

**MIDDLETON HIGH SCHOOL
ATHLETIC HANDBOOK
2026-2027 School Year**

**MIDDLETON HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC
DEPARTMENT
1538 Emmett Road Middleton, Idaho 83644**

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Middleton High School Athletic Handbook

Middleton High School believes that extracurricular activities including interscholastic athletics are a significant part of the educational process. Athletics create an opportunity for individual growth and the establishment of a deeper sense of belonging and community. Participation in athletics can and should provide, when all stakeholders (coaches, parents/guardians and participants) engage in a positive manner in the process, meaningful opportunities for our students to develop life skills obtained through providing an educational opportunity outside of the classroom.

Vision

Middleton High School will take all reasonable steps to ensure student-athletes will have an exceptional high school athletic experience, that non-participating students will become more connected to the overall Middleton High School Community, be able to hire, retain and support exceptional coaches, and parents/guardians will support and enhance the athletic community.

Mission

The athletic department and individual sports programs will foster an inclusive culture based on clear expectations and communication that provides our student-athletes with an experience that provides more than just an experience in a particular sport. The culture will emphasize excellence in life, in the classroom, and on the field/court. Collectively through the combined partnership of administration, coaches and parents, the focus will be on the strategic development of the skills, character and attitude of the student-athlete. We will define success in this endeavor by evaluating not only wins and losses but by the development and improvement of each student-athlete as informed by their individual circumstances. The athletic department will establish clear expectations and accountability for all stakeholders (athletes, parents, coaches and broader Middleton community).

This journey will emphasize more than athletic performance but the impact our athletes can have within the school and broader community.

EXPECTATIONS

Athletes will:

1. Be committed to excellence in all your endeavors (athletic, academic, and otherwise).
2. Put the team first and put forth your best effort in the role assigned.
3. Represent and be an ambassador of Middleton High School maintaining the highest behavioral standards.

4. Communicate clearly and effectively with your coach and teammates about all matters relevant to the team or your individual performance .
5. Understand and exhibit mastery of the rules, procedures and work ethic required to experience success.
6. Comply with all school rules as established by the administration of Middleton High School, and all team and athletic rules established by coaches.
7. Respect the rights and property of others.
8. Refrain from the use, possession, sale or distribution of alcohol, tobacco, marijuana, prescription drugs or other controlled substances, drug paraphernalia, or any other illegal or illicit substances of any kind at all times.
9. Refrain from any other inappropriate or unacceptable conduct contrary to the ideals, principles and standards of the school and school district, including, but not limited to, inappropriate behavior on social media, sexting, cyberbullying, bullying, criminal behavior, etc.
10. Assume full financial responsibility for any school property that is lost, damaged, or stolen through negligence of the student-athlete.
11. Be gracious when you win and graceful when you lose.
12. Accept decisions made by those in authority. Demonstrate respect for your opponents, coaches and teammates.
13. Be accountable for your own actions.

The School will:

1. Recruit and retain competent coaches and assistants who share the vision and mission outlined in this handbook.
2. Foster a positive athletic environment focused on the overall health and success of each program.
3. Encourage connection with and involvement of coaches and student-athletes with Middleton Middle School to promote a deeper sense of community.
4. Will ensure coaches have received the training necessary to provide proper instruction in the chosen sport.
5. Organize and monitor a regular program of practice during the activity season.
6. Will ensure the following: safe and proper equipment, uniforms, and safe/clean facilities for the programs by working with each individual program to make sure the proper funds are raised.
7. Inform athletes of policies/procedures for their team, the school, and the district.

The Athletic Director will:

1. Support all programs, coaches, and athletes in a fair and equitable manner.
2. Help put programs in position to have success.
3. Build relationships with coaches, athletes, students, parents/guardians, and community members.

4. Communicate with and ensure expectations and standards are being met by all athletic stakeholders (coaches, parents, student-athletes).
5. Work with the district office, principal, and head coaches to ensure the needs of the programs and facilities are being met.

