

*This handbook has been approved by the Board of Education as the official student handbook*

# **MERCER COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT**



# **2024 – 2025**

## **EXTRACURRICULAR CODE OF CONDUCT**

**Dear Student or MCHS/MCJH Parent or Guardian,**

Welcome to the Mercer County School District extracurricular program. MCSD has an outstanding athletic and extracurricular history and tradition. Our students are hard working, disciplined and represent the community in a positive manner. Our programs aim to provide competitive experiences that are fun, successful, and promote individual growth within a safe and healthy environment. These positive experiences will be memories that last a lifetime. We are excited that you have chosen to take advantage of this wonderful opportunity.

We would also like to remind you that participating in any of our extracurricular activities is a privilege and with this privilege comes tremendous responsibility. It is important that you use good judgment and display mature behavior at all times. You are in a leadership role both on and off the “field of play” whether it is in or out of season. For this reason athletes will follow the policy training rules year-round.

In the MCSD, we believe an important part of the educational experience are the co-curricular programs available to students, in particular, the interscholastic athletic and extracurricular programs. Nationwide studies have shown that students involved in co-curricular sports and extracurricular activities achieve better grades, manage time more effectively, and have less discipline problems. This holds true with our top-achieving students regularly participating in multiple extracurricular activities throughout the year.

This extracurricular policy will acquaint you with the specific rules and procedures of the MCHS extracurricular program. For students, this policy will help you understand what you can expect and what is expected of you. We hope you also learn that most problems can be solved through open and honest communication. For parents, we hope this will help you understand the school's extracurricular policies so that you may be assured that Mercer County High School, its Extracurricular Department, and the coaching staff are doing everything possible to teach athletes fundamental values that transcend these activities. If your questions or concerns are not answered within this policy, please speak with your coach or feel free to call the athletic office.

Once again, welcome, and please strive to make sportsmanship an integral part of your experience. We welcome your participation in our extracurricular program and extend to you our assistance and best wishes for a successful experience.

Sincerely,

Dustin Murray: MCHS  
Morgan Braucht: MCJH  
Athletic Directors  
Mercer County Schools

### **MERCER COUNTY EXTRACURRICULAR DEPARTMENT PHILOSOPHY**

The extracurricular experience is an essential part of many students' overall education. Extracurricular activities play a significant role in developing positive self-esteem and a sense of well-being. High school students are experiencing a time in their lives of tremendous growth and change. They often get excited, confused, argumentative, curious, sensitive, and self-conscious. In sports and other extracurricular activities they will learn the value of fair play and sportsmanship. Students are given the chance to participate and be allowed to make mistakes. They will learn to appreciate teamwork and how to deal with coaches, referees, opponents, peers, and themselves.

### **MERCER COUNTY EXTRACURRICULAR DEPARTMENT MISSION STATEMENT**

Mercer County School District is committed to excellence in both academics and extracurricular activities. Our philosophy is that these two go hand in hand. Academics are our top priority, and we feel we prepare our students to be successful in any endeavor they choose; Extracurricular activities are part of that preparation. It is the coaches and teachers' responsibility to teach teamwork, work ethic, sportsmanship, leadership, communication, and countless other attributes.

All students are encouraged to be involved in extracurricular activities at our schools. Mercer County offers many opportunities for students to expand themselves and their knowledge. Being part of a Mercer County High School athletic team, or other extracurricular, will help to develop pride, self-satisfaction, and the enthusiasm that comes with being part of a great team. In addition to following the general code for Student Conduct and Discipline, students who participate in athletics or other extracurricular activities are also bound by the Mercer County High School ExtraCurricular Code of Conduct. Participants are bound by this Code at all times, both in and out of school and any time of year both during and outside of the school year.

Coaches and sponsors have the right to issue and enforce additional reasonable rules and regulations governing their specific activity.

