Morley Stanwood High School

“Home of the Mohawks”



Athletic Handbook

2026-27

TEN COMMANDMENTS FOR PARENTS WITH ATHLETIC CHILDREN

1) 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 a fear of failure. Be the person in their life they can look to for constant positive reinforcement.

2) Try your best to be completely honest about your child's athletic capability, their competitive attitude, sportsmanship and actual skill level.

3) Be helpful but don't coach them on the way to the field, court, or track or on the way back or at breakfast, and so on. It is tough not to, but it is a lot tougher for the child to be inundated with advice, pep talks, and often critical instruction.

4) Teach them to enjoy the thrill of competition, to be "out there trying", to be working to improve their skills and attitudes. Help them to develop the feel for competing, for trying hard, and having fun.

5) Try not to relive your athletic life through your children in a way that creates pressure; you fumbled, too, you lost as well as won. You were frightened, you backed off at times, and you were not always heroic. Don't pressure them because of your lost pride.

6) Don't compete with the coach. If the coach becomes an authority figure, it will run from enchantment to disenchantment, etc., with your athlete.

7) Don't compare the skill, courage, or attitudes of your children with other members of the team, at least within his/her hearing.

8) Get to know the coach so that you can be assured that the philosophy, attitudes, ethics, and knowledge are such that you are happy to have your child under his/her leadership.

9) Always remember that children tend to exaggerate, both when praised and when criticized. Temper your reaction and investigate before overreacting.

10) Make a point of understanding courage, and the fact that it is relative. Some of us can climb mountains, and are afraid to fight. Some of us will fight, but turn to jelly if a bee approaches. 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 or discomfort. The job of the parent of an athletic child is a tough one, and it takes a lot of effort to do it well. It is worth all the effort when you hear your youngster say, "My parents really helped, I was lucky, in this."

Coaching Standards & Expectations

Morley Stanwood school district recognizes the need to maintain a standard of excellence for our students. As such, we support the adoption of these standards to be used by the Athletic Director as the basis For the evaluation of coaches and programs.

A coach has a role as leader and mentor to student athletes, and is an official representative of the school at interscholastic athletic activities. In such important capacities, these standard behaviors should be practiced (including those clubs and athletic programs not sponsored by MHSAA):

1. Develop an understanding of the role of interscholastic athletics and communicate it to players, parents, and the public.

2. Develop an up-to-date knowledge of the rules, strategies, safety precautions and skills of the sport and communicate them to players and parents.

3. Develop, communicate and model policies for athletes' conduct and language in the locker room, at practice, during travel, during competition, and at other appropriate times.

4. Develop fair, unprejudiced relationships with all squad members.

5. Allow athletes to prove themselves anew each season and do not base team selections on previous seasons or out of season activities.

6. Allow athletes time to develop skills and interests in other athletic and non-athletic activities provided by the school and community groups.

7. Give the highest degree of attention to athletes' physical well being.

8. Teach players strict adherence to game rules and contest regulations.

9. Teach players, by precept and example, respect for school authorities and contest officials, providing support for them in cases of adverse decisions and refraining from critical comments in public or to the media.

10. Present privately, through proper school authorities, evidence of rule violations by opponents; and counteract rumors and unfounded allegations of questionable practices by opponents.

11. Attend required meetings, keep abreast of MHSAA policies regarding the sport, and be familiar with MHSAA eligibility and contest regulations.

12. Present a clean professional image in terms of personal appearance, and provide a positive role model in terms of personal habits, language, and conduct. Use of tobacco within sight of players and spectators and use of alcohol any time before a contest on the day of the contest is not acceptable.

Parental Standards & Expectations

When the coaching staff, the athletes, and the parents are working together for the good of the team, a season is successful. Please help us provide the best possible environment for our athletes to have a quality experience. Everyone must play his/her role. The coaches need to coach, the players need to work hard and sacrifice for the good of the team, and parents need to support their children with attendance and encouragement. As models to our student athletes, the following behaviors should be practiced by parents:

1. Encourage good sportsmanship by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches and officials at every game.

2. Place the emotional and physical well being of the participants ahead of any personal desires to win.

3. Provide support for coaches and officials working with the participants to provide a positive, enjoyable experience for all.

4. Promote tobacco, alcohol, drug, and violence free sports environment for the participants and agree to assist by refraining from their use at all events.

5. Refrain from comments and actions that are intended to intimidate, bait, anger, or embarrass others.

6. Maintain a position as a spectator and refrain from “coaching from the stands”.

7. Support the participants in the appropriately designated areas for spectators.

8. Remember that the game is for the students and not for adults.

9. Make youth sports fun for the participants.

10. Expect that your child treat other players, coaches, fans and officials with respect regardless of race, sex, creed or ability.

11. Keep all comments from the stands positive, including those directed towards individuals other than your own child.

12. Promise to help your child enjoy the extra-curricular experience within your personal constraints by being a respectful fan, providing transportation or whatever you are capable of doing.

Extra-Curricular Roles and Responsibilities

Actions by coaches, student athletes, administrators, parents and the board of education are subject to the same standards and expectations as stated in board policy and the contractual agreement between the board and the teacher's association. The same expectations of teachers, as stated in these documents, is expected of coaches.

Extra-Curricular Participants will:

· Come prepared to work at every practice where he/she is physically able.

· Accept the team rules as established by the coach and the athletic department.

· Attempt to communicate all questions and concerns with the coach in a timely fashion. · Display a respectful attitude towards his/her teammates, coaches, officials, spectators, and opponents at all times.

