

## **Meridian ISD Athletic Policies**

Meridian ISD expects the students who participate in extracurricular activities to have self discipline, responsibility, pride, loyalty, leadership, teamwork, respect for authority and healthy living habits. These activities are an integral part of the entire school experience and are meant to enhance and complete the experience.

Our coaches main responsibility for safety, welfare and development of the students that are participating in extracurricular activities. MISD gives the coaches the authority to discuss performance standards with the participants and their legal guardians as well as impose all appropriate disciplinary actions.

Involvement in an extracurricular activity shows that a student is willing to accept additional responsibilities and performance standards that are associated with extracurricular activities participants. Extracurricular activities are a privilege, not a right. MISD strives to develop good individuals who build a program we can all be proud of.

### **CONDUCT EXPECTATIONS**

1. Participants who cannot be present for a practice, meeting or event should call the coach of that sport as soon as they are aware that they will be absent or tardy. All missed meetings, practices and events will have makeup, not a punishment. participants with excessive absences may, at the discretion of the head coach, be removed from participating in the sport. A student that is absent from school for any non school related function will not be allowed to participate without prior approval. Students have to be enrolled in no fewer than three consecutive periods on the day of the contest.
2. Participants will conform to school and team dress code policies at all times.
3. Participants are to go to and return from all contests with the team unless there is prior approval and written permission from their legal guardian to do so. Students are not allowed to drive their vehicle to and from the contest.
4. Participants will conduct themselves in appropriate manner at all times. That includes, but not relegated to, opposing fans, officials and coaches.
5. Participants who are in AEP or similar settings are not allowed to participate in any UIL activity including practices.
6. Participants who receive ISS will be allowed to practice for the length of the suspension but will not be able to participate in any contest until satisfactory completion of the assignment.
7. Participants who receive off-campus suspension for disciplinary reasons will not be allowed to practice or participate during the length of their suspension. Participants will be eligible the day following the suspension and only after they have completed their makeup workouts.

8. Participants are responsible for financial reimbursement for lost or damaged school issued equipment. All personal possessions are responsibility of the participant. All items of value should be locked in the participant's locker or placed in the coaches office for safe keeping.

### **ATHLETIC PERIOD**

1. Enrollment in the athletic period is required for all athletes participating in a team sport. Individual sports are determined by a participant being able to advance to post season play on his/her own personal performance. It is the head coach of these sports determination as to whether these athletes need to be enrolled in the athletic period.
2. We strongly encourage each student to participate in every sport. An athlete that quits a sport will be allowed to participate in practices but not competitions until the previous sport has been completed. A minimum wait time to begin game competition is two weeks from the beginning of the next sport. Each head coach will set a grace period where athletes may come out for a sport to determine their interest and be allowed to leave the sport with no consequences.
3. If a student is ill of injured we do not expect them to workout but we do require them to dress out in athletic attire and rotate to the appropriate stations during practice. Any athlete with an injury that requires lost time of more than a couple of days will be required to seek medical attention and get a medical clearance before they are allowed to return to participation.

### **TARVEL**

1. We require all high school athletes participating in a team sport to travel with the team to and from out of town competitions. Individual sport participants may ride home with their legal guardian due to early completion of events of all day competitions. Also sub varsity teams where multiple games are being played may ride home with their legal guardian after the completion of their competition. Any athlete riding home with their legal guardian is required to get approval from the appropriate coach and their legal guardian must personally sign the out with the appropriate coach prior to leaving.
2. Junior High students are required to ride to all out of town competitions with the team. The athlete may ride home with their legal guardian after a contest. Any athlete riding home must get approval from the appropriate coach and their legal guardian must personally sign them out with the appropriate coach prior to leaving.
3. If a student is going to ride home with someone other than their legal guardian the coach must have written approval from the legal guardian stating who they may ride with and the appropriate date.

### **PROHIBITED CONDUCT**

Meridian ISD student athletes participating in extracurricular activities, including managers and trainers are prohibited during school, on school property and during school sponsored events from the following:

1. Possessing, smoking, selling or using tobacco products at school or on school functions.
2. Possessing, selling or using illegal drugs or alcohol
3. Engaging in conduct that contains activities relating to glue, aerosol cans or volatile mood altering chemicals.
4. Engaging in serious misbehavior, as that term is defined in the MISD Student Code of Conduct.
5. Stealing
6. Conduct that may cause injury or harm to another person or property.
7. Conduct that is grossly inappropriate
8. Hazing
9. Inappropriate touching, sexual gestures, indecent exposure, sexual harassment, or and sexual actions with another.

Meridian ISD student athletes participating in extracurricular activities including managers and trainers are prohibited after school from the following:

Conduct that results in arrest or citation including but not limited to Minor in Possession (MIP), Driving Under the Influence (DUI) or Driving While Intoxicated (DWI). Students who are cited and plead no contest will be suspended until a determination is made through law enforcement.

The Athletic Director retains the right to discipline any action not listed that he deems not in the best interest of the program or school as well as any action that puts the program, school or community in a negative light. Also any extenuating circumstances may be taken into account.

### **PROCEDURES AND DISCIPLINARY ACTION**

If the District becomes aware of an alleged violation, the District will investigate. If there is a determination of guilt, either by self admission or by the facts, then there will be consequences.

When a violation occurs the Athletic Director will meet with the coach whose sport is involved and/or the Girls Athletic Coordinator, if on the girls side, to review all facts and circumstances surrounding the particular violation. If it is determined a violation occurred the following people would then be notified:

1. The appropriate administrator
2. The student athlete
3. The legal guardian

The punishment should begin on the first day after notification on the first day after notification of a violation and should be served while school is in session or while the extracurricular activities is going on. A student that is in off-season will serve their punishment at the beginning of the next sport they participate in.

**NOTE:**

Nothing in the extracurricular activities policy limits the authority of a coach to impose additional reasonable sanctions or to consider extenuating circumstances when determining disciplinary action. These may include, but are not limited to, extra practice sessions for participants who breach team or organization conduct expectations in either the athletic, school, or community setting but do not engage in prohibited conduct.

**PUNISHMENT LEVELS**

Students who violate the "Prohibited Conduct" will be subject to the following:

First Offense

The first offense will result in a one week suspension from extracurricular activities that the participant is involved in. Suspension includes travel in a school vehicle to and from the competitions. The suspension does not include practice; however the coach may also impose a suspension on practice

Second Offense

The second offense will result in a three week suspension from the extracurricular activities that the participant is involved in. Suspension includes travel in a school vehicle to and from the competitions. The suspension does not include practice; however the coach may also impose a suspension on practice.

Third Offense

The third offense will result in expulsion from all extracurricular activities events for one calendar year from the time of the offense. At the end of the year the athlete may apply for reinstatement to the Athletic Director. Applications for reinstatement will be reviewed by a committee of the Athletic Director, High School Principal and Superintendent.