

# Monroe Public Schools Parent & Athlete Handbook Acknowledgement/Contract Form

Revised November 2020

I have chosen to participate in athletics at Monroe Public Schools. I commit myself to continuously working toward the goal of top physical fitness. To do anything which would harm my body would not be in my best interest or in the interest of my team and school. I agree to remain free from tobacco, alcohol, and other drugs. I fully understand this pledge extends to seven days a week. If I have a problem or need help fulfilling this contract, I understand that the coaches, the substance abuse coordinator, and school counselors will be available to help me. I have read and understand the athletic rules and regulations and the consequences of violating them. I pledge to keep all rules and regulations and to help all of my teammates abide by the same. In addition, my signature below acknowledges that I have read the Athletic Department Parent and Athlete Handbook and accept the rules and regulations within as a condition of participation.

(This page must be signed by both the parent and athlete AFTER reading and agreeing to the rules and regulations outlined in the Parent and Athlete Handbook. This page must be returned to the coach before participation in any sport.)

Student Athlete Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Please print your name (student athlete) \_\_\_\_\_

Sport \_\_\_\_\_

As the parent/guardian of \_\_\_\_\_, I understand and support this contract regarding substance abuse violations and pledge that my son/daughter has signed. Optimum health is the goal of our athletic program, and I support the school system in the efforts to attain this goal. I acknowledge that there will be consequences for athletes who violate the substance abuse policy of Monroe Public Schools. In addition, my signature below acknowledges that I have read the Athletic Department Parent and Athletic Handbook and accept the rules and regulations within as a condition of participation for my child.

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

Handbook can be found at: [www.monroetrojans.com](http://www.monroetrojans.com) under Forms & Links/Parent-Athlete Handbook



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# Monroe Public Schools Parent and Athlete Handbook

The athletic department would like to take this opportunity to share with you information about the Monroe Public Schools Athletic Department. The athletic program has several integral players: the athletes, coaches, parents, and school staff. The focus of these key players should be on what school sports are about: the team. School sports promote the ideas of teamwork, discipline, personal sacrifice, hard work, sportsmanship, healthy lifestyle, and loyalty to school and community.

## MONROE PUBLIC SCHOOLS ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT PHILOSOPHY

The athletic program at Monroe Public Schools is an integral component of the total educational experience and will offer your student valuable learning opportunities. It is our desire that participation in our program is an extension of what transpires in the classroom and echoes the vision and mission of our district. The opportunity to play for Monroe is a privilege and not a right, therefore we expect our athletes to behave accordingly. We will make every effort to offer the best in equipment, facilities, and coaching. All athletes will abide by the Michigan High School Athletic Association, The Southeastern Michigan Conference as well as the Monroe Athlete Code of Conduct.

## ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT CORE VALUES

<b><i>Academics</i></b>	<b><i>Character</i></b>	<b><i>Commitment</i></b>	<b><i>Dedication</i></b>
<b><i>Integrity</i></b>	<b><i>Respect</i></b>	<b><i>Sportsmanship</i></b>	<b><i>Team</i></b>

Our core values are the foundation on which the department's goals and philosophy are built.

### Athletics Philosophy for Middle School Athletics.

Monroe Public Schools believes that students need to be able to explore athletics at the age where they are learning about themselves and their abilities. Participating in athletics allows students to discover abilities that were untapped and can give them focus in the classroom. The SEC (our conference affiliation) encourages equal playing time for Middle School student athletes and has rules governing playing time in some sports. Monroe Public Schools is quite proud of our coaching staff's support of the League mandates for equal playing time. We attempt to give students the opportunity to develop their skills in a sport by maximizing both practice and game time. Hard work, sacrifice, and desire are the keys to success in sports and in life. These components of success are encouraged and developed in our athletic program.

### Participation is a privilege, not a right.

Participation is a privilege for all students who choose to participate; it is not a right. We maintain strict standards in academics, behavior, and making healthy choices. We believe our athletic programs represent the school and community. It is because of this belief that we hold our student athletes to a high standard. We emphasize dedication and commitment to the team and program, a desire for success, and sacrificing personal goals for team goals.

