

MAPS Athletic Code

Athletic participants need to follow the Athletic Code listed below:

Introduction: Montague Area Public Schools (MAPS) believes that students who participate in the privilege of interscholastic sports must act as a positive representative of the school for the entire calendar year (365 days), and not just the particular athletic season in which they participate. The following rules and guidelines apply to students and parents or guardians of students participating in interscholastic athletics. It is the obligation of all students to know about and abide by these guidelines and rules.

Academic Eligibility Standard: To be considered eligible for participation in athletics, MAPS student-athletes may not fail more than 1 class in which they are enrolled during a semester. If the student-athlete fails more than one class in any semester, he/she will be ineligible for the next semester. Any student-athlete who received more than one incomplete as a grade at semester time shall be ineligible until a passing grade for that class is recorded. Summer school may be an option to meet this requirement.

A weekly eligibility check system shall be used to monitor academic standing and progress of all student-athletes. A master eligibility sheet listing all of the current sports season participants will be distributed each week to all faculty members. A designation of passing, borderline or failing will be used. Based on the information received from them, students who are failing more than one of their classes, using cumulative marking period averages, will be considered ineligible until the next weekly check is made. The check period runs from Sunday-Saturday.

Citizenship: Any student who receives two 3s, two 4s or two of any combination of 3s and 4s on any weekly eligibility citizenship check, will be ineligible for participation until fewer than two 3s or 4s are received. The scale used is 1-Excellent; 2-Good; 3-Needs Improvement; 4-Unsatisfactory.

Student Assistance Program: The Board of Education has passed a policy establishing a student assistance program. If a student comes forward and admits a problem (not after being caught), the student-athlete will have 14 days to enroll in a program approved by the athletic director, assistant principal or principal. If a student-athlete chooses not to enroll in a program within that time, the appropriate athletic suspension will be given. If a student-athlete chooses to enroll in an approved program during the 14 day time period, then the athletic suspension may be postponed, as long as the athletic director is assured that satisfactory progress is being made by the student-athlete.

Training Rules: Adherence to training rules is expected of all student-athletes. At no time, from the date of a student-athlete's first practice in a school sponsored sports activity including summer and off-seasons, shall an individual:

- Use, sell, transfer or possess tobacco products.
- Use, sell, transfer or possess alcoholic beverages.
- Use, sell, transfer or possess illegal drugs or other illegal controlled substances, including inhalants, steroids, or performance-enhancing substances.
- Violate criminal laws or criminal ordinances.
- Violate school policies or regulations, which result in a suspension of 3 days or more.

Disciplinary action regarding these training rules will be taken on the basis of reports from a responsible citizen to the coaching staff or administration. That person must be willing to testify in front of the athlete.

The athletic director via first-class mail will send notification of the school's disciplinary action to the parent or guardian. A statement regarding the appeals procedure, which may be initiated by the legal parent or guardian, will accompany notification. When an athlete, or his/her parent or guardian questions the outcome of a decision, regarding an athletic code violation, an appeal may be made by the parent or guardian to the next higher authority. Such an appeal must be made to the next level within 7 school days of notification of the decision. The chain of appeals is as follows:

Principal
Superintendent
School Board Employee/Community Relations Committee
Full School Board

The Board will make a decision within 7 days of the recommendation from the appropriate Board committee. If a parent or guardian does not respond to a decision at any level, the parent or guardian or athlete has no further right to appeal. While an appeal is pending, the student-athlete cannot participate in contests but can practice.

Penalties:

Violations of the training rules will result in the following penalties, which will be administered by the athletic director:

- First offense: Suspension from the team for the next number of dates equal to 25% of the maximum allowable playing dates, (or for the number of dates that have been scheduled) for that activity, rounded off to the nearest whole contest, by the Michigan High School Athletic Association (M.H.S.A.A). Tournament dates will be counted when serving a suspension.
- Second offense: Suspension from athletics for 1 calendar year as designated in a certified letter. This can be reduced to 50% of the maximum allowable playing dates of current or next season if these items are completed. Complete a student assistance program (related to offense) approved by the athletic director, assistant principal or principal, and 24 hours of community service as approved by the Athletic Director. May travel with their teams. May attend practice, but may not be actively engaged. May not dress for games/events. Students may begin practice before the suspension is complete in order to meet the minimum practice requirements set by the MHSAA. (This will allow the student the opportunity to become immediately eligible once the suspension is completed.
- Third offense: The student is no longer eligible to participate in athletics or other co-curricular activities for the remainder of the MAPS career.
- Succeeding suspensions must be served consecutively, not concurrently, (i.e., the first penalty must be completed before a second penalty may be started and so on.)
- If a suspension is not completed in the current season, it will be carried over into the next athletic season in which the athlete participates.

Additional Rules:

- Before practice or contest participation, a student-athlete must have on file with school officials, proof of a physical examination signed by a medical doctor stating fitness for participation. This exam is valid for one school year if given on or after April 15th of the preceding school year. The student also must be signed up with *Final Forms*.
- Prior to implementation, coaches who wish to have specific rules appropriate to their particular activities must have them approved and on file with the athletic director and distributed to the student-athlete.

- Students are required to use school transportation to and from all school athletic events if provided. Permission to ride with a parent or guardian may be granted by coach or athletic director with parent signature on the date of the athletic event.
- To participate in a contest or practice, the student-athlete must be present in school for the whole day or have a pre-excused absence approved by the administration. **Illness will not qualify as a pre-excused absence.** A student-athlete present for less than a whole day (after 8:00 A.M.) will need special permission from the administration to participate in that day's event or practice.
- Students who practice with a team and are on the eligibility list for the first contest may not switch sports after the first contest has been played unless both coaches agree to it.
- Students who have obligations (such as detention, suspension, fines, etc.) may not participate in contests until they are taken care of.