

2018-2019 Athletic Handbook



Marietta City Schools

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I. PHILOSOPHY STATEMENT:

We believe that athletics is a form of continuing education and personal development... a classroom on the practice and playing fields, in other words, education based athletics. As such we believe it is our task, and our responsibility, to help develop well rounded student athletes; individuals that are better equipped to face the challenges of life.

Unlike any academic classroom experience, participation in athletics involves both mental and physical training and preparation. Athletes are regularly challenged to push themselves to the limits of their physical capabilities. When faced with this challenge it is often easy to simply quit, back off, or give up. It takes a combination of mental and physical toughness to push oneself when every part of your body is telling your brain to quit. Athletes that participate in a team sport learn about issues of trust and team work. Hopefully, with our help and guidance, they will come to appreciate the value of teamwork and recognize that while every individual contributes it is always the team that wins or loses. An athlete also experiences the “joy of victory and the agony of defeat,” and is compelled to learn to live and grow with each experience.

Athletes also gain first hand experience with the challenge of multi-tasking, of time management, and of prioritizing. This experience lends itself to learning that life has a lot to do with making choices, and hopefully they begin the process of making smart, educated, good choices.

To help our student athletes meet the challenges associated with participation, and to help them grow as individuals we believe in the following very simple easily understood philosophy:

We will treat each student athlete as an individual and we will treat each individual with dignity and with respect. We will teach, but we will also learn. We believe we must “model” the same attitude and behavior that we expect our students to display.

II. GOALS:

1. Winning:

It is our goal to compete for league, sectional, district, regional, and state championships. And while winning contests and championships is always our goal, it is also necessary to recognize that winning is also a matter of perspective and that **“winning” can occur even in the midst of a losing season.** The fact is that we believe that growth and development can be achieved whether we win or lose every game. And it is with this attitude that we have established “winning” as a top priority.

Although our goal is to win we also believe it is unrealistic to expect any coach or any team to continually post undefeated seasons. However, this should not deter us from establishing winning as an objective year in and year out. Moreover, we want to win, we expect to win, and we are going to prepare in order to win.

Components of a successful and winning program:

a. Respect: To be successful one must respect themselves, their teammates, and their coaches,

b. Commitment: Coaches and athletes, alike, must commit themselves to one another. They must be willing to make the necessary sacrifices in order to achieve sustained success.

c. Preparation & practice: Every contest and every game is first won on the practice field. Game performance is based upon physical and mental preparation. This is achieved during those long hours of practice.

d. Discipline: Discipline on and off the court leads to greater success. Discipline may be in the form of denial, or abstinence; such as the temptations that will likely confront every student athlete when it comes to substance abuse and partying. Discipline may be a factor when it comes to obeying team, civic, or school rules. Discipline is a factor when it comes to preparation and practice. Discipline is a key to success.

e. Teamwork: There is no “I” in team! Trite but true. Winning teams are just that; winning teams. Pro sports are full of great individual athletes, most who never play on a championship team. The reason isn’t because they are not good enough, it’s because their team is not good enough.

2. Enjoyment:

Our second goal is help every student-athlete enjoy the journey. While winning is certainly more fun than losing, it is likely that we will experience both. Therefore it is important to learn how to enjoy and appreciate the opportunity that you have been given to play the game. Think of all the people who are spectators, of all of those who will never experience the thrill of competition, of all of those who will never feel the adrenaline rush associated with peak

performance while laying it all out there on the line. You, as a student-athlete, have truly earned this experience...enjoy it.

3. Growth & Development:

Our third goal is to help each student-athlete grow and develop. This is not just about sports growth and development, this goal encompasses total development. Our goal is to help prepare you for life's journey. We also want you to look back and have fond memories about our teaching and coaching staff, realizing that they were good influences in your life.

4. Physical/Athletic Improvement:

Our fourth goal is to help each student-athlete improve their physical and athletic abilities. We want every athlete to leave the program with the sense that their maximum potential at this stage of their physical and athletic development has been reached.

5. Citizenship:

Our fifth goal is to develop a keen sense of awareness in all of the student-athletes when it comes to citizenship and civic responsibilities. It is one of those "life lessons" better learned at a young age. The lesson is that we all have a responsibility to something larger than just ourselves. Civic participation is a great way to learn the importance that we all put a little something back. Interestingly, what most will learn is that putting something back almost always makes one feel better for the effort.