### Participation in out-of-season sports while a member of an athletic team Monroe Public Schools.

Monroe Public Schools expects students participating in athletics for MPS to be committed to the sport in season. As a result, the student should not compromise the school team concept by participating on an out-of-season team.

MHSAA defines our sport seasons. There are limits on how coaches interact and work with student athletes during the off season. There are many reasons for this, but one of the most important is because student athletes need to do other things.

MHSAA and Monroe Public Schools promote the idea of a well-rounded student athlete. Participating in various sports with their school friends throughout their high school years will become some of the most memorable experiences students take with them.

## Parental Involvement in sporting events and athletics.

Parents should practice sportsmanship as well as their student athletes. Parents need to remember the purpose of educational athletics: to train young people for life, but also to allow student athletes to have fun. Parents can be the biggest role model for student athletes when it comes to their understanding of sportsmanship; therefore, parents should exhibit the qualities of fairness, courtesy and grace in winning and defeat at home or away games and events.

## The 24-Hour Rule

This is a tool for giving "space and time" to allow discussions to occur in a fruitful environment. Parents who are upset with a child are encouraged not to discuss anything about the game, etc., for 24 hours. Twenty-four hours later it may be discussed in a calm manner, without the emotions from the day before, and many times, it just isn't as important as it seemed the day before. Lessons are still taught and learned the next day, but all involved have a better chance of doing so in a more constructive setting.

This rule also works well with parent-coach interactions. If something is bothering you about your child's status on a team, etc., give yourself 24 hours before you contact the coach (You should never contact a coach immediately after a contest). The time will give you a chance to search for different perspectives, which may provide a new way to look at the situation. Discussions with the coach will be much more productive without intense emotions.

## Addressing a Concern

Concerns that may arise will be of two types. First, your student athlete may bring a concern he/she has with the coach or team to your attention. To deal with this type of concern, the best course of action is to be a good listener and encourage your child to figure out options and try to deal with the concern on his/her own. One of the life lessons learned from participating in athletics is how to deal with challenges. Your student athlete should be able to discuss most issues with the coach on his/her own behalf. The second type of concern may come from you as the parent. Whether you've been a sounding board for your student athlete's concerns, or whether you've drawn conclusions on your own, you may at some point feel that you need to contact the coach directly about your child. Please keep in mind that the coach interacts with the student athletes daily and is the best person to relay information to you about what is going on. In addition, when you ask for a meeting with a coach, it is expected that your student athlete will be a part of the meeting. Since the focus of the meeting will be centered on your student athlete, we believe that athlete needs to be present at the meeting. Getting all parties involved in the discussion will assist in coming up with a plan to address the issue. Once you have met with the coach, if you feel you need to pursue the issue further, contact the Athletic Director. At this meeting it is also expected that your student athlete be present.

## MHS Student-Athlete Eligibility

To be eligible to represent MHS in Interscholastic Athletics:

