MESSAGE FROM THE ADMINISTRATION

This handbook is being presented to you because your son or daughter desires to participate in interscholastic athletics at Montpelier Schools. You have also expressed your willingness to permit him/her to compete. Your family's interest in this phase of our school program is gratifying. We believe that participation in sports provides a wealth of opportunities and experiences which assist students in personal growth and development.

The Montpelier School District is interested in the development of young men and women through athletics. We feel that a properly controlled, well-organized sports program meets students' needs for self-expression, mental alertness, and physical growth. It is our hope to maintain a program that is sound in purpose and will further each student's educational maturity.

Likewise, we believe that you have committed yourself to certain responsibilities and obligations as the parent of an athlete. We would like to take this opportunity to acquaint you with specific policies that are necessary for a well-organized program of athletics.

It is the role of the athletic department to make rules governing interscholastic competition. These rules need broad-based community support to be fully effective. This is achieved only through communication between the athletic department and the community. We hope to accomplish this objective through this athletic handbook.

Yours in scholarship, sportsmanship, and success,

Joseph Brigle
Athletic Director

Ed Ewers
Montpelier High School Principal

PLEASE NOTE THAT ALL ATHLETIC SCHEDULES
ARE NOW AVAILABLE ON-LINE AT
http://www.highschoolsports.net/
http://www.montpelier.k12.oh.us/

ANY CHANGES OR CANCELLATIONS WILL BE POSTED
TO THIS SITE BY 1:00 P.M. DAILY

Statement of Montpelier Schools: Athletic Philosophy

The Montpelier Schools athletic program should provide a variety of experiences to aid in the development of favorable habits and attitudes in students that will prepare them for adult life in a democratic society. The interscholastic athletic program shall be conducted in accordance with existing Board of Education policies, rules, and regulations. The Board discourages any and all pressures that might tend to neglect good sportsmanship and good mental health. At all times the athletic program must be conducted in such a way so as to be justified as an educational activity.

Athletic Goal and Objectives

Goal: The student athlete shall become a more effective citizen in a democratic society.

Specific Objectives: The student athlete shall learn teamwork. To work with others in a democratic society, a person must develop self-discipline, respect for authority, and the spirit of hard work and sacrifice. *Athletes must place the team and its objectives higher than personal desires.*

1. To be successful: Our society is very competitive. We do not always win, but we succeed when we continually strive to do so. You can learn to accept defeat only by striving to win with earnest dedication. Develop a desire to excel.

2. Sportsmanship: To accept success and defeat like a true sportsman, knowing you have done your best. We must learn to treat others as we would have others treat us. We need to develop desirable social traits, including emotional control, honesty, cooperation, and dependability.

3. To improve: Continual improvement is essential to good citizenship. As an athlete, you must establish a goal and constantly try to reach that goal. Try to better yourself in the skills involved and in those characteristics set forth as being desirable.

4. Enjoy athletics: It is necessary to acknowledge all of the personal rewards we derive from athletics, and to give sufficiently of ourselves in order to preserve and improve the program.

5. To develop desirable personal health habits: To be an active, contributing citizen, it is important to obtain a high degree of physical fitness through exercise and good health habits, and to develop a desire to maintain this level of physical fitness after formal competition has been completed.

Responsibilities of a Montpelier Athlete

Becoming a member of a Montpelier athletic team is the fulfillment of an early ambition for many students. The attainment of this goal carries with it certain traditions and responsibilities that must be maintained. A great athletic tradition is not built overnight. It takes hard work of many people over many years. As a member of an interscholastic squad, you have inherited a wonderful tradition, a tradition you are challenged to uphold.

Our tradition has been to win with honor. We desire to win, but only with honor to our athletes, our school, and our community. Such a tradition is worthy of the best efforts of all concerned. Over many years our squads have achieved league and tournament championships. Many individuals have set records and won all-conference and all-state honors.

When you wear the school colors, we assume that you not only understand our traditions, but also are willing to assume the responsibilities that go with them. However, your contributions should be personally satisfying to you.

Responsibilities to Yourself

The more important of these responsibilities is to broaden yourself and develop strength of character. You owe it to yourself to get the greatest possible good from your school experiences. Your studies, your participation in other extra-curricular activities as well as in sports, prepare you for life as an adult.

Responsibilities to your School

Another responsibility you assume as a squad member is to your school. Montpelier cannot have outstanding programs unless you do your best in whatever activity you wish to engage. By participating in athletics to the utmost of your ability, you are contributing to the reputation of your school.

