

## **GOOD CONDUCT POLICY/CODE**

### ***I. STATEMENT OF PHILOSOPHY***

Encouragement of Participation – The Maquoketa Valley Community School District encourages students to participate in co-curricular activities and recognizes that such activities are of significant educational benefit. These educational benefits are as follows:

- The development of good citizenship and moral character.
- The development of personal habits aimed at lifetime success.
- The promotion of the image and identity of the school and community.
- The training for successful lifelong careers.

Participation is a privilege – by legal interpretation, participation in co-curricular activities is a privilege extended to students by the citizens and taxpayers of the district.

Participation carries responsibilities – this privilege carries with it a corresponding responsibility to represent the school and community in an appropriate manner. The community recognizes that participants in co-curricular activities are respected and emulated by the community as a whole. Therefore, a Good Conduct Code is established to set forth behavioral expectations of those students involved in co-curricular activities. Those expectations shall be applicable on a year-round basis.

### ***II. COVERAGE***

If the student is currently engaged in an extracurricular activity the suspension of contests, percentage of events, or period of time to be suspended will begin immediately. If not currently participating in an extracurricular activity the suspension of contests, percentage of events, or period of time to be suspended will be carried over to the time the student seeks to go out for the next activity or contest. Students involved in multiple same season activities will be suspended in all those activities in which a suspension could be applied. If one or several activities do not have performances or events during the season the violation occurs, then there will not be any suspensions in those activities provided there was a suspension in at least one activity of the original season.

The following activities are covered by the board's policy and these rules: Athletics, instrumental, and vocal music performances, drama productions, speech contests, FFA, National Honor Society, all co-curricular and service clubs, all honorary and selected offices (e.g. Homecoming King/Queen/court, class officer, student council officer or representative), Homecoming activities, state contests and performances for spirit squad and drill team, or any other activity where the student represents the school (district) outside the classroom.

### ***III. A STUDENT WILL LOSE ELIGIBILITY UNDER THE GOOD CONDUCT RULE FOR ANY OF THE FOLLOWING BEHAVIORS:***

- possession, use, or purchase of tobacco products, regardless of the student's age;
- possession, use, or purchase of alcoholic beverages, including beer and wine;
- attending a function (without their own parent or guardian's supervision) where alcohol is present and being used by minors and the student has knowledge of such use, and does not immediately remove themselves from the situation;
- being in a vehicle where alcohol is present and the student has knowledge of such presence, and does not immediately remove themselves from the situation;
- attending a function or being in a vehicle where illegal drugs are present and the student has knowledge of such presence, and does not immediately remove themselves from the situation;

- possession, use, or purchase of illegal drugs and/or drug paraphernalia; or the unauthorized possession, use of purchase of otherwise lawful drugs;
- stealing, vandalism or other serious offenses, including those which would violate the Iowa Criminal Code, excluding minor traffic offenses, regardless of whether the student was cited, arrested, convicted, or adjudicated for the act(s).

If a student transfers from another Iowa school district and the student had not yet completed a period of ineligibility of a Good Conduct Rule in the previous school district, the student shall be ineligible if the administration determines that there is general knowledge of the student's violation in the previous district.

#### ***IV. CONSEQUENCES***

Consequences for violation of this policy will be enforced over a student's junior high school career and over his/her senior high school career. Convictions, admissions, and consequences served will not carry over from the student's junior high years to his/her senior high years. When a student is found in violation of the Good Conduct Code, the conditions of the penalty are as follows:

**1<sup>st</sup> Offense** within the student's high school career –

- The student will be ineligible to participate in ½ of an athletic season or an appropriate portion of a co-curricular activity. The student must also compete (A) and (B) below.
  - A) An appropriate evaluation session at a recognized substance abuse center or agency that is equipped to handle the problem. This will be at the student's expense.
  - B) Ten (10) hours of community service to worked off at a place other than school.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Offense** within the student's high school career –