Coaches will:

· Abide by MHSAA coaching standards as stated in the MHSAA Handbook.

· Come prepared to practice daily.

· Make a strong effort to run a safe practice and competition area.

· Communicate important information (such as team expectations and important dates) to parents and administration.

Use an Athletic Director approved communication platform.

Administrators will:

· Communicate to parents the "conflict resolution process."

· Enforce the chain of command as outlined in the "conflict resolution process."

· Review with coaches the expectations as stated in the team's guidelines.

· The Athletic Director will conduct a meeting in the off season with the coaches to discuss standards and procedures.

Parents will:

· Be supportive of not only their children, but of all competitors.

· Support team guidelines and goals.

· Abide by the code of conduct for parents as found in the Mohawk Athletic Handbook. · Communicate concerns directly to the coach while respecting the 24 hour "cooling off period."

The Board of Education will:

· Recognize athletes and programs for academic and athletic success.

· Serve as an arbitrator in disputes that have exhausted the full grievance process.

· Enforce the chain of command as outlined in the "conflict resolution process."

· Remain neutral by refusing all requests to become involved in a dispute before the superintendent has been notified and all steps in the "conflict resolution process" have been exhausted.

Extra-Curricular Conflict Resolution Process

· All complaints **MUST** be heard at the lowest possible level **BEFORE** intervention by a higher authority can occur.

· A 24 hour "cooling off" period must be granted before any complaints are initiated.

· Complaints must be made within 10 days of the incident. For the sake of all parties, the entire process must be concluded within 30 days of the incident.

This system works very well so we are committed to abide by it.

Step 1 **Start with the Source**

The player will speak directly to the coach. A cooling off period will be granted for all parties before resolution is sought. This meeting should be done in private, away from practice sites and game arenas, and should be conducted face to face. Students who do not feel comfortable speaking solely to the coach may request a parent to be present, however the meeting should be conducted by the athlete.

Step 2 **Move to program head**

This step is necessary only if the issue is in regards a subordinate or assistant (i.e. an assistant, JV coach, etc.). If going to the source does not resolve the problem, then the head of the program should be notified and he/she should attempt to facilitate a solution. If the "source" is the head of the program, move to step three.

Step 3 **Contact Athletic Director**

If an agreeable solution is not reached, then the athletic director will conduct a meeting between the parties in an attempt to find resolution.

Step 4 **Contact Principal**

If an agreeable solution is still not reached, then the principal will conduct a meeting between the parties in an attempt to find resolution.

Step 5 **Notify the Superintendent**

At this point in the process, individuals who still believe their disputes have not been resolved adequately can submit a written narrative of their complaint to the School Superintendent. A copy of this will be given to all concerned parties, who will be afforded the option of a written rebuttal. After the superintendent has reviewed the documents he can conduct a meeting in a final attempt to resolve the dispute.

Step 6 **Request non-partisan School Board mediation**

This final step is appropriate only in extreme circumstances and shall follow the same process laid down for the superintendent.

COMMUNICATION BETWEEN COACH AND PARENTS

The purpose of the interscholastic athletic program at Morley Stanwood is to provide an arena in which students can learn and grow in meaningful ways that are not always possible in a classroom setting. Our ultimate success in achieving a positive athletic experience will be measured by our ability to establish lines of communication. Through good communication, people feel valued and understood, even if complete agreement is not always reached. We are all concerned about the *education* of our students. Part of the process of growing up is learning to handle your own difficult situations. If a conflict or misunderstanding between an athlete and a coach occurs, learning to resolve it is an important educational experience for the athlete. Parents should react slowly. Children tend to exaggerate at times, leave out part of the story, or present a skewed version of an incident. Taking responsibility for your part in a conflict is a learned skill. It requires maturity and honest self reflection. Athletes vent frustration at the dinner table expecting mom and dad to take their side of the issue. Parents, however, realize that they were not present at practice to see how their child behaved, related to the coach, or to evaluate his or her skill and effort. Parents should always seek more information before drawing conclusions. The most productive long-term help a parent can give a child in awkward situations with a coach is to teach and model the skills of conflict resolution. Help your child resolve his or her own differences. When a student successfully deals with difficult interpersonal conflicts, he or she learns and grows. Parents are encouraged to help their athletes learn the valuable lessons that athletics can teach, even the "tough lessons" that may be difficult for everyone involved. Of course, a parent always retains the right to intervene on behalf of a child.

Communication all parents can expect from their child's coach or the Athletic Director

Team Itinerary: Parents need to know the location and times of all try-outs, practices, games, bus trips, meetings, banquets, team camps, conditioning sessions, et cetera, as well as directions to away contests.
Team Rules: Parents appreciate knowing not only the philosophy of the coach but also any team policies, including consequences that the coach established to supplement the code of conduct, rules and regulations.
Criteria for Team Selection: Coaches should develop and distribute written criteria for team selection, including objective criteria such as those measured against the stopwatch or skills completed, as well as subjective evaluations, such as attitude, effort, coach ability, grades or potential.
Criteria for Earning an Award: Coaches should determine and distribute written criteria to parents and athletes as soon as the squad has been selected if the criteria is something more than simply completing the season as a member of the team.
Injury: Parents can expect to be immediately informed by the coach when an injury occurs that requires medical attention.
Problem Behavior: Coaches should call parents whenever an athlete exhibits atypical behavior that persists longer than 48 hours.
Discipline: the coach will inform parents within 24 hours of all discipline that results in the loss of contest participation or removal from the team. This contact will be done before the parent is to attend the contest whenever possible.

