

Marcellus High School  
Student Athletic Code  
(\*Updated July, 2015)

\*As a member of the Michigan High School Athletic Association, the Marcellus Community Schools and its students abide by all MHSAA regulations as listed in the MHSAA Handbook for the current school year.

Section I: Eligible for Participation

**A. Enrollment**

To be eligible for interscholastic athletics, a student must be enrolled at Marcellus High School not later than the fourth Friday after Labor Day (1st Semester) or the fourth Friday of February (2nd Semester) or must move into the school district with his/her parents or guardian with whom they last lived. A student must also be enrolled in at least 66% of full credit load potential at Marcellus High School (5 of 7 classes).

**B. Age**

A student who competes in any interscholastic athletic contests must be under nineteen (19) years of age, except that a student whose nineteenth (19th) birthday occurs on or after September 1 of a current school year is eligible for the balance of that school year.

**C. Physical Examination**

A student must have a physical examination by a physician (M.D., D.O., P.A., or Nurse Practitioner) certifying that the student is fully able to compete in athletics. This physical must take place April 15 or later to be used for the current school year. The student shall not participate in any practice sessions or contests until the completed form is on file in the athletic director's office. In addition the student must have a consent for disclosure of medical records on file signed by the student's parent or guardian.

- 1) If there is a question at any time as to the fitness of the athlete to continue to perform on a team, the school may require another physical examination and the parents' written approval for their son/daughter to participate.

**D. Semesters of Enrollment**

A student shall not compete in athletics who has been enrolled in grades nine to twelve, inclusive, for more than eight semesters. The seventh and eighth semesters must be consecutive. Enrollment in a school beyond the fourth Friday after Labor Day (first semester) or fourth Friday of February (second semester), or competing in one or more athletic contests or interscholastic scrimmages, shall be considered as enrollment for a semester under this rule.

## **E. Semesters of Competition**

A student, once enrolled in grade nine shall be allowed to compete in only four first semesters and four second semesters.

## **F. Academic Eligibility**

1) Previous Semester Record: To be eligible for athletic competition Marcellus High School students must take a minimum of 5 credits (classes) and must successfully pass all classes taken. If a student does not achieve a passing semester grade in all classes taken, he/she will be ineligible for the first three weeks of competition of the next semester. If, at the end of this three week period the student is passing all classes, he/she would regain athletic eligibility. If the student is failing at the end of this three week period, he/she would remain ineligible until they do achieve a passing grade.

a) A student entering the 9th grade for the first time may compete without reference to his/her record in the 8th grade.

b) A student must pass at least 66% of his or her classes for each semester (5 of 7 classes) or he/she will be ineligible for the first 60 scheduled school days of the next semester, providing they are passing 66% of their classes at that time (MHSAA regulation)

2) Current Semester Record: Academic eligibility checks will be made weekly by the athletic director, beginning after the third week of each semester. If a student is not passing all classes when checked, that student is ineligible for competition until the next check but not less than for the next Monday through Sunday. If the next eligibility check reveals the student is still not passing all classes, that student is ineligible for competition for not less than the next Monday through Sunday, and so on until the student is passing all classes from the beginning of the semester through the most recent eligibility check. (NOTE: Eligibility is checked from the beginning of the semester to the date of the check.)

## **Section II: Awards**

A. A student will not accept from any source anything for participation in athletics which has a value in excess of \$25.00. The price does not include engraving.

B. No one, such as a parent, friend, or other person, may accept an award on behalf of the athlete at any time prior to graduation from high school.

C. Acceptance of such items as merchandise, memberships, privileges, services, sweaters, athletic equipment, wearing apparel, and watches would be a violation.

## **Failure to Comply**

Any student violating any area of this section would be ineligible for interscholastic competition or a period of not less than 90 scheduled school days from the date of the violation.

### Section III: Maintaining Amateur Status

A. Students participating in athletics or planning to do so in his/her school career will not (1) accept money or any other valuable consideration for participating in athletics, sports, or games (2) receive money or other valuable consideration for officiating in interscholastic contests except according to MHSAA rules or (3) sign a professional athletic contract.

#### Failure to Comply

A student violating this section will be ineligible for athletic participation for a period up to one full school year from the date of the violation.

### Section IV: Attendance at School in order to Participate in Athletics

A. Students must attend school for the entire day in order to participate in an athletic contest or in order to practice during the same day or evening. The only exception would be where prior arrangements were made or in the event of an emergency. All such prior arrangements and emergencies must be approved by the high school principal. (\*NOTE: Attendance for a portion of the school day does not fulfill the requirements of this section.)

