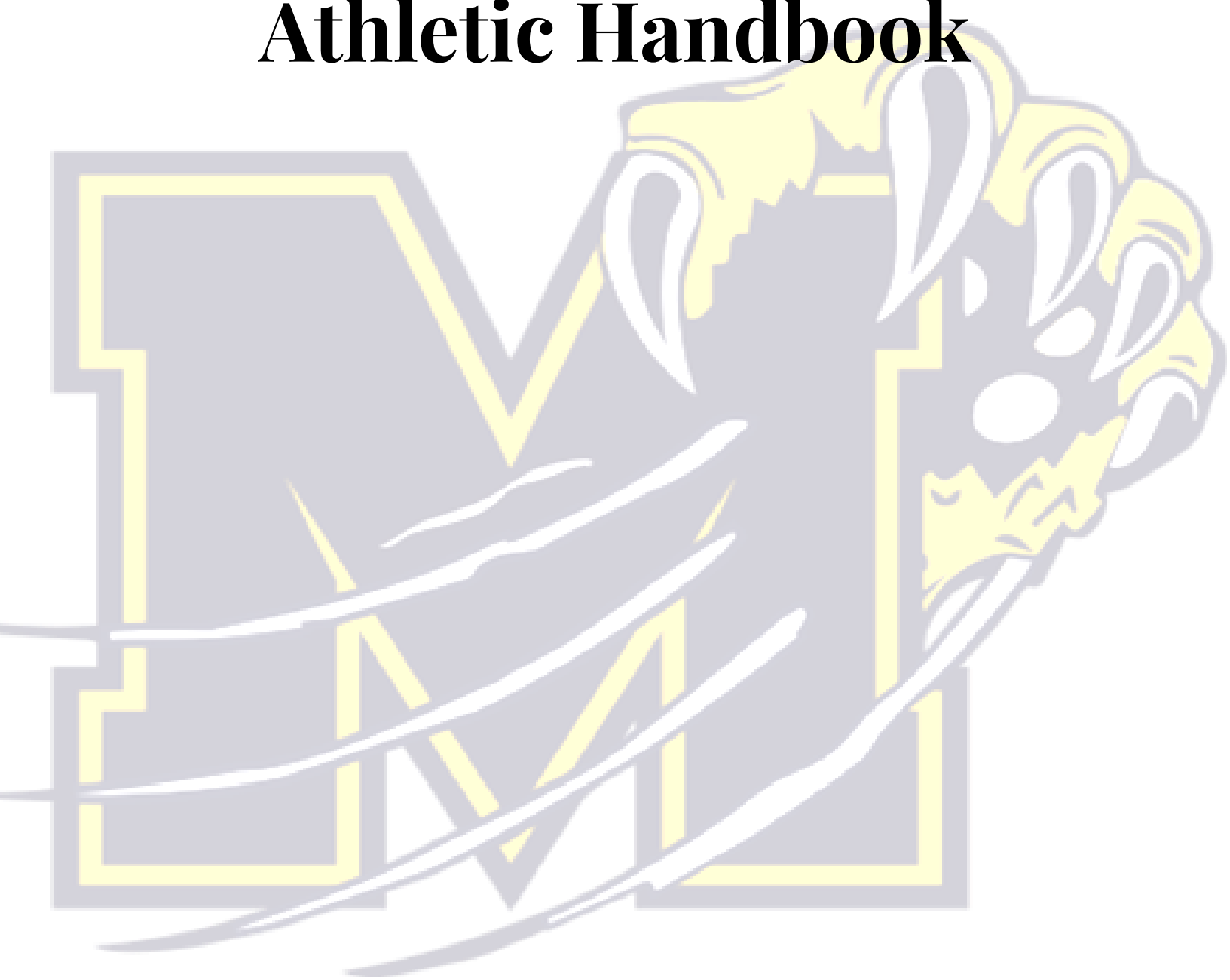


Mattawan High School Athletic Handbook



Empowering the Future Together.... With Mattawan Pride

PHILOSOPHY

The Mattawan Board of Education recognizes the value to the district and to the community of a program of interscholastic athletics for as many students as feasible. The program should provide a variety of experiences to aid in the development of favorable habits and attitudes in students that will help prepare them for adult life in a democratic society.

Athletics should function as an integral part of the total curriculum. It should assist in the development of fellowship and goodwill; it should promote self-realization and all around growth, and encourage learning the qualities of good citizenship. Lessons in sportsmanship, teamwork, competition and how to win and lose gracefully are integral parts of each team in our athletic program. Athletics can also play an important part in helping the individual student develop a healthy self-concept as well as a healthy body. Athletic competition should add to our school spirit and help students, spectators, and participants develop pride in their school.

Participation in the program is a privilege that carries with it responsibilities to parents, to the school, to the team and coach, to the student body, to the community, and other students.

