

# MUENSTER HORNETS



# ATHLETIC HANDBOOK

# Muenster Independent School District Athletic Handbook and Code of Conduct

To the Student Athletes of Muenster ISD

The Athletic Code of Conduct you are about to read represents the combined efforts of a group of teachers, coaches, sponsors, parents, students, and administrators who care deeply about the welfare of our students and the success of competitive programs in the MISD.

This document emphasizes enduring truths about athletic extra- curricular activities. The major focus is upon the role of the student athlete on campus, in the competitive arena, and in the community. As a student athlete, you have always been held in high esteem. Whether it is for exemplary personal achievement in individual competition or for outstanding contribution to your team, you are regarded as a role model. Other students and members of the community look up to you as an example of discipline, skill, sportsmanship, determination, and perseverance. For this reason, you are held to a higher standard of behavior on and off the playing field. Small eyes are always upon you and we want them to observe the best in behavior and sportsmanship.

Remember, competitive athletics is a privilege and not a right. You earn your place on the team. The school and community have high behavioral and ethical standards that you are expected to make a part of your life. We ask all students involved in athletics and their parents to embrace the commitment to personal and physical excellence.

Sincerely,

Brady Carney, Athletic Director

John York, HS Principal

Steven Self, Superintendent

## Foundation of the Athletic Program

1. Developing self-confidence and self-worth
2. Teaching and learning the value of hard work.
3. Teaching and learning leadership skills
4. Teaching and learning the proper mental attitude. Attitude is the key to success. It is, therefore: most important that we find ways within our program to stress and develop the importance of attitude.
5. Developing the habits of dedication and sacrifice to something greater than the individual
6. The development of character traits that will remain with us through our life.

- If you lose or damage anything that belongs to the school, you will be expected to reimburse the school for the replacement cost of the item.
- Students who participate in school sponsored trips shall be required to ride in MISD transportation to and from the event. Exception may be made if the student's parent or guardian personally request that the student be allowed to ride home with the parent and arrangements are made with the head coach prior to the contest. Athletes will sign out with the head coach prior to being released to the parent. The MISD shall not be liable for any injuries that occur to students riding in vehicles that are not provided by the school.
- When going out of town, the bus will leave promptly at the designated time. The bus will not wait on anyone. BE ON TIME!
- Overnight Stays – Room curfew should be no later than 11 PM. Exception: Late games and getting back to the hotel late. At that time the curfew is in effect when the team arrives at the hotel. Lights out at 11:30. Previous exceptions apply. Coaches will use a number of confidential strategies to assure that student athletes will stay in their rooms. Any student athlete's luggage may be open to search by coaches or administrators. Student athletes' conduct during an overnight stay must be exemplary and exceed the standards set in the classroom. You are representing your school and community. If behavior is questionable, the athlete may be excluded from future overnight trips in addition to assigned discipline.
- Any athlete found using or possessing tobacco or e-cigarettes will receive consequences through athletics in addition to discipline described in the Student Code of Conduct.
- Any athlete placed in Alternative Education Program (AEP) will be suspended from athletics for the remainder of the semester or the entirety of the AEP placement. If the AEP placement occurs within the last half of the semester, the athlete may be suspended into the next semester. The Athletic Director and/or the campus administrator may modify the length of suspension by taking into consideration any extenuating circumstances.

## Strength & Conditioning

A well organized and properly coordinated strength and conditioning program is vital to the success of our athletic program. Regardless of the sport, an athlete participates in, there cannot be too much effort spent on strength training and conditioning in the off season. There will also be an in season strength training and conditioning program that will allow each athlete to remain in peak physical condition during the season until returning to the off season program. With the dramatic changes that high school athletics is going through observing athletes becoming faster, stronger, and more talented each year, it is absolutely necessary to implement and execute a quality strength training and conditioning program. The days of strength training being only for off season football players are over.

As part of our athletic program, we will offer the most complete strength and conditioning program that utilizes the most modern strength training principles available to all athletes. Both off season and in season programs will be implemented incorporating the most up to date programs available to us from physical fitness experts and major university programs.

