

# MIDDLE SCHOOL ACTIVITIES CODE

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## **PHILOSOPHY**

The Midwest Central School District #191 Board of Education, administration and faculty believe that a student who participates in extracurricular activities has a very strong influence both in the community and within the student body. Extracurricular activities will be a positive learning experience for students if they can recognize that they may achieve their highest potential by embracing a lifestyle dedicated to integrity, commitment, self-discipline, and competition. Selection to a team or club is both an honor and a privilege, and as such, carries responsibilities that go along with leadership roles. As leaders and as very visible representatives of Midwest Central schools, students involved in extracurricular activities have the obligation to represent themselves in an exemplary manner. Therefore, this written activities code, as detailed below, will be administered fairly but strictly for all students who choose to become involved in Midwest Central extracurricular activities.

## **APPLICABILITY**

1. This activities code is in effect twelve months a year. It takes effect when the acknowledgement of the Activities Code is first signed by the student and his or her parent/guardian, and it ends with the student's graduation or the end of the student's final extracurricular activity at Midwest Central CUSD #191, whichever is later. Violations and penalties related to this code which occur while a student is in middle school end no later than the first day of school in the ninth grade.
2. This Code covers all extracurricular activities, including but not limited to, IESA activities, any club or organization sponsored by the schools, and any activity in which participants represent the schools in the community such as musicals/plays.

## **OBJECTIVES**

1. To place academic endeavors above all other activities.
2. To develop in each participant a feeling of pride, a sense of accomplishment and a respect of others' feelings and attitude.
3. To promote improvement in the individual's moral character, and physical and mental development.
4. To develop activities of superior quality by stressing teamwork, emotional self-control and constructive release of energies.

## **PARTICIPATION FEES**

All sports, Scholastic Bowl at all grade levels are \$30.00 per sport except Baseball which are \$30.00 plus cost of hat.

Policies for Participation Fees:

1. All participation fees should be paid in full by check no later than the first contest for each sport or activity. All checks are to be made out to "Midwest Central District 191" and presented to the Athletic Director, coach, or designated secretary.
2. Any student who is cut from a team as a result of tryouts will be returned the check for his/her participation fee.
3. No money will be refunded to a student who quits a team or activity.
4. No money will be refunded to a student who is dismissed from a team or activity due to disciplinary reasons, non-attendance, or academic ineligibility.
5. Athletes who have a season-ending injury, as verified by a doctor's note, will have their participation fee refunded at the end of the season on a pro-rated basis, upon request.
6. The maximum participation fee per year for any one student participating in School Board-supported activities at the high school will be \$100. Any sport or activity beyond that is free to the student. The maximum fee per year for any one family participating in School Board-supported activities at the high school level will be \$200. At the middle school, the maximum participation fee per year for any one student participating in School Board-supported activities will be \$60. The maximum fee per year for any one family participating in School Board-supported activities at the middle school level will be \$120. If a family has students at both HS and MS, the maximum fee per year for one family participating in School Board-supported activities per year will be \$260. PLEASE NOTE: These maximum fee limits do not apply to sports and activities that are funded by groups other than the Midwest Central Board of Education. If you have any questions, please contact the Athletic Director.
7. The participation fee provides the athlete an opportunity to draw equipment, receive coaching instruction, and practice time. It does not guarantee any certain amount of game time. Payment of the participation fee does not preclude disciplinary consequences for violation of rules in the Activities Code including suspension or dismissal from participation.
8. Any student who is eligible for free or reduced lunches or may otherwise be eligible for financial assistance must see the athletic director or his/her designee to request a fee waiver. Fee waivers must be submitted and approved PRIOR to the first day of practice for any sport or activity in order to be exempt from paying this participation fee.

### **ATHLETIC POLICIES**

1. All athletes must have a current physical examination (less than 395 days old) on file in the school office prior to participation in a practice, contest, or activity associated with athletics.
2. Prior to participating in any practice, all athletes must be enrolled in the school's student insurance program or provide a waiver signed by their parent or guardian stating they have insurance protection.
3. After an injury or illness serious enough to require a doctor's care, the participant must have a doctor's permit to resume participation.
4. On-line registration and a completed participant/parent acknowledgement form must be initiated, signed and turned in prior to the start of practice.

## **ATHLETIC CUT POLICY**

The Midwest Central Board of Education, administration and coaches are committed to developing competitive teams. The numbers of students kept, after cuts have been made, on any given team or activity roster are recommendations made by the district, not requirements.

Recommendations:

MS softball –18 players

MS baseball - 18 players

MS girls' basketball - 15 players at each level

MS boys' basketball - 15 players at each level

MS girls' volleyball - 15 players at each level

MS girls' track - 35 members

MS boys' track - 35 members

MS cheerleaders - 16 members

Students are encouraged to explore a wide variety of interests and talents. During the course of the school year it may occur that a student is involved in activities that overlap “seasons”. The activity that involves competitive team participation will take priority over a non-competitive activity for both practice and game participation.

