

Mattawan High School

Student Parent Athletic Handbook



Office of Student Activities
 56720 Murray Street
 Mattawan, MI 49071
 (269) 668-3361, Ext. 1383
 www.mattawan.k12.mi.us

INDEX

Section One:	<u>General Information</u>	Page 2
	1 Philosophy	
	2 Statement of Non-Discrimination	
	3 Governances	
	4 Offerings of Athletic Activities	
	5 Parent Commitment	
	6 Student-Athlete Commitment	
	7 Behavior and Sportsmanship Expectations of All Persons	
Section Two:	<u>Communication / Resolution of Conflict</u>	Page 4
Section Three:	<u>Insurance</u>	Page 5
Section Four:	<u>Requirements for Participation</u>	Page 6
	1 Physical Examination	
	2 Emergency Medical Authorization	
	3 Parental Acknowledgement of Athletic Policies	
	4 Participation Fee	
	5 MHSAA Eligibility	
	6 Local Scholastic Eligibility	
	7 Risk of Participation	
Section Five:	<u>Athletic Department Procedures and Rules</u>	Page 8
	1 Dual Participation	
	2 Dropping or Transferring Sports	
	3 Equipment	
	4 Season Defined	
	5 Travel	
	6 College Recruitment Policy	
	7 Conflicts with Other Than Athletic Co-Curricular Activities	
	8 School Attendance	
	9 Grooming and Dress	
	10 Vacations	
	11 Team Selection	
	12 Reporting an Injury	
	13 Locker Room Regulations	
	14 Weight Room Regulations	
	15 Athletic Awards	
	16 Athletic Code of Conduct	

Mattawan High School Belief Statement
 Every child has a right to intellectual challenge. Every child has a right to be connected.
Mattawan High School Mission Statement
 Mattawan High School will provide a safe and academically rigorous school that produces competent, confident and compassionate learners.
Mattawan High School Vision Statement
 Mattawan High School will be a learning community in which every individual is valued, engaged and successful.

Section One: General Information

1. **Philosophy.** The Board of Education recognizes the value to the District and the community of a program of interscholastic athletics. The primary purpose of the athletic program is to enhance the comprehensive education of students. The Board places top priority on student participation and the values of good sportsmanship, team play, and fair competition.

The program should provide students the opportunity to exercise and test their athletic abilities in a context greater and more varied than that which can be offered by a school or the school district alone. Game activities and practice sessions should provide many opportunities to teach the values of competition and good sportsmanship.

2. **Statement of Non-Discrimination.** The Mattawan Board of Education does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin or ancestry, sex, age, disability, height, weight, marital status or any other legally protected characteristic in its programs and activities, including employment opportunities.

Please contact the Director of Compliance, 56720 Murray Street, Mattawan, Michigan 49071, (269) 668-3361, with inquiries regarding non-discrimination policies.

3. **Governances.** The Board of Education is the ruling agency for athletic activities at Mattawan High School.

Mattawan Consolidated School is a voluntary member of the Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA). The MHSAA provides rules and regulations that ensure equity in competition for student athletes in a balance with other educational programs.

Mattawan High School is also a voluntary member of the Southwestern Michigan Athletic Conference (SMAC). The value of membership in the SMAC is the arranging of schedules, equalizing of competition, conducting of league meets, declaring division or league champions and generally promoting quality programs of and for member schools through the establishment of conference standards and goals.

4. **Offerings of Athletic Activities.** Mattawan High School provides interscholastic athletic opportunities for both men and women in the following sports:

WOMEN	
Basketball	Soccer
Competitive Cheer	Softball
Cross Country	Swimming
Downhill Ski	Tennis
Golf	Track & Field
Lacrosse *	Volleyball
Sideline Cheer	

MEN	
Baseball	Lacrosse *
Basketball	Soccer
Cross Country	Swimming
Downhill Ski	Tennis
Football	Track & Field
Golf	Wrestling
Hockey *	

* The sports with an asterisk require a fee beyond typical expenses associated with sports that are not noted by an asterisk.

5. **Parent Commitment.** Information contained in this document is presented to you as your son and/or daughter has indicated a desire to participate in interscholastic athletics. Your interest in this phase of school life is encouraged.

