



2009-2010 FINE ARTS ELIGIBILITY BROCHURE

Students: Your participation in high school activities is dependent on your eligibility. PROTECT that eligibility by reviewing with your parent(s)/guardian(s) this summary of Minnesota State High School League rules which govern your participation. Complete regulations are found in the MSHSL Official Handbook which is available at each member high school and which is also posted on the MSHSL Web site: www.mshsl.org. Please keep this brochure for reference, and if there is a question about any rule interpretation, **CONTACT YOUR SCHOOL PRINCIPAL OR ATHLETIC/ACTIVITIES DIRECTOR.**

I understand that once I sign the eligibility statement all eligibility rules apply:

- Twelve (12) months of the year;
- Whether I am currently participating or not;
- Continuously from the first signing of the statement.

Parents/Guardians: REVIEW the following rules with your son or daughter. Your role in stressing the value of following these rules cannot be overstated.

Checklist for Student Eligibility (If you cannot check all 6 items, see your athletic/activities director or principal)

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| _____ 1. Making academic progress toward graduation. | _____ 4. Have not and will not use or possess tobacco or alcoholic beverages, use, consume, have in possession, buy, sell or give away any other controlled substance, including steroids. |
| _____ 2. Will not have turned 20 before the start of the season in which I participate. | _____ 5. Have not and will not violate the racial/religious/sexual harassment/violence/and hazing bylaws of the MSHSL. |
| _____ 3. Have not dropped out of school or repeated a grade while in high school. | _____ 6. I agree to fully cooperate in any investigation honestly and truthfully. |

GENERAL RULES

1. **ACADEMIC** — (Credit Requirement) To be eligible, a student must be making satisfactory progress toward the school's requirement for graduation.
2. **AGE** — A student representing a member school in League activities shall be under 20 years of age on the date of the contest. If, however, a student has started a season, the student will be permitted to complete that season after reaching the student's 20th birthday.
3. **AMATEUR** — Use of a fine arts ability or skill for personal gain when not performing for or representing the student's school will not disqualify the student from participating in League-sponsored activities.
4. **AMATEUR STATUS AND AWARDS BYLAW** — Acceptable awards to students in recognition of participation in high school activities include medals, ribbons, letters, trophies, plaques and other items of little or no intrinsic value (\$100.00 or less). Violation will render a student ineligible for participation in that activity.
5. **COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY TEAMS** — A student shall not have been, at any time, a contestant representing a school higher than a secondary school.
6. **FAIR HEARING PROCEDURE** — The League Constitution provides a Fair Hearing Procedure for the student or parent contesting a school's determination of ineligibility for a student. **The student has 10 calendar days in which to appeal the school's decision.** The appeals process includes an appeal before a hearing panel at the school and the right, if desired, to appeal that decision to the League's Board of Directors. An independent hearing examiner will hear the appeal and make written findings of fact, conclusions and a recommendation for the Board of Directors following the hearing. The Board's decision shall be final. A complete listing of the Fair Hearing Procedure may be obtained from the athletic director or principal of the high school or on Web at www.mshsl.org in the Publications section.
7. **ENROLLMENT, ATTENDANCE, AND REQUIRED SUBJECT LOAD** — Students must be fully enrolled in (as defined by the Minnesota Department of Education) and attending the school before they are eligible to represent that school in League-sponsored activities. Students must be properly registered, attending school and classes regularly, and enrolled in the required number of credits to graduate in four (4) years after entering the 9th grade.
8. **GENERAL ELIGIBILITY** — In order to be eligible for regular season and MSHSL tournament competition, a student must be fully enrolled as defined by the Minnesota Department of Education and a

bona fide member of his or her high school in good standing. A student who is under penalty of exclusion, expulsion or suspension, whose character or conduct violates the Student Code of Responsibilities and is not in good standing, shall be ineligible for a period of time as determined by the principal.

Student Code of Responsibilities

As a student participating in my school's interscholastic activities, I understand and accept the following responsibilities:

1. *I will respect the rights and beliefs of others and will treat others with courtesy and consideration.*
 2. *I will be fully responsible for my own actions and the consequences of my actions*
 3. *I will respect the property of others.*
 4. *I will respect and obey the rules of my school and the laws of my community, state and country.*
 5. *I will show respect to those who are responsible for enforcing the rules of my school and the laws of my community, state and country.*
9. **GRADUATE** — A student shall not be a graduate of a four (4) year high school or any secondary school. Exception: foreign exchange student participating in an approved Foreign Exchange program and has not reached their 19th birthday.
 10. **SEMESTERS IN HIGH SCHOOL** — A student shall not participate in an interscholastic contest after the student's eighth semester in grades 9-12 inclusive. All eight semesters of attendance shall be consecutive, beginning in the 9th grade. The attendance of 15 days or more in one semester will count as a semester in administering this standard.
 11. **FOREIGN EXCHANGE**—Foreign exchange students are limited to 1 year of high school eligibility.
 12. **INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS** – students not participating in a CSIET approved foreign exchange program are eligible only at the B-squad or JV level for one year.
 13. **MOOD-ALTERING CHEMICALS**
 - A. **Bylaw 205**

During the calendar year, a student shall not at any time, regardless of the quantity: (1) use or consume, have in possession a beverage containing alcohol; (2) use or consume, have in possession tobacco; or, (3) use or consume, have in possession, buy, sell, or give away any other controlled substance or drug paraphernalia.

