

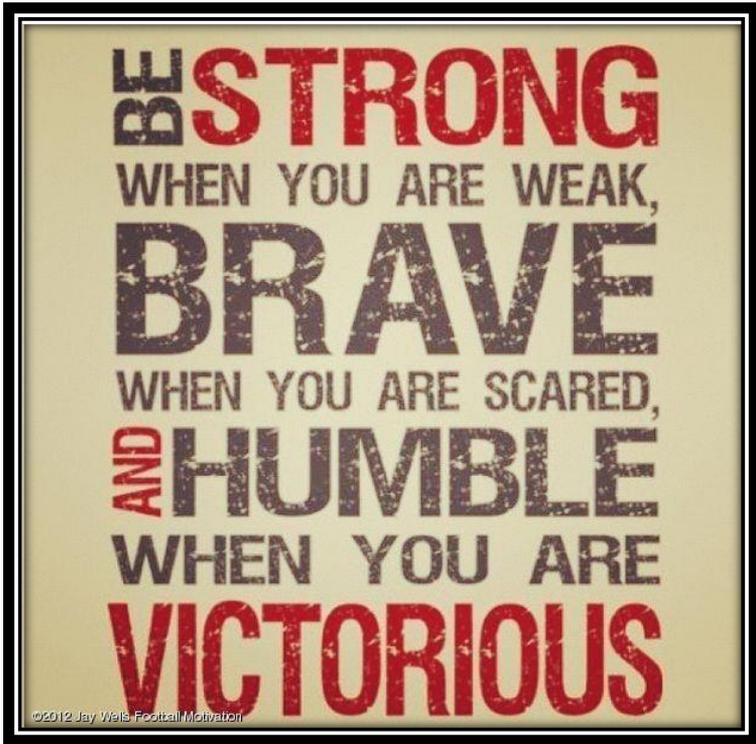
MANSFIELD CITY SCHOOLS



TYGERS

Athletic Handbook

***Cheering with Respect
Competing with Honor***



**Talent wins games,
but teamwork and
intelligence wins
championships.”**

— Michael Jordan

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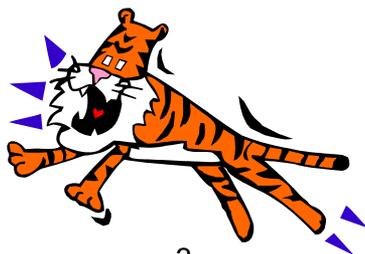
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MANSFIELD CITY SCHOOLS

ATHLETIC PHILOSOPHY

The Mansfield City School District believes that athletics are an integral part of our educational system aimed toward the development of the total personality of each individual. As such, our efforts are directed toward the attainment of athletic excellence.

To attain athletic excellence and to promote consistency and fairness in the Mansfield City Schools, we feel our athletes should be made aware of their responsibilities and commit themselves to a set of rules and regulations. Participation in athletics, as well as any other extra-curricular activity, is a privilege and must be realized as such. Our objective is to teach our athletes the value of self-discipline through the use of these rules and regulations. We strive to instill pride, unity, good sportsmanship, dedication, and good moral qualities in our teams, as well as to protect the participants' well-being.



GENERAL INFORMATION ON ATHLETIC ELIGIBILITY

The following is a summarization of the Ohio High School

Athletic Association eligibility rules and regulations:

Age Limitations

Once a student attains the age of 20, the student will no longer be eligible for interscholastic athletic competition. If a student participates in an athletic contest and his/her eligibility has been established by falsified information, the student shall be ineligible in Ohio for a maximum of one year from the date the penalty is imposed. For exceptions to this rule please refer the OHSAA website under eligibility.

A student shall become eligible for high school athletics when the student attains the fifteenth birthday before August 1, or when the student attains 9th grade standing. The student is eligible at the school where the student is expected to enroll at the ninth grade level. A student who attains the age of 15 prior to August 1 is eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at the high school level and is no longer eligible to participate in middle school athletics. No student is to exceed eight semesters of high school eligibility (four semester for middle school).

ENROLLMENT & ATTENDANCE

For purposes of this section and the interpretations there under:

1. A student cannot attend a school without being officially enrolled;
2. A student cannot be enrolled in more than one school at any given time, and
3. Once a student is enrolled and attending a new school, the OHSAA shall consider the student withdrawn from the former school.

