



Mentor Public Schools

Student-Athletes  
And Parents  
Handbook

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Dear Student-Athletes and Parents,

You are receiving this handbook because your student has indicated a desire to participate in the interscholastic athletic program. We are very pleased that your student has made this decision, and we hope that their experiences will be positive as well as educational. Participation in athletics gives students the opportunity to learn leadership skills, to gain self-confidence, self-discipline, organization, decision-making skills, and encourages them to set goals. A comprehensive program of student activities is vital to the educational development of our students.

Once students have chosen to participate, there are often many questions which both you and your son or daughter may have regarding the Athletic Program. In order to assist in making the athletic experience a more positive one, this handbook has been assembled to answer questions about the guidelines and philosophy of the Athletic Program. We hope that this will be of assistance, and we encourage you to use it as a reference throughout the year. If you have additional questions, please feel free to contact any of the building athletic directions.

# School Information

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## ***Mentor High School***

Principal:	William Wade	974-5300
6477 Center Street		
Mentor, Ohio 44060		
Athletic Director:	Jeff Cassella	974-5304
Athletic Trainer:	Lindsey Connelly	974-5361

## ***Memorial Jr. High School***

Principal:	Kathy Burnett	974-2250
8979 Mentor Avenue		
Mentor, Ohio 44060		
Athletic Director:	Joe Jeckel	205-2514

## ***Ridge Jr. High School***

Principal:	Megan Kinsey	974-5400
7860 Johnnycake Ridge Road		
Mentor, Ohio 44060		
Athletic Director:	Matt Adams	974-5408

## ***Shore Jr. High School***

Principal:	Doug Baker	257-8750
5670 Hopkins Road		
Mentor, Ohio 44060		
Athletic Director:	Shawn Toot	257-8757

# Philosophy

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It is the basic educational philosophy of the Mentor Public Schools to prepare our students to become productive, contributing citizens of our community and society. We believe that a comprehensive program of student activities enhances and is vital to the educational development of our students.

Within this context, it is the purpose of the school's athletic program to foster and promote:

- Age-appropriate physical, social, and psychological development.
- The idea of competition, teamwork, and sportsmanship while achieving the goals of success and participation.
- The development of self-confidence, self-discipline, organization, decision-making skills, and goal orientation.
- The concept of an integral relationship between a sound mind and a sound body leading to a lifetime appreciation of physical fitness and good health habits.
- A positive feeling of school loyalty and pride which can be shared by all participants, other students, parents, coaches and the community as a whole.
- The development of self-esteem and self-concept. Regardless of the role student's play on a team, they should complete their experience in athletics feeling good about themselves.
- Respect for all participants, coaches, officials, spectators and parents.
- The notion that athletes are ambassadors of the Mentor Public Schools and at all times should promote sportsmanship and character on and off the field or court.

Finally, the interscholastic athletic program shall be conducted in accordance with existing Board of Education takes great pride in winning; it does not condone "winning at all costs" and discourages any and all pressures which might tend to neglect good sportsmanship. At all times, the athletic program must be conducted in such a way as to justify it as an educational activity.

# High School Athletic Teams

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## *Fall*

Cheerleading  
Boys Cross Country  
Girls Cross Country  
Football  
Boys Golf  
Girls Golf  
Boys Soccer  
Girls Soccer  
Girls Tennis  
Girls Volleyball

## *Winter*

Boys Basketball  
Girls Basketball  
Cheerleading  
Gymnastics  
Ice Hockey  
Boys Swimming & Diving  
Girls Swimming & Diving  
Wrestling  
Bowling (boys and girls)

## *Spring*

Baseball  
Boys LaCrosse  
Girls LaCrosse  
Softball  
Boys Tennis  
Boys Track  
Girls Track

# Jr. High School Athletic Teams

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## *Fall*

Cheerleading  
Boys Cross Country  
Girls Cross Country  
Football  
Girls Volleyball

## *Winter*

Boys Basketball  
Girls Basketball  
Cheerleading  
Wrestling

## *Spring*

Boys Track  
Girls Track

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# General Information

## Attendance Regulations

Any student participating in an athletic program must be present in at least one half of his or her regularly scheduled classes on the day of the contest or practice in order to be able to participate. At the high school, one half-day is defined as three class periods, not including the lunch period, and four periods at the middle school. If the student is not present as required, the student will not be permitted to practice or compete on that day. A student who is absent on Friday may practice or compete on Saturday. Exceptional situations may be appealed to the building athletic director.

