

DASSEL-COKATO PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Student Extra/Co-Curricular Participation Policy

Revised 7/26/07
Policy # 564
2007-2008

The following is the Dassel-Cokato Middle/High School Extra/Co-Curricular Student Participation Policy. We are asking each parent/guardian and student participant to read this document and sign the participant's pledge. The form must be signed and on file (annually) before any participant is able to participate in any extra/co-curricular activities. A student will not be allowed to participate until they have a signed participation policy on file. Participation is defined as any practice, scrimmages or contests.

The primary philosophy of the extra/co-curricular programs in the Dassel-Cokato School District is to promote the physical, mental, social, emotional, and moral well-being of the participants. The extra/co-curricular activities in our schools are intended to be a positive force in preparing youth for an enriching and vital role in American life.

The extra/co-curricular program is an important and integral part of the total school program and is open to all students regardless of individual differences. Through voluntary participation, the student gives time, energy, and loyalty to the program. He/she also accepts the rules, regulations, and responsibilities that are unique to each extra/co-curricular program. In order to contribute to the welfare of the group, the student and parent/guardian must willingly assume these obligations and make sacrifices as the role demands.

The student extra/co-curricular policy includes all students participating in the program, grades 7-12. In addition to the Dassel-Cokato Public Schools Student Handbook, the Minnesota State High School League also governs extra/co-curricular program participants.

CATEGORIES OF STUDENT PARTICIPATION

A. Category One – Those League-sponsored activities in which Dassel-Cokato has a schedule of interscholastic contests, exclusive of League-sponsored tournaments. Athletic Activities: All League sponsored athletics. Fine Arts: 1. Debate 2. Speech 3. One Act Play.

B. Category Two – Those league-sponsored activities in which a member school does not have a schedule of interscholastic contests, exclusive of League-sponsored tournaments.

C. School Programs-Marching Band, Drumline, Fall Musical, Problem Solving, Math League, Mock Trial, FFA, and any other activity in which a public performance or competition is scheduled. Homecoming Royalty, Prom Yearbook, Newspaper, Student Council, NHS, and any other school club in which the student participant represents the school district.

DASSEL-COKATO STUDENT EXTRA/CO-CURRICULAR POLICY

I. GENERAL REGULATIONS

- A. Minnesota State High School League - Minnesota State High School League rules must be followed in all cases of eligibility, transfer, physical examinations, insurance coverage, starting dates, use of school equipment, etc. Each coach/adviser and the activities director have the responsibility to know, to inform team members and parents/guardians, and to enforce school and MSHSL regulations in these matters.
- B. Offenses - Any civil/criminal law infraction by a student participant may result in counseling by the activities director/school administrator with possible suspension from extra/co-curricular activities.
- C. Transfers - No student participant may quit one activity and turn out for another after the season has begun without the mutual consent of both of the coaches/advisers and the activities director.
- D. Suspensions -The violation shall be confirmed when the activities director has informed the student that the student has violated a MSHSL bylaw and is now under the penalty. The weeks of suspension shall begin on the date the violation is confirmed by the activities director and extends for the required number of days. Student participants who have been suspended shall be required to complete the full length of that season as a team member in order to satisfy the suspension requirement. Student participants who have been suspended shall be expected to participate in activity practices but shall not be allowed to represent the Dassel-Cokato School District in any competition, in any uniform and/or in any school sanctioned activity during the suspension period.
- E. Cooperation and Honesty - If at any time a student participant is found uncooperative and dishonest regarding their statement(s) concerning testimony as it relates to stated violations of this policy, the following suspension(s) will be administered:
 1. First Offense: The individual will be suspended from the squad for five (5) school days and/or one (1) contest, whichever is greater. This suspension will be above and beyond any suspension that will be and/or has been administered.
 2. Second Offense: The individual will be suspended from the squad for the next ten (10) school days and/or two (2) contests, whichever is greater. This suspension will be above and beyond any suspension that will be and/or has been administered.
- F. Travel - Student participants must travel to and from contests, away from Dassel-Cokato, in transportation provided by the school. The only exceptions are:
 1. Injury or illness to a participant that would require alternate transportation.
 2. Verbal and written arrangements made in advance between the participant's parent(s)/guardian(s) and the coach/adviser and activities director for the student to ride with his/her parent(s)/guardian(s).
Failure to follow these procedures will result in counseling by the coach/adviser or activities director with possible suspension.
- G. Unsportsmanlike Conduct - A display of unsportsmanlike conduct towards another individual will result in counseling by the head coach/adviser/administration.
- H. Vandalism, Theft, Loss of Equipment - Theft or malicious destruction of any school or individual equipment or school property will not be tolerated. The school reserves the right to assess monetary charges for the destruction, loss, theft of property or equipment from parent(s)/guardian(s) and student participant along with possible suspension from activities.
- I. Letters and Awards - The eligibility meeting marks the beginning of the season, and the athletic banquet marks the end of the season and a student's eligibility for a letter and team award(s). A letter and team award(s) will be withheld from a student suspended during the season for a violation of this policy. Guidelines for earning varsity letters are on file in the principal's and activities director's offices and shall be distributed to all varsity participants at the beginning of each season.
- J. Discipline - Each coach/adviser will have discipline rules for minor infractions, such as inattention to directions, horseplay, tardiness to practice, etc. These rules shall be put in writing and approved by the activities director, and they shall be filed with the activities director.
- K. Captain, Leadership - A student participant will not be allowed to hold a leadership position in any extra/co-curricular activity for one calendar year beginning from the date of violation confirmation.
- L. A student will not be allowed to act as royalty at any time for one calendar year beginning from the date of violation confirmation.

II. SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS

- A. Daily Attendance - A student must attend all his/her classes, except in the case of an emergency, in order to practice and/or participate in a scheduled contest on the same day. An exception will be made if the student has a pre-approved absence, in which case the student must present to the principal a signed statement from the doctor or a parent/guardian regarding the absence.
- B. Unexcused Absence or Truancy - Unexcused absence or truancy from school or class during the season is not permitted. (Example: Remaining home the morning following an event for the purpose of rest is not an approved absence.)
 1. First Offense: Suspension for one (1) contest.
 2. Second Offense: Suspension for the next two (2) consecutive interscholastic events or one (1) week of a season in which the student is a participant, whichever is greater.
- C. Injury - A student who has been injured and has had medical treatment cannot participate again until the attending physician certifies in writing the student's readiness for participation. A student who has been injured but does not seek medical treatment after being so advised by the coach/adviser must submit a written statement from his/her parent/guardian indicating their consent for their student's continued participation in the activity.
- D. Academic Eligibility Rule - Refer to District Athletic Eligibility Policy #566.

III. CHEMICAL VIOLATIONS

- A. Attendance - Attendance at parties, events, or gatherings, for whatever length of time, where alcoholic beverages and/or illegal drugs as defined by State Law are illegally present and/or illegally used is prohibited.
 1. First Violation: After confirmation of the first violation, the student shall be suspended from the next scheduled interscholastic contest or a minimum of one (1) week of the season, whichever is greater.
 2. Second Violation: After confirmation of the second violation, the student shall be suspended from the next two (2) consecutive scheduled interscholastic contests or a minimum of two (2) weeks of the season, whichever is greater.
- B. Use and Possession - The use and/or possession of any alcoholic beverages and/or tobacco (including chewing tobacco), or use and possession of illegal drugs as defined by State Law is prohibited.
 1. First Violation: After confirmation of the first violation, the student shall be suspended from two (2) consecutive scheduled interscholastic contests or a minimum of two (2) weeks of the season, whichever is greater.
 2. Second Violation: After confirmation of the second violation, the student shall be suspended for nine (9) consecutive weeks of their season. If this violation occurs during the same season as the student's first violation, the student shall be suspended for the remainder of their current season, plus an additional nine (9) weeks of their next season. After confirmation of the second violation, the participant shall receive counseling that is satisfactory with the administration and/or school counselors.
 3. Third Violation: After confirmation of the third violation, the student shall lose all eligibility for one (1) calendar year. If after the third violation the student on his/her own volition becomes a participant in a certified chemical dependency program or treatment program, the student may be eligible for reinstatement in MSHSL activities after a minimum period of nine (9) weeks. Approval of reinstatement shall be by the Dassel-Cokato Activities Review Board. Certification of successful completion must be issued by the director or counselor of a certified chemical dependency treatment center before reinstatement will be considered.
- C. Duration
 1. The rules and regulations in this code shall apply to any violations on or off school premises during the entire calendar year.
 2. Penalties shall be accumulated beginning with the 7th grade and ending at high school graduation.
- D. Serving out Violations - In order to serve out a violation in an activity, the participant must have participated in that activity within the last two school years. No violation penalty is considered served unless the season is completed by the participant in good standing.