- The student will be ineligible to participate in one full season or an appropriate portion of a co-curricular activity. The student must also compete (A) and (B) below.
  - A) Appropriate evaluation and counseling sessions at a recognized substance abuse center or agency that is equipped to handle the problem. These sessions will be conducted some place other than school and will be at the student's expense.
  - B) Twenty (20) hours of community service to be worked off at a place other than school.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Offense** within the student's high school career –

- 12 months of ineligibility from athletics and/or co-curricular activities. The student must also complete (A) and (B) below.
  - A) An appropriate evaluation and counseling sessions at a recognized substance abuse center or agency that is equipped to handle the problem. These sessions will be conducted some place other than school and will be at the student's expense.
  - B) Forty (40) hours of community service to be worked off at a place other than school.

**4<sup>th</sup> Offense** within the student's high school career –

- Permanent ineligibility to participate in all extra-curricular activities at Maquoketa Valley.

The time served toward the penalty is not credited until the student has completed the session(s) in good standing to the satisfaction of the coach or sponsor.

The period of ineligibility attaches immediately upon a finding of a violation if the student is currently engaged in an extracurricular activity and, if not, or if not completed during the current activity, is begun or carried over to the time the student seeks to go out for the next activity or contest.

#### ***V. LIFESTYLE CHANGE CLAUSE***

A student that has become permanently ineligible for extra-curricular activities can apply for reinstatement of their ineligibility after 12 months of being violation free. The Good Conduct Appeals Committee will meet for a hearing with the student to determine if the student's eligibility should be reinstated. For the student to be reinstated the following must be fulfilled:

- The student has no violation for a 12-month period.
- The student must show significant lifestyle changes.

#### ***VI. HONESTY CLAUSE (REDUCTION IN CONSEQUENCES)***

Admission Prior to Determination: if a student comes forward to a coach, administrator, or activity sponsor to admit (self report) a violation of the Good Conduct Code prior to a finding of guilt by the administration, the student's consequences may be reduced from ½ of the season to 1/3 of the season. This may be used only on the first violation.

#### ***VII. DETERMINATION OF GUILT***

A student may only be found in violation of the Good Conduct Code if any one of the following occurs.

- Admission of guilt to coach/sponsor, athletic director, or administrator.
- Report by staff member that witnessed the student committing a violation.
- Signed complaint by a credible adult who witnessed the student committing the violation.
- Notification of violation by an official of a law enforcement agency or Juvenile Court Services.

#### ***VIII. ACADEMIC CONSEQUENCES***

Unless the student violated the Good Conduct Code while on school grounds or at a school event or activity off school grounds, there will be no academic consequences (e.g. detention, suspension from school) for the violation.

#### ***IX. LETTERS AND AWARDS***

Students who are ineligible at the conclusion of an activity shall not receive a letter or award for that activity.

#### ***X. APPEALS***

Any student who is found by the administration to have violated the Good Conduct Code may appeal this determination to the Good Conduct Review Committee by contacting the Principal in writing within 3 working days of being advised of the violation. The committee will consist of two students (one of the student's choosing), two teachers (one of the student's choosing), one of the student's coaches or activity sponsors, athletic director and an administrator. The administrator will serve as the facilitator for the committee.

The committee will meet within 7 working days for a hearing with the student and/or parents/guardians. The consequences will be in effect pending the committee's decision.

If the student is still dissatisfied, he or she may appeal to the Maquoketa Valley School Board by filing a written appeal with the Board Secretary no later than three working days following the decision of the Good Conduct Review Committee. The Board Secretary will contact the student

about the date and time of the hearing with the Board.

The hearing by the Board of Directors will be in closed session, unless the student's parent(s) (or the student, if the student is 18) request an open session. The grounds for appeal to the Board of Directors are limited to the following:

- the student believes he/she did not violate the Good Conduct Code; the student believes he/she was given inadequate due process in the investigation and determination of the violation;
- or the student believes the consequences the student must experience is in violation of the Handbook Rules or Board Policy.

The consequences will remain in effect pending the outcome of the hearing with the Board of Directors. If the School Board reverses the decision of the committee, the student shall be immediately eligible and shall have any record of the ineligibility period and violation deleted from the student's record.