

SECTION IV– ATHLETIC/EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITY CODE

The Michigan High School Athletic Association and our conference, the LCAA, have made a commitment to good sportsmanship. Students at Mason High School are expected to exhibit good sportsmanship. Any action, cheer, or chant that is offensive to either competing individual, team, school, or community is not appropriate.

It is the policy at Mason High School that athletes, students who participate in extra-curricular activities and in school sponsored clubs, such as the drama club, establish an exemplary image regarding school behavior. A student is eligible to participate in athletics and extra-curricular activities if, in the judgment of the principal, coaching staff, and faculty, they are representative of the school's ideals in matters of citizenship (inside or outside of the school setting), integrity and sportsmanship. **Participation in athletics and extra-curricular activities is a privilege, not a right.**

Students involved in extra-curricular activities are expected to abide by the Student Code of Conduct. In addition, students involved in extra-curricular activities are expected to abide by the rules outlined in the Athletic/Extra-Curricular Activity Code. A student should realize that the extra-curricular student activities guidelines apply at all times throughout the students' high school career (from: Day One of eligibility, freshman year—through: Last Day of eligibility, up to and including post-season MHSAA tournaments in the fourth and last year of high school: the off season and all vacation periods are included.) The guidelines are not limited to the time period in which the student participates in a particular activity, nor are the guidelines limited to the student behavior at school-sponsored activities or on school property. A student who violates the guidelines will be subject to disciplinary action as outlined in the penalty provisions. In addition, a student participant and his/her parent or guardian must sign and return to the designated school official a form which acknowledges the student and his/her parent or guardian understand and agree to abide by the guidelines.

As program participants, athletes/extra-curricular members (where applicable) are to:

- Follow the rules, train faithfully, and comply with the coach's instructions and policies.
- Enjoy the fun of the contest by playing hard, playing fair, and concentrating on giving their best.
- Strive to keep faith in their teammates, their school, their coach, and themselves.
- Be respectful to all officials and accept their judgments.
- Be modest in victory and courteous in defeat.
- Show respect for faculty members and students at all times.
- Be prepared for daily classroom activities and strive for more than minimum academic standards.

ATHLETIC FEE (FOR ATHLETICS ONLY)

This program does not guarantee playing time. It will allow access to our various sports programs.

COST: \$100 per school calendar year per athlete for high school students and \$75 per school calendar year per athlete for 6th – 8th grade students with a maximum of \$200 per family at any or combined levels. After a student-athlete has paid their athletic fee, the student-athlete will receive an athletic pass to all home middle school and high school athletic events.

FEE: Must be paid no later than the first scheduled scrimmage or game. Fee must be paid to the athletic office, and a receipt will be issued. Return checks will result in the athlete being declared ineligible until a cash payment can be made. A student who has not paid the fee by the deadline will be removed from the team. A student who becomes ineligible, is suspended, or resigns his position for the team will not receive a refund.

Note on fee: A student-athlete who is injured within the first 50% of the season and is unable to continue participating (as confirmed by a medical doctor) because of that injury may receive a refund.

ATHLETIC ELIGIBILITY

Eligibility is determined by the student-athlete's previous semester grade point average (GPA): student-athletes must pass 4 out of 6 classes and maintain a 1.7 GPA or better to be eligible to participate in a sport for the following semester; student-athletes passing at the semester or most recent check 4 out of 6 classes with at least a 1.5 GPA but less than a 1.7 GPA are eligible to participate provided they meet the conditions of academic probation per the definition and procedures outlined in this section. Those student-athletes not meeting these requirements may regain their eligibility by making up the deficiency in the class(es) affecting their eligibility, by retaking the classes they did not pass, by successfully testing out of the class they did not pass, or by making up the class(es) during summer school.

