



MORENCI BULLDOGS

EXTRA CURRICULAR POLICY and PARENT HANDBOOK

Board Adopted 08/01/2016
First Reading 02/01/2016
Board Adopted 08/01/2016
Board Adopted 07/11/2017

Athletic Passes & Admission

Admission fees are charged for most athletic events at Morenci. These gate receipts are used to help cover a variety of costs the athletic department incurs to offer these programs. We feel that we offer a great deal of entertainment and enjoyment for the price of admission. Your money gives the students of Morenci the opportunity to compete in extracurricular programs they truly enjoy.

Thank you for your support of our extracurricular programs.

GENERAL ADMISSION:

- High School Events: \$5.00
- High School Events: \$1.00 Seniors
- High School Events: \$1.00 Morenci Students with School Identification
- Middle School Events \$3.00
- Middle School Events \$1.00 Seniors
- Middle School Events \$1.00 Morenci Students with School Identification

YEARLY PASSES

1. Adult Pass - per Adult for the year/ \$150 with family, \$60 - adult, \$10 - seniors

This pass will allow the adult to attend any home athletic event in a particular year. They are not accepted at District, Regional or State tournaments that Morenci hosts.

2. Student Pass - \$20 per year

This pass, along with a current student ID, will allow a high school student to attend any Morenci home athletic event in the year for which the pass was purchased. (Student consists of anyone attending Morenci Area Schools) They are not accepted at District, Regional or State tournaments that Morenci hosts.

3. Staff Pass

The staff ID card will serve as the staff athletic pass for all district employees. This pass will allow the bearer admission to all athletic events in a given year. Passes are good for all home events at Morenci facilities to assist with supervision of students and/or provide assistance with game management. They are not accepted at District, Regional or State tournaments that Morenci hosts.

4. Yearly Passes: (available in the Athletic Office at the high school)

PLEASE NOTE: YOU MUST SHOW YOUR PASS TO BE ADMITTED TO EVENTS.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Section Page

Mission Statement.....	4
Extracurricular Philosophy.....	4
Introduction.....	5
I. Morenci Area Schools Extracurricular Codes of Conduct.....	5
A. Extracurricular Code of Conduct.....	5
B. Parents/Guardian Code of Conduct.....	6
C. Athletic Code for Coaches.....	6
II. A Winner’s Creed.....	7
III. Academic Eligibility.....	8
A. Morenci Academic Eligibility Standard.....	8
1. Semesters.....	8
2. Bi-weekly Eligibility.....	8
3. Special Circumstances.....	9
B. Michigan High School Athletic Association Academic Policy.....	9
IV. Morenci Athletic Awards.....	10
V. Insurance.....	11
VI. Parent Consent & Physical Examination.....	11
VII. Equipment and Lockers.....	11
VIII. Training Room.....	12
A. Athletic Trainer	
B. Concussion Protocol	
IX. Participation.....	12
X. Travel/Overnight trips.....	13
XI. Attendance.....	14
XII. General Training Rules.....	14
XIII. Investigation of Training Rules Violations.....	14
XIV. XIV. Athletic Suspensions.....	15
XV. XV. Substance Abuse Policy.....	15
XVI. XVI. Scholarships.....	17
XVII. XVII. Athletic Department Complaint Procedure.....	17
XVIII. Inclement Weather Policy.....	18
XIX. NCAA Clearinghouse.....	18
XX. Two Sport Athletes.....	19
XXI. Healthy Sports for Your Youth.....	19
Signature Page.....	20

MISSION STATEMENT

The Morenci Area Schools shall create extracurricular programs to assist students in reaching their potential as individuals and as team members.

EXTRACURRICULAR PHILOSOPHY FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

It is recognized by Morenci Area Schools that school extracurricular activities are a community resource, which can enhance individual self-esteem, mental alertness, school pride, and competitive spirit. The extracurricular program must reflect the excellence of the school district in spirit and practice. Therefore, the Board of Education supports extracurricular programs, which promotes and enhances the physical fitness of our youth through a wide variety of athletic opportunities.

The extracurricular program shall:

- A. Enhance team and individual “academic” achievement.
- B. Teach sport fundamentals and provide opportunities for students to develop and improve their skill level.
- C. Promote the development of positive social relationships while emphasizing team unity.
- D. Assist students in reaching their potential in the development of the most important elements of life: mind, body, spirit, and respect of oneself and others.
- E. Employ knowledgeable, ethical, and dedicated coaches who will be monitored and evaluated by the Athletic Director.
- F. Provide educational opportunities in physical conditioning, proper nutrition, self-esteem, and an environment free of substance abuse.
- G. Stress healthful, spirited competition, and sportsmanship.
- I. Provide strong interscholastic programs, which will allow for diverse participation.
- J. Be governed by written policies, procedures, and guiding principles published in the Extracurricular Policy and The Morenci Middle/High School Student Handbook 2017-2018

EXTRACURRICULAR PHILOSOPHY FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS

Morenci Area Schools believe that students need to be able to explore athletics at the age when they are learning about themselves and their abilities. Participating in athletics allows students to discover abilities that were untapped and can give them focus in the classroom. We attempt to give students the opportunity to develop their skills in a sport by maximizing both practice and game time. Hard work, sacrifice, and desire are keys to success in sports and life. These components of success are encouraged and developed in our athletic program.