The Coaches will:

1. Create a positive culture that focuses on the mission outlined in this handbook and the development of each athlete.
2. Educate athletes on the rules applicable to their sport and proper technique to avoid injury.
3. Raise the adequate funds necessary to meet the needs and wants of their program.
4. Constantly work to improve your knowledge and ability to teach the game and the athletes.
5. Promote citizenship within the school and the broader community encouraging athletes to lead by example.
6. Encourage multi-sport participation.
7. Enhance the academic mission of Middleton High School.
8. Reward effort and behavior.
9. Exhibit knowledge and confidence in the administration of the sports program.
10. Provide clear and frequent communication with athletes and parents regarding program expectations and individual and team accountability
11. Be prepared with a practice plan that aids in the development of athletes.
12. Maintain a professional demeanor as a representative of Middleton High School and treat players and parents with respect.
13. Provide frequent feedback on player performance avoiding “you are” statements.
14. Inform athletes of their broader identity and help them develop strong moral character (including honesty and integrity).
15. Be committed to the development of all athletes regardless of ability
16. Use positive coaching methods to encourage and push players to maximize their individual ability
17. Develop and administer a reasonable offseason plan and ensure all athletes can participate through organizing fundraisers, work events or obtaining scholarships such that financial hardship can be avoided.
18. Positively represent the high school, school district, and community
19. Pursue excellence in life, in school, and on the field/court

The Parents will:

1. Support the program in a positive fashion attending as many games as personal circumstances allow. Accept the results of each game; do not make excuses. Demonstrate winning and losing

with dignity.

2. Be willing to be involved if/when asked.
3. Be a model, not a critic; model appropriate behavior. Accept the judgment of officials and coaches; remain in control.
4. Do everything within your power to make the athletic experience positive for your child and others.
5. View the game with team goals in mind.
6. Attempt to relieve competitive pressure, not increase it.
7. Attend all parent meetings.
8. Release your children to the coach and to the team (the game, the team, and the coach)
9. Avoid “you are” statements in providing feedback to your child. Focus on effort and behavior, not identity. Parents should be confidence builders by maintaining a consistent perspective and not saying or doing anything that will have your children feel like their self-worth is somehow tied to playing time, the outcome of the game, or the participation on the team.
10. Follow established procedures when wishing to discuss an issue with a coach.
11. Be an encourager – encourage athletes to keep their perspective in both victory and defeat.
12. Allow the coach to coach during games (1 voice).
13. Accept the goals, roles and achievements of your child. Ask children why they play, what their goals and roles are, and then accept those answer

Student Athlete Participation

Paperwork - Uploaded to Rank One

1. Must have a Health Questionnaire / Physical on file - IDHSAA
2. Must have an Interim Questionnaire on file (10th and 12th grade) - IDHSAA
3. Must sign the Parent and Student Athlete Participation/Release Form
4. Must fill out and sign the MHS insurance/emergency information form
5. Fees - Pay to Participate:
 - 1st sport \$150
 - 2nd sport \$75
 - 3rd sport \$75

INSURANCE

Injuries can be a natural consequence of participating in competitive events. Participating in athletic activities is a personal choice of a student and the family of a student. Part of such a decision is understanding and accepting the consequences of possible injury. The District and MHS is not liable for nor will in any manner compensate, reimburse, or otherwise provide insurance or cover any medical care costs associated with a student-athlete injury or illness.

It is a requirement of each student-athlete to provide proof of insurance or otherwise to sign a waiver.