## Cancellation of Contests/ Practices Due to Weather

If the Mentor Exempted Village Public Schools are closed due to inclement weather, a decision on the status of games and practices will be made by the Mentor High School Athletic Department. If possible, all decisions will be made by 12:00 p.m., and the head coach of each team will contact team members. There will be no practices or games for middle school students on days when school has been cancelled.

## Drugs and Alcohol Expectations

All athletes are expected to follow the guidelines contained within the Athletic Code of Conduct and to be free of tobacco, alcohol, and drugs. At the beginning of each season, the head coach of each team will hold a meeting for athletes and parents. At

this meeting, the coach will review team rules, and a brief presentation explaining the Athletic Code of Conduct will be made. In order to continue participating in team activities, every team member and at least one of his or her parents are required to attend this meeting. A copy of the Athletic Code of Conduct can be found in the appendix of this handbook.

## Athletic Participation Cards/Physical Examination Cards

All athletes must have a physical card and an athletic participation card on file prior to the first day of tryouts or practice. All forms should be turned in to the head coach, and no athlete will be permitted to participate without these forms being completed. In the event of an emergency, coach will have a copy of the emergency medical card in their possession at all athletic contests. Athletes can pick up blank forms in the Athletic Office.

## Equipment

Each athlete will be issued equipment which is property of the school, and athletes are expected to maintain each item of equipment. Please follow care instructions located within most cloth items. **Uniforms with lettering which has been ironed onto the garment should be line dried to prevent damage.** All equipment is to be returned at the end of each season. Athletes who fail to return equipment will not be permitted to participate in other activities.

# General Information

## Facility Usage

Scheduling of athletic facilities for games, regular practices and practices during holiday breaks must be coordinated through the athletic director at each building. All other rooms/spaces are scheduled through the assistant principal. Booster clubs are permitted to use areas of the building for meetings and other activities, but the event must be scheduled at least one week in advance.

Students and parents will be permitted to use facilities only when scheduled and supervised by a staff member. No athlete is to use any facility (gym, weight room, pool) without a staff member being present.

## Grade Point Requirements

The Mentor Schools Board of Education has adopted a policy which sets a minimum grade point average that must be met in order to be eligible for athletic activities in grades 7-12. Highlights of the guidelines are listed below, and the complete guidelines are in the appendix of this handbook.

- Eligibility will be maintained, gained, or lost each grading period.
- A 2.0 grade point average in the preceding 9-week period is required for participation in any athletic activity.
- Grades 9-12: To be eligible, a student/athlete must be currently enrolled in a member school and have received passing grades in a minimum of five one-credit courses or the equivalent, in the immediately preceding grading period.
- Grades 7-8: To be eligible, a

student/athlete must be currently enrolled in a member school and have received passing grades in 75 percent of subjects in which enrolled the immediately preceding grading period.

- For eligibility, summer school grades may not be used to substitute for failing grades received in the final grading period of the regular school year or for lack of enough courses taken the preceding grading period.
- Students achieving a grade point average between .8 and 2.0, and who have passed courses that earn a minimum of five credits per year or, in grades 7 and 8, passed 75% of those subjects carried in the preceding grading period, in which the student was enrolled, may petition for probationary status. In order to remain eligible during probationary status, the student must attend a mandatory study table at their school. The student must attend study table for 30 minutes 3 days per week. The study table is supervised and the student must be working on school related material. As long as the student attends the required study table and works as required he/she will be eligible for participation. However, if the student fails to meet the requirements of the probationary contract the following penalties will occur:
  - 1<sup>st</sup> offense: The athlete becomes ineligible for the next calendar week.
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> offense: The athlete becomes ineligible for the remainder of the grading period.

A student remains on probation the entire grading period. At the end of the grading period, his/her status will be re-evaluated. An athlete may remain on probation during consecutive grading periods if he/she is making academic progress. If an athlete does not demonstrate academic progress by improving his or her GPA by .5, he/she becomes ineligible for the following grading period. An athlete must achieve a grade point average of 2.0 after two consecutive quarters on probation in order to remain eligible. If an athlete is ineligible, but possibly could return to eligibility during the sport season, he/she must attend the study table as if they are on probation in order to regain their eligibility the following grading period.

