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INTRODUCTION

Activities supplement the secondary curriculum program, and as such, become a vital part of a student's total educational experience. This handbook is given to you so that you may make an informed decision about the programs that are available to you. We encourage you to take part in as many activities as your time and talents allow.

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Activities Handbook is to inform students and parents of rules and regulations affecting activities.

PHILOSOPHY

The activities program provides opportunities above and beyond the basic curriculum of the regular classroom. As an integral part of the educational program, activities provide supplemental experiences and help students acquire additional knowledge, skills, and emotional patterns necessary as attributes of good citizenship. This program should provide educational and social experiences that will help develop young men and women physically, mentally and emotionally.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITY

It is the student's responsibility to know and understand the rules for the activity participation. Failure to follow the rules could result in consequences outlined in this handbook.

MSHSAA

Aurora School District is a member of the Missouri State High School Activities Association. The purpose of this organization is to promote, develop, direct, protect and regulate amateur interscholastic activities between member schools and to stimulate fair play, friendly rivalry, and good sportsmanship among contestants, schools, and communities throughout the state.

SPORTSMANSHIP EXPECTATIONS

Sportsmanship involves fair play, courtesy, and respect for both the activity and opponents. The values of activities should last a lifetime. We are asking for your support to promote sportsmanship by emphasizing what is expected as competitors or spectators at any activity/contest/event. Such events are an extension of the school day and we expect the same type of respectful behavior exhibited in the activities/contest/events as we do in a regular classroom. We ask students, spectators, and parents to support sportsmanship, ethics, and integrity at all times.

HOUN DAWG PLEDGE

We feel the parents, coaches and fans play a vital role in the development of student athletes, therefore, we (the community of Aurora) believe in the following:

- We must be a positive role model through your own actions to make sure every child has the best athletic experience.
- Be a "team fan", not a "my kid" fan.
- Please communicate with the coaches, don't just take hearsay as the absolute truth.
- Show respect for the opposing players, coaches, spectators and support groups.
- Be respectful of all official's decisions.

- Don't instruct athletes during a game, because it may conflict with the coach's plans and strategies.
- Praise student-athletes in their attempt to improve themselves as students, as athletes and as people.
- Gain an understanding and appreciation for the rules of the contest.
- If you as a parent, have a concern, take time to talk with the coaches in an appropriate manner including proper time and place. Be sure to follow the designated chain of command.
- Please reinforce our drug and alcohol free policies by refraining from the use of any controlled substance before and during athletic contests.
- Remember that a ticket to a school athletic is a privilege to observe the contest.

PARTICIPATION GUIDELINES

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

All students participating in the activities program must meet the requirements of the Missouri State High School Activities Association and the requirements of the Aurora R-8 academic and conduct eligibility standards. All students must meet the residence and transfer of enrollment requirements of the MSHSAA. All students must meet MSHSAA criteria: pass a minimum of 3.0 units of credit the previous semester or 80% of the maximum available credit and maintain creditable citizenship. Under certain conditions/restrictions up to one unit of credit from summer school may be counted toward activity eligibility. In addition, all students must meet Aurora R-8 eligibility criteria.

A: HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

9th Grade and Transfer Students

Transfer students must meet MSHSAA transfer guidelines in order to eligible.

9th through 12th Grades

Students will be ineligible to participate in activities if:

1. they did not receive 3.0 credits in the previous semester or 80% of the maximum credits available. (MSHSAA=1 semester ineligibility)

ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES

Any student who participates in Aurora High School activities must pass 3.0 units of credit the preceding semester to be eligible to compete in activities sponsored by the Missouri State High School Activity Association (MSHSAA). The eligibility policy DOES NOT apply to participation in ceremonial events such as prom, graduation, school sponsored honorary banquets, or honorary awards ceremonies. Eligibility will be determined as follows:

The following eligibility standards will apply to all extra-curricular and co-curricular activities:

1. If a student receives more than one F on any 3 week grade check, he/she is ineligible until the next 3 week grading period. If the student is not failing more than one class when the next 3 week grades are due, he/she will become eligible on the day the failing list is posted. If the student is still failing more than one class he/she remains ineligible until the next 3 week grade period.
2. A student who has more than one F at the end of the fourth quarter will be ineligible until first 3 week grades of the first quarter are posted for the next school year. If grades are satisfactory at that time (i.e. no more than one F), he/she will be eligible.

