

# **MASSENA CENTRAL SCHOOL ATHLETIC CODE OF CONDUCT**



## **RED RAIDER PRIDE**

**Gavin M. Regan, Athletic Director 315-764-3710, extension 3122  
Trisha LaBarge, Asst. to the Athletic Director 315-764-3700, extension 3106**

**GAVIN M. REGAN**  
Athletic Director

**TRISHA LaBARGE**  
Secretary



**PATRICK BRADY**  
Superintendent

**BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
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Jason Premo

## **Massena Central School District Athletic Code of Conduct**

Participation on a Massena Central School District athletic team is a privilege, which should elicit great pride in both the student athlete and his/her family. It is also an acceptance of responsibility, which requires an extra commitment from those who wear our school colors and represent their teammates, coaches, school and community. Standards of behavior are necessarily high and a willingness to meet these standards is a condition for being a member of one of our teams. Being a member of a Massena team has always been an honor and our community continues to be proud of the tradition that has been developed over the years.

Our coaches are responsible for providing leadership, encouragement and direction to assist the student-athlete with meeting his/her personal commitment to their team. They are also responsible for providing the student-athlete the opportunity to compete in an athletic environment that fosters sportsmanship and fair play. Coaches will strive to enhance the academic pursuit of the student-athlete through athletic participation.

The following are guidelines for the continued success of our athletic program:

### **To the Athlete:**

Being a member of a Massena athletic team is a fulfillment of an early ambition for many students. The attainment of this goal carries with it certain traditions and responsibilities that must be maintained. A great athletic tradition is not built overnight; it takes the hard work of many people over many years. As a member of an interscholastic squad at MCS, you have inherited a wonderful tradition, which you are challenged to uphold. Like anything of value, it comes with a price tag. That price tag is a commitment from you to follow established rules. By participating in athletics to the greatest extent of your ability, you are contributing to the reputation of your school.

Our tradition has been to win with honor, to develop young people of character, that our community has pride in, on and off the field. We desire to win, but only with honor to our athletes, our schools and our community. Such a tradition is worthy of the best efforts of all concerned.

You, as a student athlete, must understand that this Chemical Health Program is not designed to be a punishment but a deterrent to your becoming involved in the risky and dangerous behaviors that are associated with the use and abuse of drugs, alcohol and tobacco. It is also to insure that you have the best possibilities to succeed in your sport and to learn the valuable lessons that athletics can teach. This can only be fully realized if you are committed to living a healthy lifestyle. We are asking for your help and co-operation in achieving a totally drug-free athletic program. We are committed to providing such an atmosphere for our student athletes. Therefore, we are asking you to become an active part of the solution, not to become part of the problem. Your active participation in remaining drug-free throughout your athletic career at MCS is greatly appreciated. The benefit will be in the experience you will have.

### **RESPONSIBILITY**

You are also expected to share in the responsibility for such an opportunity that is provided, that shall include:

**Responsibilities to Yourself:** You owe it to yourself to derive the greatest benefit from your high school experiences. To live a healthy lifestyle and to respect your health both physically and mentally at all times.

### **Responsibility to your Academic Studies**

Your academic studies, and your participation in other extracurricular activities as well as sports, prepare you for your life as an adult. Athletics while very important to many young people is only a small part of life. Realize also how few athletes make it to the collegiate level and beyond.

**Responsibilities to Your School:** Another responsibility you assume is to your school. MCS cannot maintain its position as having an outstanding school and athletics unless you do your best in the activity in which you engage.

### **Responsibility to your Community**

The community and school tax monies make this athletic experience possible. The student body and citizens of the community know you. You are very visible with the spotlight on you. The student body, the community and other communities judge our schools by your conduct and attitude, both on and off the field. Because of this leadership role, you can contribute significantly to school spirit and community pride. Our desire is that our student athletes are exemplary, not for the fact that we win rather that, we are known as a program of character and excellence.

