

MILFORD
EXEMPTED VILLAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT

**ATHLETIC HANDBOOK
FOR
STUDENTS AND PARENTS**

2009-10

“Home of the Eagles”



(BOE Approved: May 21, 2009)

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**Nothing in this handbook is intended to supersede the policies or master contract agreements of the Milford Exempted Village School District, Ohio High School Athletic Association, or Ohio Revised Code. In all matters of conflict, this handbook is subject to those policies and agreements.*

Visit these websites for more sports information...

www.milfordathletics.org

Our Milford Athletics and Milford Athletic Boosters Club homepage! Contains links to stats, downloadable forms, directions and everything Milford Athletics...

www.favcsports.com

For league stats, rankings, news and links to all FAVC schools...

Athletic Office (HS) 576-2208
Athletic Office (JH) 248-3478

Live...Learn...FLY!

I. Introduction

The Milford Athletic Program is designed specifically for those students who wish competition against athletes from our own and other schools. It provides a means of expression and self-improvement, and allows participants to develop social skills through physical activities. Milford Athletics is neither a program of recreation for all, nor is it one of rehabilitation for those of questionable dedication. Our athletic program is directed toward good sportsmanship and fair play. We must never lose sight of these principles. Players who intentionally violate rules bring discredit to themselves, their families, their school, and to the sport in which they participate. They will be disciplined. The standards, values and guidelines of the Milford Exempted Village School District (MEVSD) and the Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA) will be strictly enforced.

II. Athletic Department Programming Profile

A. Fall Season

Cheer - 7, 8, F, JV, V

B Cross Country - 7, 8, JV, V

G Cross Country - 7, 8, JV, V

Football - 7, 8, F, JV, V

B Golf - JV, V

G Golf - JV, V

B Soccer - F (JVB), JV, V

G Soccer - F (JVB), JV, V

G Tennis - JV, V

G Volleyball - 7A, 7B, 8A, 8B, F, JV, V

B Water Polo - JV, V

G Water Polo - JV, V

Fall Totals: 12 Programs (12 JH Teams - 6 7th, 6 8th; 29 HS Teams - 5 F, 12 JV, 12 V)

Fall Coaches: 56 (14 JH; 42 HS)

B. Winter Season

Academic Team - JV, V

B Basketball - 7A, 7B, 8A, 8B, F, JV, V

G Basketball - 7A, 7B, 8A, 8B, F, JV, V

B Bowling - JV, V

G Bowling - JV, V

Cheer - 7, 8, F, JV, V

Chess - V

Dance - V

B Diving - 7, 8, V

G Diving - 7, 8, V

B Swimming - 7, 8, JV, V

G Swimming - 7, 8, JV, V

Wrestling - 7, 8, F, JV, V (+Pinnettes)

Winter Totals: 13 Programs (20 JH Teams - 10 7th, 10 8th; 26 HS Teams - 4 F, 9 JV, 13 V)

Winter Coaches: 38 (14 JH; 24 HS)

C. Spring Season

Baseball - F, JV, V

Softball - JV, V

B Tennis - JV, V

B Track - 7, 8, JV, V

G Track - 7, 8, JV, V

B Volleyball - JV, V

Spring Totals: 6 Programs (2 JH Teams - 1 7th, 1 8th; 13 HS Teams - 1 F, 6 JV, 6 V)

Spring Coaches: 24 (6 JH; 18 HS)

D. Summary

31 Programs (34 JH Teams - 17 7th, 17 8th; 68 HS Teams - 10 F, 27 JV, 31 V)

118 Coaches (34 JH; 84 HS)

E. School-Sponsored "Club" Sports (must be completely self-sufficient through fees assessed to participants)

JH Golf (B/G), JH Tennis (B/G), HS Indoor Track (B/G), HS Spring Water Polo (B/G)

III. Athletic Department Strategic Plan Summary

Milford Athletic Department Strategic Plan Summary
2009-10

Milford Exempted Village School District Mission Statement
The mission of the MEVSD, in partnership with its community, is to provide an education of the highest quality, inspiring and empowering each student to be a life-long learner and a contributing member of a diverse and ever-changing society.

Athletic Department Value Statements
In addition to the MEVSD values, as a Milford Athletics community, we believe in and value...

- Athletes as students, first and foremost
- Developing character in each person, making them the best they can be in mind, body, and spirit
- Developing meaningful relationships in our athletic "family" and broader society
- Developing sports specific skills to maximize the potential and success of players, teams, and programs
- Healthy life styles, including freedom from substance abuse
- Hard work, teamwork and sportsmanship which contribute to success and the achievement of goals
- Mutual respect and tolerance

Athletic Department Strategic Choices
As a Milford Athletics community, we want to...