INTRODUCTION

It is the purpose of the Morenci Area Schools Athletic Department to provide and promote interscholastic athletics for the young men and women of Morenci. The Athletic Department is responsible to the Morenci Board of Education or Superintendent and abides by the rules of the MHSAA. Morenci is also a voluntary member of the TCC and agrees to follow the by-laws of the conference. The Athletic Department offers a wide variety of activities for the students of Morenci. Through their involvement in athletics, young men and women are given the opportunity to develop many life skills that will serve them well in their adult lives. Lessons, such as teamwork, goal setting, commitment, citizenship, and sportsmanship are among those learned by being part of a team.

In order to have an effective program, certain policies and procedures have been established. The majority of those policies are covered in this handbook. There will also be team rules specific to each program that have been established by the coach. Those rules will be reviewed by the Athletic Director to ensure fairness and to avoid conflict with any policy set forth in this handbook

I. MORENCI AREA SCHOOLS EXTRACURRICULAR CODES OF CONDUCT

All concerned are held to these codes from the first day of involvement in middle school interscholastic athletics through the completion of the last sports season in high school. These codes will be upheld in and out of season, during vacations and throughout the summer, during the student's athletic career.

EXTRACURRICULAR CODE OF CONDUCT

- A. Accept activity participation as another means to improve educational opportunities.
- B. Develop your skill to the best of your ability.
- C. Accept extracurricular participation as way to better understand other people's value systems.
- D. Achieve a thorough knowledge of your activity.
- E. Strive for excellence in your activity by maintaining proper training and conditioning habits.
- F. Establish good nutritional habits.
- G. Adopt good study habits so that you maintain an acceptable scholastic standard.
- H. Respect and protect school equipment.
- I. Keep sight of values inherent in extracurricular participation.
- J. Attend all practice sessions.
- K. Attend all classes daily and be punctual and prepared to contribute. This is a requirement in order to participate in athletics.
- L. Behave in a manner, which demonstrates high standards of good citizenship.
- M. Conduct yourself in a manner that will bring honor to yourself, your family, your school, community and your team.
- N. **Abstain from use of alcohol, illegal drugs and tobacco at all times and remove yourself from activities where their use is taking place.**

PARENTS/GUARDIANS CODE OF CONDUCT

Morenci Area Schools believe that extracurricular activities will contribute significantly to the overall development of your student. As with academics, parental involvement in these programs helps to ensure a quality experience for all concerned. The coaches and athletic administration encourage you to be an active participant in the following ways:

- A. Read this handbook with your student and be familiar with the policies and procedures.
- B. Promote good study habits and the importance of high academic, as well as athletic performance.
- C. Encourage good attendance in classes in addition to practice and games.
- D. Help your athlete develop sound nutritional and rest habits.
- E. Enforce the fact that use of alcohol, illegal drugs, and tobacco has no place in extracurricular activities – 24 hours each day, seven days a week, 365 days a year.
- F. Demonstrate good sportsmanship toward officials, visiting teams, and fans.
- G. Support extracurricular activities by taking an active role in various fund-raising efforts through the booster clubs.
- H. Know your athlete’s schedule and assist him/her with transportation to and from school.
- I. Support your son/daughter by attending as many of his/her athletic events as possible.
- J. Keep lines of communication open by talking to coaches, advisors, and athletic administrators when questions arise.
- K. Use the following guidelines to address questions and concerns with regard to athletic participation:
 - 1. Encourage your son or daughter to talk to his/her coach first.
 - 2. Set up a meeting with the coach to discuss concerns yourself.
 - 3. If a satisfactory solution has not been achieved, make an appointment to meet with the Athletic Director for athletic concerns or the building administrator for non-athletic concerns.

ATHLETIC CODE FOR COACHES

The coach is the official representative of the school at interscholastic athletic events. In this important capacity, the coach will adhere to these standards.

- A. Develop an understanding of the role of interscholastic athletics and communicate it to players, parents, and the public.
- B. Develop an up-to-date knowledge of the rules, strategies, safety precautions, and skills of the sport and communicate them to players and parents.
- C. Communicate policies for appropriate language and conduct to your athletes in all situations. Be a role model for appropriate conduct.
- D. Develop fair and unprejudiced relationships with all team members.
- E. Allow athletes to prove themselves anew each season and do not base team selections on previous seasons or out-of-season activities.

