

Education Programs

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

I. Purpose

Student athletic and activity participation is dependent upon Minnesota State High School League and the school district's eligibility policies. All participants in interscholastic and 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

Students who violate the Minnesota State High School League ("MSHSL") and/or the school district eligibility policies are disciplined 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 (Policy 506 – Student Discipline).

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

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

III. Definitions

- A. District activities include, but are not limited to, debate, speech, one-act play, band, choir, orchestra, all special instrumental and vocal music ensembles, Science Fair, History Day, Knowledge Master, Mock Trial, Quiz Bowl, Robotics, Math Team, musicals, theater productions, pit orchestra, production technical crews, yearbook, newspaper, Student Council, Art Club, foreign language clubs, Writer's Club, Thespians, *Images*, *Tangents*, service organizations and other clubs.
- B. For athletics, the season starts as soon as the student athlete registers and signs the forms for a particular sport. For district activities, the activity starts as soon as the student registers, signs the eligibility forms, or attends the first meeting, whichever occurs first.

IV. Eligibility Violations and Penalties for Athletics

Please refer to the Student Eligibility Bylaws of the MSHSL (www.mshsl.org) for a complete description of eligibility violations. The following is a list of the school district penalties for violating such policies. The school administration will determine whether a violation has occurred.

A. First Violation

After a violation has been determined, the student athlete loses eligibility for the next two consecutive interscholastic contests or two weeks, 14 calendar days, of a season in which the student athlete is a participant, whichever is greater. In addition, the student athlete will be required to perform six hours of school and/or community service prior to having eligibility restored.

B. Second Violation: Out-of-Season

After a violation has been determined, the student athlete loses eligibility for the next six consecutive interscholastic contests or three weeks, 21 calendar days, whichever is greater in his or her next season of participation. In addition, the student athlete will be required to perform 12 hours of school and/or community service prior to having eligibility restored.

C. Second Violation: During Season

After a violation has been determined, the student athlete will be dismissed from the team for the remainder of the season or six consecutive contests, whichever is greater. When there are less than six contests remaining in the season, any remaining period of ineligibility will carry over to the next season of participation. In addition, the student athlete will be required to perform 12 hours of school and/or community service prior to having eligibility restored.

D. Third Violation

No further participation will be permitted on any interscholastic teams for remainder of the student athlete's high school years.

E. Cumulative Penalties

Penalties are cumulative, beginning with the student's first participation in any district-sponsored activity, and continue through the student's district career.

F. Denial Disqualification

A student athlete is disqualified from all interscholastic athletics for nine additional weeks beyond the student athlete's original period of ineligibility when the student athlete denies violation of the rule and is allowed to participate and then is subsequently found guilty of the violation.

G. Administrative Process

If the student athlete's third violation is due to chemical use, the administration reserves the right to modify the third penalty based on evidence of student participation in a treatment or support program that seeks to eliminate use and dependency on the chemical used by the student. This modification cannot be in violation of MSHSL policies.

H. Meeting Required

After any violation, the student athlete must meet with the activities director before continued participation is allowed.

V. Eligibility Violations and Penalties for District Activities

Please refer to the Student Eligibility Bylaws of the MSHSL (www.mshsl.org) for a complete description of eligibility violations. The following is a list of the school district penalties for violating such policies. The school administration will determine whether a violation has occurred.

A. First Violation

After a violation has been determined, the student activity participant loses eligibility for the next two consecutive events/performances/contests or two weeks, 14 calendar days, of a school year in which the student is a participant, whichever is greater. In addition, the student activity participant will be required to perform six hours of school and/or community service prior to having eligibility restored.

B. First Violation – Dual Participation

For students participating in athletics and a district activity, the penalty for an activity may be one performance/contest or 30 calendar days whichever is greater, provided the full penalty was served during the athletic 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.

C. Second Violation: Out-of-Season

After a violation has been determined, the student activity participant loses eligibility for the next six consecutive events/performances/contests or three weeks, 21 calendar days, whichever is greater in their next season of participation. In addition, the student activity participant will be required to perform 12 hours of school and/or community service prior to having eligibility restored.

