

# **MANSFIELD CITY SCHOOLS**



# ***TYGERS***

**Athletic Handbook**

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

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

**— Michael Jordan**

Mansfield City Schools  
P O Box 1448  
Mansfield OH 44901-1448  
(419) 525-6400  
Stan Jefferson, Superintendent

Mansfield Senior High School  
124 North Linden Road  
Mansfield OH 44906  
(419) 525-6369  
Athletics (419) 525-6344  
Marinise Harris, Principal  
Kevin Porter, Athletic Director

Mansfield Middle School  
124 North Linden Road  
Mansfield OH 44906  
(419) 525-6307  
Athletics (419) 525-6344  
Jason Douglas, Principal  
Kevin Porter, Athletic Director

# **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.

## **STUDENT EXPECTATIONS**

### **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 9<sup>th</sup> 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 3313.5312 to be afforded the opportunity to participate at the public school in the district of residence of the parents without any enrollment

obligation.

EXCEPTION: 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.**

#### **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 an 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 must attend two (2) hours of Study Table per week during the sports season for which they are participating and 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	<b>1.5 GPA</b> (Beginning with the 2nd semester of your freshman year)
Sophomores	<b>1.5 GPA</b>
Juniors	<b>1.75 GPA</b>
Seniors	<b>2.0 GPA</b>

Athletes who are on probation or have an "F" or two D's 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 contest for which the athlete is a regular member of the team within the next seven (7) calendar days

Third Offense: Removal for the the team and exclusion for all activities for the remainder of the 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, athletic director 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 athletic director 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**

*This is a restatement of applicable OHSAA Bylaws, including, but not necessarily limited to, OHSAA Bylaws 4-7-2, 4-7-3, 4-7-4, 4-7-6, 4-7-7, and related guidance and exceptions. OHSAA Bylaws shall govern all transfer issues and shall supersede any conflicts in this Handbook.*

*The transfer bylaws apply to all students enrolled in grades 9-12 who are transferring high schools whether the schools are public or non-public, member or non-member or whether the high schools are within the same school system or district.*

*A student is considered to have transferred whenever a.) enrollment is changed from one school to another*



*school and the student attends a new school, or b.) enrollment is changed from one school to become home schooled or vice versa, or c.) 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 and attending, or d) the participation opportunities afforded a student pursuant to state law change. Notwithstanding (c) and (d) above, if a non-enrolled student's participation is pursuant to O.R.C. 3313.5311 (Ohio non-public school students) or 3313.537 (Ohio community/STEM school students), the non-enrolled student's participation opportunity shall transfer back to the non-public school or Community/STEM school in which the student is enrolled without transfer consequences. If the non-public school or Community/STEM school ever sponsors the sport/sports in which the non-enrolled student wishes to participate, the student's participation opportunity shall also be transferred back to the school of attendance without consequence. Furthermore, any in-season changes in the participation opportunities that may be afforded by state law shall be subject to Bylaw 4-7-3.*

*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/jamboree, Foundation game or regular season/tournament contest), the student shall be eligible, insofar as transfer is concerned, for ONLY until the first 50 of the maximum allowable varsity regular season contests (including all scrimmages, preview/jamboree/Foundation games) have been completed in those sports in which the student participated (participation being defined as playing in a contest) during the 12 months immediately preceding this transfer. This transfer consequence shall remain in effect until the one-year anniversary of the date of enrollment in the school to which the student transferred, at which time the student is no longer considered a transfer student.*

*After the first 50 of the maximum allowable varsity regular season contests have been completed, (regardless of the participation level of the student), the student shall then become INELIGIBLE for the remainder of the regular season contests at all levels. Furthermore, the student shall also remain ineligible to participate in the OHSAA sponsored tournament(s) in those respective sports until the one-year anniversary of the student's date of enrollment. A student who did not participate in an OHSAA recognized sport in the 12 months immediately preceding the transfer is not subject to the consequence of this transfer bylaw.*

*Notwithstanding the above, if a student transfers during the season of a sport in which he or she has participated in a regular season contest, and if Bylaw 4-7-3 requires that the student is ineligible for participation in the remainder of the contests in that sports season, the student shall remain ineligible for the remainder of all regular season contests, as well as the OHSAA tournament, in that sport at the school into which the student has transferred. Furthermore, the student shall finish fulfilling his/her transfer consequence, for ONLY that sport in which the mid-season transfer occurred, at the commencement of the sport season during the next school year. This consequence requires that the student shall remain ineligible for all preseason contests (scrimmages, preview/jamboree, Foundation games) and all regular season contests until the total number of varsity regular season contests missed (including those missed during the previous season) equals 50 percent of the maximum allowable regular season contests in that sport.*