You assume a leadership role when you are on an athletic squad. The student body and citizens of the community know you and will judge our school by your conduct and attitudes, both on and off the field. Because of this leadership role, you can contribute greatly to school spirit and community pride. Make Montpelier proud of you and your community proud of your school by your faithful exemplification of these ideals.

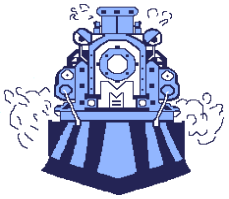
Responsibilities to Others

As a squad member, you also bear a heavy responsibility to your home. You should never give your family anything of which to be ashamed. You must measure up to all of the training rules. You should practice and play to the best of your ability every day. The younger students are watching you. They will copy you in many ways. Set good examples for the young.

Sportsmanship Philosophy and Guidelines

The Athletic Department believes that interscholastic competition involving member schools of the Ohio High School Athletic Association should be governed by the basic principles of good sportsmanship. This document has been prepared to insure that all participants have a common understanding of those basic principles.

We believe that participation is as important as winning. We believe that students should be coached to play to the best of their ability and to understand that to play well is to play honorably. The promotion of sportsmanship is the obligation of all school personnel (principals, athletic directors, and coaches) and is directed to the behavior of spectators, coaches, and players. An additional component to consider is coaches' ethics. We



believe the development of good sportsmanship through the practice of ethical behavior and moral reasoning is one of the acknowledged objectives of interscholastic athletics. We, therefore, expect school administrators, coaches, athletes, cheerleaders, and spectators to know and embrace the following fundamentals of sportsmanship:

1. Respect should be demonstrated for athletic opponents and for their school at all times. Montpelier should treat visiting teams and their supporters as guests and accord them the consideration everyone deserves. Visiting schools should respect the property and dignity of their host school and its athletic teams.

2. Respect should be demonstrated for the officials at all times. As impartial arbiters who are trained to do their jobs to the best of their ability, officials should be given respect and an attitude of good sportsmanship regardless of the outcome of the contest.

3. Knowledge of and a proper respect for the current rules of the contest should guide the behavior of all participants. Rules are essential for a fair contest. Good sportsmanship suggests the importance of conforming to the rules.

4. All participants should strive to maintain self-control at all times. The desire to win cannot be accepted as a reason for irrational behavior. A proper perspective must be maintained by all if the potential educational values of athletic competition are to be realized.

5. All participants should learn to recognize and appreciate skill in performance regardless of school affiliation. Recognition of the good performance of an opponent is a demonstration of generosity and good will that is encouraged in all member schools. In order for good sportsmanship to prevail, it is essential that all participants understand their individual responsibilities and expected modes of behavior before, during, and after contests.

Coaches

The coaches bear the greatest responsibility for the development of sportsmanship as they have the greatest influence on the attitudes and behaviors of players, the student body, and the community. Coaches must value sportsmanship and teach it through their words and through example. Therefore, coaches should embrace the following appropriate behavior:

1. Shall establish team rules beyond the code of conduct.

2. Teach the value of conforming to the rules.

3. Instill team discipline and sportsmanship with appropriate consequences for team members who display inappropriate behavior.

4. Instruct their players in the fundamentals of sportsmanship.

5. Respect the officials' judgment and interpretation of the rules.

6. Demonstrate publicly the ideals of good sportsmanship by such acts as shaking hands with officials before contests and with opposing coaches before and after contests.

Coaches should avoid the following inappropriate behaviors:
1. Use of profanity.
2. Ejection from contest.
3. Berating officials or players.
4. Inciting spectators/players to inappropriate behavior.

Suggested disciplinary actions:
1. Conference/hearing with school official.
2. Growth plan for improvement.
3. Possible suspension/termination.

Ejection of Coaches From Athletic Contests

By adoption of the Ohio High School Athletic Association, any coach ejected from an interscholastic contest for unsportsmanlike conduct shall be suspended from coaching in contests for the remainder of that day as well as for all contests in that sport until two (2) regular season/tournament contests are played (one contest in football). If the ejection occurs in the last contest of the season, the coach shall be ineligible for the same period of time as stated above in the same sport during the following season in the next school year.

A coach who has been suspended from coaching may attend the contest, but must be seated in the spectator area and may not give instructions to the players or to the individual who has been assigned to coach the team any time prior to or during the contest including half-time or any intermission. A suspended coach shall not travel with the squad to an away contest.

A coach who has been ejected for unsportsmanlike conduct for the second time shall be suspended indefinitely and be required to attend a mandatory conference with the commissioner at the O.H.S.A.A. headquarters. The principal of the school shall be required to attend this conference as well. Any penalty shall be determined in accordance with O.H.S.A.A. Bylaw 12.

