Mansfield/Waterville School Districts

STUDENT ATHLETIC/ACTIVITY POLICY 2023-2024

The opportunity to participate in athletics and/or any other extracurricular program offered by Mansfield or Waterville Jr/Sr High Schools (MHS or WHS) is a privilege granted to all MHS or WHS registered students. Participants in these voluntary programs will conform to specific conduct and GPA's established by the MHS/WHS student athletic/activity code. Those who participate in MHS/WHS activities are not only a member of a team, club, or class, but also are representatives of their student body, family and community. Therefore, it is necessary and desirable that high standards be maintained in academics, citizenship, sportsmanship, loyalty, student conduct, both in and outside the school's activities. Lowering standards by an individual, team, club, or class, defeats the purpose and value of any MHS/WHS activity. Students involved in activities shall abide by all rules and regulations established by the coaches, advisors, school administration, MHS/WHS activity code, and the W.I.A.A. (Washington Interscholastic Activities Association). Provision is made for a MHS OR WHS student who has allegedly violated one or more of the MHS/WHS student activity code standards to appeal the disciplinary action against him or her. School sponsored events shall include those that are monitored by Mansfield or Waterville School District Staff in the capacity of coach or advisor, include a team or group representing Mansfield or Waterville School, involve district approved or provided transportation and/or are financed through school district ASB funds. Students are not permitted to participate in any activity without supervision. Violations of the code shall be cumulative. Junior High violations will not carry over into high school; however, students will be considered high school students immediately following 8th grade promotion ceremonies. ***Students are required to comply with this policy seven days a week, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year when enrolled at Mansfield or Waterville School District or participating in Mansfield/Waterville athletics or activities.***

SECTION I: RULES & CONSEQUENCES

Extra-curricular activities are defined as those which require absences from school and/or transportation provided by the school. Curriculum based activities tied to specific class are not considered extracurricular activities.

1. I will meet the criteria necessary to meet the eligibility requirements of the Mansfield or Waterville School District as well as the regulations of the WIAA as outlined in the WIAA handbook (www.wiaa.com).
   - Participants in violation will not participate in Mansfield/Waterville HS or MS Athletics and Activities.

2. I will comply with all school rules, team rules and conduct myself in an appropriate, orderly manner, both on and off the school grounds, so as to bring credit to my team, school, community, family, and myself. These items include, but are not limited to use of appropriate, acceptable speech (no profanity); modeling only the kind of behavior that is consistent with unquestionable good sportsmanship – including in my use of social media.
   - An administrator and/or coach and/or advisor will administer appropriate discipline including athletic/extracurricular discipline, athletic/extracurricular suspension, and or expulsion from the team or group based on severity and number of offenses.

3. I am responsible for proper care of equipment and facilities.
   - If equipment or facilities are damaged, I will be held responsible to pay for the damage or replacement of the equipment and/or repair of the facilities.

4. I agree to report all injuries promptly to the coach and/or advisor.

5. Students must be in school the full day (not including tardies), have a pre-arranged absence (arranged at least one day prior), or return with a doctor's or other medical professional's note, if they are to participate in either practice or contests or activities.
   - Student absences from school that do not meet the above criteria will result in suspension from participation the day of the absence or upon knowledge of the absence.

   Principal and/or athletic director can override this rule based on emergencies and/or extenuating circumstances. The Principal reserves the right to make the final decisions regarding the eligibility of the students. Along with the rules of Mansfield or Waterville High School, the rules as established by the Washington Interscholastic Activities Association are in effect.

6. Suspended athletes will not be allowed to stay overnight with their team in a possible scenario.

7. The athlete must have passed all credited subjects of work in the semester immediately preceding the one in which the sport is held.
   - The suspension period will begin the last Monday of August in the fall and the first Monday of the second semester in the winter. The suspension will last three weeks. At that time weekly grade checks will begin.
     - Students that failed a class in the second semester will be encouraged and given an opportunity for summer credit retrieval.
   - Any athlete with an Incomplete grade from a previous semester is suspended from competition until completion is satisfied. *Principal and/or athletic director can override this rule based on emergencies and/or extenuating circumstances.*

8. Students may not be failing any classes during each week of the season to remain eligible for competition. Any student ineligible for a total of 4 weeks within any given season may be dismissed from the team. At the start of a new semester, all

students that meet Mansfield/Waterville School District standards will be determined eligible for the first three (3) weeks regardless of grades. Athletic eligibility will be computed using student's accumulative semester grade posted each Tuesday by their teachers. I recognize and am willing to accept it as my responsibility to actively cooperate with teachers whose classes I miss because of activities so as to prepare and complete my assignments in advance or as required by the teachers.

- The period of ineligibility begins on Tuesday morning and ends the following Tuesday morning.
- Athlete participation in practice during probation/ineligibility will be determined by the coach and/or parent.

Principal and/or athletic director can override this rule based on emergencies and/or extenuating circumstances. The Principal reserves the right to make the final decisions regarding the eligibility of the students. Along with the rules of Mansfield or Waterville High School, the rules as established by the Washington Interscholastic Activities Association are in effect.

* Academic eligibility for the students with special needs will be evaluated by an Academic Review Board on a case by case basis. The review board may include the Principals, Athletic Directors, Teachers, Coach, and the student's case manager. The Parent(s) of the student will be invited to attend the meeting, but attendance is not mandatory.

