



Morenci Bulldogs Middle and High School Athletic Handbook

for parents, students, and coaches

Morenci Athletics Mission Statement

Morenci Area Schools will create athletic programs to assist students in reaching their potential as individuals and as team members. Athletic activities are an important part of the school experience but are secondary to the academic program. Participation in athletic activities is a privilege, not a right.

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The purpose of this handbook is to inform students and parents/guardians about the operating procedures of our athletic programs. It is the purpose of Morenci Area Schools to provide and promote interscholastic athletic activities for the students of Morenci.

The Athletic Department is responsible to the Morenci Board of Education or Superintendent and abides by the rules of the Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA). Morenci is also a voluntary member of the Tri-County Conference (TCC) and the Tri-River 8 Football Conference and agrees to follow the by-laws of both conferences. The Athletic Department offers a wide variety of activities for the students of Morenci. Through their involvement with athletics, students are given the opportunity to develop many life skills that will serve them well into their adult lives. Lessons such as teamwork, goal setting, commitment, citizenship, and sportsmanship are among those learned by being part of a team.

In order to have an effective program, certain policies and procedures have been established. The majority of those policies are covered in this handbook; it is not intended to cover every situation that may arise during a practice, competition, event, or season. Administration may make decisions and rule revisions to assure the well-being of all students. The administration is responsible for interpreting the rules contained in this handbook. If a situation arises that is not specifically covered in this handbook, the administration will make a decision based on the applicable school district policies as well as state and federal statutes and regulations.

ATHLETIC PASSES & ADMISSION

Admission fees are charged at most athletic events at Morenci Middle and High School. These fees are used to help cover a variety of costs the Athletic Department incurs to offer athletic programs. Your money gives the students of Morenci the opportunity to compete in extracurricular programs they truly enjoy. Thank you for your support of our athletic programs.

General Admission

Admission at all regular season events can be purchased via cash. Some special events (e.g., tournaments) may have a different rate for admission. The MHSAA governs pricing for all post-season events.

High School & Middle School Events

- Adults = \$5
- Senior Citizens (age 62 and older) = \$5
- Morenci Area Schools Students (with school identification) = \$1
- All kids 5 years and under = Free

Yearly Passes

Yearly passes are valid at all home sporting events in the middle and high school for a particular school year. Passes are available for purchase in the High School Athletic Office. Passes are

not accepted at some special events (e.g., tournaments) or at any MHSAA post-season event that Morenci hosts.

Pass Types

- Family = \$150/family; includes all members of the immediate household
- Adult = \$60/person
- Senior Citizen = \$10; age 62 and older
- Student = \$20; includes all Morenci Area Schools students
- Staff = no cost; the staff ID card will serve as the staff athletic pass for all District employees. Passes are good for all home events at Morenci facilities to assist with supervision of students and/or provide assistance with game management.

Please note: You must show your pass to be admitted to events.

CODES OF CONDUCT

Students are held to the athletic code of conduct from the first day of involvement in athletic activities in middle school through the completion of the last activity in high school. These codes will be upheld in and out of season, during vacations, and throughout the summer during the student's athletic career. Failure to comply with the athletic code of conduct, the student handbook, or a coach's rule may result in suspension or removal from a team or activity.

Athlete Code of Conduct

Students participating in athletics at all levels should abide by the following:

- A. Accept activity participation as another means to improve educational opportunities.
- B. Develop your skill to the best of your ability.
- C. Accept extracurricular participation as a way to better understand other people's value systems.
- D. Achieve a thorough knowledge of your activity.
- E. Strive for excellence in your activity by maintaining proper training and conditioning habits.
- F. Establish good sleep and nutritional habits.
- G. Adopt good study habits so that you maintain an acceptable scholastic standard.
- H. Respect and protect school equipment.
- I. Keep sight of values inherent in extracurricular participation.
- J. Attend all practice sessions.
- K. Attend all classes daily and be punctual and prepared to contribute.
- L. Behave in a manner, which demonstrates high standards of good citizenship.
- M. Conduct yourself in a manner that will bring honor to yourself, your family, your school, your community, and your team.
- N. Abstain from the use of alcohol, illegal drugs, and any other substances that are illegal for minors to possess or use, including products that contain nicotine or tobacco, at all times. Remove yourself from activities where their illegal use is**

taking place. This rule applies 24 hours each day, seven days a week, 365 days a year.