 1. The bylaw applies to the 12-month calendar year.

2. It is not a violation for a student to be in possession of a controlled substance specifically prescribed for the student's own use by her/his doctor.

B. Penalties for Category I Fine Arts Activities

(Category I Activities Defined: 1-Debate; 2-Speech activities, including One Act Play, when a school schedules a season of interscholastic contests.)

1. First Violation: After confirmation of the first violation, the student shall lose eligibility for the next two (2) consecutive interscholastic contests or two (2) weeks of a season in which the student is a participant, whichever is greater. No exception is permitted for a student who becomes a participant in a treatment program.
2. Second Violation: After confirmation of the second violation, the student shall lose eligibility for the next six (6) consecutive interscholastic contests in which the student is a participant or three (3) weeks, whichever is greater. No exception is permitted for a student who becomes a participant in a treatment program.
3. Third and Subsequent Violations: After confirmation of the third or subsequent violations, the student shall lose eligibility for the next twelve (12) consecutive interscholastic contests in which the student is a participant or four (4) weeks, whichever is greater. If after the third or subsequent violations, the student has been assessed to be chemically dependent and the student on her/his own volition becomes a participant in a chemical dependency program or treatment program, then the student may be certified for reinstatement in MSHSL activities after a minimum period of six (6) weeks. Such certification must be issued by the director or a counselor of a chemical dependency treatment center.
4. Consecutive Penalties: Penalties shall be consecutive beginning with the student's first participation in a League activity and continuing through the student's high school career.
5. Denial Disqualification: A student shall be disqualified from all interscholastic fine arts activities for nine (9) additional weeks beyond the student's original period of ineligibility when the student denies violation of the rule, is allowed to participate and then is subsequently found guilty of the violation.

C. Penalties for Category II Fine Arts Activities

(Category II Activities Defined: 1-Debate; 2-Speech activities, including One Act Play, when a school schedules no interscholastic contests and participates only in the League-sponsored tournament series; 3-Music activities; 4-Visual Arts activities.)

1. Each member school shall develop penalties, which it will apply to the participants in these activities.
2. Consecutive Penalties: Penalties shall be consecutive beginning with the student's first participation in a League activity and continuing through the student's high school career.

**14. SEXUAL/RACIAL/RELIGIOUS HARASSMENT/
VIOLENCE AND HAZING**

A. Reference Bylaw 209.00:

A student shall not engage in the sexual, racial, religious harassment, violence or hazing during the school year or any portion of an activity season that occurs prior to the start of the school year or after the close of the school year.

B. Reporting Procedures:

1. Any person who believes he or she has been the victim of sexual, racial, religious harassment, violence or hazing or any person with knowledge or belief of conduct, which may constitute hazing, shall report the alleged acts immediately to an appropriate school

district official designated by this policy.

2. The building principal is the person responsible for receiving reports of sexual, racial, religious harassment, violence or hazing at the building level. Any person may report hazing directly to a school district human rights officer or to the superintendent.
3. Teachers, administrators, officials, volunteers, and employees of the school district shall be particularly alert to possible situations, circumstances or events which might include sexual, racial, religious harassment, violence or hazing. Any such person who receives a report of, observes, or had other knowledge or belief of conduct, which may constitute sexual, racial, religious harassment, violence or hazing, shall inform the building principal immediately.
4. Submission of a good faith complaint or report of sexual, racial, religious harassment, violence or hazing will not affect the complainant or reporter's future employment, grades or work assignments.

C. Reprisal

The school district will discipline or take appropriate action against any student, teacher, administrator, volunteer, coach, official contractor or employee of the school district who retaliates against any person who makes a good faith report of alleged sexual, racial, religious harassment, violence or hazing or against any person who testifies, assists, or participates in an investigation, or against any person who testifies, assists or participates in a proceeding or hearing relating to such sexual, racial, religious harassment, violence or hazing. Retaliation includes, but is not limited to, any form of intimidation, reprisal or harassment.

D. Penalties for Category I Activities:

1. First Violation: the student shall lose eligibility for the next two (2) consecutive interscholastic contests or two (2) weeks, 14 calendar days, of a season in which the student is a participant, whichever is greater.
Recommendations: 1) It is recommended that the school develop a local education program through which the student would receive information about sexual, racial, religious harassment, violence or hazing. 2) It is recommended that, when appropriate, the school refer a student to a community agency or a professional individual outside the school for counseling.
2. Second Violation: the student shall lose eligibility for the next six (6) consecutive interscholastic contests or three (3) weeks, 21 calendar days, whichever is greater, in which the student is a participant.
Recommendation: It is recommended that before being re-admitted to activities following suspension for the second violation, the student shall show evidence in writing that the student has received counseling from a community agency or professional individual such as a school counselor, medical doctor, psychiatrist, or psychologist.
3. Third or Subsequent Violations: the student shall lose eligibility for the next twelve (12) consecutive interscholastic contests or four (4) weeks, 28 calendar days, whichever is greater, in which the student is a participant.
4. Progressive Penalties: Penalties shall be progressive beginning with the first violation and continuing throughout the student's high school career. Penalties shall be served consecutively.

E. Penalties for Category II Activities:

Each member school shall develop penalties that it will apply to the participants in these activities. A current copy of the member school's policy shall be kept on file in the member school