

Middleton High School
Athletics
Bob Joers, Athletic Director

MISSION STATEMENT OF THE ATHLETIC PROGRAM

Welcome to the Middleton Athletic Program. The mission of the athletic program is to foster the quest for excellence by creating an educational and competitive experience within an atmosphere of sportsmanship. We strive to develop and realize individual and team potential by promoting high standards of competence, character, civility and citizenship.

Statement of Philosophy

The Middleton Cross Plains School District understands that interscholastic athletics are a significant part of the educational process. The combination of academics and athletics enhances the quality of student's lives and expands their options for learning and personal growth. Athletics provide an educational opportunity in which students can learn essential life lessons beyond those that can be learned in an academic classroom.

This reflects our belief that the essential requirement for teamwork, the mental and physical challenges of training and competition, and the experience of winning and losing graciously and respectfully are important life lessons in every student's developmental experience. These lessons will serve students well in their future and beyond.

Developing good character habits requires time and effort. Coaches, parents and other stakeholders can help students develop such habits by continually discussing, modeling and reinforcing the desired attitudes and beliefs.

We also understand that participation on an athletic team or teams demands a commitment that involves both dedication and sacrifice. This is required of not only the student athlete, but also of the coaches and parents.

Primary Goals of the MHS Athletic Program

1. Offer students an enjoyable experience;
2. Provide the greatest opportunity possible for athletes to participate in both practice and competitions;
3. Promote personal improvement in skills, physical condition, performance and knowledge of the sport;
4. Promote programs of excellence which will accomplish the goals above and lead to success on and off the playing field

We desire a program of excellence and strive to win every contest in which our teams compete. Central to the goals of Middleton High School is the belief that interscholastic athletics can and should enhance the character of our youth. We put forth the following as the positive character expectations we hold for the primary stakeholders in our Athletic Program:

Competence – *the necessary level of knowledge and skill to sufficiently train and compete.*

- To develop the skills necessary mentally and physically to participate competently in the game.
- To demonstrate knowledge of the rules and strategies of the game.
- To understand the necessity of abstaining from the use of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs/controlled substances in order to achieve the positive benefits of interscholastic athletics.

Character - *the pattern of beliefs, attitudes and therefore behavior that relates to moral strength, constitution and essential qualities that embrace the positive values of the Middleton Cross Plains Area School District and the Community.*

- To accept responsibility for consequences of actions and not to make excuses or blame others.
- To play by the rules of the game and not cheat.
- To control anger and accept losing and winning graciously; to congratulate opponents, not sulk, or display other negative behaviors.

Civility – *to demonstrate behavior that exemplifies appropriate respect and concern for others.*

- To refrain from trash talk and other put-downs of opponents and teammates.
- To treat all persons respectfully regardless of individual differences.
- To show respect for legitimate authority (e.g. Coaches Officials Captains).
- To actively support teammates and others.

Citizenship – *social responsibility as part of a "community."*

- To put the good of the team ahead of personal gain.
- To work well with teammates to achieve team goals.
- To set a good example for teammates, younger athletes, fans and school community.

SPORTS SPONSORED BY MIDDLETON HIGH SCHOOL

FALL

Boys Cross Country
Boys Soccer
Boys Volleyball
Cheerleading
Dance
Football
Girls Cross Country
Girls Golf
Girls Swim & Dive
Girls Tennis
Girls Volleyball

WINTER

Boys Basketball
Boys Hockey
Boys Ski
Boys Snowboard
Boys Swim & Dive
Cheerleading
Dance
Girls Basketball
Girls Hockey
Girls Ski
Girls Snowboard
Gymnastics
Wrestling

SPRING

Baseball
Boys Golf
Boys Lacrosse
Boys Tennis
Boys Track
Girls Lacrosse
Girls Soccer
Girls Track
Softball

INTRODUCTION

All athletes must comply with all current rules as established by the following groups:

- Big Eight Conference - <http://www.big8conference.net>
- Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association (W.I.A.A.)
- Wisconsin High School Alpine Racing Association
- Universal Cheerleaders Association
- Universal Dance Association
- Madison Area Lacrosse Association
- Wisconsin Lacrosse Federation
- Badger Conference – Girls Hockey
- Middleton High School & Middleton-Cross Plains Area School District
- Team Coach

Some information regarding W.I.A.A. Rules and Regulations is included in this manual. Parents/Students may access the entire W.I.A.A. Handbook on their website at www.wiaawi.org.