******Recognizing that, as a result of enrollment for or participation in a school program or activity, emergency medical care may become necessary and that school personnel may be unable to contact parents/guardians for their consent for emergency medical care, parents/guardians do hereby consent in advance to such emergency medical care, including tests, x-rays, surgery and hospital care for their child as may be deemed necessary and agree to be responsible for and pay all medical costs incurred.***

ATHLETIC TRAINING/ INJURY MANAGEMENT

Middleton High School contracts with St. Luke's Sports Medicine to provide a full-time athletic trainer. Middleton High School is fortunate to have an athletic trainer on staff. The athletic training room is located on the east side of the gym by the weight room. Our athletic trainer is the first step in regards to evaluating injuries and providing treatment. However, the athletic trainer works with all doctors, PT's, chiropractors, etc., to make sure the proper treatment is being provided for injured athletes. The following are the steps we take with all injured athletes:

1. Evaluation of the injury
 - a. If further or more extensive care is needed the athletic trainer will make recommendations regarding visiting a doctor or sports injury specialist
2. Discussion with athlete, parents, and coach about the evaluation
3. Developing a treatment to plan to provide rehabilitation of the injury and to prevent further injury
4. Monitoring the treatment plan and follow up with athlete, parents, and coach about progress
5. If parents disagree with the evaluation and treatment plan provided by the athletic trainer, they are free to obtain another opinion. The doctor's plan/evaluation will then become the plan our athletic trainer will follow.
6. If parents believe there is not an injury. They must sign the release of the prevention liability form. Our athletic trainer will then not check the student-athlete regarding that injury.

The District has adopted Idaho State Statute 33-1625 as policy governing youth athletic concussions and head injuries as well as Administrative Regulation 504.30-AR(1) which provides the process for managing student-athlete concussions. All coaches are required to be familiar with and abide by such requirements for concussions and head injuries.

COMMUNICATION

All communication between coaches and participating students shall be professional in tone, content, and manner. Coaches should not use profanity, vulgar references, sexual innuendo, or other such inappropriate communications. If it is inappropriate for a classroom setting, it is likewise inappropriate for athletics. For the protection of coaches, if communication occurs via text or email, such should be in the context of a group text or email. If the communication is more individualized or personal in nature, the email or text should include the student-athlete's parent or another coach or administrator. No communication should be one-on-one. Similarly one-on-one phone conversations are not best practices. It is understood that such may occur from time to time to address emergencies and absences. A professional boundary should remain in place in all athletic settings. One-on-one meetings should also be avoided. Wherever possible and when confidentiality considerations are at issue, it is suggested that a parent, assistant coach or administrator be present.

MHS Communication will consist of the following from coaches/athletic director to team and parents (all subject to the guidelines above):

1. Stack Team App (Will Change) and/or Rank One
2. Emails
3. Face to face meetings
4. Phone calls
5. 3rd party apps, for example game changer/Hudl, only if approved by HS administrators
6. Text messaging, if needed, but parents must be part of the text thread. Coaches are not allowed to text students without including the parent. Students do not text a coach without including a parent as part of the text message.

Communication from the Coach to Student-Athletes/Parents will include:

1. Participation policies and eligibility requirements
2. Individual and team expectations (in-season and off-season)
3. Practice and game schedules: location and times
4. Fundraising information
5. Discipline matters: Individual and team related

Communication from Parents/Student-Athletes to the Coach will include:

1. Notification of any schedule or availability conflicts well in advance of practice or scheduled events.
2. Specific concerns in regards to a coaches philosophy or expectations
3. Limitation or injury information
4. Communication logistics and needs given personal circumstances (e.g., co-parenting, guardianship, etc.)
5. Violation of policy set forth in this handbook

Resolving Issues and Concerns

Student-athletes or parents who have an issue or concern with an athletic program shall address issues and concerns at the lowest level. Notwithstanding the foregoing, in the event a student or student and parent do not feel comfortable with the assigned protocol, they may reach out to the next level with the understanding that after an initial meeting there will be a required meeting or mediated meeting with the coach regarding the issue or concern. MHS administration is responsible for ensuring that issues raised remain confidential and no retaliation or retribution occurs to the student athlete for raising the issue or concern.