## **DISMISSAL AND SUSPENSION – EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

1. A student may be suspended or dismissed from an extracurricular activity for:
2. Failure to maintain the academic standards set forth in the School’s Handbook and Activities Code;
3. Violation of the I.E.S.A. or Midwest Central Student Code of Conduct for Athletes;
4. After injury, failure to receive a medical release statement from a physician;
5. Violation of the provisions of the Activities Code or of any additional rules which the coach/sponsor of any activity may establish;
6. Accumulation of disciplinary actions.

## **TERMS OF SUSPENSION**

**First violation:** Suspension from participation in extracurricular contests for 30 calendar days. Days in the month of July do not count in this 30 calendar days.

**Second violation:** Suspension from participation in extracurricular contests for 60 calendar days and forfeit all awards earned during the current activity. Days in the month of July do not count in this 60 calendar days.

**Third violation:** Suspension from participation in all extracurricular contests for one calendar year. Days in the month of July do not count in this calendar year.

**Fourth violation:** Suspension from participation for the remainder of his/her eligibility at Midwest Central Middle School.

**The total number of violations is cumulative.**

Any student serving an athletic code suspension for the use of drugs/tobacco/alcohol may be encouraged to seek a drug/alcohol assessment by a chemical dependence or substance abuse agency.

He/she may attend extracurricular events, including dances, following all regular student handbook provisions. During a suspension, students are not authorized to: compete in IESA sanctioned competition, represent any club/sport/or activity sponsored by the school, or attend events representing the schools in the community.

During a student's suspension from extracurricular activities, he/she may attend extracurricular events, including dances, following all regular student handbook provisions. However, the student may not participate in any extracurricular field trips or activities as listed on page #1 in Applicability, item #2.

**NOTE** - It shall be the policy of this School District, when in the course of any investigation concerning a possible violation of the District's Activities Code, to report to local law enforcement officials any information indicating that someone other than a parent of a student made alcoholic beverages available to that parent's student.

### **ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS**

1. Participants must have passing grades in all classes each week.
2. Participants will have their grades checked every Friday by the secretary. Anyone not passing all academic classes will be ineligible for competition in extracurricular activities on the following Monday through Sunday.
- ~~3. If a student is not passing all academic classes at the end of each nine weeks' (quarterly) grading period, that student will be ineligible for all extracurricular activities for the following four weeks. The student may continue to practice with the team or group, at the discretion of the sponsor.~~

### **TRAINING RULES**

Participants in extracurricular activities perform best when they follow training rules which include abstinence from drugs and alcohol of any form. Medical research substantiates that the use of alcohol, tobacco and certain other drugs, including steroids, produces harmful effects. Illinois Law prohibits use or possession of alcohol and other controlled substances. If a student is ineligible as the result of a tobacco/alcohol/drug violation, he/she may continue to practice (in season) at the sponsor's discretion, but may not dress for the activity or travel with the team during the term of their suspension. Students suspended for violations of training rules will not be allowed to participate in any 'off season' activity (i.e. summer camps or open gym) for the duration of their suspension. ~~Violation of this section of the activities code invokes the following penalties:~~ Violation of this section invokes the penalties outlined in the Terms of Suspension section.

### **DRUGS/ALCOHOL/TOBACCO**

Students determined to have violated the Student Handbook policy under prohibited conduct for using, possessing, distributing, purchasing, selling, or admitting use of tobacco materials, e-cigarettes, drugs, alcohol or other controlled substances shall be suspended from extracurricular activities at whatever suspension level they are at.

Please refer to pg. 3 under Terms of Suspension for length of suspension.

## **CODE OF CONDUCT**

All participants in extracurricular activities are required to conduct themselves as good citizens and exemplars of their school at all times, including after school, on days when school is not in session, and whether on or off school property. Hazing and bullying activities are strictly prohibited. Students shall be expected to demonstrate the highest standards of moral integrity. Participants shall conduct themselves in a manner that shows pride in themselves, their activity, their school and their community. Students with a felony conviction may be excluded from participation in extracurricular activities at the discretion of the athletic director. Failure to abide by this Code of Conduct could result in removal from the activity. Administration reserves the right to remove a student from an extracurricular activity if multiple handbook violations have resulted.

## **SPORTSMANSHIP**

During competition in athletics and activities, students are representatives of Midwest Central Schools and the community. It is at the peak of competition that we expect our students to exhibit the peak of self-control, integrity, and respect. Approaching other schools, students, coaches, sponsors, officials and fans with excellent sportsmanship is a character expectation. Fairness, ethics, respect, and a sense of fellowship define good sportsmanship before, during, and after competition. Students exhibiting poor sportsmanship could face a suspension or dismissal from participation in extracurricular activities.

## **THEFT OR CONVICTIONS**

Proven theft or the conviction of certain crimes may be grounds for suspension or dismissal from participation in all extracurricular activities at Midwest Central Middle School.

## **VANDALISM**

Destroying or seriously defacing school property or personal property of any student or employee of the district may be grounds for suspension or dismissal from participation in all extra-curricular activities at Midwest Central Middle School.

## **PROFANITY**

Profane language, gestures or disrespectful behavior, such as taunting or baiting of officials or opponents, will not be tolerated on school premises or during extracurricular activities. Violators will be punished depending upon the seriousness and persistence of the problem.