- F. Encourage athletes to develop skills and interests in other athletic and non-athletic activities provided by the school and the community.
- G. Give the highest degree of attention to the athlete's physical and emotional well-being.
- H. Teach players, by precept and example, respect for school authority and contest officials. Provide support for them in cases of adverse decisions and refrain from making critical comments in public or to the media.
- I. Teach players strict adherence to game rules and contest regulations.
- J. Present privately, through proper school authorities, evidence of rule violations by opponents and counteract rumors and unproven allegations of questionable practices by opponents.
- K. Attend required meetings, keep abreast of MHSAA regulations and rules and be familiar with all eligibility policies.
- L. Present a clean and professional image in terms of personal appearance. Be a positive role model in terms of conduct, language and personal habits. Use of tobacco products within sight of players and parents is unacceptable. Use of alcohol any time prior to practice or contest or in the presence of athletes is unacceptable.
- M. Strive to create a positive environment in which all are treated with dignity and respect by collectively working with administrators, parents and athletes.
- N. Individual coaches' rules must be posted and signed off by the Athletic Director before coaches /athletic meetings

II. A WINNER'S CREED: NINE AFFIRMATIONS FOR ACHIEVEMENT

- A. I am a winner because I think like a winner, prepare like a winner, and perform like a winner.
- B. I am a winner because I set high, but attainable goals, work toward those goals with determination and persistence, and never stop until I reach them.
- C. I am a winner because I am strong enough to say "No!" to those things that would make me less than my best, and say "Yes!" to the challenges and opportunities that will make me grow and improve my life.
- D. I am a winner because total commitment is my constant companion, and personal integrity is my lifetime mentor.
- E. I am a winner because I am learning to avoid tempting shortcuts that can lead to disappointment and the unhealthy habits that could result in defeat.
- F. I am a winner because I have a well-earned confidence in myself, a high regard for my teammates and coworkers, and a healthy respect for those in authority over me.
- G. I am a winner because I have learned to accept criticism, not as a threat, but as an opportunity to examine my attitude and to improve my skills.
- H. I am a winner because I have a burning desire, a measure of talent, and a strong desire to attempt the difficult and to overcome the seemingly impossible.
- I. I am a winner because of my enthusiasm for life, my enjoyment of the present and my trust in the future.

III. ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY

A. Morenci Academic Eligibility

1. Semester - If a student fails a class from the previous semester, the student will:

Not participate on any team for 1/3 of contests. (This does not include practicing, keeping statistics, traveling or managing).

- a. Once a student has achieved eligibility at the conclusion of the 1/3 contest penalty, they can begin competition in a program. However, bi-weekly eligibility must be maintained throughout the semester.
- b. Should the student remain ineligible after the 1/3 of the contests, the ineligibility shall be for the remainder of the season and no participation shall be allowed.
- c. A student will have a two-week grace period at the beginning of each semester in the fall and winter before eligibility is determined. The first two weeks is for informational purposes only. On the fourth week of the semester, competition eligibility will start and be done every other week after that.

A student who changes their schedule during a season will maintain the grade established in the dropped class for eligibility purposes for up to two weeks, until credit can be reestablished in the newly added class.

2. Bi-Weekly Eligibility

Student is declared “ineligible” because of a failing grade in a class which is in progress (59.5% or below is failing). Eligibility will be figured as follows:

- a. Eligibility is done on Friday mornings. Ineligibility starts Monday and ends the following Sunday.
- b. The first two weeks of each semester is informational only; however, students may receive a warning during that time.
- c. Any student with a grade average below a 70% will receive a warning.
- d. A student will receive a warning in each course before they are ineligible.
- e. Any student receiving a failing grade in the same course in which a warning was issued during the bi-weekly eligibility check will not be able to play the week after the “F”, but the second week of that bi-weekly eligibility check the student will be able to participate in any contests during that second week.
- f. A student who receives an “F” in the same class a second time during the same season will be ineligible to participate on the team for the remainder of the season.
- g. The student will be allowed to continue to practice until eligibility is re-established or until the eligibility becomes permanent.

< 70% grade = warning

1st occurrence <59.5% grade = 1 week ineligibility

2nd occurrence <59.5% grade = removal from team for the season if failing in same class

3. Special Circumstances

Fall extracurricular participants will be evaluated for eligibility based on their grades from the previous marking period. Students who have failed one class must take a summer classes to replace the grade and avoid becoming ineligible to compete. Summer classes need to be similar to the failed class and provide credit toward graduation.

Because competition begins before classes do for most fall sports, an athlete who is ineligible will miss one-third of the season.

B. MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION ACADEMIC POLICY

Morenci Area School's Athletic Eligibility does not allow for any failures. A student/athlete must pass all their classes to be eligible. To be eligible, a middle school and high school student must comply with the following rules:

Enrollment — He/she must be enrolled full time in a high/middle school no later than the fourth Wednesday after Labor Day or the fourth Wednesday of the second semester. A student must be enrolled in the school for which he or she competes. Full time enrollment is considered taking four core courses through the school for which the athlete competes. Students who are enrolled in Middle College or Alternative Education are not eligible for Morenci Area Schools sponsored sports.

Age — He/she must be under 19 years of age, except that a student whose 19th birthday occurs on or after September 1 of a current school year is eligible for the balance of that school year.

Physical Examination — He/she must have passed a current year physical examination. A record must be on file in the **Athletic Office**. The current year commences the first day after the school year closes in the spring for summer vacation. A physician's statement for the current school year is interpreted as any physical examination given on or after **April 15th** of the previous school year.

Seasons of Competition — He/she must not have more than four first-semester and four second semester seasons of competition in a sport in a four-year high school, or three first-semester and three second semester seasons in a three-year high school, including present seasons. When two seasons leading to a State championship of the same sport are offered, an athlete may participate in only one.

Semester of Enrollment — He/she must not have been enrolled for more than eight semesters in grades nine to twelve, inclusively. Seventh and eighth semesters must be consecutive. Three-week enrollment or participation in one or more athletic contests constitutes a semester of enrollment.

Undergraduate Standing — He/she must not be a high school graduate.

Previous Semester Record — He/she must have received at least two credit hours for work taken during the previous semester of enrollment. (four classes passed) See Section III. Academic Eligibility.

Current Semester Record — Students must maintain academic eligibility in order to be eligible to participate in athletics. High School students must be passing four courses (each course passed equals 1/2 credit per semester) to satisfy MHSAA regulations. **Students ineligible by MHSAA standards at the semester's end will be withheld from athletic competition the succeeding 60 school days.**

Transfers — Student-athletes must have had an accompanying change of residence by the student’s parent, guardian or other person with whom the athlete has been living during the period of his or her last high school enrollment, into the district or service area of the school, to be eligible during the first semester in attendance.

Awards — Student-athletes must not have accepted any award or merchandise exceeding \$25 in value for athletic performance. Athletes accepting memberships, privileges, services, negotiable certificates, or money are in violation. For amateur practices, students may not have accepted money, merchandise, memberships, privileges, services or other valuable consideration for participating in any form of athletics, sports, games or for officiating inter-scholastic athletic contests, or have signed a professional athletic contract. (Reinstatement will not be considered for one year.)

Limited Team Membership — A student who, after practicing with or participating in an athletic contest or scrimmage as a member of a high school athletic team participates in any athletic competition not sponsored by his or her school in the same sport during the same season, shall become ineligible for a minimum of the next three contests/days of competition and maximum of the remainder of that season in that school year.

IV. MORENCI ATHLETIC AWARDS

Awards are earned based on each coach’s criteria. Participation does not necessarily qualify a student-athlete for an award. In order to receive an award for any sport, a student must be academically eligible and complete the season barring injury. Students suspended for more than one-third of the season are not eligible for a Varsity letter. The season is concluded when the coach releases the athletes from the program after competition.

Special Awards - “Most Valuable” and “Coaches Award” plaques may be presented at the varsity level of competition. The coaching staff may choose to label the awards differently depending on the situation or choose not to give the awards at all. For example, a coach may decide at the conclusion of the season that a “Most Improved” and “Best Attitude” award are more appropriate for that particular season.

Varsity Award - The initial Varsity award is the 8 inch Morenci “M”. The varsity letter is presented only once. A varsity certificate is presented to the student-athlete each year or each sport that the athlete earns a varsity award. A sports designation pin is presented for every varsity letter earned.

All-League Scholar Athlete - A varsity student-athlete with a 3.50 or better GPA is recognized as All-League Scholar Athlete. This TCC award is for a sophomore, junior, or senior who has won a varsity letter.

Individual Varsity Sports Awards:

1. **Basketball:** Athlete must participate in twenty (20) quarters (Boys and Girls).
2. **Bowling:** Athlete must participate in 1/3 of scheduled matches.
3. **Football:** Athlete must participate in eighteen (18) quarters.
4. **Cheerleading:** A cheerleader must participate in three-fourth (3/4) of all scheduled cheering events.
5. **Equestrian:** Athlete who participates four years.
6. **Golf:** Athlete must compete in one-half (1/2) of all varsity matches.
7. **Cross Country:** Athlete must place in the top 7 of the Morenci team. In more than one-half (1/2) of all varsity matches before regionals.
8. **Wrestling:** Athlete must earn 12 team points during the season.
9. **Volleyball:** Athlete must participate in one-half (1/2) of matchers played
10. **Baseball/Softball:** Athlete must participate in one-third (1/3) of innings played.
11. **Track:** Athlete must earn eleven (11) points through the season (Girls and Boys).