- Expand and sustain an open and proactive communications network that impacts all stakeholders
- Continually maintain, upgrade and add athletic facilities to enhance the student and community experience
- Improve the funding of athletic programming through a variety of sources
- Increase participation and balance competitive intent for all levels and programs
- Aggressively develop and preserve an increased sense of school spirit and support with all stakeholders

Athletic Department Mission Statement
The mission of the Milford Athletic Department is to be an integral part of the educational process by providing the means and resources for students to be involved in competitive sports. We develop the whole person, promote teamwork, and create positive social interactions and a positive community environment.

Athletic Department Strategic Objectives

1. Improve Athletic Department communication of information to stakeholders...
 - a. Increase average number of monthly milfordathletics.org visits by 10% from 2008-09 to 2009-10;
 - b. Increase MHS faculty and student satisfaction of Athletic Department communication by 20% from September, 2008 to April, 2010;
 - c. Increase parent, community and alumni awareness of MHS/MJHS athletic activities by implementing 1 new form of communication with each of those groups.
2. Implement parts of the District Master Plan to move towards complete campus renovation...
 - a. Install tennis courts by March, 2010;
 - b. Install field turf in the football complex by August, 2012;
 - c. Upgrade soccer and football complexes (team rooms, bathrooms, etc.) by August, 2014.
3. Improve funding of athletics from a variety of sources...
 - a. Increase overall Athletic Boosters revenue by 5% from 2008-09 to 2009-10;
 - b. Increase overall gate revenue by 5% from 2008-09 to 2009-10;
 - c. Increase MEVSD financial support of athletic programming by 5% from 2008-09 to 2009-10.
4. Increase participation and define competitive intent to maximize program achievement...
 - a. Finish 1st in the FAVC Buckeye All-Sports Trophy in 2009-10;
 - b. 77% of all FAVC varsity teams (17/22) will finish in top 3 of Buckeye Division in 2009-10;
 - c. Increase number of multi-sport/season athletes (grades 7-12) by 10% from 2008-09 to 2009-10;
 - d. Retain 90% of all 8th grade MJHS athletes who participated in a school-sponsored sport in 2008-09 as 9th grade candidates/participants at MHS in 2009-10.
5. Improve school spirit and community support...
 - a. Increase overall Athletic Boosters memberships by 10% from 2008-09 to 2009-10;
 - b. Increase overall game attendance/admissions by 10% from 2008-09 to 2009-10.

IV. Physical Exams and Emergency Medical Authorizations

- A. Athletic participation forms (also referred to as “physicals”) for participants in any of the grades 7-12 shall be signed by a medical examiner, the participant and by a parent/guardian. These forms must be on file in the athletic director’s office before any candidate for a team may participate in a practice. These forms shall require the medical examiner to certify the individual’s physical fitness no less than once each calendar year. (*OHSAA Bylaw Ref.: 3-4-1*) The official OHSAA “Preparticipation Physical Evaluation Form” must be used for this purpose and all pages must be completed in full. It is recommended that students arrange for their physical exams in the summer or at least one month in advance of the season. This will prevent any problems participating in tryouts or practices on scheduled starting dates.
- B. The Milford Athletic Department and individual team coaches are required to keep an approved MEVSD Emergency Medical Authorization form on hand for all athletes under their supervision. These forms give permission for doctors and hospitals to perform necessary emergency procedures when parents/guardians cannot be present for authorization. Athletes are to return their “EMA” containing all requested information and valid signatures prior to any participation.

V. Insurance

- A. The MEVSD does NOT insure its students (in full, in part or as a supplement) against accident or injury incurred while involved in and/or as a result of school activities (including athletics).

VI. Participation Fees

- A. All interscholastic athletes, grades 7-12, will be assessed an athletic program fee for every sport in which they participate. These fees go directly towards the operational costs of the athletic program.
- B. Participation fees per sport for the 2009-10 school year...
 - i. Grades 7-8 = \$100 (first sport); \$50 (second sport); \$0 (third sport)
 - ii. Grades 9-12 = \$175 (first sport); \$85 (second sport); \$0 (third sport)
- C. There is no annual family maximum for participation fees.
- D. “Participation” implies “member of the team” and begins immediately after team selection. “Participation” does NOT imply or guarantee contest playing time which is ultimately determined by the coach. Athletes are encouraged to communicate with the coach about their role on the team.
- E. Participation fees are due by the first contest. If fees are not paid, the athlete may be denied participation until payment is made. Waivers of fees or fee payment plans may only be authorized by the athletic director. Families identified by Clermont County Job/Family Services as qualifying for fee exemptions must inform the athletic director of their status in writing.
- F. There are no refunds of participation fees for any reason after the first contest. There are no prorated fees for limited participation.
- G. There may be additional expenses involved in participating which are not covered by the MEVSD (ie. shoes, selected apparel/spiritwear, special team purchases, competition fees, required or special sport-specific equipment, away meals/lodging, etc.). Approximate costs of participation in any particular sport may be requested of the coach prior to the season. Team fundraising may be organized with coach permission to help defray these additional expenses.

