

## MEMPHIS COMMUNITY SCHOOLS ATHLETIC HANDBOOK

The success of Memphis Athletic programs depends upon the understanding and the commitment for excellence by our administration, coaches, athletes, and parents. Within this commitment we need full cooperation, by all involved, in carrying out the basic athletic policies of the Board of Education while realizing that participation in athletics is a **Privilege, not a right!**

Memphis Community Schools' interscholastic athletic programs are affiliated with the Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA). The standards of this handbook meet or exceed the standards of the MHSAA.

### **WHAT IS AN ATHLETE?**

A student athlete is any student participating on an interscholastic athletic team or associated in an athletic program such as a team member, manager, student trainer, etc.

A student athlete is a representative of the school's ideals in matters of citizenship, integrity, and sportsmanship.

### **WHAT CONSTITUTES A SEASON**

A sport is considered to be in season with all eligibility rule conduct standards to be in effect as follows:

**Fall Sports** (Football, Cheerleading, Volleyball , and Boy's Soccer) - Beginning with the first official workout, as decided by the coaching staff of that sport, and ending with the awards presentation at the end of the fall season.

**Winter Sports** (Cheerleading, Girl's Basketball, Wrestling, and Boy's Basketball) - Beginning with the first official workout, as declared by the coaching staff of that sport, and ending with the awards presentation at the end of the winter season.

**Spring Sports** (Baseball, Softball, Girl's Soccer, and Golf) - Beginning with the first official workout, as declared by the coaching staff of that sport, and ending with the awards presentation at the end of the spring season.

All rules and regulations as printed in any Memphis Community School Handbook apply to student athletes during a season. Training rules apply 24 hours per day, in and out of school.

### **TRAINING RULES**

Athletics is one of the most important activities in the life of young people in their formative years; therefore, the training rules are established and enforced for the following reasons:

1. Health
2. Legal (In Accordance With Michigan Laws)
3. Self Discipline
4. Self Commitment
5. Role Model - You Are A Reflection of the Community & School
6. It's Your Choice to Be an Athlete and Participate In Sports

### **Being an Athlete Is a Privilege - Not a Right**

### **ACADEMIC STANDARDS**

All student athletes, high school and junior high school, must meet the minimum academic standards established by the Michigan High School Athletic Association and the weekly eligibility rules set forth at Memphis Community Schools. We expect our student athletes to excel both in the classroom and on the field and courts and, therefore, the implementation of the following academic standards:

#### **Expectations**

Students earn passing grades in all classes each week to be eligible for participation in extracurricular activities. In the event that a student athlete receives a failing grade, the following procedure will be followed:

#### **Eligibility Procedure**

An academic and behavior check will be done every week during the season starting with the second week of practice. Students' grades and behavior will be evaluated by their teachers each week and reported to the school office. The Athletic Department will notify coaches and athletes of their grades. Parents will be notified of any failing grades. The eligibility week runs Monday through Sunday and will use the following guidelines.

- Students' behavior will be rated on a scale of 1 (excellent) to 5 (unsatisfactory).
  1. excellent behavior, not a disruption, good worker
  2. good overall behavior, some minor talking, stays on task
  3. acceptable behavior, usually on task
  4. poor behavior, constant interruption, rarely on task (has received recorded notices i.e. referrals, detention notice)
  5. unacceptable behavior – behavior interferes with the education of others. (Student receiving a “4” for two consecutive weeks will be given a “5” and considered ineligible.)
- Students receiving a “4” will be given a warning, a rating of “5” will be considered failing and the ineligibility rules will apply for the student.
- Students receiving a grade of D+, D or D- (69% - 60%) will be given a warning (**W**)
- Students receiving a failing grade (below 60%) in any class will be put on probation (**P**) for one week. Students will only be allowed one week of probation for the entire sports season.
- If the student receives a failing grade thereafter, he/she will be placed on week one of ineligibility (**I1**). If the student continues to receive a failing grade, in any class, two consecutive weeks, he/she will be placed on week two of ineligibility (**I2**). Any student that receives a failing grade for three consecutive weeks, regardless of the class, will be removed from the team (**I3**).
- Teachers will be allowed to give students a rating of “N.A.” This will reflect that the student has not had sufficient work to be given a grade or the student has not had an opportunity to raise his failing grade, due to an insufficient amount of work. A student that is ineligible in a class and receives an “N.A.” for that class will return to the probation status, unless otherwise recommended by teacher.
- Teachers will also have the opportunity to base eligibility on effort and behavior for a period of one week.
  - W – Warning:** student's grade is low but no punishment is rendered.
  - P – Probation:** student has failing grade for the first time of season; he/she is given one week to raise grade above 60%.
  - I1 – First Week of Ineligibility:** student has failing grade for 1<sup>st</sup> week, following probation; student athlete shall participate in practice sessions, but will not participate in any games.
  - I2 – Second Week of Ineligibility:** student has failing grade for the 2<sup>nd</sup> consecutive week, not including probation; student athlete may not participate in practice sessions or games.
  - I3 – Third Week of Ineligibility:** student has failing grade for the 3<sup>rd</sup> consecutive week; student will be dropped from the team.

The Athletic and Extra Curricular Committee, in conjunction with the superintendent, principals, and Athletic Director, recommend this eligibility policy be enforced for all extra curricular activities. Extra curricular activities shall be defined as any activity that requires a paid coach or advisor and is not a class related activity.

