

ATHLETIC CODE OF CONDUCT

MOGADORE LOCAL SCHOOLS

Approved by the Mogadore Board of Education - April, 2015

Participation in interscholastic athletics is a privilege and not a right. Athletes participating for the Mogadore Jr/Sr High School teams are role models for others in and around our community and therefore are a direct reflection of the school district at large. Along with other life lessons, interscholastic athletics exist to teach good habits of health, teamwork, sportsmanship and dedication to a common goal. Those are some of the reasons for the Athletic Code of Conduct.

THIS CODE OF CONDUCT MUST BE SIGNED BY THE FIRST DAY OF PRACTICE (AS DEFINED BY THE OHIO HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION) FOR THE FIRST SPORT/ACTIVITY YOU PARTICIPATE IN EACH YEAR AND WILL BE IN EFFECT TWENTY-FOUR HOURS PER DAY, SEVEN DAYS A WEEK FOR ONE CALENDAR YEAR—BOTH ON AND OFF SCHOOL GROUNDS

Interscholastic Athletics

The purpose of interscholastic athletics is to enrich your high school experience; promote citizenship and sportsmanship; instill a sense of pride in community; teach lifelong lessons of teamwork and self-discipline, and help you grow physically and emotionally. In short, interscholastic athletic programs are educational in nature and therefore an extension of the classroom. *Excerpted from www.ohsaa.org*

Student/Athlete Responsibilities

1. You must remain in good standing on your team by following rules as presented by each coach/advisor.
2. Conduct yourself so as not to disrupt meetings and practices.
3. Show respect for others (teammates, staff, officials, opponents, fans, etc.).
4. Represent the Mogadore Local School District in a responsible, dignified manner.
5. Make sure that you have a current athletic physical on file in the office and that you promptly return all paperwork as required. Athletic physicals require the approved OHSAA paperwork and are good for one calendar year.
6. Attend required meetings and practices unless you have prior permission to be excused directly from the coach or school administration.
7. You should make yourself aware of this Code of Conduct, its provisions and expectations, and follow the rules therein.

8. You should make yourself aware of the eligibility guidelines and rules mandated by the Mogadore Board of Education and the Ohio High School Athletic Association (these are outlined in this document).
9. Treat your school-issued uniform and equipment with care and realize that you are financially responsible for all such equipment assigned to you. It must be returned in good condition and in its entirety. In some sports, the athlete will be required to purchase a portion of the uniform, which will become their property.
10. Fulfill any such Pay-to-Participate requirements as determined by the Mogadore Board of Education in a timely manner.

Code of Conduct for Mogadore Local Schools – Rules

A violation of any of the following rules may result in denial of the right to participate in the activity for the duration of the season, a semester, a year or longer, as prescribed by this Code of Conduct. A student's participation will be denied or limited for violations of this Code of Conduct and/or team rules, as well as the School Student Code of Conduct.

In addition to Code of Conduct rules, the coach may establish rules that are applicable to their own sport/activity as long as those rules represent the spirit of the rules included here. The rules established by a coach must be on file with the athletic director.

All school rules, as listed in the Student Conduct Code, apply in conjunction with rules in this Athletic Code of Conduct and the individual rules established by head coaches.

School Attendance

A student must be in school by the beginning of 2nd period on the day of an activity in order to participate. This includes practices, games and meetings. Exceptions to this rule must be cleared through the administration of the school.

- An athlete who has been suspended out of school, may not participate or attend any athletic event.

Eligibility (Scholarship)

Per the OHSAA, in order to be eligible, immediately preceding grading period.

- A student in grades 7-8 must have received at least 5 passing grades in the immediately preceding grading period.
- A student in grades 9-12 must have passed at least five 1-credit classes or equivalents in the immediately preceding grading period.

Additionally, the Mogadore Board of Education requires that you have obtained at least a **1.50 GPA** and not have two or more F grades in the immediately preceding grading period.

**It is highly suggested that all athletes schedule at least 6 classes each grading period and discuss eligibility questions with counselor and/or athletic director when scheduling.*

Transportation to and from athletic events

Athletes are to ride to and from all athletic activities in buses or vans provided by the Mogadore Board of Education unless released in the custody of his/her parents or another parent with the permission of the coach. This release must be in writing prior to student being transported by a parent.

- Athletes are to follow all Mogadore Local School District bus rules while being transported.

Removal from a sport/Quitting a sport

An athlete, who is denied participation in one sport, may not participate in organized open gyms, training or practices of another sport until the season of the sport denied is completed. If a student quits a sport, he/she may not participate in organized open gyms, training or practices of another sport until the season of the sport in which he/she quit is completed.

Team Athletic Awards

Receiving an athletic award is an honor and the requirements for receipt should be rigorous. The requirements for receiving an athletic team award (lettering) are determined by the head coach in consultation with the athletic director. The requirements will be in writing and on file with the athletic director. In order to be eligible to receive an athletic award, the athlete must

1. Be in good standing with the team;
2. Meet award requirements; and
3. Be in attendance at the season-end athletic awards banquet/meeting.

The season-ending athletic awards banquet is considered a part of the season. Any exceptions to item 2 must be approved by the administration prior to the awards banquet.

Social Media/Electronic Transmissions

Athletes are responsible for any information contained in their written or electronic transmissions (i.e. texts, tweets, etc.) and any information they have posted to social media. Athletes are representatives of their team and school and inappropriate information or pictures should not be posted online. Harassment of teammates, fans or opponents through such postings will not be tolerated and could result in athletic discipline. Any athlete who is identified on a social networking site which depicts illegal behavior or a Code of Conduct violation will be subject to athletic discipline as determined by the athletic director, the principal and the coach.

