

Education Programs

Athletics, Fine Arts, and Activities – Participation and Academic Eligibility

I. Purpose

Student athletic and activity (“activity”) participation is dependent upon the Minnesota State High School League (“MSHSL”) and the school district’s eligibility policies. All participants in activity programs will comply with the policies of participation and academic eligibility to maintain the privilege of involvement in these programs.

II. General Statement of Policy

District activities provide opportunities for students to pursue interests that contribute to their physical, mental, and emotional well-being. These activities complement the instructional program in providing students with opportunities for growth and development.

While participating in these activities, students who violate MSHSL and/or the school district eligibility policies receive consequences in accordance with those policies regarding loss of participation and involvement. The district follows the policies set by the MSHSL, as stated in the “Official Handbook” under Bylaws. The district also imposes penalties, in addition to those specified in the MSHSL eligibility bylaws, as defined in this policy and/or the district’s policy on student discipline.

Students participating in all activities are required to maintain satisfactory academic progress towards graduation.

Students who violate district policy or otherwise engage in conduct detrimental to the team, school, or community receive consequences in an appropriate manner, including possible suspension or dismissal from the team/activity. It is the students’ responsibility to review district policies.

III. Eligibility Violations and Penalties for MSHSL-Sponsored Activities

Please refer to the Student Eligibility Bylaws of the MSHSL for a complete description of eligibility violations. The following is a list of the school district penalties for violating the MSHSL bylaws and policies. The building administration will determine whether a violation has occurred.

A. First Violation

After a violation has been determined, in addition to MSHSL consequences, the student athlete will be required to perform six hours of school and/or community service prior to having eligibility restored.

B. Second Violation

After a violation has been determined, in addition to MSHSL consequences, the student athlete will be required to perform 12 hours of school and/or community service prior to having eligibility restored.

IV. Eligibility Violations and Penalties for District Activities, Non-MSHSL Activities

The school district adopts MSHSL league consequences for eligibility infractions in accordance with the MSHSL bylaws for all district-sponsored activities. Please refer to the Student Eligibility Bylaws of the MSHSL for a complete description of eligibility violations. The following is a list of the district penalties for violating the MSHSL bylaws and policies. The building administration will determine whether a violation has occurred.

To the extent that an activity has a curricular component (i.e., choir, band, yearbook, newspaper, orchestra, musical ensembles), any violations in excess of any applicable MSHSL rules, will be imposed at the discretion of the building administration.

A. First Violation

After a violation has been determined, in addition to the MSHSL consequences as adopted by the district, the student activity participant will be required to perform six hours of school and/or community service prior to having eligibility restored.

B. Second Violation

After a violation has been determined, in addition to the MSHSL consequences as adopted by the district, the student activity participant will be required to perform 12 hours of school and/or community service prior to having eligibility restored.

V. Other Provisions Regarding Eligibility Infractions

A. Field Trip and District Travel.

In the event that a student is forced to withdraw from a scheduled trip, neither the organization nor the district is responsible for reimbursing any trip costs.

B. Dual Participation, MSHSL activity and Non-MSHSL activity.

For students participating in a MSHSL activity and a non-MSHSL activity, the penalty for the non-MSHSL activity may be one event/performance/contest or

30 calendar days, whichever is greater, provided the full consequence for the MSHSL activity is served during the season of participation. The 30-calendar days should not carry over to the next school year if the student's ineligibility for one performance/contest has been served.

VI. Leadership Forfeiture

A. MSHSL Student Code of Responsibility

Any Student Code of Responsibilities violation as defined in the Student Eligibility Bylaws of the MSHSL occurring after a student is named captain of a team or named to a position of official leadership within an activity, will result in the loss of the leadership position for the season for which the student has been selected as a leader. A student with two such violations will not be eligible for any activity leadership position for the duration of the athletic or high school career. This exclusion includes class officer positions, homecoming court/royalty, and sweetheart court/royalty.