V. INSURANCE

We encourage all families to have adequate insurance coverage for their children. Parents and their insurance company must pay for any medical bills incurred for injuries sustained at school, school sponsored events, athletic practices or events, or on school property. **Morenci Area School's insurance does not cover athletic injuries.**

VI. PARENT CONSENT AND PHYSICAL EXAMINATION

A parental consent form / physical form, both of which are on the State MHSAA form, must be on file with the Athletic Department **before** the student is allowed to tryout, practice or compete with a team. The physical must be given after April 15 and is valid from that day forward through the end of the following school year.

The consent form allows the coach or athletic trainer to seek emergency medical care on behalf of the athlete in the event the parent or guardian cannot be contacted. It also gives permission for the athlete to travel with the team to away events. The forms must be completely filled out by athlete/ parent/ doctor.

VII. EQUIPMENT AND LOCKERS

- A. All equipment issued to the student for athletic participation is the property of the Morenci Area School District. The student is financially responsible for all that is issued. Failure to return all equipment in good repair will result in the athlete being billed for its replacement **at**

new replacement cost. Failure to make restitution will result in being denied participation in another sport or a delay in obtaining final academic records.

- B. Each athlete is required to check his/her equipment daily and report any problems to his/her coach. Failure to comply may result in injury (i.e., football equipment).
- C. Keep all equipment clean. Protective pads should also be cleaned on a regular basis.
- D. All equipment is to be used properly.
- E. Keep equipment and valuables locked in your locker. The Athletic Department is not responsible for lost or stolen items. Athletes will be held responsible for the replacement costs of any school issued lost or stolen items.
- F. Keep the locker clean. Food and wet clothes are not to be stored in the locker.

VIII. TRAINING ROOM

A. Athletic Training

- 1. All athletes are required to report any injury to the trainer/coach.
- 2. The coach and trainer are to know if the athlete is taking any type of medication.
- 3. The coach and trainer need to know of any medical problems or concerns such as diabetes or epilepsy, etc.
- 4. When a student-athlete is required to see a physician for an injury or illness, he/she must provide the coach or athletic trainer with a **written** clearance from the treating physician before they are allowed to return to practice or competition
- 5. Take care of your body; shower properly and report any skin infections to the trainer and your coach.
- 6. Put all refuse and used tape in trash containers.

B. Concussion

Non-Concussion Injury Return to Play Policy-

Due to the potential of loss of functionality by an injured athlete during the healing process and therefore an increase in potential injury, the following protocol shall be enforced:

When an athlete, who is under the care of a physician, has been released to return to his/her sport by the treating physician, the Athletic Trainer shall supervise a return to competition, as he/she deems necessary, to assure the athlete is ready to perform at a safe level.

IX. PARTICIPATION

- A. A student who quits one sport (in good standing) may join another team in the same athletic season if the change is made prior to the first athletic contest. Also, coaches of both sports must recommend the change to the Athletic Director, who must then act on the transfer.
- B. A student who quits a sport may not practice in any sport without permission from BOTH coaches AND the Athletic Director.

- C. An athlete must have a recommended ten (10) practices, supervised by a coach of that sport in order to compete in upcoming scheduled dates of competition. Exception is made if the Time between seasons does not allow for the full 2 weeks of practice before competition. Exceptions could also be made if inclement weather prevents the team from practicing 10 times. Under normal circumstances if the athlete has not practiced for 10 days, they will be unable to participate in competition until they complete the required ten days of practice in that sport.
- D. The exception is football which required 12 separate days of practice for team, three without pads, and not before 16 days after the first date of practice in order to participate.
- E. Students who transfer in from other school's athletic teams who have been suspended or expelled from other athletic teams will serve their full suspension before being allowed to participate at Morenci Area Schools.

X. TRAVEL

- A. The standards of good conduct, as established by the coach and driver, are expected at all times while on trips.
- B. All rules and regulations pertaining to Morenci bus codes are to be adhered to on athletic trips.
 - 1. Athletes are not to wear metal cleats on the bus.
 - 2. When in transit, athletes are to remain seated.
 - 3. Noise is to be kept to a minimum so as to not distract the driver.
 - 4. Cooperation with the driver's requests is expected.
- C. Appropriate dress, which is established by the coach, is a must on all trips.
- D. All athletes are to travel to athletic events by transportation provided by the school district unless the trips are self-transport.
- E. IF A PARENT DESIRES TO TAKE THEIR SON OR DAUGHTER HOME WITH HIM/HER AFTER AN ATHLETIC EVENT, A PARENT MUST SIGN OUT THEIR STUDENT WITH THE COACH AFTER THE CONTEST.
- F. A PARENT MUST PRESENT A NOTE IN WRITING IF THEIR SON OR DAUGHTER IS TO GO HOME WITH ANOTHER DESIGNATED PARENT OR GUARDIAN AFTER AN EVENT. THE DESIGNATED PARENT MUST ALSO SIGN OUT THE ATHLETE, WHEN TAKING ANOTHER STUDENT TO RIDE HOME WITH THEIR OWN STUDENT, AFTER AN ATHLETIC CONTEST.