*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 stepparents) from one public school district into another school district whether from outside the state of Ohio or within Ohio, the student is compelled to transfer to another high school, the Executive Director's Office may waive all or part of the 50 percent period of ineligibility for one or more sport/sport seasons. The requirement that "both parents" make the move may be waived by the Executive Director's Office if the marriage of the parents has been or is in the process of being legally terminated or if the parents were never married. In addition, the Executive Director's Office, in its sole discretion, may extend conditional*

*eligibility for up to 90 days immediately following the date of the student's transfer in cases where parents are making a bona fide move into a residence that is more than 100 miles from their former residence, and there are extenuating circumstances that are presented which prevents one of the parents from making the move immediately. This 90-day conditional provision may be extended for up to 90 more days ONLY in the case of medical or military obligations that prevent one of the parents from making the move at the same time as the other parent.*

*If the person(s) making the bona fide move is not the biological or adoptive parent or stepparent of the student, the school administrator must disclose the custodial relationship, provide the court ordered documents and advise as to the whereabouts of the student's biological or adoptive parents.*

*An Affidavit of Bona Fide Residence in the form requested by the Executive Director'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 in order to maintain eligibility at the school into which the student's transfer has been approved. The school district will have a continuing duty to monitor compliance with the residency requirements during this one year period. Exception one permits the choice of the public high school in the parents' new public district of residence (any public school in the parents' new district of residence in a multiple high school district), or any non-public high school. If, however, the new residence into which the family has moved is more than 100 miles from the residence from which the family moved 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), the student shall have the option to enroll contemporaneously with this move into any public high school.*

*EXCEPTION 2: If, as a result of a legal change of custody as between a student's parents, who live in two different school districts, the student is compelled to transfer from one school district to the other school district where the other parent resides, the Executive Director's Office may waive all or part of the 50 percent period of ineligibility for one or more sport/sport seasons provided the student continues to live with the new custodian in order to support the approval of the transfer to the new high school. If custody of a student is changed to a non-parent, who lives in a different school district than the previous custodian, 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 Executive Director's Office may waive all or part of the 50 percent period of ineligibility for one or more sport/sport seasons provided the student continues to live with the new custodian in order to support the approval of the transfer to the new high school. The granting of a change of guardianship to a non-parent will not comply with this exception.*

*The Executive Director's Office, in its sole discretion, may waive the requirement of a court ordered legal change of custody for a student who is 18, when circumstances are presented that the student was compelled to transfer schools and reside with a parent who is a bona fide resident of the state of Ohio.*

*By operation of statute, both parents in a Shared Parenting Plan are the residential and custodial parents of the child at all times under such Plan. Therefore, so long as a Shared Parenting Plan remains in effect, there can be no "change of custody" as contemplated by this Exception 2. However, in the event a Shared Parenting Plan remains in effect but a change in the designation of "residential parent" has been made by the court within that plan, the student who is the subject to the Shared Parenting Plan may apply one time to the Executive Director's Office for a one time exception to the transfer bylaw under this provision.*

*Exception 2 permits the choice of the public high school located in the residential school district of the new legal custodian or new residential parent, or any non-public 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 entire high school educational program after grade nine, the student may enroll in any school and be immediately eligible at that high school 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 Executive Director's office can rule the student eligible. 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.*

*Note 1: For school closings in a multiple high school district, see Bylaw 4-7-4 regarding intradistrict transfers.*

*Note 2: This exception has no application to the closing of any "non-traditional school" such as a community school or a non-chartered non-public high school.*

*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 Executive Director at a school in the district where the student resides. The Executive Director 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 becomes ineligible beginning with the second 50 of the maximum allowable varsity regular season contests until declared eligible by the Executive Director's Office under this exception. 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 Executive Director shall have the discretionary power to waive the residence requirements for a student who has been enrolled in the district in accordance with ORC §§ 3313.64 (F)(6) or 3313.64 (F)(7). The student is ineligible until ruled eligible by the Executive Director's Office.*~~

*EXCEPTION 7: If a student is a victim of harassment, intimidation or bullying as those terms are defined at ORC 3313.666 (A)(2) which harassment, intimidation or bullying has been documented to the school district in accordance with the ORC, and as a result of this documented harassment, intimidation or bullying the student is compelled to transfer, the Executive Director's Office, in its sole discretion, may waive all or part of the 50 percent period of ineligibility for one or more sport/sports seasons provided:*

*1) The District's Anti-Harassment, Anti-Intimidation, Anti-Bullying policies and procedures adopted in accordance with ORC 3313.666 have been substantially followed and complied with; and*

