

## MAREGNO COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL EXTRACURRICULAR CODE OF CONDUCT

Marengo Community High School District 154 is committed to providing all students with a variety of opportunities to learn the skills necessary for them to reach their potential as citizens in a global society. The extracurricular program expands the learning opportunities available to students and enhances the academic program.

District 154 offers extensive and diverse extracurricular programs to provide expanded learning opportunities to students who wish to develop special skills and talents to a higher level. While involvement in these activities is voluntary, it is also a privilege and students choosing to participate take on extended responsibilities as special representatives of their school and community. These responsibilities hold the student to a higher standard of conduct as a condition of participation.

The Extra-Curricular Code of Conduct outlines the expectations for those who choose to be involved in Marengo Community High School (MCHS) extra-curricular programs. These guidelines also define the rights of our students that will accompany such responsibilities. These rights include a due process procedure that is designed to be consistent and fair to all concerned. The following is a list of all extra-curricular activities to which this code of conduct applies:

AFS	All Athletics	Class Officers
Chess	Colorguard/Danceline	FFA
DramaClub/Play/Musicals	HOSA	Jazz Band
Math Team	Media Club	Multi Cultural Club
National Honor Society	Reading Club	Scholastic Bowl
SkillsUSA	Snow Ball	Student Council
WYSE	Yearbook	

The school expects that all students who choose to participate in the extra-curricular programs of their choice will honor these guidelines. We consider participation in these programs to be a privilege, not a right. The school must clearly communicate the expectations of this handbook to all students and respond to all violations in a fair and expedient manner, within the guidelines defined in this guide.

We believe these rights and responsibilities for students and the school will help make participation in our extra-curricular programs a strong and enduring learning experience. We hope that the experience will be meaningful and enjoyable for all involved and will increase learning opportunities for all students.

**Due Process.** The following due process procedure shall be used in cases of suspension or dismissal in all athletic/cheerleading programs.

1. The Athletic/Activity Director (AD) or Asst. Principal will meet with the student to inform him/her of the allegations. Parents will be informed of the allegations by the AD or Asst. Principal. If no disciplinary action is to be taken, due process ends.
2. The AD or Asst. Principal will request a conference with the parent/guardian and participant to discuss the allegations and disciplinary action.
3. The AD or Asst. Principal will determine the consequence as stated in this document and inform the participant, as well as the parent/guardian.

## **Expectation of Participants.**

### Attendance

Students must be in school prior to the start of 4<sup>th</sup> hour to participate in practices, games or activities. Students must be in attendance 4<sup>th</sup> through 7<sup>th</sup> hours to participate.

The Principal or Assistant Principal may approve other situations that pertain to attendance.

### Eligibility

Participants must have passed four core subjects in the previous semester to participate in any extra-curricular activity the next semester, and they must be enrolled in and passing four full-credit courses during the time of participation. Participants' teachers will notify the Guidance Office if you are failing.

A student will be suspended indefinitely from participating if he/she is charged with a felony offense, until such time as the case is resolved. If found guilty, he/she will be dismissed from the team.

### Equipment

The school will issue specific equipment, which the participant must care for or replace at cost.

All uniforms and issued equipment shall be returned to the faculty member in charge within one week (7 school days) following the end of the last contest. Participants who fail to return the uniform or pay for the equipment issued prior to the start of any sport season shall not participate in the next season until the debt is removed. Participants may appeal only to the athletic director who may confer with the principal.

### Financial Responsibility

Participants will be financially responsible for equipment lost, stolen or damaged outside of regular use.

### Safety/Designated Area

There should be no horseplay in areas of participation. Any inappropriate language or actions, as well as careless use of facilities will be dealt with severely.

## **Major Rules Infractions.**

All students attending MCHS are potential participants of extra-curricular activities. Therefore, the code of conduct applies to students when they begin school at MCHS. ***The behavior code is in effect twelve months of the year, seven days a week, twenty-four hours a day, in and out of season, and on and off school grounds until the end of the spring sport playoff season of a student's senior year.***

The violations and infractions for each of these codes will be as indicated in this document. An individual participating in an extra-curricular activity will face disciplinary consequences for violating each code.

