

Madison Athletic Department Handbook  
(Guideline Regulations)

**Madison Local Schools** are dedicated as a school to instilling Sportsmanship, Ethics, and Integrity in its students, athletes, and fans for the benefit of wholesome athletics and fair play.

**Philosophy Statement**

The ideals of good sportsmanship, ethical behavior, and integrity permeate our culture. The values of good citizenship and high behavioral standards apply equally to all school activities. In perception and practice, good sportsmanship shall be defined as those qualities of behavior which are characterized by generosity and genuine concern for others. Good sportsmanship is viewed by the Madison School District as a concrete measure of the understanding and commitment to fair play, ethical behavior, and integrity.

**Examples of Good Sportsmanship**

- Exhibiting spirit of benevolence and genuine concern for the opponent.
- Accepting results gracefully and acting fairly and courteously toward opponents and fans at all times.
- Maintaining self-control in all circumstances.
- Refusing to cheer/jeer at an opponent's failure.
- Helping up a fallen opponent.
- Patting an opponent on the back in a gesture of "nice play".
- Courteously handing the ball to, or getting the ball from the official.

**Expectations of Coaches**

- Always setting a good example for participants and fans to follow, exemplifying the highest moral and ethical behavior.
- Instructing participants in proper sportsmanship responsibilities and demanding that they make sportsmanship a priority.
- Respecting judgment of contest officials, abiding by rules of the event and displaying no behavior that could incite fans.
- Treating opposing coaches, participants, and fans with respect.
- Developing and enforcing penalties for participants who do not abide by sportsmanship standards.

**Expectations of Student Athletes**

- Treating opponents with respect
- Respecting judgment of contest officials
- Displaying no behavior that could incite fans
- Accepting responsibility and privilege of representing school and community; displaying positive public action at all times.
- Living up to high standards of sportsmanship established by the coach.

**Expectations of Booster's Groups**

- Modeling good sportsmanship at games and in discussions.
- Promoting good sportsmanship in the community.
- Maintaining equanimity when winning or losing.
- Representing your group and school with class; never stooping to public criticism of a player, coach or program.
- Serving on behalf of the sports program without expecting any favoritism in return.
- Permitting school officials to conduct the athletic program without interference.
- Supporting the coaches.

### **Expectation of Parents and Fans**

- Realizing that a ticket is a privilege to observe a contest and support high school activities, not a license to verbally degrade others or be generally obnoxious.
- Respecting decisions made by contest officials.
- Respecting fans, coaches and participants.

### **Expectations of Cheerleaders**

- Stimulating desired crowd response using only positive cheers, signs and praise without antagonizing or demeaning opponents
- Treating opposing spirit groups and fans with respect.
- Maintaining enthusiasm and composure, serving as a role model.

### **Expectations of School Administrators and Supervisors**

- Developing a program for teaching and promoting the ideals and fundamentals of good sportsmanship within the school.
- Providing appropriate supervisory personnel for each interscholastic event.
- Supporting participants, coaches, and fans who teach and display good sportsmanship.
- Recognizing exemplary behavior and actively discouraging undesirable conduct by participants, coaches, and fans.

### **Acceptable Behavior**

- Applauding during introductions of players, coaches and officials.
- Graciously accepting all decisions of the officials.
- Cheerleaders leading fans in positive school cheers.
- Treating competition as a game, not a war.
- Applauding at the end of a contest for performances of all participants.
- Everyone showing concern for injured players, regardless of team.
- Encouraging surrounding people to display good sportsmanship.

### **Unacceptable Behavior**

- Disrespectful or derogatory yells, chants, songs or gestures.
- Booming or heckling an official's decision.
- Criticizing officials in any way; displays of temper with an official's decision.
- Ridiculing an opponent.
- Using profanity or displaying anger that draws attention away from the game.
- Throwing objects onto the playing surface.
- Entering the playing surface while the game is in progress or if a skirmish on the playing surface breaks out.
- Refusing to comply with a teacher or administrator's directive.

**Guidelines and Code of Conduct**  
**(All students participating in interscholastic sports)**

We believe that the responsibility of an athlete to his/her fellow athletes is a year round commitment and does not end with the season. Therefore the Athletic Drug, Alcohol, and Tobacco Policy, expectations and consequences are in effect and will be enforced for twelve (12) months of the year and will carry over to the next season of participation. Consequences will be cumulative during junior high and senior high school years. High school begins the day after completion of the last junior high year.