STATEMENT OF NON-DISCRIMINATION

It is the policy of the Mattawan Consolidated School that no person shall, on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin or ancestry, sex, age, disability, height, weight, or marital status be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of or be subjected to discrimination during any program or activity or in employment.

Please contact Mr. Jay Larner (Assistant Superintendent) 56720 Murray Street, Mattawan, Michigan 49071 for questions.

GOVERNANCES

- A. The Board of Education is the ruling agency for activities at Mattawan Consolidated School.
- B. The Michigan High School Athletic Association provides rules and regulations that ensure equity in competition for student athletes in a balance with other educational programs.

Mattawan Consolidated School is a voluntary member of the Michigan High School Athletic Association.

C. Mattawan High School is a voluntary member of the Southwest Michigan Athletic Conference. The value of league membership is the arranging of schedules, equalizing of competition, conducting of league meets, declaring league champions and generally upgrading the program of member schools through the establishment of conference standards and goals.

OFFERINGS OF ATHLETIC ACTIVITIES

Mattawan High School provides interscholastic sport opportunities for both men and women.

- Basketball
- Baseball
- Bowling
- Competitive Cheer
- Cross Country
- Downhill Ski
- Football
- Golf
- Hockey
- Lacrosse
- Sideline Cheerleading
- Soccer
- Softball
- Swim/Dive
- Tennis
- Track & Field
- Volleyball
- Wrestling

TO THE PARENT

Information contained in this document is presented because your son or daughter has indicated a desire to participate in interscholastic athletics. Your family interest in this phase of our school program is encouraged. We who are concerned with the educational development of young adults through athletics feel that a properly controlled, well-organized sports program can contribute to meeting the needs of students' 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 that requires self-discipline.

We place importance on good conduct and training habits. Failure to comply with these rules of training and conduct will result in progressive disciplinary methods with possible exclusion from the team.

It can be very difficult to be a parent of a student athlete. There may be times of frustration for both your child and you as a parent. Frustrations could be caused by a variety of reasons ranging from injury, coaching decisions, or unmet expectations. If you wish to speak with a coach about a concern, we ask that you use established lines of communication outlined in the Communication Section of this document. By doing so, the chance for a positive resolution of concerns is enhanced.

Parents are expected to exhibit good sportsmanship and support students in a positive manner. We trust that you will join in this cooperative effort to help provide an environment for your son or daughter that will assist their development of fellowship and goodwill, self-realization and the qualities of good citizenship.

TO THE ATHLETE

Being a member of a Mattawan High School athletic team is the fulfillment of an early ambition for many students. The attainment of this goal carries with it certain traditions and responsibilities. Over the years, there have been many successes in Mattawan athletics. We hope that you will be a part of continuing this fine traditions

We desire to win, but only with honor to our athletes, our school, our community and our opponents. Such tradition is worthy of the best efforts of all concerned.

Contributing to this fine tradition will require a great deal of commitment and understanding of responsibilities.

1. **Responsibilities to Yourself:** The most important of these responsibilities is to broaden yourself and develop strength of character. You owe it to yourself to achieve your best from your high school experiences within the guidelines of the team and school. Your

academic studies and your participation in other co-curricular activities as well as in sports prepare you for your life as an adult.

2. **Responsibilities to Your School:** Another responsibility you assume as a team member is to your school. Mattawan High School cannot maintain its position of having an outstanding school unless you participate to the maximum of your ability. You are then contributing to the reputation of your school.

You assume a leadership role when you are on an athletic team. The student body and citizens of the community know you. The student body, the community and other communities judge our school by your conduct and attitude, both on and off the field. Because of this leadership role, you can contribute greatly to school spirit and community pride.

3. **Responsibilities to Others:** As a team member, you bear a heavy responsibility. When you know in your heart that you have lived up to all the training rules, that you have practiced to the best of your ability every day, and that you have played the game “all out”, you can keep your self respect and your family can be justly proud of you. Younger students in our school system are watching you. They will copy you in many ways. Don't let them down. Set good examples for them.

COMMUNICATION

It is the goal of Mattawan Consolidated School to encourage and promote effective communication among all persons. Coaches are encouraged to hold pre-season meetings with players and parents to outline procedures and expectations for participating on the team.

During activities such as athletics, there are times when emotions run high. It is essential that conversations occur at appropriate times and are measured in tone. The following expectations regarding communication have been developed to enhance appropriate communication:

A. It is essential that coaches know of significant events in the life of a student that may affect participation in practice, games, and other activities. We request that student athletes, (Parents if necessary) communicate such situations to the coach.

B. It is also essential that the coach keep parents informed of significant events that may happen within the activities of the program. If the student has experienced an especially frustrating situation or has a significant accomplishment, it is expected the coach will communicate with parents so parents may have that information.