VII. Lockers, Team Areas and Equipment

- A. Athletes will receive locker assignments from their coaches (if applicable). All athletes must provide their own lock unless their coach chooses to provide a lock. Make sure your locker is locked at all times.
- B. Lockers shall be cleaned out by team members and managers at the conclusion of each season. There is to be no carry-over of locker assignments from one season to the next. All locks must be turned in with other team equipment (if applicable). Athletes will be assessed a replacement fee for locks and equipment assigned to them which are not returned.
- C. Lockers will be assigned to in-season athletes only. Other students who use the locker rooms for out-of-season programs are to use them on a day-by-day basis. Equipment must be removed from all lockers by the end of the first school day following the conclusion of a season.
- D. The neatness and cleanliness of locker rooms, weight rooms, hallways and other training facilities is the joint responsibility of athletes, coaches and appropriate school personnel. All spiked or cleated shoes must be put on and taken off outside of the school building.

- E. Improper behavior, horseplay, vandalism, roughhousing, harassment, hazing/bullying of others and improper care of equipment are examples of activities related to locker rooms and team areas for which disciplinary action would be appropriate, up to and including denial of participation. Incidents are to be reported to the coaching staff immediately.
- F. Team members are responsible for all school equipment issued to them and for all their own personal equipment. Make sure you check your protective equipment every day before a practice or game. If your equipment is damaged or you are having any problems at all, notify your coach immediately. Do NOT use damaged or faulty equipment.
- G. Equipment rooms, coaches' offices and training rooms are to be entered only after receiving permission from a coach. Students are not to be in these areas at any time without supervision by appropriate personnel.
- H. Team personnel only are permitted in locker room and team meeting areas. All others (including family, friends and media) must wait outside these areas for athletes and coaches.
- I. Athletes will not be released early from school for the purpose of dressing for practices or games, unless specific approval is given by the administration.

VIII. Eligibility and Participation Guidelines

- A. Academic eligibility requirements of the MEVSD and the OHSAA shall apply without exception.
- B. If a student participates in an athletic contest and his/her eligibility has been established by falsified information, the student shall be ineligible in Ohio for a maximum of one year from the date the penalty is imposed. (*OHSAA Bylaw Ref.: 4-1-2*)
- C. All students participating in a school sponsored sport must be currently enrolled in and attending the school which sponsors the squad in accordance with duly adopted MEVSD policies. (*OHSAA Bylaw Ref.: 4-3-1 and 4-4-1*)
- D. Academic Eligibility Policies for Grades 7-8...
 - i. Incoming 7th graders are eligible for the 1st quarterly grading period following their promotion from the 6th grade. (*OHSAA Bylaw Ref.: 4-4-5*)
 - ii. In order to be eligible for any quarterly grading period thereafter, a student must receive passing grades in at least 75% of all subjects during the previous quarterly grading period. (*OHSAA Bylaw Ref.: 4-4-5*)
 - iii. Students must have earned a minimum 1.500 quarterly grade point average (GPA) during the previous quarterly grading period.
 - iv. If an enrolled student attains the age of 15 before August 1, the student shall be ineligible to participate in 7-8th grade interscholastic athletics for that school year. (*OHSAA Bylaw Ref.: 4-2-2*)
- E. Academic Eligibility Policies for Grades 9-12...
 - i. Incoming 9th graders must receive passing grades in at least 75% of all subjects during the 4th quarterly grading period of 8th grade to be eligible for the 1st quarterly grading period of their 9th grade year. (*OHSAA Bylaw Ref.: 4-4-4*)
 - ii. In order to be eligible for any quarterly grading period thereafter, a student must receive passing grades in a minimum of 5 one-credit courses or the equivalent during the previous quarterly grading period. (*OHSAA Bylaw Ref.: 4-4-1*)
 - iii. Students must have earned a minimum 1.500 quarterly grade point average (GPA) during the previous quarterly grading period.
 - iv. If an enrolled student attains the age of 19 before August 1, the student shall be ineligible to participate in high school interscholastic athletics for that school year. (*OHSAA Bylaw Ref.: 4-2-1*)
 - v. After a student completes 8th grade or is otherwise eligible for high school athletics, the student shall be eligible for no more than 8 consecutive semesters, whether the student participates or not. (*OHSAA Bylaw Ref.: 4-3-3*)
- F. Summer school and other educational options may not be used to substitute for failure to meet academic standards during the last quarterly grading period of the school year. (*OHSAA Bylaw Ref.: 4-4-7*)
- G. Athletes are discouraged from participating in demanding non-school programs simultaneously with school-sponsored athletic programs. Excessive time demands, conflicts of team commitments, and undue academic pressures are reasons for this recommendation. Some sports have specific OHSAA regulations against participating in non-school athletics in the same sport at the same time as school athletics. (*OHSAA Bylaw Ref.: 10*)
- H. Athletes should be cautious about belonging to too many school-related activities where conflicts are bound to occur. Athletes should notify activity sponsors and coaches immediately when conflicts arise. It is up to the coach to determine an appropriate resolution of the conflict and any consequences the athlete may incur.

