2026-27

Mad River Local Schools

Student Code of Conduct

Student Code of Conduct
We believe that students learn best in an atmosphere of mutual acceptance and trust. The best discipline is self-acquired and not imposed. Freedom and self-direction are achieved gradually and as students learn to substitute self-imposed controls of behavior for adult-imposed controls. Our ultimate goal is to help students see that rules and regulations are necessary and, when applied, shall be reasonable and appropriate to the nature of the behavior and in accordance with the holdings of Ohio courts of law.

Student Discipline
The Student Code of Conduct, adopted by the Board of Education as required by Ohio Law, sets forth a student discipline code, which outlines the conduct for which a student may be removed from a curricular or extra-curricular activity, be suspended, or expelled from school.

Equal Opportunity
In maintaining the student's right to equal educational opportunity, it is reasonable and necessary to maintain order in our schools. A student may forfeit his/her right to educational opportunities when his/her conduct is such that it disrupts the educational process, deprives others their basic rights, or violates rules as stated in the Student Code of Conduct.

Behavior Expectations
Students are expected to abide by the rules as stated in the Student Code of Conduct and/or Rules and Regulations adopted by the Board of Education.

Title IX Sexual Harassment
The Board of Education does not discriminate on the basis of the Protected Classes of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age (except as authorized by law), religion, military status, ancestry, genetic information (collectively, "Protected Classes") in its educational programs or activities.

Zero Tolerance
Students are expected to conduct themselves in a way that exhibits respect and consideration for the rights of others. Students of the District must conform to school regulations and accept directions from authorized school personnel. The Board has "zero tolerance" of violent, disruptive, harassing, intimidating, bullying, or any other inappropriate behavior by its students. A student who fails to comply with established school rules or with any reasonable request made by school personnel on school property and/or at school-related events is subject to approved student discipline regulations.

Students are also subject to discipline, as outlined in the Student Code of Conduct for misbehavior that occurs off school property when the misbehavior endangers the health and safety of students within the District or adversely affects the education process.

The Superintendent/designee develops regulations which establish strategies ranging from prevention to intervention to address student misbehavior, and provides continuing instruction in dating violence prevention in health education courses in grades 9 through 12. Students and parents receive, at the beginning of each school year or upon enrolling in the District schools during the year, written information on the rules and regulations to which they are subject while in school or participating in any school-related activity or event. The information includes the types of conduct which are subject to suspension or expulsion from school or other forms of disciplinary action. The Board directs the administration to make all students aware of the Student Code of Conduct and the fact that any violations

of the Student Code of Conduct are punishable. The rules also apply to any form of student misconduct directed at a District official or employee or the property of a District official or employee, regardless of where the misconduct occurs.

If a student violates this policy or the Student Code of Conduct, school personnel, students or parents should report the student to the appropriate principal. The administration cooperates in any prosecution pursuant to the criminal laws of the state of Ohio and local ordinances.

A student may be expelled for up to one year if he/she commits an act that inflicts serious physical harm to persons or property if it was committed at school, on other school property or at a school activity, event, or program. The Superintendent is authorized to expel a student from school for a period not to exceed one year for making a bomb threat to a school building, or to any premises at which a school activity is occurring at the time of the threat. Any expulsion under this provision extends, as necessary, into the school year following the school year in which the incident that gives rise to the expulsion takes place.

Matters which might lead to a reduction of the expulsion period include the student's mental and/or physical characteristics or conditions, the age of the student and its relevance to the punishment, the prior disciplinary history of the student and/or the intent of the perpetrator.

The Student Code of Conduct is made available to students and parents and is posted in a central location within each building.

LEGAL REFS.: Gun-Free Schools Act; 20 USC 8921

The Elementary and Secondary Education Act; 20 USC 1221 et seq.

Children's Internet Protection Act; 47 USC 254(h)(5)(b)(iii); (P.L. 106-554,

HR 4577, 2000, 114 Stat 2763)

ORC 3313.20; 3313.534; 3313.66; 3313.661; 3313.662

Due Process

Procedural requirements of Section 3313.66 of Ohio Law will be implemented in conjunction with an emergency removal (over 24 hours), suspension, or expulsion from school. The administrator shall:

1. Give the student written notice of the intention to suspend and the reason(s) for the intended suspension.
2. Provide the student an opportunity to appear at an informal hearing before the principal, assistant principal, superintendent, or superintendent's designee, or other administrator and challenge the reasons for the intended suspension or otherwise explain his/her actions.
3. Notify the parent, in writing, within one school day after the suspension (immediate parent notification by phone, when possible).
4. Provide the student, parent or guardian, the right to appeal to the Board of Education's designee and be represented.