Conference rules pertain mainly to schedules and regulations of sports governed by the conference. Special areas such as sportsmanship may also have rules that are generated by a group of high school principals representing each school in the conference.

Specific rules for students participating in the interscholastic athletic program at Middleton High School are included in this Parent/Athlete Handbook.

Coaches are responsible for establishing rules and procedures for teams under their jurisdiction. While rules and safety procedures may be reiterated orally on a regular basis, information that is needed by athletes on an ongoing basis will be distributed in writing to all athletes.

ACADEMIC STANDARDS

In order to be academically eligible to participate, a student must satisfy the following conditions:

- Carry a minimum of 2.5 credits (5 classes per semester).
- Receive passing grades in all classes when semester grades are posted by the MHS Registrar.

Regarding Final Semester Grades:

If a student receives one failing grade at semester, that student is ineligible from competition for a minimum of 5 scheduled school days and nights, but not less than one contest. After five scheduled school days and nights a grade check will be performed. If the student is passing ALL his/her classes at that time he/she will become eligible. If the student is failing ANY class at the 5 day grade check, he/she remains ineligible from competition for another five scheduled school days and nights and then proceeds with another grade check. This process remains in place until the student is passing ALL courses.

If a student receives two or more failing grades at semester, the student is ineligible from competition for a minimum of 15 scheduled school days and nights. After 15 days, a grade check will be performed. If the student is passing ALL his/her classes at the 15 day grade check, he/she becomes eligible on the 16th scheduled school day. If that student is failing ANY class at the 15 day grade check, he/she remains ineligible from competition for another 5 scheduled school days and nights at which time another grade check is performed. This process of now checking every 5 scheduled school days remains in place until that student is passing ALL classes.

Semester Grade Checks:

Grade checks will be performed throughout the semester. These grade checks will be done at 9, 12 and 15 weeks. (A single semester is defined as 18 weeks long).

9 Week Grade Check:

Students failing one or more classes at the 9 week grade check will become ineligible from competition for five scheduled school days and nights at which time a grade check is performed. If the student is passing ALL his/her classes at the 5 day grade check, he/she becomes eligible. If the student is failing ANY class at the 5 day grade check, he/she remains ineligible from competition for another 5 scheduled school days and nights. This process of now checking every 5 scheduled school days remains in place until that student is passing ALL courses.

However, the student will become eligible immediately upon receiving a passing grade. For example, a student receives a failing grade at the 9 week grade check on Monday. That student is failing because he/she missed a test or assignment. By Wednesday, the student has

made up the work and is now passing. He/she becomes eligible immediately upon notification by the teacher to the Athletic and Activities Director.

12 and 15 Week Grade Check:

The same procedure applies as is noted for the 9 week grade check.

An incomplete grade will render an athlete ineligible. If an incomplete grade becomes a passing grade within 10 school days, the athlete will regain eligibility immediately. If the incomplete has not been changed within two weeks of the grade posting, the grade will automatically be considered as failing. If try-outs are conducted in a sport prior to the conclusion of a quarter, an ineligible student will be allowed to participate in the try-out process, but will not be eligible for competition until eligibility has been restored.

Grades from summer school courses at Middleton High School may be used to regain eligibility for fall sports.

Grades from summer school courses taken at another school may be used to regain eligibility provided that:

1. The other school gives credit toward graduation requirements for such courses; **AND**,
2. Prior approval has been granted in writing by the Middleton High School Athletic Department or the appropriate principal for courses comparable to those failed during the last quarter or semester.

REGAINING ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY FOR FALL SPORTS

Middleton High School, the W.I.A.A. and any other applicable governing body provides that academic ineligibility status determined at the end of the Spring semester can be adjusted for students in Fall sports in which the date of earliest allowed competition is before the first day that students are in class.