SUMMARY

It is the belief of the administration and the Athletic Department that the five (5) listed goals are necessary and needed for athletic success. The administration also believes that interscholastic competition is an integral part of the high school setting and assists with the development of secondary school students.

III. ATHLETE'S CONDUCT:

While participating in athletics is truly a priceless experience, something that you should enjoy to its fullest, it is worth noting that your participation does place you on center stage. As a student athlete you will be more visible within the school and within the community. This means that your conduct and your actions will become the subject of greater scrutiny. Although you may not be aware of this, the reality is, to many of the younger kids, kids in the grade schools and the middle school; you will become their role model. Because of your visibility and because of your potential to influence, and because your actions will reflect on yourself, your family, the school, and the community it is advisable that you conduct your life in such a way so as to always be the role model that people respect and admire. Words such as attitude, character, discipline, dignity, integrity, morals, pride, and respect all serve to capture the essence and values by which you will be measured

and by which you will be judged. Hopefully you will understand that being an athlete is much more than playing a game.

Athletic Code of Conduct

A. Student/Athlete Discipline:

1. Students of the Marietta City School District may be subject to discipline, including, but not limited to suspension, expulsion or emergency removal from school, for behavior in violation of the Code of Conduct that occurs either (1) on school premises, on school transportation, or at any school sponsored activity, or (2) off school premises if the behavior
 - a) disrupts, or has the potential to disrupt, the educational process in the schools or
 - b) deprives or has the potential to deprive, other students of their right to an education within the curricular or co curricular program or privilege of participation in the extracurricular program, including behavior that occurs off school property but is connected to activities or incidents that have occurred on school property, or
 - c) actions, regardless of where they occur, that are directed at a Marietta City school official or employee, or the property of such official or employee.
 - d) **Disrespect of contest officials**
 - e) **Social Media violations as per board policy and student handbook**

In the case of an athlete accused of violating a criminal law, the athlete may be denied the privilege to participate until an investigation is completed. Upon completion of the investigation, a determination of what discipline if any, will be made.

2. The Superintendent, other district administrative personnel, or personnel employed by the district to direct, supervise, or coach a pupil activity program may prohibit a student from participating in any particular or all extracurricular activities for such period of time as the person implementing the prohibition determines to be appropriate. Unless otherwise provided in any specific rules governing the particular extracurricular activity, prohibition from participation in extracurricular activities does not trigger the same notice, hearing and appeal procedures that apply to suspension, expulsion or emergency removal of students from school. **Any conduct in violation of any criminal statute or any gross misconduct which is substantially likely to have adverse impact on Marietta High School or the Athletic program is cause for immediate removal from the team for the remainder of the season.**

B. Expectations:

Participation in school sports programs is a privilege, not a right. To earn that privilege, student-athletes must abide by the rules and they must conduct themselves, on and off the field, as positive role models who exemplify good character. All athletes are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that reflects a positive image to Marietta City Schools. Good conduct is expected in the classroom and at all activities

outside of the school day. The Athletic Code of Conduct is in effect for all athletes 12 months of the year.

Athletic Code of Conduct Violations

- A. Theft:
Any athlete guilty of theft during a school related activity shall receive a minimum of a 10% contest denial to participate to a maximum of removal from the team.
- B. Hazing
 - 1. All hazing by athletes is prohibited. Hazing is defined as doing any act or coercing another, including the victim, to do any act of initiation that causes or creates a substantial risk for causing mental or physical harm to any person. No athlete shall plan, encourage, or engage in any acts of physical or mental harm to any person.
 - 2. Penalty for hazing violation will be a minimum of 1 game denial of participation to a maximum of denial to participate for the remainder of the season.
- C. Team Rules: All athletes are expected to follow all team rules as set forth in writing by the head coach. The coach may discipline an athlete for violating team rules but no team rule may supersede the Code of Conduct as approved by the Board of Education.
- D. Physical Confrontations: Initiating, instigating, or willfully participating in a physical confrontation before, during, or after an athletic contest will result in a minimum one contest denial to participate to a maximum of denial to participate for remainder of season.

