

**MUNCIE CENTRAL  
HIGH SCHOOL  
STUDENT  
ATHLETIC CODE OF CONDUCT**

The following policy is in line with Indiana High School Athletic Association which states "contestants' conduct, in or out of school, shall be such as (1) not to reflect discredit upon their school or the Association, or (2) not to create a disruptive influence on the discipline, good order, moral or educational environment in the school. It is recognized that the principal, by the administrative authority vested in them by their school corporation, may exclude such contestants from representing their school. (Rule 8, Section 1 IHSAA By-laws)

***ATHLETIC COUNCIL***

The athletic program at Muncie Central High School will be administered by the Athletic Council. The council will consist of the Principal, Athletic Director, and the Varsity Coaching Staff.

***ATHLETIC PHILOSOPHY***

It is the sincere desire of the Athletic Council of Muncie Central High School that athletics be an enjoyable, gratifying, and rewarding experience. Participation in athletics will be a major part of the total educational experience for any student. The spirit of fair play and the will to win are valuable assets toward the development of an individual. A sound athletic program teaches the participant the value of cooperation as well as the spirit of competition. The athlete learns how to work with others for the achievement of group goals and the understanding that individual needs may be shared by a group effort.

***ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT PROFILE***

Muncie Central High School supports 20 Varsity sports that offer 32 different teams to nearly 450 students in grades 9-12. Student-athletes are coached by 47 men and women and participate in over 450 contests per year.

***ATHLETE'S RESPONSIBILITIES***

1. Adhere to policies established by the Indiana High School Athletic Association.
2. Display high standards of social behavior.
3. Promote outstanding sportsmanship.
4. Be respectful of administrators, teachers, coaches, officials, opponents, and teammates.
5. Dress with special care when attending a contest. Keep yourself neat and clean.
6. Use socially acceptable language. Profanity and obscene gestures will not be tolerated.
7. When outside of school, strive to uphold a higher image of the Southside athlete in the community.

***ELIGIBILITY***

In order to represent Muncie Central High School in any interscholastic contest or practice, an athlete must meet all eligibility requirements of the IHSAA and Muncie Central High School with an emphasis on the following:

1. Rule 4-1 AGE

A student who is or shall be twenty (20) years of age prior to or on the scheduled date of the IHSAA state finals in a sport shall be ineligible for athletic competition in that sport; a student who is nineteen (19) years of age on the scheduled date of the IHSAA state finals in a sport shall be eligible as to age for interschool competition in that sport.

2. Athletes must have received passing grades at the end of their last 9 week grading period in school (semester grades take precedence) in at least 5 solid subjects. Eligibility commences and expires one week after the end of a grading period. Athlete's who are academically ineligible may not participate in authorized contests. Athletes that pass 5 classes, but do not have a 2.0 GPA (for the grading period) are required to attend 2 study tables per week until the end of their season.

3. All athletes must have a Student-Parent-Physicians certificate (physical form) on file in the Athletic Director's office for the current school year before participating in an organized practice. The athlete is ineligible until that time. **The physical exam by an MD, DO, NP or PA must be given between April 1st and the athlete's first practice. The athlete must also have health insurance**

4. If an athlete quits a sport, he/she may not participate in another sport until that sport season is complete. Also, an athlete may not join a team after the start of the contest season in that sport unless the athlete is a move-in to our district or with the approval of the coach and athletic director. An athlete may change sports during the practice season only with the approval of the athletic director.
5. An athlete must be an active participant in ten (10) days of practice sessions before he/she may compete in an authorized contest. (2 -Girls' Golf, or 5 - if coming out from the previous sport season).
6. After an athlete has missed five (5) or more consecutive practices due to illness or injury, he/she must provide a physician's release form before he/she may continue with practices or contests. (See IHSAA Rule 9-14)
7. Athletes are encouraged to keep in close contact with their guidance counselor, and coach, in regard to dates that the ACT and SAT tests are given if planning to go to college. Selection of core courses is important in order to meet NCAA requirements for eligibility.

### ***ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION***

Athletic participation at Muncie Central High School means that an athlete will have the opportunity to practice and try-out for an athletic team. If an athlete is part of an athletic team, he/she will have the opportunity to practice and participate as a member of a team. It does not mean that every athlete will play the same amount of time or that the athlete will play at all during contests. It simply means that the athlete will have a chance to be part of a team and do whatever is necessary to help his/her team be successful.

