

MASON COUNTY ATHLETICS

ATHLETIC CODE OF CONDUCT (2023-2024)

A firm and fair policy of enforcement is necessary to uphold the regulations and standards of the athletic department. The community, school administrators, and the coaching staff feel strongly that high standards of conduct and citizenship are essential in maintaining a sound program of athletics. The welfare of the student is our major consideration and transcends any other consideration. All athletes shall abide by a code of conduct, which will earn them honor, and respect that participation and competition in the interscholastic program affords.

The conduct of an athlete is closely observed in many areas of life. It is important that your behavior be above reproach in all of the following areas:

In the Community- Any conduct that results in dishonor to the athlete, the team or the school will not be tolerated. Acts of unacceptable conduct, such as, but not limited to, theft, vandalism, disrespect, use of alcohol, tobacco, or illegal drugs, immorality, or violations of law, tarnish the reputation of everyone associated with the athletic programs and will not be tolerated. The code shall be in effect twelve months a year.

On the Field- In the area of athletic competition, a true athlete does not use profanity or illegal tactics and learns fast that losing is a part of the game. You should be gracious in defeat and modest in victory. It is always courteous to congratulate the opponent on a well-played game after the contest, whether in defeat or victory.

In the Classroom- In the academic area, a good athlete becomes the best student he or she can be. As an athlete, you must plan your schedule so that you give sufficient time and energy to your studies ensuring acceptable grades. In addition to maintaining good scholarship, an athlete should give respectable attention to classroom activities and show respect for other students and faculty at all times. A healthy athlete should have a good attendance record.

Extracurricular Academic Policy- An eligibility check will be made each week. An extracurricular student may have one cumulative “F” per week during the extracurricular season. Any student receiving two or more failing grades will be placed on a one-week probationary period. The Athletic Director or Principal will inform the coach/sponsor and student of the probationary status. If the second “F” is not raised after the probationary week, then the student becomes ineligible until the grades are raised. Ineligible is defined as: students may practice but not participate in or dress for actual competition. Any student athlete that is academically ineligible is ineligible to practice, dress (sit on the bench, stand on the sidelines), and travel.

Students Under Suspension

A student who is under suspension (except KHSAA sportsmanship suspension), in alternative school, or in-school suspension (beginning on the 4th day), is ineligible for athletic practice or participation until the suspension time is completed or is reinstated by the Principal.

Practice for Ineligible Students

A student athlete who is ineligible for any reason cannot try out, practice, or play in an athletic contest with the team. The only exception is when ineligibility results from unsportsmanlike conduct/ejection from a KHSAA athletic contest by an official. The student athlete could then practice but cannot play in the team’s next contest/meet/game.

Attendance

Students who miss part or all of school day due to illness or for reasons other than illness must receive permission from the Principal to practice or play in a contest on that day. Habitual athletic related absences, such as on days after games, etc. will be closely monitored.

Missing Practice

An athlete should consult his/her coach before missing practice. Missing practice or a game without good reason will be dealt with in a proper manner. Sudden illness or some other emergency would be a good reason for missing practice or game. *Any student athlete who skips practice without*

notifying the head coach will be suspended from all games, meets, etc. The duration of the suspension is up to the discretion of the head coach of that specific sport.

Grooming and Dress Policy

A member of an athletic team is expected to be well groomed. Appearance, expression, and actions always influence people's opinions of athletes, the team and the school. Coaches and the administration will continually monitor all of the above and take action when it is deemed necessary. Athletes shall dress in a presentable manner at all times. Once you have volunteered to be a member of a squad, you have made a choice to uphold certain standards expected of athletes in the community.

Travel

All student athletes are expected to ride the team bus. If this is not possible, only the parent or guardian may transport the student athlete. This does not include any other relative. The Principal must pre-approve any parental transportation to an athletic contest. After the game, a parent or guardian can take the athlete but must sign a release assuming all responsibilities at the time of departure. Failure to comply with this policy will result in at least a one-game suspension and possibly permanent denial of participation.

Financial Obligations and Equipment

All athletes are responsible for the proper care and security of equipment issued to them. School furnished equipment is to be worn only for contests and practices. All equipment not returned in good condition at the end of the season will be subject to financial penalty. *All practice cloth or any other item purchased by the school must be turned back in to the head coach at the conclusion of that specific sport season. Failure to comply with this policy will result in possible suspension, financial penalty or loss of graduation privileges.*

Social Media Guidelines

Be aware of what you post online. Social media sites are very public. What you contribute leaves a digital footprint for all to see. Be sure to follow the schools and athletic code of conduct rules when writing online. Your online behavior should reflect the same standards of honesty, respect, and consideration that you use face to face.

Dropping A Sport

Quitting is an intolerable habit to acquire, but on occasion an athlete may find it necessary to drop a sport for a good reason. If this is the case, the following procedure must be followed:

1. Tell your team coach or the Principal/Athletic Director, in person, your intentions of quitting immediately after reaching your decision.
2. Check in all equipment issued to you. Athletes dropping a sport will not be permitted to participate in another sport held the same season. Failure to follow this procedure in dropping a sport will result in loss of all athletic privileges.

Legal/Code of Conduct Investigations

Any student-athlete under legal/and or Code of Conduct violations investigation may be suspended from all athletic activities pending investigation or until the matter has been resolved.