**Responsibility to Others:** As a member of a MCS team, you also bear a heavy responsibility to your home. When you know in your heart that you have lived up to all of the training rules, that you have practiced to the best of your ability every day and that you have played the game "all out", you can keep your self-respect and your family can be justly proud of you, win or lose.

### **Responsibility to Younger Athletes**

The younger students in the Massena community are watching you. They know who you are and what you do. The older upper-class athletes are role models for the young athletes that will come after you. Make them proud. Be an example.

## **To the Parent:**

This material is presented to you because your son or daughter has indicated a desire to participate in interscholastic athletics and you have expressed your willingness to permit her/him to compete. We believe that participation in sports provides a wealth of opportunities and experiences, which assist students in personal development. It should be recognized that involvement in interscholastic athletics is a privilege.

A student who elects to participate in athletics is voluntarily making a choice of self-discipline and commitment. These are the reasons we place conditions on involvement, as the health, safety and welfare of athletes must be our first priority. Good training habits and lifestyle are necessary for us to insure this experience. Failure to comply with the rules of training and conduct means exclusion from the squad. There is no place in high school athletics for students who will not discipline their minds and bodies for rigorous competition. This decision is not ours alone but that of the Supreme Court of the United States, as there have been challenges to athletic codes on five occasions and the Supreme Court has ruled in favor of such codes on each occasion under the premise that athletes' safety and health must be insured.

It is the role of the Athletic Department to establish and maintain rules that govern the spirit of training and competition for the school district. These clear and consistent boundaries insure the success of our young people. These rules need a broad basis of community support, which is achieved only through communication to the parent, the coaches, the student athletes and fans. It is our hope to accomplish this objective through this athletic publication for students

## **To the Coaches:**

### **Coaches will:**

1. Build a personal and team philosophy based upon the values expressed in the Interscholastic Athletic Program Philosophy statement.
2. Strive to enlarge their technical knowledge and develop wisdom and competency in all areas of the profession.
3. Enhance and protect the physical and mental wellbeing of their student athletes.
4. Teach student-athletes to respect self, teammates, opponents and officials.
5. Strive to instill in players a desire to know and live by the spirit of the rules of the school, team, and sports.
6. Help create an atmosphere of friendly competition wherein sportsmanship and honor transcend victory or defeat.
7. Cooperate with administrators, faculty and other coaches in maintaining and improving the educational quality of our school.
8. Encourage the highest standards of academic achievement among our student-athletes.
9. Support the highest standards of conduct with regard to character and integrity.
10. Support the chemical health standards and behavioral standards set forth in this code

**Starting the 2019-20 school year all student athletes and their parent(s)/guardian(s) will acknowledge and abide by the athletic code of conduct at the time of their online registration.**

## **A. Application of the Code**

The Code of Conduct will apply to each student athlete for one calendar year (including summer) from the date of his/her most recent signature and will be in effect at all times, in all locations, including non-school activities. Violation of the Code will result in penalties, which are consistent with those identified within the code as determined by the coach and/or Director of Athletics. Each coach also has the prerogative to establish and implement additional guidelines specific to his/her particular team.

All violations of the Code will be cumulative beginning with a student's initial participation on a modified, junior varsity, or varsity team.

## **B. Conditions for Team Membership**

Student-athletes are expected to commit themselves to team membership, attendance at school, and at practices/contests for the duration of the season. When this commitment is not fulfilled, the coach with the athlete shall review the athlete's membership and position on the team and the coach will make a recommendation of action to the Director of Athletics for review.

1. Student-athletes are expected to attend all practices and contests unless excused by the coach. It is the athlete's responsibility to notify the coach, in advance, of any circumstances, which would prohibit attendance at practice(s) or contest(s) other than absence from school. Failure to comply may result in disciplinary action ranging from a verbal warning to dismissal from the team dependent upon the nature and/or frequency of the offense.

2. A student who is absent from school will not be eligible for participation in any athletic event or practice session on the day he or she is absent. Attendance in school is essential. A student-athlete must be in school on time and for the entire day to practice or play in a scheduled contest.