### ***INSURANCE***

Each athlete is responsible for his/her own insurance coverage. An athlete will not be allowed to participate in contests or practice sessions without valid health insurance or a signed waiver. **The athletic department, or MCS, does not cover medical costs incurred during athletic participation.**

### ***CODE OF CONDUCT***

Conduct is a matter of self-discipline. The best performance the individual is capable of producing comes only when that individual is willing to sacrifice his/her daily habits during his/her lifetime.

The following are the minimum standards to be followed by all athletes at Central. This includes all persons connected with the various teams: cheerleaders, managers, statisticians, etc.

Using and/or having possession of alcoholic beverages, tobacco (in any form), or drugs (in any form) is regarded as a detrimental habit for all persons, not just athletes. Use of these substances will not be tolerated. We hope that by putting restrictions on the use and/or possession of these products, habits established here will be a positive learning experience that may have a carry-over value in one's life after school.

If an athlete is present at a party or gathering of people where alcohol, tobacco, or illegal drugs are being used or school rules and/or municipal laws are being violated, he/she is to leave immediately, otherwise he/she may be found guilty by association.

### ***RULES OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT***

The following rules are specific examples of conduct that would violate the Code of Conduct set forth above. Conduct that is not covered by these specific examples, but that violate the principles of the Code of Conduct is subject to disciplinary measures.

**Rule 1.** Athletes (hereafter student managers, student athletic trainers, cheerleaders, managers, statisticians, etc. are included in the term 'athletes') shall not knowingly possess, use, transmit or be under the influence of any narcotic drug, hallucinogenic drug, stimulant, depressant, anabolic steroids, marijuana, counterfeit caffeine pills or possess, use or transmit paraphernalia for use of such substances. (Use of an authorized drug as prescribed by a registered physician shall not constitute a violation of this rule). Athletes shall not partake, in any degree, or be in possession of alcoholic beverages or tobacco products.

**Consequence:** A student knowingly violating the substance abuse rules, that is, knowingly possessing, using, transmitting or being under the influence of any narcotic drug, hallucinogenic drug, amphetamine, barbiturate,

marijuana, or drug intoxicant of any kind or found to be partaking or in possession of alcohol or tobacco products, on the **first offense**, will be automatically suspended from participation in athletic contests and from the team or squad in which the student is participating for a minimum of **25% of the contests** for such team or squad. Practice for an athlete who is under suspension is at the discretion of the coach. The **second offense** will result in suspension from participation in athletics for a minimum of one (1) calendar year (12 months) from the day the infraction is confirmed with no practice allowed with any squad or team. A **third offense** will result in a **permanent suspension** from athletics.

**Rule 2.** Felonies, misdemeanors, and acts of delinquency

**Consequence:** Any athlete arrested or detained as a juvenile (or adult), on such a charge, will be suspended from participation pending investigation of the incident. **Conviction** of a **felony**, at any time, shall exclude the student-athlete from athletic participation for a minimum of **one full year (12 months)** from the day the violation is confirmed. Conviction of a misdemeanor shall be subject to athletic suspension for a minimum of **25% of the contests** on the **first offense** with practice at the discretion of the coach. The **second misdemeanor offense** will bring an athletic suspension for a minimum of **one (1) calendar year (12 months)** as stated in rule one. A **third misdemeanor offense** will result in a **permanent suspension** from the athletic program.

**Rule 3.** Athletes shall not commit acts of vandalism and/or theft.

**Consequence:** The **first offense** will result in automatic suspension from participation in athletics and from the squad or team for **25% of the contests** for such team or squad. Practice for the athlete is at the discretion of the coach. **Second offense** will result in athletic suspension for a minimum of **one (1) calendar year (12 months)** from the day the violation is confirmed.

**Rule 4.** Any athlete who is in **violation of school rules** such as truancy, suspension, classroom disruption or other punishable acts will be disciplined by the already established school rules. The athlete may be further dealt with within the structure of each coach's rules for their sport. *If an athlete is suspended out-of-school, for any reason, they will be ineligible for all contests and practices during the term of his/her suspension.*

**Rule 5.** Attendance at **social events** (parties, dances, etc.) is up to the athlete and parents. However, athletes are expected to leave social events immediately where there is illegal use of chemical substances, alcohol or tobacco. Failure to do so implies guilt and violators will be subject to athletic suspension for a minimum of **10% of the contests on the first offense**. The **second or succeeding offense** will bring automatic suspension from his/her athletic team for a minimum of **25% of the contests**. Practice is at the discretion of the coach.

**Rule 6.** Specific **team rules** may be put forth by the coach of each sport. These rules and the penalties attached will be given to the athletes by the coach at the first meeting or practice of that sport. These written rules will be on file with the Athletic Director, and will not supersede the Muncie Central Athletic Code of Conduct.