Communication Coaches Appreciate from Parents

Schedule Conflicts: If you cannot reach the coach directly, it is then appropriate to notify the main office to get a message to the coach. Please check with the coach before trying out regarding previously scheduled absences.
Emotional Stressors: Coaches appreciate knowing about any unusual event in the life of an athlete that is causing the young person additional stress.
Volunteers: Coaches need help with so many aspects of managing the program (fundraisers, work projects, team dinners, awards banquet, et cetera) that they are always glad to hear from parents who have ideas and are willing to work for the team.
Forthrightness: Every coach wants to try to resolve a conflict before it is taken to the athletic director, principal or other higher authority or before it is discussed "in the stands."

Appropriate Concerns for Parents to Discuss with Coaches:

1. The treatment of your child
2. Ways to help your child improve
3. Concerns about your child's physical health and welfare, academic progress, or violation of the code of conduct. **(Matters regarding other athletes are to be left to their respective parents)

Areas of Control that Belong to the Coach, Alone:

1. Tryout procedures, team placement, team size and selection criteria.
2. Position(s) played, lineups and playing time.
3. Offensive and defensive strategies play calling and style of play.
4. Practice plans, drills and scrimmages.
5. Coaching staff (upon approval of the Athletic Director).

How to Discuss an Appropriate Concern with the Coach

Communication is the most vital aspect of heading off potential problems. Any concern a student or parent has must always be addressed by following the "Extra-Curricular Conflict Resolution Process." The first step of this is to contact the source. Whenever possible the student should initiate, but whether the parent or the student begins the process there are some suggestions on how to handle this conversation.

Student contacting the Source: The student should talk directly with the coach, in private, face-to-face, away from the practice site or game arena. A telephone call may be necessary to arrange an appointment. E-mail, voice mail, and letters are good methods for communicating information, but they are not as effective for communicating feelings, and concerns. By their nature they tend to distance coaches and athletes.

Parent Contacting the Source: Contact the coach to talk directly, in private, face-to-face, away from the practice site or game area. Making an appointment, sitting down and listening to both sides is far more productive in reaching a mutually satisfying resolution. Our coaches are expected and encouraged to meet with individual parents to discuss concerns that affect that parent's child. Our coaches are not expected to meet with groups of parents to discuss issues of concern. Please do NOT attempt to confront a coach before or after practice or a contest. These can be emotional times for both the parent and the coach. Our coaches are **NOT** expected to endure yelling, verbal or physical abuse from parents. Make an appointment. Help teach your child the skills of mature conflict resolution.

Conducting a Meeting:

1. Introduce yourself and vice versa. There is to be no yelling, verbal or physical abuse by either side.

2. When each person is speaking there is to be no interruption. Let each person complete his or her version of the situation before the other person speaks. When stating your concern be prepared with the facts in so far as you understand, or can ascertain them. **Be clear about what you hope will happen as a result of your meeting.**

3. As you talk with the coach, or other authority, repeat back what you hear him or her say to be sure that you understand the important points. Stay calm and friendly as you talk and listen. Take notes.

4. Assist in generating options to resolve the conflict. Make sure there is fairness to the proposed solutions.

5. Before the session ends, have a plan that is clearly understood by all parties. A written document restating the final outcome, what happens if the situation reoccurs, and signatures indicating understanding is appropriate. This written plan will check for mutual understanding. Make a plan to touch base following the initial meeting. Remember that each party has a stake in making the plan work. We always assume that all parties have the best interest of the student-athlete in mind when concerns are discussed. Therefore, we make every effort to assure that the student is not penalized or placed in an awkward position as a result of voicing a complaint. Parents, rightly so, tend to have single focus and advocate for their own child. Coaches, on the other hand, tend to have multi-focus and must safeguard the needs of every player as well as the team as a whole. Parents and coaches, in order to communicate effectively, must respect the legitimate perspective of the other.

FOREWARD

A sound student athletic program is not accidental, it is conscientiously planned and directed by individuals who recognize the importance to the educational environment. The purpose of this student athletic handbook is to explain the philosophies, objectives, regulations, and procedures of the Morley Stanwood student athletic program. In establishing these guidelines, the following factors are considered:

1, Safeguarding the health of participants in the athletic program;
2. Providing opportunities for student participation;
3. Establishing standards that cultivate healthy interpersonal relationships among participants.
4. Maintaining the highest quality of student activity;
5. Promoting a healthy school/community relationship;
6. Promoting congenial relationships with other schools.

PHILOSOPHY

In accordance with the goals of education, the Morley Stanwood athletic philosophy is to help young people develop mentally, physically, emotionally and intellectually to their fullest potential. The athletic program contributes to this goal by providing intermediate and high school students with opportunities to participate as team members in sports competition with other schools. The development of physical skills, sportsmanship, teamwork, self-discipline, loyalty, tolerance and perseverance are desired individual outcomes.

ACTIVITIES SANCTIONED BY MORLEY STANWOOD SCHOOLS

The following activities are sanctioned by the Morley Stanwood Community Schools Board of Education and are subject to all considerations presented in this handbook:

Fall
Cross Country (Boys & Girls)
Football (Boys)
Sideline Cheerleading
Volleyball (Girls)
Equestrian

Winter
Basketball (Boys)
Basketball (Girls)
Bowling
Sideline Cheerleading

Spring
Baseball (Boys)
Softball (Girls)
Track & Field (Boys & Girls)

OBJECTIVE OF THE ATHLETIC PROGRAM

A meaningful athletic program should have defined objectives that apply to all levels. These objectives should be consistent with the philosophical and educational objectives designed to promote personal development and community spirit. The Morley Stanwood Athletic Program is dedicated to the following objectives:

1 – Provide students with quality teaching/coaching personnel;
2 – Provide students with facilities that will enhance their skills;
3 – Provide opportunity for students to participate;
4 – Build a positive image of school activities of which community, parents and students can be proud and supportive.