1. If a student receives one failing grade in the previous second semester, that student is ineligible for a minimum of 5 scheduled school days and nights, but not less than one contest. A student may not return to competition until the calendar day following the 5 day ineligibility period. When the earliest allowed game/meet takes place before the first day of classes, the ineligibility period shall be 7 consecutive calendar days beginning with the earliest allowed competition in that sport.
2. A student receiving more than one failing grade in previous 2nd semester shall be ineligible for interscholastic competition for no less than 15 scheduled school days and nights. A student may not return to competition until the next scheduled school day following the 15-day ineligibility period. When the earliest allowed game/meet is before the first day of classes, the ineligibility period shall be the lesser of: a) 21 consecutive calendar days beginning with the date of earliest allowed competition in a sport; **OR**, b) one-third of the maximum number of games/meets allowed in a sport (rounded up if one-third results in a fraction).

ATHLETIC CODE

Students participating in athletics are required to:

1. Conduct themselves in a manner which reflects positively on themselves, their family, the team, and the Middleton High School community.
2. Comply with all school rules as established by the administration of Middleton High School, and all team and athletic rules established by their coaches and the Athletic Director.
3. Comply with all rules as established by the Big Eight Conference, the W.I.A.A and any other applicable governing body.
4. Respect the rights and property of others.
5. Assume full financial responsibility for any school property which is lost, damaged, or stolen through negligence.
6. Refrain from the use, possession, sale or distribution of alcohol, tobacco, controlled substances, drug paraphernalia or any other illegal or illicit substances of any kind at all times.
7. Refrain from any other unacceptable conduct contrary to the ideals, principles and standards of the school, the Big Eight Conference, and the W.I.A.A., including, but not limited to, conduct inappropriate on websites such as blogs, MySpace, Facebook, sexting, cyber bullying, etc. and criminal behavior.
8. Attend class on a regular basis. Absences must be excused.
9. Refrain from cheating.

Any student participant using, possessing, buying or selling alcohol, tobacco (including e-cigarettes or other nicotine delivery devices), controlled substances, drug paraphernalia, or performance enhancing drugs, or abusing prescription drugs or legal substances (caffeine/ephedrine pills, nitrous oxide, aerosols) is in violation of the Athletic Code.

Any student engaged in or being an accomplice to unlawful and/or unacceptable conduct contrary to the ideals, principles, and standards of Middleton High School and local, state, or federal laws (i.e. assault, battery, vandalism, theft, burglary, weapons possession on school property, suspensions, disorderly conduct and/or harassment, etc.) is also in violation of the code.

Consequences for violations will apply to all sports in which the student is involved. Suspensions may **NOT** be served while a student is academically ineligible, but will be enforced once the athlete regains academic eligibility.

VIOLATIONS OF THE ATHLETIC CODE:

- **DISCRETIONARY CLAUSE** - Reported violations will be investigated by an Administrator, Athletic Director, or coach who can jointly reach a decision and determine consequences. The disposition of each case will be based on each individual set of circumstances. The reviewing parties reserve the right to assess a lower or higher tier violation, or no penalty at all, as a result of their investigation.
- **The Terms of Reinstatement will apply to any of the Tier Violations.**

Tier 1 Violations - You will miss 12% of your season.

Included but not limited to: academic dishonesty, lying, disrespect, minor physical altercations, bullying, sexual harassment, hazing, disorderly conduct, minor theft, inappropriate use of social media, and any other conduct deemed unbecoming of a Cardinal.

Tier 2 Violations – Depending on the severity of the violation, you will miss 38% or 72% of your season

Includes but is not limited to repeated or more significant Tier 1 violations, any student participant using, possessing, buying or selling alcohol, tobacco (including e-cigarettes or other nicotine delivery devices including vaping devices or cartridges), controlled substances, drug paraphernalia, or performance enhancing drugs, or abusing prescription drugs or legal substances (caffeine/ephedrine pills, nitrous oxide, aerosols), attendance at an illegal gathering and/or deliberate transporting of student(s) to an illegal gathering, theft, vandalism, racial slurs, sexual harassment, alcohol and tobacco and other drugs and student handbook level 3 violations.

- o Second violation – Automatic 72% of your season
- o Third violation – Automatic minimum of 1-year suspension.