C. Parents and players, who should always be included in the process, must use the following procedures if concerns arise:

1. The student should contact the coach to discuss the situation.
2. If the student does not feel satisfied, the parent should then be in contact with the coach.
3. If there is not resolution to the concern of the player and/or parent after talking with the coach, the player and/or parent may request to meet with the athletic director.

D. It is the expressed policy of Mattawan Consolidated School that coaches are not to be confronted in a negative manner by parents or players before, during or after a contest, or at a practice.

E. If a conversation between a parent and a coach or a player and coach becomes confrontational, coaches have been asked to draw the conversation to a close. The athletic director shall be notified of the negative encounter. The presence of the athletic director will be requested at a meeting at a subsequent time that could include the player separately, parents separately, player and parents, coach and athletic director.

REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICIPATION

A. Physical Examination: A yearly physical examination is required. A physical card must be completed by a physician and submitted to the Athletic Office. The physical covers all sports for the entire school year provided the examination occurred after April 15 of the spring/summer prior to the present school year. The athletic director keeps the form on file.

B. Emergency Medical Authorization: Each athlete's parents/guardians shall complete an emergency medical authorization card giving permission for treatment by a physician or hospital when the parent/guardian is not available.

C. Parental Acknowledgement of Athletic Policies: Upon entering high school or at the time a student tries out for an athletic team, he/she will be presented with a handbook containing all necessary forms and information for participating in athletics. Each parent or guardian shall read all the enclosed material and certify they understand and accept the athletic eligibility rules and policies of the school district, by signing the Consent portion of the Physical form. The athletic director will keep this signed document on file.

D. Participation Fee: The school district assesses a minimal one-time-per-school-year participation fee, established annually, that helps cover costs of an athletic trainer and basic medical supplies, field and facility maintenance, transportation, fees and administrative costs .

E. Local Scholastic Eligibility: Mattawan High School has local scholastic eligibility requirements in addition to MHSAA minimum requirements. Student-Athletes are required to show current passing grades in five of six classes on a weekly basis during a season in order to continue participation in scrimmages and contests.

The weekly assessment of eligibility typically occurs on Monday and shall be based upon the current grade posted at the time of the report. Although eligibility will be computed and available for coaches to address academic concerns with students, students are provided an initial grace period at the beginning of each semester and will not be ineligible for participation until after the fourth week of at least four scheduled full days of instruction per week.

If the student-athlete is not passing weekly eligibility requirements, he/she will be declared ineligible to participate in scrimmages and competition during that Monday through Sunday. If the ineligibility would begin on a day during a vacation period, the ineligibility shall be enforced during the next scheduled week of school.

F. MHSAA Eligibility: To be eligible for interscholastic competition an athlete must comply with the following MHSAA rules:

1. Enrollment: Have been enrolled in a high school by Monday of the fourth week of the present semester.
2. Age: Be under nineteen (19) years of age at a time of contest unless the nineteenth birthday occurs on or after September 1 of a current school year, in which case a student is eligible for balance of that school year in all sports.

3. Physical Examinations: Have passed a current year physical examination. Records must be on file in the school office.

4. Seasons of Competition: Have not more than four (4) first and four (4) second semester seasons of competition in a sport in a four (4) year high school, including present season. When two seasons leading to a state championship or the same sport are offered, an athlete may participate in only one (1).

5. Semesters of Enrollment: Not have been enrolled for more than eight (8) semesters in grades nine to twelve (9-12), inclusive. Seventh and eighth semesters must be consecutive. Three weeks enrollment or participation in one (1) or more athletic contests constitute a semester enrollment.

6. Undergraduate Standing: Not be a high school graduate.

7. Previous Semester Record: Have passed four out of six classes during the previous semester of enrollment.

8. Current Semester Record: Be carrying and doing passing work in at least five out of six classes during the present semester up to within seven (7) days of the contest

9. Transfers: Generally, have had an accompanying change of residence by the athlete's parent, guardian, or other persons with whom the athlete has been living during the period of his or her last high school enrollment, into the district or service area of the school, to be eligible during the first semester in attendance.

10. Awards: Must not have accepted any award or merchandise exceeding \$40.00 in value for athletic performance. Athletes accepting memberships, privileges, services, negotiable certificates or money are in violation.

11. Amateur Practices: Not have accepted money, merchandise, memberships, privileges, services, or other valuable consideration for participation in any form of athletics, sports, or games, or for officiating interscholastic athletic contests, or have signed a professional baseball contract. (Reinstatement will not be considered for one (1) year.)

12. **Limited Team Membership:** Not have participated in any outside competition in a sport during the season after the athlete has represented his or her school in that sport except individual participation in a maximum of two individual sports meets or contests; not have participated in a so-called all-star, charity, or exhibition football, basketball or ice hockey game during the school year.