1. **Enrollment** – For first semester a student must have been enrolled in a high school not later than the fourth Friday after Labor Day. For second semester a student must be enrolled in a high school not later than the fourth Friday of February. For transfer students, please consult the Athletic Director.
2. **Age** – A student must be under nineteen (19) years of age at time of contest unless your nineteenth (19th) birthday occurs on or after September 1 of a current school year, in which case you are eligible the balance of that school year.
3. **Physical Examination** – An athlete may not participate or try out for a team without a valid physical examination on record.
4. **Health Insurance** – An athlete must be covered by an active health insurance plan.
5. **Seasons of Competition** – A student must not have competed for more than four (4) first and four (4) second semester seasons in a sport, beginning in the ninth grade.
6. **Semesters of Enrollment** – A student must not have been enrolled in grades nine to twelve (9-12) inclusive, for more than eight (8) semesters. The seventh and eighth (7th & 8th) semesters must be consecutive. Enrollment in a school for a period of three (3) weeks or more counts as a semester. Participation in one (1) or more interscholastic athletic contests also constitutes a semester of enrollment.
7. **Undergraduate Standing** – A student must not be a high school graduate.
8. **Transfers** – (New 2019): Sports Specific Transfer Rule; A student who does not meet an exception (e.g.: full residential change) and transfers to another school will not be eligible in any sport he or she played this year (scrimmage or game) in the next season. In sports not played in the previous season, the student would be eligible.
9. **Awards** – A student must not accept any award for athletic performance that exceeds \$40.00 in value. An award may not include cash, merchandise certificates, or negotiable certificates of any value.
10. **Amateur Practices** – A student must not accept any money or other valuable consideration (merchandise, etc.) for practicing in any form of athletics, sports, or games, for officiating in interscholastic athletic contests, or have signed a contract with a professional team. \*only applies to MHSAA sanctioned sports.
11. **Limited Team Membership**
  - a. After a student has represented their school in a sport, he/she may participate in a maximum of two (2) individual sport meets or contests, during the sport season of a school year while not representing their school. This only applies to certain sports.
  - b. A student must not participate in any so-called “all-star” charity or exhibition games in football, basketball, or ice hockey, before graduating from high school.
12. **Previous Semester Record** – To be eligible for athletics a student must pass 66% of their full load of classes and have a minimum 1.8 GPA for the semester. \*If the student is enrolled in the minimum of 4 classes, they must pass all 4 classes and have a minimum 1.8 GPA for the semester. If a student does not meet this requirement, he/she will be ineligible for a minimum of sixty (60) school days.
13. **Current Semester Record** - A student must be carrying a minimum of four classes for the current semester. All students must achieve a minimum GPA of 1.8 at the end of any semester to maintain eligibility for athletics. Academic eligibility checks of not more than nine weeks are required. If, when checked, a student is not passing at least 66 percent of a full class load they would be considered ineligible. (For a currently enrolled semester student, that would mean four out of six classes with an overall 1.8 GPA.) The student is ineligible for competition until the next check but not less than one week beginning the next Monday through Sunday. If the next eligibility check reveals the student is not passing at least 66 percent of a full class load, that student is ineligible for competition for not less than one week beginning the next Monday through Sunday, and so on until the student is passing 66 percent of the credit hours from the start of the semester through the most recent eligibility check. Reviews and extracurricular work, and work for which credit previously has been received, shall not be counted. If the student has dual enrollment, they must take at least four classes at the high school and pass three of them.
14. **Practice Procedure for In-Eligible Athletes** - An ineligible athlete may request permission to practice with an athletic team during his/her period of ineligibility. The athlete will enter into a contract with the coach of the sport. Listed in the contract will be criteria that the athlete must maintain to continue to practice with the team. If at any time during the season the athlete fails to maintain the contract, he/she will be dropped from the team. The athlete will not be able to participate in any contest with the team until the academic eligibility requirements are met.

## UNIFORM CODE OF CONDUCT FOR ATHLETES

The Monroe Public Schools has developed a common set of rules by which all students participating in athletics in the district must abide. The code combines the rules and regulations of the Michigan High School Athletic Association pertaining to the student athlete, as well as specific district rules governing athletic participation. Student athletes are to comply with all aspects of the code if they desire continued eligibility participation status. This applies to things that happen on and off campus including postings on the internet and inappropriate use of cell phones. The rules apply 24/7, 365 days a year.

### SECTION I ELIGIBILITY

#### A. **AGE**

1. The athlete who competes in any high school interscholastic athletic contest must be under 19 years of age. When an athlete's 19th birthday occurs on or after September 1 of the current school year, he/she is eligible for participation for the balance of that school year.
2. An eighth-grade athlete must be under 15 years of age. If they are 15 after September 1, they may compete for the remainder of the year.

B. **PHYSICAL EXAMINATION** - An athlete must have a physical examination completed by a physician certifying that the student is fully able to compete in athletics. The physical must take place April 15 or later to be used for the following school year. The athlete shall not practice or compete in any contests until the physical has been turned into the athletic office.