Tier 3 Violations - You will receive a 1 year minimum suspension.

Includes but is not limited to repeated or more significant Tier 2 violations, hosting an illegal gathering, selling/intent to deliver drugs and/or alcohol, weapons on school grounds (including the parking lot), threatening the safety of the school environment, battery, sexual assault, federal violations, and felony theft.

- Any subsequent Tier 1 or Tier 2 violations would be added onto the one year. A student-athletes record would be expunged after conclusion of serving the Tier 3 or combined violations.

Any student/athlete that receives a one-year suspension may be allowed to continue to practice with the team(s) during their suspension provided:

- There is agreement between the coach, student/athlete, parent and school administrator that it is in the best interest of the athlete and team
- The athlete does not pose a health or safety threat to the team/school
- The coach retains the right to remove the athlete from the team if the athlete is not following through with the team expectations

Regardless whether the player continues to practice with their team(s)/organization, our student services department will schedule regular meetings with the student to maintain contact and work to keep the student engaged in school.

Under a Tier 3 violation, upon conclusion of the suspension, a mandatory meeting with the AD and Administration must take place requesting reinstatement.

NOTE: Any student, upon being charged and/or convicted of a felony, would be declared ineligible for all participation until the student has satisfied all the requirements ordered by the court in declaring a sentence served, including probation, community service and any other court orders.

The table below represents percentages that are the most equitable across all sports and all seasons.

Number of Games

	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
12%	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	3	3	3	3	3
38%	3	3	3	4	4	5	5	5	6	6	6	7	7	8	8	8	9	9	10	10
72%	5	6	6	7	8	9	9	10	11	12	12	13	14	14	15	16	17	17	18	19

Terms of Reinstatement:

1. Meet with social worker or other relevant school personnel for relevant intervention.

For Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Use (ATOD) violations, student athletes are required to complete the following steps:

- a. Within seven school days of receiving written notification of the suspension, meet with School Social Worker/Alcohol/Drug Coordinator (SSW/AOD Coordinator) in order to share referral information and complete releases.
- b. Complete an ATOD assessment by an appropriate, licensed agency/professional.
- c. Meet with SSW/AOD Coordinator for the purpose of collaboration with the assessment agency and/or with the recommended treatment provider.
- d. Complete the recommendations made by the ATODA assessment and provide written notice of compliance, with recommendations, to the SSW/AOD Coordinator.

Failure to complete these steps will result in additional penalties. All costs associated with the assessment and treatment will be the responsibility of the student's parent/guardian. An ATODA assessment is an in-depth, formal evaluation by a certified agency or individual outside of the school. It is anticipated that the assessment will determine the degree of the problem and the appropriate recommendations.

NOTE: All screening, assessment and recommendation material is confidential. Information shared to the Social Worker is not shared with the Athletic Office, rather only that the student athlete is in compliance.

2. The student/athlete must be forthcoming in reporting and sharing information with the Athletic Director and Administrator.
3. Reporting to Coach and/or Administrator.
4. Address the team/club and take responsibilities for your actions and the impact on the team.
5. Letter of apology to business of theft/vandalism, if applicable.
6. Recommit to the provisions of the code by resigning it in front of coaches, and may volunteer to do so in front of teammates.
7. Restorative practice if parties are willing.
8. Other as outlined in specific team expectations.
9. A student-athlete remains ineligible until the terms of reinstatement are in-progress or completed.