CONFLICTS IN EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Students are frequently involved in multiple school activities. The student should notify the coach and the director of the other activity as soon as a conflict in the calendar occurs which requires the student to be in two places at the same time. Every attempt will be made to resolve conflict. The coach will notify the Athletic Director if assistance is needed to resolve the conflict.

The commitment of students in extra-curricular activities should increase at higher levels of competition. At times, personal interests may need to be sacrificed for the good of the team.

During the season, anytime a participant fails to attend practice/event, the student's return to the line-up will be determined by the amount of time necessary to recover lost skills and conditioning. Disciplinary measures by the coach may be enforced when an absence is not connected with the immediate family and the coach of the activity missed did not receive prior notification.

GOALS OF ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION

The goal of extra-curricular participation in Morley Stanwood Public Schools should be an educational experience developing individual skills and formulating team concepts that can be used for a lifetime.

1 – Teamwork: Develop self-discipline, respect authority, work hard and place team objectives above personal desires.
2 – Success: Perform at one's best regardless of the final outcome.
3 – Good Sportsmanship: Learn to accept winning and losing gracefully. Treat others with respect. Maintain emotional control, honesty, cooperation and dependability.
4 – Develop Good Health Habits: Develop good nutritional habits, get proper exercise and follow guidelines set up by coaches and athletic trainers.

CODE OF CONDUCT

A student who elects to participate in the athletic program is voluntarily making a choice of self discipline and self-denial. Being a member of these groups is a privilege and must be treated as such. An individual's conduct should reflect positively upon himself/herself, his/her family, school and community.

1 – In the arena of competition, behavior should reflect good sportsmanship.
2 – In the classroom, good citizenship, the highest individual academic effort and social responsibility should exemplify the conduct of a good athlete.
3 – The student is responsible for equipment and facilities used in the performing of the activity.
4 – High school students should use good judgment in emulating only those college and professional performers who display positive qualities of sportsmanship.
5 – A student should respect and adhere to the expectations of the individual coach as outlined in the activities written guidelines.

Sports Participation Policy

Student-athletes are permitted to switch sports before the first official contest if they find the sport is not what they expected or they are not enjoying it. However, if a student-athlete makes a team that required tryouts and cuts were made, they are not allowed to switch to another sport for that season. If a student-athlete was cut from a team, they may switch to another sport that does not have cuts, provided they meet all eligibility requirements.

All rules of this section as well as other sections of the Athletic Handbook are in effect from the beginning with their first day of participation in an extra-curricular activity and continuing through to the date of graduation or the last date of participation, whichever is later and regardless of age. All infractions will be penalized and be applicable at any time during the calendar year and will carry over from year to year.

The students are at all times representatives of the athletic program of the School District and must not engage in conduct which is disreputable or unbecoming a student of the School District. Conduct which would constitute a violation of any law or ordinance and which involves an act of dishonesty or criminal intent will be subject to the penalties and disciplinary measures of the Athletic Code.

Violations of the Code of Conduct are punishable by the disciplinary measures and penalties as follows:

A. Athletic Suspension – Restricted from participation in the scheduled events and/or games of the athletic activity for a specified duration. The athlete must attend practices.

B. Academic Suspension - Required to stay home, which means no games home or away, no practice, no school events as an athlete or spectator. Violation of this will result in an added day of suspension.

C. Removal – Removal from participation in any and all athletic activities including practices for a specified period or permanently.

Suspension day is defined as an entire day. Examples include:

A. One day suspension on Friday - you may **not** go to any activities or games home or away that evening but may go on Saturday.
B. Two-day suspension on Friday- you may **not** go to any games/ activities home or away Friday, Saturday, Sunday or Monday.

The Athletic Director and the Principal shall determine the degree of the penalty or disciplinary measure imposed on a case-by-case basis according to the seriousness and severity of the violation. The student's High School Counselor or Social Worker will be consulted when appropriate.

The above training rules are the minimal standards, which are to be adhered to by students**. But, any coach may implement her/his own training rules and regulations which go above and beyond the minimum standards previously stated with approval of the Athletic Director.**

Dual Sport Participation Policy

Philosophy

Morley Stanwood High School recognizes and supports the ambitions of student-athletes who wish to participate in two interscholastic sports during the same athletic season. While this opportunity can foster well-rounded athletic development, it also requires careful coordination, communication, and commitment from all involved. The following policy ensures that dual sport participation is managed fairly, consistently, and with the best interests of the student-athlete, teams, and school community in mind.

Eligibility and Approval Process

1. Initial Meeting & Agreement
   Before the start of the season a meeting must be held involving:

   - The student-athlete
   - Their parent(s)/guardian(s)
   - Both sport coaches
   - The athletic director

   This meeting will address scheduling, expectations, time management, and academic standing. A Dual Sport Participation Contract must be completed and signed by all parties before

participation begins.