C. **HEALTH INSURANCE** – Student athletes must be covered by an active health insurance policy.

D. **FINAL FORMS PARENT/ATHLETE ONLINE REGISTRATION** – Parents and student athletes must be registered in the program and compliant with all aspects prior to any athletic participation.

E. **SEASON OF COMPETITION** - An athlete may compete in no more than two seasons in a given sport while enrolled at the middle school level and four seasons as a senior high athlete.

F. **SEMESTER OF ELIGIBILITY** - A student shall not compete in any branch of athletics that has been enrolled in grades nine to twelve, inclusive, for more than eight semesters. The seventh and eighth semesters must be consecutive. Enrollment in a school beyond the fourth Friday after Labor Day (first semester) or fourth Friday of February (second semester), or competing in one or more interscholastic athletic contests, shall be considered as enrollment for a semester under this rule.

### SECTION II TRAVELING TO ATHLETIC EVENTS

A. Any athlete traveling to an away athletic contest as a member of a team on school owned or approved vehicles, must return to the home school on the vehicle when the contest is over. The only exception is where the athlete's parents have arranged 24 hours in advance in writing to pick up their son/daughter after a contest.

B. Occasionally, athletes ride with adults to nearby tournaments or contests. Athletes may only ride with their parent or adults who have been approved by the Board of Education on a private transportation and criminal history form.

### SECTION III PARTICIPATION IN ATHLETIC CONTESTS & PRACTICES

A. The required Physical and Final Forms registration **MUST** be turned into the Athletic Office or completed online. As an athlete you **ARE NOT** eligible to participate in any sport until the physical forms and registration have been completed and turned in.

B. Attendance at practices is necessary to prepare athletes for contests both physically and mentally. All team members shall be at all practice sessions and contests as designated by the coach. Situations may occur where attendance is not possible, such as illness, injury, or family commitments. In those cases, the coach must be notified of the absence.

C. Practices or contests over school vacation periods are voluntary. However, any contests missed because of extending a vacation when regular school is in session will result in dismissal from the squad unless prior approval is received from the coach. Any practices missed because of extending vacations when regular school is in session may result in suspension or other disciplinary action unless prior approval is received from the coach.

D. Athletes are to attend school at least one-half of the school day if they plan to participate in an athletic contest during the same day. If there is a situation where the athlete cannot attend school the day of a contest, such as a funeral or doctor's appointment etc., the athlete may play in the contest on the approval of the athletic director.

### SECTION IV USE OF TOBACCO, ALCOHOL AND DRUGS

When a student voluntarily agrees to participate in interscholastic athletics, he/she agrees to abide by the Monroe Public Schools Athletic Code of conduct. The Athletic Code of conduct applies to all student-athletes from the time they enter Monroe Public Schools. As a student-athlete is a representative of Monroe Public Schools, the Athletic Code of Conduct is in effect 365 days a year, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week for every student-athlete.

The Athletic Code of Conduct deals with specific violations that should be applied within every athletic program; however, this code is not intended to be all-inclusive. If no penalty is listed in the code for a violation, the coach and/or Athletic Director has the authority to determine the penalty (consistent with the philosophy of the code.) In the event that the Athletic Code of Conduct or

other school policies or procedures do not cover situations that arise, the administration reserves the right to establish such rules, conditions and penalties to respond effectively to unanticipated or unique circumstances. A single violation may be deemed severe enough by school administration as to warrant the enforcement of the single violation as if it were a second or third violation.

**Student Transfer**- a student who is not eligible for athletics at one school cannot be made immediately eligible by virtue of transfer from one school to another. The student will be subject to either the penalty listed in the Monroe Public Schools Athletic Code of Conduct or the penalty imposed at his/her previous school, whichever is greater.

#### *Penalties for Substance, Alcohol Abuse*

Violations of the Athletic Code of Conduct may result in suspension or expulsion from school and would also affect a student's eligibility to participate in extra/co-curricular activities.