Administration of Student Disciplinary Code

Building principals, assistant principals, and other administrators shall administer the student disciplinary code and shall use their professional judgment in determining the most appropriate disciplinary action to be taken in each individual case, which may result in verbal or written warning or reprimand, referral to guidance counselor, parental contact or conference, detention, Saturday School, emergency removal, referral to law enforcement agencies, suspension or expulsion.

In determining the appropriate disciplinary action, it is necessary to classify the behavior of students according to the severity of the violation.

Scope of Jurisdiction

While under the jurisdiction of the school, or on school property, or in a school vehicle, or off school grounds immediately before or after school, or on the way to or from school, or at any school sponsored activity on or off school grounds, a violation on the part of a student of any one or more of the following rules of conduct shall result in disciplinary action including, but not limited to, denial of participation in an extracurricular activity, counseling, parent conference, detention, Saturday School, emergency removal, removal from a school vehicle, suspension from school and expulsion from school. This includes misconduct by a student, regardless of where it occurs, that is directed at a school official or employee, whether directed toward their person or property.

CATEGORY A-1

Students behaving in a manner as described in Category A-1 will be suspended from school for ten school days and will be recommended to the Superintendent of Schools to be expelled from school for up to one calendar year.

FIREARMS:

A student shall not bring a firearm to school or onto any other property owned or controlled by the Board, or to any interscholastic competition, extracurricular event, or any other school program or activity even if not located in a school or on property owned or controlled by the Board. Further, a student shall not possess, transmit, use or conceal a firearm while at school, while at a school sponsored activity, or while on any other property owned or controlled by the Board. "Firearm" means: any weapon (including a starter gun) which will or is designed to or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive; the frame or receiver of any such weapon; any firearm muffles or firearm silencer: or any destructive device. (See 1S U.S.C.A. Sections 921-924). "Destructive device" means: any explosive, incendiary, or poisonous gas; bomb; grenade; rocket having a propellant charge of more than four ounces; missile having an explosive or incendiary charge of more than one- quarter ounce; mine; or device similar to any of such devices. A student committing this violation will be expelled for a period of up to one calendar year. The Superintendent of Schools may consider reducing the expulsion period on a case-by-case basis for the following reason(s):

- The student has not had a record of reoccurring discipline problems.

- There are mitigating circumstances surrounding the offense that may indicate expulsion for one calendar year to be an inappropriate measure.
- The students age and grade level indicate expulsion for one calendar year to be an inappropriate measure.
- A reason(s) not listed in one, two, or three but which the Superintendent of Schools, in his/her sole discretion, believes warrants a reduction of the expulsion period.

KNIVES:
A student shall not bring a knife to school or onto any other property owned or controlled by the Board, or to any interscholastic competition, extracurricular event, or any other school program or activity even if not located in a school or on property owned or controlled by the Board. Further, a student shall not possess, transmit, use or conceal any type of knife while at school, while at a school sponsored activity, or while on any other property owned or controlled by the Board. A knife includes, but is not limited to any instrument having a sharp blade and a handle. A student committing this violation may be expelled for a period of up to one calendar year.

SERIOUS PHYSICAL PROPERTY HARM:
A student may be expelled from school for a period not to exceed one year for committing an act that is a criminal offense when committed by an adult and that results in serious physical harm to persons or property as defined in state law.

CATEGORY A

Students behaving in a manner as described in Category A will be suspended from school for ten (10) days, and a letter recommending expulsion may be sent to the Superintendent of Schools. The school may refer these cases to the proper legal authorities.

ARSON:
A student shall not bum or attempt to bum any part of any building or property owned or leased by the Board of Education, nor shall a student set or attempt to set an unauthorized fire.

ASSAULT:
A student shall not act or behave in such a way as to cause or attempt to cause or threaten to cause physical injury to any person, nor shall any student encourage another person to commit the offense of assault.

COUNTERFEIT CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES AND/OR RELATED TOOLS:
A student shall not possess, use, transmit, conceal, and/or sell counterfeit-controlled substances and/or related tools as defined in Amended House Bill 535.