### MAJOR RULE INFRACTIONS:

- Possession, consumption or sale of alcohol
- Possession, consumption or sale of harmful or **illegal** drugs, or look alike drugs
- Possession, consumption or sale of anabolic-androgenic steroids
- Use or possession of any form of tobacco
- Major unsportsmanlike conduct

-Attendance at activities involving the **illegal** consumption of alcohol or any **illegal** substance. Arrest or ticketing by police, a report by a staff member, a report by the parent or admission by the student shall constitute notice for this infraction. Students are responsible for being aware of their surroundings and if **illegal** consumption is taking place they must take immediate steps to leave the activity safely (or if hosting an activity, take immediate steps to have the offending individual(s) leave safely).

-Commission of a criminal act defined as a Felony.

-Any Level IV (as listed in the Discipline section) misconduct or activity **that requires police notification**

**Any commission of a criminal activity/arrest may result in a suspension upon review of the Principal, Assistant Principal, Athletic Director and Coach.**

#### DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS FOR MAJOR RULE INFRACTIONS:

When evidence of a violation of the behavior code occurs, disciplinary action will be taken in consecutive order for each offense throughout the individual's high school career by the athletic director, principal or his designee. Written parent contact will be made. If the individual and/or parent wishes to appeal the decision, that appeal can be made in writing to the high school principal within five school days of written notification.

**First offense:** Suspension for **55%** of the regular season dates scheduled for that activity. If the number of suspended dates is a fraction, that number will be rounded to the next whole number. The participant is expected to attend all practices, follow all of the coach's rules, and attend but not dress for all of the competitions. In the case of a student not fulfilling the **55%** of the season's dates because of the season coming to an end, the remaining percentage will be used in the next activity they participate in. (Example: a student has a major rule infraction just before the last football game. With just one game remaining, only 11% of the required **55%** suspension is served. The remaining **44%** would have to carry over to the next activity. If the activity was basketball, this student would then miss **44%** of the basketball schedule.)

**Second offense:** 1-year suspension from all activities covered by the behavior code for one calendar year from the date of the offense. No award will be earned.

In order for the suspension to be considered served, the participant needs to successfully complete the season. Violations during school, at school functions or on school grounds follow present school handbook consequences.

**Third offense:** Career suspension from all extra-curricular activities from the date of the offense through graduation. No award will be earned.

\*A student may be eligible to participate after his/her third offense after 2 years of no infractions. The 2 years would be 2 calendar years after the third infraction.

\*\*If a student is in violation of a major rules infraction but does not participate in any activities, he/she would be eligible to participate one calendar year after the infraction.

#### General Information Regarding Extra-curricular Suspensions

If a student is involved in simultaneous activities, the suspension will be served concurrently in all of the activities. However, students will not be allowed to join extra-curricular activities already in order to avoid an athletic suspension.

Athletes are not allowed to participate in a sport for the purpose of serving a suspension in that sport rather than one where the student has a record of consistent participation. Penalties for violations are to be enforced in conjunction with the athlete's record of participation. It is recognized that freshmen and sophomores may not have established a consistent record of participation.

Example: A third year football player who has been suspended for **55%** of the season may not join any other activity that he has not participated in during the past in order to avoid the suspension.

If the participant finishes the season in good standing, the individual will be eligible for an award. If the suspension is carried over to the next activity in which the individual participates, an award may be given after the suspension is completed.

In order for the suspension to be considered served, the participant needs to successfully complete the season. Violations during school, at school functions or on school grounds follow present school handbook consequences.

**ACTIONS TO REDUCE CONSEQUENCES OF MAJOR RULES INFRACTIONS: (Only one of the two options allowed)**

**Option 1** – The consequence of the first violation of a activity regulation which is first reported by the student or the parents of the extracurricular participant shall **be reduced to 33% of** the actual participation dates or performances but not less than one date or performance. Exception: If a student has been arrested or is named in a police report the school is automatically notified by police through the reciprocal reporting agreement, therefore Option 1 is not available. Exception: If a student has been arrested or ticketed by police via the reciprocal reporting agreement, or reported by a staff member, Option 1 is not available.