Fighting and public displays of temper constitute unsportsmanlike conduct and appropriate disciplinary action will follow any such conduct at the discretion of the coach and/or Athletic Director.

## **Profanity**

The 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> time profanity is used, user will be sent out of the competitive arena. Athlete will not be allowed to continue workout or contest. Other discipline will be assigned.

If there is a third occurrence it will be dealt with by the Athletic Director. A third occurrence is indication of a more serious problem of self-control and an inability or unwillingness to represent Muenster ISD in a manner expected.

## **Hazing**

Hazing is contrary to team building and illegal. It will not be tolerated at MISD in any form.

## **Athletes Who Quit a Sport**

Each athlete will be given a three week trial period to come out and try a sport. If that athlete decides that the sport is not what they want to do, they may drop out of the sport with no penalty. If the athlete quits the sport after that three week trial, the athlete will not be able to participate in any other sport for the remainder of that semester. Exceptions may be allowed by mutual consent of the Athletic Director and coaches involved. Re-entry into a sport quit by the athlete will be at the discretion of the head coach of that sport.

## **Equipment/Facilities**

All athletes are to have "HORNET LOCKERS". Coaches will describe to all athletes how they want lockers to be kept and all lockers will remain in order. Lost or misplaced items that have been checked out to athletes by the athletic department must be paid for. All athletes need to take the attitude of "OWNER" of school facilities and help to make sure they are well cared for. You are expected to set an example for the entire student body that we should all help in the upkeep of the facilities the community has provided.

## **Lettering Policies and Procedures**

Each athlete is allowed one jacket during their high school career.

Lettering Requirements

**Football**

Be a member of the varsity squad and suit up for at least 50% of the games.

### **Track**

Complete the season as a squad member in good standing; and

Earn a total of 8 points in meets during the school year – 1 point will be given for each varsity meet the athlete competed in, whether he/she scores a point or not, or

Score a point in the district meet; or

Seniors, in good standing, who have been in track for at least two years.

### **Student Trainer or Manager**

Complete the season as a squad member in good standing.

Must be a Junior or Senior to receive a jacket.

Must have worked in one sport for at least two seasons, or worked in two sports for the entire year.

Injured players may be awarded a varsity letter if it is apparent to the coach that they would have earned it, if not for the injury.

## **General Eligibility Rules**

- The athlete is less than 19 years old on September preceding the contest or have been granted eligibility based on a disability that delayed their education by at least one year.
- The athlete lives with their parents inside the school district attendance zone boundaries their first year of attendance (see school administrator for exceptions)
- The athlete has not enrolled in or audited a postsecondary athletic or physical education course.
- The athlete has not moved into the MISD for athletic purposes.
- The athlete has not violated the athletic amateur rule
- The athlete was eligible according to the 15 day rule and the residence rule prior to district certification.
- More information is available on the UIL website at [www.uil.utexas.edu](http://www.uil.utexas.edu)

### **Junior High Eligibility**

#### **Eighth Grade**

**Only 8<sup>th</sup> grade students are eligible for these teams who on the first day of September preceding the contest have not reached or passed their 15<sup>th</sup> birthday**

## **School District Authority and Jurisdiction**

School rules and the authority of the district to administer discipline apply whenever the interest of the district is involved, on or off school grounds, in conjunction with or independent of classes and school-sponsored activities.

The district has disciplinary authority over a student:

1. During the regular school day and while the student is going to and from school on district transportation;
2. During lunch periods in which a student is allowed to leave campus;
3. While the student is in attendance at any school-related activity, regardless of time or location;
4. For any school-related misconduct, regardless of time or location;
5. When retaliation against a school employee or volunteer occurs or is threatened, regardless of time or location;
6. When criminal mischief is committed on or off school property or at a school-related event;
7. For certain offenses committed within 300 feet of school property as measured from any point on the school's real property boundary line;
8. For certain offenses committed while on school property or while attending a school-sponsored or school-related activity of another district in Texas;
9. When the student commits a felony, as provided by Education Code 37.006 or 37.0081; and
10. When the student is required to register as a sex offender.

The district has the right to search a vehicle driven to school by a student and parked on school property whenever there is reasonable cause to believe it contains articles or materials prohibited by the district.