2. Declaration of Primary and Secondary Sports
   Each dual-sport athlete must declare one sport as their *primary* and one as their secondary for the entire season. This declaration:

   - Establishes priority in cases of conflict
   - Cannot be changed without approval from the athletic director

3. Attendance & Priority Schedule
   In the event of overlapping commitments, the following hierarchy applies:

   1. Primary Sport Postseason Contests
   2. Secondary Sport Postseason Contests
   3. Primary Sport Conference Contests
   4. Secondary Sport Conference Contests
   5. Primary Sport Non-Conference Contests
   6. Secondary Sport Non-Conference Contests
   7. Primary Sport Practices
   8. Secondary Sport Practices

   Any deviation from this order must be unanimously agreed upon by both coaches, the student-athlete, parent(s)/guardian(s), and approved by the athletic director.

4. Practice Expectations

   - Athletes must attend both practices when possible on non-game days
   - Athletes are excused from secondary sport practice on days of primary sport contests
   - On secondary contest days, attendance at all or part of the primary sport's practice is expected
   - Missed practice due to the other sport will not result in punishment, but may impact playing time due to preparation needs

5. Transportation

   - If same-day participation is approved, athletes must be transported between events by a parent or guardian
   - Self-transportation is not permitted unless approved, in advance, by the athletic director

6. Injuries or Overload
   If an athlete becomes physically overwhelmed or feels academic/mental strain due to dual participation, they are encouraged to meet with the athletic director for support and potential adjustments.

7. Discipline and Commitment

   - Athlete's must follow all team rules and school policies in both sports.
   - Disciplinary actions issued by the athletic director will apply to both sports.
   - If proper communication and expectations are not followed, the athlete may lose dual sport privileges.

8. Required Signatures and Final Approval
   Participation is contingent upon all of the following individuals signing the Morley Stanwood Dual Sport Participation Contract.

   - Student-athlete
   - Parent(s)/guardian(s)
   - Primary Sport Coach
   - Secondary Sport Coach
   - Athletic Director

   Final authority regarding dual sport participation, scheduling conflicts, and disputes rests with the Athletic Director.

Morley Stanwood Athletics is committed to supporting student growth, achievement, and a balanced high school experience. This policy aims to maintain the integrity of all athletic programs while encouraging student-athletes to pursue their passions responsibly.

RULES PERTAINING TO THE USE OF TOBACCO, DRUGS, VAPES, STEROIDS, AND ALCOHOL

Students may not possess and/or use any tobacco products including electronic cigarettes, vaping devices, paraphernalia or supplies, drugs, including drug paraphernalia, steroids and/or alcoholic beverages.

Consequences for violating rules pertaining to the use and/or possession of alcoholic beverages, illegal drugs, including drug paraphernalia, steroids or tobacco substances, including electronic cigarettes, vaping devices, paraphernalia or supplies:

1. First Offense: Suspension from all extra-curricular activities for 20% (1/5) of the contests or competitions in the current season and/or the next season of competition.

2. Second Offense: Suspension from all extra-curricular activities for 60% (3/5) of the contests or competitions in the current season and/or the next season of competition.

Third Offense: Suspension from all extra-curricular activities for one calendar year. If one calendar year passes without any participation in extra-curricular activities, the suspension for an activity code violation is negated.

4. Fourth Offense: Suspension from participation in all arranged competition at Morley Stanwood High School for remainder of the student's high school career.

NOTE: A scrimmage with another school may not count as a scheduled inter scholastic competition.

NOTE: A student suspended from interscholastic competitions must continue to demonstrate the qualities of sportsmanship outlined in this Handbook.

NOTE: If a suspension cannot be completed in the present season, the suspension will be carried over to the student's next sports season. The amount of dates to be suspended will be determined by the Athletic Director.

NOTE: Suspensions for Activity Code Violations assessed by other school districts will be carried over to Morley Stanwood High School for transferring students.

NOTE: Actions displayed on the internet are considered a source of evidence in determining a violation of the Athletic Code of Conduct.

NOTE: A student will only be reinstated if they follow through with practices and remain in good standing on the team.

NOTE: Parents of students involved in any drug, alcohol or tobacco related offenses, including the use of electronic cigarettes, vaping devices, paraphernalia or supplies, that may result in a suspension will be notified prior to the suspension of the student athlete. Any Student or parent has the right to call for a hearing with the Athletic Director on any of the above steps.

SPORTSMANSHIP

Athletics in our schools need to earn an outstanding reputation in the area of school and community sportsmanship. Our students, fans and participants must always conduct themselves in a commendable manner. Everyone must be proud of this reputation and work hard at enhancing it. Please review the following suggestions for future consideration:

1. A student spectator represents his/her school the same as the athlete;
2. The good name of the school is more valuable than any game won by unfair play;
3. Accept decisions of officials without dispute;
4. Recognize and show appreciation of fine play and good sportsmanship on the part of the opponent;
5. Advocate that any spectator or athlete who continually demonstrates poor sportsmanship may be excused from the athletic program.

ADULT FAN BEHAVIOR GUIDELINES

If a fan is acting in an unsportsmanlike manner, he/she will be approached and be advised of the inappropriate behavior by a staff member or the game management, with a follow up letter sent by the Athletic Director. A second offense will result in a suspension of two home contests and any other athletic event during the suspension time period. A third offense will result in a suspension from all athletic contests for the remainder of the school year. This process may be accelerated if the administration deems it necessary.

Morley Stanwood Public School charges admission for the following events:

Sport	Adults	Students
Varsity Basketball	$ 5.00	$ 5.00
Junior Varsity Basketball	$ 5.00	$ 5.00
Varsity Football	$ 5.00	$ 5.00
Junior Varsity Football	$ 5.00	$ 5.00
Track	$ 5.00	$ 5.00
Volleyball	$ 5.00	$ 5.00

Mohawk Club Prices: $175.00 for a family pass; $50.00 for a student pass.

