

MODESTO CITY SCHOOLS

Administrative Regulation

AR 5133

STUDENTS

Athletic Code of Conduct, 7-12

Participation in athletics is a privilege carrying with it special responsibilities. The public nature of competitive athletics requires standards which exceed the norm and extend beyond the school community.

- A. **ON THE FIELD** good athletes are respectful towards their teammates, opponents, and officials. They abide by all the rules of the game. They are modest in victory and gracious in defeat.
- B. **ON CAMPUS** good athletes should set an example of good citizenship for their classmates. They should help promote school spirit, and they should be positive leaders in school activities.
- C. **IN THE CLASSROOM** good athletes show respect for teachers and their fellow students. They should maintain good attendance, satisfactory academic grades, and satisfactory citizenship standards.
- D. **ON TRIPS** athletes' conduct is such that they are good representatives of their community, school, and team. Athletes are conscious of their appearance and manners at all times.

Athletics mean more than competition between individuals representing different schools. It is, rather, a means of learning a way of life with the philosophy that hard work, teamwork, and good character will bring eventual success. Good habits help to this end. To break training rules and to have poor citizenship interrupts the necessary concentration, destroys morale, and places any team in jeopardy.

The following guidelines have been established to ensure that our athletes and parents understand their responsibilities.

1. Before athletes can practice, they must pass a medical screening examination and meet the school insurance requirement. The medical examinations shall be completed after June 10 of the current school year. (9-12 only)

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2. Athletes must abide by the same expectations and be subject to the same consequences and eligibility requirements set forth in the following sections of the Student Conduct Code: Behavior expectations and consequences; attendance expectations and consequences; expectations and consequences for debts owed for loss or damage to school district property; extra-curricular/athletic activities eligibility; and loss of privileges/extra-curricular/co-curricular activities.
3. Definitions regarding the period of ineligibility defined in this Athletic Code of Conduct supersede those in the Student Conduct Code, 7-12. If the weeks of ineligibility are longer than the weeks remaining in the current year, ineligibility will extend into the following school year.
4. In addition to the consequences described in the Student Conduct Code, the use of tobacco (including chewing), will result in the following consequences for athletes:
 - 1st Offense: Two (2) school weeks suspension from all athletic games and practices.
 - 2nd Offense: Ineligible for nine (9) school weeks.
 - 3rd Offense: Suspension from all athletics for the remainder of the school year. (Suspension shall be for a minimum of nine school weeks.)
5. When athletes become ineligible because of violations of the Student Conduct Code, they will be placed in regular P.E. classes. They will receive a regular P.E. grade and credit during the ineligibility period. At the end of the ineligibility period, they may return to the team. All these penalties shall be cumulative from one season to the next during a specified school year, and from one school to the next in case of transfers during a specific school year. (9-12 only)

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6. Any athlete engaging in, or having any part in hazing or committing any act that injures, degrades, or disgraces any other person attending school will be dismissed from the team and be ineligible for a period of nine (9) school weeks.
7. Behavior problems not covered in the Student Conduct Code that have a detrimental effect on the team or school may be presented to the Athletic Board for disciplinary measures. (9-12 only)
8. Anyone who is **not** currently enrolled in the equivalent of 25 semester units of class work will not be eligible to participate. In addition, athletes must achieve a grade point average of 2.0 with no more than one “F” in each grading period preceding the quarter of participation in the athletic activities.

The 9-12 eligibility grading periods shall be the first quarter, first semester, third quarter and second semester.

The 7-8 eligibility grading periods shall be the first quarter, second quarter, third quarter, and fourth quarter.

The grading periods shall be considered consecutive and uninterrupted. Therefore, the second semester grade of the previous year shall be the basis for determining first quarter eligibility for the following year for 9-12 students. **(EXCEPTION: Applying C.I.F. regulation 205, this requirement shall be waived for all incoming ninth graders not meeting the District academic eligibility requirements. This shall be a one-time waiver for the first quarter of the fall semester only. Ineligibility due to Modesto City Schools textbook or library book debts shall carry over from junior high to high school, but be suspended for incoming ninth grade students for the first quarter of the fall semester only.)**

The fourth quarter grade of the previous year shall be the basis for determining first quarter eligibility for the following year for 7-8 students.

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9. Summer school grades shall be included to determine eligibility. In calculating eligibility, a summer school grade will **replace** the grade of a “like” course taken previously.

Grades/units earned in summer school classes which do not replace grades earned previously in “like” courses will be averaged with grades from the previous grading period (quarter in grades 7-8; semester in grades 9-12).

Summer school grades shall **not** impair a student’s academic eligibility achieved in the previous grading period (quarter in grades 7-8; semester in grades 9-12).

10. Athletes who receive two (2) or more unsatisfactory citizenship marks in any grading period will be placed on athletic probation. Athletes on athletic probation will be required to do weekly grade checks with their classroom teachers until the behavior is satisfactory. Athletes who do not improve their classroom citizenship will be subject to reduced opportunities to participate in athletic competition and may be temporarily or permanently suspended from athletic contests and/or from the team.
11. The eligibility date for each grading period will be the third Monday after the grading period ends. This shall apply to the student who is waiting to become eligible and to the student who is being declared ineligible. (If grades are not received within the period noted, eligibility shall be determined upon receipt of the grades.)

12. Athletic Probation

MCS Athletic Probationary Policy

Student-athletes who are academically ineligible are allowed one appeal during grades 9 and 10, and one time during grades 11 and 12, if they meet the MCS requirements for an appeal.

