

# ROLLA

## ACTIVITIES DEPARTMENT

### PARTICIPATION POLICY 2021-2022

Student activities are an integral part of the total school program and provide opportunities for students to supplement their classroom experiences. **Participation in the activities program is a privilege, not a right.** School administrators may suspend student participation in activities for inappropriate conduct, regardless of whether that conduct occurs during the school day, evenings, weekends, or holidays. Inappropriate conduct includes, but is not limited to, conduct listed in this agreement, conduct in violation of rules and agreements established between students and their coaches/sponsors, conduct in violation of school district policies and procedures, or conduct in violation of MSHSSA guidelines or regulations. Although students may appeal decisions regarding student activities as set forth below, the decision to exclude or suspend student participation in an activity will not be held in abeyance while the student pursues his or her appeal.

This policy will be made available to student participants and parents through multiple avenues prior to participation in any MSHSAA sanctioned activity for the first time in a given school year. Coaches and Program Directors may distribute additional activity specific rules and policies at the beginning of each season to student participants and parents. These activity specific rules may be more restrictive than this participation policy but may not contradict. Coaches and Program Directors will discuss and clarify their expectations regarding school-wide participation policies and their particular activity's rules and commitments. Students are required to comply with these rules and may forfeit their privilege to participate if they engage in any prohibited conduct.

### General Policies

#### Required Forms & Meetings

- All forms must be completed with all required signatures. Students are to submit the following prior to being able to participate in practice or competition.
  - MSHSAA Pre-Participation Physical Evaluation Form – Valid for 2 years
  - MSHSAA Pre-Participation Documentation – Annual Requirements
  - Rolla Activities Department Participation Policy – Acceptance Form
- Student participants and parents will be required by coaches and program directors to attend an annual activity specific meeting prior to participation in competition for that activity to learn expectations and team rules for each year/season.

#### Attendance Policy

- **Students must be in school the entire day and attending their regular class schedule to be eligible to participate in any student activities scheduled on that day (practice, competition or performance). If a student misses any portion of the school day without having prior approval by the Activities Department, the student shall not be considered eligible to participate on that date.**
- Parents/Legal Guardians must email the Activities Office 24-hours prior to their student missing class(es) and the absence must be approved by Activities Director or Designee. Parents/Legal Guardians may call in an emergency situation.
- Notification must be made to the Activities Department at which time they will determine if the absence(s) will be approved. Submit requests through AD Mark Caballero, [mcaballero@rolla31.org](mailto:mcaballero@rolla31.org) and Laurie Dunn [Ldunn@rolla31.org](mailto:Ldunn@rolla31.org)

#### Academics: High School

- A student must be currently enrolled in and regularly attending courses at Rolla High School or enrolled in an RPS approved virtual program that offers a minimum of 3.0 units of credit (this is normally six classes). **You must have also earned 3.0 units of credit the preceding semester.**
- MSHSAA By-Law 213.0 allows 1-credit earned during the summer school to be used for the fall semester to establish or maintain academic eligibility for activities/athletics. This credit must be placed on the school transcript and count toward meeting graduation/promotion requirements.
- A ninth grade student must have been promoted at the close of the previous school year. They must make satisfactory progress toward graduation as determined by Rolla Public School policies.
- **Do not drop courses without first consulting with your school principal or Activities Director to determine whether it will affect your eligibility.**

#### Academics: Junior High

- A student must be enrolled in a full-time, normal course load for your grade at Rolla Junior High, St Patrick Catholic School in Rolla, or an RPS virtual program.
- A student must have been promoted to a higher grade at the end of the previous year; however, even though you may have been promoted, you will be ineligible if you failed more than one course during the previous grading period.

### MSHSAA Citizenship Requirements

- A student who commits an act for which charges may be or have been filed by law enforcement authorities under any municipal ordinance, misdemeanor, or felony statute shall not be eligible until all proceedings with the legal system have been concluded and any penalty (jail time, fine, court costs, etc.) or special condition of probation (restitution, community service, counseling, etc.) has been satisfied. If law enforcement authorities determine that charges will not be filed, eligibility will be contingent upon local school policies. (MSHSAA 2.2.2a)
- Each student is responsible to notify the school of any and all situations that would affect his/her eligibility under the above standard. If the student does not notify the school of the situation prior to the school's discovery, then the student shall be ineligible for up to 365 days from discovery pending review by the Board of Directors (MSHSAA 2.2.5)

### School Consequences

- Students suspended from school (OSS) will not be permitted to participate in student activities while suspended from school.
- Students assigned detention by teachers and/or administrators must report the detention to their coach or program director. The coach or sponsor will determine any additional action to be taken according to the activity rules given to students at the beginning of the year. Failure to serve consequences may result in suspension from participation until completed. **Standards of Conduct**

### RPS Citizenship Requirements

- Students who represent a school in interscholastic activities must be creditable citizens and judged so by the Activities Director, Principal or their designee. Those students whose character or conduct brings discredit on themselves or their schools are not considered "creditable citizens." Conduct shall be satisfactory in accord with the standards of good discipline.
- All students deemed "not creditable" will be unable to participate in school sponsored activities.