Consequences for Athletic Code of Conduct Violations

- A. Any athlete who is dismissed from a team for violations of the Athletic Code of Conduct or Team Rules may not participate in another in-season sport or off-season program without the written permission of the head coach from the sport dismissed and the Athletic Director.
- B. Any athlete who is dismissed from a team for violations of the Athletic Code of Conduct or Team Rules will not be eligible to receive any team or individual awards.
- C. Good conduct violations may result in discipline at the coach's discretion from denial of participation, to removal from team. Consequences will be based on the nature of the good conduct violation.
- D. An athlete denied the privilege to participate is also denied the privilege to attend any Marietta athletic contest during designated denial of participation unless approved by the building principal.
- E. Coaches may dismiss student athletes from a team for reasons not already stated such as, but not limited to, extreme violations of team rules, lying to coaches, etc. Such dismissals are serious so the coach considering this action will first need to discuss the matter with the Athletic director or principal. Parental contact by the coach will be a part of any dismissal.

IV. ATHLETES' RESPONSIBILITIES:

In the previous paragraphs we talked about conduct or athletic Code of Conduct, which is certainly one of your primary areas of responsibility; but there are others. Examples of others are the responsibility to yourself, your team your family, your school, and your community.

- **TEAM:**

It is important to recognize and understand how important each individual's physical, mental, and academic preparations are as key ingredients for the success of the *team*.

- **FRIENDS & FAMILY:**

Hopefully every athlete will enjoy the benefits of having a strong and vibrant *friends and family* support system. In turn you should continually demonstrate your recognition and appreciation for their support and encouragement.

- **SCHOOL:**

As an athlete your position among your fellow students will be perceived as being privileged and regarded with honor. As such your conduct and your attitude will be viewed as being reflective of the *school*, therefore it is important that you remember that you are a representative and an ambassador for the *school* at all times.

- **COMMUNITY**

The **community** takes pride in you and the team. Remember, you are also a representative and an ambassador for the City of Marietta.

V. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

Substance Abuse (covered separately in Section VI)

NOTE: Athletic participation will be contingent upon adherence to the Marietta High School/Marietta Middle School Athletic Handbook as well as the Marietta High School/Marietta Middle School Student Handbooks adopted by the Marietta City Board of Education; adherence to the handbooks will be determined by school administrators and/or coaching staff.

There are certain requirements that must be met in order for a student to be eligible to participate in any of the schools athletic programs. Generally speaking they fall within the guidelines of the following six categories.

1. **Academic**
2. **Residency**
3. **Medical**
4. **Athletic Eligibility Acknowledgement**
5. **Age Limits**
6. **Other**

Each of these requirements will be covered individually and in greater detail.

1. **Academic Requirements:**

Marietta High School & Marietta Middle School

All high school student athletes must pass a minimum of five (5) credits towards graduation the immediately preceding grading period in order to be eligible the following nine-week grading period, as required by the Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA.)

- First Grading Period – Eligibility for incoming freshmen is based on Marietta Middle School standards and is determined by the last nine week grading period of the eighth grade year. Eligibility for all other students is determined by the last nine-week grading period of the preceding year and commences with the start of the fall sports season.
- Subsequent Grading Periods – Changes of eligibility will be based on the immediately preceding nine-week grading period and will become effective at the start of the new nine-week grading period. Students should check with the principal or athletic director to see when their athletic eligibility will be restored.
- First grading period – All incoming seventh graders are eligible to participate during the first nine-week grading period. Eligibility for all other students is determined by the last nine-week grading period of the preceding year and commences with the start of the fall sports season.
- Subsequent grading periods – Changes of eligibility will be based on the immediately preceding nine-week grading period and will become effective at the start of the new nine-week grading period. Students should check with the principal or athletic director to see when their athletic eligibility will be restored.

Additional Academic Requirements (From the *Ohio Revised Code* Section 3313.535)

ATHLETIC ELIGIBILITY

The Marietta City School Board of Education provides athletic programs in compliance with the by-laws and regulations of the Ohio High School Athletic Association. Students who wish to be members of an athletic team must be academically eligible. The requirements for such eligibility by the O.H.S.A.A. in Section 4 of their by-laws and by the Marietta City Schools' Board of Education are as follows:

All Student Athletes (7-12) must have earned a minimum 2.0 GPA during the immediately preceding nine-week grading period in order to be eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics. The Marietta Board of Education and the Marietta High School Athletic Department have instituted a tutoring program for athletes who may fall below the 2.0 GPA requirement. If the student/athlete follows the tutoring guidelines, he/she will be eligible to play in all games during the nine-week grading period in which the tutoring occurs. Any cost associated with such a tutoring program must be assumed by the parent(s). In addition to the GPA requirement student/athletes must be passing a minimum of FIVE credits or the equivalent toward graduation in the preceding grading period. For Middle School student/athletes the minimum is passing FIVE classes. Failure to follow these guidelines will result in a loss of eligibility for participation during the succeeding nine-week grading period. Students must also meet all other eligibility requirements as specified in the Marietta Schools Athletic Handbook.