This regulation shall apply to all regular season and tournament contests and shall in no way limit the discretionary authority of the commissioner as specified in the O.H.S.A.A. Tournament Regulations. In accordance with O.H.S.A.A. Bylaw 8-3-1, the decisions of contest officials are final.

Players

Because players are admired and respected, they exert a great deal of influence over the actions and behavior of the spectators. It is important that players embrace the following behaviors:

1. Treat opponents with the respect that is due them as guests and as fellow human beings.

2. Shake hands with opponents and wish them a good game when appropriate.

3. Exercise self-control at all times, accepting the judgment of the officials as just that, the best judgment they could make given what they know and see. Never argue or make gestures indicating lack of respect for the officials' judgment

4. Accept both victory and defeat with pride and compassion. Congratulate opponents in a sincere manner following either victory or defeat.

5. Accept seriously the responsibility and privilege of representing the school and community.

6. Players must follow team rules established by coaches as well as the code of conduct.

Players should <u>avoid</u> the following inappropriate behavior:

1. Taunting officials, opponents or spectators.
2. Violation of bench rule: If an athlete leaves the bench area and is involved in an altercation on the playing field/area, the athlete will be suspended for two contests. The suspension should include non-conference and tournament games and should carry over into the next sports season if it occurs at the end of a sports season.
3. Use of profanity.
4. Damage/destruction of school property.
5. Theft of school or personal property.

<u>Suggested disciplinary actions</u>:

1. Benching of participant.
2. Removal from contest.
3. Suspension of a portion of the season.
4. Restitution.
5. Conference/hearing with school official.

Ejection of Student/Athletes From Athletic Contests

By adoption of the Ohio High School Athletic Association, any student/athlete ejected from an interscholastic contest for unsportsmanlike conduct or a flagrant foul shall be ineligible for contests for the remainder of that day as well as for all contests in that sport until two (2) regular season/tournament contests are played at the same level as the ejection (one contest in football).

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

A student/athlete who has been ejected for unsportsmanlike conduct for the second time shall be suspended for the remainder of the season in that sport. A student who has been ejected for unsportsmanlike conduct for the second time in the season during the last contest shall be ineligible for a period of time/number of contests subject to the discretion of the commissioner. The period of ineligibility shall commence during the next sport in which the student participates.

It is the responsibility of the local school authorities to ensure that this regulation is enforced. When an ineligible student-athlete is allowed to participate, forfeiture of the contest is mandatory. This regulation shall apply to all regular season and tournament contests and shall in no way limit the discretionary authority of the commissioner as specified in the O.H.S.A.A. Tournament Regulations. In accordance with O.H.S.A.A. Bylaw 8-3-1, the decisions of contest officials are final.

Cheerleaders

Cheerleaders are representatives of the student body. By setting a good example, the cheerleaders can influence and control the actions of the student spectators. They should embrace the following behaviors:

1. Establish standards of desirable behavior in keeping with the fundamentals of good sportsmanship for the cheerleaders and pep club.

2. Use positive cheers which encourage their own team without demeaning their opponents.

3. Use discretion in deciding when to cheer and which cheers to use. Give encouragement to injured players on both sides.

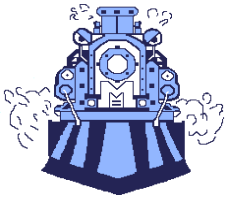
4. Never attempt to distract opposing players or in any way to interfere with their performance.

5. Serve as hosts for visiting cheerleaders.

6. Players must follow team rules established by coaches as well as the code of conduct.

Cheerleaders should avoid the following inappropriate behavior:

1. Taunting officials, opponents or spectators.
2. Use of profanity.
3. Damage/destruction of school property.
4. Theft of school or personal property.



Suggested disciplinary actions:
1. Benching of participant.
2. Removal from contest.
3. Suspension of a portion of the season.
4. Restitution.
5. Conference/hearing with school official.

Students/Statisticians/Trainers

These individuals are considered participants and should follow the same guidelines as players/cheerleaders for their sport.

Spectators

Partisan spectators, by their behaviors and reactions, determine to a large extent the reputation for sportsmanship of their school. Spectators should be reminded and should keep in mind that athletes are friendly rivals as members of opposing amateur teams. They are expected to be treated as such. Spectators should be reminded, too, that the contest should be between the teams engaged in the competition and not between their supporters. It is important that all spectators embrace the following:

1. Know and demonstrate the fundamentals of sportsmanship.

2. Respect, cooperate, and respond enthusiastically to the cheerleaders, coaches, and athletes of all teams.

3. Censure fellow spectators whose behavior is inappropriate.

4. Be positive toward players and coaches regardless of the outcome of the contest.

5. Respect the judgment and the professionalism of the officials and coaches.

Spectator inappropriate behavior:
1. Verbal/physical abuse of officials and coaches.
2. Berating players, coaches, or other spectators through:
    a. Chants
    b. Signs
    c. Cheers
3. Interruption of contest:
    a. Throwing objects on playing area.
    b. Entering playing area.
    c. Disruptive behavior.