DANGEROUS WEAPONS OR OBJECTS:
A student shall not bring a dangerous weapon/object to school, to a school-sponsored activity, or onto any other property owned or controlled by the Board. Further, a student shall not possess, transmit, use or conceal any kind of dangerous weapon or object while at school, while at a school sponsored activity, or while on any property owned or controlled by the Board. "Dangerous Weapon or Object" includes, but not limited to: a chain, club, metal knuckles, explosives, noxious irritation or poisonous gases, poison or

firearms (not within the definition in Category A-1: Firearms) and any other items that could be considered a dangerous weapon, or object capable of inflicting bodily injury.

FALSE ALARMS:
A student shall not initiate an alarm for fire, an impending bomb explosion, or other catastrophe without just cause.

FIREWORKS AND EXPLOSIVES:
A student shall not possess, transmit, sell, conceal, use, or detonate any fireworks and explosives, or other such devices capable of inflicting bodily injury.

NARCOTICS, MARIJUANA, DRUGS, ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, MOOD ALTERING SUBSTANCES, AND DRUG PARAPHERNALIA:
A student shall not possess, use, transmit, sell, conceal, or be under the influence of narcotics, marijuana, drugs (including prescription and non- prescription drugs), alcoholic beverage, and/or mood-altering substances of any kind, nor shall a student have the odor of alcohol on or about their person. A student shall not possess, use, transmit, sell, and/or conceal drug paraphernalia.

At the administrator's request, students who are disciplined for being under the influence of narcotics, marijuana, drugs (including prescription and nonprescription drugs), alcoholic beverages, and/or mood-altering substances of any kind of based on reasonable suspicion and/or a preponderance of evidence, may be asked to take a drug test administered by a health provider to prove a negative result within 24 hours of the offense. The parent/guardian is responsible for the cost of the drug test.

UNAUTHORIZED ENTRY:
A student shall not enter a school building or other Board owned facility or vehicle that has been locked and/or otherwise secured from student and public use without administrative or staff approval.

CATEGORY B

Students behaving in a manner as described in Category B may be Suspended from school for one (1) to ten (10) school days. Serious and/or further violations may result in a letter sent to the Superintendent of Schools recommending expulsion.

BULLYING/CYBER BULLYING:
A student shall not plan, encourage or engage in any bullying of another student or person. This may include, but not be limited to, physical, mental, intimidations, verbal and/or written threats, telecommunication devices and/or cyber communications. Bullying may result in the person(s) being liable for civil or criminal penalties in accordance with Ohio Law.

DEFIANCE:
A student shall not refuse or otherwise fail to follow directions given by school personnel nor shall the student refuse to identify himself/herself when asked.

DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY:
A student shall not cause or attempt to cause damage to school or private property.

DISRESPECT:
A student shall not show intent or engage in any willful act that tends to haze.

DISRUPTION OF SCHOOL:
A student shall not cause or attempt to cause a disruption or obstruction of any curricular, extra- curricular activity, or the normal operation of school.

EXTORTION:
A student shall not gain or attempt to gain any money or thing of value from any person unless both parties enter into the agreement freely and without the presence of an implied or expressed threat.

FIGHTING:
A student shall not fight. Fighting is defined as the willful act of hostile bodily contact among two or more persons.

HARASSMENT:
A student shall not plan, encourage or engage in any harassment of another student or person. This may include, but not be limited to, physical, mental, verbal and/or written threats, intimidations and/or sexual harassment.

HAZING:
A student shall not plan, encourage, or engage in any hazing of another student or students. Student organizations are not permitted to haze members of their organization. Hazing may result in the person(s) being liable for civil or criminal penalties in accordance with Ohio law.

LOOK ALIKE WEAPONS:
A student shall not possess, transmit, use, or conceal a look-a-like weapon including, but not limited to, a knife, gun, or device that could be considered a look alike weapon.

RECORDS:
A student shall not alter, destroy, or falsify any school record, form, or other school data. A student shall not remove any school record from its official place of deposit.

SEARCH:
No student shall refuse, impede, hinder, obstruct, or otherwise interfere with a search.

SMOKING, USE, POSSESSION OF TOBACCO OR NON-TOBACCO MATERIALS, VAPING MATERIALS, OR OTHER ELECTRONIC TOBACCO DEVICES:
A student shall not smoke, use, or possess tobacco, clove cigarettes or other non-tobacco materials that may be used for smoking.

STEALING:
A student shall not take or acquire the property of others without the consent of the owner.