G. Risk of Participation: All athletes and parents must realize there is a risk of serious injury, which may be a result of athletic participation. Mattawan Consolidated School will use the following procedures to help protect against injury:

1. Offer a parent/athlete meeting prior to the start of the season to explain the athletic policies and advise, caution and warn parents/athletes of the potential for injury or death.
2. Maintain a continuing education program for coaches to learn up-to-date techniques and skills for their sport.
3. Instruct all athletes about the dangers of participation in their particular sport.

BASIC ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT PROCEDURES

A. Dual Participation: An athlete may typically participate in only one sport per season. An athlete that wishes to compete in more than one sport during the same season must receive permission in writing from the athletic director with concurrence of the coaches involved.

B. Dropping or Transferring Sports: Once an athlete has begun a season, the athlete is expected to remain a member of the team for the entire season. Quitting a team is a serious decision. On occasion, however, an athlete may find it necessary to drop a sport for a unique reason. If this is the case, the following procedure must be followed:

1. Consult with the coach.
2. Conference must be held with the athletic director.
3. All equipment must be returned in acceptable condition.

It is the clear intent of Mattawan Consolidated School that athletes remain committed to the athletic team they join. Therefore, athletes will not be allowed to change sports once they join a team. Only under extreme circumstances will a deviation from this intent be considered. During possible consideration, the coaches and athletic director would need to be convinced a change would be in the collective best interest of the teams and individuals involved. Athletes that have dropped a sport may not participate in pre-season conditioning for another sport without the approval of the athletic director.

C. Equipment: Athletes are responsible for the proper care and security of uniforms and equipment issued to them. School furnished uniforms and equipment may only be used for practice or contests unless expressly approved by the coach to be used at another time. The athlete has a financial obligation for any loss or damage of equipment. Parents will be notified of any charges at the end of each season. All financial obligations for school equipment must be fully paid to the school before the athlete may begin another sport. Any personalized equipment/uniform parts (shooting shirts, sweat shirts, warm ups, etc.) that team members purchase to keep after the season is over must be paid for prior to the personalized equipment/uniforms being ordered.

D. Physicals: The school district typically arranges for physical examinations at a nominal cost to be given at school in May. Athletes should watch for information regarding physicals during the spring.

E. Travel: All athletes must travel to and from away athletic contests in transportation provided by the school. Exceptions may occur, as follows:

1. The athlete may accompany her/his own parent/guardian home after the contest after signing an appropriate written document.
2. The parent/guardian of an athlete may request, in writing prior to the contest, that her/his child be allowed to accompany a parent of another athlete from the team after a contest using private transportation.
3. The athletic director's discretion in unique situations.

F. College Recruitment Policy: In the event a college recruiter should contact an athlete personally, she/he has an obligation to work through her/his coach and the athletic department. The athlete is to inform the coach of such a contact as soon as possible. College recruitment information is available from the athletic director.

G. Conflicts in Co-Curricular Activities: A student who attempts to participate in several co-curricular activities may be in a position of conflict between two obligations. Mattawan High School recognizes that each student should have the opportunity for a broad range of experiences in co-curricular activities, and to this end, will attempt to schedule events in a manner to minimize conflicts.

Students have a responsibility to do everything they can to avoid conflict. This includes being cautious about belonging to too many activities where conflict may occur. If the potential for conflict exists between two co-curricular activities, the student must talk to the coach and/or director prior to becoming involved in the activities.

When a conflict arises, the student must bring it to the attention of the director/coach in a timely manner and the director/coach will attempt to work out a solution so the student does not feel caught in the middle. If a solution cannot be found through the process, the principal will make the decision based on the following criteria:

1. The relative importance of each event.
2. The importance of each event to the student.
3. The relative contribution the student can make.
4. How long each event has been scheduled.
5. Conversation with parents.

Once the staff has made a decision and the student has followed that decision, the student will not be penalized in any way by either the teacher or coach. If it becomes obvious that a student cannot fulfill the obligation of the school activity on an on-going basis, she/he should consider the effect on their grade or withdrawing from that activity.

H. School Attendance: To be eligible to compete in an athletic contest or practice, the athlete must be in attendance at every class during the day of the contest or practice, except as excused by the principal, athletic director, or designee. Students absent from school on Friday when a contest occurs on Saturday will be eligible to participate provided the absence is an excused absence as determined by the athletic director and/or principal.

I. Grooming and Dress: A member of an athletic team is expected to be well groomed. Once a person becomes a member of a squad, they must uphold standards expected of athletes determined by the school.

The following grooming and dress rules will be expected of all team members:

1. An athlete shall dress according to team policy as determined by the coach while representing the school on trips or at other events.
2. Only uniforms issued by the school will be permitted to be worn for contests.

