



Philosophy

It is the philosophy of the Mahanomen/Waubun Athletics Program to develop players as whole persons. In order to achieve competitiveness at the highest level, players must not only develop necessary skills to play a sport, but must also develop qualities of discipline, leadership, dedication, and teamwork to meet their goals. In order for athletes to be on the court/field and prepared to compete, they must learn to organize and balance family, academic, spiritual, and athletic commitments. These skills will not only prepare athletes to succeed on the court/field, but will also prepare them to succeed as young adults and beyond

Program Objectives

Teamwork involves working with everyone and understanding that each person is part of the team no matter what their skill level. Each player contributes to the team in their own unique way.

Sportsmanship is exemplified in an individual who can recognize the talents of others, both teammates and opponents, and respect the effort of both. Players should strive to enjoy the game for its own sake, with proper consideration towards fairness and respect. We will be known as a team that demonstrates excellent sportsmanship, win or lose.

Dedication involves attending practices, performing academically, agreeing to abide by the Minnesota State High School League rules regarding competition, chemical use, and other team matters.

Competition involves both winning and losing. The overall goal of our programs is for our players to continually improve throughout the season. In order to do so, athletes must be willing to put forth 100% effort at all times. Athletes must also remain positive while working toward their overall goals.

Attendance

Attendance at practice is extremely important. It is almost as important as attendance at school. Attending practice everyday demonstrates dedication and commitment to the team. Athletes should make every attempt to schedule appointments around practice times. Sometimes athletes must miss practice due to things out of their control. Some examples of acceptable absences include: illness, medical appointments, family emergencies, church activities, or school related activities. Other things will come up but **a coach should be notified when an athlete is going to be absent from practice.**

Unexcused absence from practice will result in missed game time. As in real life, each coach will have different rules in regards to the severity of missing practice. Again, unexcused absences will result in missed game time. Examples of unexcused absences: haircuts, shopping, hunting, going with friends, and detention.

Communication is key. The athlete should let the coach know in advance if he/she is going to be gone. Telling a friend to tell the coach is not an excuse. It is the player's (or parents) responsibility to communicate absences to the coach.

Respect

Every athlete will be expected to show respect for themselves, their teammates, coaches, officials, opponents, parents/guardians, school staff, and community members. Athletes are ambassadors of the Mahnomen and Waubun High School and should exhibit respectful behavior at all times.

Athletes who are removed from a game for misconduct will not be allowed to play in the following game. This is per the MSHSL and it will be enforced. Please note that any student who demonstrates poor citizenship (cheating, theft, vandalism, physical or verbal abuse, harassment, defiance of staff, etc.) may lose their eligibility to participate in extracurricular activities.

All athletes are viewed as important to the team/program. All athletes are expected to be productive team players. Athletes who are not willing to be team players may be dismissed from the team. The Mahnomen/Waubun Athletic Program will not tolerate any incidents of bullying,

harassment, or intimidation of athletes to other athletes. **Negative or insulting comments toward our school, teammates, coaches, officials, or opponents using social media (facebook, twitter, etc.) will not be tolerated. If this rule is violated immediate suspension or removal from the team will result. Parents, please help lead by example with this rule.**

Playing Time

The Mahanomen/Waubun coaching staff does not guarantee equal playing time for everyone. Athletes are evaluated in several areas throughout the season that establish the amount of playing time earned by each athlete.

1. Fundamental athletic ability and improvement of offensive and defensive skill level
2. Consistency of performance and development in practice
3. Ability to effectively contribute in competition
4. Attitude and work ethic in practice and competition

In the early season, all athletes will be encouraged and directed to develop skills in all aspects of the game. Those athletes who are able to develop a complete game will have the most playing time opportunities. As the season progresses, or based on physical necessity, athletes will become more specialized into specific roles. An athlete's ability to contribute positively to the team will be a factor which impacts playing time as well. How an athlete adds to or distracts from the team's performance in practice and competition as compared to a teammate who performs a similar role will directly impact the playing time a player earns. During games and tournaments, coaches are constantly adjusting and evaluating lineups, considering individual match-ups with opponents, and addressing opportunities for individual growth and improvement. This means that there are a number of considerations why some athletes may receive more playing time than others. Athletes (and parents) are expected to understand and accept their roles as defined by the coach and concede that the collective performance of the team unit as priority. **Athletes will be given every opportunity to earn playing time in practice.**

Safety and Injuries

The safety of our athletes is our foremost concern. If a player should become injured during practice or a game, they should report their injury to their coach immediately. Sometimes athletes do not want the coaches to know about an injury. Parents/guardians should contact one of the coaches regarding an injury or other medical condition involving your athlete. An athletic trainer will be available to diagnose and treat injuries. We have a lot of faith in our trainers, please use them as a first contact if possible. Save the doctor visits for emergencies if at all possible.

Coach Availability

The coaching staff will not be available after games or during practices to discuss issues with parents/guardians. If a parent/guardian would like to meet with a coach, they should contact the coach to schedule a time to meet. The coach may require the athlete to be present at the meeting. **Playing time is one issue the coach will not discuss with parents.** Athletes should feel free to meet with the coach and discuss any issue. Please remember that coaches put in long hours both in season and out of season. They coach because they have a passion for the game and a passion for working with young individuals.

CONTRACT

My parent(s)/guardian and I have read through and understand the Mahnomen/Waubun Athletic Handbook. My parent(s)/guardian and I agree to abide by all the conditions outlined in the handbook. We also agree to follow the rules of the Minnesota State High School League and Mahnomen and Waubun Schools.

Player's Signature _____

Parent/Guardian Signature_____

Date _____