CATEGORY C

Students behaving in a manner as described in Category C may be suspended from school one (1) to ten (10) school days. Repeated violations may result in a letter sent to the Superintendent recommending expulsion.

CHEATING/ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:
Presenting someone else's work as one's own in order to obtain a grade or credit is considered to be cheating. This includes, but is not limited to, copying others' assignments, quiz or test answers, and

plagiarism. Students who violate this policy will receive zero credit for assignments or work involved. Repeated offenses will result in disciplinary action.

CLASS CUTTING:
A student shall not cut any educational assignment (class, study hall, homeroom, library, field trip, etc.).

DISRUPTING CLASS:
A student shall not behave in any unreasonable manner that prevents the teacher from teaching or prevents other students from meeting the class objectives.

FAILURE TO ATTEND SCHOOL:
A student shall comply with the compulsory attendance laws.

FAILURE TO SERVE ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL SESSION(S):
A student shall not fail to serve an alternative school session(s) assigned by the school administrator, including but not limited to after school session(s).

FAILURE TO SERVE DETENTION:
A student shall not fail to serve detention as assigned by a teacher and/or administrator.

GAMBLING:
A student shall not gamble.

LEAVING SCHOOL GROUNDS WITHOUT AUTHORIZATION:
Upon boarding the school bus or upon arriving onto the school property, the student is considered to be under the jurisdiction of the school. Students are not permitted to leave school property until the end of the school day unless they have a "special excuse" approved by an administrator or designee.

PROFANITY/OBSCENITY:
A student shall not use profane or obscene language or gestures.

RESTRICTED AREA:
A student Shall not enter a closed or restricted area without administrative or staff approval.

RULES/REGULATIONS OF STUDENT HANDBOOK/POSTED SCHOOL STANDARDS:
A student shall follow the written rules and regulations in the school student handbook and shall follow the posted standards of each class, department, and school building.

STUDENT AUTOMOBILES/PARKING LOT:
Use of the parking lot is a privilege. A student shall comply with the parking lot regulations.

TARDINESS TO CLASS:
Any time that a student comes to class late, the student is considered tardy unless accompanied by an excused pass.

TARDINESS TO SCHOOL:
Any student who arrives to school after the designated starting time must report to Student Services to sign in and receive a tardy slip. The policy on tardiness permits a student to be considered excused if the lateness in arriving is a result of an important appointment, illness, or emergency provided the school receives parental verification by telephone or in writing.

TELECOMMUNICATION DEVICES:
Any telecommunication device must be kept in locker or designated area as determined and approved by school administration.

TRUANCY:
A student shall not be absent from school without the knowledge of his/her parents or school officials.

CATEGORY D

AIDING/ABETTING:
A student shall not in any way aid or abet another student in violating the Student Code of Conduct. A student behaving in this matter will be disciplined according to the consequences given for the rule being violated by the other student.

GANGS/GANG-RELATED ACTIVITY:
A student Shall not participate in any gang or gang-related activity on or near school property or at school-sponsored activities, or on the way to or from school or school sponsored activities.

A "gang" is defined as a formal or informal organization, association, or group, consisting of two or more persons, and to which all the following apply:

- It has a name and/or one or more signs, gestures, symbols, colors, mode of dress, or other method by which it or its members are identified.
- It has member(s), whether acting individually or collectively, who engage in or who have engaged in a pattern of gang activity.
- It has, as one of its activities, the commission of acts, which violate any provision(s) of the Mad River Schools Student Code of Conduct and/or State or Federal Law.
- A "gang-related activity" includes the following:
- Engaging in, or otherwise participating in, supporting or promoting, any threatening, intimidating, violent, or illegal act.
- Soliciting any student, employee, or visitor of Mad River Schools for membership in a gang.
- Wearing, carrying, drawing or displaying any sign, symbol, color, mode of dress or other item, which symbolizes gang identity or membership. Such conduct includes drawing or displaying gang symbols on any surface.
- Engaging in conduct, whether verbal or nonverbal (such as gestures, hand signals. and handshakes), which symbolizes gang identity or membership.
- Distributing or copying any gang related material.
- Engaging in, or otherwise participating in, or supporting or promoting, any activity that interferes with the school attendance or participation of another student.
- Engaging in, or otherwise participating, supporting, or promoting, the commission of an act which violates any provision of the Mad River Schools Student Code of Conduct and/or State or Federal law.

