

# **MASON MIDDLE SCHOOL**

## **STUDENT – PARENT ATHLETIC HANDBOOK**



We are very pleased that you have decided to become involved in athletics at Mason Middle School. To be a good athlete it will take a considerable amount of time and effort on the part of both the athlete and parent. There will be the responsibility of participating as a player and parent fan in a very positive and good sportsmanship manner, as well as obeying and supporting the rules and regulations contained in our athletic code.

We strive to have all our athletes in the classroom as well as in athletics – emphasizing that academic success is the number one priority of school. With the proper attitude, and the willingness to work, we feel all our athletes will have a positive experience while participating in our athletic program.

## **Philosophy**

The guiding principle of athletic programs shall be the promotion of the general welfare of all students.

The athletic program is a part of the education process of the school system and is an extension of the classroom, serving as a laboratory for learning. We strive to have every student athlete enjoy a positive experience in our program, while developing competitive teams. In addition, interscholastic athletes are provided with the belief that the following goals may be accomplished through membership on an interscholastic athletic team:

- A. Teamwork and cooperation
- B. Good health and physical fitness habits
- C. Good sportsmanship and fair competition
- D. School spirit and loyalty
- E. Moral development and training
- F. Social skills development
- G. Emotional maturity development

The success of the program is not based solely on the win-loss record of the teams. A goal of the program is to have each participant reach his or her maximum potential.

## **Activities Offered**

Current activities available:

<u>Fall Season</u>	Girls 7 <sup>th</sup> and 8 <sup>th</sup> grade volleyball 7 <sup>th</sup> and 8 <sup>th</sup> grade football Cross Country (6 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup> grade)
<u>Winter Season</u>	Boys 7 <sup>th</sup> and 8 <sup>th</sup> grade basketball Wrestling (6 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup> grade) Girls 7 <sup>th</sup> and 8 <sup>th</sup> grade basketball
<u>Spring Season</u>	Girls track (6 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup> grade) Boys track (6 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup> grade)

## **Objectives of the Athletic Program**

1. Provide athletes with quality teaching/coaching personnel who will give the athletes a sound basis to build and develop essential skills.
2. Provide athletes the opportunity to learn and develop the skills necessary to improve in their sport.
3. Provide athletes with facilities that will enhance their skills.
4. Provide opportunity for athletes to participate equally with their teammates.
5. Build a positive image of school activities that community, parents and students can support and be proud of.

## **Athletic Physical**

A physical examination is REQUIRED on a MHSAA official physical form in order to try out for middle school athletic teams. Athletes considering participation in sports not requiring a tryout (football, wrestling, track) may not participate in any conditioning session or team practice until the physical exam certification is on file in the athletic office.

A physical examination given ON OR AFTER APRIL 15 is good for the following school year (MHSAA guideline).

## **Tryouts/Cuts**

There are open tryouts for basketball and volleyball at our school. Anyone interested in participating in these sports is encouraged to try out. Because of limited facilities and a limited budget, there may be a need for cuts to be made. In these instances, each athlete will be given a skills test. The results of this test will weigh heavily in deciding who will be on the team to represent the school and community.

Athletes cut from any team will be spoken to individually by the head coach. They will be encouraged to work on the skills in which they need improvement. Students will be encouraged to try out for the team again the following year.

## **Eligibility Requirements**

1. **Age: Section 2 – Regulation 3 MHSAA**  
(A) – a seventh or eighth grade student who competes in any interscholastic athletic contest must be under fourteen (14) or fifteen (15) years of age, respectively, except that a student who reaches that birthday on or after September 1 of a current school year is eligible for interscholastic athletic contests for the balance of that school year.  
(B) – If the local school administration and parents can agree and arrange, seventh and eighth grade students who are eligible for junior high/middle school in all respects except that they became 14 years

old before September 1 may participate in a 9-12 grade program, even if it is in a separate building. Those students would be limited to four years of high school eligibility and all other regulations would apply (including requirement to be doing passing work in at least four full-credit junior high/middle school courses.)

### **Academic/Behavioral Policy**

The following statement is a brief overview of the middle school academic and behavioral expectations of all athletes participating in interscholastic sports.

Athletic eligibility of all athletes will be monitored on a weekly basis. Academic progress and student behavior will determine athletic eligibility.

