

# The Online Code of Conduct for the Maryland Association of Student Councils

The mission of the Maryland Association of Student Councils (MASC) is to foster a statewide environment for all secondary school students to express and exchange opinions and ideas, develop leadership skills, and promote student representation and involvement in all groups and organizations impacting the lives of students. To successfully fulfill this mission, MASC holds a variety of programs and events online through virtual meetings, web conferences, social media, and other mediums. All participants must review and abide by the guidelines set below.

## **Safe Online Environment**

Participants in MASC online programs and services have the right to express themselves. However, participants are expected to treat each other—as well as moderators, leaders, and administrators of online communities—with courtesy and respect. Offensive or inappropriate language is not to be used in any form of communication. Participants are certainly allowed to disagree with each other and be critical, but must do so in a civil manner.

Harassment and discrimination are illegal and express disrespect and abuse of authority, as well as undermine relationships and interfere with learning and productive work. MASC prohibits any form of harassment based on race, color, religion, national or ethnic origin, sexual orientation, age, disability, or gender that has the purpose or effect of substantially interfering with a participant or staff member's ability to participate in or monitor program activities, or which creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive environment.

## **MASC Diversity Statement**

MASC does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, age, ancestry or national origin, familial status, marital status, physical or mental disability, sexual orientation or genetic information in its programs and activities and provides equal access and a welcoming environment to all groups.

## **Standards**

Examples of *positive ways* to help maintain and build a safe online community include:

- Listening and learning, and being respectful of differing opinions, viewpoints, and experiences
- Respecting the online space for the intended learning, engagement, and experience objectives for all attendees/participants
- Giving and accepting constructive feedback, when applicable

- Demonstrating empathy and kindness toward other people
- Accepting responsibility and apologizing to those affected by our mistakes, and learning from the experience

Examples of *unacceptable behavior* include:

- The use of sexualized language or imagery and sexual attention or advances of any kind
- The possession and/or use of any alcoholic beverages, tobacco, illicit drugs, or narcotics displayed in an online community
- Trolling, insulting or derogatory comments, and personal or political attacks
- Public or private harassment, or bullying
- Publishing others' private information, such as a physical or email address, or photos without their explicit permission
- Other conduct which could reasonably be considered inappropriate in an educational and/or professional setting including the use of inappropriate screen/usernames

### **Enforcement Responsibilities**

MASC takes responsibility for enforcing standards of acceptable behavior and will take appropriate and fair corrective action in response to any behavior that it deems inappropriate, threatening, offensive, or harmful.

MASC has the right and responsibility to remove, edit, or reject comments, and other contributions in MASC's online spaces that are not aligned to this Online Code of Conduct, and will communicate reasons for moderator moderation decisions when appropriate.

MASC will follow the below Enforcement Guidelines in determining the consequences for any action it deems in violation of this Online Code of Conduct. A violation of any of these policies and/or guidelines could result in a participant or a group (e.g. a school's chapter or council) being banned from online community activities, including virtual conferences, future webinars/web meetings, and online communities and groups, if applicable. MASC may also notify both the participant's school principal/leaders—and in the case of a student participant, their parents/guardians—as part of the communication.

### **Scope**

This Online Code of Conduct applies within all community spaces and also applies when an individual is officially representing the community in public spaces. Examples of representing our community include using an official email address, posting via an official social media account, or acting as an appointed representative at an online or online event.

## **Reporting Behavior**

Instances of abusive, harassing, or otherwise unacceptable behavior may be reported to the MASC Executive Director via email at [nicete.moodie@mdstudentcouncils.org](mailto:nicete.moodie@mdstudentcouncils.org). All complaints will be reviewed and investigated promptly and fairly.

All reviewers are obligated to respect the privacy and security of the reporter of any incident.

## **Enforcement Guidelines**

### **1. Correction**

Community Impact: Use of inappropriate language or other behavior deemed unprofessional or unwelcome in the community.

Consequence: A private, written warning from community leaders, providing clarity around the nature of the violation and an explanation of why the behavior was inappropriate. A public apology may be requested.

### **2. Warning**

Community Impact: A violation through a single incident or series of actions.

Consequence: A warning with consequences for continued behavior. No interaction with the people involved, including unsolicited interaction with those enforcing the Online Code of Conduct, for a specified period. This includes avoiding interactions in community spaces as well as external channels like social media. Violating these terms may lead to a temporary or permanent ban from specific or all virtual communities administered by MASC.

### **3. Temporary Ban**

Community Impact: A serious violation of community standards, including sustained inappropriate behavior.

Consequence: A temporary ban from any sort of interaction or public communication with the community for a specified period. No public or private interaction with the people involved, including unsolicited interaction with those enforcing the Online Code of Conduct, is allowed during this period. Violating these terms may lead to a permanent ban.

### **4. Permanent Ban**

Community Impact: A serious, flagrant violation of community standards, or demonstrating a pattern of violation of community standards, including sustained inappropriate behavior, harassment of an individual, or aggression toward or disparagement of classes of individuals.

Consequence: A permanent ban from any sort of public interaction within the community.

## **Guidelines for Content Presentation and Sharing**

### **Intellectual Property Rights**

You should only share content that you own, or that you are otherwise authorized to share. If you share content that you do not own or otherwise do not have the rights to share, you may be infringing another person's intellectual property rights. This includes any third party content included in your content, derivative creations, or performances of others' copyrighted content. We encourage you to assess your content for adherence to applicable intellectual property laws and the proper application of principles such as fair use, and to secure all appropriate rights needed, before sharing your content in MASC virtual spaces.

Any unauthorized content you share in MASC virtual spaces may be subject to a takedown by the rights holder(s) to remove the infringing content. Multiple violations of our policies may lead to a permanent suspension of your participation.

Examples of content you cannot share in NASSP virtual spaces without permission from the copyright owners or other authorization include:

- Sharing other creators' content
- Sharing content from other sites
- Showing movies, television shows, or sports matches
- Playing music you do not own or do not have the rights to share

### **Impersonation**

Content or activity meant to impersonate an individual or organization is prohibited. Any attempts to misrepresent yourself as a member or representative of NASSP will result in indefinite suspension.

### **Spams, Scams, and Other Malicious Content**

Any content or activity that disrupts, interrupts, harms, or otherwise violates the integrity of Twitch services or another user's experience or devices is prohibited. Such activity includes:

- Posting large amounts of repetitive, unwanted messages or user reports
- Distributing unauthorized advertisements
- Phishing
- Defrauding others
- Spreading malware or viruses
- Misinformation (such as feigning distress, posting misleading metadata, or intentional channel miscategorization)
- Tampering (such as artificially inflating follow or live viewer stats)
- Selling or sharing user accounts
- Defacing, or attempting to deface, website pages (such as uploading inappropriate or malicious content)

**Attribution**

*MASC's Online Code of Conduct adopted principles from the Contributor Covenant, version 2.0, and the National Association of Secondary School Principal's Online Code of Conduct.*

*Community Impact Guidelines were inspired by Mozilla's code of conduct enforcement ladder.*