

## **Dear Parents of Hadley Student Athletes,**

Congratulations are in order for your child for being selected to represent Hadley Junior High School on an interscholastic sports team. Being chosen for the team recognizes your child's natural ability and motivation. It is our hope that the season will be successful and enjoyable. Please read the following district policy related to our interscholastic sports programs:

### **PHILOSOPHY**

School District 41 offers a variety of extracurricular programs to provide additional opportunities to students. Participation in these activities is highly encouraged but remains a privilege. Students choosing to participate in these activities bear the responsibility of representing their school both in the community and at school. These extended responsibilities include holding students who choose to participate to a higher standard of conduct as a condition of participation. The goals of an extracurricular program encompass development of healthy living habits, discipline, leadership, teamwork, citizenship skills and respect for structure, rules and responsibilities. Individual initiative, character and teamwork will be enhanced when there is team cooperation with established procedures. We believe this Code will help make participation in our extracurricular program a strong and enduring learning experience. District 41 staff remains committed to developing the whole child.

### **PURPOSE**

All students involved in extracurricular activities shall comply with these rules and regulations and conduct themselves in a manner that will bring credit and honor to themselves, their schools and their communities. The Code sets forth specific rules for student participation in extracurricular activities and guidelines and procedures to be followed for violations of the rules.

### **REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICIPATION**

In order to be eligible for participation in extra-curricular activities, students must observe the standards of behavior set forth in the District's discipline policy. In addition, students must maintain grades which are in accordance with the student's ability. Teachers will notify coaches whenever a student's performance does not match his/her ability level and when they feel a student is not putting forth the effort needed to succeed. When a teacher identifies a problem with an individual student, the coach will consult with that teacher to determine if effort has improved. If no improvement is noted within two weeks, students may be barred from continued participation on the team or in the extra-curricular activity in question.

### **PROHIBITED MISCONDUCT**

Misconduct that is contrary to the philosophy and purposes of this Code is prohibited. Some examples of misconduct include, but are not limited to, possession of, delivery of, or being under the influence of prohibited substances; possession or use of tobacco; illegal acts; gross insubordination; assault; battery; reckless behavior; extortion; hazing; major school disruptions; bullying; sexual harassment; theft; fighting; vandalism; mob action; gang affiliation; and possession of weapons and/or "look-alikes;" or assisting in any of the foregoing prohibited activities.

## **APPLICATION OF CODE**

This Code of Conduct is in effect 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. It applies to incidents of misconduct on or off school property, whether in season or not, and whether school is in session or not. Violations of the Code accumulate throughout a student's school career. Violations of the Code that are not related to a student's attendance at school or participation in a school activity or event are limited to incidents of misconduct verified by District 41 staff, law enforcement agencies or an admission of guilt. Direct reports from law enforcement agencies of illegal activity will be investigated. Anonymous or secondhand reports of possible violations generally will not be investigated absent substantive confirming information. A Code violation is verified if, by the information available, it appears more likely than not that a Code violation has occurred.

The consequences for misconduct in violation of this Code are separate from and in addition to those assigned for violating school rules, school district policies and the law. The Code in no way limits the authority of the administration or the Board of Education to impose other or additional consequences in accord with school rules and district policies.

## **PROCEDURES**

The following procedures generally will be followed in enforcing the Extracurricular Code:

1. Upon completion of an investigation, information about an incident is given to the Principal.
2. The appropriate administrator will interview the student and a parent will be notified.
3. The Principal will schedule a hearing within three (3) school days of the completion of the investigation of the misconduct before the Review Board\*. Parent(s) or guardian(s), students and other appropriate school staff will be invited to participate in the hearing.
4. The Review Board will consider all the relevant information and apply consistent and reasonable consequences appropriate to the circumstances, including prohibiting the student's participation in practices and rehearsals.
5. The student or his/her parent or guardian may request a review of the Review Board's decision by the Principal. This request must be made in writing to the Principal within five (5) school days of the student's receipt of the Assistant Principal's decision and must articulate the reason(s) that a review should be granted.
6. The Principal will determine if the decision should be upheld, reversed or modified. The Principal's decision is final.

**\*The Review Board is comprised of the guidance counselor, coach, club/activities sponsor, or other school personnel that are appropriate.**

## **CONSEQUENCES**

Students who are found to have violated this Code of Conduct will be suspended from participation in extracurricular activities for a specific time, as decided by the Review Board. The Principal upon review shall have discretion to determine the severity of the consequences, based on the circumstances surrounding the misconduct. A student not involved in extracurricular activities at the time of the violation will be assigned a consequence beginning upon his/her next involvement in an extracurricular activity. A student may not, however, become involved in a new athletic activity solely to serve the assigned consequence, and the Principal may prevent a student from doing so by assigning a consequence to be served during the student's next involvement in his/her regular activity or activities.

**Student/Parent Acknowledgment of Code**

Students and their parents/guardians must return this signed form before a student is eligible to participate in District 41 extra-curricular activities.

I have read and understand the rules that apply to my participation in extra-curricular activities. I understand that in order to participate in athletic teams and other extra-curricular activities sponsored by District 41, I must follow the rules and expectations explained in the District’s extra-curricular code of conduct.

\_\_\_\_\_ Student Name (printed)

\_\_\_\_\_ Student Signature ----- Date

I have read and understand the rules that apply to my student’s participation in extra-curricular activities. I understand that the opportunity to participate in such activities is a privilege, and not a right, and that my student must adhere to the expectations outlined in the extra-curricular code as a condition of participation.

\_\_\_\_\_ Parent Name (printed)

\_\_\_\_\_ Parent Signature ----- Date

You should also be aware that your child is expected to leave the building 15 minutes after practices and games. Coaches have been told to supervise your child for this amount of time. After 15 minutes, your child will not be supervised by an adult. Your child has been instructed to notify you of the times they will be done with practice. Please know that the only adults in the building are our night custodians and they are often not in the areas where your children will be waiting for rides. We are always concerned when our students are left unattended for a long period of time. Everyone’s cooperation will help prevent any problems.

I have received the letter and am aware of the fact that supervisors are available for only 15 minutes after practice.

\_\_\_\_\_ Parent Signature