1. The student-athlete should discuss the problem/concern with the coach in an appropriate manner and try to arrive at a solution to the issue/concern.
2. If step 1 does not bring resolution, the parent or legal guardian should call/email the coach and schedule an appointment for the student-athlete, parent/guardian, and coach to meet at an appropriate time.
3. If step 2 does not bring resolution, the parent should call/email the athletic director to schedule a meeting with the student-athlete, parent/guardian, athletic director , and coach to reach resolution. In such instances the parent/student-athlete should submit, in writing, the issue/concern and detail the activities in Step 1 and 2 of this process at least 24 hours prior to the scheduled meeting.
4. If the above steps do not bring resolution: The MHS principal, athletic director, parent/guardian , and student-athlete will meet and seek a resolution. Ultimately the determination of the MHS principal and athletic director, acting jointly and in consultation, where necessary with district personnel shall be binding.

ACADEMIC POLICY

ELIGIBILITY AND PARTICIPATION IN INTERSCHOLASTIC ACTIVITIES POLICY
3072

The Middleton School District will follow all current and subsequent academic eligibility requirements as set by the Idaho High School Activities Association (IHSAA). All students wishing to participate in extracurricular activities must meet these academic eligibility standards.

Procedures

IDHSAA.org: Rule 8-1 to 8-1-6

1. Must be enrolled full time (4 classes or more) when participating.
2. Must be on target to graduate - A Student not having the necessary number of credits to graduate with their class through the normal school day program, must have a graduation plan that provides for receiving a diploma by the end of the summer following their senior year to be eligible for activity participation.
3. Must have earned passing grades/credits in the required number of courses the previous semester.

3 classes available	Must pass all three
4 classes available	Must pass all four
5 classes available	Must pass at least four
6 classes available	Must pass at least five
7 classes available	Must pass at least five
8 classes available	Must pass at least six
4. Must have satisfactorily completed the preceding semester and the academic eligibility requirements to be eligible for the current semester.
5. Students participating with a cumulative GPA below 2.0 must have an academic improvement plan in place. This plan must include monitoring, additional assistance, time provided for assistance, and an appropriate timeline.
6. In cases where a student is enrolled in an approved special education program in which the IEP is the standard of measurement for progress toward graduation, the district shall verify that the student is making satisfactory progress and meeting the standards of the IEP.
7. Dual-enrollment athletes: Will follow IDHSAA rule 8-16

Academic Improvement Plan

1. The student-athlete will meet with a coach every two weeks for a grade check
2. The Athletic Director and head coach will communicate on the student-athletes academic progress
3. The Athletic Director and/or head coach will collaborate with the student-athletes counselor on the following: class schedule, after school study opportunities, and alternative class opportunities (on-line, etc.)

4. If cumulative GPA is above a 2.0 the student is no longer on probation
5. If semester GPA is above 2.0, but cumulative is below GPA the student will remain on academic probation.
6. Practice and playing time can be taken from a student-athletes on academic probation if:
 - The student is not keeping current on assignments
 - The student has earned an F in a class or classes
 - The student does not meet with the Head Coach
 - The student has inappropriate school behavior
 - The student has 4 or more tardies in a class
7. The Athletic Director and the student-athletes head coach will work together to determine the best discipline plan for them

Graduation Plan

The student's counselor will provide the graduation plan for the student-athlete.

Grade Checks - For Students not on Academic Probation

The Athletic Director will conduct a grade check once every two weeks. The grade check will include all students participating in athletics. The Athletic Director will send the grade check to the team's head coach. The head coach or assistant coaches will connect with student-athletes struggling in a class. This information will be used to determine if the student will face academic discipline. Each student athlete and their situation is unique and will be evaluated accordingly.

Concerns:

F or Multiple F's

Multiple D's

F and Multiple D's

Multiple missing assignments in a class or classes

PLAYING TIME

At the sub-varsity levels, athletic participation, instruction and the development of individual skills for all student-participants continues to be emphasized. However, even at these levels, team success in inter-school competitions is also valued.