Teachers are asked to provide a subject grade and a behavioral grade for each class on a weekly basis for students participating in athletics. The following guidelines are to be used:

- A. Teachers will be asked to evaluate the academic and behavioral status of all athletic team members during each week of the sports season.
- B. A complete list of all participating athletes who are potentially ineligible or on probation will be emailed to teachers by the end of the school day on Thursday each week. Teachers will return the list to the Athletic Director by noon Friday with current academic and behavioral grades updated.
- C. A master list will be prepared to inform coaches about students ineligible for the following week's contests. The Athletic Director will meet with student athletes on Friday afternoon to discuss their eligibility status.
- D. Athletes who are earning an academic grade of D in 50 percent of a full class load or behavior grade of N in any class will be placed on probation. Probationary athletes may practice and compete with the team. If the student shows improvement, he/she will remain eligible. If no improvement is evident within a week's time, the student will become ineligible from competition the following week.
- E. Athletes must be passing more than 50 percent of a full class load to be eligible for athletic competition. A behavior grade of U also makes a student ineligible. If ineligible athletes fail to show improvement under the weekly eligibility, they will remain ineligible. If the student shows improvement, he/she will become eligible for competition the following week. An ineligible athlete may practice and travel with the team, but may not dress for or play in the events or wear game jersey to school on game day.

*Athletes sent to the office for misbehavior and subsequent discipline may be suspended from participation or dismissed from the team.*

### **Conduct of an Athlete**

1. A student who elects to participate in athletics is voluntarily making a choice of self-discipline and self-denial. Being a member of an athletic team is a privilege. An athlete's conduct should reflect positively upon himself/herself, his/her family, school and community.
2. On the field of competition, behavior should reflect good sportsmanship.

3. In the classroom, good citizenship, the highest individual academic effort, and social responsibility should exemplify the conduct of a good athlete.
4. The athlete is responsible for proper use of equipment and for its prompt return at the end of the season. Lost, damaged or stolen equipment must be paid for by the athlete to whom it was issued. Any athlete who has not returned or paid for lost equipment shall not be issued additional equipment until the matter is resolved.
5. Practice equipment and game uniforms will be worn and displayed properly at all times as directed by the coach.
6. Dropping out of a co-curricular activity is a serious matter. As a courtesy, the athlete and parents should discuss this decision with the coach or athletic director before making a final decision.
7. Players may not transfer from one sport to another during a season unless agreed upon by the player and both coaches. Unless mutually agreed upon by both coaches, players quitting a team may not play on another team until the season of the team he/she quit has concluded. It is recommended that an athlete participate in only one sport per season.
8. An athlete should respect and adhere to the expectations of the coach. More specific written rules may be distributed by the coach of a particular sport.
9. In addition to the rules and regulations stated above, the athlete is expected to comply with the eligibility requirements of the Michigan High School Athletic Association and the Mason Public Schools.

### **School Suspension**

Student athletes who are suspended from school for violation of school rules and/or policies will adhere to the following disciplinary guidelines:

- A. First Suspension (1-10 days)
  1. Athlete may not practice during the suspension period.
  2. Athlete may not participate in games/events during the suspension period.
  3. Athlete may resume practices when reinstated to classes.
- B. Second Suspension (1-10 days)
  1. Loss of interscholastic sport privileges for remainder of current season.

### **Tobacco, Drugs, Steroids, and Alcohol**

The use, possession, or distribution of tobacco, alcohol, illegal drugs, or prescription drugs used illegally, including steroids by the athletes, is prohibited. Violation of this rule will result in suspension from competition for 1/3 of the regular scheduled contests. Suspension begins the day of the next scheduled contest and immediate participation in a chemical awareness insight group conducted by Mason Public Schools or a school approved outside program. Suspension will carry over to the athlete's next season of competition.

In the event the number of contests is not evenly divisible by 3, the suspension will be rounded up to the next whole number of contests. The formula devised for calculating athletic suspension, when the suspension overlaps seasons, is as follows: Take the number of days of competition left in the season, this will give you a decimal value. Subtract the value from .33 and multiply it by the number of games in the next season the athlete will participate in. You must round up to the next unit and this will be the number of games the athlete is suspended for.

### **Attendance Requirements**

Athletes must be in attendance at least **four** class periods in order to participate in that day's practice or contest. Any exception must have prior approval of the coach and/or athletic director.

If there are extenuating circumstances to an athlete's attendance, the school attendance office/athletic director will determine eligibility.

### **Sportsmanship**

Our athletes have earned an outstanding reputation throughout the area for good sportsmanship. Athletes and fans (students and adults) have always conducted themselves commendably. Everyone is proud of this reputation and works hard to uphold it. Please review the following:

If a fan is acting in an un-sportsmanship-like manner he or she will be approached and warned by a staff member or the game manager. A follow-up letter will be sent by the athletic department. A second offense will result in a suspension of two home contests and any other athletic event during the suspension time period. A third offense will result in a suspension from all athletic contests for the remainder of the school year. This process may be accelerated if the administration deems necessary.

1. A student spectator represents their school the same as does the athlete.
2. The good name of the school is more valuable than a game won by unfair play.
3. Accept decisions of officials without dispute.
4. Recognize and show appreciation of fine play and good sportsmanship by opponents.

### **Use of Tobacco Products**

Use of tobacco products is prohibited by all persons on/in all District property or facilities at all times.