### Section V: Travel to and from Away Athletic Contests

Coaches firmly believe that student-athletes and athletic programs benefit greatly from participants traveling to and from athletic contests as a team. Therefore, any student traveling to an away athletic contest as a member of a team in school owned, chartered or other approved vehicles, shall return to the home school in the same vehicle at the conclusion of the contest. However, in the event of extenuating circumstances where it may be in the best interest of the student to leave the contest with a parent/guardian, a special exception may be allowed as long as the following procedures are adhered to:

- 1) A transportation release form is completed and delivered to the coach by the parent/guardian prior to the bus leaving for the return trip home. Whenever possible, it is requested, as a courtesy to the coach, that the parent notify the coach prior to the bus leaving for the contest.
- 2) If the coach is not available, the release form may be delivered to the athletic director.
- 3) Students may ride home **ONLY** with the parent/guardian or another parent designated by the parent/guardian.
- 4) Forms are available in the high school office. Coaches also have forms available at the site of the contest.
- 5) If proper forms are not used, the student will not be released.

### Failure to Comply

A student violating this section will be excluded from all athletic competition for a period of one week from the date of the violation. A second violation during the same school year will result in exclusion from participation in athletics for the remainder of the school year.

### Section VI: Attendance at Practice Sessions

A. Attendance at practice sessions is necessary to prepare athletes physically and mentally for athletic contests. All team members are expected to be at all practice sessions at the times designated by the coach. There are situations when it is impossible for the student to attend practice due to illness, injury, school or family commitments. In such cases, the student is required to make prior arrangements with the coach.

B. Participants will be excused from team practice during regular school vacation periods when they are taking part in a school sponsored trip or family vacation, with the following exception:

- 1) Practice may be necessary during Labor Day weekend prior to the first football game to meet state practice requirements in football.

### Failure to Comply

A participant who fails to attend a regularly scheduled practice session during a season and receives an unexcused absence, will be withheld from all interscholastic athletic contests for one calendar week from the date of the unexcused absence. Upon reinstatement, the participant will be considered a regular member of the team. If an additional unexcused absence occurs, the participant will be excluded from team membership for the remainder of that sport season.

### Section VII: Summer and Off Season Athletic Programs

A. A wide variety of sports schools, clinics, and training programs are offered to athletes during the summer months and the off season by various groups, schools, and organizations. These programs provide an excellent opportunity for the aspiring athlete to improve his/her skills in a chosen sport. Since these programs are held in the summer and off season and are voluntary, athletes will not be required to enroll in these programs as a condition for membership or placement on an athletic team during the succeeding sport season or school year.

**NEW July 2015 Shaded Sections**

**Section VIII: Athletes' Standard of Conduct**

Representing Marcellus Community Schools beyond the school day is a privilege and not a right. Students involved in athletics are expected to represent the highest ideals of character by exemplifying good conduct and good citizenship. When the administration learns of an infraction involving a student that occurred during non-school times, (such as evening, summer, holiday breaks or weekends) that is a violation of the Student Code of Conduct, Board of Education, and/or the law and based on the severity and/or the possibility of bringing about liability or negative notoriety to the District, an independent school investigation shall occur. A meeting will then take place with the student, parents, and all interested parties that may include a coach, advisor, or staff member, among others. Following this meeting, and after weighing all information, the administrator shall determine appropriate discipline, if any. Depending on the severity of the incident, penalties will range from restitution, suspension, or dismissal from membership in these after-school activities. The decision of the administrator may be appealed to Marcellus Athletic Council whose decision is final.

- A. **Use of Tobacco, Alcohol, Drug Substances** Students participating in the interscholastic athletic program are to refrain from the use and possession of tobacco, alcohol, or any drug substance not prescribed to the student by a physician. It is understood that patent medicines do not fall into this category.

**Failure to Comply**

1) **First Offense:** A participant detected of violating Section VIII for the first time by school authorities or legal authorities shall be suspended from interscholastic athletic participation for 20% of the current sports season.

- a.) Although it is not the intention of the school to monitor students during the summer months, it is expected that student athletes will adhere to this policy knowing that the policy will apply to any substantiated reports during this time period.
- b.) If the violation occurs during the summer or during part of the school year when the student is not participating in athletics, the student shall be suspended for 20% of the next sports season in which the student does participate.
- c.) If the student, having been suspended for 20% of a sports season for a violation of this policy, does not successfully complete that season (must attend all practices and games during suspension), the penalty is carried over to the next sports season in which the student participates.
- d.) If the student is suspended for 20% of a sports season for a violation of this policy and the sports season concludes before the penalty is completed, the remaining percentage of the penalty is carried over to the next season in which the student participates.

2) Second Offense: A participant detected of a second violation of Section VIII during his or her high school career shall be suspended from interscholastic athletic participation for one calendar year from the date of suspension.

a.) If the second violation occurs during the summer, the student shall be suspended from interscholastic athletic participation for the entire next school year.

b.) Option: If, upon being detected of a second violation, the student shows evidence of completion of a certified substance abuse counseling program (at the expense of the participant), the penalty shall be modified to include the

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entire next sports season and 20% of the subsequent sports season in which the student participates.