- I. For sports that use a selection process to determine team rosters (“tryouts” and “cuts”), the coaches of those sports shall make all final decisions regarding placement or non-placement of athletes on squads. After the tryout period has concluded and teams have been established, there shall be no “late-tryouts” unless authorized by the athletic director and due to verifiable extenuating circumstances (medical, accident/injury, family emergency). The family must provide written documentation of such circumstances for review. Other important factors when assessing the possibility of permitting a “late-tryout” include timely contact by the family about the situation and the athlete’s history in the sport.
- J. Although family and school are more important than sports, when you choose to become a member of the team, you and your family choose to make some sacrifices to honor your commitment. Remember that the team must come before any personal desires and certain individual sacrifices may be necessary. This includes not missing tryouts, practices or games for family vacations/activities or school projects that should have been completed at another time. Attendance at all team functions is critical in certain aspects of individual/team development. Attendance and punctuality are essential for an athlete to receive maximum benefit from her/his participation in interscholastic athletics. It is the family’s responsibility to look at the schedule in advance of the season and adjust accordingly. Parents should set a good example of commitment and plan family or other activities around team obligations. There will be consequences for missing games, practices or other official team functions. These consequences will be determined by the coach and may include denial of participation, loss of playing time, extra work assignments, or other such measures. There may be emergency circumstances that merit pardon from consequences but not avoidable or foreseeable conflicts. Any such circumstances are to be given, in writing, to the coach in advance of the time period in question (when possible). Every attempt will be made to honor religious holidays – let your coach know in advance of any potential issues in this area.
- K. A participant who quits a team after its first contest is ineligible to practice or participate in any other sport or out-of-season program until the sport in which he/she began has concluded its season. They also forfeit all athletic awards associated with the sport they quit. Exceptions may be granted in extraordinary circumstances (such as serious injury) and only upon agreement of the head coach and the athletic director.
- L. An athlete must be in school at least 4 full academic periods during the regular school day to be eligible to practice or participate in an interscholastic contest that day (this may be waived for unique circumstances by athletic director).
- M. Students must be eligible and in good standing to participate in any official team functions or events (including "senior night" or "awards night"). Ineligible students must be removed from the official team roster in accordance with all applicable OHSAA policies. Upon coach approval, they may practice with the team during the season.

IX. Athlete Standards of Conduct and Responsibilities

- A. Ohio Revised Code Policy 3313.664 prohibiting participation in extracurricular activities states in part: The board of education of an exempted village school district may adopt a policy authorizing the district superintendent, other district administrative personnel, or personnel employed by the district to direct, supervise, or coach a pupil activity program as provided in the policy to prohibit a student from participating in any particular or all extracurricular activities of the district or a school of the district for a period of time as provided in the policy.
- B. A participant in the Milford Athletic Program is a highly regarded representative of the school. A team member’s personal conduct reflects upon other Milford athletes/coaches and the district in general. Conduct by a Milford athlete which might prove embarrassing or disgraceful shall be deemed a serious breach of discipline and may be grounds for denial of participation. Expectations for participant’s conduct are not limited to the time period between the first official practice/tryout date and the last team contest (“in-season”). This is a year-round good behavior commitment whether on or off school property (including cell phone usage and internet “cyber-conduct”). Any athlete whose conduct is judged as bringing dishonor to themselves, the team or the school in general will be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including permanent denial of participation from the athletic program.
- C. A participant is subject to all athletic department rules and policies as outlined in this handbook, the building student code of conduct and all other sources of school policy. Participants are also subject to learn rules and guidelines as outlined by the coach of each sport. The minimum standards set by the school do not necessarily meet the standards of conduct, dress and appearance expected of athletes and members of specific teams. Students that have been convicted of a felony may not participate in the athletic program.
- D. Each coach will provide information to team participants setting forth any additional standards of training, behavior and appearance which are in effect for that team. These requirements are not necessarily the same from team to team or from coach to coach. This information will be furnished, in writing, at the beginning of the season. Parent and student acknowledgment of these standards may also be required.