Parent/Guardian Code of Conduct

Morenci Area Schools believe that extracurricular activities will contribute significantly to the overall development of your student. As with academics, parental involvement in these programs helps to ensure a quality experience for all concerned. The coaches and athletic administration encourage you to be an active participant in the following ways:

- A. Read this handbook with your student and be familiar with the policies and procedures.
- B. Promote good study habits and the importance of high academic performance.
- C. Encourage attendance in classes in addition to practice and competitions.
- D. Help your athlete develop sound nutritional and sleep habits.
- E. Enforce the fact that use of alcohol, illegal drugs, and any other substances that are illegal for minors to possess or use, including products that contain nicotine or tobacco, will result in the student's suspension or removal from a team, sport, activity, or season.
This rule applies 24 hours each day, seven days a week, 365 days a year.
- F. Demonstrate good sportsmanship toward officials, visiting teams, coaches, and fans.
- G. Support extracurricular activities by taking an active role in fundraising efforts and booster clubs.
- H. Know your athlete's schedule and assist them with transportation to and from school, practices, and competitions.
- I. Support your student by attending as many of their athletic events as possible.
- J. Keep lines of communication open by talking to coaches, advisors, and athletic administrators when questions arise and encourage your student to do the same.
- K. Use the complaint procedure outlined in this handbook to address all questions and concerns with regard to athletic participation.

Coach Code of Conduct

The coach is the official representative of the school at interscholastic athletic events. In this important capacity, the coach will adhere to the following standards:

- A. Develop an understanding of the role of interscholastic athletics and communicate it to players, parents, and the public.
- B. Stay up to date on rules, strategies, safety precautions, and skills of the sport and communicate them to players and parents.
- C. Communicate policies for appropriate language and conduct to your athletes in all situations and be a role model for appropriate conduct.
- D. Develop fair and unprejudiced relationships with all team members.
- E. Allow athletes to prove themselves anew each season and do not base team selection on previous seasons or out-of-season activities.
- F. Encourage athletes to develop skills and interests in other athletic and non-athletic activities provided by the school and the community.
- G. Give the highest degree of attention to the athlete's physical and emotional well-being.

- H. Teach players respect for school authority and contest officials and model this conduct yourself. Provide support for them in cases of adverse decisions and refrain from making critical comments in public or to the media.
- I. Teach players strict adherence to game rules and contest regulations.
- J. Present privately, through proper school authorities, evidence of rule violations by opponents and counteract rumors of unproven allegations of questionable practices by opponents.
- K. Attend required meetings, keep up to date and enforce MHSAA regulations and rules, and be familiar with and enforce all eligibility policies.
- L. Present a clean and professional image in terms of personal appearance. Be a positive role model in terms of conduct, language and personal habits. Use of tobacco products within sight of players and parents is unacceptable. The use of alcohol or and drugs prior to a training session or competition or in the presence of athletes is unacceptable.
- M. Strive to create a positive environment in which all are treated with dignity and respect by collectively working with administrators, parents, and athletes.
- N. Individual coaches' rules must be posted and signed off by the Athletic Director before distributed at athletic meetings.

COMMUNICATION GUIDE

Morenci Area Schools value the feedback we receive from students, parents, and community members as we strive to maintain a positive educational experience for all students. Please share your questions, concerns, ideas, and praises.

- **Start with the source:** Most questions and concerns can be addressed by contacting the source. The person must wait 24 hours before discussing the incident with the person of concern.
- **If necessary, talk next with the head varsity coach of the sport.**
- **If necessary, talk next with the Athletic Director.**
- **If necessary, talk next with the Principal.**
- **If necessary, talk next with the Superintendent, or their designee.**
- **If necessary, talk next with the Board of Education.**

All complaints MUST be heard at the lowest level possible before intervention by a higher authority can occur. However, the next level arbitrator will always be willing to meet with a complainant if sub-level discussions do not accomplish their intended purpose. When stating your concern, be prepared with facts. Think through your expectations for the outcome resulting from voicing your concerns.

As you converse with the coach or other authority, repeat back what you hear them say to be sure that you understand the important points. Stay calm as you talk and listen. Perhaps take notes. Before the session ends, have a plan, which is clearly understood by all parties. Check for mutual understanding. Set a time and method of responding if necessary.

Work to help your child learn and resolve their own conflicts. When students successfully deal with difficult situations, they learn and grow. Of course, a parent/guardian always retains the right to intervene on behalf of the child.

We always assume that all parties have the best interest of the student in mind when concerns are discussed and we make every effort to assure that the student is not penalized or placed in an awkward position as a result of voicing a complaint.

