

Academic Eligibility

To participate in any athletic or extracurricular competition or event, a student must be passing all classes. Athletes will be permitted to practice during the period of scholastic ineligibility but not dress in the school uniform of their respective activity. A student who is ineligible, may not miss class time for those games/activities that require an early release from class.

Initial Eligibility

- 1) Initial eligibility is based on the previous semester grades. (Fall sports = Semester 2 or the previous year, Winter sports – Quarter 1 and Spring sports = Semester 1 of the current year).
- 2) Students will be allowed to compete in games if they are passing all classes.
- 3) Students who are failing any semester courses will be ineligible for the first 50% of regular season games. Students who fail more than two (2) semester courses will be ineligible for sixty (60) scheduled school days per MHSAA Guidelines.

Grade Checks

- 1) Grade checks will start the third Friday after the official start of practice and weekly thereafter.
- 2) If a student is failing any class, he/she will be ineligible to compete the following week.
- 3) The next Friday, his/her grades will be checked again. If his/her semester grade is 60% or above the athlete will be eligible the following week. If not, the athlete will be ineligible for another week.
- 4) Weekly grade checks will be made to monitor all students with any Fs and to implement personal student-achievement plans.
- 5) Semester 1 failures in any course will result in an immediate 50% of regular season games ineligibility period.

Requirements for Participation in Sports

An athlete must have the following fully executed documents on file at the school office before the athlete's first participation in any activity. Students must not be allowed to practice until an acceptable signed statement of physical examination and consent has been provided.

- 1) A current physical examination report (given on or after April fifteenth of the previous school year) completed by the M.D., D.O, Physician's Assistant, or Nurse Practitioner who administers the physical examination and which finds that the athlete has passed a physical examination and is physically able to participate in athletic tryouts, practices and contests; and
- 2) The physical examination report is on file with the athletic director and is effective for the entire year. The card must contain the signatures of the athlete and parent/guardian in the areas provided and the person conducting the examination.
- 3) A receipt showing the athlete and his/her parents received a copy of the Athletic Code, understand the terms of the Athletic Code and agree to abide by its terms and conditions.
- 4) Attendance is required at a "Right to Know" meeting.

Behavioral Conduct

Behavioral misconduct by student-athletes will not be tolerated. The training code will be based on a points system. Students who violated the training code will receive points on their athletic record. Any of the below listed violations may carry a maximum penalty of suspension from all athletic competition at any time for the remainder of the season. Any misconduct not listed below that the student/athlete engages in may be disciplined at the discretion of the coach and/or school administrator. Behavioral misconduct and penalties shall include but shall not be limited to:

- 1) 1-Point Violations
 - a) One point per suspension occurrence, except those listed separately in 3-Point and 5-Point Violations listed below
 - b) 1-Point violations may or may not carry over from year to year. This decision will be at the Athletic Director's discretion and/or school administrator.
- 2) 3-Point Violations
 - a) Insubordination toward your coach (failing to follow a reasonable request made by the coach or assistant(s)).
 - b) Unsportsmanlike conduct (i.e. profanity, temper tantrums, etc.).
 - c) Defacing or destroying school property.
 - d) Police contact resulting in arrest or the student/athlete being entered into the legal system.
- 3) 5-Point Violations
 - a) Involved in the use, possession, buying, selling, or giving away of alcohol, tobacco products, or other drugs.
 - b) Being present at establishments or gatherings where alcoholic beverages or controlled substances are present and not under the supervision of someone over the age of 21 who is preventing students from gaining access to the beverages or controlled substances. Students who do not leave immediately will be subject to discipline.
 - c) Possessing, receiving, or in any way connected with illegally obtained properties, stealing, or any act of dishonestly acquiring the property of another. These offenses shall be applicable when they take place in or on school property or when the event is sponsored by Stephenson Area Public Schools or another school.
 - d) Being convicted of a felony. More severe penalties up to and including permanent suspension from athletics may be imposed depending upon the severity of the felony.
 - e) Use, possession, buying, selling or giving away of dietary supplements such as ephedrine, androstenedione or creatine.
 - f) Police contact resulting in arrest or the student/athlete being entered into the legal system.
- 4) Point Accumulation Reference
 - a) Zero (0) Points – Athlete is in good standing
 - b) Two (2) Points – Warning is issued to the student
 - c) Three (3) Points – 10% game suspension [One (1) game minimum].
 - d) Five (5) Points – 25% game suspension [two (2) game minimum]. In addition, enrollment in and completion of mandatory substance abuse/alcohol/anger management counseling (as appropriate) at the expense of the parent/guardian may be required if the individual wishes to continue to participate in athletics.
 - e) Eight (8) Points – One (1) calendar year suspension. The student loses all remaining calendar year eligibility. After completion of a one-year suspension, he/she must apply to the Athletic Council for readmission to the athletic program. He/she must have accumulated no Three-Point or Five-point violations during the time of suspension. In addition, enrollment in and completion of mandatory substance abuse/alcohol/anger management counseling (as appropriate) at the expense of the parent/guardian may be required. A reinstated player may then return to active participation with zero points on the first official date of practice for the sport from which he/she was suspended.