If a student-athlete is tardy to school, or leaves early, it must be a legal excuse with a written note provided by the parent or guardian on the day of the **absence**.

Any student-athlete who is tardy to school, or leaves early without a legal excuse, will not be able to participate in practice or game on that day. Any student-athlete who is absent due to special circumstances (i.e. college visit, funeral, doctors) must provide a written note to be eligible to practice or play that day. If at a doctor the athlete may be required to provide a return to play note from the doctor.

**The student-athlete must also attend for the full day preceding a weekend or vacation contest.**

3. The coach will establish team rules for practices/game attendance and participation. All team members will be given a written copy of the team rules and the coach will review the rules with the team members. All team members are expected to comply with and abide by the rules established for their team.

4. A student's absence(s) from practice(s) and or contest(s) due to mandatory participation in family activities will not jeopardize the student's team membership status. It is important to note that upon his or her return to the team another team member may hold the position previously held by the student. It is the returning student's responsibility to regain his or her position through individual effort and team play as determined by the coach.

5. As a member of an interscholastic team, it is expected that your top athletic priority be to your team during the entire season of play. Participation on non-school related athletic teams in the same season of interscholastic participation is permissible as long as such participation does not conflict with fulfilling your responsibilities to the interscholastic team or violate team rules.

6. The use, sale and/or possession of any controlled substance(s), alcohol, tobacco products, illegal drugs or drug paraphernalia other than those prescribed by a physician is strictly prohibited.

7. As a member of an athletic team, students should be mindful that they represent their team, school, family and community. Team members are expected to and have an obligation to conduct themselves as good citizens in and out of both school and the community. Students are expected to refrain from exhibiting any behavior(s), which violates the

principles of good citizenship. In other words, NEVER do anything, which might bring embarrassment or an unfavorable view to you, your teammates, coaches, family, school, or community.

8. An athlete who participates in activities resulting in his/her arrest or formal charges being filed in a court of law may face additional penalties under this Code.

### **Examples of Behaviors Which Violate the Code (Not intended to be all-inclusive)**

- **Possession and/or Use of Drugs** – The possession and/or use of illegal drugs and/or paraphernalia or the possession and/or use of drugs or medications without a prescription is strictly prohibited. **Violations will be treated as a level 2 offense for the first offense.**
- **Possession and/or Use of Alcohol and Tobacco Products** – The possession and/or use of alcohol and tobacco products is strictly prohibited.
- **Hosting of Drinking/Drug Parties** – Student athletes are prohibited from hosting and/or attending a party that involves alcohol, drugs, marijuana or illegal substances.
- **Parties or Presence at parties with drugs-** If a student-athlete attends a party where alcohol or drugs are being illegally dispensed, the student-athlete must leave the party. To remain in the presence of this illegal activity shall constitute a violation of the code.
- **Ringleaders in parties-** there shall be a greater consequence for an athlete if it is determined that they were involved in the organization, facilitation, promotion, or hosting of any gathering or social event where alcohol or drugs are available or use has occurred. **Violations will be treated as a level 2 offense for the first offense.**
- **Massena Central School District Student Code of Conduct Violations** – Any violation of the MCS Student Code of Conduct, resulting in an out-of-school suspension, will result in progressive levels of discipline under this Code.
- **Hazing/Initiation Ceremony** – MCS interscholastic coaches will not permit, nor will MCS student athlete's stage, any type of "initiation ceremony" or hazing for athletes at any time and on any level. This prohibition includes any athlete giving other athletes haircuts, shaving other athletes, locker/shower pranks, etc.
- **Poor Sportsmanship** – Student athletes, whether participants or spectators, will observe courteous behavior during all sporting events. Booing, whistling, name-calling, obscene gestures, fighting or arguing with the referee etc. will not be tolerated.
- **Stealing** – Stealing of any kind, including athletic clothing belonging to MCS or our opponent's will not be tolerated.
- **Vandalism or Property Destruction** – Vandalism or property destruction offenses may result in internal or external suspension and appropriate penalties for violation of the athletic Code.
- **Verbal and/or physical abuse** directed at teachers, coaches, opponents, officials... etc. would not be tolerated at any time.