DISCIPLINE

School Discipline

Any student who receives a major disciplinary office referral on the day of an interscholastic competition will not be able to dress or participate in that day's athletic contest. They may still be required to attend as a member of the bench.

Committing a Criminal Act

If a student-athlete is charged with a violation of the law such as a misdemeanor or felony (other than a minor traffic violation), discipline will be administered. The District reserves the right to separately investigate any allegations that a law or rule was violated, and independently determine whether, in the District's sole discretion, the student can continue to participate in athletics. The District may impose consequences before a student is criminally charged.

If a student-athlete's action is also a violation of the regulation in the Student Handbook or Athletic Handbook, discipline will be administered. Penalties could include suspension from competition or expulsion from the team.

Note: During an investigation by police or by the school, the student-athlete in question may be temporarily suspended by the administration from all team activities.

Substance Abuse Policy

The possession, use, distribution, or sale of any illegal drugs, substances, or drug paraphernalia will constitute a violation of the Substance Abuse Policy. This includes, but is not limited to, tobacco or tobacco products, e-cigarettes or other synthetic or similar substances containing nicotine, alcoholic beverages, including any beverage with any alcoholic content, controlled substances or other substance prohibited by law such as marijuana, illegal pills, narcotics, or look-alike drugs. Students may be asked to complete a urine drop, hair test, or take a breathalyzer test, or any other methods of testing. The test must be completed as soon as arrangements have been made by Morenci Area Schools. Refusal to submit to a test may result in disciplinary action.

Prohibit Use of Cannabidiol (CBD) per Board Policy #5624

"The Board prohibits the use or administration of any products containing Cannabidiol (commonly referred to as CBD) on District property. The Superintendent or designee will consider exceptions to this Policy."

1st Offense

Any student-athlete in violation of the Substance Abuse Policy of Morenci Area Schools will be withheld from participation in competitions for one-third ($\frac{1}{3}$) of the scheduled full season contest dates. Suspensions will begin from the date of the decision if the student is currently participating in sport. If the infraction occurs after two-third ($\frac{2}{3}$) of the current season has been completed, the suspension will carry into the next sport season in which the student participates within 365 days. If the student is not currently participating on a sports team, the $\frac{1}{3}$ violation will begin with their next sport within 365 days.

2nd Offense

Any student-athlete in violation of the Substance Abuse Policy for a second time will be withheld from participation in competitions for one (1) full season of scheduled contest dates. Suspensions will begin from the date of the decision if the student is currently participating in sport and rollover to their next if needed to complete a full season. If the infraction occurs while the student is not actively participating in sport, the suspension will take place in their next sport season in which the student participates within 365 days. The student may be required to receive an outside full drug assessment by an agency chosen by the school, within a time frame directed by the school and follow the recommendation of a medical professional. Failure to adhere to this action will result in the infraction being treated as a third offense.

3rd Offense

The Morenci Area Schools' student will lose eligibility for participation in athletics for 365 days from the date of the offense.

These offenses will be cumulative throughout the student's middle school and high school career. The District reserves the right to impose longer suspensions or additional discipline on a case-by-case basis.

Self-Referral Process

An athlete who recognizes that they have a substance abuse problem can seek assistance and avoid a penalty through a self-referral process. **Self-referral is defined as seeking assistance prior to being caught and/or charged with a violation of the substance abuse policy.**

The following steps must be taken to make a self-referral before any infractions of the Substance Abuse Policy have taken place:

- A. The athlete must meet with a school employee, such as a teacher, coach, counselor, or administrator, and inform them of their desire to get help.

- B. The parents/guardians will be notified and the athlete will be referred to the Principal who will aid the individual in meeting with appropriate licensed agency for evaluation and treatment at the expense of the parent/guardian.
- C. The athlete must keep appointments and follow the recommended course of treatment.
- D. Failure to comply with the treatment program will be treated as a first offense in the Substance Abuse Policy.
- E. Self-referral can only be used once to avoid penalty.

Athletic Suspensions

Athletic suspensions may result from discipline or training rules violations. These violations include, but are not limited to, violations of the Substance Abuse Policy, infractions as listed in the Discipline Policy and Student and Athletic Handbook, disobeying coaches' written team rules, travel and attendance infractions, or game ejections.

Training rules and penalties shall be in effect year round and will be enforced when violations are reported to a school employee or coach. This handbook applies to athletics during the off-season and student-athletes may receive suspensions for conduct occurring during the off-season.

