

ATHLETIC CODE OF CONDUCT FOR MILFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Being an athlete is a PRIVILEGE that involves teamwork and SELF DISCIPLINE. Parents and coaches, along with athletes themselves, compose that team. In order to have a successful team, certain regulations must be identified and understood by everyone.

The Milford Public Schools Athletic Code exists in order to provide specific guidelines to be followed by students who represent their various schools in the field of athletics. These regulations are the product of the parents, students, coaches, athletic directors and administrators from the Milford Public Schools.

All members of a team bear the responsibility for working together to help make athletics a successful experience for everyone involved. The Athletic Code of Conduct will include those written rules and regulations established for students competing as representatives of the Milford Public School system.

All students choosing to participate in athletic programs shall be given a copy of this code and, by virtue of their continued voluntary participation, shall agree to conduct themselves in accordance with the code. Whether occurring in- or out-of-season, student athletes who violate the conduct code, either on school grounds, at a school sponsored activity, or off school grounds, will be subject to progressive disciplinary action including, but not limited to, probation, suspension and permanent ineligibility for interscholastic competition in the Milford Public Schools.

A student athlete in the Milford Public Schools will not use, consume, possess or sell/distribute alcoholic beverages, cigarettes, or tobacco of any form, illegal steroids, illegal drugs, (including marijuana or paraphernalia related to the use of illegal drugs), or abuse prescription or non-prescription drugs.

The athlete will further abide by all written training rules established for the sport in which he/she is competing, and shall at all times behave in a manner that conveys respect for all individuals. Acts of harassment or hazing will not be tolerated.

In addition, a student athlete will at all times and in all situations, both as a participant and as a spectator conduct him/herself with personal integrity and honesty. Any action or behavior that necessitates the imposition of team or school discipline, or constitutes a criminal act outside the school will be viewed as a violation of the Athletic Code (See VIII b for disciplinary action).

(I) TOBACCO – ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES – DRUGS – DRUG PARAPHERNALIA – ILLEGAL STEROIDS

The use of tobacco products, alcohol, performance-enhancement drugs (including anabolic steroids), controlled substances and controlled substance analogs¹ is prohibited. Any athlete possessing, distributing, and/or using tobacco products, alcoholic beverages, illegal performance-enhancement drugs (including anabolic steroids), controlled substances or controlled substance analogs, or drug paraphernalia during the athletic school year (see Section VII C below) shall be subject to the following disciplinary actions.

1) First Violation:

- a) In season – The athlete will be suspended from the athletic program for no less than the remainder of the present sports season or up to (60) school days; whichever is greater. This penalty may carry over to subsequent sports seasons.
- b) Out of season – The athlete will be placed on probation for a minimum of fifteen (15) school days during the next season of competition in which the athlete participates; also, the athlete will miss the first interscholastic contest to follow his/her probation if no interscholastic contest should fall within the probation period.

2) Second Violation: Whether it is in season or out of season, will result in suspension from all sports in the Milford Public Schools for one calendar year (365 consecutive days) from the date of the second violation.

3) Third Violation: Again, whether in season or out of season, will result in permanent ineligibility for interscholastic competition in the Milford Public Schools.

(II) THEFT OR POSSESSION OF STOLEN PROPERTY – HAZING/HARASSMENT/CRIMINAL ACTS

The theft or possession of stolen property, engaging in hazing or any other form of harassment or any behavior constituting a crime shall result in the following penalties:

1) First Violation:

- a) In Season – The athlete will be suspended from the athletic program for no less than the remainder of the present sports season or up to sixty (60) school days; whichever is greater. This penalty may carry over to subsequent sport seasons.
- b) Out of Season - The athlete will be placed on probation for a minimum of fifteen (15) school days during the next season of competition in which the athlete participates; also, the athlete will miss the first interscholastic contest to follow this probation if no interscholastic contest should fall within probation period.

¹ a chemical with a similar structure to another but differing slightly in composition

- 2) Subsequent Violation, whether in season or out of season, will result in suspension from all sports in the Milford Public Schools for one calendar year (365 consecutive days) from the date of the violation.

(III) SCHOOL DISCIPLINE / SUSPENSION/EXPULSION

The foregoing penalties shall be in addition to any penalties which may be imposed by the school for the behavior. Any athlete involved in conduct which results in the imposition of an out-of-school suspension or expulsion by the school will be declared ineligible for the next interscholastic contest for which he/she is eligible. If an athlete is suspended or expelled from school for disciplinary reasons for any length of time, the athlete will (i) be barred from participation in athletics during the term of the suspension/expulsion and (ii) be placed on probation for up to a maximum of sixty (60) school days and (iii) miss at least the first contest following the suspension or expulsion. Subsequent suspensions/expulsion(s) will result in suspension from all sports in the Milford Public Schools for up to one calendar year (365 consecutive days). Students receiving school suspension(s)/expulsion(s) may be subject to removal from captaincy and/or leadership role of their sport(s).

(IV) COACHES' RULES

An athlete will also abide by specific written rules formulated by the coach, submitted in writing, approved by the principal, and distributed to all athletes and their parent(s)/guardian(s) at the beginning of the respective sport season.

(V) TRANSFER STUDENTS

Athletic suspensions or probations which have been imposed by other school districts on students transferring into the Milford Public Schools will be honored.

(VI) AWARDS

If an athlete is on athletic suspension at the conclusion of a sports season, the athlete will forfeit the privilege of earning a school letter, certificate or any other school athletic award for that sport season.

(VII) DEFINITIONS

- a) Athletic Probation – This is a trial period during which an athlete remains part of the team, however, is expected to correct his/her deficiencies within a prescribed time. The athlete will not be able to participate in contests involving other schools during this time.
- b) Athletic Suspension – An action that denies an athlete participation in athletics for a period of time. In cases where an athletic suspension carries over into his/her next sports season, it reverts to a probationary period provided the athlete completes that entire sports season.
- c) Crime – Means any action constituting a misdemeanor or felony under Connecticut law, or is punishable by possible imprisonment under Federal law. It does not include minor traffic violations.
- d) In Season – Begins with the first CIAC allowed practice day and ends with the awards ceremony for that sport.
- e) Out of Season – Any time not “in season”

(VIII) PROCEDURES FOR DISCIPLINARY ACTION

- a) The head coach, a building administrator and the athletic director will determine disciplinary action resulting from violation of Milford Public Schools athletic rules within five (5) school days of learning of the violation.
- b) For first violations of the tobacco, alcoholic beverages, drugs, steroids rules athletes have the option to attend drug/alcohol/tobacco assessment program.

Participation in this assessment option will not preclude a minimum athletic suspension period of fifteen (15) school days that must be completed before participation resumes.

In addition, athletes who voluntarily come forth seeking help for substance abuse problems may be granted immunity for the first offense from disciplinary sanctions under the athletic code if they go through with the assessment and enter a rehabilitation program. Athletes must provide to the athletic director sufficient written documentation evidencing enrollment and participation in such a rehabilitation program.

- c) Athletes and parents will be notified with reasons for and types of disciplinary actions. A grievance procedure, as described in the Student Athletic Handbook will be followed for any athlete excluded from a sport, if so requested in writing to the building principal or designee within five (5) school business days.

Student's signature

Date

Parent's signature

Date