OVERNIGHT TRIPS

In the event that an athletic event requires an overnight stay, the coach will be responsible to work with the Athletic Department to make the following arrangements:

- A. A complete itinerary of the trip will be provided to the parents including phone numbers.
- B. Teams will travel by bus when at all possible except when the Athletic Director determines self-transport.
- C. Students will not be allowed to drive.
- D. Parental consent forms for each athlete must be signed and returned to the coach prior to the trip.

- E. All school and athletic department regulations are in force during the trip.
- F. Requests for overnight trips with students must be submitted and approved by the Morenci Board of Education.

XI. ATTENDANCE

- A. **The participant must be present at all games and practices** as designated by the coach unless absent from school due to personal illness or excused by the coach prior to the absence.
- B. **The participant must be in attendance the entire school day** in order to dress and participate in an extracurricular contest and/or practice that day, unless excused by a prearranged special excuse. The student must demonstrate proof upon request from the Coach and Athletic Director. Staying home to rest or calling in sick for half the day is not considered an excused absence. This will not meet the all-day requirement and the participant will not be allowed to participate. Exceptions to the rule **MAY BE GRANTED** by the Athletic Director, and/or Building Administrator. The coach, or adult in charge, will be notified of the granting of the waiver.
- C. **Any student that receives a major disciplinary office referral** on a day of an interscholastic competition or school function will not be able to practice, participate, or attend that day's athletic contest or after school function. This includes both middle school and high school events.

XII. GENERAL TRAINING RULES

Athletes are required to adhere to the rules set forth in the K-12 Parent/Student Handbook.

- A. If you are suspended from school for any reason, you may not practice or compete during the time the suspension is in effect.
- B. You are required to observe all team rules set forth by your coach including curfews.
- C. When in uniform or letter jacket, athletes are representing Morenci Schools and must demonstrate exemplary conduct.
- D. Athletes are expected to exhibit good sportsmanship and citizenship in school and during competition. Examples of poor sportsmanship and citizenship include: destruction of property, theft, fighting, foul language, falsifying excuses/records, and insubordination. These are causes for disciplinary action by your coach and/or the Athletic Director.
- E. **When in attendance at a social event (party), no matter the location, if the use of alcohol or other drugs is taking place by other students, the athlete is required to leave immediately. Athletes who remain at such parties will be treated as if they themselves are in violation of the substance abuse policy. (XV)**

XIII. INVESTIGATION OF TRAINING RULES VIOLATIONS

The importance for the Code of Conduct should be apparent to everyone. If a student-athlete is reported in violation of these rules, the case will be investigated by one or more of the following: the Coach, Athletic Director and/or Principal/Assistant Principal.

If the circumstances of the investigation substantiate the charge, the following process will take place:

- A. The athlete will be notified of the charges, and the parents will be notified as to the particulars of the case by the Athletic Director.
- B. The student will meet with the coach/ and or athletic director and their decision will be rendered within 24 hours. Parents/guardian will be notified of their decision.
- C. The student has a right to an appeal the Athletic Director's decision in writing to the "Athletic Council," within 48 hours of the decision, where he/she can present evidence and witnesses on his or her behalf if there is an appeal. The athlete will also receive the details of the case in order to prepare for the hearing. The Athletic Council will consist of the Counselor, Building Administrator, and Superintendent.
- D. The student has a right to appeal the decision of the Athletic Council within 48 hours of their decision in writing to the Board of Education. The Board of Education will convene, within 5 business days to hear the appeal.
- E. The appeal progression goes from the Athletic Director, to Athletic Council, to Board of Education.