All students participating in a school-sponsored sport must be enrolled in and attending full-time in accordance with all duly adopted Board of Education or similar governing board policies of that school.

EXCEPTION: A student enrolled in a joint vocational school is eligible at the high school where the students' records are maintained.

EXCEPTION: A student enrolled in a member school who receives his/her education through a community school that is sponsored by the city, local or exempted village school district in which the student is entitled to attend school pursuant to Section 3313.64 or 3313.65 of the Revised Code, is eligible to participate at the member public school that is operated by the school district sponsoring the community school, provided the student is enrolled and attending pursuant to Board of Education policy.

EXCEPTION: A student enrolled full time in a postsecondary institution is eligible to participate at the high school where the student's records are maintained, provided the student is receiving high school credit for a minimum of five one credit courses in the postsecondary institution.

EXCEPTION: A student enrolled in an alternative school that is sponsored by a Board of Education or similar governing board is eligible to participate at the member school operated by the district sponsoring the alternative school provided the alternative school does not sponsor interscholastic athletics and the student is counted on the EMIS report for the member high school.

EXCEPTION: State law permits home educated students in accordance with ORC 3312 (A)(2) to be afforded the opportunity to participate at the public school in the district of residence of the parents without any enrollment obligation.

EXCEPTION 7: A student enrolled in a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) school that is established under Chapter 3326 of the Revised Code is eligible to participate at the member school where the student would be entitled to attend, provided the STEM school does not sponsor interscholastic athletics and the student is counted on the EMIS report for the member high school.

SCHOLASTIC ELIGIBILITY

In order to participate on a Mansfield City Schools athletic team, each athlete must have satisfied **all of the scholastic eligibility requirements prior to participation.**

The eligibility or ineligibility of a student begins and ends at the start of the second (2nd) school day following the end of the board adopted grading period, at which time the grades from the immediately preceding grading period become effective.

Middle School Eligibility (Grades 7-8)

A student in grade 7 or 8 must be currently enrolled and must be passing subjects the preceding grading period that earn a minimum of five (5) one-credit courses or the equivalent, each of which counts toward promotion.

High School Eligibility (9-12)

High school athletes must meet the minimum requirements of the OHSSA, which specify a student must be passing subjects the preceding grading period that earn a minimum of five (5) credits one-credit courses or the equivalent, each of which counts toward graduation.

If a student participates in athletic contest and his or her eligibility has been established by falsified information (includes but is not limited to: name, address, transcripts, birth certificate, etc.), or if an attempt is made to establish eligibility for a student by falsified information, the student shall be ineligible in Ohio for a maximum of one year from the date the penalty is imposed.

Students must maintain the following Grade Point Average (GPA) standards. Students who fall below the standards listed may play for not more than one (1) consecutive sports season on probation without approval of the Athletic Director and Principal of Mansfield Senior High School.

Freshmen	1.5 GPA (beginning with the 2 nd semester of the freshmen year)
Sophomores	1.5 GPA
Juniors	1.75 GPA
Seniors	2.0 GPA

Athletes who are on probation or have an "F" in any core class must attend two (2) hours of Study Tables per week during the sports season for which they are participating. Study Tables hours are determined after each grading period. Athletes who do not complete their required hours each week may be subject to the following progressive consequences:

First Offense	Must miss one (1) athletic contest for which the athlete is a regular member of the team within the next seven (7) calendar days.
Second Offense	Must miss two (2) athletic contests for which the athlete is a regular member of the team within the next seven (7) calendar days.
Third Offense	Removal for the team and exclusion for all sports activities for the remainder of that sports season.

Study Table hours and procedures, including required hours and consequences, are assigned at the discretion of the Athletic Director and Principal of Mansfield Senior High School.

Students who are academically ineligible are subject to the following:

1. Can practice with a team with the approval of the coach and Athletic Director.
2. Cannot participate in any athletic contest, scrimmage, or exhibition during the period of ineligibility.
3. Remain eligible for any local awards, by established requirements, at the point of ineligibility.

If a student quits or is dismissed from an athletic team, he/she will not be permitted to participate in athletic contests for the remainder of that sports season (This does not include practices, depending on circumstances.)

CODE OF CONDUCT

The Code of Conduct is in effect for all athletic activities on a year-round basis regardless of sports season.