J. Vacations: Vacations of athletic team members during a sports season are discouraged. Parents and athletes are encouraged to schedule vacations and family trips at times other than during the season. Absences for vacations while school is in session will not be excused. Absences for vacations during scheduled school vacations at Thanksgiving, winter break and spring break will be excused. Due to the need for conditioning, the period of time sanctioned by MHSAA for practice during August prior to the start of school is not considered a scheduled school vacation. Students are expected to attend practice. Prior to participation in a contest, the student must have met conditioning and team commitment requirements.

For the purpose of school athletics, vacations will be determined to begin after practice or contest on the last day of school preceding a scheduled vacation. Vacations will be determined to end at the beginning of the first school day following scheduled school vacations. Depending on the length of the absence from participation and/or practice due to an emergency or injury, an athlete may be required to do conditioning prior to resuming full participation.

K. Squad Selection: Coaches will be responsible for selecting participants for the squads. Coaches are encouraged to keep as many students as possible while maintaining the integrity of their coach-player relationship. Students must be present and participate in tryouts to be eligible for joining a team. Exceptions to this requirement for such things as emergencies and conflicting school activities will be considered on a case-by-case basis by the Athletic Director.

L. Cutting: Choosing the members of an athletic squad is the responsibility of the coach. Prior to trying out, the coach shall provide the following information to all candidates for the team:

1. Extent of the try-out period.
2. Criteria used to select a team.
3. The expected practice commitment if a student makes the team.

4. Game commitments if the student makes the team.

Coaches are encouraged to be sensitive to students' needs when cuts are necessary. Coaches may discuss alternative possibilities for participation in the sport or other areas in the co-curricular program that may be available to students that are cut.

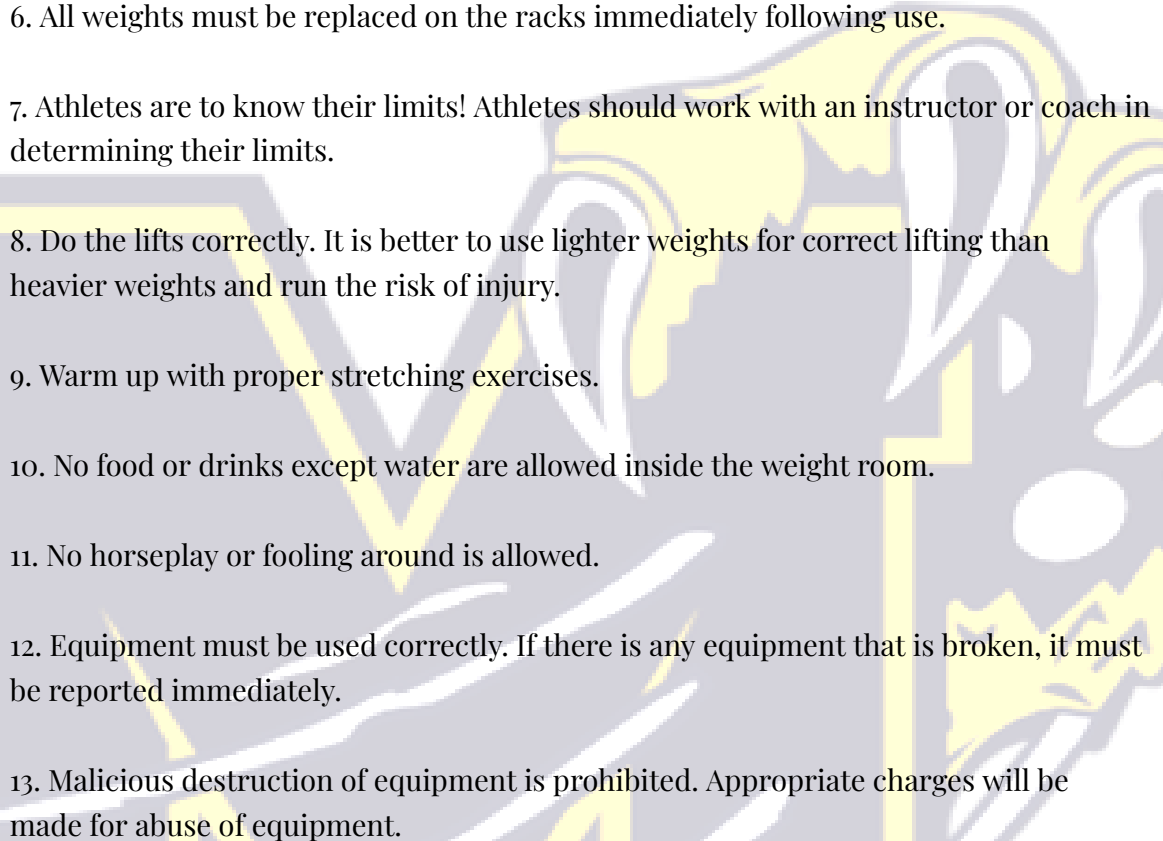
M. Reporting of Injury: All injuries that occur while participating in athletics must be reported to the coach. If the injury requires medical attention by a doctor, it will be necessary to have an injury report form completed. If athletes are treated by a physician, the athlete must obtain the doctor's permission to return to the activity.