Regarding the Varsity program, while fostering individual skill development remains important, a greater emphasis is put on achieving team success. To achieve this, as determined by the Coach, the most effective student participants, regardless of grade level, will be given the opportunity to attain the highest possible levels of team success.

At all levels, playing time is **not guaranteed** and is based on the coach's discretion. This is based on their observation and evaluation. The following factors help determine playing time:

- Practice performance
- Attendance at practice
- Attitude/body language
- Type of teammate
- Classroom behavior
- Academics
- Game day match-ups
- Game situations
- Game day performance
- Other relevant factors determined by the coach

All playing time concerns need to be handled with clear communication from coach to player and player to coach understanding assigned roles and responsibilities

ATHLETIC DISCIPLINE

Every athletic program should have clear expectations of student conduct. These expectations and associated consequences for failing to meet expectations should be established and fully explained to participating student-athletes prior to the commencement of the season. Student conduct expectations shall be uniformly applied to all participating student-athletes. Notwithstanding the foregoing, extraneous circumstances shall be taken into account by a coach in applying such discipline.

Conduct deemed by the coach or the high school administration to be inappropriate or to reflect negatively upon you, your team, Middleton High School, and your community will be dealt with in an individual manner. Such discipline shall be consistently applied and objectively reasonable. To the extent there is a violation of law, the matter will be turned over to law enforcement authorities.

- Punishments for such conduct, include, but are not limited to: extra conditioning, practice suspension, partial game suspension, multiple or total game suspensions, exclusion from the sport or sports, or denial from all MHS extra-curricular activities. Where necessary and appropriate, a matter will be turned over to law enforcement for further investigation.
- During any suspension period, the student will be required to adhere to training rules and practice sessions unless otherwise determined by the coach, athletic director or MHS principal.

The student will be required to attend home scheduled events but shall not dress in uniform or associate/participate with the team at its scheduled event. A student suspended from athletics may not dress down with the team or travel with the team to away contests during the period of suspension.

Alleged Violations: The coach, athletic director, and/or school administration will investigate any alleged violation and upon verification of an offense the athletic director and school administration will proceed in administering appropriate and reasonable consequences. To the extent there is a violation of law, the matter will be turned over to law enforcement authorities.

Appeal Process - Suspension from Team or Multiple Games

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

A request for a hearing with the Appeals Panel (Principal, AD, and Head Coach) to appeal a suspension from athletics as a result of misconduct must be made in writing to the Principal within seven (7) calendar days of receipt of the suspension/discipline announcement. Within seven (7) calendar days of receipt of the hearing request, the Principal will set the hearing date for the appeal. The appeal request should clearly state the reasons why the hearing is being requested.

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

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

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

If the parents/guardians feel that the appeal process has not been followed, a request for a review of the process may be made to the District Superintendent. However, the Superintendent will not review the facts or merits of the decision. Such a review must be requested in writing within seven (7) calendar days of the date on which the Appeals Panel decision was rendered, and must identify the specific actions or failures to act that are the basis for the appeal.

The Superintendent or his/her designee will review the process and render a decision in writing within seven (7) calendar days. The decision of the Superintendent or his/her designee is final.

Behavior Issues

Each behavior incident is different. The high school administrative team will work diligently to make sure discipline for on campus incidents is administered on a reasonable and consistent basis in accordance with established policies in the student handbook. The principal or vice principal will then discuss with the athletic director to see if athletic discipline is also warranted under the circumstances. All behavior violations that occur during a practice or game will be handled by the head coach and athletic director. Off campus behavior violations will be handled by the principal or vice principal and the athletic director in conjunction with the head coach and in accordance with established policies and procedures.

Possession or Use of Illegal Substances

Students participating in interscholastic activities are prohibited from possessing, using, or distributing tobacco, alcohol, marijuana, opioids or other controlled substances, illegal drugs, and/or paraphernalia. In all such events, the matter will be referred to the school resource officer (SRO).