##### A. Athletes

1. **First violation** - An athlete will be suspended from all remaining participation during the season in which the violation occurs. If the violation occurs out-of-season, the athlete will be referred to the Substance Abuse Team (SAT) and will lose eligibility for the first half of their next season sport.
2. **Second violation** - Same as first athletic violation, i.e., off the team/activity for the remainder of the season, and the athlete will lose eligibility for the entire next sport season. The athlete will be required to attend programs arranged by SAT. If the violation occurs out-of-season, the athlete will be referred to the Substance Abuse Team (SAT) and will lose eligibility for the entire season of their next season sport.
3. **Third violation and subsequent violations** - The athlete will lose eligibility to participate in any interscholastic athletic competition and will be suspended from all future athletic participation.
4. Any cost for required classes is the responsibility of the student.

#### *Penalties for Tobacco Use*

Violations of the Athletic Code of Conduct may result in suspension or expulsion from school and would also affect a student's eligibility to participate in extra/co-curricular activities.

##### A. Athletes

1. **First violation** - The first offense for possession of use of tobacco products will result in the loss of 25% of regularly scheduled games including post season tournaments. This number will be determined by the Athletic Director. The students will be required to attend tobacco abuse counseling by the Student Abuse Team (SAT). The student is expected to attend all practices and games (not in uniform) during the length of the suspension. Failure to do so will result in dismissal from the team.
2. **Second violation** - A second offense will result in dismissal from the team for the remainder of that season with the loss of any awards earned. Also, the 1st half of the next season will be forfeited.
3. **Third violation** - The athlete will lose eligibility to participate in any interscholastic athletic competition and will be suspended from all future athletic participation. (If an athlete is removed from a team due to a violation, they forfeit any and all athletic rewards)

**Drugs** - Any sale, use or possession of non-prescribed drugs will result in a dismissal from the team for the remainder of that season with loss of any awards earned. This includes steroids not prescribed by a physician. Also, the athlete will not be allowed to participate in any other sport until they have completed a drug intervention program.

**Discipline** - The appeal process can be found in the student handbook.

## SECTION V BEHAVIOR OF ATHLETES

The purpose of Monroe High School Athletics is to provide opportunities for all participating students to learn life-long values in a safe environment. These values include: cooperation, sportsmanship, pride, respect and leadership skills.

As a Monroe Public Schools athlete, you have made a choice to uphold certain standards expected of athletes in our community. Your participation in athletics is a privilege and should be treated as such. Any time you wear the red and white you are representing yourself, your family, your school, and all those that have worn these colors before you. Your behavior should be above reproach in all areas. Other students, staff, parents, and the community will closely observe your conduct. The rules outlined in this handbook are not designed solely to describe punishment; rather they are intended as a guide to successful participation. As a student-athlete you will be expected to understand and abide by these rules and your team's rules. It is your responsibility to follow them to the fullest. This Code is not a complete list of undesirable conduct by athletes. Monroe High School athletes are considered examples and role models and expected to act accordingly during their high school career. Any student athlete whose conduct is found to be a discredit or to cause unfavorable notoriety to the athlete, the team, or MHS during their high school career, shall be subject to disciplinary action as determined by the coach, Athletic Director, or principal, whether or not the conduct is specifically described in the Athletic Code of Conduct.