Academic Appeal Requirements

Student-athletes with a 1.8 GPA or above and/or have no more than two “Fs” are eligible to appeal. Student-athletes below a 1.8 GPA are not allowed to appeal. Student-athletes with more than two "F"s" are not allowed to appeal.

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A student-athlete is not allowed to appeal if he/she was ineligible the prior grading period. Example: A student-athlete who is ineligible for his/her first quarter grades is not eligible to appeal the next grading period (first semester grades).

A student-athlete is not allowed to appeal to participate on a team that limits the number of students that may participate, unless there is an available spot.

A student-athlete that is not eligible due to disciplinary consequences, may not be considered for an academic appeal.

A student-athlete who is currently ineligible will remain so until the next grading period when grades are officially posted. The Student-Athlete must meet school eligibility requirements at that time to be eligible for athletic participation.

Athletes who meet the Academic Appeal Requirements will be placed on team probation. The athlete will be allowed to stay with the team and participate in practices only. Students on probation may not travel with the team to games and may not dress with the team, nor sit on the bench or stand on the sideline with the team.

At the end of the quarter, those athletes who have regained their eligibility may fully participate with the team on the official district eligibility date. Teams competing with athletes ineligible for any reason shall forfeit all contests in which the ineligible athlete(s) participated.

13. Athletes who have been ejected from a game per C.I.F. Rule 302 will be allowed to practice during their suspension.
14. Athletes who quit a sport after the first three weeks of formal practice (excluding preschool sessions) or who are dropped from a sport for disciplinary reasons will not be eligible for any sport the remainder of that particular season. They will forfeit all awards. Athletes must complete the season to be eligible to receive an award.

Athletes cut from a team for other than disciplinary reasons may participate in any other sport that is available that season.

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15. Athletes may, as allowed under California Interscholastic Federation Guidelines, participate in two (2) sports during the same season. (9-12 only)
16. Athletes will be required to pay for equipment that they have lost or destroyed.
17. A participant must attend school all periods on the day of the activity or will be prohibited from participating in the activity. Medical appointments verified by the doctor and/or approval of the principal are the exceptions to this rule.
18. Attendance at practice, scrimmages, team meetings, and games is compulsory. Absences not approved by the coach may result in disciplinary action and possible removal from the team.
19. Any athlete who is suspended from school **may not** participate in any athletic event or practice during the duration of the suspension.
20. Any athlete who physically attacks a game official, coach, or anyone connected with the administration of an athletic contest will be immediately suspended from any participation in any athletic contest for the remainder of the student's eligibility (per C.I.F. Rule 522). An appeal is possible after 18 months. (9-12 only)
21. All athletes are expected to treat their teammates and opponents with respect before, during and after games. Athletes acting in an unsportsmanlike manner toward their own teammates or opponents will be disciplined by the coach. Depending on the circumstances, the athlete may be declared ineligible for a period of nine (9) school weeks.
22. Athletes competing on a school team cannot compete in the same sport on a non-school team during the season of that sport unless approved by the State C.I.F. The penalty assessed will be as per California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) Rule 601A. (9-12-only)

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23. ATHLETIC BOARD (9-12 ONLY)

- a. An Athletic Board will be established at each school to hear appeals regarding penalties resulting from violations which are not covered by the Student Conduct Code, but which are unique to the Athletic Code.
- b. The Athletic Board shall be made up of the athletic director, who will be the chairperson, an administrator, a neutral coach selected by the athletic director, a teacher selected by the principal, and the student body president. The coach/coaches of the athlete involved should be in attendance as non-voting observers. All members of the Athletic Board must be present to hear and act on any appeal or case brought before them.
- c. At the hearing, the athlete shall be informed of the reason for the disciplinary/action and the evidence against him/her and shall be given an opportunity to present his/her version and evidence in his/her behalf.
- d. At the conclusion of the hearing, the Athletic Board will meet in closed session for the purpose of deliberating and determining the Board's recommendation to the principal.
- e. The chairperson of the Board shall provide in a written report to the principal to the Athletic Board's recommendation. The report must include the athlete's written statement and facts presented at the hearing.

After evaluating the Athletic Board's report, the principal will have the final decision regarding the appeal and will notify the athlete/parents and the athlete's coach of the decision.

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Transportation of Students to Activities

- A. The preference shall be to transport students to all activities by District-owned vehicles or common carrier.
- B. Students who ride to a school event using District transportation are required to return from the event by the same means. An exception may be made by the principal/administrative designee only if the student is released to his parent or legal guardian.
- C. If District transportation or common carrier is not available, or not practical, these alternative means may be used with written school administration approval.
 1. Private vehicles:
 - a. Drivers must be at least 25 years of age, or a Modesto City Schools certificated employee.
 - b. Drivers must have a valid California driver's license.
 - c. Students shall depart and return in the assigned vehicle.
 - d. The certificated person in charge must have a list of drivers and passengers assigned to the vehicle.
 - e. Students shall not be transported in motor homes, trailers, camper shells and cargo spaces of vans or trucks.
 - f. A form must be signed by the drivers showing that they have insurance coverage currently in effect. The school shall also inform the drivers that in case of accident or suit their insurance is the coverage. District insurance only covers the District and its vehicles.

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2. Meet at site of event:
 - a. Students taking part in activities can be informed that the meeting place will be at the event and dismissal will be from that site.
 - b. Transportation to and from the event will be the individual's responsibility.
 - c. This option is allowed only within the boundaries of the Modesto High School District.

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