N: Locker Room Regulations:

1. Roughhousing and throwing towels and other objects is not allowed in the locker room.
2. Hazing of other players is prohibited.
3. All showers must be turned off when showers are complete.
4. No one except coaches and assigned players are allowed in the locker room.
5. No glass containers are permitted in the locker rooms.
6. All spiked or cleated shoes must be put on and taken off outside of the building. No metal or hard plastic spikes are ever allowed in any part of the school building.

O. Weight Room Regulations:

1. Any student who uses the weight room must have a signed parental permission and release form to participate in athletics on file with the athletic director unless the room is being used during the school day for a physical education class.
2. Shirt and shoes that cover the feet are required at all times.
3. No one may use the weight room alone.

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4. All students must be under the supervision of a coach or instructor while using the room.
 5. Lifters must work with a partner when lifting heavy weights.
 6. All weights must be replaced on the racks immediately following use.
 7. Athletes are to know their limits! Athletes should work with an instructor or coach in determining their limits.
 8. Do the lifts correctly. It is better to use lighter weights for correct lifting than heavier weights and run the risk of injury.
 9. Warm up with proper stretching exercises.
 10. No food or drinks except water are allowed inside the weight room.
 11. No horseplay or fooling around is allowed.
 12. Equipment must be used correctly. If there is any equipment that is broken, it must be reported immediately.
 13. Malicious destruction of equipment is prohibited. Appropriate charges will be made for abuse of equipment.

P. Athletic Awards: The school as special recognition of athletic performance gives an athletic award. Coaches will inform athletes at the start of the season about qualifications for receiving varsity letters and other honors. At the end of each season, a recognition program is held to honor the athletes that have participated during that season.

ATHLETIC CODE OF CONDUCT

A. Conduct of Athletes: A firm and fair policy of enforcement is necessary to uphold the regulations and standards of the athletic department. All athletes shall abide by a code of ethics, which will earn them the honor and respect for their participation that competition in the interscholastic program affords.

Any conduct that results in dishonor to the athlete, the team, or the school is not acceptable. Acts of unacceptable conduct such as, but not limited to, theft, vandalism, disrespect, immorality or violations of law tarnish the reputation of everyone associated with the athletic programs.

Bullying, intimidation, and harassment diminish a student's ability to learn and a school's ability to educate. Preventing students from engaging in these disruptive behaviors and providing all students equal access to a safe, non-hostile learning environment are important school goals.

Bullying on the basis of actual or perceived race, color, national origin, immigration status, military status, unfavorable discharge status from the military service, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender-related identity or expression, ancestry, age, religion, physical or mental disability, order of protection status, status of being homeless, or actual or potential marital or parental status, including pregnancy, association with a person or group with one or more of the aforementioned actual or perceived characteristics, or any other distinguishing characteristic is prohibited in each of the following situations:

- During any school-sponsored education program or activity.
- While in school, on school property, on school buses or other school vehicles, at designated school bus stops waiting for the school bus, or at school-sponsored or school-sanctioned events or activities.
- Through the transmission of information from a school computer, a school computer network, or other similar electronic school equipment.
- Through the transmission of information from a computer that is accessed at a non school-related location, activity, function, or program or from the use of technology or an electronic device that is not owned, leased, or used by the school district or school if the bullying causes a substantial disruption to the educational process or orderly operation of a school.

Bullying includes cyber-bullying (bullying through the use of technology or any electronic communication) and means any severe or pervasive physical or verbal act or conduct, including communications made in writing or electronically, directed toward a student or students that has or can be reasonably predicted to have the effect of one or more of the following:

- Placing the student or students in reasonable fear of harm to the student's or students' person or property;

- Causing a substantially detrimental effect on the student's or students' physical or mental health;
- Substantially interfering with the student's or students' academic performance; or
- Substantially interfering with the student's or students' ability to participate in or benefit from the services, activities, or privileges provided by a school.

Examples of prohibited conduct include name-calling, using derogatory slurs, stalking, sexual violence, causing psychological harm, threatening or causing physical harm, threatened or actual destruction of property, or wearing or possessing items depicting or implying hatred or prejudice of one of the characteristics stated above.

Students are encouraged to immediately report bullying. A report may be made orally or in writing to the district complaint manager or any staff member with whom the student is comfortable speaking. Anyone, including staff members and parents/guardians, who has information about actual or threatened bullying is encouraged to report it to the district complaint manager (Mr. Jay Larner) or any staff member.

The coach, athletic director and principal are charged with assuring compliance with the Code of Conduct. Penalties for non-compliance will be fairly and firmly administered.