It can be very difficult to be a parent of a student athlete. There may be times of frustration for both your child and you as a parent. Frustrations could be caused by a variety of reasons ranging from injury, coaching decisions or unmet expectations.

If you wish to speak with a coach about a concern, please use established lines of communication outlined in Section Two of this document. By doing so, the likelihood of a resolution of concerns in a positive manner is enhanced.

A student who elects to participate in athletics is voluntarily making a choice that requires self-discipline. Good conduct and training habits are necessary. Failure to comply with the expectations outlined regarding behavior in the Mattawan High School Student Handbook, the Mattawan High School Athletic Handbook, and other related documents will result in progressive disciplinary procedures. We recommend that parents and students spend time reading and discussing the information presented in this and related documents.

6. **Student-Athlete Commitment.** Being a member of a Mattawan High School athletic team carries with it certain traditions and responsibilities.

Responsibilities to Yourself

It is important that you progressively mature and develop positive strength of character. You owe it to yourself to gain the greatest possible good from your high school athletic experiences within the guidelines of the team and school. Your academic studies and your participation in other student activities as well as in sports help prepare you for your life as an adult.

Responsibilities to Your School and Community

Mattawan High School can only maintain its position of being an outstanding school if you participate to the maximum of your ability. By doing so, you contribute to the reputation of your school in a constructive way.

You assume a leadership role when you are on an athletic team. The student body and citizens of our school district and other school districts judge our school partially by your conduct, attitude and athletic ability, both on and off the competition venue. Because of this leadership role, you can contribute greatly to school spirit and community pride.

Responsibilities to Others

When you join a team, you bear a heavy responsibility to your fellow team members and coaches. When you have lived up to all the training rules, when you have practiced to the best of your ability every day, when you have played with focus and intensity, you can increase your self-respect as a result of your contribution to the team. You can be justly proud when younger students follow your positive example. Don't let them down. Be a good role model.

Over the years, there have been many successes in Mattawan athletics. Our teams have achieved many league and tournament championships. Individuals have set records and won all-state and all-conference honors. We have also received many awards for our sportsmanship. Such tradition is worthy of the best efforts of all concerned. We desire to win, but only with honor to our athletes, our school and our community.

We wish you great success as you participate in high school athletics!

7. **Behavior and Sportsmanship Expectations of All Persons.** It is the expectation of Mattawan Consolidated School that participants and spectators exhibit appropriate decorum. Positive support of individual players and the team is encouraged. Negative behavior that detracts from the positive experience athletics can provide is not acceptable.

Participants and spectators exhibiting disruptive and/or negative behavior may be removed from the premises by school personnel or police. Persons exhibiting repeated negative behavior may be restricted from further attendance at school events.

**PLEASE REFER TO THE HIGH SCHOOL HANDBOOK
FOR ADDITIONAL DETAILS**

Section Two: *Communication / Resolution of Conflict*

It is the goal of Mattawan Consolidated School to encourage and promote effective communication among all persons. Coaches are expected to hold pre-season meetings with players and parents to outline procedures and expectations for participating on the team.

During activities such as athletics, there are times when emotions run high. It is essential that communication occurs at appropriate times and is measured in tone. The following expectations regarding communication will help enhance appropriate communication.

- A. It is essential that coaches know of significant events in the life of a student that may affect participation in practice, games and other activities. Parents are requested to communicate such situations to the coach. Please make a contact at school by leaving a message or requesting to talk with the coach personally. A return contact will be made when appropriate.
- B. It is equally important that the coach keep parents informed of significant events that may happen within the activities of the program. If the student has experienced an especially frustrating situation or has a significant accomplishment, it is expected the coach will communicate with parents so that parents may have information and perspective.
- C. It is the expressed policy of Mattawan Consolidated School that coaches are not to be confronted in a negative manner by parents or players before, during or after a contest or practice.
- D. Parents and players should use the following procedures if concerns arise regarding a possible coach/player/parent conflict.
 1. The student and/or parent should contact the coach to discuss the situation.
 2. If the student and/or parent do not feel satisfied, they should contact the Director of Student Activities.
 3. If there is not resolution to the concern of the player and/or parent after talking with the Director of Student Activities, the player and/or parent may request that the Director of Student Activities convene the Athletic Review Committee for further review.