## **CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR**

Persistent and serious misbehavior within the school setting, including excessive detentions, may result in consequences under this Activities Code including suspension or dismissal from participation in activities as determined by the principal, athletic director, and coach/sponsor.

## **CHEATING**

Students found cheating may be suspended or dismissed from participation in all extra-curricular activities at Midwest Central Middle School.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. Participants' dress and grooming should conform to local standards of good taste and safety. Individual sponsors have the discretion to tailor expectations unique to the activity. Such expectations will be provided in writing to participants, their parents and athletic director.
2. When en-route to and from scheduled activities, participants not attired in team uniforms should dress neatly.
3. Proper nutrition is a necessary concern for adolescents. Good nutritional habits are encouraged for success in activities.
4. Adherence to curfew guidelines by participants, with parental encouragement, will enhance performance. Suggested curfews include weeknights 10:00 PM, weekends 11:00 PM, and the night before a contest 10:00 PM.

## **ATTENDANCE**

1. All participants must be in attendance at school at least a half-day (3 1/2 clock hours) on the day of an event in order to participate. (Administrative exceptions may be granted.)
2. Participants who leave school because of illness will not be allowed to participate that night. Whether or not participants who leave school for other reasons on the day of an activity may participate will be the decision of the administrator. Students who are absent all day (excused or unexcused) will not be allowed to practice their activity that day without prior administrative approval.
3. Excessive student absences and/or tardiness to school may result in consequences under this Activities Code including suspension or dismissal from participation in activities as determined by the principal, athletic director, and coach/sponsor.
4. A participant who has been suspended out-of-school is also suspended from all extracurricular activities, including practice, for the duration of the suspension.

## **PRACTICE TIME/ATTENDANCE**

1. Practices during the regular season and postseason for a sport or activity are mandatory for participants. Participants who miss any practice for any reason should expect a reduction of playing time.
2. There are certain times when vacation practices are needed. Sponsors have the right to practice during vacation if tournaments are scheduled or if a game is scheduled immediately following a vacation period. Vacation practices are not mandatory; however, Sponsors retain the right to determine whether a participant is ready for competition.
3. On Wednesday nights, all Midwest Central extracurricular events and/or practices should normally be finished by 5:30 PM at the Middle School.

## **TRANSPORTATION**

1. All participants will ride to and from road activities only on the team-provided transportation. Being absent from the team transportation for an unexcused reason will result in the student not participating in the activity that day.

2. Participants will be allowed to ride home with their parents only after the parent has signed them out from the activity.
3. Participants will be allowed to ride home with other students' parents only after their parent has notified the sponsor in advance. (ie: phone call, note, text, email)
4. Misbehavior on team transportation may result in consequences under this Activities Code including suspension or dismissal from participation in activities as determined by the principal, athletic director, and coach/sponsor.

### **EQUIPMENT**

1. All participants will take proper care of equipment, uniforms and materials issued to them.
2. The school district will be reimbursed by the participant for any equipment, uniform or materials lost or damaged through negligence.
3. All equipment, uniforms and materials must be returned before another like item will be issued or a letter/award will be received.
4. Participants may not wear their uniforms, use school equipment and materials or lend them to others unless directed by the sponsor.

### **COACH/SPONSOR RULES AND MEETINGS**

Coaches and sponsors may institute additional rules which supplement the provisions of this code after consultation with the school principal and the athletic director. All coaches and sponsors shall annually review this code and their rules with participants and provide participants with a copy. Coaches shall hold a meeting at the beginning of each sport for participants and their parents for this purpose.

### **COMMUNICATION**

Communication is an important concept regardless of whether it is sports, life, work, etc. Effective communication is critically important for team growth and fluidness to share expectations, information, and proper guidance to the athletes and parents.

The communication of the coach to the player is probably the most vital communication effort necessary. It is important for the coach to communicate what is expected/needed to athletes. Athletes should also feel comfortable to communicate with coaches, ask questions etc. It is the athletes' responsibility to communicate questions or concerns, appointments, etc.

It is essential to have open communication with players and parents. The chain of command approach will be used when it comes to communication, with the vast majority of the communication between coach and player. If a parent wants to discuss something with the coach, then that should never be done after a game or before a game, but rather after a practice and at least 24 hours removed from whatever event happened that they are upset with or concerned about. Playing time will only be discussed with the players and never with the parents.

### **TOWN RECOGNITION SIGNS**

Midwest Central schools recognize state championships and state accomplishments. Town recognition signs are meant to commemorate students, activities, and teams that accomplish a

state championship, 1st place in state competitions, and election to state level offices. High school recognition signs will be placed on the Manito recognition sign located on the Manito blacktop, and middle school recognition signs will be placed on the fence of the softball field in Green Valley. Signs for individuals will be placed at the respective school sign location, but will also be installed in their hometown, where authorized by local officials. Signs for a team will be placed at the respective school sign location, but may be duplicated to another town from the organization's internal account. Recognition signs will remain in place for up to ten years or when removed because of limited space; these signs will be given to either the individual with the accomplishment, or returned to the team or activity group.

Adopted by the Board of Education on May 18, 2023.