All student-athletes are expected to follow the Mansfield Board of Education adopted Student Code of Conduct at all times. In addition, student-athletes should be aware that Mansfield City Schools Bylaws and Policies states the following:

5610.05 – Prohibition from Extra-Curricular Activities

Participation in extra-curricular activities, including interscholastic sports, is a privilege and not a right. Therefore, the Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent, principals, and assistant principals and other authorized personnel employed by the District to supervise or coach a student activity program, to prohibit a student from participating in any particular or all extra-curricular activities of the District for offenses or violations of the Student Code of Conduct/Student Discipline Code for a period not to exceed the remainder of the school year in which the offense or violation of the Student Code of Conduct/Student Discipline Code took place.

In addition, student athletes are further subject to the Athletic Code of Conduct and may be prohibited from participating in all or part of any interscholastic sport for violations therein.

Students prohibited from participation in all or part of any extra-curricular activity are not entitled to further notice, hearing, or appeal rights.

In matters pertaining to personal conduct in which athletics are not involved and may, or may not, occur on school grounds or during the school day, the school administration is to be the

sole judge as to whether the student may participate in athletics.

Athletes who are convicted or admit guilt to any federal, state, or municipal ordinance or statute (these are legal violations that occur outside the parameters of this code) where such a violation has or is likely to have a negative impact on the school and/or community may cause the denial of participation of practices or athletic contests. The only exception would be vehicular violations that do not include alcohol or drugs. The length of any denial of participation is at the sole discretion of the school administration.

In matters pertaining to personal conduct in which athletic contests and their related activities are involved, the principal and game officials shall file a report and the OHSAA Commissioner's office shall have jurisdiction to determine additional penalties, including whether or not the student may participate in athletics.

Physical attacks on any official shall be reported to the OHSAA immediately by the officials involved. The OHSAA Commissioner shall conduct an investigation and determine the penalties involved.

Any student who is ejected or disqualified from an athletic contest in any sport for unsportsmanlike conduct or a flagrant violation shall be immediately placed under the direct supervision of a school official. The student will be deemed ineligible for a minimum of two contests (one in football.) If the ejection takes place during the last contest of the season, the student will be ineligible for the same period of time as stated above in the next sport in which the student participates. A student under suspension may not sit on the team bench, enter the locker room or be affiliated with the team in any way, traveling to, during, or after the contest(s). **A student who is ejected a second time shall be suspended for the remainder of the season** in that sport, including any post season awards ceremonies. Further the athlete gives up his/her eligibility for any team or individual recognition awards.

RESIDENCE

School residents are all students whose parents or legal guardians are actual residents of the school district in which a school resident is entitled to attend. Any modification of this rule is subject to formal action by the district Board of Education and/or the Commissioner of the Ohio High School Athletic Association.

TRANSFER

The OHSAA permits a student whose parent/legal guardian lives in the State of Ohio to be eligible insofar as transfer is concerned in any OHSAA member school provided the student is enrolled and attending the member school NO LATER THAN 15 DAYS after the first day of the school year, and provided the student has not played in a contest (scrimmage, preview, or other contest) for any other school prior to the transfer. If a transfer takes place during the season in which the student has participated in the sport, the student is ineligible for the remainder of the sports season in the school into which the student has transferred.

A student is considered to have transferred whenever enrollment is changed from one school to another school, or whenever the student participates in a practice, scrimmage or contest with a school-sponsored squad of a school in which the student has not been enrolled. If a student transfers at any time after the fifth day of the student's ninth grade year or after having established eligibility prior to the start of school by playing in a contest (scrimmage, preview or regular season/tournament contest), until the one year anniversary of the date of enrollment in the school to which the student transferred, the student shall be ineligible for the first fifty percent (50%) of the maximum allowable regular season contests in those sports in which the student participated during the twelve (12) months immediately preceding this transfer. **Note:** For purposes of this bylaw, a student is considered to have participated in a sport if he/she has entered, if for only one play, a scrimmage or contests at any level of competition/contests (e.g. freshman, junior varsity and varsity).

With respect to inter-district transfers, one or more of the following exceptions may apply:

EXCEPTION 1 – If, as a result of a bona fide legal change of residence made by BOTH PARENTS (biological, adoptive or step-parents) from one public school district into another school district, the student is compelled to transfer to another high school, the Commissioner’s Office may waive all or part of the 50% period of ineligibility for one or more sport/sport seasons. The requirement that “both parents” make the move may be waived by the Commissioner’s Office if the marriage of the parents has been or is in the process of being terminated or if the parents were never married. An Affidavit of Bona Fide Residence in the form requested by the Commissioner’s Office, must be submitted along with any request for the application of this exception.