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## Insurance Coverage/Risk of Participation

Prior to the beginning of practice, all students are offered the opportunity to enroll in a Mentor School endorsed insurance program. This program can be utilized by students who do not have insurance coverage of their own. All students must be covered by insurance to participate.

Participation in interscholastic athletics can lead to possible injury to student athletes. Although most injuries are minor in nature, it is possible that an injury could occur that is severe enough to cause a person to become paraplegic, quadriplegic, or result in death. Mentor Schools and staff take precautions to prevent such injuries, but such risk does exist.

## Lettering Guidelines/Awards

The criteria for earning a letter may vary from sport to sport because of the different characteristics of each program. Each head coach will be permitted to determine the criteria necessary for earning team awards and will make athletes aware of this criteria at the beginning of the season. Students have the opportunity to earn the following awards:

**Middle School Teams:** Participation Certificate

**Freshman Team:** Freshman Participation Certificate/numeral

**Junior Varsity:** Junior Varsity Participation Certificate

**Varsity Award:** Varsity Letter and Sport Pin/Plaque

# General Information

## Sportsmanship Guidelines

### Philosophy

The Mentor Public Schools believe that interscholastic competition involving member schools should be governed by the basic principles of good sportsmanship. This document has been prepared to ensure that all members have a common understanding of those basic principles.

We believe that students should be coached to play to the best of their ability and to understand that to play well is to play honorably. The promotion of sportsmanship is the obligation of all school personnel (principals, athletic directors, coaches, and staff members) and is directed toward the behavior of spectators, coaches, players, and band members. We believe the development of good sportsmanship through the practice of ethical behavior and moral reasoning is one of the acknowledged objectives of interscholastic athletics. We therefore expect school administrators, coaches, staff members, and spectators to know and embrace the following fundamentals of sportsmanship.

1. Respect should be demonstrated for athletic opponents and for their school at all times. Host schools should treat visiting teams and their supporters as guests and accord them the consideration all human beings deserve. When traveling, all participants should respect the property and dignity of their host school and its athletic teams.
2. Respect should be demonstrated for the officials at all times. Officials must be assumed to be and accepted as impartial arbitrators who are trained to do their job and can be expected to do the job to the best of their ability.
3. Knowledge of and a proper respect for the current rules of the contest should guide the behavior of all participants. Rules are essential for a fair contest, and good sportsmanship suggests the importance of conforming to the spirit as well as the "letter" of the rules for that sport.
4. All participants should strive to maintain self-control at all times. The desire should not be accepted as a reason for abandoning rational behavior. A proper perspective must be maintained by all if the potential educational value of athletic competition is to be realized.
5. All participants should learn to recognize and appreciate skill in performance regardless of affiliation. Recognition of the performance of an opponent is a demonstration of generosity and goodwill that is encouraged in all Mentor Schools. In order for good sportsmanship to prevail, it is essential that all participants and spectators understand their individual responsibilities and expected modes

# General Information

of behavior before during and after contests.

## Players/Staff/Other Team

### Personnel

Players, staff members and other team personnel are governed by the sportsmanship policy established by the Ohio High School Athletic Association. It states that any team member or staff member ejected for unsportsmanlike conduct or flagrant foul shall be ineligible for contests for the remainder of that day as well as for all in that sport until two regular season/tournament contests (one in football) are played at the same level as the ejections. (Example of "same level" would be: two freshman games or two varsity games). In addition coaches are fined \$100 and must attend a coaching class prior to returning to coaching.

If the ejection occurs in the last contest of season, the student or staff member shall be ineligible for the same period of time stated above in the next sport in which the student or staff member participates. A student or staff member under suspension may not sit on the team bench, enter the locker room or be affiliated with the team in any way traveling to, during, or traveling after the contest(s).

A student who is ejected a second time shall be suspended for the remainder of the season in that sport. A staff member who is ejected for a second time will be suspended indefinitely and required to attend a mandatory conference with the O>H>S>A>A> Commissioner.

## Spectators/Band Members

(Includes all persons in attendance at the school event).