**Cyber Image policy:** Any identifiable image, photo or video, which implicates a student athlete to have been in possession or presence of drugs or portrays actual use, or out of character behavior or crime, shall be confirmation of a violation of the code. Since there is no way to establish a timeframe for when or location of where the image was taken, it shall be a responsibility that the student athlete must assume. It must also be noted that there may be persons, who would attempt to implicate an athlete, by taking such images, to place them in a situation where they might be in violation of this code standard. This is our rationale for demanding that our athletes not place themselves in such environments.

**\*Violent Behavior of any manner shall be grounds for immediate dismissal**

## **C. Penalties**

The coach of the team of which the student is a member, unless otherwise stated in the Code, will impose penalties resulting from the violation of the Code. In determining appropriate penalties, the coach shall be guided as follows: **All violations are cumulative. This means they add up.**

### **Level 1 Offenses**

1. Effective on the date when penalties under the code are imposed, the athlete will be placed on probation for one calendar year.

2. During the period of probation, the athlete will be expected to practice with the team (unless directed otherwise by the coach), but will not be allowed to participate in the team's scheduled competitions according to the eligibility chart (1/4 of scheduled games). For example, a player on a team with a 16-game schedule found guilty of smoking would be expected to practice with the team, but would not be permitted to participate in the first four scheduled contests. Scrimmages **are not** considered scheduled contests.
3. Penalties, which cannot be served during the sport season in which they are imposed, will be carried over for completion in the next sports season in which the athlete participates in and completes. The penalty assigned will be adjusted proportionately based on the number of regular season scheduled contests in the subsequent season.

## **Level 2 Offenses**

1. If a second offense occurs during the probationary period, all provisions set forth in the first offense will apply (1/2 scheduled games). However, the games penalty will be increased according to the eligibility chart. In addition, a new probationary period of one calendar year will be assigned, beginning on the date the second penalty is imposed. **For a second offense within the same sport season, the athlete will be suspended for one calendar year.**
2. The student-athlete will enter into counseling with a counselor from an outside agency. (In the case of using an out-of-school counselor, the student-athlete and parents must sign a release of information form so information pertinent to the situation may be forwarded to the school counselor.)  
The number of required sessions will be left up to the counselor involved, and recommendations must be followed to become eligible again.

## **Level 3 Offenses**

1. If a third offense occurs, the athlete shall be removed from participation in **all** interscholastic athletics for the remainder of his/her athletic career. This shall be cumulative.

### **EXCEPTION:**

**A student-athlete who receives a third offense, within the same probationary year, may earn back the third offense, only one time, by completing the following: 1.) Must sit out 50 % of the scheduled games for the season the offense occurred, or the next season if the offense occurred at the end or between seasons. 2.) Must complete 80 hours of community service with an agency, approved by the athletic director. It is the student-athlete's responsibility to provide a time sheet, signed by the agency, to the athletic director verifying the hours have been completed. The student-athlete must complete the community service hours prior to the 50% game suspension deadline. If the student-athlete fails to complete the eighty hours prior to the game suspension deadline, the student-athlete will remain ineligible to play until the eighty hours of community service are completed. Once the requirements are completed, the student-athlete will be placed on a one-year probationary period from the time the third offense occurred, and will be placed at a second offense status.**

The student-athlete will enter into counseling with a counselor from an outside agency, if it is a drug or alcohol related offense. (In the case of using an out-of-school counselor, the student-athlete and parents must sign a release of information form so information pertinent to the situation may be forwarded to the school counselor.)

The number of required sessions will be left up to the counselor involved, and recommendations must be followed to become eligible again.

The first counseling sessions must be set up within five (5) school days of the reported incident.

## **SUBSEQUENT OFFENSES**

Removal from all sports for the remainder of the student-athlete's high school athletic eligibility.