While progressive discipline is generally not mandated under this handbook or elsewhere, student-athletes involved with violation of this illegal substances policy will be dealt with in the following fashion:

1. First offense. Suspended 2 competitive weeks - will carry over to next season of that sport (e.g., basketball suspension will relate to the next basketball season)
2. Second offense. Suspended 5 competitive weeks - will carry over to next season of that sport
3. Third offense. Suspended for 10 competitive weeks - will carry over to next season of that sport
4. Additional offenses – may lead to a loss of eligibility for an indefinite period of time.

Attendance Issues

Participation in school athletics is a privilege, not a right.

Student-athletes are expected to attend school for a minimum of a half day in order to practice or participate in any activity that day.

If there is a reason for an absence or missing of classes such that a half day cannot be achieved, in order to participate, this absence must be cleared in advance by the athletic director (doctor/dentist app., funeral, etc.) in order to remain eligible.

Attendance will follow policies as listed in the student handbook:

Absences - If a student misses more than the allotted absence days such student will be dismissed from all athletics

Tardies:

1. 4 to 5 in any class – In addition to any school discipline, the Coach will be notified and

the coach and the athletic director will be jointly responsible for discipline

2. 6 to 8 - Coach and parent will be notified and playing time taken away in accordance with established athletic department thresholds.
3. 9 or more - The student athlete will be removed from the team

Truancies: In addition to any school discipline

1. 1st time offense will be handled by the Head Coach
2. 2nd time offense game or games suspension will take place in accordance with established athletic department thresholds.
3. 3 or more = removal from team

Communication Regarding Discipline

To help maintain consistent communication between the school and parents/guardians the following steps will be followed in the event an individual or team has violated or is alleged to have violated an athletic or school rule:

1. The Head Coach will discipline the student-athlete based on the guidelines set forth in this handbook and inform the parents.
2. If an issue involves Administration - Administration, the athletic director, or the head coach will inform the student-athlete and parents/guardians of the violation or alleged violation and the investigation early in the process.
3. The athletic director or head coach will inform the student-athlete(s) and parents/guardians at the conclusion of the investigation regarding the results of the investigation and consequences to be imposed on the student-athlete(s).

Please Note: The High School Administration reserves the right to lengthen or lessen suspensions based on new information

CAMPS AND CLINICS

School-sponsored camps and clinics that serve the student participants of MHS and feeder schools are encouraged. All such camps and clinics must be approved by and scheduled through MHS administration and the athletic department. All funds raised by or associated with such camps and clinics will run through approved accounts. No private accounts will be used.

It is the responsibility of the head coach to ensure compliance with and enforce all MHS rules and regulations and to report any violation.

FUNDRAISING

Fundraising activities are necessary to support the needs of each individual program. When necessary, program participants may be expected to participate in fundraising or otherwise aid in the financial support of activities or athletic programs. The Head Coach will work with and

receive prior approval from the athletic director (and MHS administration when necessary) before commencing fundraising activities. If a fundraiser is approved, it is the responsibility of the Head Coach to discuss appropriate student conduct when fundraising.

All Coaches, as District employees, are to uphold and comply with Codes of Ethics applicable to employees which states that a professional educator entrusted with public funds and property honors that trust with a high level of honesty, accuracy and responsibility.

Proceeds of fundraising are intended for the needs of the program and will not be returned to any individual student if the student is cut, quits, or is removed from a team.

It is the responsibility of the athletic director to make sure fundraising activities are reasonable, not excessive, and not place an undue hardship on students.

GAME DAY

The Idaho High School Activities Association, through its member schools, defines sportsmanship as those qualities of behavior that are characterized by generosity, respect, and genuine concern for others. Further, an awareness of the impact of one's influence on others' behavior is an important aspect of sportsmanship.

It is our desire that Middleton High School creates a great game day atmosphere that follows the ideals of sportsmanship.