- E. School disciplinary suspensions or teacher referrals involving a participant in the athletic program will be investigated by the athlete's coach to determine what further action, if any, is called for. In most cases, student-athletes who violate curricular standards of conduct will also receive extracurricular consequences. Students are responsible for informing their coach of any such infractions immediately. Students may not participate in the athletic program while under official school suspension (including "Alternate School").
- F. School district policies concerning general student behavior apply at all times to participants in the athletic program, and violations which occur during participation in athletics shall be considered grounds for both athletic and school disciplinary action.
- G. Contest playing time is determined by the coach of each team and may be used as disciplinary action, provided the athlete is still participating as a sideline member of the team. If the athlete is disruptive, emergency removal procedures may be necessary.
- H. When there is indication that team or athletic program rules or policies have been violated, and denial of participation is possible, the procedures outlined in the school district's policy covering due process for extracurricular activities shall be followed. This policy shall be posted in the athletic office and made available to athletes upon request.
- I. Repeated offenses calling for disciplinary action shall be considered grounds for denial of participation from the athletic program. Consequences may increase with subsequent violations up to and including permanent removal from the athletic program.
- J. Athletes are to respect the property of the school and of others. Theft or willful destruction of property or equipment will call for severe disciplinary action, which may include denial of participation in the athletic program and reimbursement of any monetary damages.
- K. Profanity, outbursts of temper, fighting, bullying, insubordination or other such unbecoming or disrespectful behavior will not be tolerated, and will call for disciplinary action, which may include denial of participation from the athletic program.
- L. Other responsibilities for athletes include (but are not limited to) keeping priorities in line, staying healthy and well-groomed (positive image), treating everyone with respect, being on time to all team functions and always doing their best in school as well as in athletics.
- M. A student who uses anabolic steroids or other performance-enhancing drugs is ineligible for interscholastic competition until such time as medical evidence can be presented that the student's system is free of such substances. (*OHSAA Sports Regulations Ref.: Illegal Drugs, 3*)
- N. **SUBSTANCE ABUSE POLICY: USE, SALE OR POSSESSION OF ALCOHOL, TOBACCO PRODUCTS OR ILLEGAL DRUGS IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED.** The use, sale or possession of these substances, including inhalants, "look-alikes" and mishandling or abuse of an otherwise legal drug, is contrary to standards of training expected of all participants in the athletic program. At the beginning of each season, all athletes shall sign a behavior pledge acknowledging their understanding of the regulations. This pledge shall stay in effect for the remainder of their enrollment in the MEVSD. Statements of endorsement and support for this standard of training shall be solicited from parents/guardians and coaches as well. Substance abuse violations must be substantiated by a member of the MEVSD staff, a law enforcement officer, a parent/guardian or the athlete. This year-round policy shall be in effect in all places and at all times in- and out-of-season ("24/7/365"). "In-season" shall be defined as the time period between the first day of official coaching and instruction (per OHSAA guidelines dictating the first official practice date) through the final team or individual contest.
 - i. **FIRST OFFENSE: USE AND/OR POSSESSION VIOLATIONS.**
 - a. If the violation occurs during the season ("in-season"), the student involved shall be denied participation from the athletic program with reinstatement contingent upon the procedures listed in paragraph O. The minimum penalty upon reinstatement shall be denial of participation from all contests for the remainder of the season.
 - b. If the violation occurs at a time other than during the season ("out-of-season"), the student involved shall be denied participation from the athletic program with reinstatement contingent upon the procedures listed in paragraph O. The minimum penalty upon reinstatement shall be denial of participation in 20% of the regular season contests in the next sport they successfully participate in and complete.
 - ii. **SECOND AND SUBSEQUENT OFFENSES: USE AND/OR POSSESSION VIOLATIONS.** For additional violations occurring at any time, the student involved shall be denied participation from the athletic program with reinstatement contingent upon procedures listed in paragraph O. The minimum penalty upon reinstatement shall be denial of participation from athletics for one calendar year from the date of the infraction.

- iii. **FIRST OFFENSE: SALE VIOLATIONS.** For violations occurring at any time, the student involved shall be denied participation from the athletic program with reinstatement contingent upon procedures listed in paragraph O. The minimum penalty upon reinstatement shall be denial of participation from athletics for one calendar year from the date of the infraction.
- iv. **SECOND OFFENSE: SALE VIOLATIONS.** For an additional violation occurring at any time, the student involved shall be denied participation from the athletic program permanently.

O. REINSTATEMENT FOLLOWING SUBSTANCE ABUSE VIOLATIONS. Upon denial of participation from the athletic program for violations outlined in section N, athletic activities may only be resumed according to the following guidelines/procedures...

