



ATHLETIC CODE

MILLINGTON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS



Competition is an integral part of our democratic society. It creates allegiance, pride and spirit within the athlete, student body, and community. Athletic competition in our public school system provides a means for the development of leadership and self-discipline for our students and is a unifying force for our community and district.

Students who accept the privilege of becoming a member of one of our teams do so with the realization that rules and regulations must be followed to remain on the team. There are standards of conduct that must be adhered to by every athlete who wears a Millington uniform.

Every behavioral expectation of athletes cannot and should not be written because each athlete must have an inner sense of what is right and wrong to remain part of the team. There are basic rules and regulations that need to be outlined and are so done here. Pride, respect and attitudes are behavioral factors which must be considered.

To accept the role of athlete, the student places on themselves an additional set of behavioral expectations that are to be followed year-round.

Student athletes are able to dual enroll, but will not be allowed to miss practices and games to go to classes. Dual enrollment is a choice by the student athlete just like playing on the team. When you play on an athletic team you make a commitment to your team and coach that you will be there, and that they can count on you.

When an athlete goes out for a sport, they are making a commitment to the team that they will remain on the team for the whole season. Millington takes quitting a sport very seriously. If a student quits a sport before the season has ended, they must meet with the Athletic Director and High School Principal to determine if they are eligible to play the next sport they wish to go out for. If deemed not to be a valid reason to quit, the student may not be able to play the next sport or they may have to sit out some of the scheduled games of the next sport.

Regulations

All incidents listed below must be reported and/or substantiated by a member of the Millington teaching, coaching or administrative staff, or any law enforcement agency.

Conduct unbecoming of an athlete

If an athlete displays behavior that is inappropriate or beyond the coverage of the class I, class II or class III violations, a committee will convene to send a recommendation of discipline to the superintendent. This committee will consist of the following: Athletic Director, High School Principal, & 2 Head Coaches (not including involved coach)

A. CLASS I

1. Prohibits the selling of any controlled substance.
2. Prohibits the possession or use of weapons in an unlawful manner.

VIOLATIONS OF CLASS I

- This will result in a forfeiture of eligibility for one calendar year.

B. CLASS II

1. Prohibits the possession or use of alcohol, tobacco, or any controlled substance, except under physician's direction.
2. Prohibits any behavior that would result in a suspension from school for more than three days with the exception of tobacco, which is covered in Class II-1

VIOLATION OF CLASS II

- A. **First offense:** Suspension from participation is consecutive contests equaling 25% of the entire schedule in the current season. If an athlete is not participating in a sport at the time of the infraction, the consequence will extend to the next sport in which the athlete participates. If a student is forthcoming about the incident, the suspension may be lowered to 10% of the entire schedule of the current sport for the current season.
- B. **Second offense:** Suspension from participation in consecutive contest equaling 50% of the entire schedule for the current season. If an athlete is not participating in a sport at the time of the infraction, the consequence will extend to the next sport in which the athlete participates.
- C. **Third offense:** Forfeiture of eligibility for the remainder of the athlete's high school career. Note: If the season ends with the sport while an athlete is on suspension, the loss of letter and awards are automatic.

C. CLASS III

1. Any team member must demonstrate respect for the officials at any event in which the team participates.
2. Each athlete must display fairness to other teams and their respective coach, regardless of what the other individuals or teams portray.
3. Each athlete must not display any misconduct including profane language, loss of temper, fighting and other irresponsible acts.
4. Each athlete will travel to and from the athletic contest on the mode of transportation authorized by the school, unless previous arrangements have been made with the building principal in writing by the parent or guardian.
5. No athlete can participate in any practice or contest if they are not in attendance the entire day of said practice or contest. Any exceptions to this must be approved by a building administrator in advance.

VIOLATION OF CLASS III

- This will be handled at the discretion of the building administration and the coach.

Due Process Procedure

This conduct code assumes that the individual coach will establish reasonable rules and regulations to govern his or her team. Any discipline resulting from violation of training and conditioning rules is the direct responsibility of the coach. But, even so, every athlete must be assured that they have an opportunity for due process.

Therefore, the following steps are established to promote a fair and equitable due process. Only hours from 8:00am Monday to 8:00pm Friday will be considered in the 48-hour window for appeal an unjust decision.

- A player who believes that a decision was unjust and fair may appeal that decision by notifying the building principal, in writing, within 48 hours of said decision. Such an appeal must be delivered during normal office hours.
- The building principal must call the review committee together to meet about the problem within 48 hours of being notified by the player, or player's parent or guardian. The committee shall consist of: Building Principal (or designee) Athletic Director Two Head Coaches (not including involved coach)
- The committee shall notify the athletes and the athlete's parents or guardian of its decision in writing within 48 hours of the close of the committee review meeting.
- The athlete or athlete's parents (or guardian) may appeal the review committee's decision to the superintendent (or designee), and then if dissatisfied to the Board of Education.
- Note: The coach's decision will remain in force during the due process steps

FUNDAMENTALS OF SPORTSMANSHIP

- Gain an understanding and appreciation for the rules of the contest.
- Exercise Representative Behavior at All Times.
- Recognize and appreciate skilled performance regardless of team affiliation.
- Exhibit respect for officials.
- Display openly a respect for opponents.
- Display pride in your actions at every opportunity.

SUGGESTIONS FOR SPORTSMANSHIP ACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOR

- Applause during introduction of players, coaches and officials.
- Shaking hands with an opponent who fouls out while both sets of fans recognize the individual's performance with applause.
- Accept all decisions of the officials.
- Cheerleaders lead fans in positive cheers.
- Handshakes between participants and coaches at the end of the contest, regardless of outcome.
- Treat competition as a game, understanding its role within the educational experience..
- Coaches/players search out opposing participants to recognize them for outstanding performance or coaching.
- Applause at the end of the contest for performance of all participants.
- Everyone showing concern for an injured player, regardless of the team.
- Encourage surrounding people to display only the best sportsman-like conduct.

UNACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOR

- Taunting, trash talk and other intimidating actions.
- Not admonishing those sitting around you who engage in the practice of poor sportsmanship.
- Yelling or waving arms during an opponent's free-throw attempt.
- Disrespectful or derogatory yells, chants, songs, or gestures.
- Booing or heckling an official's decision.
- Criticizing officials in any way; display of temper with an official's call.
- Yells that antagonizes opponents or single out players.
- Refusing to shake hands or give recognition for good performances.
- Blaming loss of a game on officials, coaches or participants.
- Laughing or name calling to distract an opponent.
- Use of profanity or displays of anger that draw attention away from the game.
- Entering the playing field/court without permission of the officials.