4. An Athletic Review Committee is established to review conflict situations between coaches/students/parents when an impasse appears to have developed for issues relating to a coach's decision. The Athletic Review Committee is not designed for, and will not be convened for, issues relating to High School Student Handbook and/or Student Athletic Handbook disciplinary rules and/or actions/decisions.

The committee membership will consist of three coaches appointed by the Director of Student Activities from an off-season sport and one parent appointed by the Director of Student Activities and the Director of Student Activities (ex-officio).

Procedures for the Athletic Review Committee are as follows:

- a. After consideration of a request from a parent or student, the Director of Student Activities, acting as chairperson, may convene the Athletic Review Committee.
- b. If the Athletic Review Committee is convened by the Director of Student Activities, the coach or coaches of the team on which the student athlete participated shall provide a written synopsis of events along with other thoughts and perspective regarding the grievance of the parent/student.
- c. The parent and/or student shall also be requested to provide a written statement of concerns to the Athletic Review Committee.
- d. The Athletic Review Committee shall review the written information from the grievant and coach/coaches.
- e. The Athletic Review Committee may decide to meet with the grievant or coach/coaches if the Athletic Review Committee deems it necessary.
- f. The Athletic Review Committee shall provide insight, perspective and assessment for the consideration of the Director of Student Activities.
- g. The Director of Student Activities shall consider information from the committee and other sources and make a final decision.

Section Three: Insurance

The Mattawan Board of Education provides blanket accident insurance for all students participating in school-sponsored activities. The coverage provides excess (secondary) payments to pay only for costs unpaid by the student's family (primary) medical insurance. Should there be no family medical insurance in effect at the time of an accident, or if for any reason no benefits are paid by the family insurance, the student accident insurance is available except that a deductible may apply.

Claims arising from normal school-day activities as well as extra-curricular events and participation in athletics are treated alike. As with any insurance policy, the policy has some terms and conditions that may affect coverage. One such condition relates to members of an HMO. Persons with an injury must be seen first by the HMO physician before being referred to a specialist. Bypassing the HMO can invalidate coverage.

Another condition restricts coverage to costs incurred for treatment within one year from date of injury. Should you wish to review the school's policy, a copy is available through the Director of Finance, Operations and Human Resources.

Should an accident occur, all bills must first be submitted to the student's family medical insurance carrier. After the student's family medical insurance carrier pays all allowable benefits, a student accident insurance claim form may be obtained from the building principal's office. This form needs to be completed, signed and forwarded to the claims department of First Agency, Inc. along with itemized statements showing all charges incurred and benefits paid by family medical insurance. The First Agency, Inc. will then consider the claim balances and disburse payments for appropriate benefits per policy provisions.

The school's student accident insurance program provides \$1,000,000 of secondary coverage to all students on a blanket basis, whether family medical insurance is in force or not. Because of this blanket aspect of the coverage, the coverage cannot be waived or rejected by any students. Those students who choose to participate in athletics, however, are required to pay a fee once a year to help defray a portion of the program's total cost.

Section Four: Requirements for Participation

1. **Physical Examination.** A yearly physical examination is required. A physical form must be completed by a physician and submitted to the Office of Student Activities prior to participation.

There is an opportunity for students to receive a physical examination at school, usually in June, at a nominal fee. If passed, a physical covers all sports for the entire school year provided the examination occurred after April 15 of the preceding school year. A copy of the completed form is kept in the Office of Student Activities. Athletes should watch for information regarding physicals during the spring.
2. **Emergency Medical Authorization.** Each athlete's parents/guardians are required to complete a form that grants permission for the school to initiate treatment by a physician or hospital when the parent/guardian is not available.
3. **Parental Acknowledgement of Athletic Policies.** Upon entering high school or at the time a student tries out for an athletic team, she/he will be presented with a handbook containing all necessary forms and information for participating in athletics. Additional copies may be secured in the Office of Student Activities and online. A parent or guardian must read all the material and certify they understand and accept the athletic eligibility rules and policies of the school district. The Director of Student Activities keeps this signed document on file. In order to participate in athletics, a valid parent acknowledgement must be on file.
4. **Participation Fee.** The school district assesses a minimal one-time-per-school year participation fee, established annually, that helps cover costs of insurance, an athletic trainer and basic medical supplies.
5. **MHSAA Eligibility.** To be eligible for interscholastic competition, an athlete must comply with the following MHSAA rules:
 - A. **Enrollment.** Must have been enrolled in a high school by Monday of the fourth week of the present semester.
 - B. **Age.** Must be under nineteen (19) years of age at a time of contest unless the nineteenth birthday occurs on or after September 1 of a current school year, in which case student is eligible for balance of that school year in all sports.