Student/athletes participating in the PSEO program MUST obtain a form from the Athletic Director in order to submit college course grades for review. The eligibility of ineligibility

of a student/athlete continues until the beginning of the next nine-week grading period. At that time the immediately preceding grading period grades become applicable. Once deemed ineligible, student/athletes must have their following nine-week grades verified by a school administrator in order to regain eligibility. The eligibility of a transfer student must be established by school records or verification from the sending school. The responsibility for establishing eligibility rests with the receiving school. Summer school grades DO NOT COUNT toward eligibility requirements.

NCAA REQUIREMENTS

Students should also be aware of the National College Athletic Association's academic requirements at the high school level if they intend to pursue athletic participation at a college or university after graduation. Please note that there are NEW NCAA requirements for student/athletes first entering a college or university on or after August 1, 2016. Student/athletes must meet the new academic rules in order to receive scholarships and be able to practice or compete during their first year. A brief summary and additional information of these changes are available from MHS guidance department. Parents and student/athletes should become aware of all the athletic eligibility requirements when they enroll as FRESHMEN.

2. Residency Requirements:

To be eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics, a student must establish residency within the district according to the rules of the Ohio High School Athletic Association. Students may enroll in and attend any member school that accepts them if they are entering grades 9, 10, 11 or 12. The student-athlete's eligibility shall be established by one of two situations:

Participating in a contest (scrimmage, preview or regular season contest) prior to the opening day of a school, or attending the first day of school at any member school.

Once eligibility has been established at a member school, the student will be ineligible for athletic purposes for 50% of the season he or she transfers to another school unless one of the exceptions to the transfer bylaw is met (unless the move happens during the season, in which the student is ineligible for the entire season). This is more fully described in OHSAA bylaw 4-7-2.

Exceptions are:

- If the parent or legal guardian change residence from one public school district to another;
- If the superintendents of both districts enter into a written agreement in order to protect the student's physical and mental well-being (and the agreement is approved by the OHSAA Commissioner;)
- If a school closes;
- If a student transfers to the State School for the Blind or State School for the Deaf.

3. Medical Requirements:

Student athletes must have a physical examination annually. A "Physical Examination" form must be completed and signed by a physician, and must be on file in the Athletic Department. An "Emergency Medical Form" must be completed by the parent or legal guardian, and be on file with the coach.

4. Athletic Responsibility Acknowledgment:

The parent and athlete must sign the “Athletic Responsibility Acknowledgment” form, and the form must be on file in Athletic Department.

5. Age Limits:

a. If a student enrolled in high school attains the age of 19 before August 1, the student shall be ineligible to participate in high school interscholastic athletics for the school year commencing in that calendar year.

b. If a student enrolled in grade 7 or 8 attains the age of 15 before August 1, the student shall be ineligible to participate in 7-8th grade interscholastic athletics for the school year commencing in that calendar year.

c. Questions regarding age limitations should be referred to the athletic director.

6. Other:

- Coaches may establish additional rules and regulations for their respective sports.
- Eligibility and/or penalties will be imposed consistent with these policies.
- Specific policies will be on file, with, and approved by the athletic director.
- Parents will be informed of these rules during parent’s preseason meeting.
- All Marietta City School District sponsored sports that are non-recognized by the Ohio High School Athletic Association shall adhere to the OHSAA bylaws and applicable sports regulations (Exception: MHS Crew in regards to OHSAA Bylaw 9-2-1, Contests with Out-Of-State Schools).