Major training violations will result in suspension from the team. A suspension from participating in at least one practice or competition may occur for minor infractions. The length of the suspension will be determined by the severity of the infraction, from one day up to the remainder of the season. Serious or repeated violations may result in the athlete being removed from the team.

Unless the athlete is serving a coinciding school suspension, the athlete must attend all practices throughout their athletic suspension. On days of competition, the athlete must be present with the team, but remain dressed in street clothes.

In all cases where the discipline is not fully served in a particular season, the remaining time will be served in the next season in which the athlete participates. The time remaining to be served will begin the first day of competition. Tryouts and preseason practice days will not be counted toward the remaining time. An athlete must complete the next season of participation in order for the discipline to be considered served.

In some cases, the Athletic Director may impose discipline for infractions that occur before a student joins a team.

Violations may carry over from middle school to high school and from year-to-year.

Investigation of Violations

If a student-athlete is reported in violation of the rules outlined in the school handbooks, the case will be investigated by the coach, Athletic Director, Principal, and/or Dean of Students. If the circumstances of the investigation substantiate the charge, a building administrator shall do the following within 24 hours of the decision:

- A. Communicate the charges to the athlete.
- B. Inform the parent/guardian of the particulars of the case.
- C. Share necessary information with the coach.

Appeal Process

If the penalty for the violation will result in suspension or dismissal from the team, the student has the right to appeal the administrative decision. This must be done in writing, to the Superintendent, within 48 hours of being informed of the decision. The student may receive the details of the case to prepare for the hearing.

The hearing will include the student, their parents/guardians, and the Athletic Council, who may consist of the counselor, building administrator(s) and/or the Superintendent.

During the appeal process, the student will be considered suspended from the team and will not be permitted to participate in training or competition.

DUAL SPORT ATHLETES

A dual sport athlete is a student who chooses to participate in two MHSAA-sponsored sports during the same season (e.g., cross country and football).

Each season, the Athletic Director will schedule a mandatory dual sport meeting for all athletes who are interested in dual sports for that season. The Athletic Director, coaches, students, and parents/guardians will be at this meeting.

The dual sport athlete must declare both of their sports by the end of the second week of practice. To do this, they will complete and turn in the Morenci Area Schools Dual Sport Declaration Form. The student will designate a primary sport and a secondary sport. The form is to be signed by the student, their parent/guardian, both coaches, and the Athletic Director, and serves as a contract for the season.

Dual sport athletes are students first; the student's participation in athletics must not impact their academics. Dual sport students must have and maintain a cumulative GPA of 2.75 or higher to participate in a second sport during the same season. Should a student fall below a 2.75 GPA during a dual sport season (i.e., winter), they will no longer be eligible to participate on their secondary sport team.

ELIGIBILITY

To participate in athletics, students must be eligible according to MHSAA and Morenci Area School guidelines.

Morenci Academic Eligibility

Bi-Weekly Eligibility

To stay eligible and participate in athletics, students must not fail more than one class during any academic eligibility check.

Eligibility is run bi-weekly on Friday mornings throughout the school year. Ineligibility starts the following Monday and ends Sunday (one week). Morenci's academic eligibility is figured as follows:

- A. **Any grade below 70% will receive a warning.** There is no penalty for a warning. When possible, the District will attempt to issue a warning in each course before a student is deemed ineligible. *Students taking online classes will receive a warning in their online class if they are "off pace" for the semester.*
- B. **Any grade at or below 59.5% is considered failing** in a class which is in progress during the sport season.
- C. **A student is declared "ineligible" when** they have more than one failing grade. The ineligible student will not be allowed to participate in competitions for one week following the grade check, but they may practice. They may participate in contests during the 2nd week.
- D. **A student is removed from the team when** they are failing the same two classes at back-to-back eligibility checks.

Semester Eligibility

A student who fails more than one class at the end of the semester is ineligible for one third ($\frac{1}{3}$) of contests in their current or next sports season (whichever comes first).

The ineligible student may practice, travel, etc. with the team, but not participate in competitions for one-third ($\frac{1}{3}$) of the scheduled contests. At the end of the one-third ($\frac{1}{3}$) of contests:

- A. If the student has achieved eligibility, they can begin competing in a program. However, eligibility must be maintained throughout the semester.
- B. If the student remains ineligible, the ineligibility shall be for the remainder of the season and no practice or competition participation shall be allowed.

Special Circumstances

A student who changes their schedule during a season will maintain the grade established in the dropped class for eligibility purposes until credit can be reestablished in the newly added class or until the next eligibility check.