Note: Please refer to Bylaw 4-6-1 for a definition of bona fide residence. Also, the student and the student’s parents must reside in this new residence for a period of one year from the date on which this exception was applied to a given student. The school district will have a continuing duty to monitor compliance with the residency requirements during this one year period of time. Exception one permits the choice of a public high school in the parents’ new district of residence or any non-public high school.

EXCEPTION 2 – If, as a result of a legal change of custody or guardianship as between a student’s parents, the student is compelled to transfer from one school district to another school district, the Commissioner’s Office may waive all or part of the 50% period of ineligibility for one or more sport/sport seasons. If custody of a student is changed to a non-parent as a result of allegations of abuse, neglect or delinquency/unruliness which allegations result in an adjudication of one or more of those allegations, the Commissioner’s Office may waive all or part of the 50% period of ineligibility for one or more sport/sport seasons. The granting of a change of guardianship to a non-parent will not comply with this exception.

Note: By operation of statute, there cannot be a legal change of custody so long as a Shared Parenting Plan as defined in ORC §3109.04 is in effect. In order for there to be a change in custody, the Shared Parenting Plan must be terminated. Exception two

permits the choice of a public high school in the legal custodian's public school district of residence or any non-public high school.

EXCEPTION 3 — If the high school, which is either a chartered high school in a single high school public school district or a chartered non-public high school, in which the student is enrolled closes or discontinues its high school program after grade nine, the student may enroll in any school and be immediately eligible insofar as transfer is concerned. Likewise, if the bona fide residence of the student's parents is annexed to a different school district or consolidated within a school district, the student may be ruled eligible upon transfer to a school in the annexed or consolidated district subject to modification by formal action by the Boards of Education concerned. A copy of such action by Boards of Education must be on file in the Association office before the Commissioner's office can rule the student eligible.

Note: This exception shall be available to any student whose high school has closed as long as that high school was an OHSAA member school prior to the 2012-13 school year.

EXCEPTION 4 — A student who does not live in the same school district as parents or legal guardian and who is financially self-supporting may be ruled eligible upon approval of the Commissioner at a school in the district where the student resides. The Commissioner is empowered to establish requirements for the student to be determined to be self-supporting. These requirements shall be established for each school year by May 15th of the preceding year. Self-support documentation must be submitted for approval every 30 days. The student is ineligible until ruled eligible by the Commissioner.

Note: Living with and/or being employed by a relative does not qualify for self-support under this exception.

EXCEPTION 5 — A student transferred to the State School for the Blind or State School for the Deaf shall be eligible upon enrollment.

EXCEPTION 6 —The Commissioner shall have the discretionary power to waive the residence requirements in only those cases of students whose parents live outside the school district and whose contracted domicile, which is a domicile currently under construction, is not available for their habitation.

The students are ineligible until ruled eligible by the Commissioner.

If a transfer takes place during the sport season in which the student has participated in a regular season interscholastic contest in a sport, **the student is ineligible in that sport for the remainder of that sport's season** in the school into which the student has transferred. A student may not use any of the exceptions to Bylaw 4-7-2 or 4-7-4 to circumvent this bylaw except if the parents make a bona fide move into a new public school district as referenced in Exception 1 of Bylaw 4-7-2 AND the school building into which the student transfers is more than 50 miles

from the school building from which the student transfers as determined by mapquest.com, or such other navigational system as adopted by the Board of Directors at its August meeting, using the most direct route. For purposes of this bylaw, "sport season" shall be determined by the sports regulations for that sport, beginning with the first date on which coaching may begin and concluding on the date when the season ends.

The superintendent or person delegated by the superintendent of either a non-public or public school system may transfer students within the system without jeopardizing their eligibility only in the following circumstances:

- 1) The parent(s) or legal custodian of the student have made a bona fide move from one attendance zone into a new attendance zone within the school district and such move entitles the student to attend another district high school OR
- 2) There has been a court-ordered change of legal custody from one individual to another individual living within a new attendance zone within the school district and the student shall live with the new custodian in the new attendance zone OR
- 3) The school closes or there was a mistake made in the student's initial placement
- 4) The student is a child with a disability whose program as prescribed by the student's I.E.P. has been changed to another high school
- 5) The student transfers pursuant to state or federal statutes addressing unsafe schools or academically poor performing schools, and the student can demonstrate to the satisfaction of the superintendent that the transfer is for purely academic reasons and not athletic reasons.