The following are important guidelines for game day behavior:

1. The Head Coach must set the standard for game day behavior
2. We expect our athletes and coaches to show good sportsmanship and compete in an honest manner in accordance with the rules of the sport.
3. We expect our fans to cheer loud and show good sportsmanship.
4. IHSAA Rule 4-3 (ejections)
 - A. First Ejection
 - This applies to coaches, athletes, and fans.
 - Removed from the rest of that game and suspended (not allowed) for the next game.
 - Required to take a NFHS sportsmanship class
 - B. Second Ejection
 - Removed from that game and suspended the next two games.
 - C. Third Ejection
 - Will be suspended the rest of the season

5. IHSAA Rule 9-1

- D. Students, parents, and fans are not allowed on the playing surface during game time or after the game until the opposing team and officials have left the playing area. Administration, or their designees, from each school is responsible for keeping their fans off the playing surface and in their designated seating areas. Rushing the court or field after games or interfering or attempts to interfere with any contest is not allowed.

CLUB PARTICIPATION

We fully support any student-athlete's desire to play club athletics to enhance their skill development. However: Middleton High School does not have any affiliation with 9th-12th grade club teams

1. Club participation does not guarantee you a spot on a Middleton High School team
2. You cannot participate in club ball during the High School season of the same sport

TRANSPORTATION (GAMES & PRACTICES) - UPDATED

1. The district will not provide transportation for games in the valley or regular season tournaments teams voluntarily choose to attend. Each individual program will decide their transportation plan within the Valley. The Athletic Director, Head Coach, and School District will work together to ensure proper transportation for games outside of the Treasure Valley and State Tournaments.
2. If a program does provide transportation to an away game, within the Treasure Valley, then Student-athletes can be checked out after away games by their parents, but must ride home with their parents.
3. If a program is providing transportation and a unique situation arises (emergency), please contact the athletic director (and/or principals if AD cannot be reached) and ask for permission for someone else to check out your student-athlete. Please do so before the day of the game or before the event if at all possible.
4. If a program is providing transportation and unable to make the bus/van for an away game because of a pre-existing schedule: doctor / dentist / eye appointment. Please contact the athletic director (and/or principals if the AD cannot be reached) and let us know that you (the parent) will be taking your student-athlete directly to the game.
5. Unless otherwise stated by the head coach, student-athletes are responsible for providing transportation to and from all practices.

Coaches should not transport students in their personal vehicles. However, if absolutely necessary to transport a student, because of an emergency situation, the following steps will be

taken:

- (i) Get approval from an administrator.
- (ii) Get approval from the parent
- (iii) If possible avoid having only one student in the car. It is never permitted to be 1:1 with a student in a personal vehicle.
- (iv) Student should sit in the back seat
- (v) If no other person is available, call the parent / another staff member on the phone and maintain an open phone line until the student has exited the vehicle.

VARSITY LETTERING CRITERIA/ THREE SPORT-FOUR YEAR AWARD

A student will receive a varsity letter based upon fulfillment of qualifying criteria that is established and disseminated by the head coach of each sport. The criteria for earning a varsity letter shall include but not be limited to:

1. Qualifying for a position on a varsity team
2. Acceptable attendance and effort at practice and games
3. Complete the season in good standing
4. Be a positive contributing member of the team
5. Other sport specific criteria

The above criteria will be monitored and evaluated by the coaching staff. Students may earn a varsity letter in the following sports: Football, Volleyball, Boys Soccer, Girls Soccer, Boys Cross Country, Girls Cross Country, Boys Basketball, Girls Basketball, Wrestling, Baseball, Softball, Swimming, Boys Golf, Girls Golf, Boys Track, Girls Track, Boys Tennis, Girls Tennis, Cheerleading and Dance.