B. Criminal Conduct

A student named to a position of official leadership within an activity is suspended from a position of official leadership upon confirmation that the student has been formally charged with a criminal offense. Criminal offense includes misdemeanor and felony offenses as defined under state law. This suspension includes class officer positions, homecoming court/royalty, and sweetheart court/royalty. The suspension is in effect until confirmation of the resolution of the charge against the student. If the criminal conduct is confirmed, the student will lose any leadership position for the duration of their activities or high school career. This exclusion includes class officer positions, homecoming court/royalty, and sweetheart court/royalty.

VII. Appeals

Any appeals of penalties imposed under this policy will follow the process set forth by the MSHSL.

VIII. Academic Eligibility – MSHSL Activities

MSHSL policy states that in order to maintain scholastic eligibility a student is to be making satisfactory progress toward graduation. In order to be making satisfactory progress toward graduation, a student must meet both the credit and grade point requirements outlined below. These requirements for academic eligibility for all athletics, fine arts, and activities supersede the definition provided by the MSHSL.

A. High School Students

1. A high school student is progressing satisfactorily toward graduation, and therefore eligible for district MSHSL-sponsored activities, if the student has

a GPA of 1.67 (C- average) and has accumulated the following credits prior to the beginning of the designated semester:

9 th Grade, Semester 2	5 credits
10 th Grade, Semester 1	11 credits
10 th Grade, Semester 2	16 credits
11 th Grade, Semester 1	22 credits
11 th Grade, Semester 2	27 credits
12 th Grade, Semester 1	33 credits
12 th Grade, Semester 2	38 credits
Graduation	43 credits

a. Failure to Meet GPA Requirement - Improvement Plan

A high school student who participates in high school activities who fails to maintain a 1.67 GPA (C- average) at the end of each semester will be contacted by the appropriate counselor or activities director and a discussion will be held and may include the student, parent, counselor, activities director, and others as determined. The purpose of the discussion will be to develop an improvement plan for assisting the student to work to the student's potential. The details of the improvement plan will be jointly determined by the discussion participants.

If the student fails to meet the terms of the plan, the counselor or activities director will seek to determine the factors contributing to the student's GPA. If the reason for the failure to maintain a 1.67 GPA (C- average) is determined to include unexcused absences due to skipping of class or suspension from school or class and/or failure to complete assigned classroom or homework tasks, the student could be placed on probation by their improvement plan team.

b. Failure to Meet Credit Requirement

High school students who do not meet the credit requirements will be placed on academic probation for one semester. During this one-semester probation, they will be eligible to participate in activities, but their progress will be monitored and a plan for correcting their deficiencies determined.

If at the end of the semester of probation, they have not made sufficient progress toward making up the deficiency, they will be declared ineligible to participate in activities until the deficiencies have been corrected.

Students will be allowed only one credit probation period during their high school career. Any subsequent credit deficiency will automatically place the student on ineligible status until the deficiency has been corrected.

2. For students receiving special education services, the Individual Education Plan will determine eligibility of the student.

B. Middle School Students

1. Middle school students who participate in MSHSL activities must have passed all courses the previous semester.
2. Middle school students are not eligible for credit probationary status. If a student does not pass all of the courses during the semester, the student will be ineligible to participate in MSHSL activities the following semester.

IX. Home Schooled Students

Students who are home schooled must comply with state requirements for home schooling, and may participate in school district MSHSL-sponsored and non-MSHSL sponsored activities offered by the district provided:

- The student is responsible for any fees associated with the activity.
- The student completes an application for participation, which is submitted to the activities office. The application must be submitted ten days prior to the start of the activity.
- The student is a district resident and participates in the activity at the school in the attendance area, as determined by the school board.
- The student agrees to abide by policies and rules applicable to requirements of enrolled students.
- The home school institution provides documentation demonstrating the student is making progress towards graduation.

X. Private and Charter School Students

The MSHSL does not permit participation in MSHSL-sponsored activities without a cooperative sponsorship as per MSHSL Bylaw 403. To develop a cooperative sponsorship, the school district and the private/charter school boards/board of directors must agree to formally apply for cooperative sponsorship for specific athletics/activities for a private/charter school student to participate in these activities. In addition, all private and charter school students must meet the academic requirements of their own school in order to be eligible.

Cross Reference:
Policy 506 (Student Conduct and Discipline)

References:
Student Eligibility Bylaws of the MSHSL - www.mshsl.org

Policy
adopted: 10/26/09
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