Such transfers are eligible only after approval by the Commissioner's office.

Always check with your school principal and/or athletic director before you change schools to determine whether it will affect your eligibility.

STUDENT PARTICIPATION AND REQUIRED FORMS

PREPARTICIPATION PHYSICAL EVALUATION

Athletic participation form for participants in any of the grades 7-12 shall be signed by a medical examiner (Physician [M.D., D.O., or D.C.], Advanced Nurse Practitioner or Physician's Assistant), the participant and by a parent or guardian. These forms must be on file with the athletic director or designee before any candidate for a team may participate in a practice. These forms shall require the medical examiner to certify the individual's physical fitness no less than once each calendar year.

Section 3313.73 of the Ohio Revised Code reads in part as follows: "This section does not require any school child to receive a medical examination (pre-participation physical evaluation) or receive medical treatment whose parent or guardian objects thereto. "A form certifying this objection shall be signed by the parent or guardian and attached to the required parental consent forms. However, nothing in Section 3313.73 of the ORC would preclude a school from adopting a Board of Education policy that would deny participation in interscholastic athletics for any student whose parent or guardian refused to permit a pre-participation physical evaluation. In addition to the physical evaluation, students and parent/guardians must also complete the concussion form.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL AUTHORIZATION FORM

The parent/guardian must complete the Emergency Medical Authorization Form prior to participation in any sport. This

completed form is kept by the head coach at all practices and contests and is used in the event of an injury requiring doctor and/or hospital care when the parent/guardian is unavailable.

INSURANCE

The Mansfield Board of Education requires all athletes to be insured against accident or injury before they are permitted to participate in athletic practices or contests. If an athlete is insured under a family insurance policy, the Insurance Waiver Form must be completed by the parent or guardian and filed in the athletic office before the athlete may participate. Should the athlete not be covered by a family policy, school accident insurance must be purchased.

ASSUMPTION OF RISK FORM

All students and their parent/guardian must read and sign the Assumption of Risk Form prior to participation in any sport. This informs all parties that there are certain risks of injury associated with sports activities and allows authorized school personnel to treat students in case of injury and share injury/treatment information as needed. This form also releases the Mansfield City School District and its agents from any liability resulting from injury.

CONCUSSION FORM

Must be signed by the parent/guardian and student to verify they have read and understand the state and local policies regarding concussions.

CONSENT FORM

Must be signed by parent/guardian and student; provides verification that the student and his/her family understand the athletic handbook rules and regulations.

ALL REQUIRED FORMS MUST BE ON FILE IN THE ATHLETIC OFFICE BEFORE AN ATHLETE MAY PARTICIPATE IN PRACTICE AND/OR CONTESTS!



EQUIPMENT AND UNIFORMS

Equipment and uniforms that are the property of Mansfield City Schools, once issued to an athlete become the sole responsibility of that athlete. If equipment and/or uniforms are lost or damaged, replacement must be made at the athlete's expense. **All equipment and/or uniforms must be returned to the head coach at the end of the sports season.**

Athletic uniforms are not to be used as personal apparel and should be used only during practice or contests. The exception to this is the wearing of jerseys on game days, subject to campus wear policies and approval.

RULES GOVERNING ATHLETIC PARTICIPANTS

Who is governed by these rules?

All students electing to participate in athletics in the Mansfield City Schools are governed by these rules.

When do these rules apply?

The rules apply at any time during the season of the sport, as defined by the OHSAA, in which the student is a participant.

Violations

A violation of the following rules will result in disciplinary action.

RULE - 1: REQUIRED FORMS

Every participant will be required to have the following forms on file in the Athletic Office before participation begins:

- A. OHSAA Pre-Participation Physical Evaluation Form
- B. Concussion Form
- C. Emergency Medical Authorization form

- D. Assumption of Risk Form
- E. Insurance Waiver form / proof of school insurance
- F. Athletic Participation Consent Form signed by parent and athlete

Disciplinary Action

The student will be denied participation in practice or contests until all forms are complete and on file.

RULE – 2: DRUG AND ALCOHOL POLICY

A student athlete shall not possess, sell, and attempt to sell, transport, consume or use alcohol, drugs, counterfeit substances, or any drug paraphernalia in any form at any time. Furthermore, students shall not report to school or attend any school activity (regardless of where or when it is being held) after having consumed, or have possession of, alcohol, drugs, counterfeit substances, or any drug paraphernalia.