Beginning the third Friday after Labor Day, all in-season athletes will have their grades checked every other Friday, on a bi-weekly basis. If during the eligibility check the athlete is failing one or more courses, is ineligible, or on probation, the athlete may be required to attend after school tutoring sessions. Students are considered ineligible if they have a 1.499 GPA, or lower. Students are considered on academic probation if they have a 1.5-1.699 GPA. Parents/Guardians, students and coaches will be notified by the Athletic Director when the student is ineligible and/or failing a course. It is the student's responsibility to gather assigned and/or missing assessments for each course.

If a student is ELIGIBLE (>1.7 GPA), but FAILING one of more courses: Student will meet with the athletic director to discuss the academic deficiency. Student will have until the next grade check to bring up their failing grade or the student MUST attend after school tutoring and meet all of the requirements (see below). Eligible students are allowed to practice and compete in the games, providing they have fulfilled the tutoring center requirements. If the deficient grade is brought up at the next check, the student will no longer be required to attend the after school tutoring.

If a student is INELIGIBLE (<1.49 GPA) or on PROBATION (1.5-1.69 GPA): Student MUST attend after school tutoring and meet all of the requirements (see below). Ineligible students are allowed to practice, providing they have fulfilled the tutoring center requirements, but they are not permitted to compete, until eligible. Probationary students are allowed to practice, providing they have fulfilled the tutoring center requirements and are allowed to compete.

Requirements for After School Tutoring:

1. Students must attend tutoring three times a week, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, until they are eligible and are NOT failing any course. (Tutoring days are subject to change)
2. Students must bring and do their school work when in the tutoring center or they will not receive credit for attending that day.
3. Saturday school may be assigned as needed, but cannot replace the required after school tutoring sessions.

Academic probation: As a result of a previous semester's GPA or weekly grade check, student-athletes with a 1.5 to 1.699 (rounded) GPA will be placed on "academic probation" and will have until the next weekly grade check to lift their grade point average up to 1.7 or better. Student-athletes who fail to raise their GPA back up to 1.7 or better commencing with the first grade-check of the semester or after spending a week on probation

will be ineligible until at least their next weekly grade check. The definition of a week's eligibility is always Monday through Sunday, per MHSAA, commencing on the Monday following the grade check on Friday.

Other Eligibility Rules:

- High school students must be under 19 years of age on August 31. Seventh and eighth grade students must be under ages 14 and 15, respectively, on September 1 of current school year.
- In order to be eligible to practice with or play on a school-sponsored team, you must have satisfactorily passed a physical examination for the present school year. A record of this examination must be on file in the high school. Physicals must have the signature of either an M.D. or D.O.
- An insurance program either through the school or private insurance must cover you. You cannot practice without insurance. A parental/guardian signature is required on the physical exam record indicating insurance coverage.
- You have not been enrolled in high school for more than eight (8) semesters [two semesters = three trimesters] beyond the eighth grade.
- An athlete may not represent another team. Exceptions are in Section 13 of the MHSAA.
- Students transferring into the district will be eligible if they meet requirements set forth in MHSAA Regulations (Regulation 1, Section 9).
- MHSAA Regulations relating to amateur status and awards shall apply.
- Students taking driver's training instruction must meet the same academic eligibility requirements as student-athletes. Checks will be conducted by the driver's training instructor on an as-needed basis.

ATHLETIC/EXTRA-CURRICULAR VIOLATIONS AND PENALTIES

ALL VIOLATIONS OF THE ATHLETIC/EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITY CODE OF CONDUCT WILL RESULT IN AN INTERNAL INVESTIGATION PERFORMED BY THE ATHLETIC DIRECTOR AND/OR THE BUILDING PRINCIPAL. ANY DISCIPLINARY ACTION ISSUED TO THE ATHLETE/PARTICIPANT WILL BE BASED SOLELY ON THE INTERNAL INVESTIGATION OR THE REPORT OF A RECOGNIZED, PROPER, LEGAL AUTHORITY.

ALL PENALTIES FOR THIS CODE OF CONDUCT SHALL BE CUMULATIVE BEGINNING WITH THE STUDENT'S FIRST DATE OF ELIGIBILITY TO PARTICIPATE IN HIGH SCHOOL.