- i. A request for reinstatement shall be made to the athletic director, in writing, from the athlete and his/her parents/guardians. It shall outline specific remedies and plans of action being taken to prevent reoccurrence of the violation(s).
- ii. A written assessment shall be obtained by the athlete's family from a trained certified chemical dependency counselor, or a licensed physician trained in the treatment of chemical dependency, regarding the violation(s) and indicating whether it is appropriate for the student to return to the athletic program in their professional opinion. A copy of this assessment, including any recommendations for rehabilitation and return to athletic participation, shall accompany the request for reinstatement from part i.
- iii. A review of the incident shall occur by a reinstatement committee comprised of the head coach of the sport, the athletic director and the principal (other personnel may be included if applicable). The reinstatement committee shall consider the circumstances of the violation(s), the items submitted from parts i/ii and the overall appropriateness of the student's return to the athletic program. The review process must include a meeting with the athlete and his/her parents/guardians. Following the review, a decision shall be made relative to the athlete's reinstatement. Reinstatement is not automatic. The reinstatement committee shall have latitude in its decision from immediate return to continued denial of participation, with or without conditions of probationary status, and following any minimum requirements in section N. The decision of the reinstatement committee shall be final.
- iv. This process is subject only to procedural review by the Superintendent on adherence by the reinstatement committee to the policy.

P. SELF-REFERRAL FOR SUBSTANCE ABUSE VIOLATIONS: USE/POSSESSION ONLY.

- i. An athlete who has committed a substance abuse violation and/or feels that he/she has a substance abuse problem may personally report this circumstance to their coach, athletic director or any other member of the school administration. A written assessment shall be obtained by the athlete's family from a trained certified chemical dependency counselor, or a licensed physician trained in the treatment of chemical dependency, regarding the violation(s) and indicating whether it is appropriate for the student to continue participating in the athletic program in their professional opinion. The athlete must then undergo at least 3 additional substance abuse counseling sessions or classes but may continue to participate in the athletic program during that time if deemed appropriate. At any point if there is evidence that the athlete is not following through in a timely fashion with the counseling sessions, classes or any other type of treatment outlined and required in the initial assessment, a denial of participation is possible per section N. Parents/guardians may make referrals on their own student-athletes which will be treated as a "self-referral." All self-referral information will remain confidential.
- ii. A self-referral cannot be made in an attempt to circumvent an active substance abuse investigation.
- iii. A self-referral cannot be made when there is any evidence of police intervention surrounding a substance abuse violation.
- iv. One self-referral is permitted during a student's enrollment in the MEVSD.
- v. A self-referral counts as the first substance abuse policy violation outlined in section N, part i. Additional violations will be treated as second and subsequent offenses (see section N, part ii).

Q. OHSAA Fair Play Code for Athletes...

- i. I will participate because I want to, not just because my parents or coaches want me to.
- ii. I will play by the rules and in the spirit of the game.
- iii. I will control my temper, as fighting and disrespect can spoil the activity for everyone.
- iv. I will respect my opponents.
- v. I will do my best to try to be a true team player.
- vi. I will remember that winning isn't everything. Having fun, improving my skills, making friends and doing my best are also important.
- vii. I will acknowledge all good plays or performances by both my teammates and my opponents.
- viii. I will remember that coaches and officials are there to help me. I will accept their decisions, show them respect and understand they have given their time to be with me.

X. Parent Standards of Conduct and Responsibilities

A. OHSAA Guidelines for ‘Communicating with Your Children’...

- i.** Make sure your children know that win or lose, scared or heroic, you love them, appreciate their efforts and are not disappointed in them. This will allow them to do their best without fear of failure. Be the person in their life they can look to for constant positive reinforcement.
- ii.** Try your best to be completely honest about your child’s athletic ability, competitive attitude, sportsmanship and actual skill level.
- iii.** Be helpful but don’t coach them. It’s tough not to, but it is a lot tougher for the child to be flooded with advice and critical instruction.
- iv.** Teach them to enjoy the thrill of competition, to be “out there trying,” to be working to improve their skills and attitudes. Help them develop the feeling for competing, for trying hard, and having fun.
- v.** Try not to relive your athletic life through your child in a way that creates pressure. Don’t pressure your child because of your pride. Athletic children need their parents, so do not withdraw. Remember, there is a thinking, feeling, sensitive, free spirit out there in that uniform who needs a lot of understanding, especially when their world turns bad. If they are comfortable with you, win or lose, then they are on their way to maximum achievement and enjoyment.
- vi.** Don’t compete with the coach. If your child is receiving mixed messages from two different authority figures, he or she will likely become disenchanted. Criticism of the coach to your child puts the athlete in a terrible “no win” situation.
- vii.** Don’t compare the skill, courage or attitude of your child with other members of the team.
- viii.** Get to know the coach(es). Then you can be assured that his or her philosophy, attitudes, ethics and knowledge are such that you are happy to have your child under his or her leadership.
- ix.** Always remember that children tend to exaggerate both when praised and when criticized. Temper your reaction and investigate before overreacting. Many times athletes will define all coaching criticism as being “yelled at.”
- x.** Make a point of understanding courage and the fact that it is relative. Everyone is frightened in certain areas. Explain that courage is not the absence of fear, but a means of doing something in spite of fear and discomfort.