Athletes, coaches, and staff members are included in the O.H.S.A.A. guidelines listed prior to this section. Partisans spectators by their behaviors and reactions determine to a large extent the reputation for sportsmanship of their school. Spectators should be reminded and should keep in mind that athletes are friendly rivals as members of opposing amateur teams. They are expected to be treated as such. Spectators should be reminded, too, that the competition and not between their supporters. It is important that all spectators:

1. Know and demonstrate the fundamentals of good sportsmanship.
2. Respect, cooperate, and respond enthusiastically to the cheerleaders, coaches, and athletes of all teams.
3. Censure fellow spectators whose behavior is unsportsmanlike.
4. Be positive toward players and coaches regardless of the outcome of the contest.
5. Respect the judgment and the professionalism of the officials and coaches.

## Examples of Spectator Inappropriate Behavior:

1. Verbal/physical abuse of officials.

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2. Berating players, coaches or other spectators. Examples of this could include, but are not limited to, negative chants, signs, cheers, or gestures.
3. Interruption of contest. Examples of this could include, but are not limited to, the throwing of objects on playing area, entering the playing area, and other disruptive behavior.
4. Removal from contest or premises by a game official or security personnel.

As a result of inappropriate spectator behavior, any of the following disciplinary actions could occur. The principal or designee has the right to vary from this guideline based upon the circumstances.

1. Verbal or written warning.
2. The spectator will not be permitted to attend any athletic contest for a period of 14 days from the date of the offense.
3. The spectator will not be permitted to attend any athletic contest for a period of 28 days from the date of the offense.
4. The spectator will not be permitted to attend any athletic contest for a period of one year.

The Mentor Public Schools are committed to upholding the ideals of good sportsmanship put forth in this document. It is important that the actions of the school, participants, coaches, and spectators be a positive reflection on the Mentor community.

## Athletic Training/Health Care

## **Athlete Injury Reporting Guidelines**

1. Athletes are to first report practice injuries to the coach and then to the athletic trainer. All injuries and health concerns must be reported to the athletic trainer. Medical referral will be coordinated through the training staff.
2. In the absence of the trainer, the coach will initiate early first aid care. The coach will notify the trainer of all injuries.
3. Injured athletes are expected to continue attendance to practice and games during the treatment and recovery period.
4. Parents are encouraged to contact the training staff regarding any questions or concerns relating to their child's injury and care.
5. All athletes missing practices or games due to injury or illness must notify the coach directly prior to that practice or game.
6. Games dress for injured athletes will be directed by each head coach.

## Taping/Bracing Guidelines

1. Taping is a medical treatment tool with a specific therapeutic purpose. Appropriate use of tape for injury care will be directed by the trainer. Tape will not be made available for non-injury use.
2. The training staff is available to advise parents on purchase and use of various bracing, splinting, and

## General Information

supportive devices beneficial to injury care. Some braces are available through the training room at a discounted rate. See the trainer for more information.

### Medical Referral for injuries

1. The Athletic Health Care Program is a note designed to replace the family physician or to dictate medical care. The choice of health care provider and initiation of medical referral always remains at the discretion of the parents.
2. Your family physician should be contacted if: problems develop with an injury, the condition worsens or the condition persists for an extended period of time. It is important that injured athletes return to the training room for reevaluation and report any new or remaining problems.
3. Parents have access to the services of team physician staff who supervise all care provided by the training staff.
4. All athletes evaluated by their family physician must provide a note from the physician indicating the type of injury, course of treatment, and participation status. The note must be given to the trainer. Standardized physician evaluation forms are available in the training room.
5. All significant head injuries must be evaluated by a physician prior to clearance to participate. A note clearing the athlete is required for reentering practice activity.

### Return to Activity Following Injury

1. All athletes who have been removed from activity by the trainer and referred for physician evaluation must provide a note from the consulting physician prior to return to activity.
2. All athletes who have been removed from activity or placed on limited activity by a physician must present a note from the physician clearing the athlete to reenter activity.
3. A physician's note "clearing the athlete for full activity" is recognized only as a release to begin a gradual transition period back to full activity. This transition time period is designed to monitor the existing condition and assure safe return to intense and demanding situations.
4. Injured athletes are expected to continue a rehabilitation/strength maintenance program on the injured area following return to play in order to prevent re-injury. This is a required condition if the athlete is to continue practicing. These programs will be coordinated through the training room.
5. The trainer determines return to activity clearance using specific protocols established by the supervising team physician.