Major Offenses - Major offenses documented at any time are subject to Athletic/Extra-Curricular Code discipline. The number of major offenses is cumulative during the total high school career.

1. Involvement in any crime inside or outside of school that results in a misdemeanor or felony citation, ticket, charge or conviction by law enforcement.
2. Use, possession, association with or distribution of, alcohol, or illegal drugs is prohibited. This includes illegal performance enhancing substances, unauthorized medicines or prescriptions, narcotics, or look-alike drugs. Also included is the aiding and abetting of any such activity listed above, including the promotion of or distribution of information on where and how to obtain.

3. Assisting others in committing an offense; including obtaining, using, or distributing any above-listed substance; including falsifying information, lying or knowingly obstructing a legal or school investigation.

Progressive Discipline - Any athlete involved in a major offense will be subject to the following disciplinary action. A coach may establish more stringent discipline if approved by the athletic director and Superintendent.

1. **First Offense:** Suspension from the next two (2) scheduled contest-dates where the student-athlete, as a member of a team, participates. This will begin immediately; if an athlete/participant is unable to serve their entire suspension, the suspension will carry over to the athlete's/participants next season. Participants may continue practicing with the team/activity during this period with the coach's/moderator's permission, but cannot dress, play/participate, or be involved in any way during the contests/events. If the offense results in a felony conviction, then the first offense will result in suspension from all athletics for one (1) calendar year.

2. **Second Offense:** Suspension from all extra-curricular activities for one (1) calendar year. If the offense results in a second felony conviction, then the second offense will result in suspension from all athletics for the rest of the high school career.

3. **Third Offense:** You may not represent Mason High School in any athletics for the rest of your school career.

Other Offenses: Tobacco use or possession —or— Where there is no misdemeanor or felony conviction and the offense involves conduct unbecoming of a Mason student that is involved in an athletic/~~extra-curricular activity~~ including—but not limited to violation of in-season team rules as determined by the head coach of the sport in question—the disregard for the rights of other team/activity members, coaches/moderators, faculty or school personnel, fans, other students or property (school or private).

1. First Offense:
Suspension from the next scheduled contest-date—where the student-athlete as a member of a team participates.
2. Second Offense:
Suspension from the next scheduled 50% of the contest-dates where the student-athlete as a member of a team participates.
3. Third and Subsequent Offense: Suspension from all athletics for one (1) calendar year.

Penalties: Athletic code contest suspensions shall not be considered served if the athlete quits the team or sport prior to that sport's season completion. The athletic director or principal may waive this clause under extenuating circumstances only.

Additionally, athletic code contest suspensions shall not be considered served if the contest or contest-date is moved or cancelled due to weather and/or the joint agreement of both schools. In this case, the athletic director will notify the coach of the readjustment.

ATHLETIC AWARDS/LETTERS

Athletic awards such as the varsity letter "M," captain's pins, other pins or emblems and participation certificates are intended to stand as symbols of recognition for being part of a team, for abiding by school, sport and team rules, and for representing the community. The head varsity coach of each sport will determine the guidelines for earning a varsity letter, for some teams this may mean finishing the season in good standing, for some teams this may mean the accumulation of a specific number of "points" or top-place finishes. The varsity letter and other

team awards are to be determined by the head varsity coach of each sport with the approval of the athletic director before the beginning of the sport season. Coaches are directed to share this information with student-athletes and parents alike prior to the start of each season at a designated “pre-season meeting” where team rules are also presented. Under no circumstances will a varsity letter be awarded to an athlete who quits prior to the end of the season. Additionally, varsity letters, post-season honors or other awards will not be conferred to members of a team when that athlete or team does not finish its schedule due to team disciplinary action or administrative action in lieu of team disciplinary action.

CURFEW

As part of team rules, an in-season curfew may be put in place for each team/activity as determined by the coach/moderator and approved by the athletic director.