B. OHSAA Guidelines for ‘Communicating with The Coach’...

- i.** Communication You Should Expect From Your Child’s Coach...
 - a.** Philosophy of the coach.
 - b.** Expectations the coach has for your child as well as all players on the squad.
 - c.** Locations and times of all practices and contests.
 - d.** Team requirements (fees, special equipment, off-season conditioning, etc.).
 - e.** Procedures should your child be injured.
 - f.** Discipline that results in the denial of your child’s participation (eligibility, substance abuse, etc.).
- ii.** Communication Coaches Expect From Parents...
 - a.** Concerns expressed directly to the coach.
 - b.** Notification of any schedule conflicts well in advance.
 - c.** Specific concerns in regard to a coach’s philosophy and/or expectations.
- iii.** Appropriate Concerns To Discuss With Coaches...
 - a.** The treatment of your child, mentally and physically.
 - b.** Ways to help your child improve.
 - c.** Concern about your child’s behavior.
- iv.** Issues Not Appropriate To Discuss With Coaches...
 - a.** Team strategy.
 - b.** Play calling.
 - c.** Other student-athletes.
- v.** Appropriate Procedure for Discussing Concerns With Coaches...
 - a.** There very first step in discussing a coaching concern is to meet with the coach.
 - b.** Call to set up an appointment with the coach (contact the athletic administrator to set up the meeting if unable to reach the coach).
 - c.** Do not confront a coach before or after a contest or practice. These are emotional times for all parties involved and do not promote resolution.
- vi.** What If The Meeting With The Coach Did Not Provide A Satisfactory Resolution...
 - a.** Call to set up an appointment with the athletic administrator.
 - b.** Determine the appropriate next step at this meeting.

C. OHSAA Fair Play Code for Fans...

- i.** I will remember that young people play sports for THEIR enjoyment, not to entertain me.
- ii.** I will not have unrealistic expectations and will understand that doing one’s best is as important as winning. I understand that ridiculing an athlete for making a mistake is not acceptable behavior.

- iii. I will respect the official's decisions and will encourage all participants to do the same.
- iv. I will respect and show appreciation for the coaches and understand that they have given their time to provide sport activities for our young people.
- v. I will encourage athletes and coaches to play by the rules and to resolve conflicts without resorting to hostility or violence.
- vi. I will show respect for my team's opponents because I realize there would be no game without them.
- vii. I will not use bad language and will not harass athletes, coaches, officials or other spectators.
- viii. I will always show good sportsmanship since young people learn best by example.

D. A fan is a representative of the school. A fan's personal conduct reflects upon fellow fans, athletes, the coach and the school in general. Violations of the OHSAA Code for Fans outlined in section C or any conduct which might prove embarrassing or disrespectful to the athletic program shall be considered serious and may be grounds for removal from the MEVSD property. Permanent denial of attending MEVSD activities could result from such behavior.

XI. Transportation

- A. It is the responsibility of the MEVSD to provide for the safe transportation of student-athletes and other contest participants to and from athletic events. Travel must be supervised by staff members or designated representatives of the MEVSD. It is not recommended that students be released to travel with parents or other persons; however, permission to make alternative travel arrangements remains the purview of the MEVSD. (*OHSAA Sports Regulations Ref.: General, 17*)
- B. In cases where MEVSD vehicles are not utilized for an away event, it is the responsibility of the parents/guardians of each student-athlete to determine the best manner in which to transport their son/daughter to/from the site of an athletic contest. The coach will not organize this type of transportation effort. The proper release form ("Transportation NOT Provided-Release Form") must be completed and returned to the coach prior to the day of the event.
- C. In cases where MEVSD vehicles are utilized for an away event, parents/guardians may request to transport their son/daughter to/from the site of an athletic contest provided the proper release form ("Transportation Provided-Release Form") has been completed and returned to the coach prior to such transportation.
 - i. Such arrangements will be granted only in unusual or emergency circumstances as agreed to by the coach.
 - ii. The parent/guardian must identify himself/herself in person to the coach to take custody of the student after the contest. Students will never be released to anyone except their parent/guardian.
- D. All trips over 100 miles (one way) require Board of Education approval.
- E. The MEVSD does not provide transportation for any voluntary activities including summer camps/clinics. Bus transportation may be funded by participants if desired.
- F. Student-athletes must behave properly while traveling to/from a contest site. Inappropriate actions may result in denial of the privilege to travel with the team and play in away contests. Guidelines include...
 - i. Dressing in an appropriate and neat manner to/from the away contest.
 - ii. Recognizing that one must arrive in ample time for departure. Transportation will not wait for late-comers.
 - iii. Respecting the vehicle and other property involved in the transportation.
 - iv. Respecting the driver and the supervisors of the trip, including following all MEVSD transportation rules.
 - v. Conducting oneself in a high manner befitting an athlete representing Milford.