Note: Expelled students, if reinstated back to school, will be suspended from sports for one (1) calendar year until the first official date of practice of the sport in season, at the time of the violation.

Coaches and school officials will impose disciplinary measures appropriate to the offenses committed. The discipline imposed for any particular offense shall be at the sole and exclusive discretion of the coaching staff and school officials.

Drugs, Alcohol and Tobacco

Except for prescription drugs used by the person for whom such drugs were prescribed in the manner intended by the prescribing medical doctor, the possession, use, distribution, purchase or sale of any alcoholic beverage, drug, drug paraphernalia, controlled substance, look-alike, e-cigarette, tobacco or tobacco product or any other substance which, when taken into the human body is intended to alter mood or mental state, including any item or substance which is represented by a student to be, or is believed by a student to be any of the foregoing, regardless of the true nature or appearance of the substance, is prohibited in school buildings, on school buses, and on all other school property or school-related events at any time. This prohibition shall include all school-sponsored or school-related activities, whether held before or after school, evenings or weekends and shall additionally include a prohibition of use by a student athlete in any instance where the school can demonstrate a reasonable connection to the school program or school athletic program. For purposes of this procedure, students who are under the influence of prohibited substances shall be treated in the same manner as though they had prohibited substances in their possession.

Appeals Procedure

Step 1: An informal discussion will be conducted between all the parties involved as arranged by the athletic director.

Step 2: Upon written appeal to a school administrator by the athlete, a meeting of the Athletic Council will convene. The appeal must be made within five (5) school days of receiving the penalty, and the Athletic Council will meet within five (5) school days after receiving the appeal. A decision will be given immediately unless extenuating circumstances exist.

Step 3: The Athletic Council will hear and make the final decision. The Athletic Council shall only review the process used to assess a penalty and shall not alter the penalty to less than the minimum or more than the maximum, as spelled out in the policy. A majority vote will be final.

Note: During the appeal, the coach of the sport involved and the school administrator will decide whether or not the athlete participates in the sport.

Athletic Council

- 1) The Athletic Council will consist of a school administrator, athletic director, and varsity coaches. When the council is called to consider a suspension, the coach of that athlete will not be a member of the council for that incident.
- 2) The school administrator shall chair the proceedings and shall record the proceedings of the Athletic Council

Coaches' Obligations

- 1) Any coach who suspends an athlete from competition must submit in writing to the athletic director. The school administrator and athletic director will review the form and make the final determination on the suspension.
- 2) Upon a coach's request to meet concerning disciplinary action regarding an athlete, the athletic director will conduct such a meeting. If the athletic director/coach feels the matter should be reviewed by the Athletic Council, the athletic director will call for such a meeting within three (3) days.

Administrative Responsibilities

- 1) The Athletic Director is the administrator responsible for invoking all penalties under the Athletic Code.
- 2) The Principal and Athletic Director will consult with the coaches on reported violations of the Athletic Code. Coaches will be informed of actions under the Athletic Code that involve members of their program.
- 3) The Athletic Director will be responsible for notifying the athlete's parent(s)/guardian(s) of the applied penalty.

Reporting of Violations

- 1) Alleged violations shall be reported in writing (signed and dated) to the athletic director or school administrator. An acceptable source in reporting violations is defined as an adult (age 18 or older) who is not currently an enrolled student at Stephenson Area Public Schools or other K-12 school districts. The person must have proof that he/she was a first-hand witness to the alleged violation. He/she must be willing to meet with the Athletic Council, the accused, and the accused's parent(s)/guardian(s).
- 2) Hearsay of Information not reported in the above manner will not constitute grounds for application of penalties. If, however, after reasonable efforts to investigate have been made by school officials, the accused athlete admits to the violation or their parent(s)/guardian(s) are convinced of the athlete's guilt, action will be taken. Likewise, materials obtained from police agencies or other governmental sources will constitute a basis for action to be taken.