**Rule 7. Hazing**

- Hazing will not be tolerated under any circumstances.
- Definition – Hazing is any humiliating or dangerous activity expected of someone to join or remain a member of a group, regardless of that person's willingness to participate.

Permission, consent or assumption of risk by an individual subjected to hazing does not lessen the prohibition contained in this policy, and the implied or expressed consent of a person or persons to hazing shall not be a defense to discipline under this policy.

- Reporting requirement – School personnel, including lay coaches and volunteer coaches, who become aware of hazing shall report such incidents immediately to the principal or athletic director so that the incident can be promptly investigated and so that appropriate action can be taken.

School personnel who become aware of hazing and fail to report it to the principal or athletic director may be subject to appropriate disciplinary action.

Students who observe hazing and fail to report the hazing to school officials may face disciplinary action for conspiring to engage in hazing.

- Investigation – school officials will examine the totality of the circumstances in determining whether a particular activity constitutes hazing and warrants discipline under this policy. As a general test, students and school officials should consider the following questions in determining whether an activity could be prohibited under this policy.
  - a. Is the activity an educational experience?
  - b. Does the activity promote or conform to the values of the school?
  - c. Will the activity increase the respect for the school and the individuals participating?
  - d. Do current, new or prospective members participate together equally in the activity?
  - e. Would students be willing to allow parents, community members, school officials or the media to witness the activity?
  - f. Would students and/or faculty be able to defend the activity in a court of law?
  - g. Does the activity have value in and of itself?
  - h. Is the activity illegal?

### **Rule 8. Social Media/Networking**

Student-athletes are responsible for all information contained in written or electronic (i.e. e-mail) and any information posted on a public domain (i.e. Internet, chat rooms, blogs, Facebook, YouTube, My Space, Twitter, etc). Inappropriate, embarrassing or disrespectful information or pictures should not be posted in any public domain. Student-athletes are not precluded from participation in online social networks: however, student-athletes should be reminded that they serve as representatives of their team, the athletic program and Muncie Central High School.

Texting, tweeting and uses of other social networks to disparage or criticize the team, teammates, other students, opponents, coaches or other school personnel is inappropriate behavior and unbecoming of a Muncie Central High School student-athlete. Any individual identified on a social networking site which depicts illegal or inappropriate behavior, due to the Code of Conduct or any other policy, will be considered in violation and subject to athletic discipline or suspension per policy guidelines.

Examples of inappropriate and offensive behaviors concerning participation in online communities may include, but are not limited to, depictions or presentations of the following:

1. Posting photos, videos, comments or posters showing the personal use of alcohol and tobacco (i.e. holding cups, cans, shot glasses, etc).
2. Posting photos, videos and comments that are of a sexual nature. This includes links to websites of pornographic nature and other inappropriate material.
3. Posting pictures, videos, comments or posters that condone drug related activity. This includes, but is not limited to, images that portray the personal use of marijuana and other illegal drugs and paraphernalia.
4. Demeaning other athletes and/or coaches, Muncie Central or otherwise.

Consequence: Any student-athlete who is in violation of the Social networking policy will, on the first offense, be automatically suspended from participation in athletic contests and from the team or squad in which the student is participating for a minimum of **25% of the contests** for such team or squad. Practice for an athlete who is under suspension is at the discretion of the coach. The **second offense** will result in suspension from participation in athletics for a minimum of one (1) calendar year (12 months) from the day the infraction is confirmed with no practice allowed with any team or squad. A **third offense** will result in a permanent suspension from athletics.

For your own safety, please keep the following recommendations in mind as you engage in social networking:

1. Set your security setting so that only your friends can view your profile.
2. You should not post your e-mail, home address, local address, telephone number(s) or other personal information as it could lead to unwanted attention, stalking, identity theft, etc.
3. Be aware of who you add as a friend on your site – many people are looking to take advantage of student-athletes or to seek connection with student-athletes.
4. Consider how the above behaviors can be reflected in all social media applications.

Be aware that potential current and future employers and college admissions offices often access information you place on on-line social networking sites. You should think about any information you post which could potentially provide an image of you to a prospective employer or school. The information is considered public information. Protect yourself by maintaining a self-image that you can be proud of years from now.

