

553 INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC POLICY

I. STATEMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

The McGregor high school interscholastic athletic program exists for the benefit of students. Through participation in the program, students will have the opportunity to develop proper attitudes of cooperation, teamwork, citizenship, loyalty and sportsmanship while learning the skills involved in a particular sport.

II. SELECTION OF MEMBER OF ATHLETIC TEAMS

Members of various athletic teams will be selected from those who try out on the basis of skills, abilities, and attitudes. This decision will be made by the appropriate coach or coaches. Playing time is a decision that rests solely with coach(es) who are responsible for that team.

III. INDIVIDUAL PARTICIPATION VERSUS WINNING GAMES

The persistent question as to which is more important, to win games or to provide equal playing time to all team members, is one that must be addressed many times each season by every coach. Athletics are by nature competitive, and the objective is to win the games. It is necessary to be competitive with Conference and District schools in order to sustain interest in the sport. In order to win, it is most likely that the better players will play more than those who are less skilled. As it is important for a team to win modestly and to lose with dignity, it is also important for each individual player to be able to graciously accept his/her position on the team.

Winning at the varsity level is very important and must be stressed. As the age of the participants decreases, so will the emphasis on winning. Junior high programs must stress participation and the acquisition of skills needed as varsity and "B" team players, remembering however, that a winning attitude is built by winning contests.

In the end, the true meaning and essence of teamwork must prevail; that is, the needs and desires of the individual must be subordinated to the needs and desires of the team. In other words, individuals must often pass up opportunities to bring fame and glory to themselves in order to bring success to the team.

IV. COMMUNICATION WITH THE ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT

The chain of command in the Athletic Department is from Coach to Athletic Director, to Principal, to Superintendent, to Board of Education. Individuals with concerns or complaints about a program are asked to set up a meeting with the coach first. The night of a ball game is not a good time to expect a coach to adequately respond to a concern or complaint. If the concern is not satisfied by the coach, please call the Athletic Director during regular school hours to arrange for a time for a conference.

V. SPORTSMANSHIP

We expect coaches and players to treat each other with mutual respect and we expect parents and fans to treat coaches, players and game officials with common courtesy and respect. Anything less is contrary to the reasons for having the program in the first place.

VI. REQUIREMENTS FOR INDIVIDUAL SPORTS

Coaches will formulate rules and regulations for each sport and these will be given to all players and their parents at the beginning of each season.

VII. LETTERS AND AWARDS

Athletic letters are awarded after each season to students who meet the requirements set forth by the varsity coach at the beginning of the season. These requirements shall be kept on file by the Athletic Director. Students receive the letter award the first year. Pins and/or chevrons are awarded for each succeeding year.