Credit Recovery

Athletic participants are evaluated for eligibility based on grades from the previous semester. Students who failed two (2) classes may successfully complete one credit recovery class to replace the grade and avoid becoming ineligible to compete. Credit recovery classes need to be similar to the failed class and provide credit toward graduation. Credit recovery for eligibility purposes is limited to one (1) class or 0.5 credits. A student who has failed more than two classes is ineligible for a minimum of one-third ($\frac{1}{3}$) of the season.

MHSAA Eligibility Requirements

To be eligible, middle school and high school students must comply with all rules, handbooks, and policies, including those set forth by the Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA).

Rule Enforcement:

Where District requirements are more stringent than MHSAA requirements, District requirements control. Where MHSAA requirements are more stringent than District requirements, MHSAA requirements control.

Enrollment

Students must be enrolled full time in a middle/high school not later than the fourth Friday after Labor Day for the first semester and not later than the fourth Friday of February for the second semester. A student must be enrolled in the school for which they participate. Full time enrollment is considered at least 66% of the full credit load potential for high school and at least 50% for middle school. **Students who are enrolled in Alternative Education are not eligible for Morenci Area Schools sponsored sports.**

Age

High school students must be under nineteen (19) years of age, except that a student whose nineteenth (19th) birthday occurs on or after September 1 of a current school year is eligible for the balance of that school year.

For 6th grade students, it is their thirteenth (13th) birthday; 7th grade is fourteenth (14th); 8th grade is fifteenth (15th).

Physical Examination

All students must have passed a current school year physical examination. A record must be on file in the **Athletic Office**. The current school year is interpreted as any physical examination given on or after **April 15** of the previous school year.

Concussions

Before allowing a middle or high school student to participate in any athletic activity, the District will annually:

- A. Provide the MHSAA or state-approved educational materials on concussion awareness to each student and their parent/guardian.

- B. Obtain a statement signed by each student and their parent/guardian acknowledging receipt of the MHSAA or state-approved concussion awareness education materials.

Maximum Enrollment

A student shall not compete in athletics who has been enrolled in grades 9-12, inclusive, for more than 8 semesters. The 7th and 8th semesters must be consecutive.

Middle school students are not limited in the number of semesters but must be eligible in all other aspects.

Maximum Competition

A student, once enrolled in grade 9, shall be allowed to compete in only four first semester and four second semester seasons. A student shall be limited to participation in only one sports season when that sport, leading to a MHSAA championship, is sponsored twice during the school year.

Middle school students are not limited in the number of semesters but must be eligible in all other aspects.

Undergraduate Standing

Students must not be a high school graduate.

Previous Semester Record

High school students must have received credit in at least 66% of classes taken during the previous semester of enrollment. A student entering 9th grade for the first time may compete without reference to their record in 8th grade. **Morenci Area Schools' Athletic Handbook allows for only one failure to be academically eligible in high school.**

Middle school students must have received credit in at least 50% of classes taken during the previous semester of enrollment. **Morenci Middle School students follow the MHSAA guidelines.**

Current Semester Record

Students must maintain academic eligibility to participate in athletics. High school students must be passing at least 66% of their full credit load to satisfy MHSAA regulations.

Middle school students must be passing at least 50% of their full class load to satisfy MHSAA regulations. **Morenci Area Schools' Athletic Handbook allows for only one failure during eligibility checks to be academically eligible in both the middle and high school.**

Transfers

A student enrolled in grades 9-12 who transfers from one high school to another is not immediately eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics unless the student qualifies for an Exception. Transfer eligibility is determined by the MHSAA.

The transfer regulations do not apply to middle school students.

Amateur Status/Awards

Students must not accept any award or merchandise exceeding \$40 in value for athletic performance. Athletes accepting memberships, privileges, services, negotiable certificates, or money are in violation. For amateur practices, students may not have accepted money, merchandise, memberships, privileges, services, or other valuable consideration for participating in any form of athletics, sports, games, or for officiating interscholastic athletic contests, or have signed a professional athletic contract.

Limited Team Membership

A high school student who, after practicing with (including tryouts) or participating in an interscholastic scrimmage or contest as a member of a high school athletic team, participates in any athletic competition not sponsored by their school in the same sport during the same season, shall become ineligible for a minimum of the next three (3) days of competition and maximum of the remainder of that sport season in that school year.