3. If a student fails two classes at the end of the fourth quarter, he/she may become eligible in the fall by successfully completing one core course in summer school. Failure in more than two classes would render the student ineligible by MSHSAA standards.
4. MSHSAA Eligibility Standard: Students must be enrolled in courses offering 3.0 units of credit and must have passed 3.0 units of credit the previous semester in order to be eligible.

Coaches and sponsors are encouraged to become involved with students in an effort to raise their grades. Those students who are failing any class and wish to participate in activities will be encouraged to attend tutoring sessions in an effort to raise their grades to a passing level. If a student is in a MSHSAA sponsored sport or activity and wishes to drop a course, the student must have a passing grade. If the student is failing the course, one of the following will occur:

- (1) The grade must be raised to passing before a schedule change can be considered, or
- (2) The student will be ineligible until the end of the semester.

TRANSFER STUDENTS

Students new to the district must meet MSHSAA rules for transferring schools/school districts.

SPECIAL SERVICES STUDENTS

All special serves students must comply with published MSHSAA guidelines for participation.

ATTENDANCE (Regular school day)

Students must be in school the day of the contest for ALL HOURS (1-7). ANY absence for any period on the day of the contest must be excused by the Principal/Assistant Principal in order for the student to be eligible for competition.. Parents must contact the Principals office to verify legitimate reason for the absence.

PHYSICAL EXAMINATIONS

EVERY ATHLETE MUST HAVE A CURRENT VALID PHYSICAL BEFORE they are allowed to practice. Physicals obtained after Feb. 1 of the current year are valid for the next school year.

INSURANCE

Athletes are required to provide their own health insurance. **THE SCHOOL DOES NOT PROVIDE INSURANCE.** Parents/guardians may purchase insurance thru private carrier. Forms are available at school. Parents are asked to verify coverage on physical form. **No one may practice or participate without insurance coverage.** If insurance lapses during the school year it is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to notify the school.

SUSPENSIONS

ISS – In School Suspension

OSS – Out of School Suspension

Students are not allowed to practice or participate in games if they have OSS. ISS students may practice and play.

CONDUCT AT EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Our expectation of extra curricular activities is that they are educational in nature (will contribute to the accepted aims of education) and of benefit to participants. Each school is responsible for the conduct of its teams, students, coaches, and fans at both home and away contests. Any player, coach, student, or fan ejected from a contest may be prohibited from playing/attending the next contest at the same level. Coaches should inform building activity director of any ejection or flagrant foul as soon as possible. Activity director will conference with individual as soon as possible.

PARENT/COACH COMMUNICATION PROCEDURES

I. Communication you should expect from your child's coach

- A. Philosophy of the coach
- B. Expectations the coach has for all team members
- C. Locations and times of practices and contests
- D. Team requirements, i.e., fees, special equipment, off-season conditioning
- E. Procedure should your child be injured during participation

II. Appropriate concerns to discuss with coaches

- A. The treatment of your child, mentally or physically
- B. Ways to help your child improve
- C. Concerns about your child's behavior
- D. How your child can help the team to be competitive

III. Issues not appropriate to discuss with coaches

- A. Playing time (rationale for playing time may be requested)
- B. Team strategy
- C. Play calling
- D. Other student/athletes

Note: There are situations that may require a conference between the coach and the parent. It is important that both parties involved have a clear understanding of the other's position. When these conferences are necessary, the following procedure should be followed to help promote a resolution to the issue of concern.

IV. If you have a concern to discuss with the coach, please use the following procedures

- A. The student athlete must bring the issue to the coach's attention
- B. If the issue needs further attention, contact the coach during his/her planning period to get clarification or to set up a meeting
- C. Please do not attempt to confront a coach before or after a contest or practice

V. What can a parent do if the meeting with the coach did not provide a satisfactory resolution?

- A. Call during school hours and set up an appointment with the Athletic Director to discuss concerns
- B. At this meeting the appropriate next step can be determined

CITIZENSHIP STANDARDS

Participation in student activities is a privilege and a not a right; therefore, the Aurora School District requires students to adhere to standards of behavior which will bring credit to students, the particular activity, the school, and the community. Students who represent the Aurora School District must demonstrate good citizenship and conduct at all times. The Aurora School District requires student behavior be in compliance with school board policy, with the school's Student Handbook Regulations, and public laws. Behavior not in compliance with these policies may result in student's suspension from all extra-curricular activities.

CHEMICAL ABUSE

We recognize that the use of mood altering chemicals poses a significant health problem for many adolescents. The effects can be detrimental to the physical and emotional welfare of students. Chemicals adversely affect extra curricular participation and the development of related skills.