## **Rule 9. Cell Phones and Cameras**

Cell phones and cameras may not be used inside a locker room for any purpose. This means no texting, no calling and obviously no pictures or videos. The use of cell phones, regardless if it has a built-in camera or not, is not permitted in the locker room at any time. **NO EXCEPTIONS TO THE RULE.** This rule applies to all players, managers and coaches (coaches may use a cell phone in their office, not the locker room). A violation of this rule will result in immediate penalty, which could include dismissal from the team. If a photograph is taken, the matter may be turned over to legal authorities for possible prosecution. Should an athlete receive a call or text while (s)he is in the locker room, (s)he should take the phone (still in the backpack, book bag, gym bag, etc) out to the hall or outside the building before use. **CAMERAS AND PHONES MAY NOT BE IN USE OR OUT IN VIEW IN THE LOCKER ROOM FOR ANY REASON.**

**If the offense, to any of these rules, occurs while an athlete is out of his/her sport season, the appropriate penalty will be administered at the beginning of the athlete's next sport season.**

**The cause of suspension for all of the above listed offenses will be by established charges by police officials, members of the Athletic Council, members of the faculty, staff or administration, parents (of the athlete), or by admission of the athlete.**

### **SELF-REPORT CLAUSE**

It is the intent of Muncie Central High School to assist students with developing responsibility for their actions and to encourage honesty. Therefore, any athlete who voluntarily reports on him or her self as to a violation of the Code of Conduct before being reported by some other means will be permitted leniency **on the first offense only** (with the exception of a felony charge). This student will pay a lesser penalty for the infraction than stated; they will not be permitted to participate in a number of contests equal to 10% or at least one contest of the sport season they are in or will be in. *In cases of substance abuse, the self-reporting athlete must participate in a substance abuse awareness program with a qualified professional to receive the benefit of this clause.* This Self-Report clause can be used only once during the student's four-year career.

### **COMPLETING A SUSPENSION**

Athletes that are suspended for a violation of athletic or school rules shall not be permitted to dress as a member of a team at an athletic contest. Coaches may require that suspended players travel with, and sit with, the team at athletic events. The athlete will be allowed to practice at the discretion of the coach and depending on the severity of the suspension. Since the captain or co-captain of a team is expected to lead by example, the suspension of a captain or co-captain will result in the relinquishing of that position for the remainder of the sport season and the forfeiture of any awards given for that position.

The Athletic Council strongly recommends that all athletes who have been suspended for a violation of the training rules seek appropriate counseling during their suspension.

### **CARRY-OVER SUSPENSION**

If the violation of the Code occurs in the last part of a sport season, and the violator cannot fulfill the terms of his/her suspension, the suspension does carry-over until the suspension is fulfilled. This includes their next sport season or the same sport the next year. (i.e. if the suspension is for two football games with only one remaining, the athlete must also miss the first basketball game or wrestling match or baseball game until the suspension has been served. If a typically one-sport athlete elects to participate in a new sport in order to serve a suspension, he/she will be required to complete this season in good standing.

### ***DUE PROCESS PROCEDURES***

All athletes that have been disciplined have the right to appeal their case. It is the genuine hope of the Athletic Council that all problems can be resolved at the lowest possible level. If that is not the situation, the case could be appealed to the Athletic Council. The Athletic Council would review the case and make a recommendation to the Principal. The decision of the Principal to support or reject the recommendation could be appealed to the Superintendent. The decision of the Superintendent could be appealed to the Board of School Trustees.

## ***ATTENDANCE***

An athlete **MUST** be in attendance the entire day; otherwise, the athlete is ineligible for practice or contest that same day. Students who are ill on Friday and/or absent from school and who wish to compete in a Saturday practice or contest must have the approval of the Principal or his designee in order to practice or compete in a contest on Saturday

## ***LENGTH OF SEASON***

The sport season starts with the first day of practice and officially ends after the Awards Night Program for the sport season. (Ex. - Spring sports that end after the awards program, will end at the conclusion of the season).

## ***AWARDS SYSTEM***

To be eligible for an award, an athlete must meet all criteria and successfully complete his/her sport season. Any or all requirements may be waived for an athlete who is injured for any portion of a sport season.