### Adolescent Athlete Protective Care Guidelines

1. No member of the training staff or coaching staff may clear an athlete to

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- participate if a physician has removed the athlete from activity.
2. No member of the coaching staff can clear an athlete to participate if the athletic trainer has removed the athlete from activity.
  3. Following physician clearance for return to activity, if clinical evidence, rehabilitation progression, or new injury information indicates that the athlete is at continued risk for injury, it is the responsibility of the training staff to protect the health of the athlete. The athlete is to be held from activity and referred back to the family physician or to the team physician for further advisement.
  4. The team physician, attending physician, athletic trainer, coach, or parent may withhold an athlete from entering activity if it is considered to be in the best interest of the individual's health. This allows those with specialized knowledge to act as a safety net, thereby optimizing the protection afforded the individual adolescent athlete.

will be followed, including food, noise, remaining in seats, care and respect for equipment. Athletes are expected to dress appropriately.

## Transportation

All athletes *must* travel to and from out-of-town athletic contests in transportation provided by the athletic department. If a special situation occurs, the athlete must present a note from a parent or guardian explaining the situation prior to the contest. Athletes will remain with their squad and under the supervision of the coach when attending away contests. Athletes who miss the bus will not be permitted to participate in the contest unless there are extenuating circumstances. All regular school bus rules

# Student Rules and Regulations

## O.H.S.A.A. Regulations

Your years in school will be highlighted by your participation in your school athletic program. These will be some of the most enjoyable years of your life. During this time, your state association, the Ohio High School Athletic Association, has standards that you must meet in order to be eligible to compete. The eligibility standards of the O.H.S.A.A. have been adopted by the member schools and were accepted by Mentor Public Schools when it became an O.H.S.A.A. member.

### **1. Scholarship**

Do not change your course schedule or drop a course without first consulting with your guidance counselor or athletic director to determine whether it will affect your eligibility. Eligibility for each grading period is determined by grades received the preceding grading period. Semester, Summer school, and yearly grades have no affect on eligibility.

- Grades 9-12: To be eligible, you must be currently enrolled in an O.H.S.A.A. member school and have received passing grades in a minimum of five one-credit courses, or the equivalent, in the immediately preceding grading period.
- Grades 7-8: To be eligible, you must be currently enrolled in an O.H.S.A.A. member school and have received passing grades in 75% of subjects in which enrolled, in the immediately preceding grading period.

For eligibility purposes, summer school grades may not be used to substitute for failing grades received the final grading period of the regular school year or the lack of enough subjects taken the preceding grading period. Students taking post secondary school courses must comply with these standards.

### **2. Residence**

You may attend any public or non-public high school in which you are accepted when you enter a high school from a 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade school.

Eligibility at that school is then established by:

1. Participating in a contest (Scrimmage, preview or regular season game) prior to the first day of school, or
  2. Attending the first day of school at any member school.
- If there is a change of custody, you must live in the same school district as your legal guardian.
  - If your parent or legal guardian lives outside of Ohio, you are ineligible unless one of the four (4) exceptions to the regulation is met. You and your parents should arrange a meeting with your principal or athletic administrator to review these exceptions.
  - If additional questions remain on the regulations on residence, school principals or athletic administrators should contact the O.H.S.A.A.

## **3. Transfer Students**

Once eligibility has been established at a member school, those who transfer to a different school will be ineligible for athletics for one year from the date of enrollment in the new school.

- There are eight (8) exceptions to this regulation. To see if you qualify for an exception, you and your parents should arrange a meeting with your principal or athletic administrator and review the O.H.S.A.A. Transfer By-law brochure prior to transferring schools.
- If additional questions remain on the regulations or transfers, school principals or athletic administrators should contact the O.H.S.A.A.

## **4. Semesters of Eligibility**

When you enroll in the 9<sup>th</sup> grade for the first time, you have eight semesters of athletic eligibility whether you participate or do not participate. If you have repeated any grade 9-12, please be sure to notify your athletic director immediately.

## **5. Age Limitations**

- Grades 9-12: If you are 19 years of age prior to August 1, you are ineligible for athletics.
- Grades 7-8: If you are 15 years of age prior to August 1, you are ineligible for athletics. If you are 15 years of age prior to August 1, you are eligible to participate on a high school

athletic team. Consult your athletic director for proper procedures.