XIV. ATHLETIC SUSPENSIONS

- A. Major training violations will result in suspension from the team. These violations include the possession and/or use of alcohol beverages, controlled substances or other substances prohibited by law and tobacco products. Refer to the Discipline Policy and Code of Conduct in the Morenci Middle/High School Student Handbook 2017-2018.
- B. A suspension from participation (practice/game) may occur for any other infractions as listed in the Discipline Policy and Code of Conduct in the Morenci Middle/High School Student Handbook 2017-2018. The length of the suspension will be determined by the severity of the infraction. It can range up to one day to the remainder of the season.
- C. A practice/game suspension may result from infractions of the coaches' written team rules.
- D. Travel and attendance infractions may result in up to a game suspension.
- E. Repeated violations may result in the athlete being removed from the team.
- F. The athlete must attend all practices throughout his/her athletic suspension. On days of competition, the athlete must be present with the team but remain dressed in street clothes.
- G. In all cases where the discipline is not fully served in a particular season, the remaining time will be served in the next season in which the athlete participates. The time remaining to be served will begin the first day of competition. Tryouts and preseason practice days will not be counted toward the remaining time. An athlete must complete the next season of participation in order for the discipline to be considered served.
- H. Substance abuse violations will carry over from middle school to high school and from year-to-year.

XV. SUBSTANCE ABUSE POLICY

The possession/use/distribution and sale of tobacco or tobacco products; e-cigarettes, or other synthetic or similar substances; the possession/use/distribution and sale of alcoholic beverages; including any beverage with alcoholic content; and possession/ use/ distribution and sale of controlled substance or other substance prohibited by law, including but not limited to marijuana, illegal pills, narcotics, look-alike drugs, and drug paraphernalia. Any of the aforementioned will constitute a violation of the Substance Abuse Policy. Students may be asked to take a breathalyzer test, a urine drop, hair sample test, or any other methods of testing. The test must be completed as soon as arrangements have been made by Morenci Area Schools. Refusal to submit to a test may result in disciplinary action.

1ST OFFENSE

Any student-athlete in violation of the substance abuse policy of Morenci Area Schools will be withheld from competition for one-third of the scheduled contests from the date of the decision, depending on the timing of the infraction up to 1/3 of the upcoming season if the infraction occurs after 2/3 of the current season has been completed.

2ND OFFENSE

Suspension from participation for one (1) full season of scheduled contests of competition. The student may be required to receive full drug assessment and follow the recommendation of a medical professional. Failure to adhere to this action will result in the infraction being treated as a third offense.

3RD OFFENSE

Morenci Area Schools student will lose eligibility for participation in athletics for one sports year from date of the offense.

THESE OFFENSES WILL BE CUMULATIVE THROUGHOUT THE STUDENTS' MIDDLE SCHOOL/HIGH SCHOOL CAREER.

An athlete who recognizes that they have a substance abuse problem can seek assistance and avoid a penalty through a **self-referral process**. Self-referral is defined as seeking assistance prior to being caught and/or charged with a violation of the substance abuse policy.

The following steps must be taken to make a self-referral before any infractions of the Substance Abuse Policy has taken place:

- A. The athlete must meet with a school employee, such as a teacher, coach, Athletic Director, Building Administrator, and/or counselor, and inform them of their desire to get help.
- B. Parent or guardian will be notified and the athlete will be referred to the principal who will aid the individual in meeting with appropriate licensed agency for evaluation and treatment.
- C. The athlete must keep appointments and follow the recommended course of treatment.
- D. Failure to comply with the treatment program will be treated as a first offense in the substance abuse policy.
- E. Self-referral can only be used once to avoid penalty.

XVI. SCHOLARSHIPS

There are financial scholarships available. These scholarships are funded, in part, by donations from the Karen Semersky Fund. The forms are located in the Finance Director's office.

XVII. ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT COMPLAINT PROCEDURE

When a person (such as a student, a parent, a coach, a teacher, or an administrator) has a question, concern, or complaint regarding an athletic situation, we have found the following line of communication to be very effective in resolving issues.

- A. START WITH THE SOURCE.** The person must wait 24 hours before discussing the incident with the coach. Talk directly with the coach, in private, face to face, away from the practice site, or wait until the game is over.
- B. IF NECESSARY, TALK NEXT WITH THE HEAD VARSITY COACH OF THE SPORT;**
- C. IF NECESSARY, TALK NEXT WITH THE ATHLETIC DIRECTOR;**
- D. IF NECESSARY, TALK NEXT WITH THE PRINCIPAL;**
- E. IF NECESSARY, TALK NEXT WITH THE SUPERINTENDENT, OR HIS/HER DESIGNEE.**

All complaints **MUST** be heard at the lowest possible level **BEFORE** intervention by a higher authority can occur. This system works very well so we are committed to abide by it. However, the next level arbitrator will always be willing to meet with a complainant if sub level discussions do not accomplish their intended purpose. When stating your concern, be prepared with facts in so far as you understand, or can ascertain them. Think through your expectations for the outcome resulting from voicing your concern. Be clear about what you hope will happen as a result of your meeting.

As you converse with the coach, or other authority, repeat back what you hear the coach says to be sure that you understand the important points. Stay calm and friendly as you talk and listen. Perhaps take notes.