VI. SUBSTANCE ABUSE:

Freedom from Substance Abuse Requirement:

It is expected that all student athletes in the Marietta City Schools will be free from the effects of substance abuse so that they may develop to their full potential. Accordingly, the possession, use or distribution of any tobacco product, alcoholic beverage, illicit drug, illegally obtained prescription medication, inhalant, counterfeit or look-alike drug, **e-cigarette or vap device**, or drug paraphernalia by a student athlete is prohibited at any time. *The primary response to a substance abuse violation is intended to encourage the student to seek counseling.* Substance abuse violations are handled as follows:

Tobacco, Alcohol, Drug Violations/Consequences

1. Athlete may not possess, consume, use **or shows evidence of consumption**, distribute, or sell any tobacco product, alcoholic beverage, illicit drug, illegally obtained prescription medication, inhalant, counterfeit or look-alike drug, drug paraphernalia or possess items used in the manufacture or assembly of illegal drug is prohibited at any time.
2. Drugs are defined as an illegal narcotic, controlled substance, or over the counter or prescription drug not prescribed to the athlete.
3. Athletes are subject to the Marietta City School’s Drug and Alcohol Testing Policy, and this handbook should be read together with the Policy
4. **An athlete may not remain in the proximity of alcohol or drug use. An athlete will be considered “in the proximity” if they do not remove themselves from the place where alcohol is being used illegally by persons under the age of 21 or from the place where drugs are being used illegally. Athletes may call a parent, relative,**

coach, school administrator, or the athletic director but need to take action to remove themselves from the situation as soon as it is recognized.

Admission to violation: Athlete freely admits to violation

	First Violation	Second Violation	Third Violation
Consequence with educational piece to be determined on case by case basis by Administration.	Denied privilege of Participation in 10% of scheduled games. 1 game minimum. At the discretion of the principal there may be a community service component.	Denied privilege of Participation in 50% of scheduled games. 4 game minimum. Education piece & may include counseling. At the discretion of the principal there may be a community service component.	Denied privilege of Participation for remainder of middle school/high school career.

Non-admission to violation: Athlete does not freely admit and investigation concludes the athlete was in violation.

	First Violation	Second Violation	Third Violation
Consequence with educational piece to be determined on case by case basis by Administration.	Denied privilege of Participation in 20% of scheduled games. 2 game minimum. At the discretion of the principal there may be a community service component.	Denied privilege of Participation for 1 calendar year from date of violation. Education piece & may include counseling. At the discretion of the principal there may be a community service component.	Denied privilege of Participation for remainder of middle school/high school career.

Foregoing penalties are minimums and the coach retains the discretion to impose greater penalties as he or she deems appropriate.

VOLUNTARY REFERRAL

An athlete, his/her coach, or parent/guardian may make a “voluntary referral” if it is strongly felt an athlete’s academic, athletic, or social life is being affected by the abuse of alcohol, tobacco, or illegal drugs. A voluntary referral can be made without disciplinary consequences. A recommendation of counseling services will be made to the athlete and his/her parent/guardian.

Abuse Violation Conditions

- Should the athlete agree to attend professional counseling (see 1st violation option) with a certified chemical dependency counselor as per Marietta City School Student Substance Abuse Procedure, JFCI. The parent must agree to assume financial responsibility for the counseling and/or the education piece. A student receiving counseling under this provision must continue to attend counseling sessions until released by the counselor and the same for the education piece—being released by the administration. Unexcused absence may result in the immediate reactivation of

the denial to participate for the remainder of the year. It is the responsibility of the building principal to monitor the counseling of the student. The release from counseling must be in writing to the building principal. It is also the responsibility of the parent to provide a release of information to allow MHS to monitor progress of the counseling. Violations of the substance abuse portion of this policy beyond the first offense require mandatory counseling.

- The athlete agrees to forfeit any leadership positions such as, but not limited to team captain. Failure to participate in counseling will result in the escalation of the level of violation by one step.
- The athlete agrees to participate in practice and to travel with the team to contests during the period of suspension and completes the season in good standing.
- Once a participant has had a positive test confirmed, or an admission, any and all additional test or related costs incurred are the responsibility of the participant and their parent(s)/guardian(s).