Self-Referral

An initial self-referral reported by the student athlete to the coach or staff member will be treated confidentially and will not subject the athlete to disciplinary action. Self-referral may only be used once by a high school athlete.

Once informed by the student athlete, the coach or staff member will report the incident to the building principal and drug and alcohol coordinator. The athlete will be required to undergo a formal drug and alcohol assessment. He/she must participate in a Drug and Alcohol Support Group Program, either as part of the school program, or through an outside agency or hospital. Successful completion is required before the athlete may continue athletic participation.

First Offense

A student athlete in grades 7-12 who violates this rule may be denied participation from his/her athletic team for 20% of the total (not remaining) regular season contests in the sport in which he/she was participating at the time the first offense was committed. Denial of participation shall include tournament play – if any. If, at the time a denial of participation is imposed, the denial period includes more contests than what remains in the season and tournament play, any remaining part of the denial period will be applied to the next occasion the student

participates on a school athletic team during his/her high school attendance.

The student athlete will be required to undergo a formal drug and alcohol assessment, as well as participate in a Drug and Alcohol Support Group Program, either as part of the school program or through an outside agency or hospital, if he/she wishes to continue athletic participation. Failure to comply with any requirement may result in additional denial of participation. At the conclusion of the period of denial of participation, the student athlete may be ruled eligible to participate upon presenting to the Athletic Director and Principal of Mansfield Senior High School verification of completion of the assessment in the Drug and Alcohol Support Group Program.

Second Offense

If a student athlete violates this rule for the second time during grades 7-12, he/she may be denied participation in athletics for the remainder of that sports season. Denial of participation shall include tournament play – if any. The student athlete will also be required to undergo a formal drug & alcohol assessment as well as to participate in a Drug and Alcohol Support Group, either as part of the school program or through an outside agency or hospital, if he/she wishes to continue athletic participation. The student athlete must provide satisfactory proof of the foregoing evidence of any on-going commitment of non-drug and/or alcohol use, and any other reasonable pertinent information to the athletic council. Failure to comply with any requirements will result in additional denial of participation. At the conclusion of the period of denial of participation, the student may be ruled eligible to participate upon presenting to the Athletic Director and Principal of Mansfield Senior High School verification of completion or involvement with a chemical dependency treatment program. The Principal of Mansfield Senior High School will have the final authority to decide whether or not to reinstate the student athlete. The ruling by the Principal shall not be quasi-judicial and his/her decision will be final.

Third Offense

If a student athlete violates this rule for a third time during grades 7-12, he/she will be denied participation with Mansfield City School district's athletic teams for the remainder of the current school year. The parents/legal guardian of any student athlete who is denied participation under this provision must

formally petition the Principal of Mansfield Senior High School for eligibility for any future school years. The Principal of Mansfield Senior High School will have the final authority to decide whether or not to reinstate the student athlete. The review by the Principal of Mansfield Senior High School shall not be quasi-judicial and his/her decision will be final.

Fourth Offense

If a student athlete violates this rule for the fourth time, he/she will be denied participation athletics for the remainder of time he/she is eligible to attend school in the Mansfield city School District.

RULE – 3: CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES

No student athlete shall sell or offer to sell a controlled substance. As used in this section, the term controlled substance includes body altering chemicals, drugs, look-alike drugs or other intoxicant, narcotic or other hallucinogenic drugs, amphetamines, barbiturates, marijuana, cocaine, counterfeit drugs and any other substance whose possession is prohibited by law.

Disciplinary Action

A student athlete who violates this rule shall be denied participation in athletics for the remainder of his/her eligibility to attend school in the Mansfield City School district. The athletic council will have the final authority to decide whether or not to permanently deny participation in athletics. The decision by the athletic council shall not be quasi-judicial and its decision will be final.

RULE – 4: TOBACCO/VAPORS/E-CIGARETTES

The use of tobacco in any form will not be permitted. The use of tobacco shall include cigars, cigarettes, pipes, snuff, or any other matter or substances that contain tobacco. This rule also applies the use of electronic cigarettes, vapor products, or any products that simulate the use of tobacco.

First Offense

A student athlete violating this rule may be denied participation from athletics for a period of time equal



to 20% of the total (not remaining) regular season contests of the sport in which he/she was participating when the offense was committed. If, at the time a denial of participation is imposed, the denial period includes more contests than what remains in the season and tournament play, any remaining part of the denial period will be applied to the next occasion the student participates on a school athletic team during his/her high school attendance.