### **MERCER COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT EXTRACURRICULAR CODE OF CONDUCT**

#### **Athletic and Extracurricular Activities**

**FFA	**Student Council
**Key Club	Wrestling
Scholastic Bowl	Boy's Track
*Band	Girl's Track
Flag Squad	Boy's Golf
Jazz Band	Girl's Golf
*Chorus	Baseball
Show Choir / Musical / Plays	Softball
Cheerleading	Dance
Football	Cross Country
Volleyball	Student Government
Girl's Basketball	**National Honor Society
Boy's Basketball	Majorettes

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*\*These activities are connected to a class and will be governed by activity rules and/or this code of conduct policy.*

*\*\*These activities have required rules that must be followed by students in order to be a member of these organizations and are not subject to this handbook's extracurricular code of conduct. They have specifications in their constitutions and by-laws with higher expectations and/or consequences.*

The Mercer County School District welcomes and encourages our students to participate in extracurricular activities. All students participating in extracurricular activities are subject to the rules that are stated in the Extracurricular Code of Conduct.

Participation in extracurricular activities within the Mercer County District is a privilege extended to the student body by the Board of Education. Students are encouraged to participate enthusiastically as team members and as fans.

Many members of our community, as well as members of surrounding communities, gauge the quality of our school by what they experience through our athletic department, fans, coaches, and participants of extracurricular activities. The image and reputation of Mercer County School District is largely formed by the actions and attitudes displayed by our students and coaches at these events. This applies not only to the playing field and court, but also in the locker rooms, hallways, and concession areas before, during, and after the events.

You need to be aware that you (coaches, participants, and fans) are ambassadors of the Mercer County School District and community. You radiate the spirit and build the image and reputation of the school and community by your actions and attitudes. We have built, and will continue to build, a very positive image and enthusiastic spirit, one of which we can all be proud.

## **SPORTSMANSHIP**

Mercer County coaches, sponsors, and teams take great pride in demonstrating leadership and sportsmanship on and off the field, court, stage, etc. Establishing an appropriate and positive learning environment is a top priority for our school program and extracurricular department. In an effort to encourage good sportsmanship, we ask each parent/guardian to discuss the importance of proper behavior at events with their children and continue to model appropriate behavior so that everyone can enjoy attending our events. While winning is an important goal for all of our competitive programs, how we play and conduct ourselves is equally important. Parents and spectators are an important part of the game and shall conform to accepted standards of good sportsmanship and behavior. All students and spectators are expected to evidence good sportsmanship at all extra-curricular school activities. Such sportsmanship is demonstrated by the following:

Consider the visiting team/group and fans, as well as the officials, as guests and treat them as such.

1. Respect the rights of all spectators.
2. Accept the officials' decisions as final.
3. Support your team with positive enthusiasm.
4. Be modest in victory and gracious in defeat.
5. Consider it a privilege and duty to encourage everyone to live up to the spirit of the rules of fair play and sportsmanship.

Students and fans shall refrain from the following conduct at all extracurricular activities:

1. Booing or jeering officials or players at any time.
2. Applauding errors by opponents or penalties inflicted upon them.
3. Yelling for or demanding a substitution or withdrawal of a player/participant.
4. Using profane or otherwise inappropriate language at any time during the event.
5. Throwing objects on the field, court, stage, etc.
6. Criticism of players or coaches/sponsors for losing a game.

The administration reserves the right to remove anyone from a school event for actions that are not seen as setting a good example for our student body. **Any parent, student, or spectator can lose their right to attend any Mercer County School District extracurricular event pursuant to Section 24-24 of the School Code for violation of the above rules of conduct.**

### **MERCER COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT EJECTION POLICY**

Mercer County School District #404 adopted a K-12 parent/student ejection policy in 2014

1. If a parent/parent is ejected, for any reason, during a Mercer County contest, that parent/student is suspended for the remainder of that contest and the next like contest (this includes both home and away events). Said parent/student cannot attend ANY Mercer County Athletic events until the suspension is completed.
  - a. For example – an ejected parent from a varsity football game, on a Friday night, is unable to attend ANY MC athletic events until completion of the next varsity football game.
  - b. A situation-specific plan will be implemented if the ejection occurs during the last game of the season.
2. A second ejection, during a four-year span, results in a 5-game suspension.

3. A third suspension results in a calendar year-long ban from ANY Mercer County athletic events.
4. A fourth ejection from ANY Mercer County Athletic Contest results in a lifetime ban of Mercer County athletic events.