A middle school student who, after practicing with or participating in an interscholastic scrimmage or contest as a member of the middle school athletic team, participates in any athletic competition not sponsored by their school in the same sport during the same season, shall become ineligible for a minimum of the next two (2) days of competition and a maximum of the remainder of that sport season in that school year.

EQUIPMENT & FACILITIES

All equipment issued to the student for athletic participation is property of the Morenci Area School District. The student is financially responsible for all that is issued. Failure to return all equipment in good repair may result in the athlete being billed for its replacement **at new replacement cost**. Failure to make restitution will result in being denied participation in another sport.

To maintain their equipment properly, students should follow these guidelines:

- A. Each athlete is required to check their equipment daily and report any problems to their coach. Failure to comply may result in injury.
- B. Keep all equipment clean. Protective pads should be cleaned on a regular basis.
- C. Equipment should only be used for its intended purpose.
- D. Keep equipment and valuables locked in a locker. The Athletic Department is not responsible for lost or stolen items. Athletes will be held responsible for the replacement costs of any school issued lost or stolen items.
- E. Store only dry equipment. Air out equipment that is damp or wet.

Athletes should maintain clean and functional playing facilities at both home and away sites. This includes locker rooms, gymnasiums, buses, playing fields, weight rooms, athletic training rooms, and all other training facilities. Do not leave food, wet clothing or equipment, garbage, etc. in any training facility or cause damage to a facility. Report any damages to a coach immediately.

GENERAL TRAINING RULES

Athletes are required to adhere to the rules set forth in both the Student Handbook and Athletic Handbook. Some of these include:

- A. If you are suspended or expelled from school for any reason, you may not attend any training, practices, or competitions during the time the suspension or expulsion is in effect.
- B. Coaches may have their own rules which you are required to observe.
- C. When in uniform, letter jacket, or other athletic apparel, athletes are representing Morenci Area Schools and must demonstrate exemplary conduct.
- D. Athletes are expected to exhibit good sportsmanship and citizenship in school and during competition. Examples of poor sportsmanship and citizenship include, but are not limited to, destruction of property, theft, fighting, foul language, falsifying excuses/records, and insubordination. These are causes of disciplinary action by the coach and/or Athletic Director. The student-athlete may also be subject to school disciplinary action.
- E. **When in attendance of others, no matter the location, if the use of alcohol, or other illegal drugs including products that contain nicotine or tobacco, is taking place by other students or minors, the athlete is required to leave immediately. Athletes who remain in such scenarios will be treated as if they themselves are in violation of the substance abuse policy.**

Attendance

Attendance at school and team events is expected of all student-athletes. Coaches may implement team-specific consequences for missing practices or competitions without reason.

The student-athlete must be present at all games and practices as designated by the coach unless absent from school due to personal illness or excused by the coach prior to the absence.

The student athlete must be in attendance the entire school day in order to dress and participate in athletics that day, unless excused. This includes training, practice, and competition. The student must demonstrate proof of the reason for the absence to the office and upon request from the coach or Athletic Director. Staying home to rest or calling in sick for half the day is not considered an excused absence. This will not meet the all-day requirement and the student will not be allowed to participate. Exceptions to the rule may be granted by the Athletic Director or Building Administrator if good cause to grant the exception exists. The coach will be notified if the waiver is granted.

If a student is more than ten (10) minutes late to class, it will be considered an absence. This includes first hour. If unexcused, it would be a violation of the Athletic Handbook attendance policy.

Friday attendance does not affect Saturday events unless outlined in a coach's team policy.

Participation

Number of Practices

An athlete should have seven (7) practices on separate days, with the exception of football players, supervised by a coach of that sport in order to compete in upcoming scheduled dates of competition. Exception is made if the time between seasons does not allow for the full 7 dates of practice before competition. Exceptions could also be made if inclement weather prevents the team from practicing 7 times.

Football players must have twelve (12) separate days of practice; three (3) without pads, and not before sixteen (16) calendar days after the first date of practice in order to participate.

Departure From Team

A student who quits a sport may not practice in any sport during that season without permission from coaches of both sports and the Athletic Director. The change must be made prior to the first athletic contest.

A student who is removed from a team for behavioral, academic, or other reasons, may not participate in any other sport during that season.

HEALTH & SAFETY

Insurance

We encourage all parents/guardians to have adequate insurance coverage for their children. Parents/guardians and their insurance company must pay for any medical bills incurred for injuries sustained at school, school-sponsored events, athletic practices or events, or on school property. **Morenci Area School's insurance does not cover athletic injuries.**

Parental Consent & Physical Forms

A parental consent form and physical form, both of which are MHSAA forms, must be on file with the Athletic Department **before** the student is allowed to tryout, practice, or compete with a team. The forms must be completely filled out by the athlete, parent/guardian, and physician.