Suggested disciplinary actions:
1. Removal from contest.
2. Conference/hearing with school officials.
3. Removal from future athletic contests.

We believe that each participant should be committed to upholding the ideals of good

sportsmanship put forth in this document. It is in this spirit that the suggested disciplinary actions are proposed. We also recognize the importance of communication and cooperation between school officials when incidents of inappropriate behavior arise.

The quality of our athletic program depends upon this natural respect. We also believe that being proactive is vital to the education of our students and spectators and, therefore, offer the following suggested related activities:

1. P.A. announcements at contests.
2. Letter to community.
3. Insert in game programs.
4. Team night promotion of sportsmanship.
5. Beginning year assemblies.
6. Sportsmanship award given at each sports banquet.

Conduct of the Athlete

The conduct of an athlete is closely observed in many areas of life. It is important that your behavior be above reproach in all of the following areas:

In the classroom: Strong academics reinforce strong athletics. As an athlete, you must plan your schedule so that you give sufficient time and energy to your studies.
In addition to maintaining strong academics, an athlete should give respectful attention to classroom activities and show respect for other students and faculty at all times.

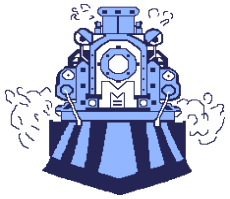
School discipline referral: Any student referred to the office for a rules violation may be denied the privilege of participation in all athletic activities for a period determined by either the principal or athletic director.

On the field: In the area of athletic competition, a true athlete does not use profanity or illegal tactics and understands that losing is part of the game. You should be gracious in defeat and modest in victory. It is always courteous to congratulate the opponent on a well-played game after the contest, whether in defeat or victory.

Athletic Code of Conduct and Expectations

A firm and fair policy of enforcement is necessary to uphold the regulations and standards of the athletic department. The community, school administrators, and the coaching staff feel strongly that high standards of conduct and citizenship are essential in maintaining a sound program of athletics. The welfare of the student is our major consideration and transcends any other consideration.

All athletes shall abide by a code of conduct which will earn them the honor and respect that participation and competition in the interscholastic program affords. Any conduct that results in dishonor to the athlete, the team, or the school will not be tolerated. Acts of unacceptable conduct such as, but not limited to, theft, vandalism, OVI, violations of academic integrity, disrespect, immorality, or violations of law tarnish the reputation of everyone associated with the school and



will not be tolerated. Consequences for any infractions will follow the same procedure as the Drug, Alcohol and Tobacco policy. The Principal and/or Athletic Director can accelerate consequences if deemed necessary.

Athletic Drug, Alcohol and Tobacco Policy

Principles and Philosophies

The policy is designed to help students and parents cope with drug, alcohol, and tobacco use. Therefore, the policy is in place to provide guidelines for each student/family to receive assistance as needed. Accordingly, the policies established by the Montpelier School staff and administration are based upon the following beliefs:

- We believe that there is no such thing as responsible use of controlled substances/mood-altering chemicals, alcohol, or tobacco by any high school student. Adolescent use is not only against the law -- it jeopardizes the student's health and safety, and it inhibits attainment of individual potential. Therefore, any use of controlled substances/mood-altering drugs, alcohol, or tobacco by student athletes will not be tolerated.

- **We believe that participation in athletics is a privilege, not a right**. Student athletes are in a highly visible setting of leadership and/or competition/performance. Therefore, these student athletes will be held to a higher accountability of conduct and behavior than the student who chooses neither to participate nor to represent Montpelier Schools.

- We believe that the responsibility of an athlete to his/her fellow athletes is a year-round commitment and does not end with the season. Therefore, the policy is in effect for all four years of a student's high school career or all years of a student's middle school career and is enforced all 12 months of the year.

- We believe that the school's ignoring a rumor implies consent. Therefore, all reports, information, or rumors will be investigated by coaches, advisors, and/or administration.

- We believe that the parent(s)/guardian(s)/custodian(s) of a student athlete have a right to be informed. Therefore, the parent(s)/guardian(s)/custodian(s) will be contacted regarding findings by school staff.

