior and conduct will be exceptional. Students in positions of status include, but are not necessarily limited to team captains, student organization officers, students chosen to represent the school for student events ("royalty"), or any other student who is selected to represent our school district in a community, state, or national capacity. Students who are in positions of status who fail to comply with the stated bylaws, policies, and/or laws could jeopardize the privilege of participation in school activities as well as the position status.

In all situations relating to violations of bylaw, policy or law, consequences for students will be determined on an individual basis and in accordance with established rules and policies.

#### IV. IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING

- A. The Detroit Lakes Public Schools Activities Manual will provide information, rules, and procedures pertaining to student participation in co-curricular activities in the district.
- B. The Detroit Lakes Public Schools Activities Manual will be reviewed on an annual basis. Changes of substance shall be reviewed by the superintendent to assure compliance with school board policy and shall be approved by the school board.
- C. The Detroit Lakes Public Schools activities director will provide an annual report to the superintendent detailing the school district's compliance with MSHSL bylaws as well as a review of the status of the district's activity programs.

*Legal References:* Minn. Stat. 123B.49 (Extracurricular Activities; Insurance)

*Cross References:* MSBA Model Policy 503 (Student Attendance)  
MSBA Model Policy 506 (Student Discipline)  
MSBA Service Manual, Chapter 6, District Education Program