- C. **Physical Examinations.** Must have passed a current year physical examination. Record must be on file in school office.
- D. **Seasons of Competition.** Have not more than four (4) first semester and four (4) second semester seasons of competition in a sport while attending a four (4) year high school, including present season. When a student participates on two teams during one season that lead to a possible state championship, an athlete may participate in only one (1) sport for championship purposes.
- E. **Semesters of Enrollment.** Must not have been enrolled for more than eight (8) semesters in grades nine to twelve (9-12), inclusive. Seventh and eighth semesters must be consecutive. Three weeks enrollment or participation in one (1) or more athletic contests constitutes a semester enrollment.
- F. **Undergraduate Standing.** To be eligible to participate in MHSAA athletic events, a student must not be a high school graduate.
- G. **Previous Semester Record.** Have passed four out of six classes during the previous semester of enrollment. First semester ninth grade students are eligible to participate during the first semester of high school. Transfer students are academically eligible the first semester they attend Mattawan High School if the student passed four out of six classes at their previous school. This requirement is different than the local Mattawan requirement. (See #6 below for more information.)
- H. **Current Semester Record.** Be carrying and doing passing work in at least four out of six classes during present semester up to within seven (7) days of contest. Mattawan High School requires passing five (5) classes out of six (6) on a weekly basis. (See #6 below for more information.)
- I. **Transfers.** Generally, the student must have had an accompanying change of residence by the athlete's parent, guardian or other persons whom the athlete has been living during the period of her/his last high school enrollment, into the district or service area of the school, to be eligible during the first semester in attendance. Please see the Director of Student Activities for further information.
- J. **Awards.** Must not have accepted any award or merchandise exceeding \$25.00 in value for athletic performance. Athletes accepting memberships, privileges, services, negotiable certificates or money are in violation and may receive sanctions.
- K. **Amateur Practice.** Not have accepted money, merchandise, memberships, privileges, services or other valuable consideration for participation in any form of athletics, sports or games or for officiating interscholastic athletic contests, or have signed a professional contract. Reinstatement will not be considered for one (1) year.
- L. **Limited Team Membership.** Not have participated in any outside competition in a sport during the season after the athlete has represented his or her school in that sport except individual participation in a maximum of two individual sports meets or contests; not have participated in a so-called all-star, charity, exhibition or national event.

- 6. **Local Scholastic Eligibility.** Mattawan High School has local requirements in addition to MHSAA. In order to participate on a Mattawan High School athletic team, each athlete must have passed at least four classes the semester prior to participation. This requirement does not apply to the first semester of the ninth grade. Once a student is enrolled at Mattawan High School, they are required to show current passing grades in five of six classes on a weekly basis during a season in order to continue participation in contests.

The weekly assessment of eligibility occurs on Friday. Eligibility shall be determined by computing the grade of the class including all work to date. Although eligibility will be computed and available for coaches to address academic concerns with students, students are provided an initial grace period and will not be ineligible for participation until after the fourth week of at least four scheduled full days of instruction per week. If the student-athlete is not passing five classes on a Friday, they will be declared ineligible to participate in competition during the next Monday through Saturday. If the ineligibility would begin on a day during a vacation period, the ineligibility shall be enforced during the next scheduled week of school.

- 7. **Risk of Participation.** Athletes and parents must acknowledge and accept that there is a risk of serious injury as a result of athletic participation by signing the appropriate parent consent form supplied by Mattawan Consolidated School.

Section Five: Athletic Department Procedures and Rules

- 1. **Dual Participation.** An athlete may typically participate in only one sport per season. An athlete that wishes to compete in more than one sport during the same season must receive permission in writing from the Director of Student Activities with concurrence of the coaches involved.
- 2. **Dropping or Transferring Sports.** Once an athlete has begun a season, the athlete is expected to remain a member of the team for the entire season. On occasion, however, an athlete may find it necessary to drop a sport for a unique reason. Quitting a team is a serious decision.