Special Conditions

1. The courts have ruled that participation in athletics is a privilege, and not a right; therefore, student athletes are often held to a higher standard than other students by virtue of the fact that they are highly visible representatives of Middleton High School whose negative behavior could adversely impact the image of our school.
2. The Athletic Code is in effect for twelve months of the calendar year and governs the behavior of students whether school is in session or not, and at both in-school events and events not sponsored by the school.
3. Violations of the Athletic Code will be cleared after one year from the last violation if the student athlete has not committed any additional violations during that period.
4. Violations of the Athletic Code could lead to additional penalties assessed by the applicable body governing the sport, the W.I.A.A., the school, or law enforcement personnel.
5. Athletes under suspension for a Tier 1 or Tier 2 violation must practice with and travel with the team, but will not be allowed to dress or compete for any contests with another school.
6. Student-athletes serving any portion of a suspension in a given season must complete the season in good standing. Failure to complete the season in good standing finds any suspension(s) served (in part or in full) carrying forward the entire suspension to the next season the student would normally participate in.
7. If the violation occurs when the athlete is not currently competing in season, the consequence will be extended to the next season in which the athlete participates. This would include the next school year in which the student competes, if applicable.
8. Students in leadership positions forfeit their role and are not eligible to continue their tenure as representatives of the school for the remainder of their term. These positions include, for example, students on the Leadership Council, Captain's Table, Senate, Student Council Officers and Officers in other Student Organizations. As applicable, students are expected to continue involvement with the activity, just not in a leadership role. Students with violations are also not eligible to be on Homecoming or Prom Court, speak/perform at Commencement, or attend Badger Boys/Girls State for a period of one calendar year from the date of the offense. These penalties are assessed despite the fact that penalties may include up to 100% of the activity.
9. You may not serve a suspension as a manager and a suspension incurred while as a manager must be served in the next sport season. However, this does not exempt you from incurring a suspension under the team expectations/coaches discretion.
10. Amnesty Clause: Provides relief to victims and bystanders who report a sexual assault, request emergency assistance, cooperate with and assist law enforcement, and stay on the scene or who encounter law enforcement at a medical facility at which the victim is being treated cannot be issued a code of conduct violation. In order for this relief to be applied consistent with state law, the victim and/or bystander must activate 9-1-1 and/or report to a mandatory reporter who in turn activates 9-1-1. The victim or bystanders must meet the additional State Amnesty Law Requirements. The victim may not falsely claim amnesty knowing that the situation that he/she reports does not exist.

APPEALS PROCESS

Decisions regarding discipline action taken against any student athlete by a coach or the Athletic Director for a breach of the Athletic Code may be appealed by a parent/guardian using the following procedure:

A request for a hearing with the Appeals Council to appeal a suspension from athletics, as a result of a breach of the Athletic Code, must be made in writing to the Principal within seven (7) calendar days of receipt of the suspension letter. Within seven (7) calendar days of receipt of the hearing request, the Principal will set the hearing date for the appeal.

The Appeals Council is selected by the Principal and consists of five members: Principal or designee; Out-of-Season Head Coach or On-Staff Coach; an Activities Advisor; 2 members of the Parent Athlete Handbook Review Team.

In addition to the Appeals Council, the following individuals shall be present at the hearing: the student athlete, his/her parent(s)/guardian(s), legal representative (if the appellant so desires), and the Athletic Director. No other individuals will be present at the hearing and all matters discussed at the hearing will remain confidential.

During the hearing, the student athlete and his/her parent(s)/guardian(s) will have an opportunity to speak and to present any evidence on his/her behalf. The Athletic Director will present pertinent verbal and written statements gathered as a result of the investigation leading to the suspension.

Upon conclusion of the hearing, the Activities Council will go into closed session to deliberate regarding whether to **sustain or reverse** the suspension. All votes of the Council will be taken as confidential, written votes, and will not be disclosed to the appealing parties. The Activities Council will render their decision in writing to the appealing parties, but the Council may also verbally relay the results to the appealing parties after the conclusion of the closed session.

If the parents/guardians feel that the appeal process has not been followed, a request for a review of the process may be made to the District Superintendent. However, the Superintendent will not review the facts or merits of the decision, but rather review whether the applicable procedural steps were adhered to by the participants in the process. Such a review must be requested in writing within 7 calendar days of the date on which the Council decision was rendered, and must identify the specific actions or failures to act that are the basis for the appeal. The Superintendent will review the process and render a decision in writing with 7 calendar days. The decision of the Superintendent is final.

ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS

Unexcused absences from school are detrimental to the academic mission of students and their success in the classroom. Upon receiving an unexcused absence(s) during the sports season, students will have 5 school days to resolve any errors in reporting of the unexcused absence(s). If any of the unexcused absence(s) from that day continues to exist following five school days, the student athlete **may** become ineligible for the next contest that he/she would normally participate in. Unexcused absences will carry over into any subsequent season's contests. An EXCUSED absence will not affect the eligibility of a student.