- A. **No insubordination or gross misbehavior will be tolerated.** This kind of behavior may result in a suspension of from one day up to a maximum of one week or dismissal for the remainder of the season and forfeiture of any award earned in the sport. This will be determined by the coach and athletic director.
- B. **The use of vulgar or profane language is unacceptable anywhere at any time.**
- C. **Theft- If proven guilty, dismissal for the remainder of the season with loss of any awards earned.**
- D. **Vandalism-** May be suspended for one game or up to the remainder of the season as determined by the coach and athletic director.
- E. **Monroe Public Schools strongly supports the Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA) position discouraging the use of food supplements for the purpose of performance enhancement.** Although not illegal, these supplements should only be used with doctor and/or parental approval. School personnel or coaches will never supply, recommend or endorse the use of any drug, medication or food supplement solely for performance enhancement purposes.
- F. **A member of an athletic team is to be well groomed.**
- G. **The coach shall set the standard for dress as it pertains to his/her sport.**
- H. **Clothing worn at competitions must be worn in a neat and mannerly fashion.**
- I. **Hazing:** Hazing is strictly prohibited. Because hazing is unsafe and can discourage participation as well as negatively affect a students' enjoyment in athletic participation, all forms of hazing are strictly prohibited. Hazing includes, but is not limited to:
- \*Any gesture or written, verbal, or physical act that a reasonable person under the circumstances should know will have the effect of harming a student or placing a student in reasonable fear of harm to his or her person, or damage to his or her property.
  - \*Any type of physical force, harm or injury inflicted by athletes on their team members such as shipping, berating, striking, branding, electronic shocking, or placing an unwanted substance on the student's body.
  - \*Any type of coerced or involuntary sexual or physical activity, such as sleep deprivation, exposure to weather, confinement in a restricted area, calisthenics, or other coerced or unwelcome confinement, restriction or other forced activity by athletes on their fellow team members.
  - \*Any coerced or involuntary activity by athletes on their team members that subject the athletes to an unreasonable risk of harm or that adversely affects their mental or physical health, safety, or welfare (Any coerced or involuntary activity inflicted, encouraged or mandated by athletes on their team members, such as the consumption of alcoholic beverages, illegal, unauthorized, or foreign substances of any type whatsoever, tobacco or tobacco products, over the counter medication or prescription drugs, or any other unreasonable risk of harm or activity that adversely affects an athlete's mental or physical health, safety, welfare or in any way in the sports. Because student athletes bear additional responsibilities as examples and role models within the school and the community, the District, Principal and the Athletic Director reserve the right to impose penalties above and beyond those deemed appropriate. Whenever conduct may constitute a crime, a referral to law enforcement is also possible and may be required by law.
- J. **Gross Misconduct:** Gross misconduct is defined as cheating, fighting, or unfavorable notoriety, violation of a civil or criminal law, or any socially unacceptable behavior that brings discredit to the athletes, parents, school, or team. Penalty will be dependent upon the severity of the offense. Range of consequences include suspension at the Athletic Director's discretion, from 20% up to one year of the scheduled dates of the season during which the violation occurred; possible removal of the privilege of being a team captain; possible suspension from the team for the remainder of the season or seasons; possible suspension from athletic participation for up to one calendar year.

## SECTION VI GENERAL RULES

- A. An athlete dismissed from one sport may not be added to another sport during the same season. No penalty will be carried over to the following season.
- B. Athletes are responsible for all athletic equipment issued to them and they are obligated to return the equipment at the end of the season or if dismissed from the team. Anything not returned must be paid for at the replacement cost of the item. Students who violate this policy are subject to school rules, the Athletic Code, and may be referred to law enforcement.
- C. Students who wish to participate in dual sports in the same season must apply to the Athletic Director.

## SECTION VII AWARDS

- A. An athlete will not accept anything for participation in athletics other than an emblematic award. An emblematic award includes any medal, ribbon, badge, plaque, cup, trophy, banner, picture or regular letter.
- B. No acceptable award shall exceed forty dollars (\$40.00) in value. The price does not include engraving. C. No one, such as parent or friend, may accept an award on behalf of the athlete at any time prior to graduation.
- D. Acceptance of merchandise, memberships, privileges, services, sweaters, jackets, athletic equipment, clothing and watches would be a violation of MHSAA rules.

E. These rules only apply to the sports that are sanctioned by the MHSAA. Other sports that will not endanger the amateur status of a student/athlete, include but are not limited to, boxing and tournament fishing, i.e. an athlete may be compensated in these other sports without jeopardizing their high school eligibility.