Activities are an extension of school and all regular school rules and regulations are applicable. Rules for activity participants are stricter and are enforced in and out of school. In addition, violations involving tobacco, alcohol, and mood-altering chemicals will result in suspension from activities. Penalties are cumulative for the student's entire High School career. (Example, student has tobacco violation during volleyball 9th grade and an alcohol violation in 11th grade basketball, the student will have incurred their 2nd violation.) The following penalties will be enforced:

- A. Tobacco:
First violation: Suspended from 10% of maximum number of allowable contests
Second violation: Suspended 365 days from date of infraction

- B. Alcohol:
First violation: Suspended from 20% of maximum number of allowable contests
Second violation: Suspended 365 days from date of infraction

- C. Illicit chemicals/Illegal substances
First violation: Suspended from 20% of maximum number of allowable contests
Second violation: Suspended 365 days from date of infraction

SPORTS SEASON

Any student who is on the eligibility list of a team may not begin (participate in) the next sport season until the previous season is officially over (last contest). All obligations need to be cleared before the next season's practice begins. The athlete will not be allowed to participate in practice or games until all obligations are taken care of (i.e. – turn in equipment, pay for lost equipment, etc.). Athletes are responsible for all equipment that has been check out to them.

COLLEGE BOUND ATHLETES

Athletes who wish to play sports in college at an NCAA institute are encouraged to sign up with the NCAA clearinghouse at the following website: www.web1.ncaa.org/eligibilitycenter/common/

Please sign up before you take an official campus visit that is paid for by the college or anytime before your senior year.

MISSED PRACTICE

If an athlete is to miss a practice for any reason, he/she should notify their coach in advance, if at all possible. An unexcused absence from practice may result in loss of playing time. Repeated unexcused absences will result in suspension from the team for the remainder of the season.

“SNOW DAY” PRACTICES

“Snow day” (Bad Weather) practices called by the coach and approved by the administration will always be on an optional basis for the athlete.

DROPPING A SPORT

Any athlete quitting any sport may not participate in another sport until both head coaches and the athletic administrator grant permission.

PARTICIPATION IN MORE THAN ONE SPORT IN THE SAME SEASON

An athlete may participate in more than one sport in the same season under the following conditions:

1. That the athlete chooses to participate in two sports.
2. That the parents approve.
3. That both coaches involved approve.
4. That the administration is aware of the details, and approve.

5. That the athlete designates which sport takes precedence if there is a conflict.

TRANSPORTATION/ACTIVITIES

In general, **students are required to ride school buses to and from activities.** Students are expected to return from activities the same way they go. Certain occasions may warrant consideration of some alternatives.

- A. Athletes may ride from activities only with an adult and a written parental request. **(Parents must talk with Principal/Assistant Principal or Athletic Director and/or send a note prior to departure requesting alternate transportation.)**
- B. OR, Parents may sign out their son/daughter after an away contest.

ATHLETES WILL MEET THE FOLLOWING EXPECTATIONS ON ALL ATHLETIC TRIPS:

1. Ready at the scheduled departure time.
2. No cleats or spikes on the bus.
3. No food on the bus (unless authorized).
4. Dress appropriately and properly as determined by the coach.
5. Display good citizenship.
6. Keep the bus clean. Pick up all litter after a trip.
7. Close all bus windows at the end of the trip.
8. Leave the bus in better shape than you found it.
9. Notify parents of return time.

EQUIPMENT

Students are accountable for all equipment they have checked out. Any equipment lost/stolen/abused will be charged to the student in whose name the equipment was checked out.

The following suggestions should help reduce problems with equipment:

1. Do not exchange or loan equipment.
2. Keep your locker locked at all times.
3. Report loss of equipment immediately to coach.
4. Report any defective/unfit equipment to the coach.
5. MSHSAA regulations prevent schools from loaning or selling equipment.

TEAM AWARDS/LETTERS

Students are eligible for awards. All awards require the student be a member of the team/activity at the end of the season. Activity award requirements are available from the coach/sponsor of each activity. A copy of award requirements is also available from the building activity director's office.

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The rules outlined in this handbook are the minimum standards. Each sponsor/coach may impose stricter rules for their specific activities. The coach/sponsor will provide written rules to parents/students when those rules deviate from this handbook.

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FORMS

The following forms will be required before a student may practice or perform in any athletic activity.

1. Physical and Insurance Verification, Participation Agreement.