### Social Media

- **Students/Parents** are to understand that social media outlets (Twitter, Facebook, Snap Chat, Instagram, Yak, etc.) are powerful tools which may be either positive or negative depending on how they are used. Students are expected to be respectful and responsible when using these tools. Derogatory or negative language directed at teammates, coaches, other students, or any district employee will not be tolerated. Posting of pictures or statements depicting violations of policies or indicating knowledge of violations subjects students to potential consequences.
- **Students/Parents** who so choose to use social media as an avenue to bash or embarrass or discredit coaches/players will be punished with game suspensions Home or Away.
- **1st Offense:** Student/Parent Conference to determine discipline status based on the severity of the post. A suspension of one contest or performance in the regular or post-season schedule may be determined.
- **2nd Offense:** Student/Parent Conference to determine discipline status based on the severity of the post. A suspension of 50% of the regular and/or post-season schedule may be determined.
- **3rd Offense:** Student/Parent Conference to determine discipline status based on the severity of the post. A suspension of the entirety of the remaining contests or performances in the regular and post-season schedule may be determined.

## **Consequences for Activities Department Co-Curricular Violations**

**A participant may not use or possess tobacco or unauthorized inhalants (vaping).** The consequences set forth below will be assessed against participants who (1) use or possess tobacco or inhalants whether on or away from school property; (2) use or possess tobacco or inhalants while participating or attending a school-sponsored activity, whether on or away from school property; (3) are observed by school personnel using or possessing tobacco or inhalants, whether on or away from school property, or (4) self-reports the use of tobacco or inhalants, whether on or away from school property

- **1st Offense:** A participant will be suspended for 30 days from reporting date from all scheduled contests/performances that are played in all MSHSAA-recognized activities and all other team/group performances.
- **2nd Offense:** A participant will be suspended for 60 days from reporting date from all MSHSAA-recognized activities and all other team/group performances.
- **3rd Offense:** A participant will be suspended for 90 days from reporting date from all MSHSAA-recognized activities and all other team/group performances

**A participant may not use, possess or distribute drugs, look-alike drugs, alcoholic beverages, look-alike alcoholic beverages, controlled substances or look-alike controlled substances, drug paraphernalia, or items represented to be such.**

A participant will be in violation of this policy if the use, possession, or distribution (1) occurs on or away from school property or at a school-sponsored event (whether on or away from school property); (2) is reported or confirmed by a law enforcement agency; or (3) is observed by school personnel (whether on or away from school property), or (4) self-reports the use, possession or distribution of look-alike drugs, alcoholics beverages, look-alike alcoholic beverages, or controlled substances whether on or away from school property. A participant in violation of this rule will be suspended from MSHSAA-recognized activities and all other team/group performances for:

- **1st Offense:** A participant will be suspended for 90 days from reporting date from all scheduled contests/performances that are played in all MSHSAA-recognized activities and all other team/group performances 90 days from the date of the report.
- **2nd Offense:** A participant will be suspended for 365 days from reporting date from all scheduled contests/performances that are played in MSHSAA-recognized activities and all other team/group performances 365 days from the date of the report.

**A participant may not steal.** A participant will be in violation of this policy if (1) the theft is reported or confirmed by a law enforcement agency or by school personnel, or (2) the theft occurs on school property or at a school-sponsored activity.

- **1st Offense:** Theft of items valued at less than \$100.00 will result in a suspension for 30 days from reporting date from all scheduled contests/performances that are played in all MSHSAA-recognized activities and all other team/group performances. Theft of items valued at \$100.00 or more will result in a suspension from all MSHSAA-recognized activities and all other team/group performances for 90 days from the date of the report.
- **2nd Offense:** Regardless of the value of the items stolen, a second offense will result in a 365-day suspension from reporting date from all MSHSAA-recognized activities and all other team/group performances.

**A participant may not cause or attempt to cause physical harm to another person.** A participant will be in violation of this policy if this incident is reported or confirmed by a law enforcement agency. A participant who attempts to cause or causes physical harm to another person will be suspended from all MSHSAA-recognized activities and all other team/group performances for 90 days from the date of the report.

**A participant who is found to be in possession of a weapon** as defined by the Safe Schools Act will be suspended from all MSHSAA-recognized activities and all other team/group performances for 365 days from the date of the report.

**A participant must conform to the school discipline policy.** Failure to abide by the school discipline policy, except as otherwise provided above, may result in a suspension for up to 365 days from all MSHSAA-recognized activities and all other team/group performances.

**A participant may not be arrested** for, charged with, or convicted of a felony or misdemeanor under either criminal or juvenile law, whether the offense occurs on or away from school property. Violations of this subparagraph (x) may result in a suspension for up to 365 days from all MSHSAA-recognized activities and all other team/group performances, as well as additional discipline under the school discipline policy.