If an athlete wants to leave a team, the following procedure must be followed:

- A. Consult with coach.
- B. Conference may be held with the Director of Student Activities after a meeting with the coach.
- C. All equipment must be returned in acceptable condition.

It is the expressed intent of Mattawan Consolidated School that athletes remain committed to the athletic team they join for the entire season. Therefore, athletes will not be allowed to change sports once they join a team. Only under extreme circumstances will a deviation from this intent be considered.

During possible consideration, the coaches and Director of Student Activities would need to be convinced a change or quitting would be in the collective best interest of the team and individual needs.

Athletes that have dropped a sport may not participate in pre-season conditioning for another sport without the prior approval of the Director of Student Activities.

3. **Equipment.** Athletes are responsible for the proper care and security of uniforms and equipment issued to them. School furnished uniforms and equipment may only be used for practice or contests unless expressly approved by the coach as approved by the Director of Student Activities to be used at another time. The athlete has a financial obligation for any loss or damage of equipment. All financial obligations for school equipment must be fully paid to the school before the athlete may begin another sport.

Any personalized equipment/uniform parts (shooting shirts, sweatshirts, warm-ups, etc.) that team members purchase to keep after the season must be paid in full prior to the personalized equipment/uniforms being ordered.

4. **Season Defined.** A season in an interscholastic sport at Mattawan Consolidated School is defined as the time between the first official day of practice as recognized by MHSAA for the sport and the end of the scheduled season, post-season competition, or sports award banquet, whichever comes last.
5. **Travel.** All athletes must travel to and from away athletic contests in transportation provided by the school. Exceptions may occur, as follows:
- A. With the coach's knowledge and approval, an athlete may accompany her/his own parent/guardian home after the contest after signing an appropriate written document.
 - B. The parent/guardian of an athlete may request, in writing, prior to a contest that her/his child be allowed, with the Director of Student Activities knowledge and approval, to transport themselves, or accompany a parent of another athlete from the team after a contest using private transportation.
 - C. Administrator discretion for unexpected situations.
6. **College Recruitment Policy.** College recruitment information is available from the Director of Student Activities. Athletes considering playing at the collegiate level should confer with the Director of Student Activities before a college contact occurs. In the event a college recruiter contacts an athlete personally, she/he has an obligation to notify the coach and the Director of Student Activities immediately to help assure knowledge of the specific and important rules and regulations regarding recruitment.
7. **Conflicts With Other Than Athletic Student Activities.** A student who attempts to participate in several school sponsored student activities may be in a position of conflict between two obligations. Mattawan High School recognizes that each student should have the opportunity for a broad range of experiences in school sponsored student activities, and to this end, will attempt to schedule events in a manner to minimize conflicts.

Students have a responsibility to do everything they can to avoid conflict. This includes being cautious about belonging to too many activities. The student must talk to the coach and the other activity sponsor prior to becoming involved in more than one activity.

If a conflict arises, the student must bring it to the attention of the coach and sponsor in a timely manner. The sponsor and coach will attempt to work out a solution so the student does not feel caught in the middle. If a solution cannot be found through that process, the Director of Student Activities will make a final decision based on the following criteria:

- A. The relative importance of each event.
- B. The relative contribution the student can make to the activity.
- C. The importance of each event to the student.
- D. The importance of each event to the school program.
- E. How long each event has been scheduled.
- F. Conversation with parents.

Once a decision has been made and the student has abided by that decision, the student shall not be penalized in any way by a school employee. If it becomes obvious that a student cannot fulfill the obligation of a school activity on an ongoing basis, she/he should consider the effect of multiple commitments and possibly discuss withdrawal from an activity with the Director of Student Activities.