If you have questions about your eligibility, see your coach or athletic director right away. If an ineligible player participates in an athletic contest, in most cases, the team will have to forfeit that contest.

## **6. Awards**

You may receive an award or merchandise as a result of your participation in school or non-school competition from any source, provided the value does not exceed \$200.00 per award.

## **7. Competing Under a Name Other Than Your Own/Falsifying Your Address**

If you compete under a name other than your own or falsify your address, you immediately become ineligible.

## **8. Instructional Programs**

Athletes in all O.H.S.A.A. recognized sports are subject to the Instructional Program regulations.

These include:

Camps, clinics, workshops, etc., that involve team play may be attended from June 1-July 31 only. Team play is defined as any activity of

# Student Rules and Regulations

individuals with more than one player opposing one player.

There is no limit on the number of players from the same school participating on the same team from June 1-July 31. Individual skill instruction may be received at any time in individual or group lessons.

An athlete may have no contact in an instructional program with the school coaching staff except during the season of the sport and for 10 days from June 1-July 31. Members of a football squad may play in non-contact football contests and may attend non-contact football camps between June 1-July 31.

## 9. Non-interscholastic Participation

Participation by an athlete in a non-interscholastic program (tryouts, practice, contests) while a member of a school squad in the same sport is PROHIBITED. An athlete becomes a member of a squad by participating in an interscholastic contest (scrimmage, preview, or regular season contest). Exceptions: In individual sports, an athlete may practice and try out for a non-school team, but may NOT compete in a contest.

A student may not compete on a non-school team, in a charity event, church league, or club team during the school team's season.

Bylaw 10-3-3 allows athletes to participate in non-interscholastic competition prior to and after the school season during the school year under the following conditions:

The number of players from the same school on the squad is limited to:

Baseball/Softball-4, Volleyball and Ice Hockey-3, Basketball-2, and Soccer-5. This rule is not in effect from June 1-July 31. Football squad members are prohibited from non-interscholastic participation except from June 1-July 31.

A player may continue to play with a non-interscholastic team in a national qualifying tournament after July 31 until the team is eliminated, but no later than Labor Day.

An athlete may have no contact with the school coaching staff in a non-interscholastic program except from June 1-July 31.

***PENALTY: The penalty for violation during the school season for any athlete is ineligibility for the remainder of the school season.*** The maximum penalty for violation of the out-of season regulations for any athlete except a senior is ineligibility for the ensuing season; for a senior, ineligibility for all sports for the remainder of the school year. If you have questions about any of the previous information, contact your building Athletic Director.

## 10. Recruiting of Athletes

You will be ineligible if you are recruited by a person or group of persons to change

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schools. It may also affect the eligibility of the school athletic teams. *If you have questions about any of the previous information, contact your building Athletic Director.*

## 11. Open Gym/Facility

An "Open Gym" is a facility in which the doors or gates are unlocked and open for unstructured free play, and no one is restricted from observing the play. The school may designate the sport to be played.

Athletes may participate provided:

- A. Participation is not limited to a select group of students from within a school.
- B. There is no designation of who shall play on which team or who shall play whom except by the students who participates.
- C. Regulation timing is not kept.
- D. Written scoring is not kept.
- E. No individual invitations, oral or written, are extended.
- F. There is no coaching or instruction.

These regulations pertain to both school and non-school facilities. Please note: Athletes shall not be required to attend open gyms.

***Penalty: The penalty for violation is ineligibility for interscholastic athletics not to exceed one year.***

## 12. Amateur Status

You will lose your amateur status and forfeit your eligibility if you:

- Compete for money or other monetary compensation.

- Receive any award, equipment or prize of monetary value greater than \$200.00 per item.
- Capitalize on your athletic fame by receiving money or gifts of monetary value.
- Sign a professional playing contract in the sport in which you had participated.
- Sign with a professional agent (Ohio law).

The philosophy of the Mentor Public Schools Extracurricular Code is to assist students in understanding and abiding by the expected standards of all extracurricular programs. The District recognizes that extracurricular participation is an elective privilege and that participants are held to higher standards both academically and behaviorally to maintain eligibility to participate. The code was designed by coaches, advisors and administrators to provide a behavioral and disciplinary framework of action for students, administrators, coaches, advisors and parents and to provide a deterrent to any use of tobacco, alcohol or other drugs.