- Notwithstanding any provision of this policy or any other district policy, the district reserves the right to enhance or reduce the penalties associated with a violation of the co-curricular policy based upon the nature, severity, and frequency of the offense(s).
- There will be no penalty to a participant who requests help from school personnel in the form of assessment or treatment for chemical abuse prior to being charged with a violation of this policy. A participant who engages in conduct that constitutes a violation of this subparagraph (y) after requesting assessment or treatment will be suspended from all MSHSAA-recognized activities and all other team/group performances for 365 days from the date of the incident.
- A participant who engages in additional violations of this policy while under a co-curricular suspension may be expelled from all MSHSAA-recognized activities and all other team/group performances.
- The management of a co-curricular activity is the responsibility of the coach or sponsor, who is in charge of the selection of participants and the extent of their participation. Each coach/sponsor may also establish additional written guidelines for their activities. These guidelines shall be presented orally and in written format. A copy of such guidelines shall be kept on file with the building principal and Activities Director.
- Participants who hold elective positions on any campus or are candidates for school "royalty" positions must adhere to the same rules of conduct listed in this policy as student participants in recognized MSHSAA activities. Disciplinary action for violation of these rules of conduct will be applied to those students who hold elective positions or are candidates for school "royalty" positions in the same manner.
- The Activities Director, coach, sponsor and building principal will be informed of a participant's removal from any activity for disciplinary reasons. This may result in exclusion from other activities, as well as additional consequences under the student discipline policy.
- If a student was already on a team during the current season, he/she may be allowed to practice with the team/group during a co-curricular suspension with the approval of the coach/sponsor and Activities Director. An approved participant may not travel to games or events with the team.
- A student who is currently under a co-curricular suspension may be allowed to try out for a sport in the season in which the co-curricular suspension will expire.
- Review Procedures - The district does not have the authority to excuse participants from the eligibility requirements established by MSHSAA. Additionally, participants are uniformly expected to comply with the eligibility requirements established by the district. Accordingly, the procedures below are provided for the sole purpose of minimizing suspensions and/or removals based upon inaccurate or incomplete information. The procedures are not intended to provide participants with an opportunity to (1) avoid suspensions or removals imposed for conduct they have actually committed, or (2) ask administrators for leniency when an appropriate consequence has been imposed for conduct that has occurred. Nor are they intended to suggest that participation in school activities is an entitlement rather than a privilege.
- In all cases, a participant should be advised of the reason for the suspension or removal from an activity, and provided an opportunity to respond, prior to imposing the consequence.
- Participants may request a review of the suspension or removal imposed by a coach or sponsor to the Activities Director.
- Participants may request a review of the suspension or removal imposed or affirmed by the Activities Director to the building principal.
- During the pendency of an appeal a co-curricular suspension or removal will remain in full force and effect.

- **Hazing/Bullying**—Student/Parent hazing/Bullying is inconsistent with the educational goals of the district and poses a significant risk to the physical and mental welfare of district students. Hazing of students, on or off district property, is prohibited and may result in suspension from school and from activity/athletic participation.
- For purposes of this policy, hazing is defined as willful conduct directed at another student, whether occurring on or off school property, for purposes of initiation or admission to any school-related activity or athletic team. Conduct prohibited by this policy includes, but is not limited to, exposure or contact of genitals, buttocks, or breasts (female students), directly through contact with undergarments; threats of physical harm; and infliction of physical or mental harm or humiliation.
- Students found to have violated this policy will be subject to suspension/expulsion from school and suspension and exclusion from activities/athletic participation depending on the severity of the misconduct.
- Non-students who participate or enable the hazing of students may be excluded from attendance at school activities and school athletic events. District employees, including sponsors and coaches who have knowledge of school hazing, but fail to take corrective action, will be subject to discipline up to and including termination.
- All participants are required to comply with all of the above-listed requirements to be eligible for participation in school activities.
- Violation of one or more of the above rules may result in suspension and/or permanent dismissal from the current team or activity and from additional school activities, depending upon the nature, frequency and severity of the violation(s).

### **Due Process for Activities Department Violations**

Participation in activities is a privilege, not a right; nonetheless, as previously stated, the school deems it appropriate to extend students the opportunity to address alleged prohibited conduct. If the school determines a student who is currently subject to the Participation Policy is engaged in prohibited conduct, the student will be subject to consequences. Prior to making such a determination and imposing any exclusionary consequence, the school authorities shall give the student the right to explain his/her conduct.

If a coach or program director determines a student, who is participating in their activity, is engaged in conduct prohibited as outlined by their activity specific rules or policies, the student will be subject to consequences. Prior to making such a determination and imposing any exclusionary consequence, the coach or program director shall give the student the right to explain his/her conduct.

Students and/or their parents may appeal actions pursuant to activity specific policies taken by the coach or program director or actions pursuant to this policy by the Activities Director. Appeals of coach's or program director's decisions will first be made to the Activities Director and then to the Building Principal. Appeals of Activities Director's decisions will be heard by the Building Principal. Decisions rendered under this policy cannot be appealed beyond the principal, whose decision is final. All appeals must be requested within ten days of notification of any decision. The school administration will send a written decision to the parent within three business days of the appeal hearing.

## **ROLLA ATHLETIC WEBSITE:**