**A STUDENT ATHLETE IS STILL CONSIDERED A MEMBER OF THE TEAM AND MUST OBEY ALL TEAM AND ATHLETIC RULES DURING THE PERIOD OF INELIGIBILITY.**

**CITIZENSHIP RULES**

The conduct of a student athlete while representing a team, traveling to or from a contest, as well as in the community during the time they are a member of a squad, is a direct reflection upon the athletic program and the general reputation of the school. Any student athlete who discredits his/her position by unmannerly conduct, discourtesy, poor citizenship, violation of training rules, or acts of immoral nature shall jeopardize their athletic career. Because of involvement, the Athletic Director and coach will determine the extent of the action to be taken according to the Athletic Code. This determination may be appealed to the Athletic Board. Student athletes involved in criminal/civil incidents are also in violation of the Athletic Code. Because student athletes are representatives of their community and school system, we have implemented the following guidelines:

Any student athlete found in violation of the school theft policy shall be suspended for that sport season.

Any student athlete involved in the sale of, or conspiracy to sell any illegal or legal drug or medicine shall be suspended from sports for a calendar year.

Any student athlete served with a school suspension shall also be suspended from their sport for the same period of time.

Any student athlete found in violation of defacing or destruction of school property is subject to school penalty and shall be suspended from their sport for the same period of time.

Student athletes must return all equipment that is issued. It is expected that the student athlete will take good care of the equipment and be responsible for its care. If athletic equipment or facilities are damaged, stolen, lost, or strayed, the athlete will be expected to pay for the damage. In addition, the student athlete will be suspended from athletic competition until restitution is made.

## **SUBSTANCE ABUSE**

The following rules deal with substance abuse. Any student in violation of the following rules shall be suspended\* for the remainder of that sport season. Students who are honest and forthcoming regarding their violation of the athletic code and are willing to enroll in a substance abuse program will be eligible to have up to 50% of their season restored. If a partial season suspension is not fully administered using regular and post-season contests, the remainder of the penalty will be applied to the next interscholastic sport season in which the athlete participates. Police incidents involving said substances will be handled as criminal/civil problems and are also in violation of the athletic code.

### **Violations**

1. No drinking of any alcoholic beverages, M.I.P. situations, possession of false or altered personal identification, or any alcohol related violation/offenses.
2. No use or possession of mind altering drugs or illegal substances.
3. Any time an athlete is in the presence of alcohol/drugs where minors are in violation of either rules #1 or #2 the student athlete must immediately leave the situation. Failure to do so is a violation.
4. No smoking, use or possession of tobacco products.
5. No use or possession of anabolic steroids.
6. Any time a student athlete exhibits unbecoming conduct of a Memphis School athlete, the student athlete will be disciplined. The extent of the discipline will be determined by the coach and/or Athletic Director. (For any non-season ending violation, the extent of the discipline will be determined by the coach and/or Athletic Director.)

**\*Suspension** - the total exclusion of practice or participation in that sport, or any other sport, during that season. If suspension for the season occurs, no post season awards or recognition will be given.

## **ATTENDANCE**

A student athlete **must be present every hour on the day of a contest.** Students must be present all day on the Friday prior to weekend competitions. Also, a student athlete must be in attendance, at least one half day, on any given day, to be eligible to practice for the sport that they are involved in, (exceptions: verified doctor appointments, funeral, and special circumstances may be approved by the Athletic Director.)

## **TRANSPORTATION**

All members of the athletic squad shall travel both to and from athletic contests in the school supplied transportation. In order for a student athlete to travel by another means, either to or from an event, a note written by a parent must be approved and signed by a school official prior to the contest. A copy will be kept on file in the athletic office and a copy must be given to the athlete's coach.

## **TEAM RULES**

In addition to the above, student athletes are subject to individual coaches specific rules, not contained in this official Athletic Handbook, as agreed upon by the coach and Athletic Director. A copy of these team rules will be signed by the student athlete and parent prior to the first athletic contest.

## **DUE PROCESS & APPEALS**

When a student athlete has committed an infraction of the rules, the following procedure will be followed:

1. The Athletic Director will be notified of the infraction, giving date and details by the person observing the infraction.
2. The Athletic Director will notify the student athlete and his/her parents of the charges or infraction(s) and disciplinary action. If the student athlete denies the infraction, a meeting will be set up with the Athletic Director, the coach of the athlete, and the student athlete. At the meeting the charges will be stated and recorded. The evidence will be explained and the student athlete will be given the opportunity to explain his/her side of the story. Disciplinary action will be effective immediately following the meeting.
3. The student athlete then has the right to appeal to the Athletic director's decision to the principal.
4. The principal's decision will be final for all infractions that result in up to a three (3) game suspension.
5. Suspensions of more than three (3) games may be appealed to the Athletic Committee. A student athlete will have three (3) school days, from the date of notification of disciplinary action, to appeal, in writing, to the Athletic Committee. All decisions made by the Athletic Committee will be final.

## **ATHLETIC COMMITTEE**

The Athletic Committee, chaired by the Athletic Director, shall consist of:

1. An Appointed Member of the Board of Education.
2. The Superintendent
3. The Building Principal
4. The Athletic Director
5. An Assigned Coach
6. A Teacher (non-coach)

## **SUMMARY**

We, who are concerned with the educational development of youth through athletics, feel that a properly controlled, well-organized sports program meets the student's needs for self-expression, mental alertness, and physical growth. It is our hope to maintain a program that is sound in purpose and will further each student's educational maturity.

A student who elects to participate in athletics is voluntarily making a choice of self-discipline and self-denial. These are the reasons we place such stress on good training habits. We are striving for excellence and do not want our athletes to compromise with mediocrity.

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