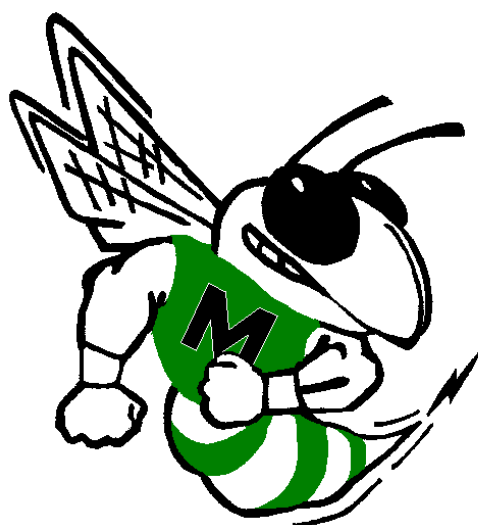


ATHLETIC POLICY

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2023-2024

Revised July 1, 2023

ATHLETIC POLICY

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The administration and athletic staff of the Mendon Schools consider athletics to be an integral part of the school's program of education which provides experience that will aid the physical, mental, and emotional development of young men and women. The athletic program shall be so directed that the welfare of all students will be the guiding principle.

We recognize and encourage the elements of competition and the desire to win as a healthy ingredient in the program. This is considered to be educationally and psychologically sound because of the training it offers for living in a competitive society. However, it must be controlled to the point that it does not become the overriding goal of the program.

To the degree that physical fitness, social conduct, and moral qualities represent this standard of society, it is the purpose of the athletic program to provide direction to accomplish this end. The policies, herein stated, are written with this in mind and are intended to be applicable to the total athletic program during the entire calendar year.

The interscholastic athletic program in the middle school/senior high school is designed to provide a positive educational experience for students.

ATHLETIC CODE OF CONDUCT FOR ATHLETES

The athlete is a representative of the school at interscholastic athletic activities.

In this important capacity, these standards should be practiced:

1. Know and adhere to the athletic code of the school.
2. Exceed all attendance and academic requirements as practical evidence of loyalty to the school and team and proper philosophy of school sponsored athletics.
3. Observe completely all policies regarding conduct, doing so as a duty to the school, team and self.
4. Counsel with the athletic director over questions of eligibility.
5. Practice and play fairly, giving complete effort in all circumstances and credit in victory to teammates and to opponents in defeat.
6. Accept favorable and unfavorable decisions, as well as victory and defeat with equal grace.

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7. Demonstrate respect for opponents and officials, before during and after contests.

Students who represent Mendon athletic teams are expected to display the utmost decorum and sportsmanship at all times. Arguments, conflicts, confrontations, etc., with coaches, teammates, transportation personnel, opponents, spectators, and/or officials will not be tolerated regardless of how justifiable the situation may be or seem at the time. Unsportsmanlike behavior is not a Mendon trademark and will not be permitted under any circumstances. Those who cannot live up to or abide by this expected behavior may be disciplined by the coaches, athletic director, and/or the administration. Disciplinary action may include benching, suspension, and/or complete removal from a team or the total athletic program.

At the lower grade levels, the emphasis is on participation by all interested students, along with the development of habits and good attitudes and the fundamental skills needed for success. Winning is encouraged as a meaningful goal, but is not given major emphasis at this level.

In the higher grades, emphasis continues to be placed on the encouragement of participation, the development of good habits and attitudes, and the perfection of performance to produce athletes and teams which represent the school as well as possible, and pursue victory with skill, poise and integrity. Within the framework of good sportsmanship and fair play, winning will be considered a tangible goal.

INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC PROGRAM PROCEDURE

1. MIDDLE SCHOOL

Middle school athletic teams will be organized to emphasize both the development of skills and participation. Every effort will be made to schedule sufficient number of contests and field enough teams to ensure all participants with the opportunity to play.

There will be a no-cut policy, as it relates to ability. All participants are expected to attend practice regularly and meet specific standards set for team members by the coach.

2. 9th GRADE

These teams will continue to emphasize participation; however, there will be growing emphasis on quality of performance and perfection of specific skills. Again, there will be a no-cut policy, as it relates to ability. In the event that the ratio of players to coach becomes detrimental to the program, assistance will be sought rather than cutting participants.

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3. JUNIOR VARSITY & VARSITY

The varsity athletic teams are the height of the school program. At this level, quality in performance is a high priority. Perfection expected in the varsity programs should reflect the emphasis on participation and skill building at proceeding phases of the program. Participants may be cut from junior varsity and varsity teams when fundamental skills have not been developed sufficiently and/or the number of candidates for spots on the team exceeds a workable figure.

