

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE

IDFA

INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAM INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS

~~FEBRUARY 6, 2017~~

Philosophy of Athletic Programs

The athletic program is an integral part of the extensive extracurricular activities offerings found at all high schools in Livonia Public Schools. The athletic program offers young people a wide variety of opportunities to participate in interscholastic competition. Athletics, like all other extracurricular activities, must fulfill its proper role in the total educational program. As with other parts of the district's educational program, athletics are governed by the policies of the Board of Education and derive financial support from the general budget of the district.

Consistent with the policies governing all district-sponsored activities, all students have an equal opportunity to compete for positions on the athletic teams. It is the aim of the school to encourage all students who are interested and physically fit to try out for interscholastic athletic teams.

For the athletic program to be successful, it must have the support of the community, parents and students. To merit this support, the athlete should foster respect by being a good citizen in both the school and the community.

In order for an athletic code of conduct to be functional it must, to a large extent, depend upon an honor system subscribed to by all parties of interest. When documentable and responsible evidence of infractions relating to the code are brought to the attention of school officials, it will be incumbent upon those persons to investigate the charge. Where these infractions are validated, the code will be implemented.

Eligibility Rules for Senior High School Students Michigan High School Athletic Association, Inc.

For a student to be eligible to represent their school in interscholastic athletics, the following requirements must be met:

Enrollment – A student must be enrolled in a high school not later than the fourth Friday after Labor Day (1st semester) or the fourth Friday of February (2nd semester).

Age – A student must be under nineteen (19) years of age, except that a student whose nineteenth (19) birthday occurs on or after September 1 of a current school year is eligible for the balance of that school year.

Physical Examination – A student must have on file in the office of the principal or athletic director of that school, a statement for the current school year certifying that the student has

passed a physical examination and is physically able to compete in athletic tryouts, practices, and contests.

Maximum Competition – A student, once enrolled in grade nine shall be allowed to compete in only four first semesters and four second semesters. A student shall be limited to participation in only one sports season when that sport, leading to an MHSAA championship, is sponsored twice during the school year.

Maximum Enrollment – A student who has been enrolled in grades nine to twelve, inclusive, for more than eight semesters shall not compete in athletics. The seventh and eighth semester must be consecutive. Enrollment in a school beyond the fourth Friday after Labor Day (1st semester) or fourth Friday of February (2nd semester), or competing in one or more interscholastic athletic contests, shall be considered as enrollment for a semester.

Undergraduate Standing – You must not be a high school graduate.

Previous Semester Record – A student must have to his or her credit on the books of the school represented, at least sixty-six (66) percent of a full credit load for a full-time student for the last semester during which he or she shall have been enrolled in grades nine to twelve, inclusive. A student entering the 9th grade for the first time, except those who had eligibility advanced, may compete without reference to his/her record in the 8th grade.

Current Semester Record – Academic eligibility checks of not more than ten weeks are required. If a student is not passing at least sixty-six (66) percent of a full credit load for a full-time student when checked, that student is ineligible for competition until the next check but not less than for the next Monday through Sunday. If the next eligibility check reveals the student is still not passing at least twenty (20) credit hours, that student is ineligible for competition for not less than the next Monday through Sunday, and so on until the student is passing sixty-six (66) percent of a full credit load for a full-time student from the start of the semester through the most recent eligibility check.

Transfers – A student enrolled in grades 9 through 12 who transfers from one high school to another high school is ineligible to participate in an interscholastic athletic contest or scrimmage for one full semester in the school to which the student transfers, unless the student qualifies under one or more of the exceptions. Check with your principal regarding the exceptions.

Undue Influence – The use of undue influence for athletic purposes by any person or persons directly or indirectly associated with the school to secure or encourage the attendance of a student or the student's parents or guardians as residents of the school district, shall cause the student to become ineligible for a minimum of 90 school days and a maximum of one year. The offending school shall be placed on probation for one year and offending coach or coaches are not permitted to coach for a one-year period.

Awards – A student may accept, for participation in athletics, a symbolic or merchandise award which does not have value or cost in excess of \$15. Awards for athletic participation in the form of cash, merchandise certificates, or any other type of negotiable documents are never allowed. Banquets, luncheons, dinners, non-competitive trips, and fees or admissions to be a spectator at events, if accepted in kind, are permitted.

A student shall be ineligible if he/she accepts awards in violation of its provisions only in the following activities: baseball, basketball, cross country, football, golf, ice hockey, soccer, girls' softball, swimming, tennis, track, girls' volleyball, or wrestling. A student in violation shall be ineligible for interscholastic competition for a period of not less than one full semester from the date of the student's last violation.

Amateur Status – Eligibility for interscholastic athletics at MHSAA member schools is limited to amateurs. After once representing any MHSAA member school in competition in any sport, a student shall not be eligible to represent his or her high school if that student: (1) receives money or other valuable consideration from any source for participating in athletics, sports, or games; (2) receives money or other valuable consideration for officiating in interscholastic athletic contests; or (3) signs a professional athletic contract.