IV. HARASSMENT

The District will not tolerate racial, religious, or sexual harassment and/or violence of any kind in classrooms, on school grounds, on school transportation, and when a participant in any school sponsored activity. School officials including the Human Rights Officer, will review all potential instances of harassment, and if the behavior is determined to be harassment, consequences will be consistent with Dassel-Cokato School District policy and Minnesota State High School League rules.

V. VACATION PRACTICES

During school vacations, of a participant's season, practice is not compulsory. However, coaches may decide to hold practices during school vacations and cooperation of coaches, students and parents/guardians is encouraged.

VI. CURFEW

The Dassel-Cokato coaches/advisers expect student participants to observe a reasonable curfew hour.

- A. This curfew will vary from sport to sport and from event to event.
- B. Failure to comply with the individual coach's/adviser's written curfew procedure may result in counseling with possible suspension.

VII. INSURANCE

The school district may be liable only for injury or damages caused primarily by the negligence of the district or its employees acting within the scope of their duties. For all other instances, the school district does not carry insurance that covers injuries to student participants or loss of property. Consequently, the parent(s)/guardian(s), and the student participant may be solely liable in the case of an accident, injury, or loss of property.

VIII. PROCEDURE

Before any "suspension" provided for under these rules shall take effect, the student and parents/guardians shall be verbally advised by either the head coach/adviser, principal and/or activities director of the alleged violation and the student will have an opportunity to explain or justify the action. If, after such conference, the head coach/adviser and administration are satisfied that a suspension is justified, the student and parents/guardians shall be notified.

- A. Appeal Procedure (for violation of policy #564 MSHSL rules, and district rules)

Student/parents/guardians may file an appeal petition with the principal. This petition will be referred to the Activities Review Board for action. This Activities Review Board will be made up of the Activities Director, one (1) head coach, one (1) school board member, and one (1) other school district administrator. Action by this Board will be final. The student/parents/guardians will have 10 calendar days to appeal the school's decision from date of violation confirmation.
- B. Appeal Procedure for Category one (MSHSL rules) The MSHSL provides a Fair Hearing Procedure for the student or parent contesting a school's failure to certify the eligibility of a student. The student or parent has 10 calendar days in which to appeal the school's decision. A complete listing of the Fair Hearing Procedure may be obtained from the activities director or principal of the high school.

IX. APPLICATION OF RULES AND REGULATIONS

- A. Category One (MSHSL sponsored activities)
 1. Any violation of Policy #564 will result in the full application of consequences as listed.
- B. Category Two (MSHSL sponsored activities)
 1. Any violation of Policy #564 will result in the full application of consequences as listed.
- C. School Programs
 1. Any violation of Policy #564 may result in the full application of consequences as listed.
- D. Administrative Discretionary Action Disclaimer

It is impossible to anticipate and address every circumstance that may occur in the course of a school year. To ensure safety and order, students and others are subject to all school rules, regulations and policies, and the reasonable and prudent interpretation thereof by responsible school officials regardless of whether or not they are specifically addressed in this policy #564.

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PARTICIPANT'S PLEDGE

I promise, on my honor, to obey all school rules and regulations, to keep myself in good physical condition, to take proper care of my equipment and to return it when called to do so, to keep up in my school work, to play hard but clean, to be loyal to the team, to conduct myself at all times in a sportsmanlike manner, and to be a credit to myself, my parents, the school district, and the communities.

Participant: I have read and understand the Student Participation Policy as prescribed by the School District.

Parent/Guardian: I have read and understand the Student Participation Policy as prescribed by the School District.

Signature of Participant

Signature of Parent/Guardian

Grade

Birth Date

Complete Address

Telephone Number