Insurance for Athletes

Mogadore Local Schools does not carry insurance to cover athletic injuries. The parent/guardian is responsible for an athlete's medical insurance. The OHSAA has purchased and provides to each student-athlete (Grades 7-12) a lifetime catastrophic insurance plan.

Please see the details on the OHSAA plan at <http://ohsaa.org/members/catinsurance.pdf>.

TOBACCO, ALCOHOL AND DRUGS

Because of the adverse effects of tobacco, alcohol and drugs coupled with Mogadore School's commitment toward prevention/intervention, specific guidelines have been established to deal with these.

Student athletes are not to use, possess, sell, make offer to sell, deliver, conceal, consume or be under the influence of tobacco, alcohol or drugs.

- **Tobacco and Related Products defined:** All tobacco products including cigarettes, cigars, chewing tobacco, snuff, vapor/electronic cigarettes, etc.
- **Alcohol and Related Products defined:** Any product such as beer, wine, liquor or product with alcohol (unless prescribed by physician).
- **Drugs and Intoxicants defined:** Any product including illegal drugs, illegally obtained prescription drugs, drug paraphernalia, intoxicants, steroids or other performance-enhancing drugs, or any mood altering substance, etc.

Disciplinary Procedures for Tobacco, Alcohol and/or Drug Infractions

1. First Offense – the student will be denied participation for 50 percent of the current sports season's scheduled contests. If there are not 50 percent of the contests left in that season, the denial of participation will continue into the next athletic season in which the student participates. If the student agrees to go through and complete a professional assessment from an approved, professional assessment agency, the penalty can be reduced to 20 percent of scheduled contests. The professional assessment reduction is only available to first time offenders. In all cases, what constitutes 50 or 20 percent will be determined by the administration of the school.
2. Second Offense – the student will be denied participation for the entire (or remainder) of the season.
3. Third Offense – the student will be denied participation for a calendar year.
4. Fourth Offense – the student will be denied participation for the remainder of his/her high school career.
 - The professional assessment reduction is available for first offense only.
 - Offenses are wiped clean at the end of the 8th grade year upon entering high school.
 - Denials for offenses outside of the season will be applied to the next season in which the student participates. Students that have been denied participation may still practice with the team at the coach's discretion. They may not travel with the team, dress in uniform, or sit on the sidelines/bench.

Due Process and Right to Appeal

If it becomes necessary to deny a student participation in an extracurricular activity, the following procedure is recommended:

1. A personal conference between the coach/advisor and the athlete/participant should be held. The coach/advisor should notify the athlete/participant of the intent to deny participation and the reason for the action.

2. The coach/advisor will then notify the athletic director of the intent to deny participation along with written documentation of the violation or offense. (Steps 1 and 2 may occur in reverse order or simultaneously.)
3. Administration will send written documentation to the parents notifying them of the intent to deny participation. Parents have the right to appeal this denial of participation.
4. The final decision on penalty assessment rests on the principal who will take into consideration the recommendations of the athletic director and coach/advisor.

PARENTAL CODE OF CONDUCT

The Mogadore High School Athletic Department along with the Mogadore Board of Education believes that interscholastic competition involving member schools of the Ohio High School Athletic Association should be governed by the basic principles of good sportsmanship. We believe that participation is more important than winning. We believe that students should be coached to play to the best of their ability and to understand that to play well is to play honorably. The promotion of sportsmanship is the obligation of all school personnel (principals, athletic directors and coaches) and is directed to the behavior of spectators, coaches and players.

Guidelines for Good Sportsmanship: As parents and fans, you can help us establish an outstanding reputation for good sportsmanship. We must all work hard in conducting ourselves in a commendable manner. A display of unsportsmanlike conduct can result in sanctions against the offending athlete, parent, and/or school. Parents and fans must always observe the following guidelines for good sportsmanship:

1. The good name of our school is more important than any contest won by unfair play.
2. Be supportive of all athletes, coaches, and officials before, during, and after all contests.
3. Accept decisions of officials without dispute. They are seldom responsible for your success; so do not blame them for your circumstances.
4. Recognize and show appreciation for the fine play of your opponent.
5. Be proud of our school's reputation and work hard to protect it.
6. Cheer for your team, not against the opponent.
7. Read, understand and follow the school's rules for coach/parent communications.
8. Don't allow others' negative sportsmanship to become an excuse to do the same.

Fan Ejection Policy:

FIRST OFFENSE: Fans who violate the Guidelines for Good Sportsmanship or are ejected from a contest by an athletic official or a school official are subject to removal from the contest and all school contests on the same day in all venues. They must schedule a conference with the athletic director and the principal to discuss their inappropriate behavior and discuss a plan to improve said behavior.

SECOND OFFENSE: Any fan who violates the Guidelines for Good Sportsmanship and is ejected from a Mogadore Jr/Sr High Athletic contest a 2nd time in a school year shall lose their privileges to attend any Mogadore Jr/Sr High School Athletics contest – home or away – for a period of ONE CALENDAR YEAR.

SUBSEQUENT OFFENSES: Any fan that refuses to comply with the stipulations previously mentioned may be barred from attending any/or all activities sponsored by the Mogadore Local School District by the superintendent of schools.

Please retain the copy of the Athletic Code of Conduct in the previous pages. Please read, sign and return the section below to the coach/advisor.

ATHLETIC CODE OF CONDUCT

Signature Page

I, (printed student name) _____, have read the Mogadore Athletic Code of Conduct and will abide by its rules and regulations.

Student's Signature

Date

I, (printed parent/guardian name) _____, have read the Mogadore Athletic Code of Conduct and the Parental Code of Conduct and will abide by its rules and regulations.

Parent/Guardian's Signature

Date