Appeals Procedure for Substance Abuse:

- No appeals are available for violations to the Drug and Alcohol Testing Policy except where the student is challenging a confirmed positive test result for a banned substance. See the Policy for additional information regarding appeals in relation to the drug testing program.
- For appeals of violation not related to the Drug and Alcohol Testing Policy, the student athlete and the parent or legal guardian may appeal the decision of the building principal to the Athletic Appeals Board.
- The Athletic Director will additionally select one head coach (from a different sport) and one classroom teacher to serve on the Athletic Appeals Board.
- The Athletic Director will chair this board.
- The Athletic Appeals Board will make the final determination of guilt and will have the authority to determine the length of the suspension.
- The decision of the Building Administrator and/or its committee is final.
- The appeal will require the following:
 - a. The written appeal must be presented to the Athletic Director within three (3) workdays of the initial ruling and must be signed by the athlete and the parent or legal guardian.
 - b. The student shall have the privilege of representation although it is not a legal process.
 - c. The Athletic Appeals Board shall render a decision to the parents or legal guardian of the student within a reasonable time following the appeal.

Points of clarification:

- 1. This policy is effective year-round and conclusive through grades 7-12.**

2. "Denied Privilege" percent (%) of scheduled games is defined as games scheduled for a sport's season excluding League and OHSAA tournaments.
3. Practice participation and game attendance during "denied privilege" period is at the coach's discretion.
4. Counseling: Athlete must attend counseling sessions with a drug/alcohol counselor that is approved by the school administration.
5. Violation enforcement: A. If violation is discovered during the in-season, the enforcement will take place during the in-season and if necessary carry into the next sport season of participation. B. If the violation is discovered in the off-season the enforcement will occur in the next sport season of full and complete participation.
6. For conduct violations there may be a community service component to be determined by the Superintendent, Principal and/or Athletic Director.
7. Additional discipline, non participation, etc. may be assessed as per coach's discretion. Coach's discretion decisions cannot be appealed.

VII. SCHOOL DISCIPLINE

Suspensions:

Any student guilty of a school violation or unlawful act may be denied the privilege of participation in athletic activities for a period determined by the principal. Athletes with out-of-school suspensions will not be permitted to participate in practice or contests for the duration of the suspension. Those athletes serving an in school suspension, will be required to practice but participation in contests for the duration of the suspension will be determined by the coach . NOTE: Repeat Offenses or Repeated violations of Code of Conduct and team rules, except as designated, may result in denial to participate for remainder of a sport season and remainder of present school year. An athlete will be disciplined for any unlawful act he or she may commit, in which such action detracts from the image of MCS or for any action that may be unbecoming of an athlete. All athletes in the Marietta City School District are subject to the OHSAA Sportsmanship Policy.

1. Any athlete ejected for unsportsmanlike conduct or flagrant foul shall be disciplined in accordance with the OHSAA guidelines. If the ejection occurs in the last contest of the season, the athlete shall be ineligible for the same time period as stated above in the next sports season in which the athlete participates. An athlete under suspension may not sit on the bench, enter the locker room, or be affiliated with the team in any way traveling to, during, or traveling after the contests.

2. An athlete who is ejected a second time shall be suspended for the remainder of the season in that sport.

3. It is the responsibility of the school district to ensure this regulation is enforced. When an ineligible athlete is allowed to participate, forfeiture of the contest is mandatory. This regulation shall apply to all regular and tournament contests and shall in no way limit the discretionary authority of the commissioner as specified in the OSHAA Tournament Regulations. In accordance with bylaw 8-3-1, the decision of contest officials is final.

4. Any athlete that is suspended for the remainder of an athletic season shall also forfeit any awards he/she was to receive.

VIII. ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT POLICIES & PROCEDURES:

1. *Student Athlete Resignation Procedure:*

When a student athlete intends to resign from a sport, the athlete is expected to first discuss the situation with the immediate coach, and then with the head coach if necessary. The coach will report any resignation to the athletic director as soon as possible. An athlete wishing to change sports during an athletic season may do so during the first two (2) weeks after the official starting date of that sport. After that date, that athlete may not participate in any other sport until the sport in which he/she stopped participation in is completed.

Note: Any athlete who withdraws from a team before the season is completed will not be eligible to receive any team or individual awards.

2. *Financial Obligations and Equipment:*

Athletes may be required to supply a portion of the equipment needed for participation. Any equipment supplied by the athlete will remain the property of the athlete. All athletes are responsible for the proper care and security of issued equipment. Fees will be charged for lost equipment as well as equipment returned in poor condition as determined by the coach and/or the athletic director.