Limited Team Membership – A student who, after practicing with (including tryouts) or participating in an athletic contest or scrimmage as a member of a high school athletic team, participates in any athletic competition not sponsored by his or her school in the same sport during the same season, shall become ineligible for a minimum of the next three (3) days of competition and maximum of the remainder of that season in that school year. The following exceptions will apply:

- a) Ice hockey and all individual sports will apply the limited team membership rule from the point of a student's first participation in a contest or scrimmage, rather than practice.
- b) During a season an individual may participate in a maximum of two (2) individual sports meets or contests in that sport while not representing his or her school.

A student shall not compete at any time in any sport under MHSAA jurisdiction in any of the following events: (1) Any event which is or purports to be an "all-star" contest; (2) "all-star" fund-raising events or similar exhibitions if they involve contestants other than the students and faculty of that student's school; (3) Any event which is or purports to be a national high school championship.

A student may participate as an individual at any time without loss of interscholastic eligibility as a member of a National Team or in an Olympic Development Program.

Responsibilities of the Athlete

Although athletes, by their nature, place stress on the development of specific skills to be utilized in competitive sports, their sponsorship by schools places them within the broader context of the schools' educational objectives. Equally important to the development of the skills needed to compete in a particular sport, is the development of positive social attitudes and interpersonal relations. The student who serves on a team that competes interscholastically represents himself, the family, the team, the school, and the community. For this reason, conduct on and off the playing field should reflect the highest values and standards that the school exemplifies. Failure to adhere to these expectations may result in removal from the team.

In addition to the foregoing expectations, members of athletic teams have these specific responsibilities:

- 1) Athletes will be responsible for all school equipment that is issued to them during a sport season. This responsibility will be based upon the following guidelines:
 - a) All equipment will be issued by the coach, and a record card will be kept recording the items of equipment. The athlete will be responsible for this specific equipment.
 - b) All school issued equipment and/or clothing/uniforms are to be worn only to appropriate events as determined by the athletic director.
 - c) Athletes must maintain their equipment in reasonable and clean condition. The coach will be responsible for establishing a procedure to be followed for the cleaning of uniforms. Any student who fails to return equipment at the prescribed time, unless excused by the coach, will be reported to the school administration.
 - d) All equipment must be returned to the coach at the end of the sport season. Athletes are required to pay for all lost equipment and may be restricted from participating in any other extracurricular activity, or practice session, and/or from accepting athletic awards, until this obligation has been cleared by the coach or athletic director.
- 2) Student-athletes represent more than their individual selves; they represent their team and their school. Participation in interscholastic athletics is not mandated, it is deemed a privilege, and as such, student-athletes will be subject to additional rules and regulations to which the regular student body, in some cases, would not.
 - a) Upon the sole determination of school officials, any student-athlete who is found in possession of, distributing or selling, under the influence of, or using illegal substances to include tobacco products, alcohol, mood altering drugs, or a performance enhancing substance banned by the MHSAA will face immediate disciplinary consequences that prohibit participation in athletic contests, practices, and scrimmages. There will be no distinction among in-season and out-of-season offenses. There will be no distinction between illegal substances. The student may be permitted to resume participation in practice once any school suspension has been served.
 - b) A first offense consequence will result in a suspension for 50% of the contests/dates for that season. The 50% of competition contests/dates consequence will begin with the current season and may extend into the next season of athletic participation on a percentage basis if the 50% consequence cannot be completed within the current season.

For instance, if there were only four contest/dates remaining in a season comprised of twenty contests/dates, the student-athlete would forfeit 4 of 20 contests (20%) of the current season and then 30% of the next season of participation. The suspension will stand and extend through all MHSAA tournament contests, but those contests/dates will be added into the current season's consequence which will lessen the next season consequence.

- c) The student-athlete facing a suspension that will extend into two seasons, must complete the second sport season in its entirety – s/he could not quit the next sport season before the team has its natural season-ending conclusion or else the missed contests/dates served during the second sport season will not satisfy the original suspension.

Examples

#1. In a sport with nine contests, the offender will lose 50% participation or 4.5 of those contests. If the infraction was enforced for games eight and nine, the student would have served 2/9s (or 22%) of their penalty, which would mean the remaining 28% of the penalty would be served during the next season of participation. If that next season of participation had a schedule of 20 contests, the penalty would be calculated as $.28 \times 20 = 5.6$ games enforced from the start of the season. Suspension calculations will be rounded to the lowest half game or full game. In the instance above, the suspension would stand for 5.5 games.

#2. In a sport season with 20 contests, the offender will lose 50% participation or ten of those contests. If the infraction was enforced for the last six games, the student has only served 6 out of a 20 game season or 30% of their consequence and the remaining 20% would be applied to the next season of participation. If the same team played in two MHSAA tournament games following the regular season, the student has now served 8 of a 20 game season (40%) and needs to complete the consequence by serving suspension during 10% of the next season of participation.