An accidental error or omission by a coach in the Attendance Requirements will not result in forfeiture of the game, but will be reflected in a coach's post-season evaluation.

A student must be in school a minimum of a ½ day to be eligible to practice or compete in that day's contest, unless in the event of extenuating circumstances which need to be cleared with the Athletic Director in advance. If it does not become known until after that day's practice or contest has occurred, it will carry over to the next practice or contest.

If a student goes home after 12:00 noon due to illness, they are ineligible to compete or practice that day, unless approved by the Athletic Director.

COOPERATION DURING INVESTIGATION

It is important for all student-athletes to understand that involvement in our athletic program is a privilege. With the responsibility of being an athlete, comes a commitment, which is a condition of this code of conduct. In the event that a student-athlete comes under investigation for possible violations to the provisions of this code, it is expected that:

- The student-athlete shall be truthful.
- That the student-athlete be forthcoming with information.
- That the student-athlete not be deceptive or untruthful.
- That the student-athlete be cooperative.

During the investigation of any student-athlete violation the student-athlete must be truthful and forthcoming with information, or the Athletic Director has within his/her power to impose a greater level of consequence, if it is determined that the student-athlete has lied, been deceptive or untruthful, prior to, or after the determination of guilt and/or consequences. Great weight must be placed on the privilege of representing our community outside the confines of our community and any athlete that would fail to be truthful and/or cooperative would jeopardize the perceived character of our program.

CYBER IMAGE POLICY

Any identifiable and verifiable image, photo or video which implicates a student-athlete to have been in possession or presence of drugs or portrays actual use, or out of character behavior or crime, shall be confirmation of a violation of the code. Since there is no way to establish a timeframe for when or location of where the image was taken, it shall be a responsibility that the student-athlete must assume. It must also be noted that there may be persons who would attempt to implicate an athlete to place them in a situation where they might be in violation of this code standard. This is our rationale for demanding that our athletes not place themselves in such environments.

EQUIPMENT AND UNIFORMS

Student athletes are responsible for the safe-keeping and maintenance of all school-issued uniforms and equipment, and must return all uniforms and equipment, with signs only of reasonable wear, to the school at the conclusion of the season. Since all student athletes are issued a specific uniform and/or piece of equipment, there is no substitution of equipment allowed. Student athletes may not exchange uniforms.

Failure to return school-issued uniforms and equipment at the end of the season will render the student athlete immediately ineligible until the missing items are returned, or the school is reimbursed the actual replacement cost of the item(s).

Failure to return or reimburse the school for missing items by the end of a student athlete's senior year, will render that student ineligible for commencement exercises at Middleton High School.

While the securing of personal valuables is the responsibility of the student athlete, theft of athletic uniforms, equipment or of personal items from student athlete lockers, will be treated as a serious breach of the Athletic code and will result in disciplinary action as delineated under Violations of the Athletic Code.

INDIVIDUAL COACHES RULES

Coaches may establish additional rules and regulations with the approval of the Athletic Director for their respective sports. These additional rules for a particular sport must be stipulated in writing to all team members and parents and explained fully at the start of the season. Penalties for violation of team rules will also be in writing and shall be administered by the coach. Copies of all additional team rules by coaches are on file at the athletic office.

INFORMED CONSENT

Prior to participating in interscholastic athletics, it is important for the student and the parents/guardians to understand that injuries can occur. These could include minor injuries, such as bruises or abrasions. Occasionally, students incur injuries such as muscle strains, sprains, or broken limbs. Although the occurrence of catastrophic injuries is minimal, it is possible that a catastrophic injury can occur which could render the participant paralyzed in varying degrees. Death as a result of a catastrophic injury is also a possibility.

INJURIES

Following any injury, students must immediately inform their coach, and the coach must file a Student Accident Report with the Athletic Director. That report is also shared with the Athletic Trainer. In the case of minor injuries not requiring the services of a physician, the Athletic Trainer and the coach will determine when the athlete is ready to return to practice and games.