8. **School Attendance.** To be eligible to compete in an athletic contest or practice, the athlete must be in attendance at every class during the day of the contest or practice, except as excused by the principal, Director of Student Activities or designee. Students absent from school on Friday when a contest occurs on Saturday will be eligible to participate provided the absence has been approved by the Director of Student Activities, principal or designee.
9. **Grooming and Dress.** A member of an athletic team is expected to be well-groomed. Once a person becomes a member of a team, they must uphold standards expected of athletes determined by the school.
- The following grooming and dress rules will be expected of all team members.
- A. An athlete shall dress according to team policy as determined by the coach while representing the school on trips or at other events.
 - B. Only uniforms issued by the school will be permitted to be worn for contests.
10. **Vacations.** Vacations of athletic team members during a sport season are discouraged. Parents and athletes are encouraged to schedule vacations and family trips at times other than during the season. Absences for vacations while school is in session will typically not be excused. Absences for vacations during scheduled school vacations at Thanksgiving, winter break and spring break will be excused. Due to the need for conditioning, the period of time sanctioned by MHSAA for practice during August prior to the start of school is not considered a scheduled school vacation. Prior to participation in a contest, the student must have met conditioning and team commitment requirements.

For the purpose of school athletics, school vacations will be determined to begin after practice or contest on the last day of school preceding a scheduled vacation. Vacations will be determined to end at the beginning of the first school day following scheduled school vacations.

Depending on the length of the absence from participation and/or practice due to an emergency, vacation, or injury, an athlete may be required to do conditioning prior to resuming full participation.

11. **Team Selection.** Coaches are responsible for selecting participants for the teams. Coaches are encouraged to keep as many students as possible while maintaining the integrity of their coach/player relationship.

Students must be present and participate in tryouts to be eligible for joining a team. Exceptions to this requirement for such things as emergencies and conflicting activities will be considered on a case-by-case basis by the Director of Student Activities. Prior to trying out, the coach shall provide the following information to all candidates for the team:

- A. Extent of the try-out period.
- B. Criteria used to select a team.
- C. The expected practice commitment if a student makes the team.
- D. Game commitments if the student makes the team.

Coaches are encouraged to be sensitive to students' needs when cuts are necessary. Coaches may discuss alternative possibilities for participation in a sport or other areas in the co-curricular program that may be available to students that are cut.

12. **Reporting an Injury.** All injuries that occur while participating in athletics must be reported to the coach. If the injury requires medical attention by a doctor, it will be necessary to have an injury report form completed. If athletes are treated by a physician, the athlete must obtain the doctor's permission to return to the activity.
13. **Locker Room Regulations.** Students are not permitted in the locker room unless she/he is under the supervision of a coach. The following regulations have been established to ensure the safety of all participants.
- A. Roughhousing and throwing towels and other objects is prohibited.
 - B. Hazing of other players is prohibited.
 - C. All showers must be turned off when showers are complete.
 - D. No one except coaches and assigned players are allowed in the locker room.
 - E. No glass containers are permitted in the locker rooms.
 - F. All spiked or cleated shoes must be put on and taken off outside of the building.
 - G. No metal or hard plastic spikes are ever allowed in any part of the school building.
 - H. Cameras of any type may not be used in restrooms or locker rooms.

14. **Weight Room Regulations**

- A. Any student who uses the weight room must have a signed parental permission and release to participate in athletics on file with the Director of Student Activities unless the room is being used during the school day for a physical education class.
- B. No one may use the weight room alone.
- C. All students must be under the supervision of a coach or instructor while using the room.
- D. Shirt and shoes that cover the feet are required at all times.
- E. No food or drinks except water are allowed inside the weight room.
- F. No horseplay or fooling around is allowed.
- G. Know your limits! Work with an instructor or coach in determining limits.
- H. Warm up with proper stretching exercises.
- I. Work with a partner when lifting heavy weights.
- J. Do the lifts correctly. It is better to use lighter weights for correct lifting than heavier weights and increase the risk of injury.
- K. Equipment must be used correctly. If there is any equipment that is broken, it must be reported immediately.
- L. All weights must be replaced on the racks immediately following use.
- M. Malicious destruction of equipment is prohibited. Appropriate charges will be made for abuse of equipment.

15. **Athletic Awards.** The school, as special recognition of athletic performance, gives various athletic awards. Coaches will inform athletes at the start of the season about qualifications for receiving varsity letters and other honors.