3. *Absence from Practice:*

Athletes must contact the coach prior to a practice absence. The head coach will determine penalties for practice absences. Students must be in school or in an approved school activity the equivalent of a half day in order to participate in a practice or a contest that day. An excused absence the day before a Saturday event will allow the student participation. Participation in a school activity will not constitute an absence. An athlete may be given a five (5) day grace period between consecutive sports seasons in which they competed. This grace period will not include fall sports programs.

4. *Vacation Policy:*

A commitment to a sport is a commitment to your fellow team members; therefore athletes are discouraged from taking vacations during an athletic season. Athletes are required to notify the head coach if intending to take vacation during the season. **Vacation absences may negatively impact an athlete's position on the team. The head coach will determine penalties for absences.**

5. *Travel:*

Athletes are required to travel to and from away events with the team when school transportation is provided. Any exception will require approval of the coach or building administrator and written parental permission in advance of the event. Athletes are required to remain with their teams and under the supervision of their coach when attending away events.

Enacted for the fall 2009 season, there will be transportation/testing/processing fee assessed to each student athlete in the following amounts:

Middle School Sports	\$30 per season per athlete
High School Sports	\$40 per season per athlete

Maximum charge is \$100 per family per year. The office of each school will collect fees with other fees.

Overnight Trips

- A. All contests played, necessitating overnight stays, will follow OHSAA regulations.
- B. All overnight trips are subject to the approval of the Building Principal and Superintendent.
- C. Coaches will submit to the Athletic Office: an itinerary, a place of lodging, and phone numbers to contact in case of emergency. This information should be given in writing to each athlete and the parent/guardian.
- D. Coaches and/or approved chaperones are responsible for the supervision of all student athletes on overnight trips at all times.
- E. Expectations:
 - Room assignments will be made by the coach in charge and a list given to all coaches and chaperones. A request will be made for a block of rooms in one area. A request to block all pay per view movies will be made.
 - Periodic room checks must be made every two hours until one hour past designated "lights out".
 - Athletes and students will be instructed not to leave assigned room after designated "lights out".
 - Athletes and students will be instructed not to receive visitors without prior approval by the coach.
 - Athletes and students will be instructed not to have members of the opposite sex in assigned rooms.
 - Plans must be made for use of time when not in active competition. Activities will be done in groups under the supervision of the coach or chaperone.
 - Meals will be eaten in groups and under the supervision of the coach or chaperone.
 - One coach/chaperone per 10 athletes/students should be followed.
 - Coaches and chaperones will accompany and supervise athletes and students on all modes of transportation used to travel to hotel and competition sites.
 - Coaches will use good moral judgment in selection of restaurants and planned activities.
 - Board approved drug/alcohol free workplace policy applies to all coaches, chaperones, athletes and students on overnight trips.

6. College Recruitment Policy:

College recruitment information is available in the AD office or Guidance office. Athletes are expected to contact the head coach as soon as possible upon contact by a college recruiter.

7. Conflicts in Extracurricular Activities:

Participation in numerous extracurricular activities may result in conflict of obligations. The Athletic Department encourages students to have the opportunity for a broad range of experiences in extracurricular activities and will attempt to schedule events in a manner so as to minimize conflicts. Athletes must also assess potential conflict as they determine their ability to participate in various activities. Athletes must advise coaches of potential conflicts in advance of such situations. **Responsibility to avoid and pre arrange/notify of conflicts is the sole**

responsibility of the student athlete. Failure to do so can result in coach's discretionary ruling of participation. Coaches will work together to resolve the conflict. Athletes and parents are advised that participation in athletics inherently places participants at risk for injury. It is the responsibility of athletes and parents to assess the potential risks involved in making the decision to participate in athletics.

8. Insurance:

Athletes must have on file in the athletic office an accident insurance policy number either through school insurance or adequate other insurance certified by the parent or an "Insurance Waiver Form." The OHSAA will again purchase \$25,000 deductible excess medical insurance policy with a \$1 million cap to benefit any Ohio athlete who is catastrophically injured while participating in interscholastic athletics. The Association will also purchase a liability insurance policy. **If a student athlete is in need of the OHSAA's insurance offer, it is their responsibility to obtain said information available in the Athletic Director's office or online.**

9. Communications with the Coaching Staff

The Marietta City School District, in conjunction with its Athletic Department, follows the chain of command listed below. All parties are asked to observe this line of communication in regard to athletic matters.