Freshman Award	Certificate (5x7)
JV Award	Certificate (8x10)
1 <sup>st</sup> Varsity Award	Letter/Chevron/Certificate
2 <sup>nd</sup> Varsity Award	Certificate (8x10)/Chevron/Numerals <u>*(if 2<sup>nd</sup> varsity in same sport, if not already received/Right to order jacket if 2<sup>nd</sup> in same sport/3 overall</u>
3 <sup>rd</sup> Varsity Award	Certificate (8x10)/Chevron/ <u>Numerals if 3<sup>rd</sup> letter overall</u>
4 <sup>th</sup> Varsity Award	Plaque (5x7)/Certificate/Chevron
5 <sup>th</sup> Varsity Award	Certificate (8x10)/Chevron
6 <sup>th</sup> Varsity Award	Certificate (8x10)/Chevron
7 <sup>th</sup> Varsity Award	Certificate (8x10)/Chevron
8 <sup>th</sup> Varsity Award	Certificate (8x10)/Chevron
9 <sup>th</sup> Varsity Award	Picture on Wall of Fame**/Certificate (8x10)/Chevron
10 <sup>th</sup> Varsity Award	Blanket/Certificate (8x10)/Chevron
11 <sup>th</sup> Varsity Award	Desk Clock/Certificate (8x10)/Chevron
12 <sup>th</sup> Varsity Award	Watch/Certificate (8x10)/Chevron

All awards previously earned at Muncie Southside will transfer to Muncie Central. The athlete will then begin earning awards based on the above criteria. This is the same as any athlete that transfers in from another school district.

\*Numerals with 2<sup>nd</sup> Varsity Award in the same sport or 3<sup>rd</sup> overall Varsity Award.

\*\*A copy of the senior's yearbook picture will be used for the Wall of Fame plaque unless the student wants to provide a different picture.

Manager awards will not be applicable to the Wall of Fame.

An athlete who participates in the same sport for 4 years will receive a varsity award as a Senior, as long as they complete the season in good standing and meet the Coach/AD expectations for that sport.

## ***DISTRIBUTION OF AWARDS***

All awards will be distributed at the Sports Awards Program for that season

All awards granted to individuals become the property of that individual.

The coaches of each sport will submit a list of all athletes to the Athletic Director for recommendation for awards.

## ***AWARDS NIGHT***

All high school athletic awards will be presented following the sport season in which they were earned at an Awards Night Banquet. The purpose of Awards Night is to honor our athletes in front of their peers. **In order to receive awards, it will be mandatory that athletes be in attendance.** Unless prior notification is given and approved by the Athletic Director, any athlete not in attendance will not receive their certificate award until the next program. **An athlete who misses an Awards Program without pre-approved permission will forfeit any special award for that sport season.**

**Athletes are expected to dress nicely and school rules concerning dress and hats will be enforced.**

## ***GOOD STANDING WITH THE SCHOOL AND ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT***

In order for an athlete to receive any awards, they must be in good standing with the school and the athletic department by having all equipment that he/she has been issued turned in for that sport season. They must have all financial obligations to the school and the athletic department paid prior to receiving awards. Final approval for any awards will be given by the Principal and the Athletic Director.

All athletic equipment is the property of Central High School. All equipment must be turned in promptly when called for, and missing items paid for at that time. **An athlete who neglects to turn in athletic equipment will be considered ineligible for further participation in the Central athletic program and all awards will be withheld until equipment is returned.**

**Athletes that do not pay for their lost uniforms or equipment will have the amount owed turned over to collections at the conclusion of the year.**

Athletic equipment issued by the department may only be worn or used at athletic contests.

## ***PARTICIPATION IN TWO SPORTS IN THE SAME SEASON***

Athletes may participate in two sports in the same season. However, each coach must be in agreement, and make arrangements for the athlete concerning practices and contests. **Athletes will only receive credit for one varsity sport during that season. At the awards program they will receive the same level of award in each sport.**

**An athlete may not accumulate more than 12 varsity letters in his/her career.**

## ***MORAL CONDUCT AND BEHAVIOR***

Any athlete who fails to uphold the conduct and behavior set forth by the school and the athletic department, and who is insubordinate of the administration and/or coaches will forfeit any right to receive awards.

## ***PARTICIPATION IN OTHER SCHOOLS***

If a student transfers to Muncie Central, participation in his/her former school or schools shall be counted towards the honor jacket, blanket or Hall of Fame awards, but he/she must meet the stipulations set forth in the Muncie Central Athletic Policy. The athlete may also be required to furnish written proof of his/her previous awards at the other schools attended.

\*\* If a student-athlete has a signed Code of Conduct card on file in the athletic office, he/she will not need to sign another one during high school participation.

**ATHLETIC CODE OF CONDUCT**  
***MUNCIE CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL***

I have read, and agree to abide by the Athletic Code of Conduct at Muncie Central High School. This signed statement will be kept on file until I am no longer a student at Muncie Central High School. The effective date will be the date signed.

GRADUATION YEAR \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_  
(Student)

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

I have read, and understand the Athletic Code of Conduct for Muncie Central High School.

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_  
(Parent/Guardian)

DATE \_\_\_\_\_