The district has the right to search a student's locker or desk when there is reasonable cause to believe it contains articles or materials prohibited by the district.

### ***Reporting Crimes***

School administrators shall report crimes as required by law and shall call local law enforcement when an administrator suspects that a crime has been committed on campus.

### ***Revoking Transfers***

The district has the right to revoke the transfer of a nonresident student for violating the district's Code.

## **General Conduct Violations**

The categories of conduct below are prohibited at school and all school-related activities, but the list does not include the most severe offenses. In the subsequent sections on Out-of-School Suspension, DAEP Placement, Placement and/or Expulsion for Certain Offenses, and Expulsion, certain offenses that require or permit specific consequences are listed. Any offense, however, may be severe enough to result in Removal from the Regular Educational Setting as detailed in that section.

### ***Disregard for Authority***

Students shall not:

- Fail to comply with directives given by school personnel (insubordination).
- Leave school grounds or school-sponsored events without permission.
- Disobey rules for conduct on school buses.
- Refuse to accept discipline management techniques assigned by a teacher or principal.

### ***Mistreatment of Others***

Students shall not:

- Use profanity or vulgar language or make obscene gestures.
- Fight or scuffle. (For assault see DAEP Placement and Expulsion.)
- Threaten a district student, employee, or volunteer, including off school property, if the conduct causes a substantial disruption to the educational environment.
- Engage in bullying, harassment, or making hit lists. (See glossary for all three terms.)
- Engage in conduct that constitutes sexual or gender-based harassment or sexual abuse, whether by word, gesture, or any other conduct, directed toward another person, including a district student, employee, or volunteer.
- Engage in conduct that constitutes dating violence. (See glossary.)
- Engage in inappropriate or indecent exposure of private body parts.
- Participate in hazing. (See glossary.)
- Cause an individual to act through the use of or threat of force (coercion).
- Commit extortion or blackmail (obtaining money or an object of value from an unwilling person).
- Engage in inappropriate verbal, physical, or sexual conduct directed toward another person, including a district student, employee, or volunteer.
- Record the voice or image of another without the prior consent of the individuals being recorded or in any way that disrupts the educational environment or invades the privacy of others.

## **General Conduct Violations**

electronic device is seen in use during school hours without approval it will be taken up and returned only after a payment of \$15.00 it can be picked up after school. If the offense is repeated a third time a parent will be required to pick it up with the \$15.00 charge.

### ***Illegal, Prescription, and Over-the-Counter Drugs***

Students shall not:

- Possess or sell seeds or pieces of marijuana in less than a usable amount. (For illegal drugs, alcohol, and inhalants see DAEP Placement and Expulsion.)
- Possess, use, give, or sell paraphernalia related to any prohibited substance. (See glossary for "paraphernalia.")
- Possess or sell look-alike drugs or attempt to pass items off as drugs or contraband. Abuse the student's own prescription drug, give a prescription drug to another student, or possess or be under the influence of another person's prescription drug on school property or at a school-related event. (See glossary for "abuse.")
- Abuse the student's own prescription drug, give a prescription drug to another student, or possess or be under the influence of another person's prescription drug on school property or at a school-related event. (See glossary for "abuse.")
- Abuse over-the-counter drugs. (See glossary for "abuse.") Be under the influence of prescription or over-the-counter drugs that cause impairment of the physical or mental faculties. (See glossary for "under the influence.")
- Have or take prescription drugs or over-the-counter drugs at school other than as provided by district policy.

### ***Misuse of Technology Resources and the Internet***

Students shall not:

- Violate policies, rules, or agreements signed by the student or the student's parent regarding the use of technology resources.
- Attempt to access or circumvent passwords or other security-related information of the district, students, or employees or upload or create computer viruses, including off school property if the conduct causes a substantial disruption to the educational environment.
- Attempt to alter, destroy, or disable district technology resources including but not limited to computers and related equipment, district data, the data of others, or other networks connected to the district's system, including off school property if the conduct causes a substantial disruption to the educational environment.
- Use the Internet or other electronic communications to threaten district students, employees, or volunteers, including off school property if the conduct causes a substantial disruption to the educational environment.