At the end of each season, a recognition program is held to honor the athletes that have participated during that season. Although the format may change somewhat between individual seasons and athletic activity, the following trophy awards are typically given to athletes competing on varsity teams:

- A. Most Valuable Player
- B. Most Improved Player
- C. Coach's Award

Teams other than varsity teams will receive a certificate of merit as a symbol of their accomplishment for participation.

16. **Athletic Code of Conduct.** Athletes in an interscholastic program represent both themselves and the school district. An athlete's conduct shall bring credit to the athlete, parents, team, school and community. This supplemental Athletic Code of Conduct contained in this document is superseded by the Mattawan High School Student Handbook. This section provides additional reference regarding some unique information related to athletes.

- A. Commitment. Athletes participating in interscholastic athletics at Mattawan Consolidated School must pledge, with the concurrent support of their parent/guardian, to abide by all conditions of the Athletic Code of Conduct prior to participation by completing the form provided by the school.
- B. Team Rules Developed by Coaches. Coaches may establish reasonable rules and regulations for their respective sports subject to the approval of the Director of Student Activities prior to distribution of the rules to players by the coach. Written copies of the rules developed by coaches must be on file with the Director of Student Activities.
- Rules, after approval by the Director of Student Activities, must be given by the coach, in writing, to all team members and fully explained at the start of the season.
- C. General Unacceptable Behavior. Unacceptable behavior based on attitude, emotion, anger or frustration will be addressed by the coach or administrative personnel using established procedures in the Mattawan High School Handbook. Unacceptable behavior can be, among other infractions, theft, vandalism, a demonstration of a negative attitude in word or deed short of fighting, closely following an opposing player during a disturbance or making a taunting gesture or sound toward a team member, coach, opponent, official or spectators.
- D. Fighting. Fighting is an unacceptable response to frustration, difference of opinion and/or conflict of another type during any student activity. In athletics, it is expected that referees/officials will take initial appropriate action. However, if a contest official does not see or make a call that is considered fighting per the Mattawan High School Handbook or High School Athletic Handbook, school administrators will administer disciplinary conditions for fighting as defined in the Mattawan High School Handbook. Athletes and parents should realize that if fighting occurs, the result will be a suspension from school as well as other athletic program consequences.
- E. Tobacco Products. Athletes are not to use tobacco products in any form.
- F. Prohibited Substances. Athletes may not be in possession of, use, or be under the influence of any form of alcohol or any mind or body altering substance to include over-the-counter performance enhancement products not prescribed by a physician.
- G. Felony. Athletes are not to commit an act that would constitute a felony offense. Non-compliance shall be determined at the time reasonable determination of guilt for school-related purposes has been established.
- H. Suspension from School. If a student-athlete is suspended out of school, the athlete may not participate in a contest or practice during the period of the out of school suspension. The suspension period will end at midnight of the last day of suspension. Students assigned to in-school restriction may participate in practices and/or contests unless otherwise directed by an administrator.

- I. Conditions for Non-Compliance. Following are some conditions that may affect the consequences for non-compliance:
1. Consequences for non-compliance shall begin at the conclusion of a conference between the athlete and coach and/or the Director of Student Activities/designee in which it is determined consequences shall be assigned.
 2. Consequences for non-compliance shall be cumulative by category (i.e. fighting, tobacco, etc.) during the entire time the athlete attends high school.
- J. Administration of Non-Compliance.
1. Non-compliance with the Athletic Code of Conduct. Possible infractions will be assessed by the Director of Student Activities based on information supplied from one or more of the following sources.
 - a. The athlete reporting the non-compliance personally.
 - b. A report from the athlete's parent/guardian of non-compliance, unless the student has declared Age of Majority status according to established procedures prior to the non-compliance.
 - c. Reported observance of non-compliance by a school employee.
 - d. Non-compliance as determined by information confirmed through a public agency.