## **CIRCUMSTANCES THAT REQUIRE IMMEDIATE SEVERE CONSEQUENCES**

Certain circumstances may require that the Athletic Director take immediate action in determining consequences for an apparent violation. In certain circumstances, the penalties for the violation may be much more severe and may be applied immediately by the Athletic Director and/or administration. The violation of your drug-free status is a serious action, but it may be amplified if the violation takes place in certain environments and would tend to support the necessity for an increased severity of penalties. The following situations constitute some, but not all of such circumstances:

1. The use of an illegal substance during a team practice, scrimmage, game, meeting, travel or any other team function increases the risk to yourself and those around you. You are compromising your future position as a student-athlete if the violation is an illegal drug or alcohol violation that is endangering yourself, as well as your teammates. The use of such substances during participation in your sport in any manner may constitute an immediate suspension of a year or more, even for a first offense.
2. The use of an illegal substance during school. Being under the influence of an illegal drug or an alcohol violation on school property places your future athletic career in a tremendously compromising position. Under the influence of these types of substances, you cannot fully reach your learning capacity and are placing yourself and others at an increased risk of injury.
3. The use or possession of nicotine at school increases the severity of the violation. As a role model, other students, who may decide to follow your example, whether it is good or bad, are watching you closely.
4. The use of these substances, especially illegal drugs and alcohol, during a training session (even out-of-season training) in the weight room or other training facilities places you and those around you at greater risk of injury. The use of any prohibited substances during school or during any school function will not be tolerated. This includes not only school functions at Massena Central School, but any function you attend at other schools as well.

## ELIGIBILITY CHART

# Of Regular Season Scheduled Contests	Contest Penalty First Offense	Contest Penalty Second Offense
8	2	4
9	2	4
10	2	4
11	2	4
12	3	6
13	3	6
14	3	6
15	3	6
16	4	8
17	4	8
18	4	8
19	4	8
20	5	10
21	5	10
22	5	10
23	5	10

\* It should be noted, notwithstanding the above chart of penalties, that the facts of an incident might warrant immediate removal from the team if the Director of Athletics and the administration believe that the offense committed by the athlete warrants such action.



## D. Due Process

Prior to the imposition of any penalty under the Code, the coach and/or Director of Athletics will notify the athlete of the nature of the infraction and the athlete will be given an opportunity to explain his or her side of the issue.

## E. Appeal Procedure

The student and/or parent/guardian have the right to appeal athletic penalties to the Athletic Review Committee. Appeals must be made in writing within three days of assignment of a penalty for a violation of the code.

1. The Athletic Review Committee will meet within 48 hours upon receipt of a written notice to appeal an athletic penalty unless the committee members are unavailable. In such a circumstance, the Committee will meet as soon as these individuals may be assembled.
2. The student and his/her parents will be notified within 48 hours of receipt of the written appeal.
3. Upon review of the appeal, the committee will render a decision. The Director of Athletics will notify parents of the decision in writing.

## F. Distribution of Policy

The coach will review this policy with all potential team candidates prior to the first official tryout session. During the tryout period, all participants are subject to all school and athletic policies and conditions under this code.

## Academic Eligibility for Student-Athletes

1. At the beginning of each school year, athletic eligibility will be checked on all athletes based on the previous years' final report card. Athletes must have passed three of the four core classes, Math, English, Science, and Social Studies to be eligible. (This is the only time Core classes will be the main indicator).
2. If at the end of the school year the student failed more than one core class, they must attend and pass summer school so they are starting the school year having passed three of the four core classes. These classes are the ones typically offered during summer school. If the course is not offered, each case will be reviewed individually.
3. At the end of each 5-week period, grades will be checked. If a student is failing one subject (includes all subjects), they will be placed on probation and must attend 12<sup>th</sup> period with the teacher and provide a daily signed note to their coach (Practice Pass).

If a student is failing two or more subjects, they are ineligible to participate in games but can continue to practice if they provide a *Practice Pass* from their teacher to their coach.