1. Assistant Coach (if applicable)
2. Head Coach
3. Athletic Director
4. Building Principal
5. Superintendent
6. Board of Education

10. Issue Resolution

In the normal course of the school year issues arise which concern the student and/or parent and need to be addressed to keep school as positive and supportive as possible. Most times these are due to misunderstandings which can be resolved with a clear and direct discussion between the parties involved. The Board of Education believes that complaints are best handled and resolved as close to their origin as possible. See Board Policies KL, KLD and KLD-R. The process for resolving issues is outlined below:

Step 1: Contact the involved employee as soon as the concern becomes evident to discuss and attempt to reach satisfactory understanding and resolution. However, if you do not wish to converse with the employee, then an informal may be arranged with the principal or supervisor.

Step 2: If the issue is not resolved in the informal meeting in Step 1, then contact the Principal or Athletic Director (depending on the issue) and set up an informal meeting with the employee and supervisor to discuss and attempt to reach satisfactory resolution.

Step 3: If a satisfactory solution is not reached at the informal level, a written complaint should be submitted to the Principal within 1 week of the informal meeting. The Principal will investigate, gather data and will provide a written response to the complainant.

Step 4: If a satisfactory resolution is not reached in Step 3, either party may appeal to the superintendent. A written appeal needs to be filed with the superintendent's office within 1 week of receiving the written response from the Principal. The superintendent will investigate, and hold a meeting with the parties involved to fully understand the issue. After the investigation is complete the superintendent will issue a final recommendation in writing.

Step 5: If a satisfactory resolution does not result from Step 4, either party may appeal to the Board of Education. The board will hold a hearing per the formal policies and will decide what actions to take if any.

IX. AWARD CRITERIA THAT PERTAINS TO ALL SPORTS:

An athlete who moves from one level of competition to another will letter at the level of highest competition provided he/she meets team requirements. A coach will have the prerogative to letter a senior who has not met the seasonal requirements for lettering. Injury rule: Any athlete who participated before an injury may be awarded a letter at the discretion of the coach (based upon the judgment that the athlete would have met the lettering requirements, had it not been for the injury.)

AWARDS

- Fourth year plaque
- Third year plaque
- Second year certificate
- First year 8 1/2" chenille award
- Letter or certificate & pin
- JV award 6 1/2" chenille award
- Letter or certificate
- 9th grade numerals or certificate for freshman participation only
- 8th grade 4 1/2" chenille award
- Letter or certificate
- 7th grade certificate

Each year every athlete earning a 1st year award will receive the 8 1/2" letter. All other sports where the 1st year award is earned, the athlete will receive a pin. This holds true for the JV award, 9th grade award, and 8th grade award. (Pins will only accompany the 1st year award.) No student shall accept an award directly resulting from participation in interscholastic athletics having a value in excess of \$200 per award. End of season awards to students are part of the program/team policy set by the head coach. Additionally, the coach may exercise discretion for distribution of said awards that may be contrary to this policy.

ALL OHIO & ALL AMERICAN HONORS:

Any athlete that is voted for, or earns, any of the following honors is eligible to have his/her picture added to the Marietta High School picture gallery.

- All-American honors, or
- 1st Team All-Ohio Honors, athletic or,
- Is an individual 1st place state or national champion.
- Any athlete recognized at the state level will receive recognition in the gymnasium lobby.

Approved Sports for Marietta City Schools

**High School Athletic Programs
(Grades 9-12)**

FALL	WINTER	SPRING
Football	Girls Basketball	Baseball
Girls Golf	Boys Basketball	Softball
Boys Golf	Wrestling	Boys Tennis
Boys Cross Country	Girls Swimming	Girls Track
Girls Cross Country	Boys Swimming	Boys Track
Football Cheerleading	Basketball Cheerleading	Girls Crew
Girls Soccer	Girls Indoor Track (club status)	Boys Crew
Boys Soccer	Boys Indoor Track(club status)	
Volleyball		
Volleyball		
Girls Tennis		

**Junior High Programs
(7th & 8th grades)**

FALL	WINTER	SPRING
Football	Girls Basketball	Softball
Volleyball	Boys Basketball	Girls Track
Golf	Wrestling	Boys Track
Football Cheerleading	Basketball Cheerleading	
Tennis		
Girls Cross Country		
Boys Cross Country		