The physical must be dated on or after April 15 of the previous school year and is valid from that day forward through the end of the following school year.

The consent form allows the coach or Athletic Trainer to seek emergency medical care on behalf of the athlete in the event the parent/guardian cannot be contacted. It also gives permission for the athlete to travel with the team to away events.

Athletic Training

Morenci Area Schools is fortunate to have a certified Athletic Trainer (AT) on staff. Athletic Trainers are licensed healthcare professionals who can provide primary and emergent care, injury prevention, therapeutic rehabilitation, and wellness education.

Athletes should follow these guidelines concerning athletic training:

- A. All athletes are required to report any injury to the Athletic Trainer and coach.
- B. The athletes and their parents/guardians must inform their coach and Athletic Trainer if they are taking any medication.
- C. Athletes and their parents/guardians must inform their coach and Athletic Trainer of any medical problems or concerns (e.g., diabetes, epilepsy, etc.)
- D. When a student-athlete is required to see a physician for an injury or illness, the student-athlete must provide the coach or Athletic Trainer with **written** clearance from the treating physician before they are allowed to return to practice or competition.
- E. Take care of your body; shower properly, wash equipment, and report any skin infections to the Athletic Trainer and your coach.

Return to Play From Injury

Athletes must follow the following guidelines as they return back from injury.

Non-Concussion Injury Return to Play Policy

Due to the potential of loss of functionality by an injured athlete during the healing process and therefore an increase in potential injury, the following protocol shall be enforced:

When an athlete, who is under the care of a physician, has been released to return to sport by the treating physician, the Athletic Trainer shall supervise a return to competition as deemed necessary, to assure the athlete is ready to perform at a safe level.

Concussion or Suspected Concussion Return to Play Policy

A student-athlete must be removed from any training or competition when the student-athlete is reasonably suspected of sustaining a concussion during training. The student-athlete will not be permitted to participate in any school athletic activities involving physical exertion, including practices, training, competition, or physical education class, until the student:

- A. has been evaluated by a licensed physician, physician's assistant, or nurse practitioner;
- B. has received written and signed clearance to resume participation in athletic activities from a licensed physician, physician's assistant, or nurse practitioner; and
- C. has submitted the written and signed clearance to resume participation in athletic activities to the school accompanied by written permission to resume participation from the student's parent/guardian.

When an athlete, who is under the care of a physician, has been released to return to sport by the treating physician, the Athletic Trainer shall supervise a return to competition, as deemed necessary to assure the athlete is ready to perform at a safe level.

INCLEMENT WEATHER

High School athletic events may be played on days when school is closed. The decision to allow events to continue is based on the premise that conditions that cause the school closing at 5:00-6:00 AM may significantly improve by 3:00-4:00 PM when buses have to travel, making it possible to play scheduled games.

Under this rationale the following guidelines must be followed:

- A. Each team should have a system for contacting members. Athletes should be informed that they are to assume scheduled events will take place unless otherwise notified. The final decision will be made at an appropriate time.
- B. If school is canceled for the day, NO MANDATORY PRACTICE may be held. The word OPTIONAL must be used and no player should experience any consequence if the athlete or their parents/guardians decide that they are unable to attend.
- C. If school is let out early because of developing weather problems, all practices will be canceled.
- D. In the event the cancellation results in missing a league game, varsity games will be rescheduled. All other teams may or may not be rescheduled based on the time of the season and open dates available.
- E. Middle school games and practices will be canceled if school is closed. Middle school games are not normally rescheduled.

MORENCI ATHLETIC AWARDS

Awards are earned based on each coach's criteria. Participation does not necessarily qualify a student-athlete for an award. In order to receive an award for any sport, a student must be academically eligible and complete the season barring injury. The season is concluded when the coach releases the athletes from the program after competition.

Varsity Award

A varsity award is available for all varsity-level athletes. Criteria is as follows.

Varsity Letter

The initial Varsity award is the 8-inch Morenci "M". The varsity letter is presented only once throughout high school. A varsity certificate is present to the student each season the athlete earns a varsity award. A sports designation pin is presented for every varsity letter earned.