REPEATED VIOLATION OF SCHOOL RULES:
A student shall not repeatedly violate school rules as outlined in the Student Code of Conduct. A student who repeatedly violates school rules may be recommended to the Superintendent of Schools for expulsion from school.

SCHOOL PROPERTY:
School officials retain control of school property such as desks and lockers even though assigned to students. Therefore, such school property is subject to inspection and search at any time.

CATEGORY E

TRANSPORTATION OF STUDENTS:
A student violating the Student Code of Conduct and/or the Student Transportations Safety Standards maybe suspended from bus riding privileges by the principal, assistant principal, or other administrative personnel for one (1) to ten (10) school days.

Serious and/or repeated violations may result in a recommendation to the Superintendent of Schools for further disciplinary action. The Superintendent of Schools may suspend a student's bus riding privileges for an equivalency of up to two (2) semesters.

Before suspending a student from bus privileges, the administrator shall:

Give the student written notice of the intention to suspend and the reasons for the intended suspension.

Provide the student an opportunity to appear before the superintendent, principal, assistant principal, or other administrative personnel in order to challenge the reasons or otherwise explain his/her actions.

If a suspension is imposed, the student shall also be given written notice of the reasons and the duration of the suspension. A copy of the notice of suspension should be sent to the parent (or guardian) within one school day after the suspension is imposed.

The student, parent, or guardian will be provided the opportunity to request an appeal, which will be heard, by the superintendent or superintendent's designee. The decision of the superintendent or superintendent's designee is final.

STUDENT TRANSPORTATION SAFETY STANDARDS

The school bus driver is responsible for students being transported to and from school. The driver has the authority and responsibility for the orderly conduct of students.

1. A student shall obey the driver promptly and respectfully at all times.
2. A student shall board and leave his/her assigned bus at a location closest to his/her home unless school personnel have given authorization to do otherwise.
3. A student shall be at his/her bus loading area approximately five minutes before the scheduled pick-up time.
4. A student shall wait at a pick-up location clear of traffic.
5. A student is expected to line up quietly and respect the property of others while waiting for the bus.
6. A student is expected to board the bus in an orderly fashion and walk directly to an available or assigned seat.
7. A student shall sit three (3) in a seat whenever necessary.
8. A student shall not save seats for other students.
9. A student shall remain seated and shall keep aisles and exits clear.
10. A student shall keep noise at a minimum. Quiet conversation is permitted.

11. A student shall be silent at all railroad crossings.
12. A student shall not throw or pass objects on, from, and/or into the bus.
13. Only those objects that can be held at his/her seat may be carried onto the bus by a student.
14. Animals are not permitted on the bus.
15. A student shall not put any part of his/her body out of the bus windows.
16. A student shall not open the emergency door or the front door without driver permission.
17. A student shall refrain from eating and drinking on the bus except as required for medical reasons.
18. A student is required, when exiting the bus, to remain in his/her assigned place of safety until the bus leaves the bus stop.
19. A student shall not behave in any manner that tends to impair the ability of the driver to safely operate the bus and/or interferes with the welfare of the other passengers.
20. A student shall not use a cell phone/pager on the bus, except during school field trips or extra- curricular activities at the discretion of the teacher or adult supervisor.
21. A student shall not put any part of his/her body out of the bus windows.
22. A student shall not open the emergency door or the front door without driver permission.
23. A student shall refrain from eating and drinking on the bus except as required for medical reasons.
24. A student is required, when exiting the bus, to remain in his/her assigned place of safety until the bus leaves the bus stop.
25. A student shall not behave in any manner that tends to impair the ability of the driver to safely operate the bus and/or interferes with the welfare of the other passengers.
26. A student shall not use a cell phone/pager on the bus, except during school field trips or extra- curricular activities at the discretion of the teacher or adult supervisor.
27. A student shall not put any part of his/her body out of the bus windows.
28. A student shall not open the emergency door or the front door without driver permission.
29. A student shall refrain from eating and drinking on the bus except as required for medical reasons.
30. A student is required, when exiting the bus, to remain in his/her assigned place of safety until the bus leaves the bus stop.
31. A student shall not behave in any manner that tends to impair the ability of the driver to safely operate the bus and/or interferes with the welfare of the other passengers.
32. A student shall not use a cell phone/pager on the bus, except during school field trips or extra- curricular activities at the discretion of the teacher or adult supervisor.