- Mohawk Club will allow you and your family to attend ALL Morley Stanwood home events for the sports listed above **(This does not include Tournaments or MHSAA Sponsored Events).**

MHSAA MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

What follows is a condensation of the Michigan High School Athletic Association's standards. Questions as to the details included in these standards should be taken to the High School Principal or Athletic Director.

Michigan High School Athletic Association Eligibility Standards:

A. ENROLLMENT:
Students must be enrolled not later than the fourth Friday after Labor Day for the first semester, or not later than the fourth Friday of February for the second semester to be eligible for interscholastic athletics.

B. AGE:
A student must be under nineteen (19) years of age at the time of the contest unless the student's birthday occurs on or after September 1 of a current school year. Should the student's birthday occur on or after September 1, the student is eligible for the balance of that school year.

C. MAXIMUM COMPETITION:
A student, once enrolled in grade 9, shall be allowed to compete in only four first, four second semesters.

D. SEMESTERS/TRIMESTERS OF ENROLLMENT:
A student shall not compete in athletics who has been enrolled in grades nine through twelve, inclusive, for more than eight semesters, or 12 trimesters. Students are allowed four first semesters and four second semesters. Enrollment in a school after the fourth Friday counts as a semester/trimester. Participation in one or more interscholastic athletic contests also constitutes a semester/trimester of enrollment.

E. UNDERGRADUATE STANDING:
The student must not be a high school graduate.

F. PREVIOUS SEMESTER/TRIMESTER RECORD:
The student must have passed 83% of the credit load for work taken during the last regular semester. A student who fails to pass 83% of the credit load - five (5) out of six (6) - semester courses at the end of any semester period shall be ineligible for 90 school days (next semester) unless the deficiencies are made up. Eligibility may be reinstated during the next semester when the school accepts the credit.

G. CURRENT SEMESTER/TRIMESTER RECORD:

No student shall compete in an athletic contest unless they are currently passing at least five (5) out of six (6) courses from the beginning of the semester through eligibility check conducted seven days prior to the contest. Student must be enrolled in at least six classes unless otherwise approved by the school administration.

H. SPORT SPECIFIC TRANSFER RULE:

Under the Sport Specific Transfer rule, students who change schools and do not meet one of the 15 stated exceptions and their interpretations, such as a full and complete residential change as defined, would not be eligible for the upcoming season in a sport he/she participated in during the previous season in that sport. Participation means actually entering into an interscholastic scrimmage or contest. Students who transfer during a season in which they are participating are ineligible for the rest of that season and they remain ineligible at all levels of that sport through the next complete season in that sport.

A transfer student would have immediate eligibility in a sport not played in the previous school year. An otherwise eligible transfer student who changes schools later in a season, after set dates, is not eligible for MHSAA Tournaments in that sport but may play in the regular season. (Oct. 1 for FALL sports, Feb. 1 for WINTER sports, May 1 for SPRING sports).

I. AWARDS:

A student may not accept an award for athletic participation that exceeds a value of $40.00. An award may not include cash, merchandise certificates or negotiable certificates for any value.

J. AMATEUR PRACTICES:

The student must not accept money or any other type of valuable consideration (merchandise, etc.) for participating in any type of athletics, sports or games. Nor should the student accept this same type of consideration for officiating an interscholastic athletic contest. A student is not to sign a contract with a professional team.

K. LIMITED TEAM MEMBERSHIP:

1. After practicing with or participating with high school teams, students cannot participate in any athletic competition not sponsored by his/her school in the same sport in the same season. Students in individual sports may participate in a maximum of two (2) non-school meets or contests during the school season while not representing their school.
2. Students who have represented any MHSAA school in competition in any MHSAA sport shall not compete at any time in any MHSAA tournament sport in all-star contests or national high school championships, regardless of the method of selection. Participation in an all-star contest shall cause that students to become ineligible for a maximum period of one year of school enrollment in that sport.
3. A student who has completed his or her 12^{th} grade season in a sport may participate without loss of eligibility for other sports in one high school all-star event in that sport if held after the MHSAA Final in that sport.
4. Parents should always check with the Athletic Director before allowing a student-athlete to participate in any non-school athletic activity. This is important to the student's future athletic eligibility. A violation of the limited Team Membership rule results in ineligibility for three competitions.

L. REINSTATEMENT OF ELIGIBILITY:

A change in status for an athlete who has been ineligible occurs on the first full day of the new semester/trimester on which regularly scheduled classes are held, and not on the last day of the previous semester/trimester.

M. COMPETITION DISQUALIFICATION:
Note: This is the wording of the Michigan High School Athletic Association – Reg. V, Sec. 3:

The following policies for disqualifications shall apply in all sports:

1. When a student is disqualified during a contest for flagrant or unsportsmanlike conduct, that student shall be withheld by his/her school for the remainder of that day of competition and for at least the next contest/day of competition for that team.
2. When a coach is disqualified during a contest/day of competition for unsportsmanlike conduct, that coach shall be prohibited by his/her school from coaching for the remainder of that day of competition and from coaching at or attending at least the next contest/day of competition for that team.
3. Failure of the school for any reason to enforce this regulation will prohibit the school from entry in the next MHSAA tournament for that sport, or for the remainder of the current tournament if the disqualification occurs during an MHSAA tournament or during the last regular season contest/day of competition.
4. Disqualifications from one season carry over to the next season in that sport for undergraduates and coaches, or the next season in any sport for seniors.
5. If the playing rules for a sport specify an additional penalty or more rapid progression, or use of such a progression for other violations, the playing rules apply. (1990)
6. Any coach who is disqualified for unsportsmanlike conduct two or more times during a season, any player who is disqualified for unsportsmanlike conduct three or more times during a season, and any coach or player who is ejected for spitting at, hitting, slapping, kicking, pushing or intentionally and aggressively physically contacting an official at any time during that season, is not eligible to participate in the MHSAA tournament for that sport that season. If the tournament disqualifying ejection for that individual occurs during the MHSAA tournament, that player or coach is ineligible for the remainder of that tournament.