- d) Punishment for school or athletic related incidents of theft by an athlete participating on a team in any sport season will be determined by the coach, athletic director, and a building administrator. An athlete could be removed from the team for the remainder of the season for this violation.
- e) An athlete participating on a team in any sport season who is suspended from school for any reason will not be allowed to practice with the team or participate in any athletic contests during the suspension.
- f) An athlete is expected to display a high degree of sportsmanship in relationship to opponents, teammates, coaches, officials and spectators. Excessive display of temper, loss of self-control, use of profanity or abusive language, or the making of obscene gestures will not be tolerated. The first violation will result in the athlete being removed from the remainder of the contest and may include one additional contest. A second violation and all subsequent violations will result in the athlete being removed from the remainder of the contest, suspension from the next contest, and/or may result in removal from the team.
- g) It is expected that each member of an athletic team will express a high degree of loyalty toward the members of the team and the coach. Excessive display of disloyalty could result in disciplinary action being taken. Student athletes are not to upload or post to social media websites content including, but not limited to, any comments, photographs, videos, or other materials that reflect negatively upon themselves, the team, or the school. Consequences for violating this policy may include dismissal from the team, suspension from school, or expulsion.
- h) Any athlete who in a hostile manner interacts physically with an official, coach or school supervisory personnel, will immediately lose his/her eligibility for

participation in the interscholastic athletic program for that sport season and possible permanent exclusion from interscholastic sports in the district.

- 3) Student athletes will be subject to the LPS Academic Eligibility Standards. Poor performance in the classroom will result in a loss of athletic eligibility. For specific details see the Student Handbook or your Athletic Administrator.
- 4) Athletes represent the middle or high school while traveling as a team. It is expected that the athlete's conduct will be that of a good citizen at all times. Dress requirements may be established by the individual coach. Each athlete should dress in accordance with these requirements.
- 5) An athlete may participate in two (2) sports in the same athletic season. Approval must be granted from both program coaches and the athletic department. The athlete and his/her parents must have also completed a dual sport participation form. Any conflicts that may occur will be resolved by the building administrator. Dual sport participation will usually be allowed only at the Varsity level of play.
- 6) Athletes are expected to attend all practices, meetings, and games. If it is necessary for an athlete to miss a practice session, meeting, or game due to illness, injury, family emergencies or family vacation, it is incumbent upon the athlete to make arrangements with the coach. Authorized or excused absences from school are excused absences from athletic participation. However, athletes who miss a practice session or meeting because of an unexcused absence will be denied the right to participate in one competitive contest for each day of scheduled practice or meeting that has been missed. A second unexcused absence from a practice or meeting may result in removal from the team. Athletes who miss a game because of an unexcused absence will miss the next two games or contests, or they may be removed from the team.
- 7) In order to participate in an athletic activity or contest, a student must have attended school at least one-half day on the date of the scheduled activity. It is the responsibility of both the student as well as the coach to comply with this regulation. Other than illness, there may be emergency reasons for school absence that may qualify an athlete to participate in an athletic event on the same day. Such exceptions, however, must have prior approval of the athletic director.

Student Accident Insurance

The Board of Education does not assume any responsibility relative to doctor and/or hospital expense. The personal insurance of the parent or guardian is assumed to cover any and all medical treatments for injuries. Athletics are voluntary and the student participates with the knowledge of his/her parents and at his/her own risk.

The school district does offer reasonably priced student accident insurance plans to supplement coverage of the parents' or guardians' coverage or to provide coverage for the student when the parent or guardian has no family insurance plan. Coverage costs range from approximately \$10.00 to \$175.00 per year.

Application forms and brochures explaining the options are available in the school offices or at the Board of Education office during the school year.

All injuries, regardless of how minor, must be reported immediately by the athlete to the coach. It is the responsibility of the athlete to obtain an insurance claim form from the athletic director's office in order to file a claim.

Athletic Awards

Each coach will inform team members of the requirements and standards for earning ~~an award~~ **a varsity letter** in that sport. ~~Athletic awards~~ **Varsity letters** given by the school will be awarded to students who have met the established qualifications. ~~and have been recommended by the coach.~~ An athlete who completes ~~four~~ **three** full seasons of athletic experience in a particular sport and who fails to earn a letter in any of those ~~four~~ **three** seasons will be granted ~~an athletic award~~ **a varsity letter** at the end of the ~~fourth~~ **third** season. **The awarding of a varsity letter in this manner is intended to recognize those student athletes who regularly attend practice, but whose skills and abilities may not earn the varsity letter based solely on the criteria of the coach.** The method of presenting ~~awards~~ **varsity letters** in each sport will be at the discretion of each head coach.

Appeal Process

The coach is the first level of any appeal involving interscholastic sports. The athletic director is the second level of appeal. The third and final level of appeal is a committee composed of two building administrators and one coach from a different sport who are not involved in the incident. At each appeal level the practice will be to hear the appeal and any pertinent testimony, and review the appropriate sections of the athletic code. The decision of the appeal committee shall be final.