Individual Varsity Sports Award Eligibility

To achieve a Varsity letter, athletes must participate as follows:

- A. Baseball/Softball:** Athlete must participate in one-fourth ($\frac{1}{4}$) of innings played.
- B. Basketball:** Athlete must participate in twenty (20) quarters.
- C. Bowling:** Athlete must participate in one-third ($\frac{1}{3}$) of scheduled matches.
- D. Competitive Cheer:** Athlete must participate in three-fourth ($\frac{3}{4}$) of all scheduled cheering events.
- E. Cross Country:** Athlete must place in the top seven (7) on Morenci's team in more than one-half ($\frac{1}{2}$) of all varsity races before Regionals.
- F. Equestrian:** Athlete who participates for four (4) years.
- G. Football:** Athlete must participate in eighteen (18) quarters.
- H. Golf:** Athlete must compete in one-half ($\frac{1}{2}$) of all varsity matches.
- I. Track & Field:** Athlete must earn eleven (11) points throughout the season
- J. Volleyball:** Athlete must participate in one-half ($\frac{1}{2}$) of matches played.
- K. Wrestling:** Athlete must earn twelve (12) team points during the season.

Students suspended for more than one-third of the season, or do not finish the season in good standing are not eligible for a Varsity letter.

There may be extenuating circumstances in the sole discretion of the Athletic Director, that warrant the waiver of these requirements in a particular situation.

Special Awards

"Most Valuable" and "Coaches Award" plaques may be presented at the varsity level of competition. The coaching staff may choose to label the awards differently depending on the situation or choose not to give the awards at all. For example, a coach may decide at the conclusion of the season that a "Most Improved" and "Best Attitude" award are more appropriate for that particular season. A coach may present additional awards, in the coach's sole discretion.

League Awards

League-sponsored sports in the Tri-County Conference or the Tri-River 8 have additional awards available for athletes to earn.

Scholar Athlete

A student-athlete in grade ten (10) or above, who has earned a varsity letter and who has a 3.50 or better GPA is recognized as All-League Scholar Athlete. This award is for league sports only.

All-League

Each sport in the TCC and Tri-River 8 has their own guidelines for how all-league awards are distributed. Athletes may be selected for 1st team, 2nd team, or Honorable Mention. Additionally, athletes may be nominated for the sportsmanship award.

TRAVEL

Student-athletes must comply with the standards of good conduct, as established by coaches, drivers, and this handbook when traveling for all school-sponsored events. All District rules, regulations, and handbook provisions apply on athletic trips. Additionally,

- A. Athletes are not to wear metal cleats on the bus.
- B. When in transit, athletes are to remain seated.
- C. Noise is to be kept to a minimum so as to not distract the driver.
- D. Cooperation with the driver's requests is expected.
- E. Appropriate dress, which is established by the coach, is a must on all trips

School Transportation

The District will provide transportation to and from competitions when possible. Coaches should communicate bussing arrangements. Bussing will not be provided for teams with 5 or less participants. In this case it will be self-transport or the coach can request for the school van.

Two-Way Bussing

All athletes are to travel to athletic events by transportation provided by the school district.

If a parent/guardian desires to take their student home after an away athletic event, a parent/guardian must sign out their student with the coach after the event.

A parent/guardian must present a signed note to the coach authorizing their student to go home with another parent/guardian after an athletic event. The transporting parent/guardian is required to sign out the student with the coach after the event.

Drop-Off Only

Some weekday or weekend trips may be drop-off transportation only. Students will be taken to their competition and need to have a ride arranged for their return.

Self-Transport

Competitions on days where school is not scheduled may be self-transport. The athlete will need to arrange a ride to and from the competition site.

Overnight Trips

In the event that an athletic event requires an overnight stay, the coach will be responsible to work with the Athletic Department to make the following arrangements:

- A. A complete itinerary of the trip will be provided to the parents.
- B. Teams will travel by bus when at all possible except when administration determines self-transport will be permitted or required (excludes summer activities).
- C. Students will not be allowed to drive.

- D. Parental consent forms for each athlete must be signed and returned to the coach prior to the trip.
- E. All school rules and Athletic Department regulations, including this handbook, are enforced during the trip.
- F. Requests for overnight trips with students must be submitted and approved by the Morenci Board of Education.

ATHLETIC HANDBOOK ACKNOWLEDGMENT

This handbook is given to students in hard copy and is available online.

We, the parent(s)/guardian(s) and student-athlete have read and understand the Morenci Area Schools Athletic Handbook and agree to **accept** the responsibilities and obligations required to participate in athletics.

Students who participate in athletic activities are bound by the terms of this handbook even if the signature page is not returned.

Student Printed Name

Student Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Printed Name

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date