3. Third Offense: A participant detected of a third violation of Section VIII during his or her high school career shall be suspended from interscholastic athletic participation for the remainder of their high school career.

**B. Violations of federal, state or local law/ordinance including felony or misdemeanor acts other than minor traffic offenses.** Conviction of said offenses is not necessary to establish a violation of the Athletic Code of Conduct, which will be determined through an independent school investigation. A conference will be held with the coach, student, student's parents or guardians, the Athletic Director and/or Principal to determine appropriate penalties. Depending upon the severity of the incident, penalties will range from restitution, suspension from athletic competition or dismissal from the squad.

**C. Cumulative or gross misconduct, including behavior which school officials consider conduct unbecoming an athlete and a representative of the Marcellus Community Schools.** A conference will be held with the coach, student, student's parents or guardians, the Athletic Director and/or Principal to determine appropriate penalties. Depending upon the severity of the incident, penalties will range from suspension from athletic competition to dismissal from the squad.

**D. Hazing activities of any type are inconsistent with the educational process and are prohibited at all times.** Hazing is defined as any willful act done by a student, whether individually or in concert with others, to another student for the purpose of subjecting such student to humiliation, physical abuse or threats of abuse, social or other ostracism, shame or disgrace. Permission, consent or assumption of risk by an individual subjected to hazing does not lessen the prohibition. A conference will be held with the coach, student, student's parents or guardians, the Athletic Director and/or Principal to determine appropriate penalties. Depending upon the severity of the incident penalties will range from suspension from athletic competition to dismissal from the squad.

### Section IX: Team Rules and Regulations

A. Each coach will submit to the athletic director and high school principal a copy of their specific team rules and regulations. These team rules may not specify a penalty for a violation which is less than the District Athletic Code. Upon approval of the team rules by the principal and athletic director, the document shall be explained to the team as a whole and each participant given a copy.

### Section X: Attendance at Athletic Awards Night

A. Athletes are expected to attend the athletic awards presentation unless excused by their coach prior to the event. Should an athlete not inform his coach of his/her absence, his/her award may be withheld.

### Section XI: Sportsmanship, Game Conduct, and Respect

A. As athletes representing the Marcellus Schools, students are expected to act accordingly at all times. Poor sportsmanship reflects not only on the individual, but on the entire school. The following rule will apply for all interscholastic contests, practices, scrimmages, etc.

- 1) Game ejections, unsportsmanlike conduct penalties, and technical fouls: Any athlete who violates one of the above could face additional disciplinary action. The coach will review each case and determine if further action is necessary. (Penalty= One Game Suspension)
- 2) Disrespect toward a coach, teacher, or other school personnel could result in disciplinary action. (Penalty= One Game Suspension)
- 3) Fighting during an athletic contest could result in disciplinary action. (Penalty= One Game Suspension)

Before any action is taken, game video tapes will be reviewed, people directly involved will be interviewed, game officials will be interviewed, and any other means available will be used to evaluate the extent of the involvement on the part of Marcellus student-athletes.

**NEW** August 2014

Section XII: Quitting or Removed from a Team

A. Quitting a sport is highly discouraged. Once a student makes a commitment to a team, that student is expected to finish the season; however, if a student does quit or is removed from team after a season has started (1st contest date), then the student will not be allowed to participate in another sports workouts or meetings until the season of the first sport has ended, unless mutually agreed on by the head coach of the respective sport and the Athletic Director. (This includes play-off games.) If a student-athlete finds it necessary to drop a sport, the procedure for dropping a sport is the following:

1. Meet with the head coach of the particular sport and discuss the situation.
2. Address teammates of decision to quit in person.
2. Meet with athletic director and parents (if necessary).
3. Check in all equipment issued.

Failure to follow the above steps will result in the athlete being suspended for the next two contest dates(not including scrimmages) from the next season the athlete participates in.

Section XIII: Appeal Process

A. A participant detected of violating Sections V, VI, VIII, IX, X, XI or XII may appeal the outcome of violations by the following procedure:

- 1) Submit in writing to the building principal within five days from the date of the application of the penalty a request for an appeal hearing.
- 2) Within five days from the date of receiving the request, an appeal hearing will be held before the Marcellus Athletic Council. The Athletic Council consists of the high school principal, the athletic director, two school board members, the head varsity coach in each sport, and the superintendent of schools.
- 3) All parties, including the coach and the student involved, will be given an opportunity to be heard. The Athletic Council will make a final determination of the appeal based on their findings and this Code of Conduct for student-athletes.