\*Mercer County School District #404 reserves the right to make any ejection punishment more severe – if warranted.

### **REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICIPATION**

1. Physical Exam Form completed and on file with Athletic Director (good for 13 months from date of exam).
2. Insurance or insurance waiver.
3. Meets all eligibility requirements set forth in this document and by IHSA/IESA which are found at [ihsa.org](http://ihsa.org) or [iesa.org](http://iesa.org).
4. Signed Extracurricular Code of Conduct.
5. **ATTENDANCE POLICY FOR PARTICIPATION-** Participation in Mercer County District events, practices, contests, or games will be allowed only if student is in class before the end of 1<sup>st</sup> period (exceptions may be made with approval by the principal for pre-arranged medical absence, a death in the family or a religious ceremony or event). A student who is suspended from school is also suspended from participation in all extracurricular and athletic activities for the duration of the suspension. A student who is absent from school on a Friday before a Saturday event may be withheld from Saturday extracurricular or athletic activities at the discretion of the coach and principal.
6. A permission slip to participate in the specific athletic activity signed by the student's parent/guardian.
7. Signed documentation agreeing to comply with the School District's policies and procedures on student athletic concussions and head injuries.

### **PARENT/GUARDIAN RESPONSIBILITIES**

The parents/guardians are a valuable resource for the Mercer County School District. The school district asks that parents/guardians support the rules set forth in the "Code of Conduct". Playing time will NOT be discussed with a parent/guardian by the coach or athletic director. If they have a problem with the coach or a rules infraction, they should follow the steps set forth below.

1. Have your student set up a meeting with the coach or sponsor to discuss the rules infraction or issue.
2. Call to set up an appointment with the coach or sponsor. If the parent/guardian has a problem or concern with a coach or sponsor or a program he or she should NOT approach the coach after a game or practice.
3. Discuss the problem or concern with the coach or sponsor.
4. If the problem is not resolved, the parent/guardian may go to the athletic director. It is always suggested that the parent go to the coach first, but if the parent feels uncomfortable with that, he/she may go directly to the athletic director. If the issue is not resolved, the parent may report to the principal.
5. If the problem is not resolved the parent has the right to appeal any decision. This procedure is covered in this guide.

## **CONDUCT OF A PARTICIPANT AT A MERCER COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT EVENT**

### **Extra-curricular event:**

The conduct of an extracurricular participant is closely observed in all areas of life. It's important that your behavior be above reproach in all of the following areas:

### **On the field or during the event:**

A participant does not use profanity or illegal tactics. The participant learns fast that losing is a part of the game. Be gracious in defeat and modest in victory. Congratulate your opponent after every event, whether in defeat or victory. We are as proud of our reputation in sportsmanship as we are in our championships.

### **In the classroom:**

A good extracurricular participant is a good student. We all have different abilities, but our effort is based on determination and work ethic. If you are lazy in class, you will be lazy in practice/rehearsal and never reach your full potential. You must adjust and plan your schedule to give sufficient time and energy to your studies to ensure good grades. Show fellow students and faculty the proper respect. Be courteous at all times. Horseplay and unnecessary boisterousness are not approved habits of behavior in practice or the classroom. An undisciplined student is usually an undisciplined teammate.

## **IHSA ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY**

Mercer County School District extracurricular participants must meet the IHSA academic requirement of passing 25 credit hours (5 classes) of academic coursework per week to remain eligible. Eligibility lists are distributed to all faculties. If a student is declared academically ineligible on Thursday, they will not participate in any contest that following week (Sunday-Saturday). The eligibility requirements for the school are listed below.

The head coach should clarify eligibility rules with athletes.

1. Must be scholastically eligible.
2. Must have a physical examination.
3. Must be within age limits defined by the IHSA.

It is the coach's responsibility to help students maintain their eligibility. Frequently, a coach will receive notice that a student is failing a class; the coach must follow up on this. Grades will be checked weekly on Thursday. The reports generated on Thursday will determine eligibility for the following Sunday-Sunday (7 days). Eligibility grades are based on semester grades.