SPORTSMANSHIP STATEMENT

The key words involved in sportsmanship are mutual respect, control and poise. Athletes are expected to compete with enthusiasm and desire, within the letter and spirit of the rules. The way participants and spectators behave should be marked by mutual respect. In both victory and defeat, sportsmanship is measured by the ability to control emotions and accept the outcome with poise. If friendly competition cannot be achieved within this framework, then the educational value of athletics will be seriously undermined.

STUDENT PARTICIPATION

1. To be eligible, students must comply with the rules and regulations of the MHSAA, Inc. These regulations are available in the Athletic Office.
2. Any student who is declared academically ineligible for whatever reason will practice with the team. However, game participation is not allowed.
3. Juniors may participate on junior varsity teams by invitations of coaches.
4. All Mendon athletes are subject to any and all rules and regulations of the Mendon Student Handbook.

ELIGIBILITY

1. Responsibility for determining eligibility rests with the principal, athletic director, and coach. It is recommended that the counseling services be utilized whenever needed.
2. The student must have been enrolled in school by Monday of the fourth (4th) week of the present semester.

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3. The student must be under nineteen (19) years of age at the time of contest unless the nineteenth birthday occurs on or after September 1st of the current school year.
4. The student must have passed a current school year physical examination. Records must be on file in the school office.
5. The student must have not more than four (4) first and four (2) second semester seasons of competition in a sport.
6. The student must not have been enrolled in more than eight (8) semesters in grades nine to twelve (9-12) inclusive.
7. The student must be carrying and passing work in all classes in accordance with MHSAA and Mendon Middle/High School academic requirements for all students.
8. Rules for transfer students, accepting awards, amateur practices, and limited team membership are defined by the Michigan High School Athletic Association and are posted. Students should check with their coach, sponsor, athletic director or principal if they have any questions.
9. Athletes absent, (excluding pre-arranged absences or emergency situations), on the day of a scheduled game or practice are **ineligible** to play in that game or participate in practice. Students must be present in school all day during the day of an athletic contest or practice in order to be considered eligible to participate in that activity. A phone call or note from a parent prior to the appointment and prior to the day of absence is needed.

When the athletic event occurs on a non-school day, athletes absent, (excluding pre-arranged absences or emergency situations), on the school day prior to the game or practice are **ineligible** to play in that game or participate in practice. Administration reserves the right to review on a case-by-case basis and factor in any extenuating circumstances.

TRANSFER STUDENTS

The following resolution was adopted by the Board of Education of Mendon Community Schools on the 15th day of December, 2008, and is recorded in the minutes of the meeting of the said Board.

Mendon Middle/High School will enforce upon a transfer student any period of ineligibility to which that student would have been subject as a result of a student athletic code violation(s) at that student's most recent previously attended school.

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A student who transfers to Mendon Middle/High School after becoming ineligible because of a student or athletic conduct code violation(s) at the previously attended school shall remain ineligible at Mendon Middle/High School for not less than the period of ineligibility imposed by the previously attended school. This would be the case even if the student's situation would otherwise satisfy one or more of the exceptions to the transfer regulation of Mendon Middle/High School and the Michigan High School Athletic Association (Regulation I, Section 9), and even if the act which caused the student's ineligibility at the previous school would not be a violation or cause the same period of ineligibility at Mendon Middle/High School.

DISCIPLINE PROCEDURE

1. Cases involving discipline of team members – the coach may suspend a player, but will not take permanent action until the case is reviewed with the principal and athletic director.
2. Immediately following suspension, the athletic director shall be notified of the circumstances of the case and what action is recommended. Any decision regarding further action shall be rendered collectively by the athletic director, principal and head coach.
3. The principal or athletic director shall advise the parents, in writing, of the situation and notify them of any action taken.
4. Appeals must be submitted to the athletic director or designee within ten (10) school days following disposition of a case. Parents shall be notified in writing.
5. Appeal of the decision shall be to the superintendent. Ultimate appeal is the Board of Education.

LOCKER ROOM THEFT

When the athlete has been reported to have taken property which belongs to others, the training rule violation procedure will be followed. If the report is verified, the athlete (in season and off season) will be subject to a penalty determined collectively by the athletic director, principal, and coach.

TRAINING RULES

A student who elects to participate in athletics is voluntarily making a choice of self-discipline and self-denial. There is no place in the Mendon athletic programs for students who will not discipline their minds and bodies for rigorous competition.