B. Commitment: Athletes participating in interscholastic athletics at Mattawan Consolidated School must pledge, with the concurrence of their parent/guardian, to abide by all conditions of the Code of Conduct prior to participation by completing forms provided by the school.

C. Representation/Conduct: Athletes in an interscholastic program represent both themselves and the school district. An athlete's conduct shall bring credit to the athlete, parents, team, school, and community.

D. Unacceptable Behavior: A demonstration of a flagrant negative attitude in word or action toward a team member, coach, opponent, official or spectators is not acceptable.

Non-Compliance:

First Offense: Removal from contest/practice for a portion or all of the contest/practice depending upon severity followed by a conference with coach.

Second Offense: Removal from at least one contest and a successful conference is held with the player, parent/guardian, coach and athletic director.

Third Offense: Removal from the team for the remainder of the season.

E. Fighting: Fighting in any sport shall consist of either an invitation to fight, closely following an opposing player during a disturbance, making any taunting gesture or sound, hitting with fists or kicking with feet whether or not the punch or kick is landed, and wrestling or tackling an opponent outside a legal play situation.

Non-Compliance: Violation of this rule shall bring an automatic suspension for the remainder of that game plus a conference with the coach and athletic director. Further disciplinary action may occur due to severity of the infraction

F. Prohibited Substances: Athletes are not to be in possession of, use, or be under the influence of any form of tobacco products, alcohol, or any mind or body altering substance not prescribed by a physician at any time during the season of the sport.

1. TOBACCO PRODUCTS:

Non-Compliance :

First Offense: Suspension of the athlete from the interscholastic program for 20% of the scheduled contests, or until the end of the season, whichever comes first. The athlete will be expected to participate in all team functions if there is a chance the athlete will become eligible for participation in contests at the end of the suspension.

Second Offense: Suspension of the athlete from the interscholastic program for a period of 60 calendar days. The athlete will be expected to participate in all team functions if there is a chance the athlete will become eligible for participation in contests at the end of the suspension.

Third Offense: Suspension of the athlete from the interscholastic program for a period of one calendar year. The athlete may not participate in any interscholastic athletic activity within that year. If there is an opportunity for the athlete to participate in more than 50% of the scheduled contests in the season when he/she again becomes eligible,

the athlete may participate in team functions but no contests, until such time the suspension period is over.

2. ALCOHOL, MIND OR BODY ALTERING SUBSTANCE NOT PRESCRIBED BY PHYSICIAN:

Non-Compliance :

First Offense: Suspension of the athlete from the interscholastic program for 40% of the scheduled contests, or until the end of the season, whichever comes first. The athlete will be expected to participate in all team functions if there is a chance the athlete will become eligible for participation in contests at the end of the suspension.

Second Offense : Suspension of the athlete from interscholastic activities for a period of 90 calendar days. The athlete will be expected to participate in all team functions if there is a chance the athlete will become eligible for participation in contests at the end of the suspension.

Delivery: A person who knowingly delivers or knowingly possesses with intent to deliver an androgenic anabolic steroid or counterfeit androgenic anabolic steroid to another person in violation of section 17766a of Act No. 368 of the Public Acts of 1978 is guilty of a felony, is held with the athlete, coach, parent/guardian and athletic director.

Third Offense: The athlete shall be removed from the squad for the remainder of the season.

G. Individual Coach Rules: Coaches may establish reasonable rules and regulations subject to the approval of the athletic director and principal for their respective sports. These rules must be given by the coach in writing to all team members and explained fully at the start of the season. Penalties for violation of team rules must be in writing. Copies of the additional rules by coaches must be on file with the athletic director. The athletic director retains the right to alter rules or punishments of individual coach rules prior to distribution of the rules to players by the coach.

K. Suspension: If a student athlete is suspended from school, the athlete may not participate in a contest or practice during the period of the suspension. The suspension period will end at midnight of the last day of suspension.

L. Elastic Clause: In the event the Code of Conduct or other school policies or procedures do not cover situations that arise, the administration and/or the Board of Education

reserve the right to establish such rules and conditions to respond effectively to unanticipated or unique circumstances.

M. **Hazing.** Hazing shall be defined for the purposes of this policy as performing any act or coercing another, including the victim, to perform any act of initiation into any class, group, or organization that causes or creates a risk of causing mental, emotional, or physical harm. Permission, consent, or assumption of risk by an individual subjected to the hazing shall not lessen the prohibitions contained in this policy. Hazing involves conduct such as but not limited to:

- A. illegal activity, such as drinking or drugs;
- B. physical punishment or infliction of pain;
- C. intentional humiliation or embarrassment;
- D. dangerous activity;
- E. forced detention or kidnapping;
- F. activity likely to cause mental stress;
- G. undressing or otherwise exposing initiates.