The first week that a student is failing one or two course(s) during a particular season, the student will receive one week probation and the student may practice and participate in contests. If a student is failing 3 or more classes, probation week is forfeited and the student is deemed ineligible for contests for that week.

The second week that a student is failing any courses during a particular season, the student may practice, but may not participate in contests that week. The student is expected to dress in appropriate clothing and sit on the bench during the contest.

The third week a student is failing any courses during a particular season, the student may practice, but may not participate in contests. The student is not allowed to attend any extra-curricular contests.

The fourth week a student is failing any courses during a particular season, the student may continue to practice, but forfeits all the opportunities to dress or participate in contests for the remainder of the sport/activity season. The student is not allowed to attend any extra-curricular contests.

Eligibility weeks will start over each season.

If a student drops a course after the fifth day of a semester (even if he/she is passing), a failing grade will be recorded on the next Weekly Grade Report. Future weekly checks will not note that failure.

A student failing a class will be required to have an academic voucher filled out with a signature and comments from their teacher (of the failing grade) and turned into the Athletic Director by the following Monday at noon.

A passing grade would be determined by using an average, that is, a total of all tests, assignments, and other scores for the semester. A failing grade should never be based on the week's work only.

All extracurricular activities that require regular after school practices would be included on a weekly eligibility check.

### **IESA ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY**

Mercer County School District extracurricular participants must meet the IESA academic requirement of passing all academic coursework per week to remain eligible. Eligibility lists are distributed to all faculty members. If a student is declared academically ineligible on Friday, they will not participate in any contest that following week. The eligibility requirements for the school are listed below. The head coach should clarify eligibility rules with athletes.

1. Must be scholastically eligible.
2. Must have a current physical examination and pay the participation fee prior to beginning practice.
3. Must be within age limits defined by the IESA.

It is the coach's responsibility to help students maintain their eligibility. Frequently, a coach will receive notice that an athlete is failing a class; the coach must follow up on this. Grades will be checked weekly on Friday.

Teachers will list athletes with a D average and those failing a course.

A student who is ruled ineligible to participate in games/events for the week may practice with the team.

A passing grade would be determined by using an average, that is, a total of all tests, assignments, and other scores. A failing grade should never be based on the week's work only.

All extra-curricular activities that require regular after school practices would be included on a weekly eligibility check



## **Violations**

The following behavior shall constitute “violations” to the extracurricular code which shall subject the offending student to the applicable consequences listed below. In addition, gross disobedience or misconduct as defined in the Student Conduct and Discipline Code may result in exclusion from extracurricular activities for such a period of time as determined appropriate by the administration. Violations are cumulative throughout the length of the student athlete's career at their school (violations reset as a student transitions from junior high to high school). Gross disobedience or misconduct may result in suspension or expulsion from school as defined by Board Policy and the Student Conduct and Discipline Code:

1. The use, possession, sale or distribution of tobacco, drugs, steroids or any controlled substance, or a beverage containing alcohol. Note: It is not a violation for a student to be in possession of a legally prescribed medication specifically prescribed for the student by their doctor, except as prohibited by IHSA rules.
2. Behavior that constitutes gross disobedience or misconduct under the Student Conduct and Discipline Code.
3. Commission of conduct that constitutes a criminal act, with the exception of minor traffic offenses.

## **GUIDELINES FOR CONSEQUENCES**

### **Drug, Alcohol, and Tobacco Violations**

Participants in extracurricular activities must conduct themselves at home and on school trips in such a manner that they are a credit to themselves, the team, the school, and the community. Extracurricular participants who, during the year, infract any of the following shall be subject to discipline.

#### Tobacco/Vape:

No possession, use, or transfer of tobacco/vape (including chewing tobacco) all year in and out of the season is permitted.

#### Alcohol:

No possession, use, or transfer of alcoholic beverages all year in and out of season is permitted.

#### Illegal Drugs and Controlled Substances:

No possession, use, or transfer of illegal drugs, controlled substances or look-alike drugs all year in and out of season is permitted.

Once an infraction is determined, the athlete and their parent(s) will be notified of the following consequences.

