

# Mercer Titans Athlete's Handbook

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## **MERCER COUNTY SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETE HANDBOOK**

### **Titan Athlete Philosophy**

Participating in Titan Athletics is a *privilege* and not a right. You must earn the opportunity to participate through good behavior, good grades, having a great attitude, and showing respect to your peers and adults. Remember, while you are representing Mercer County as an athlete you are also expected to uphold the highest standards of sportsmanship. You shall exemplify classiness and above all show others that you are a part of a great team and program.

*Failure to buy into this philosophy will result in your removal from the athletic program.*

### **Sportsmanship**

You are expected to always show good sportsmanship on and off the field to players, coaches, and officials.

### **Athletic Seasons & Facilities**

The length of the season is determined by KHSAA dates. A person is a participant of that sport if he/she dresses out for the first scrimmage game, regular game or match. A participant of one sport cannot quit and participate on another sport until the last regular season contest is over for the first sport. The same rule applies if a student is kicked off of a team for disciplinary actions. Extenuating circumstances can be evaluated by a committee of the coaches involved, athletic director, and building principal.

### **Athlete's Dress Code/Conduct**

Shirts must be worn at all times. T-shirts that are not allowed at school are not allowed at practice. (Refer to student handbook) Language should be conducted during practice and contests as if the student were in the classroom. Profanity is not acceptable. Jewelry, including body piercing, should not be worn during practice or game sessions. Punishment for the violation of these rules is up to the coach. All students are encouraged to represent their school in a positive way.

### **Academic Requirements**

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The same academic guidelines required by the KHSAA will be required of all sports at MCSHS. Currently under modified block scheduling a student must be passing at least 4 of 6 or 4 of 7 classes. A middle school student participating on the high school team must be passing at least 2/3 of their respective classes. It is recommended that a high school counselor meet with each team at the beginning of the season to discuss the college admissions process. The coach may set up these meetings.

## **Attendance**

Students must be in attendance at school in order to participate in a game during the week. Exception will be made for Dr. appointments and other extenuating circumstances. These circumstances must be approved by the principal or athletic director.

## **ISAP**

Students cannot participate in school athletic contests on the days they are assigned to ISAP or suspended from school. A student can practice on the same day that he/she was in ISAP, but not during suspensions. The school administration will have a list of athletes and contact the coach or athletic director when an athlete is in ISAP.

## **Athletic Insurance**

The Mercer County School District provides a "secondary" insurance coverage for all students. All parents/guardians must sign the insurance memorandum stating that they understand the coverage of the policy prior to their child's participation in athletics.

If an athlete is injured then the athletic director must oversee the completion of the insurance claim form. The head coach must complete an accident report of the injury within 24 hours and submit it to the athletic director for documentation.

## **Disciplinary Actions**

### **In and Out of Season Activities**

The season is determined by the KHSAA, which specifies the beginning practice dates and the length of the season. If a team is together out of season (such as summer basketball camps) then actions taken will be determined by the coach. All KHSAA rules must be followed regarding out-of-season gatherings.

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## **Drug & Alcohol Usage During the Season**

In accordance with KRS 158.150, the current board of education and school policy for drug and alcohol use at school or at school-sponsored events will be enforced. In addition the following actions will be taken:

First offense: Removal from team competition until the completion of a counseling program. He/she can practice with the team when suspension, which is designated by administration and coach, is completed but cannot compete in any contest until the completion of the counseling program.

Second offense: No athletic competition of any kind for the remainder of the current school year.

## **Drug & Alcohol Usage Out of Season**

Addressed individually with the athlete, athlete's parents or guardians, coach, and athletic director.

In an effort to maintain and expect behavior standards for all student participants in any or all extra or co-curricular activities that are sponsored/endorsed by Mercer County Senior High School the following arrest policy is proposed.

1. All head coaches/sponsors shall have rules that address the consequences of being arrested on criminal offenses that shall include, but not limited to, drug and alcohol charges.
2. If a student participating in extra or co-curricular activities is arrested during the school year (or from the first day of practice or meetings), the student is immediately suspended from participating until the student, a parent/guardian, director of extracurricular activities and head coach/sponsor meet. At the meeting the infraction of rules and penalties imposed will be discussed and appropriate counseling/action will be required.
3. Any student arrested a second time during the school year (or from the first day of practice or meetings) and convicted by the courts, will be suspended from any further participation in an Mercer County Senior High School extra or co-curricular activities for the remainder of the school year.
4. If the student or parent (guardian) request an appeal of the decision the appeal will be heard by the principal of Mercer County Senior High School.