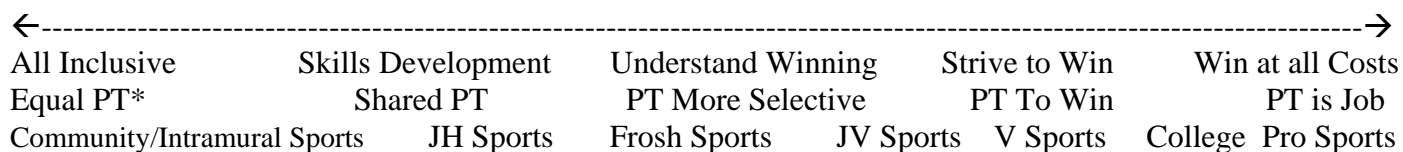
XII. Awards

- A. Participants in the athletic program shall receive recognition after each season. An appropriate certificate shall accompany each award earned. No awards shall be given to any athlete who does not complete the season in good standing.
- B. All awards should be based on achievement as well as team membership policies and requirements.
- C. The key award in the athletic program's award system shall be the varsity letter "M". Varsity award requirements are determined by the coach and may be requested prior to each season.
- D. Varsity awards shall be granted as follows...
 - i. The athlete shall receive a 7-inch varsity letter "M" upon earning his/her first such award. The letter shall be complemented by a metal insert signifying the sport in which he/she has excelled.
 - ii. Subsequent first-year varsity awards in other sports shall be recognized by a metal insert signifying each sport.
 - iii. Additional varsity awards in any sport shall be recognized by a chevron award.
 - iv. Team awards such as MVP, MIP, etc. are limited to a maximum of one recipient for each at the varsity level only.

- E. Reserve (Junior Varsity) awards shall be granted as follows...
 - i. The athlete shall receive a 6-inch red letter “M” upon earning his/her first reserve award in any sport.
 - ii. Additional reserve awards in any one sport shall receive a 6-inch white letter “M”. No insignia or chevrons shall accompany reserve letters.
- F. Freshman and all 1st year athletes shall receive a set of numerals (indicating their graduation year) upon earning their first award.
- G. Junior High athletes shall receive a 4-inch red block “M” upon earning their first award in any sport. Appropriate insignia and bars may also be awarded as part of the Junior High recognition program.
- H. Two deserving recipients from each high school level team (F/JV/V) will be chosen by the coach to each receive one of the following athletic department awards (acknowledged by a certificate or plaque)...
 - i. *Sportsmanship Award* for integrity, honor and showing concern for others.
 - ii. *Eagle Award* for hard work, dedication and discipline.
- I. All athletes who completed the season in good standing and who have exhibited good behavior since the completion of the season are encouraged to attend official awards ceremonies as designated by the coach in conjunction with the athletic director. Athletes should dress appropriately and treat the ceremony as a special and professional occasion. Athletes deemed to be disrespectful in any way will be removed immediately and subject to further disciplinary action.

XIII. Miscellaneous & Non-Recognized OHSAA Competitions/Sports

- A. All teams/programs governed by the Milford Athletic Department not recognized by the OHSAA shall adhere to appropriate OHSAA bylaws and applicable sports regulations.
- B. Some of our athletic teams/programs train on the roads and in the neighborhoods surrounding the Milford HS/JH campus. In particular, those athletes choosing to participate in cross country or track will be using the roads on a frequent basis. Athletes of these sports shall receive proper safety instructions (“Rules of the Road”) at the beginning of the season outlining suitable road-running etiquette and responsibilities. Runners who do not follow the “Rules of the Road” are subject to disciplinary action, up to and including denial of participation. If a parent is uncomfortable with their son/daughter participating in road training, and they do not wish to consent to this practice, they should inform the head coach immediately and in writing.
- C. As recommended by OHSAA, pyramids and mounts by cheerleaders are prohibited. Individuals may not stand on another’s shoulders or support another individual in any type of mount. Use of mini-trampolines is also prohibited. (*OHSAA Sports Regulations Ref.: General, 8*)
- D. We want all of our teams to be successful, but in general, our focus on winning increases as the team level increases and the skills development aspect at the earlier stages needs to remain a top priority. The general Milford Athletic Program competition philosophy is illustrated below using a spectrum of ‘Participation and Competitive Intent Levels’ (from the Athletic Strategic Plan)...



*PT=*playing time* - Playing time is always the coach’s decision based on: ability, aptitude, attendance, attitude and effort.

XIV. NCAA Academic Eligibility Requirements

- A. For the latest NCAA Eligibility Brochure, please go online and download the “.pdf” file using the following link: https://web1.ncaa.org/eligibilitycenter/pdf/ec_tri-fold_4-18-08.pdf or you may request a copy from the athletic office. We also encourage you to visit www.ncaa.org to find additional information pertaining to college sports participation.