## SECTION VIII AMATEUR STATUS

- A. Athletes participating in athletics or planning to do so in their school career, will not:
1. Accept any money for playing sports
  2. Receive money for officiating an interscholastic athletic contest; a student may be compensated for officiating in CYO, YMCA, church and other youth programs without violation.
  3. Sign a contract with a professional team

## SECTION IX SPORTSMANSHIP

As an athlete and as parents, you can help us establish an outstanding reputation for good sportsmanship. We must all work hard in conducting ourselves in a commendable manner. A display of unsportsmanlike conduct can result in sanctions against the offending athlete, parent, and/or school. Always observe the following guidelines for good sportsmanship.

- A. Be supportive of all athletes, coaches, and officials before, during, and after contests.
- B. Accept decisions of officials without dispute. They are seldom responsible for your success, so do not blame them for your circumstances.
- C. Recognize and show appreciation for the fine play of your opponent.
- D. Be proud of our school's reputation and work hard to protect it.
- E. Cheer for your team, not against the opponent.

## SECTION X PARENT/COACH/STUDENT-ATHLETE RELATIONSHIP

Both parenting and coaching are extremely difficult vocations. By establishing an understanding of each position, we are better able to accept the actions of the others and provide greater benefit to the student. As parents, when your son or daughter becomes involved in our programs, you have a right to understand what expectations are placed on your student-athletes. This begins with clear communication from the coach of your student-athlete's program. Communication you should expect from your son/daughter's coach:

1. Locations and times of all practices and contests.
2. Team requirements, i.e.; fees, special equipment, off-season conditioning, team/individual camps.

## MMS Student-Athlete Eligibility Reports Guidelines

Students at Monroe Middle School are offered opportunities to participate in both competitive and intramural athletics. The following competitive sports are available throughout the school year: football, girls' volleyball, co-ed soccer, sideline cheer, girl's & boys' basketball, swimming, baseball, competitive cheer, cross country, softball and track.

- All students must have a valid, completed physical prior to trying out for or participating on any competitive team. A valid physical is one dated April 15th, or later, of the previous school year.
- IN ORDER TO PARTICIPATE IN ANY COMPETITIVE TEAM, STUDENTS MUST MAINTAIN A 1.8 AND BE PASSING 66% OF THE SCHOOLS FULL TIME CLASS LOAD AND MAINTAIN SATISFACTORY CITIZENSHIP AND BEHAVIOR FOR THE ENTIRE ATHLETIC SEASON. MMS TEAM COACHES WILL MAKE STUDENTS AWARE IF THEY ARE INELIGIBLE.
- Student athletes will be assessed a Pay to Participate fee in accordance with MPS Athletic Department policy, for each sport in which they participate. \*See policy on Page 13
- Students who are members of a competitive team will receive additional information and specific rules from their coaches once their season begins. Any questions or concerns regarding athletic issues should be directed to Dr. John Ray, MPS Athletic Director.

Above all, students and parents must understand that participation on any athletic team is a privilege and not a right. Whether on your home field or court, or visiting another school's venue, players and spectators have a responsibility to represent Monroe Middle School in a way which exemplifies good sportsmanship.

### PARTICIPATION IN INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS

*The following is a summary of those sections of the Monroe Public School's Athletic Department's 'Uniform Code of Conduct for Athletes that specifically apply to middle school students. The entire Code of Conduct is available from the Athletic Director's Office, and should be used for the interpretation of specific eligibility concerns.*

The Monroe Public Schools have developed a common set of rules by which all students participating in athletics in the district must abide. The code combines the rules and regulations of the Michigan High school Athletic Association pertaining to the student athlete, as well as specific district rules governing athletic participation. Student athletes are to comply with all aspects of the code if they desire continued eligibility participation status.

**AGE** - An eighth-grade athlete must be under 15 years of age or turn 15 after September 1 in that school year.

**PHYSICAL EXAMINATION** - An athlete must have a physical examination completed by a physician certifying that the student is fully able to compete in athletics. The physical must take place April 15 or later to be used for the following school year. The athlete shall not practice or compete in any contests until the physical has been turned in to the athletic office.

**PARENT/CONSENT/MEDICAL HISTORY FORM** - The athlete must submit to the coach of the sport a signed parent consent form also signed by the athlete. This card contains a statement of insurance, a valid physical examination and a medical treatment consent form. This must be completed prior to any athletic participation.