Second Offense

If a student athlete violates this rule for a second time during a school year, he/she may be denied participation in athletics for a period of time equal to 40% of the total (not remaining) regular season contests of the sport in which he/she was participating when the second offense was committed. Denial of participation shall include tournament play, if any. If, at the time of denial of participation is imposed, the denial period includes more contests than what remains in the season and tournament play, any remaining part of the denial period will be applied to the next occasion that the student participates on a school athletic team during his/her high school attendance.

Third Offense

If a student violates this rule for a third time during a school year, he/she may be denied participation in athletics for a calendar year from the date that it is determined that he/she violated the prohibition against tobacco for the third time.

RULE – 5: STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

A participant shall not be in violation of any regulation as set forth in the Mansfield City School's Student Code of Conduct.

First Offense

If conduct does not specify removal from the team, the student athlete may not participate while under punishment as determined by the school administration. If a student athlete is assigned detention, he/she will be eligible to participate in practice sessions, but ineligible for competition until the next calendar day (four or more periods equal 1 day.) If the student athlete is assigned suspension and/or expulsion, he/she may not

participate in practice or in contests until the assigned punishment time has expired.

Second Offense

The student athlete may be removed from the team for the remainder of the season.

RULE – 6: ATTENDANCE AT PRACTICE AND GAMES

A participant must be on time and present for all practices and contests unless a prior excuse is obtained from a medical professional. This excuse must be presented to the participant's head coach. The head coach may also choose to excuse an athlete under unusual circumstances with prior notification.

Disciplinary Action

The corrective action up to, and including, removal from the team, will be left to the discretion of the head coach.

RULE – 7: CURFEW

A participant may not be in violation of curfew times as specified by the head coach of that particular sport.

Disciplinary Action

The corrective action up to, and including, removal from the team, will be left to the discretion of the head coach.

RULE – 8: DRESS

Dress, accessories (ie: piercings) equipment usage, personal dress, and cleanliness must meet safety and health standards as determined by the Ohio High School Athletic Association and the head coach of that sport.

Disciplinary Action

The student athlete may not participate in practices or contests until standards are met. Continued refusal will result in removal from the team.

RULE -9: TEAM TRAVEL

A student must travel via school provided transportation to and from all athletic contests, practices, and scheduled events. A student athlete may be permitted to be released ONLY to a parent/guardian and ONLY if prior, written authorization has been obtained. Such authorization must be through the head coach.

First Offense

The athlete will be denied participation in the next contest.

Second Offense

The student athlete may be removed from the team for the remainder of the season.

RULE – 10: ATHLETIC EQUIPMENT AND UNIFORMS

All participants must return all property of the Mansfield Board of Education in his/her possession at the end of that sport's season.

Disciplinary Action

The student will be denied all awards and the opportunity to participate in any school activity, including other sports, until all property is returned or equal restitution is made. Obligations will be placed on the student's fee account which will deny the student participation in prom and/or graduation.

RULE – 11: HAZING

Hazing in athletic activities is prohibited. Hazing is defined as doing any act or coercing another, including the victim, to do any act toward any student or other organization that causes or creates a substantial risk for causing mental or physical harm to any person. No participant shall plan, encourage, or engage in any form of hazing in practices or athletic contests. Permission, consent, or assumption of risk by and individual subject to hazing does not lessen the prohibition contained in this policy.

Disciplinary Action

Removal from the team and denial of participation in any athletic activity for the remainder of the current school year. Reinstatement is at the sole discretion of school administration.

RULE – 12: SCHOOL SUSPENSION

A student placed in in-school suspension may practice but is unable to compete in any athletic contest during the suspension period. The suspension period is considered to have ended on the first day the student returns to classes.

A student who receives an out-of-school suspension is not permitted to practice or attend athletic contests during the suspension. The suspension period is considered to have ended on the first day the student returns to class.

RULE – 13: SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

In order to participate in a practice or athletic contest, a participant must have been in school for a minimum of 5 full class periods on the day of the practice or athletic contest unless approved by a building administrator (i.e., doctor's appointments, funerals, school business, college visitations, etc.). Documentation may be required.

Participants being dropped from a team for disciplinary reasons or voluntarily quitting forfeit their right to any awards and/or honors accorded that particular team.