### **Transportation (Bus Conduct)**

Transportation of students to school sponsored co-curricular and extra-curricular events will be provided by Mason Public Schools. Student participants in these events are required, except for the situations provided below, to ride in the designated school vehicles both to and from the activity. In most instances, the method of transportation will be a school bus. In situations where a limited number of participants are involved, students may be transported via car or van that is driven by a school employee.

While the district normally requires that participants ride in school vehicles, it recognizes that certain instances make this practice difficult. Some exceptions to the above regulation may exist depending upon the circumstances. The following guidelines address these situations:

- Parents may be allowed to transport their own child to and/or from school-sponsored activities in which the child is a participant. In the situations where parents transport their own child, the district requires written notification to the staff member supervising the group/team. This requirement helps our supervisors/coaches to maintain knowledge of each child's whereabouts before and after events away from school. In emergency situations, permission may be granted verbally.
- Parents may elect to have their child transported to and/or from an event by another family member or adult. In these special cases, the transported child's parent must provide specific written permission that includes their signature. Advanced notice is required and must be presented to the staff member/coach. In emergency situations, permission may be granted verbally.

**\*\*The district does not allow the transportation of student participants by other students to and/or from school-sponsored away events. Parent requests for these types of transportation arrangements will be denied.**

### **Bus Behavior Expectations**

1. Appropriate noise level
2. Stay seated
3. Keep bus clean/your area picked up
4. Open windows by permission only
5. Observe all bus safety rules
6. Parents are expected to pick up their student athlete as scheduled at the estimated return time at MMS

### **Insurance Coverage**

It is recommended that all athletes have medical insurance. The school is not responsible for payment of medical services required by an athlete because of injury sustained or illness contracted while participating in interscholastic sports. Individual families or their insurance companies assume the financial responsibility for such injuries.

The school district offers the opportunity for athletes to purchase reasonably priced insurance coverage from an independent carrier. Inquire at the middle school's office.

### **Illness and Injury**

Students absent from practice due to extended illness or disabling injury must be re-certified, in writing, by their physician for re-admittance to practice, scrimmage and contests.

## **Snow Day Procedure**

If school is called off during the school day, no athletic games or practices will be held.

## **Awards**

All seventh and eighth grade students who complete an interscholastic sport season satisfactorily and in good standing will qualify for and receive a Mason Middle School Athletic Award certificate for their accomplishments. The award certificate will be presented by the coach to the student at the end of season play.

## **Parent/Athletes Concern Procedure – Line of Communication**

To assist all parents in communication procedures with the coaches of their student athletes – please follow the procedures listed below:

1. The student athlete should first discuss any problems he or she may have with the coach of his or her team.
2. If the problem is not resolved, then parent and the student should meet with the coach.
3. If the problem remains unresolved, the parent, student athlete and coach may ask to meet with the athletic director.
4. If this meeting does not resolve the problem, the parent may ask to meet with the principal.
5. From this point, if the problem is not resolved it may go to the superintendent or his designee and ultimately to the school board.

It is our intent to work cooperatively as a unit -- parent, student athlete and school system -- for the welfare of each of our students.

## **Athletic Boosters**

Parents of students who are members of MMS athletic teams are automatically members of the Middle School Parent Athletic Boosters. Consequently they will be asked to assist with concession sales at least once during an athletic event per season that their child is participating. It is important that booster concession stands be made available during each season, as the money raised is our source of revenue to purchase new uniforms and update sports equipment for the Middle School Athletic Program.



## Registration Fee

Student athletes are required to pay a registration fee for each sport that they participate in at the Middle School. The sports registration fees for each sport are listed below. If a family needs to have the registration fee reduced or waived due to hardship, please contact the Middle School office at (517) 676-6514.

### Fee:

Cross Country	\$50.00
Volleyball	\$50.00
Football	\$100.00
Boys Basketball	\$50.00
Girls Basketball	\$50.00
Wrestling	\$50.00
Track	\$50.00

The fee for each individual athlete is capped at \$100 for non-football players and \$135 for football players each school year. There is a district family cap that is defined as:

Family cap - A family with multiple student athletes in the district will only pay for three student athletes; the fees are waived for additional students. In other words, the fourth child is free, regardless of the number of sports the students' play. No refunds are issued of the athletic registration fee.

**MASON MIDDLE SCHOOL  
ATHLETIC CONSENT FORM**

Athlete \_\_\_\_\_  
Last Name First Name Grade

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_

I, \_\_\_\_\_, having permitted my student to engage in competitive middle school athletics, do hereby voluntarily consent to such emergency procedures and treatment as is deemed necessary by attending medical personnel. The foregoing consent shall extend and apply to the entire period my student shall so engage in competitive middle school athletics for Mason Public Schools.

I have read the Athletic Handbook and I agree to abide by the regulations stated therein.

Athlete's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

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