### **FIRST VIOLATION** (Drugs, Alcohol or Tobacco/Vape)

1. Consume, possess or sell alcohol, drugs or tobacco/Vape. A suspension of one-fourth of the scheduled contests of that season (this may carry over to the following season within a school year or the following school year if less than a fourth of the season remains). The student will attend all practices and competitions. They are not to dress for the

game, but are to stand/sit on the sideline/bench. They are not to participate in any pre-game or during game activities.

2. Attendance at a party or riding in a vehicle where alcoholic beverages and/or controlled substances are being openly consumed by someone other than a parent or guardian. A suspension of ten percent (one football game) of the scheduled contests of that extracurricular season. This may carry over to the following extracurricular season within a school year, if there are less than ten percent of the scheduled contests remaining in the existing extracurricular season.
3. The student will be required to practice with the group, regardless of the violation (unless suspended or expelled from school).

### **SECOND VIOLATION (Drugs, Alcohol or Tobacco/Vape)**

1. Consume, possess or sell alcohol, drugs or tobacco/vape. A suspension of one-half of the scheduled contests of that extracurricular season (this may carry over to the following extracurricular season within a school year or the following school year if less than a half of the extracurricular season exists). Make an appointment with the Rock Island County Council on Addictions for Drugs or Alcohol for an assessment by a certified addiction counselor the Mercer County Health Department for tobacco for an advanced self study. If the student fails to comply with the aforementioned consequences they will be removed from all extracurriculars for one calendar year.
2. Attendance at a party or riding in a vehicle where alcoholic beverages and/or controlled substances are being openly consumed by someone other than a parent or guardian. A suspension of one-third of the scheduled contests of that extracurricular season. This may carry over to the following extracurricular season within a school year, if there are less than one third of the scheduled contests remaining in the existing extracurricular season.
3. The student will be required to practice with the group, regardless of the violation (unless suspended or expelled from school).

### **THIRD VIOLATION (Drugs, Alcohol or Tobacco)**

1. Consume, possess or sell alcohol, drugs or tobacco. The athlete will be suspended from participation in all extracurriculars for a calendar year.
2. Attendance at a party or riding in a vehicle where alcoholic beverages and/or controlled substances are being consumed by someone other than a parent or guardian. The student will be suspended for six months from the date of the violation.

### **ADDITIONAL VIOLATIONS (Drugs, Alcohol or Tobacco/Vape)**

Additional violations will be treated individually. They will result in additional suspensions and/or possible recommendation/requirement for treatment.

### **Criminal Acts**

Students involved in the commission of a criminal act are in violation of this code of conduct. The administration and/or Board of Education may impose disciplinary action for criminal acts committed. Using information gained from witnesses, school officials, and law enforcement agencies, the district may conduct its own investigation into criminal allegations and may determine a disciplinary course of action. Because of time limitations, the school district will sometimes take disciplinary action before the courts determine the students' guilt. The administration and/or Board of Education also reserve the right to change the duration of the suspensions upon their discretion without prior notice to the students.

**First Violation**-Suspension from one-third (1/3) of scheduled contests for current or upcoming season with unfulfilled fraction to carry over to the next sport or activity season when necessary and in compliance with all other provisions of the Extracurricular Code of Conduct.

**Second Violation**-Suspension from two-thirds (2/3) of scheduled contests for the current or upcoming sport or activity season with unfulfilled fraction to carry over to the next sport season when necessary and in compliance with all other provisions of the Extracurricular Code of Conduct.

Additional Offense(s)-Suspension from participation in extra-curricular contests for one calendar year.

In its discretion, the administration may impose greater or different penalties than those listed above for particularly serious offenses, including those involving alcohol or drugs.

**Suspension Guidelines:**

A student may compete in a new extracurricular to serve their suspension, but must compete and finish the entire season in good standing to participate in future extracurricular activities.

Calendar year suspensions begin with the date of the violation and are not related to the beginning or end of seasons.

Note: Students who have/had a case in Juvenile Court are still subject to the terms and conditions of the Year Round Extracurricular Code.