DEFINITIONS

Definitions are offered to further clarify the intent of these rules.

Participant – any high school or middle school student who is a member of an athletic team. This includes managers, statisticians, score-keepers, mascots, cheerleaders, and athletes.

Season – The time when an athletic team officially begins practice up to and including the awards program for that sport. Starting dates are determined by the OHSA.

Interscholastic Contest – A game, meet, or match on the regular season schedule between Mansfield Senior High School and/or Malabar Middle School and another contracted high school. This includes scrimmages.

Squad or Team – A group of students designed to represent their perspective high school in a particular sport.

School Transportation – Board owned or rented bus, assigned automobile.

Coach – person employed by the Mansfield Board of Education or designated by the head coach to supervise and instruct in a particular sport. This includes Board Approved volunteers.



DUE PROCESS PROCEDURE

Section A: Pre-Season Information

All athletes and their parents must be advised, in writing, as to the contents of the high school rules and regulations for athletic participation and general behavior expectations. This will inform the parent/guardian and student as to the expectations of the athletic department.

Section B: Twenty-four (24) Hour Dismissal

Coaches may deny a participant the opportunity to participate for a period of 24-hours if the participant's presence poses a continuing danger to persons or property OR if the participant poses an ongoing threat of disrupting the athletic/academic process from taking place.

Written notice of the 24-hour dismissal must be filed with the building principal within the same 24-hour period. This written notice must contain the following information:

1. The coach's name
2. The athlete's name
3. The date of dismissal
4. The reason for the disciplinary action

Section C: Coaches may deny an athlete the opportunity to participate for periods of time ranging from two (2) days to permanent dismissal (removal). This may be done when a participant has violated Athletic Rules and Regulations for Participation.

A student denied the opportunity to participate is entitled to the following due process:

1. Conference between the participant in violation and head coach involved.
2. Written notice of the intended action is to be provided to the athlete within 24 hours of Section C. This notice shall include:
 - a. The athlete's and coach's names
 - b. The specific charges
 - c. The effective date that the athlete is denied opportunity to participate and the date that participation may begin again.
 - d. The notice shall include the following appeal process:
 - i. The opportunity for a hearing is available to explain his/her side of the story.
 - ii. The hearing will be held within 72 hours of the issuance of notice.
 - iii. The hearing will be held by the building principal.

SECTION D: Written Notification

Following the hearing, if removal is upheld, the student will receive written notice within 24 hours.

This notice must indicate:

1. The period of time for which the student is denied the opportunity to participate.

2. The date when the athlete is eligible to participate again, if not involving permanent removal.

SECTION F: Final Authority

The final authority to deny a student the right to participate shall be reserved to the building principal.

REVIEW OF PARTICIPATION POLICY

To insure that the rules and regulations governing athletic participation are kept current with student's needs and remain consistent with our philosophy, the school administration will periodically review all policies on an annual basis. The review panel should consist of the building principal(s) and athletic council.



PARENTAL CONDUCT

1. **DO NOT** approach a coach after a contest.
2. **DO NOT** discuss playing time.
3. **DO NOT** discuss other players
4. **REMEMBER:** Coaches do not coach to lose.
The coach has the final decision that pertains to coaching decisions.
5. **SET GOOD EXAMPLES** 😊



Student Participation Contract

I _____, have chosen
(Student's Printed Name)

To participate in _____ at
(Sport)

Mansfield Senior High / Mansfield Middle School.

(Please circle applicable school)

I commit myself to continuously work toward the goal of top physical fitness. To do anything which would harm my body would not be in my best interest or the best interest of my team and school.

I agree to remain free from tobacco, alcohol, steroids, and other performance-enhancing or recreational drugs during my sports season and throughout the entire school year. I fully understand this pledge extends to seven day per week.

If I have a problem or I need help fulfilling this contract, I understand the coaches, administrators, and counselors will be available to help me.

I have read and understand the Athletic Policies / Code of Conduct and the consequences for violations of these policies or codes.

I pledge to follow all rules and policies and to help all my teammates abide by the same athletic rules and policies.

(Student's Signature)

(Date)

As the parent/guardian of _____,
(Student's Printed Name)

I understand and support this contract and pledge that my student has signed. Optimum health and education are the goals of our athletic program, and I support the school in its efforts to attain these goals.

(Parent/Guardian Signature)

(Date)

(Coach's Signature)

(Date)