I. POTENTIAL DANGERS IN ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION

A. Informed Consent: By its nature, participation in interscholastic athletics includes risk of injury which may range in severity. Although serious injuries are not common in supervised school athletic programs, it is impossible to eliminate the risk. Participants have the responsibility to help reduce the chance of injury. Players must obey all safety rules, report all physical problems to their coaches, follow a proper conditioning program, and inspect their own equipment daily. Also due to the nature of athletics, the possibility of the exchange of body fluids is present in sports. Regardless of how remote the possibility of transmission of diseases such as HIV/HBV is, all athletes should be Aware of the inherent risks associated with athletic competition.

B. Risk taking: Participation in athletics is a voluntary extra-curricular activity in which the student participates at the risk of injury. Athletic activities can be hazardous and participation in such activities is a calculated risk on the part of the student and parents.

II. INSURANCE

Parents or guardians of athletes are required to obtain adequate insurance coverage for their children in the event of injury. All students participating in athletic events must carry some type of health and accident insurance.

A. The Morley Stanwood School Board of Education does not assume liability for injuries suffered by students while participating in athletic activities. The responsibility for the expenses incurred in athletics for doctors,ambulance, or medical expenses for injury must be assumed by the parent or guardian.

B. The athlete's family or the athlete's family's employer's insurance must provide coverage in the case of any injury suffered while participating in athletics in the Morley Stanwood School system.

III. PHYSICALS

A completed MHSAA Physical Evaluation Form must be submitted to the Activities Office to be deemed

eligible for trying out for a team. The form must be signed by the M.D., D.O., Physician's Assistant, or Nurse Practitioner who administers the physical evaluation. A physical examination for the current school year must be administered on or after April 15 of the previous school year.

IV. INJURY POLICY

Injury Reporting: Students absent from practice due to extended illness or any athlete who sustains an injury while participating for MSHS or on his/her own time needs to report the injury to the head coach. Release to practice/compete following an injury: Any athlete who has sustained an injury must be released to return to competition or practice by the M.D. or D.O. Release by the M.D. or D.O. must be delivered in writing to the head coach. If the head coach feels the athlete may be at risk of further injury, return may be withheld pending consultation with the athlete's physician.

Athlete's Responsibility: It is the responsibility of the athlete to follow the instructions of his/her physician, as well as the head coach's recommendations and directions with regard to an injury; it is his/her own responsibility to follow up with treatment as directed by the physician or physical therapist.

GENERAL POLICIES

PREVIOUS SEMESTER RECORD

No student shall compete in any contest during any semester, who has not passed at least 83% of the credit load (passing at least 5 out of 6 courses) for the last semester during which he or she shall have been enrolled in grade nine to twelve, inclusive for a period of three weeks or more, or during which the athlete shall have taken part in any interscholastic athletic contest. A student who fails to pass 83% of the credit load - (5) out of six (6) - semester courses at the end of any semester period shall be ineligible for the next 90 school days unless the deficiencies are made up. Eligibility may be reinstated during the next semester when the school accepts the credit.

A student entering the 9th grade for the first time may compete without reference to his/her record in the 8th grade. In determining the number of hours of credit received during a semester under this rule, the usual credit allowed by the school shall be given. However, reviews and extra-curricular work, and work for which credit previously has been received, shall not be counted. Deficiencies, including incomplete conditions, and failures from a previous semester may be made up during a subsequent semester, summer session, night school, or by tutoring. Eligibility may be reinstated during the next semester when the school accepts the credit.

CURRENT SEMESTER/TRIMESTER RECORD

A. No student shall compete in an athletic contest who does not have a passing grade from the beginning of the semester to the date at which eligibility is checked seven days prior to the contest, in studies totaling 83% of the credit load.

B. In determining the number of hours of credit work per week under this rule, reviews and extra-curricular work, and work for which credit previously has been received, shall not be counted.

C. Any student participating in high school athletics must be passing 83% of the credit load (passing at least 5 out of six classes) to be eligible to participate in a scheduled interscholastic event or scrimmage.

ELIGIBILITY EVALUATION PROCESS

Students participating in interscholastic athletics will be evaluated every week on Monday. Students who are not passing at least 5 classes will be deemed ineligible for competition the following week (Tuesday-Monday).

First Offense: Student athletes will be allowed one grace week during the season. Student MUST attend one tutoring session that week.

Second Offense: Student will be ineligible to participate in any competitions for one week (Tuesday-Monday). Student MUST attend one tutoring session that week.

Third Offense: Same as second offense. In addition student MUST meet with Academic Success Coach.

ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS

Students involved in athletics and activities must be in school **FULL** to be eligible for practice. If they leave during the second half of the day they may **not** return for practice.

Students involved in athletics and activities must be in school **ALL DAY** to be eligible for competition.

*Extenuating circumstances (doctor appointments, funerals, etc.) must be approved in advance by the school administration.