*2) The District provides the Executive Director's Office with a copy of the duly adopted policies and procedures; and*

3) *The District secures the appropriate releases from the student/student's parents authorizing the District to provide a complete record of the events and circumstances on which the policies and procedures were initiated including:*

- a) A specific, detailed report of the prohibited incident(s);*
- b) An outline of the procedures used to respond to and investigate the reported incident(s); c) A copy of the findings that were a result of the complaint process and investigation;*
- d) A specific, detailed disciplinary procedure for any individual found guilty of harassment, intimidation or bullying;*
- e) All reports of notification to parents or guardians of any student involvement in the incident(s);*
- f) A report of the intervention strategies and remedial action the school has undertaken to assist the student and redress the complaint.*

4) *The District provides the Executive Director's Office with all of the above-referenced records.*

5) *In concurrence with ORC 3313.666 (A)(2), this exception cannot be used for any isolated incidents or alleged incidents of harassment, intimidation or bullying, nor can this exception be used in cases where there has been no contemporaneous reporting of the alleged bullying, harassment or intimidation.*

*EXCEPTION 8: A student who has transferred to another high school to take advantage of the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Program may be ruled eligible upon approval of the Executive Director's Office. Such a student who transfers under this provision and who subsequently drops out of the Diploma Program shall be declared immediately ineligible and may be subject to sanctions in accordance with Bylaw 11-Penalties.*

*EXCEPTION 9: A student shall be entitled to one transfer to the public high school located in the public school district within which the student's residential parent/legal custodian has resided for a minimum of one year regardless of whether the student is transferring from a public or nonpublic school. The student becomes ineligible beginning with the second 50 of the maximum allowable varsity regular season contests until declared eligible in accordance with the submission of the Exception 9 Form to document the transfer as set forth in the exception. The form can be found at [www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org).*

*Note 1: Bylaw 4-7-2 Exception 9 does not apply to transfers to and from high schools within a multiple high school district/system. Furthermore, for a student transferring into a multiple high school district from either a public high school in a different district or a non-public high school, in order to use this exception the student shall be assigned (in accordance with OHSAA business rules) or transferred to the high school located in the parents' attendance zone, or, if there are no defined attendance zones, to the high school which is closest to the parents' residence. Please see Bylaws 4-7-4, 4-7-6 and 4-7-7 for the transfer rules which apply to intra-district or system transfers.*

*Note 2: Exception 9 cannot be used to transfer from the public high school of the district in which one parent resides to the public high school of the district in which the other parent resides in a split-family situation. Conversely, a non-public student whose parents live in two different public school districts may have the option under this bylaw to transfer to the public high school in either public school district in which the student's parents reside provided the student has never established eligibility at a public school in a district in which a custodial parent resides.*

*Note 3: If a student transfers and is permitted a participation opportunity at a member school where he or she*

*is not enrolled in accordance with Bylaw 4-3-1 exceptions 4 and/or 6, the student is permitted to use this exception 9 to restore full eligibility in regard to transfer.*

*EXCEPTION 10: A student who has been enrolled in and attending a member school in a school district that, through formal action by the school district's Board of Education, has elected to effectively cease with its sponsorship of its entire interscholastic athletic programs, may transfer to any other school district/system and have his/her eligibility restored upon application to the Executive Director's Office. Furthermore, if the school district formally elects, through Board of Education action, to resume its sponsorship of its interscholastic athletic programs, a student who transferred under the provisions of this Exception may transfer back to the member school from which she/he transferred under this provision provided this transfer back occurs prior to the start of the next school year following the school year in which resumption of the sponsorship of interscholastic athletic programs occurred.*

*In consideration of all applications for the restoration of eligibility pursuant to this Exception, the Executive Director's Office shall give due consideration to all factors relating to the transfer and particularly the timing of the transfer in relation to the formal actions taken by the Board of Education in either the cessation and/or resumption of its sponsorship of these programs. For purposes of this Exception, "formal action" shall mean more than the mere threat of cessation of sponsorship, and resolutions that are contingent upon a future event or happening will not be regarded as "formal action" until such contingency has been met.*

*No student transferring under this provision shall be eligible until declared eligible by the Executive Director's Office.*

*EXCEPTION 11: If a student has experienced a death of an immediate family member (parent, grandparent, legal custodian, sibling) with whom the student was residing at the time of death, and because of this loss it becomes necessary for the student to transfer, if the transfer occurs within a reasonable time after the death, the Executive Director's Office, in its sole discretion, may waive all or part of the 50 percent period of ineligibility for one or more sport/sports seasons. In order to assist the Executive Director's Office in determining whether the transfer was necessary as a result of the death of the family member, the Superintendent of the school district from which the student transferred must certify to the Executive Director's Office that the transfer was necessary to protect the student's physical and/or mental well-being. Absent such certification from the Superintendent, the Executive Director's Office may not apply this exception.*

**Always check with your school 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 Athletics Director 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 of Mansfield Senior High School verification of completion or involvement with a chemical dependency treatment program. The Athletics Director of Mansfield Senior High School will have the final authority to decide whether or not to reinstate the student athlete. The ruling by the Athletics Director 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 in 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 Building Principal, Athletic Director and School Superintendent will have the final authority to decide whether or not to permanently deny participation in athletics.