9. Student-athletes can only participate in one WIAA sport or activity per season. Seasons are defined as fall, winter, and spring. Participation in high school cheer and a simultaneous sport will not be allowed.

10. I understand that playing time, squad designation, and strategy is at the discretion of the coach. These items will not be up for discussion or be a cause for a meeting. Athletes are encouraged to ask their coach for guidance on how they can improve.

11. I agree not to use, consume, possess, transmit, and/or sell tobacco, a vaping device, alcohol and/or marijuana; AND I agree not to post on social media concerning the same. I agree not to use any vaping device. I will not commit any criminal infractions.

The following are the only reasons why an investigation of a violation will be started:

a. A confession by an athlete.
b. A citation by the police.
c. A signed letter by an adult in the community.
d. A signed letter by a Mansfield/Waterville faculty member.
e. A signed letter by other Mansfield/Waterville students.
f. Physical evidence.
g. Reasonable suspicion by a trained or experienced adult.

Violation of the athletic code for use of or association with the above substances will result in the following consequences:

- 1st violation: The student athlete will be required to receive district-approved counseling. Counseling recommendations will be forwarded to the athlete's parent/guardian. In addition, the athlete will be suspended from 30% of the sports competition schedule if the athlete confesses at the time he/she is confronted by administrative staff or 50% of the schedule if a full-scale investigation must be started. If the suspension cannot be fully carried out during the season the infraction occurred, the suspension will be carried over into the next sport season. If he/she does not seek counseling within the period of the suspension, he/she will become ineligible for 100% of the sports season. Carry over will occur.
- 2nd violation: The student athlete will be suspended for 70% of the sports competition schedule if the athlete confesses at the time he/she is confronted or 100% of the schedule if a full-scale investigation must be started. Carry over will occur.
- Thereafter, any violation will be a suspension for 3 consecutive seasons.

I understand that a student is in violation if they are present (whether participating or not) where said drugs are being consumed or kept illegally. If students choose not to cooperate with any investigation, a determination will be made without the student's input.

12. I will not use, consume, possess, transmit, or sell legend drugs (drugs obtained through prescription-RCW69.41.020-050) and/or controlled substances (RCW 69.50).

The above listed reasons will be used to initiate investigation of a violation.

- 1st violation: The student athlete will be required to receive district-approved counseling. Counseling recommendations will be forwarded to the athlete's parent/guardian. In addition, the athlete will be suspended for the greater length of either the remainder of the season OR 50% of the competition schedule. The suspension may be carried over into the next sport season.
- 2nd violation: a student athlete who again violates any provision of RCW69.41.020 through 69.41.050 or of RCW 69.50 shall be ineligible for interscholastic competition for a period of one (1) calendar year from the date of the second violation
- 3rd violation: a student athlete who violates for a third time RCW69.41.020 through 69.41.050 or of RCW 69.50 shall be permanently ineligible for interscholastic competition.

I understand that a student is in violation if they are present (whether participating or not) where said drugs are being consumed or kept illegally. If students choose not to cooperate with any investigation, a determination will be made without the student's input.

SECTION II: PROCEDURE & APPEALS

PROCEDURE:

1. If the athletic director imposes athletic suspension or expulsion, the student athlete will be orally notified of the action taken. Promptly thereafter, written notice will be sent by mail to the student athlete's parent/guardian containing the following information:
   - The action taken (suspension, expulsion, etc.)
   - The reason for the disciplinary action.
   - The right to a hearing with the athletic director.

   A copy of the suspension/expulsion notice will be sent to both building principals.
2. The exclusion from competition or activity will be enforced during the appeal process. Students must attend and participate in hearings in order for the appeal to be considered.
3. Procedural errors shall not in and of themselves constitute a reason to suspend athletic discipline.

APPEALS:

Step 1 A request by the student for a hearing shall be made in writing (with extenuating circumstances explained) to both Athletic Directors (ADs); Principals in the absence of an AD within three (3) school/business days of the notification of an infraction. Within five (5) school/business days a hearing will be held and a decision will be communicated in writing to the student and parent/guardian.

Step 2 If the student and/or parent/guardian is not satisfied with the AD's decision, a written request for hearing shall be made within three (3) school/business days to the principals/deans of students. (If the administrator has been involved in student interviews and helped make the decision to impose athletic discipline, this step may be skipped.) All written appeal requests must include the basis of the appeal in order to move forward. Within five (5) school/business days of the receipt of the written request, a hearing will be held and a decision will be communicated in writing to the student and parent/guardian.

Step 3 If the student and/or parent/guardian is not satisfied by the decision from step 2, a written request for an Eligibility Board hearing shall be made within three (3) school/business days to the superintendents. The student and/or parent/guardian is then entitled to have the right to present this appeal to the Eligibility Board. The hearing will be held within ten (10) school/business days of receipt of request. The board will notify the parent and student of its response to the grievance/appeal within ten (10) school/business days after the date when the grievance/appeal was presented.

The Eligibility Board will consist of:

- Waterville Superintendent
- Mansfield Superintendent
- Waterville School Board Member
- Mansfield School Board Member
- Waterville Certified Staff Member
- Mansfield Certified Staff Member