TRANSPORTATION

Students are required to travel to and from athletic events by the transportation provided by the Morley Stanwood School District. This requirement may be waived for extenuating circumstances by the parents of the student submitting, in writing, a request to the coach and athletic director.

FOOT COVERINGS

State Health Department regulations require feet to be covered at all times in public buildings. The only exception should be in locker rooms and on pool decks. “Spikes” and cleats of any kind are prohibited in the hallways or locker rooms. Athletes are to put on and take off this type of shoe outside of the building.

EQUIPMENT

A. Each football player must purchase a protective mouthpiece.
B. Any individual who has failed to return, in good condition, any equipment issued shall be ineligible for an award and from participation in any other sport until such equipment is satisfactorily returned or the Athletic Department is reimbursed.
C. The theft of school equipment is larceny and Michigan law regards larceny as a felony.

SNOW DAY PROCEDURES

A. If school is called off during the school day:

No team practices, activities or events unless approved by the school administration. If approval is granted, activities MAY NOT be mandatory.

B. If school is called off before the start of the day:

No team practices, activities or events unless approved by the school administration. If approval is granted, activities MAY NOT be mandatory.

NCAA ELIGIBILITY CENTER

Students interested in competing in division I or division II collegiate athletics must register with the NCAA Eligibility Center. Students should contact either the Activities Office or the Counseling Office, or view the NCAA website at https://web3.ncaa.org/ecwr3/.

AWARD POLICIES

A. All awards must conform to the regulations of the State High School Athletic Association. A season is not completed until after the conclusion of the Awards Banquet.
CRITERIA FOR ATHLETIC TEAM AWARDS ARE AVAILABLE FROM COACHES AND THE ATHLETIC OFFICE.

B. Award Hardware Policy:

1. Freshman Team – certificate
2. Junior Varsity Team – certificate
3. Varsity Team
   - A. First year – letter and pin
   - B. Second year – a pin
   - C. Third year – a pin
   - D. Fourth year – a pin
   - E. All applicants must have conformed to the regulations for attendance at practices and contests to the satisfaction of the coach for that sport.
   - F. All applicants should have displayed at all times, to opponents, officials and fellow teammates, the type of sportsmanship which his/her school demands.

C. Varsity Letter Requirements

**Only ONE varsity letter will be earned during their high school career.

1. Freshman that play a varsity sport more than 50% of the season and finish the season in good standing will receive a varsity letter.
2. Sophomores that play a varsity sport more than 50% of the season and finish the season in good standing will receive a varsity letter.
3. Juniors that finish the season in good standing will receive a varsity letter.
4. Seniors that finish the season in good standing will receive a varsity letter.

A. Exceptions to the above requirements.
    a. If NO junior varsity team is offered (ex: lack of numbers), then freshman and sophomores on the varsity team MUST participate in at least 50% of the contest, and be in good standing, to receive a varsity letter.
    b. Boys' and Girls' Cross County: (freshman & sophomores)
        i. Must be in team's top seven, by designation or time, for more than half of the scheduled meets in the season. Season must be completed in good standing.
    c. Boys' and Girls' Track: (freshman & sophomores)
        i. Placing in varsity competitions and scoring a total of 10 points for the season, automatic earning of varsity letter. Season must be completed in good standing.
        ii. Placing in varsity competitions and scoring less than 10 points for the season, coaches' consideration for a varsity letter. Season must be completed in good standing.
    d. Sideline Cheer: (freshman & sophomores)
        i. A cheerleader or manager who starts and finishes a complete season in good standing.

CONDUCT CODE FOR PARTICIPANTS IN EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Participation shall at all times abide by the safety rules of their activity or sport. Unsportsmanlike behavior will not be tolerated.

Participants' conduct, in and out of school, shall not reflect negatively on their school or create a disruptive influence on the discipline, good order, moral, or educational environment in the school.

Participants who violate this Conduct Code are subject to being removed from the activity at the discretion of the Coach, Building Principal or Athletic Director, in addition to any other applicable punishment.

Middle School Athletic Information

All students participating in sports are expected to show "superior" conduct and attitude toward school and the sports program. The attitude and conduct are to be reflected in the classroom, locker room, and especially on the field.

We will no longer have an athletic fee.

NO SMOKING, DRINKING, OR USE OF DRUGS will be tolerated. Athletes found to be in violation of this rule, whether in or out of school, are subject to a nine-week suspension from sports. Only those weeks that are in session will count toward the suspension period. Summer weeks and vacation periods will not be counted toward the suspension period. Suspended athletes may practice at the discretion of the coach and administration. Suspended athletes may request a hearing between themselves, an administrator, and two faculty members to reconsider this suspension after a five-week period.

School-sponsored athletic opportunities are open to students in grades seven and eight. Please contact the athletic director for a list of scheduled contests.

ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY POLICY FOR ATHLETICS

1. Eligibility will be weekly.
2. The following are the eligibility guidelines:
   A. Students participating in interscholastic athletics will be evaluated weekly on Monday's.
   B. Students who are not passing at least 5 classes will be considered ineligible for competition during that week (Tuesday-Monday).
      a. First Offense: Student athlete's will be allowed one grace week during the season. Students MUST attend one tutoring session that week.
      b. Second Offense: Student will be ineligible to participate in any competitions for one week (Tuesday-Monday). Student MUST attend one tutoring session that week.
      c. Third Offense: Same as second offense. In addition, student must meet with Academic Success Coach (ex Mrs. Wing).

Middle school students are also required (by MHSAA rule) to pass at least eighty-three percent (83%) of their classes each marking period. Any student who is not in compliance with this rule will become ineligible for a full marking period.