D. Second Violation: During Season

After a violation has been determined, the student activity participant will be dismissed from participating in events/performances/ contests/trips for the remainder of that season. If the violation happens after the events of a season are completed, the participant will miss the entire next season. The seasons are defined as fall, winter and spring; coinciding with the breaks in the school year. In addition, the student activity participant will be required to perform 12 hours of school and/or community service prior to having eligibility restored.

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.

If it is timely and appropriate, a student enrolled in a course for credit having incurred such violation may request and be allowed by school administration, after communication with his/her parents and respective staff, to select an alternative course for the remainder of the school year.

E. Third Violation

No further participation will be permitted in any district activity events/performances/contests for the remainder of a student's high school career.

F. Cumulative Penalties

Penalties are cumulative beginning with the student's first participation in any district-sponsored activity and continue through the student's district career.

G. Denial Disqualification

A district activity participant is disqualified from all district activities for nine additional weeks beyond the student's original period of ineligibility when the student denies violation of the rule and is allowed to participate and then is subsequently found guilty of the violation.

H. Administrative Process

If the student's third violation is due to chemical use, the administration reserves the right to modify the third penalty based on evidence of student participation in a treatment or support program that seeks to eliminate use and dependency on the chemical used by the student. This modification cannot be in violation of MSHSL policies.

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 (www.mshsl.org) occurring after a student is

named captain of a team, or named to a position of official leadership within an extracurricular activity, will result in the loss of the leadership position for the season or for the first season for which the student has been selected as a leader. A student with two such violations will not be eligible for any extracurricular 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 he/she 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 there is 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 his/her 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 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, an Edina 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 MSHSL-sponsored activities at Edina, if the student has a GPA of 5.0 (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

A high school student who participates in high school activities who fails to maintain a 5.0 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 is to develop an improvement plan for assisting the student to work to his/her 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 and present that information to the Improvement Plan review committee comprised of the activities director and appropriate counselor. If the reason for the failure to maintain a 5.0 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 the Improvement Plan review committee.

If the student is placed on probation, he/she will be eligible to participate in activities but his/her progress on the plan presented to the probationary review committee and adherence to the classroom attendance and participation guidelines mentioned above will be monitored. A subsequent eligibility review by the probationary review committee will occur at the end of the semester probation. The probationary review committee will determine at that time if the student will be declared ineligible, continue on probation, or return to eligible status.

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 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 middle school fine arts and enrichment activities and middle school or high school athletic activities must have passed all of their 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, he/she will be ineligible to participate in high school activities the following semester.

IX. Transfer Students

Transfer student eligibility will be determined by his or her placement in the appropriate grade and semester level upon entering Edina, along with their calculated grade point average. They will then adhere to the same guidelines outlined above. For participation in MSHSL-sponsored activities, MSHSL Transfer Bylaw 111 will be followed to determine eligibility. All transfer students must meet with the activities director prior to participating in any activity.

X. Home Schooled Students

Students who are home schooled must be in compliance with state requirements for home schooling, and may participate in athletic/activity programs offered by the school 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 director. The application must be submitted ten days prior to the start of the activity.
- The student is a resident of the district and participates in the activity at the school in the attendance area, as determined by the school board.
- The student agrees to abide by all rules applicable to requirements of enrolled students.
- The home school institution shares documentation demonstrating the student is making progress towards graduation.

XI. Private and Charter School Students

The MSHSL does not permit participation in league-sponsored activities without a cooperative sponsorship as per Bylaw 403. 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.

XII. Monitoring Process

The counselors, coaches/advisors/directors, and activities department will be jointly responsible to monitor student eligibility. Upon determination of scholastic ineligibility, a notification form will be sent to parents/guardians of the student and a plan for reinstatement of eligibility provided.

Cross Reference: Policy 506 – Students, Student Discipline

Policy
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INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT 273
Edina, Minnesota