The District recognizes the research stating that use of tobacco, alcohol and other drugs is detrimental to performance in athletics and other performance-related activities and that use impairs rational thinking abilities and other physical and emotional functions. The district also recognizes that any student, coach or advisor representing the Mentor Public Schools inside or outside of the community is a role model to others.

### Role of Students

***Students/athletes must recognize the fact that alcohol, drugs and tobacco are not only illegal, but also detrimental to one's health.*** Students participating in extracurricular activities recognize that they are role models and that their academic and behavioral standards are higher in order to maintain eligibility. Students commit to the non-use of tobacco, alcohol and other drugs for the following reasons: 1) to ensure strong role modeling messages; 2) to ensure continued participation in the activity; 3) to communicate respect and integrity for themselves, their parents, advisors and their health; 4) to maximize performance to benefit teammates, fellow organization members and the Mentor Public Schools and; 5) to pledge oneself to a healthy lifestyle. ***It is mandatory that the "Eligibility and Extracurricular Code Agreement" be signed in order for the student athlete to be eligible to participate.***

### Role of Coaches and Advisors

Coaches and advisors recognize that they are role models and that they are the second most integral component in communicating direct, positive messages about tobacco, alcohol and other drug-free participation in activities in what they say and do. Coaches and advisors, as employees of the Mentor Public Schools, will adhere to all expectations and possible consequences and follow through with recognition of a violation, confrontation of a violation and consequences of a violation no matter how detrimental it would be to team or organization activity and/or success. In addition, all coaches and advisors will commit to devoting a minimum of 5-10 minutes weekly during their activity time to directly addressing the issue of making healthy choices with their participants.

Parents recognize that extracurricular participation is an elective privilege and they are role models and the most integral component in communicating direct, positive messages about tobacco, alcohol and other drug-free participation in activities in what they say and do. Parents recognize that they will support drug-free participation by their students and they will consistently follow through with consequences for not adhering to these expectations and this policy. Parents recognize that the health, well-being and educational success of their students always is more important than any participation in extracurricular activities. *It is mandatory that the "Eligibility and Extracurricular Code Agreement" be signed in order for the student/athlete to be eligible to participate.*

Role of the Administration

The administration recognizes that student use of tobacco, alcohol and other drugs is wrong, harmful and unlawful. The administration recognizes that they are role models and another integral component in communicating direct, positive messages about tobacco, alcohol and other drug-free participation in activities with what they say and do. The administration recognizes they must be consistent, fair, timely and appropriate when communicating expectations and consequences and enforcing consequences related to violations of this policy.

Student policy violations fall into one of two categories for discipline consequences:

**Category A violations** are when students are referred to the appropriate Administrator:

- by the Mentor Police Department or by an adult law enforcement authority for the unlawful use and/or possession of tobacco, alcohol and/or drugs;
- by school administrators because of violation of Code of Student Conduct-Board Policy 6.19; or
- by an administrator, coach, or advisor after a student is found using or in possession of tobacco, alcohol and /or drugs in violation of this Code.

**Category B violations** are when a student voluntarily comes forward and admits to a code violation or when a parent refers their child to the appropriate Administrator.

All offenses are cumulative; whether the violation is a Category A violation or Category B violation, each violation is considered an offense. This policy starts to take effect in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade.

The discipline administered for a violation is directly related to the substance, tobacco, alcohol or other drug; type of violation, Category A or Category B; the number of the offense, (first, second, third etc.); whether the student accepts, follows through, and produces documentation of adhering to the Administrator's intervention recommendation.

With the third offense and any further offenses, consideration for future participation in extracurricular activities will be evaluated on an individual basis contingent upon documentation of rehabilitation.

When a student is found/observed using or in possession of tobacco, alcohol and/or other drugs the following procedure is followed:

- The school employee informs the student of the observation and notifies the Director of Athletics of the observation.
- The Director of Athletics meets with the student and asks the student about the occurrence.
- The Director of Athletics, and an Administrator will meet with the student and parent/guardian to review the discipline for the violation, including the option of accepting, following and documenting adherence to the Administrator's intervention recommendation.