If an athlete is injured during the season and under a physician's care, the athlete must obtain a written release from the treating physician prior to resuming active participation in practices and games.

If an athlete develops a medical condition or is injured outside the season, whether a valid physical exam form is on file at the school or not, and there is any chance that participation in athletics could heighten the seriousness of the condition or render the athlete more prone to injury, the Athletic Director reserves the right to request a written clearance from the treating physician prior to declaring the student eligible to participate in athletics.

INSURANCE

All student athletes are encouraged to be covered by health insurance in cases of accident or injury and **no cost of such medical conveyance or treatment will be borne by Middleton High School or any of its employees or representatives.**

Parents are encouraged to furnish proof of insurance to the Athletic Director prior to their child(ren) participating in the interscholastic athletic program. Supplemental insurance at the cost of the parents/guardians is available through the school. Forms may be obtained from the Athletic Director or the high school office.

PHYSICAL EXAM

MHS, the W.I.A.A., and any other applicable governing body requires that all students who participate in interscholastic athletics must have written evidence of current physical fitness to participate in sports as determined by a licensed physician or an Advanced Practice Nurse Prescriber (APNP) on file in the Athletic Department no less than every other school year. No student will be permitted to participate in PRACTICES OR GAMES in the interscholastic athletic program until this requirement is fulfilled. Physical exam forms are available in the Athletic Department.

Physical exams taken on or after April 1 within a given school year are valid for the remainder of that school year and the following two school years. Physical exams taken before April 1 within a given school year are valid only for the remainder of that school year and the next school year.

Student athletes are encouraged to schedule an appointment time for this physical well in advance of the start of their sport season. It is not unusual to have a two month wait for an appointment for a physical exam.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF PARENTS/GUARDIANS

1. Teach and expect sons/daughters to display high standards of behavior.
2. Teach and expect sons/daughters to have respect for law, authority, and the rights and property of others.
3. Teach and expect sons/daughters to be accountable for their own actions and help them grow and develop into self-controlled, self-disciplined citizens.
4. Share the responsibility for student conduct with the school.
5. Support school officials in their efforts to develop and maintain well-disciplined schools and programs.
6. Attend all orientation meetings as required by the Athletic Director and the coaches.
7. Read the Parent/Athlete Handbook and sign the statement indicating that you have read and understand the items contained within the Handbook.

CONFERENCES

In our continuing effort to establish and maintain clear lines of communication between the Athletic Department Staff and the parents/guardians of our student-athletes, the coaching staff will be available for conferences. Please do not attempt to confront a coach before or after a contest or practice. Those can be emotional times for both the parent and the coach. Meetings of that nature, and at those times, do not promote resolution. The following guidelines will help make any conference a productive and positive experience.

PARENT INVOLVEMENT GUIDELINES

1. Each head coach will be available, upon request, for conferences.
2. Parents can use this time to ask questions and obtain information.

3. The coach will discuss what the student-athlete needs to work on or improve in order to maintain or increase his/her playing time.
4. The coach will only talk to a parent/guardian about his/her own child.
5. If the guidelines are not adhered to, the discussion will be terminated.
6. If satisfaction is not obtained, the parent/guardian should then follow the instructions under the Parent Complaints or Concerns section.
7. Parents who verbally abuse a coach may be liable for harassment/slander/defamation of character and any other sanctions as permitted by board policy and the law.

It is the intent of the Athletic Department to provide an avenue for meaningful dialogue and communication between coaches and parents. Working together we can and will accomplish great things.

PARENT COMPLAINTS OR CONCERNS

If you have a concern or complaint about school personnel, it helps to bring it to the attention of the correct people. In general, a parent should communicate first with the school and then with the appropriate office in the district administration.

1. Every effort should be made to resolve a complaint with the coach involved.
2. If the concern is not resolved with the coach, it should be submitted to the Athletic Director in writing.
3. If the concern is not resolved with the athletic director, it should be submitted to the Principal in writing. If the Principal cannot resolve the problem, it will be submitted to the Superintendent.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF STUDENT ATHLETES

1. Representatives of Middleton High School, student athletes are expected to be a credit to themselves, their families, their school, and their community.
2. Follow the Athletic Code and pertinent W.I.A.A. and any other applicable governing body regulations on a year-round basis.
3. Follow the rules of competition and the rules established by the coaches.
4. Display respect to those in authority, including the Athletic Director, coaches, teachers, school administrators, and contest officials.
5. Display a strong spirit of cooperation and good sportsmanship.
6. Use language that is not offensive to others.
7. Read the Parent/Athlete Handbook and sign the statement indicating that you have read and understand the items contained within the Handbook.