PARTICIPATION IN TWO SPORTS DURING THE SAME SEASON

In a situation where an athlete wishes to compete in two sports at the same time, for example Cross Country/Soccer or Volleyball/Cross Country, or Basketball/Cheer, etc., the coaches of both sports must agree (in advance of the season beginning) on their arrangement of sharing the student-athlete. The student-athlete must select one sport to be his/her primary sport in which if a scheduling conflict arises, the primary sport will take priority. In choosing, the student-athlete may not miss any of the primary sport contests, district, or state tournaments to compete in the secondary sport. If both coaches involved insist upon the athlete being at all practices and contests, then the athlete will need to choose a single sport for participation.

TRYOUTS

The following sports will require tryouts and cuts:

1. Boys/Girls Soccer, Volleyball, Boys/Girls Basketball, Baseball, Softball, Golf, Cheer, Dance, Swimming, and Tennis
2. Coaches will communicate and let interested students know (if possible) how many spots

- might be open for Varsity and sub-varsity levels
3. Coaches will evaluate players throughout the year through all available means (open gyms, summer programs, etc.)
 4. Official tryouts will take place the first 2 days of official practices

COMPLIANCE: FEDERAL, STATE, IHSAA AND DISTRICT REQUIREMENTS

FERPA

The Family Education Rights Privacy Act (FERPA) is a federal law that protects the privacy of student educational records and provides parents/guardians and students over 18 certain rights with respect to those records. This serves as notice that the District, in accordance with FERPA, discloses certain student educational records, without consent. This disclosure includes providing access to school officials/agent with legitimate educational interest, other schools to which a student is transferring, certain governmental officials for audit/evaluation purposes, appropriate parties in connection with financial aid to a student, accrediting organizations, to comply with a judicial order or lawfully issued subpoena, to appropriate officials in cases of health and safety emergencies and similar.

For more information regarding the District's compliance with FERPA or to opt out of such disclosure please contact the District.

HAZING/INTIMIDATION/BULLYING

In accordance with District policy, hazing, intimidation, and bullying in athletics and extracurricular activities is not tolerated, condoned, or permitted. If such an event occurs, the student-athlete, parent or coach will immediately report such occurrence to the athletic department and MHS administration. For purposes of this policy, the following words should have the meanings ascribed to them:

“hazing” means the imposition of strenuous, often humiliating, tasks as part of a program of rigorous physical training and initiation;

“intimidation” means to frighten or threaten someone, usually in order to persuade the person to do something he or she does not wish to do; and

“bullying” means the repetitive, intentional hurting of one person or group by another person or group, where the relationship involves an imbalance of power.

MANDATORY REPORTING OF ABUSE, ABANDONMENT OR NEGLECT

In accordance with Idaho State law and District policy, all school employees, including coaches and volunteers, are mandatory reporters of instances of abuse, abandonment, or neglect to a child. Any individual who has knowledge of such events, or reason to believe that such events

are occurring, has a legal obligation to report such abuse to law enforcement or the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare.

Failure to report in accordance with Idaho Code 16-1619 and District policy may subject such an individual to criminal charges and employment disciplinary action.

OTHER COMPLIANCE MATTERS

The Middleton School District is dedicated to fostering a working and learning environment free from discrimination, harassment, intimidation, abusive conduct and similar. This extends to prohibiting any form of discrimination based on actual or perceived race or ethnicity, gender/sex, sexual orientation, religion, color, national origin, ancestry, immigration status, physical or mental disability, medical condition, military or veteran status, marital status/domestic partner status, age, genetic information, political belief or affiliation, or a person's association with any person or group.

The Middleton School District is committed to providing equal access and full participation for all individuals looking to access facilities, programs and activities consistent with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

MHS administration and the athletic department will not tolerate any behavior by coaches or volunteers which constitutes sexual harassment of any student or employee.

MHS administration and the athletic department will comply with Title IX of the Educational Amendments Act of 1972 and is committed to providing equal opportunities to all persons.

All coaches, volunteers and participating students are expected to know and follow the Rules and Regulations of the IHSAA and the SIC.

Inquiries or complaints should be directed to the District or MHS administration as is appropriate.