Awards

- 1) If the athlete serves his/her penalty and completes the season in good standing, he/she will receive the award earned. No award is given if the athlete is serving a suspension that is being carried over to the next sport season.
- 2) If the athlete violates the Athletic Code after the season has ended but prior to distribution of award(s), the athlete will not receive any awards. This applies to major violations (as spelled out in the Athletic Code) only.
- 3) Expulsion from a sport for any reason, or at any time, prohibits the athlete receiving the award.

Rules in Effect

The rules set forth in this Athletic Code are in effect throughout the calendar year and 24 hours a day, whether or not school is in session and including vacation periods, and holidays. The rules apply on and off campus and whether or not the misconduct occurs at school or a school-sponsored activity or in some other locale. The rules apply from the beginning of the athlete's first tryout or practice to the first sport which the athlete attempts until the completion of the athlete's athletic eligibility in all sports.

Absence from School on Day of Activity

An athlete must be in school by the beginning of fourth period on the day of an activity to be eligible for any activity on that day unless the absence has been pre-approved in writing by a school administrator. Two (2) exceptions may be made by the athletic director:

- 1) For a medical absence pre-arranged; or
- 2) For a death in the athlete's family

An athlete who has one (1) or more truanicies or who has been suspended from school may be suspended from participation in athletic activities by administration.

An athlete who is absent from school on a Friday before a Saturday event may be withheld from Saturday activities at the sole discretion of the athletic director and/or administration.

Travel

All athletes shall travel to athletic events and return home from athletic events with the team on which the athlete competes by use of school-approved means of transportation. A written waiver of this rule may be issued by an administrator upon advance written request of an athletes' parent/guardian. The athlete will be allowed to leave with only the parent, guardian, grandparent, adult sibling not in a K-12 school, aunt, or uncle and provided the responsible party appears and accepts custody of the athlete. In no case shall a waiver be issued unless the alternate means of transportation anticipated by the waiver will be provided by the parent, guardian, grandparent, adult sibling not in a K-12 school, aunt or uncle. Oral requests shall not be honored and oral permissions shall not be valid.

Special exceptions to this will be on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of the superintendent. The Superintendent's decision is final and not appealable by the board.

Any student athlete found to be in violation of this policy shall be subject to discipline in accordance with the school district's athletic discipline policies, rules and regulations as provided herein.

Uniforms

All athletes must return all uniforms at the end of the season. Students who lose or damage uniforms will be charged for replacing the uniform

Dual Sports

Students will be allowed to participate in two (2) sports during a season with approval from their parents, coaches, and athletic director. Athletes will be required to designate their primary sport. The athlete is expected to participate in all scheduled meets/games with priority given to the primary sport. However, athletes will not be allowed to miss the same class more than two (2) times during the week for sporting events.

Attendance at School Events and Activities

All school rules and policies apply at all times to students on school property, at school events, and at other activities whether on school property or at another location. Students are not to be in the building after buses depart unless they are remaining for an activity that is under the direct supervision of a staff member. Violations will be considered loitering and will result in disciplinary action.

****Attendance at school-sponsored dances and other activities is a privilege****

Only students who attend the school may attend school-sponsored dances and activities. If a high school student desires to bring a guest to a dance, they must obtain and have signed a "guest pass" form prior to bringing the guest to our school function. This form needs to be signed by the principal of the guest student's school. This form will advise that principal that their student wished to attend one of our activities and that with their signature they are indicating their student is a student in good standing. Only one (1) guest may be brought by any student and the guest must be in at least the 9th grade up to one (1) year removed from high school and no older than nineteen (19). The conduct of the guest is the responsibility of the student host. If a guest creates a problem, both the guest and the host will be removed

and possible barred from future events. Separate dances will be held for junior high students. Junior high students may not bring guests to their dances or be guests at senior high dances.

At school events such as dances, lock-ins, etc., the following policy will be enforced:

Students may not leave once they arrive. If they leave, they may not return.