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Those athletes using or in the possession of tobacco products, vaping devices, alcohol, illegal drugs, or committing vandalism, theft, or other criminal offenses while representing Mendon athletics will appear in front of the Athletic Director and receive the appropriate disciplinary action. **ATHLETES INVOLVED IN THE SALE AND/OR DISTRIBUTION OF CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES ARE SUBJECT TO MORE SEVERE CONSEQUENCES, MOVING TO THE 2ND, 3RD, OR 4TH OFFENSE AS DETERMINED BY THE ADMINISTRATION.** The student will be granted the same rights as in any suspension procedure. The student is also subject to regular school discipline in addition to any athletic penalty.

VIOLATIONS

1. The violations below are cumulative from year to year. Repeat offenders may be removed permanently from athletic participation by the Athletic Council.

Students are expected to cooperate fully with any inquiry regarding an alleged offense. Failure to cooperate fully may result in an increase of the penalty imposed, in the event the violation is established.

On or off campus, athletes using or in the possession of tobacco products, vaping devices, alcohol, illegal drugs, or committing vandalism, theft, or other criminal offenses will have the following disciplinary actions:

1st OFFENSE

Twenty (20) percent of the regular season suspension from athletics.

2nd OFFENSE

Thirty (30) calendar days or remaining season suspension from athletics, whichever is greater.

3rd OFFENSE

Suspension from athletics for one calendar year (365 days).

4th OFFENSE

Complete suspension from athletics.

2. If a student has violated the athletic policy while in Middle School, he/she will be placed on probation for the duration of their freshman year.

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- If the above student violates the athletic policy during the probationary period, he/she is subject to the subsequent step of consequences.
 - If the above student does not violate the athletic policy during the probationary period, he/she will be removed from probation and any subsequent violations will begin at Step 1 at the beginning of their sophomore year.
3. School suspensions take priority over Athletic suspension. If a student is suspended from school for any reason, he/she may not attend practice or events.
 4. Coaches and sponsors may outline requirements such as curfews and any other training rules violations. Athletes are expected to cooperate with all established rules.

NOTE: Any changes to the already established rules should be submitted and discussed by the Ad Hoc Committee and then forwarded to the Board of Education two weeks prior to the monthly board meeting.

5. Coaches may wish to conduct a parent/athlete meeting prior to the start of each session. The coach will request parents' signatures to show understanding of the athletic policy and/or team rules. Copies of the rules will be distributed.
6. Any exceptions to the above rules or penalties may be acted upon or recommended by the administration.
7. Written appeals of disciplinary action must be submitted to the athletic director within one school day of the disciplinary action. Appeals will be heard by the athletic council consisting of three to five members.

UNSPORTSMANLIKE BEHAVIOR

The following is considered to be, but not limited to, improper behavior while participating on Mendon athletic teams:

- Profanity or obscene gestures
- Physical, facial, and/or verbal expressions which agitate, mock, protest, or show up others
- Refusal to shake hands or acknowledge opponents at the conclusion of a game, win or lose
- Improper bench conduct

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- Unsportsmanship penalties, technicals, fouls, game ejections
- Refusal to follow or protesting coach's direction or decision
- Other conduct which exhibits behavior not done in the best interest of the athletic team or school

TRAVEL

Athletes will remain with their squads and under the supervision of the coach when attending away contests.

All regular school bus rules will be followed, including food, noise, remaining in seats, care and respect of equipment. Teams will exit and return to the bus as a group with the coach.

Athletes will dress appropriately and in good taste.

Athletes must travel to and from out-of-town athletic contests in transportation provided or approved by the athletic department. When special circumstances exist, the parents of the athlete and the coach must confer to approve special arrangements for the transportation of a student athlete.

SCHOLAR ATHLETE AWARDS

The following information is for each sport:

A student who participates in a varsity sport and who also attains the highest grade point average over the course of that sport will receive recognition as the "Scholar Athlete" for that sport.

- The normal way for figuring grade point average will be used:
A=4; B=3; C= 2; D=1; E=0
- Reference for determining grade point average will be the marking period grades in conjunction with the time of the sport.
- In case of more than one (1) winner, duplicate awards will be given.

SENIOR AWARDS

A senior boy and senior girl will be recognized in the spring of the year as the outstanding student athlete. All varsity coaches and the athletic director of Mendon High School are eligible to vote. Each coach will indicate their first three choices for a boy and first three choices for a girl.

- 1st choice = 5 points; 2nd choice = 3 points; 3rd choice = 1

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In order to qualify, students must meet the following criteria:

- Have a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0 through seven (7) semesters.
- Participate in at least three (4) seasons of varsity competition.

Coaches select students on all-around contribution to Mendon athletics while maintaining high academic standards. The student who has the highest grade point average is not automatically declared the winner.