SQUAD SELECTION

In accordance with the MHS philosophy of athletics and our desire to have as many students as possible participate in the athletic program at MHS, we encourage coaches to retain as many athletes as possible (most sports utilizing a rubric system) without affecting the integrity of their sport. Time, facilities, equipment, personal preference, and other factors place limitations on the most effective squad size for any particular sport. When developing policy with respect to squad selection, we strive to maximize opportunities for our athletes without diluting the quality of the program.

STUDENT ATHLETE SATISFACTION SURVEY

Middleton High School is committed to offering the best possible experience to all of our student athletes. Close to or after the completion of the season, if the AD or a coach at any level chooses, student athletes may be required to complete a satisfaction survey regarding their experience during the season. It is very important that athletes answer the questions honestly. The survey is anonymous and is conducted on all levels of every sport.

TRANSGENDER STUDENTS

The Middleton-Cross Plains School District is committed to the principle that transgender students have opportunities to participate in WIAA sponsored athletics and school sponsored activities. The WIAA has developed a policy to address participation and eligibility of transgender student athletes. The MCPASD embraces the WIAA policy, which seeks to balance the important goals of equity, physical safety and competitive quality.

The MCPASD is committed to having a written participation plan for each transgender athlete in place, which may include but isn't limited to preferred names/pronouns; gender appropriate; equitable locker room and restroom accessibility, and education on transgender sensitivity.

TRANSFER STUDENTS

During a transfer student's first quarter of attendance at Middleton High School, s/he will initially be granted eligibility based on whether the student had no failing grades and was carrying at least 2.5 credits at the previous school, and whether the student meets all W.I.A.A. requirements regarding transfer students. However, if a student comes to Middleton High School with the status of ineligibility for athletics due to disciplinary actions that were taken at the prior school, the resultant penalty must be served prior to a student being declared eligible at Middleton High School.

TRANSPORTATION POLICY

Transportation for athletes to and from athletic contests will be on school-provided vehicles. Athletes not traveling on school provided transportation must be sure that PRIOR approval has been obtained from the coach and the appropriate waiver form has been signed. In such cases, the coach is responsible for ensuring that the athlete leave the contest with his/her parent/guardian.

If parents/guardians provide transportation home from interscholastic athletic events, or allow their son/daughter to provide transportation to practices, the following policies are in effect:

1. Where parents/guardians provide transportation home from a scheduled event, the parents/guardians shall assume all resulting liability and the school shall assume no liability.
2. Where a student transports himself/herself to or from a practice or a scheduled event, the parents/guardians of that student shall assume all resulting liability and the school shall assume no liability.

All parents/guardians of student athletes are required to sign the Athletic Transportation Policy form prior to transporting their children home from an event or when requesting that their child(ren) transport themselves to or from a scheduled interscholastic athletic practice. A new form must be signed for each season in which the student athlete participates and wishes to transport themselves to practice.

The form requesting that a child (ren) transport themselves to or from scheduled practices is submitted prior to the beginning of the season.

Valid reasons for a date-specific transportation waiver include a funeral, ACT testing or a family resides in geographical area outside of the Madison area. Other extenuating circumstances may apply.

In situations necessitating that coaches and athletes must walk to a practice site, athletes are expected to walk in a group under the supervision of a coach (whenever feasible) unless the appropriate waiver allowing an athlete to drive his/her own vehicle has been obtained from the Athletic Director.

WISCONSIN INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION (W.I.A.A.)

Middleton High School is a member school of the W.I.A.A. As such, MHS is bound to follow all rules as established by the W.I.A.A. and its member schools. Individuals wanting to read the rules in their entirety may access them on the W.I.A.A. website at www.wiaawi.org.