Before the session ends, have a plan, which is clearly understood by all parties. Check for mutual understanding. Set a time and method of responding if necessary.

Work to help your child learn and resolve their own conflicts. When a student successfully deals with difficult situations, they learn and grow. Of course, a parent always retains the right to intervene on behalf of a child.

We always assume that all parties have the best interest of the student in mind when concerns are discussed, and 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.

XVIII. ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT POLICY - SCHOOL CLOSING/ INCLEMENT WEATHER

Under the present district policy, athletic events may be played on days when school is closed. The decision to allow events to continue is based on the premise that conditions that cause the school closing at 5:00-6:00 AM may significantly improve by 3:00-4:00 PM when the buses have to travel, making it possible to play scheduled games.

Under this rationale the following guidelines must be followed:

- A. Each team should have a phone fan-out system for contacting members. Athletes should be informed that they are to assume that scheduled events will take place unless otherwise notified. The final decision will be made at an appropriate time.
- B. If school is cancelled for the day - NO MANDATORY PRACTICE may be held. The word OPTIONAL must be used and no player should experience any consequence if they or their parents decide that he/she is unable to attend.
- C. If school is let out early because of developing weather problems, all practices will be considered voluntary.
- D. In the event the cancellation results in missing a league game, varsity games will be rescheduled. All other teams may or may not be rescheduled based on the time of the season and open dates available.
- E. Middle school games and practices will be cancelled if school is closed. Middle school games are not normally rescheduled.

XIX. NCAA CLEARINGHOUSE

The NCAA has established a central clearinghouse to certify eligibility for Divisions I and II. If you intend to participate in Division I and II athletics as a freshman in college, you must be registered with and certified by the NCAA Initial-eligibility Clearinghouse.

To be certified for Divisions I and II, you need to graduate from high school and have a 2.0 grade-point average in the core curriculum of at least 13 academic courses (as defined by the NCAA) and achieve a qualifying test score on the ACT or SAT.

You should register with the Clearinghouse whenever you decide you would like to participate in athletics as a college freshman. It generally is best to register after your junior year grades appear on your transcript. Although you can register any time prior to participation, if you register late, you may face delays that will prevent you from practicing and competing.

To obtain registration materials, contact your high school counselor or Athletic Director. Your counselor should call the Clearinghouse at 319-337-1492 to obtain the forms. These materials include a student-release form and a red brochure entitled *Making Sure You Are Eligible to Participate in College Sports*.

XX. TWO SPORT ATHLETES

A student participating in two sports during a season (e.g. - cross country and football) must declare both sports within the second week of practice. By the end of the first week of competition, the athlete must declare their primary sport. If an athlete has conflicting sporting events, he/she must participate in his/her primary sport first, and then may compete in his/her secondary sport.

The Athletic Director and Coaches may write an Individual Participation Plan that allows an athlete to participate in two sports.

XXI. HEALTHY SPORTS FOR YOUR YOUTH: Tips for Parents

- Remember why our children play sports. Surveys have shown that the main reason young people play sports is “to have fun”. Winning ranks a distant 8th, behind doing something with friends, staying in shape, improving skills, and playing as a part of a team.
- Encourage and support your child regardless of the degree of success, the level of skill, or playing time.
- Look for positives in performance and discuss only your positive observations with your child, especially immediately after competition.
- Model respect for the coach and highlight the critical nature of contributing to the team and its success.
- Attend and participate in preseason school sponsored meetings. Communicate with coaches and agree to support guidelines for healthy sports.
- Ensure a balance in your student-athlete’s life; encourage participation in multiple sports and other activities while placing academics first and foremost.
- Recognize the developmental stages of your child, ensuring enjoyment, skill development, and team play as cornerstones of sports experiences.
- Leave coaching to coaches and avoid placing too much pressure on your child about playing time and performance.
- Be realistic about your child’s future in sports, recognizing that only a select few earn a college scholarship, compete in the Olympics, or sign a professional contract.
- Avoid leading your child to early specialization, year-long play in one sport, and the potential of burnout.
- Understand that today’s youth strive for excellence, compete to win, but cherish participation most while rejecting “winning at all cost.”
- Be there when your child looks to the sidelines for a positive role model. Do not berate officials, school staff, or opponents before, during or after the game.
- Do not speak negatively about a referee, coach or player in front of your child. Blaming officials, coaches or individual players for outcomes removes the responsibility from the team and allows players to use this as an excuse for not succeeding as a team.

We, the parent(s)/guardian(s) and **student-athlete** have read and understand the MAS Athletic Handbook and agree to **accept** the responsibilities and obligations required to participate in athletics. **The Athletic Director has reviewed the enclosed material with me.**

Student Athlete _____

Date _____

Parent/Guardian _____

Date _____

Parent/Guardian _____

Date _____

Athletic Director _____

Date _____