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## **Random Drug Testing Policy**

The Mercer County Board of Education has approved a Random Drug Testing Policy for both students and staff (certified & classified). This policy is intended to support the comprehensive educational policies and programs of the District in educating students, parents/guardians, as well as staff, as to the dangers inherent in the unlawful use of drugs. This policy is further intended to provide encouragement to middle and high school students who voluntarily choose to participate on athletic teams, in extracurricular activities, and/or to drive or park on school property to avoid such use and to strive to benefit from effective rehabilitation when such use has occurred.

In the event that a student participant's or driver's urine specimen produces a positive result, the principal, athletic director, and the sponsor shall meet with the student participant or driver, and the student's parent/guardian, if the student is under the age of 18, to disclose and discuss the test results and the consequences set forth by policy

## **Tobacco Usage During Season**

If caught during school all school rules apply. Individual sport penalties will be established by the coaching staff and presented to the athletic director prior to the season.

STUDENTS

09.3 AP.1

## **Fan/Participant Conduct Guidelines**

For the purpose of this procedure "spectators" are those individuals not employed by the Mercer County School District. All certified and classified personnel of the District shall be governed by 16 KAR 1:020, as well as applicable District policies and procedures.

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These sportsmanship expectations and guidelines have been endorsed by the high school administration and SBDM Council.

The goal of the Mercer County Schools is to promote excellence in a positive academic, social and extracurricular environment that emphasizes equity, diversity, safety and respect.

These guidelines shall apply to students, parents, players, coaches, staff, and spectators of any event held at or sponsored by the Mercer County Schools, to include any academic, social, extracurricular and/or athletic activities.

No action by a parent, student, spectator, player, coach, staff member, administrator or official that downgrades, embarrasses or ridicules others shall be tolerated or encouraged. Persons employed by or affiliated with the school system shall conduct themselves as an exemplary role model for their peers and the community.

Failure to demonstrate acceptable behavior at academic, social, extracurricular and/or athletic activities, and/or cooperate and comply with school administration shall result in a request to leave the school premises. If there are repeated instances of unacceptable behavior, a permanent exclusion from school events may be enforced. The following behaviors are considered unacceptable;

1. Verbally berating others including, but not limited to, players, coaches or officials.
2. Disrespectable or derogatory gestures, yells, chants, songs, etc.
3. Use of profane or obscene language, displays of anger or gestures and/or racial/cultural slurs.
4. Any use of physical violence or the threat of physical violence directed at players, coaches, officials or spectators.
5. Yells and actions that antagonize the opponent's players or spectators.
6. The use of any noisemaker.
7. The use of unacceptable items such as signs, confetti or streamers.
8. Any contact with game officials and support staff (i.e. timekeeper, scorekeeper, etc.)
9. Entering the playing area while occupied by the teams, which also includes sidelines and team bench areas.

Failure to follow these guidelines may result in a reprimand or warning as well as temporary or an indefinite ban from any academic, social, extracurricular or athletic activity held at or sponsored by the District.

Review/Revised:4/8/08

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## **Athlete and Parent/Guardian Contract**

I have read and understand the expectations set forth in this handbook. Failure to comply with the expectations will result in disciplinary action and could ultimately result in my removal from the team.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Athlete

\_\_\_\_\_  
Athlete's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## **Parental/ Guardian Expectations**

I understand that as a parent/ guardian, I am to reinforce and uphold the standards set forth by Mercer County Senior High School to ensure my child has the best possible experience while participating in athletics. I will also demonstrate a high level of sportsmanship to players, other parents, coaches, and officials during home and away contest. I also understand that failure to comply will result in an official police escort out of the athletic venue and my attendance at other athletic venues will be denied. If this is further a problem the status of my child's athletic eligibility to participate will be jeopardized.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Parent / Guardian

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Signature

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Name of Parent / Guardian

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Signature

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Name of Parent / Guardian

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