Administrators, faculty members, and other employees of the District shall be alert particularly to possible situations, circumstances, or events which might include hazing. If hazing or planned haze is discovered, the students involved shall be informed by the discoverer of the prohibitions contained in this policy and shall be ordered to end all hazing activities or planned activities immediately. All hazing incidents shall be reported immediately to the Superintendent.

Students, administrators, faculty members, and other employees who fail to abide by this policy may be subject to disciplinary action and may be held personally liable for civil or criminal penalties.

N. Administration of Non-Compliance:

1. Non-compliance with the Athletic Code of Conduct . Possible infractions will be assessed by the Director of Student Activities based on information supplied from one or more of the following sources.

- a. The athlete reporting the non-compliance personally.
- b. A report from the athlete's parent/guardian of non-compliance, unless the student has declared Age of Majority status according to established procedures prior to the non-compliance.
- c. Reported observance of non-compliance by a school employee.
- d. Non-compliance as determined by information confirmed through a public agency.

It is deemed a responsible behavior if a student athlete seeks out the Director of Student Activities to report an infraction of a rule/rules on her/his own part before it is reported through another source. Such behavior will be considered noteworthy evidence that the student athlete understands the need to demonstrate integrity while striving to earn back trust that likely was tarnished due to the behavior that caused a non-compliance consequence to be administered (see Section 3 below).

2. Listing of Levels of Consequences for Non-Compliance of Athletic Code of Conduct based on regularly scheduled non-tournament contest dates. Consequences for non-compliance of the Athletic Code of Conduct are as follows:

a. LEVEL AH 1 . Suspension from full participation, on a case by case basis, as determined by the coach with the concurrence of the Director of Student Activities. Maximum consequence typically up to one contest day.*

b. LEVEL AH 2 . Minimum suspension from athletic contest days typically is as follows:

1. If season of a sport has between one and ten contest days, the student athlete shall be suspended for one contest day.

2. If a season of a sport has eleven or more contest days, the student athlete shall be suspended for two contest day

c. LEVEL AH 3 . Suspension from athletic contest days* typically as follows:

1. Suspension from 25% of regularly scheduled contest days. Number of contests days will be rounded up to the Maximum amount.

2. Student is expected to be fully engaged in practices and all other team activities.

d. LEVEL AH 4. Suspension from athletic contest days typically as follows:

1. Suspension from 50% of regularly scheduled contest days. Number of contest days will be rounded up to the maximum amount.

2. Student is expected to be fully engaged in practices and all other team activities.

e. LEVEL AH 5 . Student-athlete shall be prohibited from participation from athletics for 1 full calendar year..

* An “athletic contest date” is defined as a day when one or multiple contests occur on one date.

3. Additional Conditions Regarding Consequences . Reinstatement to full athletic contest participation, as determined by the Director of Student Activities, will depend on the following conditions:

a. Successful meetings with school intervention personnel, coach, school administrators and other counseling opportunities that help demonstrate the understanding of the severity of the infraction by the student athlete.

b. A convincing commitment by the student athlete to refrain from such behavior in the future that caused the consequence to occur.

c. Demonstrated positive attitudes and demeanor by the student athlete in athletic practices and other school activities during the period of suspension.

d. Past behavior of the student athlete that may provide perspective regarding the likelihood of positive behavior change on the part of the student athlete.

e. Acceptance of a probationary status with the understanding by the student athlete that future participation in athletics will depend on how well the student athlete maintains appropriate decorum during the school day and other activities, as well as conditions of the Mattawan High School Athletic Handbook, High School Handbook and related school documents.

CONSEQUENCES FOR NON-COMPLIANCE OF THE ATHLETIC CODE OF CONDUCT

Athletic Consequences Related to **General Unacceptable Behavior (16 C)** in Addition to the Mattawan High School Handbook

First Offense LEVEL AH 1

Second Offense LEVEL AH 2

Third Offense LEVEL AH 3

Athletic Consequences Related to **Fighting (16 D)** in Addition to the Mattawan High School Handbook

First Offense LEVEL AH 2

Second Offense LEVEL AH 3

Third Offense LEVEL AH 4

Athletic Consequences Related to **Tobacco Products (16 E)** in Addition to the Mattawan High School Handbook

First Offense LEVEL AH 2

Second Offense LEVEL AH 3

Third Offense LEVEL AH 4

Athletic Consequences Related to **Alcohol, Mind or Body Altering Substance Not Prescribed by a Physician (16F)** in Addition to the Mattawan High School Handbook

First Offense LEVEL AH 3

Second Offense LEVEL AH 4

Third Offense LEVEL AH 5

Athletic Consequences Related to an **Act that would Constitute a Felony (16 G)** in Addition to the Mattawan High School Handbook

First Offense LEVEL AH 4

Second Offense LEVEL AH 5