**INITIAL ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY** - To be eligible for athletics a student must pass a minimum of four classes and have a minimum 1.8 G.P.A. for the semester. The GPA and grades are based on the report card issued the nearest to the beginning of the season.

**CONTINUING ELIGIBILITY** - To ensure MMS athletes are maintaining academic eligibility, students' grades will be checked at the midpoint of the season. If at that time, any student proves to be ineligible (GPA below 1.8 or failing 2 or more classes) they will be ineligible for one week. These students will have their eligibility checked until which time they become eligible.

**TRAVELING TO ATHLETIC EVENTS** - Athletes traveling to 'away' athletic contests as a member of a team must return to the home school in the school-approved vehicle at the conclusion of the contest. An athlete's parents may provide transportation for their son/daughter if they notify the coach 24 hours in advance and have a parent permission note signed by a MMS Administrator. Forms must be turned in to the main office.

**PARTICIPATION IN ATHLETIC CONTESTS AND PRACTICES** - All team members are expected to be at all practice sessions and contests. Situations may occur where attendance is not possible, such as illness, injury, or family commitments. In those cases, the coach must be notified of the absence in advance.

Practices or contests over vacation are voluntary. Any contests or practice sessions missed because of the extension of a vacation when school is in session may result in suspension or dismissal for the squad unless prior approval is received from the coach.

Athletes are to be in attendance at school at least one-half of the school day in order to participate in an athletic contest during the same day. If there is a situation where an athlete does not attend school on the day of a contest, because of a funeral, doctor's appointment, etc, the athlete may participate in the contest that day, with the approval.

## MONROE PUBLIC SCHOOLS PAY TO PARTICIPATE POLICY

A participation fee will be assessed to all students in the athletic programs at Monroe High School and Monroe Middle School. The participation fee will be based on the following:

- The fee for participation is \$150.00 per sport at MHS and \$75 per sport at MMS. There is no individual or family cap.
- Families on limited income can complete and submit the Household Information Report found on PowerSchool/InfoSnap to determine eligibility for our Free/Reduced Program which would afford a reduced fee of \$75.00 per sport for MHS and \$50 per sport for MMS. The Household Information Report must be completed on a yearly basis to determine yearly eligibility.
- Any MHS athlete participating in two sports in one season will pay \$150.00 per sport or \$300.00.
- The following varsity sports will be assessed a \$75.00 pay to participate fee:
  - \*Hockey
  - \*Fall Sideline Cheer
  - \*Any additional or future sport that is added that does not receive school funding.
- Fees MUST be paid prior to the distribution of uniforms/jerseys.

The participation fee in no way guarantees the participant playing time in any contest, nor does it guarantee the participant or his/her parent(s) control over any conditions of the team or Athletic Department.

Athletes are not to receive benefits that are not available to all students and one athlete is not to receive benefits that are not available to all athletes.

All funds must be paid, processed and deposited as soon as possible into the school general fund and NEVER directly provided to the student athlete. Only parents, grandparents, or siblings may contribute financial support on behalf of an individual student-athlete, payable to the school.

### **Refund Guidelines:**

Refunds will not be made for any reason once the team has been determined. For example, refunds will not be made to athletes who:

- Quit the team before the season has ended
- Are suspended from a season because of a rule violation
- Becomes academically ineligible
- Are injured and unable to compete
- Moves out of the district

## AWARDS

Athletes will receive their Numerals, Letter, and a Chevron their first year of a Varsity sport. An athlete will receive a maximum of one (1) varsity chenille letter while participating as a high school athlete. All other letters won will be by recognition only. An athlete will receive a maximum of one (1) chevron per year.

Only members of a team finishing the season in good standing will receive any type of award or recognition (such as a chevron/varsity letter). The head coach will determine the status of "in good standing".

Note: Student athletes who have been expelled from the team for violations will not receive a team award and will not be allowed to attend the team banquet.