**(Or)**

**Option 2** – The consequence of a first violation of a activity rule may be reduced by any extracurricular participant who, at his/her own expense, participates in and completes a program approved by the administration for substance abuse. The consequence of the first violation may **be reduced to 33% of** the actual participation dates or performances but not less than one date or performance.

**MINOR RULE INFRACTIONS:** These rules will be distributed at the first extracurricular meeting by the individual coach or sponsor and will only affect that sport or activity. Disciplinary action will be left up to the individual in charge of that activity. If the individual and/or parent wish to appeal the decision, that appeal can be made within 48 hours to the high school athletic director or principal/assistant principal.

**Requirements For Participation.** Marengo Community High School believes that each potential participant should make an informed decision to participate in extra-curricular programs. Students shall comply with Board of Education Policy 7:300 regarding participation in extra-curricular activities.

Student participation in Board of Education-approved extra-curricular activities is contingent upon the following:

The student must attain the academic standards set forth in the Student Handbook.

The Extra-Curricular Code of Conduct will not replace the District 154 Disciplinary Guidelines, but will be enforced in conjunction with/or in addition to those disciplinary guidelines. This code in no way restrains the authority of the administration or Board to impose suspensions or expulsions upon a student under its policies.

**Scheduling Conflicts:** The scheduling of activities often results in conflicts that cannot be resolved. They are beyond the control of the local school. A general guideline is that students will be required to participate in activities as listed in the descending order listed below. The decision is not up to the student, coach or sponsor as to which activity the student will participate

in when conflicts occur. The student has a responsibility and commitment to his/her respective organizations and teams.

State team

State individual

Conference tournaments

Conference team

Conference individual events

Previously scheduled events

Rescheduled events.

If two events of equal priority are scheduled at the same time, then and only then, will it be the student's choice to determine the event that he/she will be participating in.

**Theft/Vandalism/Destruction of School Property.** Participants are expected to respect the property and possessions at our school and other schools. In situations involving theft, vandalism, etc., the policy as set forth in the Parent-Student Handbook will be invoked.

**Warning of Risk:** Students and parents are to be aware that athletic and activity participation has inherent dangers and risks. Even though participation and practice is within the rules of the activity and students follow the instructions of the coach or sponsor, students may suffer a catastrophic injury. Their injuries may include, but are not limited to, death, serious head, neck or spinal injuries that may result in complete or partial paralysis or brain damage. Serious injury to any of the internal organs, bones, ligaments, muscles, tendons or other aspects of the muscular-skeletal system are possible. The injuries that may occur may affect the student's future ability to participate in athletics and activities, earn a living, or engage in other business and social activities. To attempt to avoid the possibility of injury, students should follow the coaches' or sponsors' instructions regarding techniques, training and team rules at all times, and participate within the rules of the sport or activity.

## **ATHLETE'S ONLY**

### Awards

The school shall provide suitable awards for any participant who has earned them. Each sport will set up a system for program award requirements. The coach will give an award to any athlete who has met the requirements and has completed the season in good standing. The head coach may also reward those who are deserving of an award for other reasons they feel warrant appreciation.

### Misc.

1. Each team or activity will have a set of specific rules for its participants.
2. The student must show proof of accident insurance coverage either by a policy purchased through the district-approved insurance plan or a parent(s)/guardian(s) written statement that the student is covered under a family insurance plan.
3. Student athletes are also subject to IHSA, conference, and district athletic eligibility requirements.

Sportsmanship. Students, participants and spectators are expected to practice the ethics of competition and principles of good sportsmanship whether at home events, events at other schools or in the community. Any person found to be in violation of these ethics and principles may be barred from interscholastic contests either as a participant or as a spectator. The faculty, coaches and administration of MCHS consider good sportsmanship to be one of the important ingredients of healthy competition and athletic success. Nothing less is expected of the fans who attend our contests, the athletes who participate, and the coaches who provide guidance and

leadership. We encourage all participants to cheer for our Indians, but in addition, recognize the performance of others, respect the opponent and the efforts of the officials, and enjoy watching the contest. Thank you for demonstrating good sportsmanship the Marengo way!