DUE PROCESS

Any student involved in an athletic/extra-curricular activity that is in violation of any major offense mentioned above will be afforded due process. During the investigation, the student-athlete will have the right to be informed of any and all allegations and will have the right to be heard by the athletic director or the building principal. The student will have the right of appeal of consequences to the building principal unless the building principal is actively involved in the original investigation and/or determination of consequences. This must be done, in writing, within 72 hours of the consequences being determined. All consequences will be enforced during the appeal period. A final appeal may be made to the Superintendent of schools or his/her designee, in writing, within 72 hours of the consequences being determined. All consequences will be enforced during the appeal. A form to initiate the appeal is available in the high school office and must be filled out to initiate the appeal.

Team Offenses

The head coach/moderator will establish the appropriate discipline for those team offenses not already covered in this section. This discipline will be explained in the individual coach’s/moderator’s, Athletic Director-approved rules, and distributed to athletes and parents prior to the start of the season.

MISCELLANEOUS

- **All rules shall be in effect for the athlete’s/participant’s entire high school career.**
- An investigation will be initiated upon report of a possible violation made to the athletic director or building principal by members of the administration, teaching staff, coaches, and/or advisors. Students and community members who report possible violations will be asked to identify themselves and may be asked to supply evidence or sign a statement before an investigation is initiated. Anonymous reports shall not initiate an investigation.
- All equipment issued to students participating in any extra-curricular activity is school equipment. Loss of this equipment will require replacement by the student at a cost determined by the Athletic Director/Principal.
- The athlete/participant will consult with the coach/moderator if he/she must miss a practice.
- Athletic awards should be worn with pride. Awards will not be altered.

PARTICIPATION RULES

1. School Attendance:

Athletes must be in attendance for all periods of the school day in order to practice or participate in competition.

- a. Unexcused Absence: Any athlete/participant that has an unexcused absence from any scheduled class may not participate in a practice, contest, or event on that day or the day it is discovered by the attendance office.
 - b. Excused Absence: The athletic director/principal, if appropriate, may grant special consideration; an example of this would be a medical or dental appointment with a doctor's note.
 - c. Suspension: An athlete/participant serving an out-of-school suspension will neither appear at, practice nor participate in an event on the day(s) of suspension.
2. There must be on file with the athletic director or the athletic director's designee, the signature of the parent/guardian and the student-athlete on the physical card stating they have read the Mason Athletic/Extra-Curricular Code and agree to abide by its contents.

THE FANS' ROLE AT ATHLETIC CONTESTS:

The spectators at an athletic contest have an extremely important role in displaying good sportsmanship. As a group, the actions and words of the fans may have quite an impact on how others see a school or a community.

Fans should always:

1. Compliment student-athletes in their attempts to improve and learn.
2. Realize that a ticket is a privilege to observe a contest, not a license to verbally assault others or be generally obnoxious.
3. Respect both players and fans of opposing teams.
4. Know and understand the rules of the game.
5. Respect the decision of the officials, and admire the willingness to publicly officiate student-athletes in the best interest of interscholastic sports.
6. Cheer good performances, regardless of the uniform color.
7. Recognize and compliment the efforts of coaches, officials, league, and school administrators for their interest in expanding education.

UNIFORMS / EQUIPMENT

The proper care of equipment is the participant's responsibility. It is issued for the participant's use as a team/activity member. The participant will be responsible for reimbursing the cost of equipment lost through negligence.

USE OF ATHLETIC SUPPLEMENTS

School personnel and coaches should not dispense any drug, medication or food supplement except with extreme caution and in accordance with policies developed in consultation with parents, health-care professionals, the MHSAA and senior administrative personnel of the school or school district. Use of any drug, medication or food supplement in a way not prescribed by the manufacturer should not be authorized or encouraged by school personnel and coaches. Even natural substances in unnatural amounts may have short-term or long-term negative health effects.

In order to minimize health and safety risks to student-athletes, maintain ethical standards and reduce liability risks, school personnel and coaches should never supply, recommend or permit the use of any drug medication or food supplement solely for performance-enhancing purposes