**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 the 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 to HEDGES Success Program, a 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 an individual subjected 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 the 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 OHSAA.

**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 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 Athletics Director 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 Athletics Director.

**SECTION D: Written Notification** Following the hearing, if removal is upheld, the student will receive written notice within 3 Days.

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 Athletic Director in conjunction with 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), athletic director and the athletic council. Final changes or updates to any athletic policies will be made by the athletic director and building principal.

## **SPORTSMANSHIP EXPECTATIONS FOR STUDENT-ATHLETES**

**EACH STUDENT-ATHLETE is expected to:**

- A. Accept and understand the seriousness of his/her responsibility, and the privilege of representing the school, District, and community.**
- B. Live up to the standards of sportsmanship established by the school administration and the coaching staff.**
- C. Learn the rules of the game thoroughly and discuss them with parents, fans, fellow students, and elementary students. This will assist the student and others to achieve a better understanding and appreciation of the game.**
- D. Treat opponents the way the student would like to be treated, as a guest or friend. Who better than the participating athlete can understand all the hard work and team effort that is required of the sport?**
- E. Refrain from taunting, trash talking, and making any kind of derogatory remarks to opponents during the game, especially comments of ethnic, racial, or sexual nature.**
- F. Refrain from intimidating behavior.**
- G. Wish opponents good luck before the game and congratulate them in a sincere manner following either victory or defeat.**
- H. Respect the integrity and judgment of game officials.**

**The officials are doing their best to help promote athletes and the sport. Treating them with respect, even if the athlete disagrees with their judgment, will only make a positive impression of the athlete and the team in the eyes of the officials and all the people at the event.**

- I. Win with humility; lose with grace. Do both with dignity. Avoid excessive celebrating after a play or end of a game.**

**Any form of unacceptable behavior by any student is subject to discipline which may include removal from the event, suspension of participation in all athletic events for a season or school year, suspension from school, and/or referral to the local authorities.**

## **SPORTSMANSHIP EXPECTATIONS FOR SPECTATORS**

**EACH SPECTATOR is expected to:**

**A. Remember that s/he is at a contest to support and yell for the team and to enjoy the skill and competition; not to intimidate or ridicule the other team and its fans.**

**B. Remember that school athletics are learning experiences for students and that mistakes are sometimes made. Praise student—athletes in their attempt to improve themselves as students, as athletes, and as people as you would praise a student working in the classroom.**

**C. Remember that a ticket to a school athletic event is a privilege to observe the contest, not a license to verbally assault others and be generally obnoxious.**

**D. Learn the rules of the game, so that s/he may understand and appreciate why certain situations take place.**

**E. Show respect for the opposing players, coaches, spectators, and support groups. Treat them as one would treat a guest in his/her own home.**

**F. Refrain from taunting or making any kind of derogatory remarks to the opponents during the game, especially comments of ethnic, racial, or sexual nature.**

**G. Respect the integrity and judgment of game officials. Understand that they are doing their best to help promote the student-athlete, and admire their willingness to participate in full view of the public.**

**H. Recognize and show appreciation for an outstanding play by either team.**

**I. Refrain from the use of any controlled substances (alcohol, drugs, etc.) before and during games, and afterwards on or near the site of the event (i.e. tailgating).**

**J. Use only those cheers that support and uplift the teams involved.**

**K. Recognize and compliment the efforts of school and league administrators in emphasizing the benefits of educational athletics and the role of good sportsmanship to that end.**

**L. Be a positive behavior role model through his/her own actions and by censuring those close by whose behavior is unbecoming.**

**Any form of unacceptable behavior by any student is subject to discipline which may include removal from the event, suspension of participation in all athletic events for a season or school year, suspension from school, and/or referral to the police. Unacceptable behavior by**

**non-student spectators may result in removal from the event, denial of admission to school athletic events for a season or school year, or referral to local authorities.**

### **OCC FAN EJECTION RULE**

- First Offense:** 1 Game suspension
- Second Offense:** 2 Game suspension
- Third Offense:** The remainder of the season

### **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/or 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)