Penalties for Violation

The coach involved, the Principal/Athletic Director shall meet and discuss the penalty according to the degree of the infraction. The Principal shall have the final decision on any matter of discipline/penalty. Maximum penalty for violation of the Code of Conduct is one calendar year suspension from sports activities.

Individual School/Coaches Sports Rules

Coaches are encouraged to establish additional rules and regulations for their respective sports. Penalties will be designated/ handled by their respective coach/es. It should be remembered that the Code of Conduct supersedes all other rules pertaining to any sport team.

College Signings Guidelines

All signings where student athletes receive college athletic aid can use school facilities, but these events must be done before or after regular school hours. Head coaches are requested to carefully screen these requests for

legitimacy from the athlete or parent before reserving school space and notification of the press.

Post-Game Celebrations

To achieve victory on the playing field or court is the desire of all athletic teams. Normal post-game victory celebrations are welcomed and accepted as a part of the game. In recent times, some of these have gone beyond the norm and accepted rules of behavior. We expect any action by our athletic players and teams to be respectful to all and that nothing be done to embarrass or harm coaches, other players or fans!

Awards Criteria

There will be an awards presentation event given to honor all athletes, coaches, support personnel, and parents at the end of sport season. This will be the responsibility of the head coach of each sport to organize and plan this event. Athletic Department awards shall be presented at this time. A six-inch chenille letter will be awarded to the student athlete when he or she earns their first varsity letter. A bar insert will also be awarded. An athlete will receive a varsity letter at the discretion of the head coach of the sport played. All unusual circumstances that may occur, such as transfer students, injuries etc., shall be left up to the coaches and athletic administration.

Any athlete removed from a team by disciplinary actions, scholastic inefficiency, or one who quits his or her initiative will not receive a letter in the sport for that season. An athlete who fails to qualify for a varsity letter but finishes the season in a good standing will receive a five-inch junior varsity letter. A freshmen athletic letter will be awarded in those sports designed for freshmen only. Sport designed certificates can also be awarded for a sports participant finishing in good standing if none of the above criteria are met.

All athletes receiving a letter in a particular sport for the first time will also receive a medal insert designated the sport in which they earned the letter. Multi year varsity letter winners will receive an additional medal bar for each letter earned. Multi-year junior varsity and freshmen letter winners will receive an additional medal insert. Individual coaches may give special awards in each of their respective sports. These awards will be plaques designating individual or team accomplishments or achievements during their sports season. A record of these must be on file with the athletic

department. An athlete that maintains a 3.5 GPA or above during the sports season in which they participated will receive a Scholastic Award Pin. Student athletes may qualify for an award medal at the completion of their senior year if they have successfully completed a sport in each of their four years in high school. Also, if the senior athlete obtained a 3.75 GPA for their high school career, they will receive an Academic Medal of Excellence

Mason County Athletics Chain of Command

A. The student athlete must meet with the head coach of that specific sport face to face. Text messages, phone calls and emails do not fulfill this step.

B. The student athlete and parent(s) will meet with the head coach of that specific sport face to face. Text messages, phone calls and emails do not fulfill this step.

C. The student athlete and parent may schedule a meeting with the head coach, athletic director and the principal to meet face to face. Text messages, phone calls and emails do not fulfill this step.

***These steps must be followed in sequential order for the next meeting to take place.**

Uniform Policy

Student athletes must turn in ALL pieces of their uniform to the head coach prior to receiving any athletic or academic awards at the end of the season banquet. Any student athlete, upon becoming a senior in high school, who has not returned all uniform property of Mason County High School will not be permitted to participate in graduation ceremonies and will be reported to local law enforcement.

Parent/Fan Expectations

Mason County High School offers a multitude of sport opportunities to enhance the educational experience of our students. Parents should model appropriate encouragement, behavior, and sportsmanship at all times. Parents are responsible for their words and actions when attending a Mason County High School athletic event, whether that be at home or at an away contest. Parents must not engage in or encourage their child to engage in:

1. Approaching any coach to discuss any strategy or playing time. The 24-hour rule is always in effect.
2. Disrespecting any coach, parent, student athlete, official, fan or school employee based on race, creed, color, national origin, sexual orientation or ability.
3. Any profanity.
4. Initiating any form of physical confrontation with any coach, parent, student-athlete, official, fan or school employee.
5. Verbally or physically threatening any coach, parent, student-athlete, official, fan or school employee.

Parents who violate this code of conduct while attending a Mason County High School athletic event (home or away) will be subject to disciplinary action. Repeated issues will result in multiple game suspensions, full season suspensions and/or a ban from all athletic and/or non-athletic events on the Mason County campus. You are an adult, please conduct yourself like one.

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Student- Athlete/Parent Contract for Participation

We have read and agree to fully abide by the terms of Mason County Athletics and Code of Conduct Handbook. Failure to comply with the policies set forth in the handbook may result in my suspension and/or dismissal from a sports team and, potentially, my dismissal from the sport program for 2023- 2024.

We understand that we must sign this document and turn it into the Athletic Director or Head Coach prior to being issued a uniform and included on a team roster.

Date: _____

Print Name Student: _____

Athlete Signature: _____

Date: _____

Print Parent Name: _____

Parent Signature: _____