**Athletic Trips**

Except in unusual instances, all trips will be made on a school bus and/or van. Students are expected to ride to and from contests with the team. A coach/sponsor may waive this rule, but students must be signed out by a parent/guardian or other designated adult as designated by the legal parent/guardian. Whether a contest is at home or away, our students represent the school. Coaches/sponsors have a great duty to inspire their students' best behavior. Coaches/sponsors are responsible for locker rooms, homerooms, etc. at home and away. When a coach leaves a room, it should be in good condition. The school district will not pay meals or lodging during the regular season. The district will pay approved costs for transportation, meals, and lodging for actual participants at the IHSA/IESA state series events.

**Practices**

On school days, practice may begin before or after school classes. Practices and meetings will not be held on Sundays or religious holidays. When school is dismissed due to bad winter weather conditions, no practice will be held. If there is a late summer early dismissal, the head coach should adapt the practice for safety purposes. If school is canceled due to winter weather, the athletic director and administration should use good judgment in deciding the need to attend a game/tournament/event.

## **CONCUSSIONS AND HEAD INJURIES**

Student athletes must comply with Illinois' Youth Sports Concussion Safety Act and all protocols, policies and bylaws of the IHSA/IESA before being allowed to participate in any athletic activity, including practice or competition.

Any athlete even suspected of suffering a concussion should be removed from the game or practice immediately. No athlete may return to activity after an apparent head injury or concussion, regardless of how mild it seems or how quickly symptoms clear, without medical clearance. Close observation of the athlete should continue for several hours. The Return-to-Play Policy of the IESA and IHSA requires athletes to provide their school with written clearance from either a physician licensed to practice medicine in all its branches or a certified athletic trainer working in conjunction with a physician licensed to practice medicine in all its branches prior to returning to play or practice following a concussion or after being removed from an interscholastic contest due to a possible head injury or concussion and not cleared to return to that same contest. In accordance with state law, all schools are required to follow this policy.

You should also inform your child's coach if you think that your child may have a concussion. Remember it's better to miss one game than miss the whole season. When in doubt, the athlete sits out.

## **ATHLETIC AWARDS**

1. Numerals will be issued at the 9<sup>th</sup> grade level. Numerals may be earned at the 10<sup>th</sup> grade level, if the student was not a participant in 9<sup>th</sup> grade.
2. A minor letter will be issued at the 10<sup>th</sup> grade level.
3. Any participant on the Varsity level who earns a letter and has not previously been issued numerals and/or a minor letter will be issued these.
4. A major letter is presented the first time an athlete meets the criteria to earn a major letter in a sport. One major letter is given per sport during an athlete's high school career. The second, third and fourth time an athlete receives a letter in the same sport; the athlete will receive additional pins.

*\*The criteria to earn a Varsity letter is established by each individual head coach.*

## **ATHLETIC CUTS**

### **JH Athletics**

At this level, the school will do what it can to try and prevent cuts from happening. This may include adding an additional coach and/or creating a traveling roster that can be used for road games. Teams are still required to follow IESA postseason rules as far as how many kids are allowed to be in uniform on the bench.

### **Fresh-Soph**

At this level, the school will do what it can to try and prevent cuts from happening. This may include adding an additional coach and/or creating a traveling roster that can be used for road games.

## **Varsity**

The Varsity roster is allowed to cut down if the number on the roster exceeds the maximum number of kids that are allowed to be on the bench for IHSA postseason rules.

Tryout and cutting procedures will be determined by the head coach and the athletic director. These procedures will be communicated to the athletes and their parents/guardians.

## **SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY FOR STUDENTS AND PARENTS**

Representing the Mercer County School District carries great responsibility. Students in the MCSD are held in the highest regard and are seen as role models in the community. Students have the responsibility to represent their school in a positive manner at all times. Sometimes this means doing things that are an inconvenience to you, but benefit your school, team (if applicable), the community, and the MCSD.

Texting, Facebook, Twitter, SnapChat, TikTok, Instagram, Vine, and other social media sites have increased in popularity globally, and are used by the majority of students at MCHS and MCJH in one form or another.

Students should be aware that third parties - including the media, faculty, future employers and IHSA/IESA officials - could easily access your profiles and view all personal information. This includes all pictures, videos, comments, and posts. Inappropriate material found by third parties affects the perception of the school. This can also be detrimental to the school, teachers, staff, students, teams, and the perception of the school district.