It is deemed a responsible behavior if a student athlete seeks out the Director of Student Activities to report an infraction of a rule/rules on her/his own part before it is reported through another source. Such behavior will be considered noteworthy evidence that the student athlete understands the need to demonstrate integrity while striving to earn back trust that likely was tarnished due to the behavior that caused a non-compliance consequence to be administered (see Section 3 below).
 2. Listing of Levels of Consequences for Non-Compliance of Athletic Code of Conduct based on regularly scheduled non-tournament contest dates. Consequences for non-compliance of the Athletic Code of Conduct are as follows:
 - a. **LEVEL AH 1**. Suspension from full participation, on a case by case basis, as determined by the coach with the concurrence of the Director of Student Activities. Maximum consequence typically up to one contest day.*
 - b. **LEVEL AH 2**. Minimum suspension from athletic contest days typically is as follows:
 1. If season of a sport has between one and ten contest days, the student athlete shall be suspended for one contest day.
 2. If a season of a sport has eleven or more contest days, the student athlete shall be suspended for two contest days.

- c. **LEVEL AH 3.** Minimum suspension from athletic contest days typically is as follows:
1. If season of a sport has between one and ten contest days, the student athlete shall be suspended for five contest days.
 2. If a season of a sport has eleven or more contest days, the student athlete shall be suspended for ten contest days.

d. **LEVEL AH 4.** The Director of Student of Activities shall decide whether there are conditions that warrant consideration of a unique plan that has stronger consequences than LEVEL AH 3 but less than LEVEL AH 5. The student athlete shall show cause, on a case by case basis, why the student athlete shall not be suspended from further athletic participation during the student athlete's high school years.

e. **LEVEL AH 5.** Student athlete shall be prohibited from participation from athletics during the student's high school years.

* An "athletic contest date" is defined as a day when one or multiple contests occur on one date.

3. **Additional Conditions Regarding Consequences.** Reinstatement to full athletic contest participation, as determined by the Director of Student Activities, will depend on the following conditions:
- a. Successful meetings with school intervention personnel, coach, school administrators and other counseling opportunities that help demonstrate the understanding of the severity of the infraction by the student athlete.
 - b. A convincing commitment by the student athlete to refrain from such behavior in the future that caused the consequence to occur.
 - c. Demonstrated positive attitudes and demeanor by the student athlete in athletic practices and other school activities during the period of suspension.
 - d. Past behavior of the student athlete that may provide perspective regarding the likelihood of positive behavior change on the part of the student athlete.
 - e. Acceptance of a probationary status with the understanding by the student athlete that future participation in athletics will depend on how well the student athlete maintains appropriate decorum during the school day and other activities, as well as conditions of the Mattawan High School Athletic Handbook, High School Handbook and related school documents.

4. **Charts for Levels of Consequences by Category for Non-Compliance of the Athletic Code of Conduct.**

**Athletic Consequences Related to General Unacceptable Behavior (16 C)
in Addition to Mattawan High School Handbook**

<i>First Offense</i>	LEVEL AH 1
<i>Second Offense</i>	LEVEL AH 2
<i>Third Offense</i>	LEVEL AH 3

**Athletic Consequences Related to Fighting (16 D)
in Addition to Mattawan High School Handbook**

<i>First Offense</i>	LEVEL AH 2
<i>Second Offense</i>	LEVEL AH 3
<i>Third Offense</i>	LEVEL AH 4

**Athletic Consequences Related to Tobacco Products (16 E)
in Addition to Mattawan High School Handbook**

<i>First Offense</i>	LEVEL AH 2
<i>Second Offense</i>	LEVEL AH 3
<i>Third Offense</i>	LEVEL AH 4

**Athletic Consequences Related to Alcohol, Mind or Body Altering
Substance Not Prescribed by a Physician (16 F)
in Addition to Mattawan High School Handbook**

<i>First Offense</i>	LEVEL AH 3
<i>Second Offense</i>	LEVEL AH 4
<i>Third Offense</i>	LEVEL AH 5

**Athletic Consequences Related to an Act
that would Constitute a Felony (16 G)
in Addition to Mattawan High School Handbook**

<i>First Offense</i>	LEVEL AH 4
<i>Second Offense</i>	LEVEL AH 5

Elastic Clause. In the event the Mattawan High School Student Handbook, the Athletic Handbook or other school policies or procedures do not clearly address unique situations that may arise, the administration and/or the Board of Education reserve the right to administer such rules, conditions, and consequences deemed necessary to respond to the unanticipated unique circumstances.

Let's compete to the best of our ability . . . winning or losing with class . . . always showing pride and positive attitude. Good Sports are Winners!

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Mattawan, Michigan 49071
269-668-3361

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