To ensure consistency in our teams and in all sports, the following rules have been established for all athletes. The coach for your particular sport will have rules in addition to these which he or she wishes you to follow, but these general guidelines apply to all athletes at all times. We strongly recommend that you discuss these guidelines with your coach to create a greater degree of understanding and unity in our program.

**The following violations will lead to suspension or dismissal from the squad:**

1. Use or possession of tobacco or Vape – First offense – suspension from the squad for 10% of total regular season contests.
2. Use or possession of tobacco or Vape – Second offense – removal from athletic participation for the remainder of the current season. If the season is completed or not in season, suspension will be for 33% of the student's next activity.
3. Use or possession of tobacco or Vape – Third offense – Suspension from all extra-curricular activities for one calendar year.

Coaches rules which may lead to suspension or dismissal for the squad:

1. Stealing
2. Curfew rules
3. Failure to attend practice
4. Vandalism
5. If any athlete commits acts, such as lying, cheating, school misconduct, etc. that would detract from the image of good citizenship, the coach's discretion will be applied to the seriousness of the offense.
6. Other similar conduct not specified above.

**Alcohol Use/Student Drug Abuse**

The following procedures will be followed when dealing with student participants in school sponsored organizations including teams, clubs, or groups.

- A. First Offense
  - 1. A student who has violated any portion of this policy may refer himself/herself, be referred by a parent or peer to any school official without punitive consequences from extra-curricular organizations he/she is a member.
  - 2. The student will be subject to all procedures and disciplinary actions otherwise provided for in this policy.
- B. Violation or Possession
  - 1. First Offense
    - a. Student will be suspended from 33% of the organization's activities (contests).
    - b. If the student agrees to participate in five (5) educational sessions, the suspension will be reduced to 10% of the organization's activities (contests).
  - 2. Second Offense
    - a. Suspension from all extracurricular organizations for one full calendar year.
    - b. The suspension will be reduced to 33% of the organizations activities (contests) if the student has a chemical dependency assessment at an agency certified by the Ohio Department of Health or the Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug addiction Services.
    - c. It is mandatory that the student complete five counseling sessions with a Certified Chemical Dependency Counselor at an agency certified by the Ohio Department of Health or the Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Service.

The Assessment and counseling sessions will be at the student or parents' expense. It will be the responsibility of the parents or student to provide proof of the assessment and counseling sessions to the school.

- 3. Third Offense
    - a. The student will be denied participation in any extra-curricular organization.
- C. Supply/Sale of Chemical (Drugs/Alcohol)
  - 1. First Offense
    - a. The student will be suspended from all extracurricular organizations for one calendar year.
  - 2. Second Offense
    - a. The student will be suspended from all extracurricular organizations for the remainder of his/her school career.
- D. Other Conditions
  - 1. Activities
    - a. Since physical conditioning is an important safety factor, a student not suspended out of school will be permitted to practice with the team while under suspension from games. Members of athletic teams may be required to present a statement of fitness from a medical doctor before returning to the team.

### **Athletic Requirements**

The following forms must be filled out in Final Forms and signed by both parent and student. You cannot participate in practice or a contest until all forms are filled out and signed.

- Physical Form
- Concussion Form
- Sudden Cardiac Arrest Awareness (Lindsay's Law)
- Emergency Medical Form
- Acknowledgement of Risk
- Acknowledgement of Athletic Code of Conduct (parent/student)

### **Academic Eligibility for Sports and Cheerleading**

Eligibility for each grading period is determined by grades received the preceding grading period. Semester and yearly grades have no effect on academic eligibility.

- Grades 9-12: to be eligible, a student-athlete must be currently enrolled in a member school and have received passing grades in a minimum of five one credit courses, or the equivalent, in the immediately preceding grading period. (Note: Students taking post-secondary options must comply with these standards). The student must also earn a cumulative grade point average of 1.5 or better for the grading period.
- Grades 7-8: To be eligible, a student-athlete must be currently enrolled in a member school and have received passing grades in a minimum of five of all subjects in which enrolled the immediately preceding grading period. The student must also earn a cumulative grade point average of 1.5 or better for the grading period.

**The following is to explain the procedures for students who wish to ride to or home from a contest with their parents.**

1. Any student needing to ride to or from a game with their parents must have a note for permission written by a parent. This note must be approved and signed by the Principal, Assistant Principal, or Athletic Director.
2. Students are asked to only do this when it is a necessity not to ride the bus. (Because a student doesn't feel like riding the bus is not an acceptable reason.)
3. This approved note must be given to your coach before the contest.
4. Parents please notify the coach when you leave with your athlete.