Students referred to an Administrator through other ways as identified in Category A and Category B will meet, along with their parent/guardian, with the Director of Athletics, and an Administrator to review the discipline for the violation, including the option of accepting, following and documenting adherence to the Administrator's intervention recommendation.

Within five (5) days of discipline notification, the student and/or the student's parent, guardian or custodian may appeal the discipline decision to the Superintendent/designee. A request for an appeal must be made in writing to the superintendent.

If an appeal is filed and a hearing is held, notice of the decision will be sent in writing by the Superintendent/designee to the student and/or the student's parent, guardian or custodian.

### **1<sup>st</sup> Offense for alcohol and/or other drugs:**

Category A Violation:

Immediate suspension from participation in extracurricular activity for a minimum of 30% of the regular season games, performances or organization functions and a maximum of 1 calendar year from the date of the infraction.(length of suspension is dependant upon accepting, following and documenting adherence to the Administrator's intervention recommendation.)

Category B Violation:

Immediate suspension from participation in extracurricular activity for a minimum of 10% of the regular season games, performances or organization functions and a maximum of 1 calendar year from the date of the infraction.(length is dependant upon accepting, following and documenting adherence to the Administrator's intervention recommendation.)

**2<sup>nd</sup> Offense for alcohol and/or other drugs:**

Category A Violation:

Immediate suspension from participation in all extracurricular activities for a minimum of 100% of a season and up to and including the remainder of the junior high and high school career.(length of suspension is dependant upon accepting, following and documenting adherence to the Administrator's intervention recommendation.)

Category B Violation:

Immediate suspension from participation in extracurricular activity for a minimum of 50% of the regular season games, performances or organization functions and a maximum of 1 calendar year from the date of the infraction.(length is dependant upon accepting, following and documenting adherence to the Administrator's intervention recommendation.)

**Subsequent Offenses for Alcohol and/or Other Drugs:**

Immediate suspension from participation in all extracurricular activities for the remainder of junior high and high school career. Consideration for future participation in extracurricular activities will be evaluated on an individual basis contingent upon documentation of rehabilitation.

**1<sup>st</sup> Offense for Tobacco:**

Category A Violation:

Immediate suspension from participation in extracurricular activity for a minimum of 20% of the regular season games, performances or organization functions and a maximum of 30% of the regular season games, performances or organization functions from the date of the infraction.(length of suspension is dependant upon accepting, following and documenting adherence to the Administrator's intervention recommendation.)

Category B Violation:

Immediate suspension from participation in extracurricular activity for a minimum of 10% of the regular season games, performances or organization functions and a maximum of 30% of the regular season games, performances or organization functions from the date of

the infraction.(length is dependant upon accepting, following and documenting adherence to the Administrator's intervention recommendation.)

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Offense for Tobacco:**

#### **Category A Violation:**

Immediate suspension from participation in all extracurricular activities for a minimum of 50% of the regular season games, performances or organization functions and a maximum of 1 calendar year from the date of the infraction.(length of suspension is dependant upon accepting, following and documenting adherence to the Administrator's intervention recommendation.)

#### **Category B Violation:**

Immediate suspension from participation in extracurricular activity for a minimum of 30% of the regular season games, performances or organization functions and a maximum of 1 calendar year from the date of the infraction.(length is dependant upon accepting, following and documenting adherence to the Administrator's intervention recommendation.)

### **Subsequent Offenses for Tobacco:**

Immediate suspension from participation in all extracurricular activities for the remainder of junior high and high school career. Consideration for future participation in extracurricular activities will be evaluated on an individual basis contingent upon documentation of rehabilitation.

(NOTE: All penalties are percentages of total regular season games and/or events. Suspension begins from the date of the infraction. Suspensions shall carry into playoffs and/or other post-season tournaments, games or events. (e.g. If a student is suspended for 12 games of total regular season and/or events midway into the regular season and the team makes it into the playoffs and to the state tournaments, the playoffs and state tournament games count toward the number of games of suspension.) All suspensions for 10-12 grade students will not be imposed upon activities in which the student has not previously participated. In addition, any student formally charged with any felony offense will be immediately removed from participation in extracurricular activities until the case has been completely adjudicated.)

LEGAL REF.:       ORC 2925.01; 2925.37  
                          3313.66; 3313.661  
                          3719.011; 3719.41

CROSS REF.:        Student Handbooks  
                          Code of Student Conduct-Board Policy 6.19