CATEGORY F

SCHOOL ACTIVITIES:

A student shall comply with the rules and regulations of said club, organization, department, team, and school.

EXTRA CURRICULAR STANDARDS

All students of Mad River Local Schools are encouraged to participate in school activities. Participation fosters student growth related to the development of important life-long skills, habits and practices. Through involvement in school activities, students learn the true meaning of responsibility, competition,

accountability, and teamwork. Further, students are exposed to valuable lessons related to socialization, goal setting, time management, and leadership. Those who choose to participate will undoubtedly receive a more balanced comprehensive and enjoyable education than those who choose not to become involved in school activities.

EXPECTATIONS

Students participating in athletic/extracurricular activities are expected to:

- Abide by the Student Code of Conduct and other specific and related activity rules. Category A violations shall result in a denial of participation from the activity.
- Always represent yourself in a manner that is becoming to Mad River Local Schools.
- Be at every scheduled activity or practice and be on time.
- Anticipate schedule conflicts in advance and initiate necessary communications directly to advisors/coaches in a timely fashion.
- Refrain from using profanity and/or degrading actions/comments.
- Maintain a neat and appropriate appearance.
- Take care of equipment and assist in the setting up and taking down of activity equipment.
- Pay the associated feel prior to the first scheduled contest.

These expectations are in effect during the official beginning and ending date of the activity. If a participant is prohibited from participation, the period of nonparticipation may be for a specific period of time and/or for the duration of the activity.

SCHOLARSHIP STANDARDS FOR GRADES 7-12

The Mad River Local Schools promote academic excellence and extracurricular involvement on the part of all students. In keeping with this position, the following scholarship standards are established for students participating in extracurricular activities:

Student Senate/Council and Class Officer
In order to be a candidate and to maintain the status as a participant, the student shall:

- Have at least a 2.0 quarter grade average (grades 9- 12) in the preceding quarter
- Not have exhibited behavior that resulted in suspension from school during the current school year.
- Not have been truant from school during the current school year.

All other extra-curricular activities:

GRADES 7-8
A student, in the preceding quarter, must have at least a 1.67-quarter grade point average and have received passing grades in 75% of the subjects enrolled, to participate in extracurricular activities.

GRADES 9-12
Passing grades must have been received in a minimum of e one-credit courses, or the equivalent, in the immediately preceding grading period. In addition, any student failing to meet the 1.7 GPA must petition to be placed on probation for the current quarter (Study Tables).

Probationary Status:
A student who does not meet the 1.7 quarter/half-term grade point average may petition to be placed on probation for the current quarter/half-term. If probation is granted, 9-12 grade students must receive an extra hour of instructional time per week.

Quarter/Semester grade averages shall be rounded to the nearest tenth.

Athletes must meet the eligibility standards of the Ohio High School Athletic Association.

A failing grade shall not determine eligibility for participation as long as the student meets all other scholarship standards.

STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT FOR EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES
While under the jurisdiction of the school, students are expected to abide by the Student Code of Conduct and the rules and regulations adopted by the Mad River Board of Education. Furthermore, each extracurricular activity may have specific guidelines and rules with which its participants must comply and abide by. In order to be a candidate and/or maintain participant status, students should familiarize themselves with all guidelines associated with student activities and are advised that failure to abide by the guidelines may affect their status as a participant, spectator, or student.

Athletics is a privilege, not a right. Based on the statutory law and on court decisions, participation in interscholastic athletics is a privilege and not a right. In 1981, the Ohio Court of Appeals of the First Appellate district (Hamilton County) held that "participation in interscholastic athletics in and of itself has never been held to be a constitutionally protected civil right." Therefore, school boards and athletic associations have the authority to regulate interscholastic athletics and to establish eligibility requirements.

When it becomes necessary to prohibit participation of a student from an activity, school personnel will follow the procedures outlined below.

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITY DUE PROCESS PROCEDURES
The superintendent, principal, assistant principal, athletic director, and other administrative personnel may prohibit participation of a student from any particular extracurricular activity, or from all extracurricular activities, of the district (or one school of the district), due to the student's violation of: the Student Code of Conduct; the Extracurricular Standards set forth above; training rules; and/or the guidelines and rules of the particular activity involved. Before imposing such a suspension, the student shall be given:

- Written notice of the reasons to prohibit participation;
- An opportunity for an informal hearing to challenge the reason(s) or otherwise explain his/her actions.