Examples of inappropriate and offensive behaviors concerning participation in online communities may include, but are not limited to, depictions or presentations of the following: Photos, videos, comments or posts showing the personal use of alcohol, drugs and tobacco e.g., holding cups, bottles, cans, shot glasses etc.

- Photos, videos, and comments that are of a sexual nature. This includes links to websites of a pornographic nature and other inappropriate material.
- Pictures, videos, comments or posts that condone drug-related activity. This includes, but is not limited to, images that portray the personal use of marijuana and drug paraphernalia.
- Content online that is disrespectful, derogatory, demeaning, or threatening toward any other individual or entity (examples: derogatory comments regarding another school; taunting comments aimed at a student-athlete, coach or team at another institution and derogatory comments against race and/or gender). No posts should depict or encourage unacceptable, violent or illegal activities (examples: hazing, sexual harassment/assault, gambling, discrimination, fighting, vandalism, academic dishonesty, underage drinking, illegal drug use).
- Content online that would constitute a violation of team, school, and IHSA/IESA rules. Examples would include: commenting publicly about a coach, athlete, opponent, official, staff member, and school employees. (if applicable)
- Information that is sensitive or personal in nature or is proprietary to the team or the school, which is not public information (examples: tentative or future team schedules, student-athlete injuries and eligibility status, travel plans/itineraries or information).

Please remember the Principal, Athletic Director, and Sponsor/Coach have the ability to suspend, or remove a student from the team on the first inappropriate action.

For your own safety, please keep the following recommendations in mind as you participate in social media websites:

- Set your security settings so that only your friends can view your profile.
- You should not post your email, home address, local address, telephone number(s), or other personal information as it could lead to unwanted attention, stalking, identity theft, etc.
- Be aware of who you add as a friend to your site – many people may be looking to take advantage of student-athletes or to seek connection with student-athletes.
- Consider how the above behaviors can be reflected in all Social Media applications.

If you are ever in doubt of the appropriateness of your online public material, consider whether it upholds and positively reflects your own values and ethics as well as that of the Mercer County School District and your team. Remember, always present a positive image and don't do anything to embarrass yourself, the team, your family, or the school.

### **GOOD TEAMMATE CLAUSE**

Mercer County High School athletic and extracurricular teams strive to foster a family-like environment for our student-athletes. Just as all Mercer County High School students have the right to be treated with respect and kindness, all Mercer County students are expected to treat their teammates with that same respect and kindness both on and off the field of play, in and out of season. Our students have the responsibility to show respect to their coaches, teammates, officials, and their opponents. Each student is responsible for the words and actions that they display. Failure to treat teammates with respect and kindness will result in appropriate consequences to be defined by the coach or sponsor.

### **HAZING AND BULLYING**

School board policy prohibits discrimination, harassment, intimidation, hazing or bullying, as defined by this policy, against students on or immediately adjacent to school grounds, at any school-sponsored activity, including athletic activities, on school-provided transportation, or at any official school bus stop. Students may face disciplinary consequences for any off-campus behavior that would disrupt the educational process or the operation of the school or District. The District expects that staff, volunteers, and students will provide equal treatment and access to educational programs, services, and aid to students without regard to their disability, race, color, gender, national origin, ethnicity, sexual orientation, age, religion, marital status, socioeconomic status, cultural background, familial status, physical characteristics, or linguistic characteristics of a national origin group.

Hazing in any form will not be tolerated within the Mercer County School District and will result in disciplinary actions. There may be other disciplinary consequences as well administered by the Coach, Athletic Department, Principal, Superintendent and/or the Board of Education.

**MERCER COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
EXTRACURRICULAR HANDBOOK ACKNOWLEDGEMENT  
FORM**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, acknowledge by signing this form, that I have received the MCSD Extracurricular Handbook, and agree to be bound by the guidelines and policies expressed therein as related to my participation by Mercer County School District as an athlete. Furthermore, I understand that it is my responsibility to read and maintain a good and current understanding of the policies in the extracurricular handbook, or to seek help in understanding from the Coach or Athletic Director.

**Parent/Guardian Printed Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/Guardian Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

**Student Printed Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Student Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

