

MASON HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC CODE OF CONDUCT

The Athletic Code of Conduct is in effect for the entire calendar year. Student-athletes are not released from adherence to provisions of the Code of Conduct during vacation periods.

The Student/Parent Athletic Handbook (which includes the athletic code of conduct) is in effect beginning with a student-athlete's first day of participation in an extra-curricular activity and continuing through to the date of graduation or the last date of participation, whichever is later. All infractions will be penalized and be applicable at any time during the calendar year and will carry over from year to year.

The student-athlete is expected to conduct himself/herself in a manner that is consistent with team rules. The coach, with the approval of the athletic director, will deal with violations of team rules. If the coach and athletic director disagree on the proposed disciplinary action, the matter will be referred to the building principal for resolution.

Athlete Misconduct: Athletes who engage in prohibited behaviors or activities will be subject to disciplinary action, which may include suspension from participation in team events or expulsion from Mason athletic programs. Misconduct records shall be maintained from the time the student enters the high school athletic program and progressive discipline will be applied for multiple offenses throughout the athlete's participation in the program. The following is the disciplinary guide for all student-athletes.

- **Tobacco:** Use or possession of tobacco (in any product form) by the athlete is prohibited. Violation will result in a suspension from competition for 1/3 of the scheduled contests **or** 20% of the scheduled contests plus 20 hours of community service approved by the athletic director to be completed **before** the student-athlete may resume competition. Athletes who are found in violation for a second or third offense will receive a progressive suspension or expulsion from the athletic program as determined by the athletic director.
- **Alcohol and Drugs:** Use or possession of alcohol, marijuana/illegal drugs, steroids, or prescription drugs used illegally is prohibited. Athletes found to be in violation will be suspended from a minimum of 1/3 of the scheduled contests **or** 20% of the scheduled contests plus 20 hours of community service approved by the athletic director to be completed **before** the student-athlete may resume competition. Additionally, athletes will be referred for a substance abuse screening at a licensed agency coordinated by Mason Public Schools Counseling Department. Failure to complete the screening will result in expulsion from the athletic program. Athletes who are found in violation for a second or third offense will receive a progressive suspension or expulsion from the athletic program as determined by the athletic director. A fourth offense shall result in a mandatory expulsion from the athletic program.
- **Distribution and Narcotics:** Athletes who distribute an illegal or prescription drug or use or possess a narcotic or illegal Class I or II prescription drug shall be expelled from the athletic program unless there are extreme mitigating circumstances. In those cases, the Superintendent may modify the level of discipline imposed.
- **Inappropriate Conduct:** Athletes who engage in conduct unbecoming of a student-athlete and a representative of Mason Public Schools such as,

but not limited to, inappropriate use of technology, inappropriate language, theft, cheating, and disrespect to athletic officials or opposing team members may be suspended for one or more scheduled contests as determined by the athletic director. Athletes who are found in violation for a second or third offense will receive a progressive suspension or expulsion from the athletic program as determined by the athletic director. A fourth offense shall result in a mandatory expulsion from the athletic program.

- **Gross Misconduct:** Athletes who engage in gross misconduct or felonious behavior shall be expelled from the athletic program unless there are extreme mitigating circumstances. In those cases, the Superintendent may modify the level of discipline imposed.
- **Hazing/Bullying:** Student-athletes shall not be involved in bullying, initiations, or hazing of other athletes or team members. Permission, consent, or assumption of risk by an individual subjected to bullying/hazing/initiation shall not lessen the prohibitions contained in this policy. Such actions will result in disciplinary action up to and including suspension or expulsion from athletic participation. Coaches will talk to their teams at the beginning of each season to impress upon the team members the seriousness of any initiation or hazing practices.
- **Self Disclosure:** Any athlete who, by him/herself or together with his/her parent or legal guardian, voluntarily discloses a violation of the Athletic Code of Conduct prior to any reports, charges, or complaints and within **seven days of the occurrence of the violation** shall have the level of discipline modified on the first offense. Such modification shall be approved by the Superintendent. This self-disclosure policy will only be available to student-athletes once during their athletic career at Mason High School.

Determination of Partial Season Suspension:

- If the suspension can be served within the same season and the contests are not divisible by 3 (for a 1/3 season suspension) the suspension shall be rounded to the next whole number. Post-season play will count toward the suspension.
- If the suspension overlaps seasons, the suspension shall be determined by taking the number of days of competition left in the season that the athlete is currently in and divide by the total number of games in the season. This will result in a decimal value. Subtract this value from .33 (if the suspension is 1/3 of the season) and multiply it by the number of games in the next season the athlete will participate. Round up to the whole number and this will be the number of games the athlete is suspended from in their next season of participation.
- The student-athlete must finish the season in “good standing” in order for contests missed to be counted toward suspension. Good standing is demonstrated by a continued commitment to the team by attending practices and contests through the close of the season and attending the team banquet. Good standing would be further demonstrated by a student who displays a positive attitude and accepts his/her role on the team.