If prohibited from participating, the student shall also be given written notice of the reasons and the duration of the nonparticipation. A copy of the notice of suspension should be sent to the parent (or guardian) within one school day after the decision.

To be prohibited from participation from an extracurricular activity means that the student will not be permitted to attend and/or participate in specific school extracurricular activities. The period of nonparticipation may be for a specific period of time and/or for the duration of the activity.

The coach/advisor for the extracurricular activity should be present for the hearing, although such person's presence is not required.

Per Board Policy, students prohibited from participation in all or part of any extracurricular activity are not entitled to further notice, hearing, or appeal rights.

If a student has been removed from two extracurricular activities due to a violation of the Code of Conduct, the student will be prohibited from participating in extracurricular activities for the remainder of their high school career.

TRAINING RULES-INTERSCHOLASTIC ALTHETICS
If at any time, a participant violates one or more of the following rules during the period of athletic participation, the athlete shall be prohibited from further athletic participation:

NARCOTICS, MARIJUANA, DRUGS, ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, MOOD ALTERING SUBSTANCES, AND DRUG PARAPHERNALIA:
A student shall not possess, use, transmit, sell, conceal, or be under the influence of narcotics, Marijuana, drugs (including prescription and non- prescription drugs), alcoholic beverages, and/or mood-altering substances of any kind, nor shall a student have the odor of alcohol on or about their person. A student shall not possess, use, transmit, sell, and/or conceal drug paraphernalia.

SMOKING, USE, POSSESSION OF TOBACCO OR NON-TOBACCO MATERIALS:
A student shall not smoke, use, or possess tobacco, clove cigarettes or other non-tobacco materials that may be used for smoking. If a participant violates one or more of the following rules, the athlete may be prohibited from participating in athletics:

- Unexcused absence from team activities.
- Verbal and/or physical abuse to members of the athletic staff or members of the team.
- Theft and/or willful destruction of school or personal property.
- Violation of established and posted curfew.
- Behavior detrimental to the image of interscholastic athletics in the Mad River Local Schools.

The above rules are in effect twenty-four hours a day and seven days a week during the official beginning and ending date of that activity. The prohibition from athletic participation will be for a period not to exceed the ending date of that activities.

Mad River Local Schools Updated Student Personal Communication Devices Expectations 2025-26 Student Handbook Addendum
In accordance with the new state law (House Bill 96), the use of cell phones and other personal communication devices (PCDs) is now banned during the school day across all Ohio schools. As a result, the following updated expectations will be in place for all students.

Students in grades PK-12 are not permitted to use personal communication devices (e.g., cell phones, earbuds, and other personal communication devices) during the school day, which includes normal school hours and/or instructional time.

Exceptions:

- Medical Use: With a documented medical need as determined by a physician and approved by the building principal.
- School-Related Events: During official after-school events or extracurricular activities.
- Transportation: While riding in school vehicles. However, behavior that is distracting or creates an unsafe environment may result in the loss of this privilege.

Storage Requirements/Classroom Procedures:

- Grades 9-12: Devices will be collected during 1st period by the 1st period teacher and picked up by students at the end of their school day. Additional details will be provided by the high school administration.
- Grades 6-8: Devices must be powered off and stored in the student's locker.
- Grades PK-5: Devices must be powered off and stored in the student's bookbag inside their cubby.

Violations will result in disciplinary action in accordance with the student code of conduct and confiscation of the device in the building's office. The device may have to be picked up by a parent or guardian based on the district's progression of discipline.

MRLS Board Policy 5136 Discipline Progression:

A. Issue a verbal warning and require the student to store the PCD in accordance with this policy.
B. Confiscate the PCD and store it securely in a staff-controlled locker, bin, or drawer for the
C. duration of the class or period.
D. Confiscate the student's PCD and store it in the facility's central office for the remainder of the
E. school-related event or school day.
F. Confiscate the student's PCD in the facility's central office to be picked up by the student's
G. parent or guardian.
H. Detention.
I. Schedule a conference with the student's parent or guardian to discuss the student's PCD use.
J. Loss of privilege to bring a PCD to school for a designated length of time or on a permanent basis.
K. In-school suspension.
L. Out-of-school suspension.
M. Expulsion.

Cell phones, personal communication devices, such as iPad and similar devices, kindles and similar devices, handheld electronic devices, meta glasses, and ear buds are not permitted during the school day. All cell phones and similar devices must be turned into first period/ upon arrival to school or left at home.