Students shall dress in a manner deemed acceptable by administration. Students shall not:

- 1) Use, possess, distribute, purchase, or sell tobacco materials, e-cigarettes, alcoholic beverages, or any illegal substance or paraphernalia;
- 2) Use, possess, buy, sell, barter, or distribute any object that is or could be considered a weapon or any item that is a "look-alike" weapon;
- 3) Vandalize or steal
- 4) Haze other students
- 5) Behave in a manner that is detrimental to the good of the school; or
- 6) Be insubordinate or disrespectful toward teachers and chaperones.

Students who violate the school's discipline code will be required to leave the dance immediately and the student's parent/guardian will be contacted. The school may also impose other discipline as outlined in the school's discipline code.

Equal Access for Non-School Sponsored Student Clubs

A student-initiated group may meet on school premises during non-instructional time and shall have the same rights and access and be subject to the same administrative guidelines that govern the meetings of school-sponsored student organizations, without regard to the religious, political, philosophical, or other content of the activity.

A school administrator shall grant the group's request by first determining that:

- 1) The activity has been initiated by students
- 2) Attendance at the meeting is voluntary
- 3) No agent or employee of the District will promote, lead, or participate in the meeting.
- 4) The meeting does not materially and substantially interfere with the orderly conduct of educational activities in the school.
- 5) Non-school persons do not direct, conduct, control, or regularly attend the activity.

A school employee may be assigned to attend a student-initiated meeting in a custodial capacity but shall not participate in the activity.

Student Organizations

Students are encouraged to participate in a variety of activities and events to broaden their educational experience. A description of available organizations offered to students is listed below.

Note: A students who is academically ineligible under the standards set forth in the athletic code will not be allowed to miss class time for events/activities which are sponsored by the organizations(s) in which the student participates.

Annual Staff

The Annual Staff is responsible for the completion of the high school yearbook, the record of each year's activities at school. Students in grades 9-12 are expected to devote their time and energy in the planning stages, which include creation of a theme and ideas for development, use of the marketing process (annual and ad sales), and completion of the final stages of this desktop publication. Students develop their journalism, photography and publication design skills by participation in this endeavor.

Art Club

The Art Club is an organization that focuses on the visual arts through the creation of banners and posters and through involvement in school and community projects. Field trips are made as local exhibitions and events arise. Members are students in grades 9-12 who are interested in art.

Business Professionals of America (BPA)

Business Professionals of America promotes learning through a variety of activities and is an integral part of the total business/computer instructional program at Stephenson Area Public Schools. Chapter members are students in grades 9-12 with an interest in business education. Business Professionals of America encourages individual and group initiative and competition at regional, state, and national levels, thus helping to develop future leaders for business and office occupations.

Drama Club

The Stephenson Drama Club is open to all students in grades 6-12 who are interested in play production and performance. Join to gain experience in acting, set design, costumes, lighting, sound, and all aspects of taking a play from auditions to opening night. Most of all join to have fun!

Healthy Youth Coalition

HYC is a grade 9-12 organization that promotes healthy lifestyles throughout our communities. HYC members participate in a variety of activities throughout the year such as reality haunted house and action troupe.

High School Quiz Bowl & Hi-Q

Members of High School Bowl and Hi-Q are chosen from a pool of students who are interested in competing. The advisor looks for students who are strong in specific content areas. High School Bowl is a competition that takes place at WNMU in Marquette. Questions asked of team members range from sporting events to cell composition and everything in between. The taped program is televised at a later date. The questions used in Hi-Q competitions are from specific areas, but there is still a wide range that is possible for the questions. Hi-Q teams compete three (3) times in January and February with playoffs for the highest scoring teams in March. Junior high students may have the opportunity to participate in Junior High Quiz Bow.

LEO's Club

The LEO's club is run by members of the Lions Club. The club does various community service activities throughout the year.

National Honor Society (N.H.S)

The National Honor Society promotes recognition for students who reflect outstanding accomplishments in the areas of scholarship, leadership, character, and service. Through N.H.S. chapter service activities, members maintain and further develop the qualities that won them selection Membership in the National Honor Society is both an honor and a commitment. Membership is granted only to those students selected by the faculty council of each school. Initial eligibility is based on a cumulative 3.5 grade average. Students who are academically eligible must complete a Student Activity Information Form. Candidates will then be reviewed by the faculty council. A final vote by the faculty council will determine selection.

Robotics Club

The robotics club builds and competes with a robot each year.

Student Council

The Student Council represents all students and coordinates all student activities, such as homecoming and community service projects. Any problems you may have during the course of the year may be directed to Student Council for consideration.