4. After two weeks (date to be established by the Athletic Director) if the student feels that they are passing the course that they are failing, they must obtain a passing form. The teacher of the course they are failing must sign this form. The student to the Athletic Director (or designated administrator) must submit the passing Form. The Athletic Director will then determine if the student is academically eligible and will notify the coach.
5. At the next 5-week marking period, students who were on probation who have not raised their grade will now be ineligible for the following two weeks. Students who were ineligible who have not raised their grades remain ineligible for another two weeks.
6. For Winter Sports, initial eligibility will be based on the first 10 weeks marking period report card. For Spring Sports, initial eligibility will be based on the third marking period progress report. All eligibility rules will remain the same.
7. Any teacher who feels that a student is at risk academically has the ability to notify the Athletic Director by filling out an Athletic Referral Form. Depending on the circumstances, a plan of action will be implemented.

## **TRANSPORTATION**

Student-athletes are transported to and from contests by school-authorized transportation **ONLY**.

In special cases, a parent may request to transport their student. They may request by signing a form to transport their son/daughter. The coach will have this form at each away contest, the parent will have to see the coach and sign the form. This needs to be done by the parent of the athlete. The athlete is only allowed to ride home with their parent. A form will be available at each away contest.

## **RISKS**

The athletic program is conducted, first, with safety in mind. Student-athletes and parents must be aware that certain risks of injury are inherent in athletic participation.

## **INJURIES**

It is the student-athlete's responsibility to immediately report to their coach any injury during practices or games. The coach will then fill out an accident report. If a student-athlete has been removed from participation because of an injury, the student-athlete cannot return to practice or competition without a physician's release.

## **INSURANCE**

The student athlete's parents' insurance is the primary coverage for any injury and claims must be submitted to your insurance carrier. Any remaining balances need to be submitted by the parent to Pupil Benefits, along with a medical claim form, which can be obtained from the district business office.

## **STUDENT-ATHLETES QUITTING A TEAM DURING THE SEASON**

No student-athlete may quit a team and join another team in the same season once a team roster has been established. **If a student-athlete fails to make a team, they may choose to try out for another team prior to the coach making cuts or if no cuts are made for that sport.**

If a student-athlete, wishes to quit a team and join another team in the same season, both coaches must agree and the team the student-athlete wishes to join must still be in the team-selection process.

## **SUPPLEMENTS – BE AWARE AND BEWARE**

The supplemental industry is unregulated by the government. Young student-athletes can purchase supplements in local malls, health food stores and/or by mail. The International Olympic Committee recently analyzed several hundred items bought over the counter at a national chain store in their European drug testing center laboratory. It was determined that 18% of those supplements contained actual steroids. Use of these tainted supplements has been shown to impair normal hormone production and cause serious side effects, including health risks. The labels did not show them as containing these substances. It is for this reason that we recommend that no coach or employee of our athletic staff shall advise any student-athlete to take any supplemental substance for any purpose.

**GAVIN M. REGAN**  
Athletic Director

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**Date**

Dear Parents/Guardian and Advisor/Coach of: \_\_\_\_\_:

Please be advised that \_\_\_\_\_ has received a referral for Academic Athletic Eligibility.

Reason for referral: \_\_\_\_\_

Courses to be monitored: \_\_\_\_\_

Review date: \_\_\_\_\_

Coach Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Procedures to be followed when a student is placed on probation:

- The Principal/Athletic will provide the parent/guardian (mailed) and advisor/coach with a signed copy of this letter.
- The coach will sign the letter and hand it to the student.
- The student must obtain the signature of the parent/guardian and return to the Athletic Director by 3:10 the next day.
- The student will not be allowed to participate until all steps above are completed.

Failure to comply will result in at least one day of suspension from the sport.

We feel that it is extremely important for our students to remain involved in activities. If you have any questions, please feel free to call.

Sincerely,

**Gavin M. Regan**  
Athletic Director