TEAM ROSTER REQUIREMENTS

1. The coach in charge must submit to the athletic director a team roster which includes the athlete's full name. Any additions or deletions to this original list must be reported immediately.
2. No student will be permitted to report for a sport after the official start of practice unless approved by the head coach, athletic director, and /or principal.
3. No student will be permitted to transfer from one sport to another during the same season unless approved by a majority vote of the head coaches of the sports involved, the athletic director and principal.
4. Athletes may participate in more than one sport during the same season. If a student participates in more than one sport, he/she will declare his/her primary sport in writing at the start of the season.

PRACTICE REQUIREMENTS

1. All practices will comply with MHSAA regulations.
2. Wednesday evening activities will be avoided in the spirit of cooperation with the community clergy, when possible. Exceptions will be cleared through administration.
3. It is understood that "in sport" activities have precedence over "off season" sports in use of facilities and as it concerns any conflict that might arise between the two. No "off season" activity may be held without the consent and knowledge of "in season" coaches and athletic director.
4. Any use of a school facility on Saturday or during vacation periods are to be made in advance through the athletic director's office.

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5. It is recommended that the length of practice be limited to a two hour block of time. It is recognized that there are times when practice must exceed that limit. Parents are to be advised of practice ending times.

ATHLETIC PRACTICE & GAMES ON CANCELLED SCHOOL DAYS

In the event school is cancelled because of adverse weather, the following policy will be in effect.

1. Practices/games/events cannot be held.
2. The only exception to this will be when the weather changes and is no longer a factor; ex: fog lifting, ice melting, etc. If and when this occurs, the coaches should contact the school to consult the administration.
 - The superintendent must approve all exceptions to allow practices/games/events.
 - Exception denials may be appealed to the personnel and policy committee of the board.

EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS

1. Athletes are held responsible for equipment issued to them by the athletic department.
2. Any damaged (other than normal wear) or lost equipment will be charged to the athlete at a cost established by the coaches and athletic director.
3. Equipment, other than that issued, is to be provided by the athlete.
4. The athletic department will not be responsible for equipment lost, damaged or stolen. It is recommended that the athletes put identification on their personal apparel.

SCHEDULING OF GAMES

1. The athletic director, in consultation with the athletic staff, shall arrange the competitive schedule in compliance with MHSAA regulations.
2. Every effort will be made to complete the schedule as soon as possible.

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3. Any changes in schedule will be the responsibility of the athletic director in consultation with the coach of the sport involved.
4. All practice scrimmages will be arranged by the coach of the sport. The athletic director will be informed and arrange transportation.
5. Postponement and cancellation of events because of weather, poor playing conditions, or other circumstances, shall be a collective decision by the transportation director, athletic director and coaches involved. Events are to be rescheduled on the next available, agreeable date.

EVALUATION AND RETENTION OF ATHLETES

In most sports we have been able to have both varsity and junior varsity levels. In some cases, it may be necessary to elevate a freshman or sophomore to the varsity level. In such cases, it is imperative that the varsity coach of the sport communicate his/her intentions to elevate or retain a student athlete with:

- The junior varsity or freshman coach
- The student athlete
- The parent of the athlete involved
- The athletic director

UNIFORM COLORS

January 22, 2008: *The Mendon School Board wishes to support the idea that the school colors of traditional green and white should be the dominant colors of school uniforms when uniforms are used in representation of Mendon Schools. Certain fashion items such as fringe, piping, border enhancement and the like on any uniforms should not dominate the traditional green and white colors. Traditional green and/or white uniform selection should meet the approval of the coach, Athletic Director, and an appropriate administrator.*

PHYSICALS

No student shall be eligible to practice or participate in athletics if there is not a current school year physical on file. The physical needs to include a physician's statement certifying that the student has passed an adequate physical examination and that, in the opinion of the examining physician, the student is fully able to compete in athletic contests. A physical examination for the current school year must have been given after April 15th of the previous school year.

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EMERGENCY CONSENT FORMS

Emergency consent forms must be filled out and returned to the athletic director's office prior to the first practice.

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SIGNATURES

Having read and understood the Mendon Schools Athletic Policy and Code of Conduct, and reviewed the educational material for parents and students on understanding concussions, I hereby agree to adhere to the rules and regulations to the best of my ability.

Signature of Athlete

Date

Having read and understood the Mendon Schools Athletic Policy and Code of Conduct, and reviewed the educational material for parents and students on understanding concussions, I/we hereby agree to cooperate with the school in guiding our son/daughter towards living up to the policies, rules, and regulations.

Signature(s) of Parent or Guardian

Date