- We believe that the student body has the greatest access to information concerning student use of drugs, alcohol, and tobacco. Therefore, in order to encourage the VOLUNTARY referral opportunity, there will be additional reduction in penalties for students who are referred and who agree to follow policy and assistance recommendations.

- We believe that being caught in a school or community setting reflects poorly on the individual, family, team/organization, and school. Therefore, violations of this nature will carry penalties in regard to contests. However, students may remain a practicing member of a team as long as he/she follows the assistance recommendations.

- We believe the purpose of the drug, alcohol, and tobacco policies is to

encourage/reward a student for agreeing to follow assistance recommendations. Therefore, any denial of privilege to participate will be reduced if the student agrees to follow assistance recommendations. Educational assistance and support will be offered through the schools when appropriate, and community referral resources will also be available.

- We believe that the school nurse, trainer, team doctors, coaches, and guidance departments are interrelated. Therefore, these departments must share information in an effort to promote a lifestyle among students that is drug, alcohol, and tobacco free. Professional judgment will be used regarding the sharing of confidential information shared with school staff; however, we believe that when all resources are called upon for assistance, more help can be provided to the student.

Anabolic Steroids

- Anabolic steroid use at the high school level is of grave concern. Steroids are used by some athletes in sports and the seriousness of the problem has been well documented. Steroids can with proper diet and weight training increase muscle development, however as is typical with most "get rich quick" schemes steroid use has serious short and long term consequences. The use of steroids in sports is considered to be cheating. But the issue goes beyond protecting the integrity of interscholastic competition. The Montpelier Athletic Department stand opposed to the use of steroids by athletes and all members of the student body because of health and ethical concerns.

- Consequences for any steroid use infraction will follow the same procedure as the Drug, Alcohol and Tobacco policy. The Principal and/or Athletic Director can accelerate consequences if deemed necessary.

The following expectations and consequences are in effect and *will be enforced for twelve (12) months of the year* and will carry over to the next season of participation. Consequences will be cumulative during middle school years and high school years. (High school begins the day after completion of the middle school year.)

Possession or Use of Alcohol, Controlled Substance, Chemicals, Tobacco

Self-referral: Students who refer themselves will abide by the following:

A). First time offenders will refer themselves to the coach, athletic director, principal or other school official.

B). This referral can only be used once throughout their school career.

C). Self-referring students must be truthful from the start. They must have told the truth about their substance use or abuse from start. They must have been honest to teachers, coaches and administration from the onset of any drug use incident. Denial at any time will void this waiver of penalty. Students cannot "change their story." If a student is caught lying, the reduction of the consequence will be waived.

First Offense

1. Loss of any leadership position in athletic activities for the remainder of the school year. Future leadership positions are at the discretion of the head coach.

2. A letter shall be put in the athlete's file that alerts the athlete of the violation and informs the athlete of the consequences of further violations. A copy of this letter will be mailed to the parent(s), guardian(s), or custodians(s).

3. The athlete will be denied the privilege of participating on the team for forty percent (40%) of the total contests in which the team engages for the entire season. (Forty percent of a ten-game schedule is four games.) Participation denotes competing in events against outside competition at all levels (varsity, JV, freshman, middle school) including dressing for contests. The athlete may practice with the team, and shall attend (out of uniform) all contests for which he/she is suspended.

4. For alcohol, tobacco, controlled substances/mood-altering chemicals, the denial period may be reduced to twenty percent (20%) of the scheduled contests if the athlete participates in an assessment and follow-up program. The student must successfully complete one of the following mutually agreed upon programs:

A.) In-school education program
B.) School approved intervention program
C.) Out-of-school counseling
* Must have a letter indicating successful completion of the program. The principal may reinstate the athlete upon evidence of completing a program.

5. For Self-Referral, denial of participation will be reduced to one contest. The student must meet all previous conditions stated in #1 and #4.

6. The denial of the privilege to compete will begin with the last contest in which the athlete has been eligible to compete or the date on which a violation of the substance abuse policy has been determined.

Second Offense

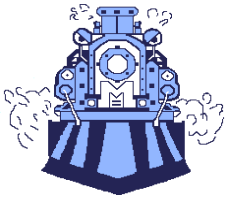
A second offense will result in denial of the privilege to participate in athletics for one sports season from the date of the offense.

Third Offense

A third offense will result in denial of participation in athletics for one calendar year from the date of the offense.

Fourth Offense

A fourth offense will result in denial of participation in athletics for the remainder of the student's middle school or high school career.



Due Process

Each student who is in violation of the Code of Conduct and Substance Policy will be afforded due process. The student will have the right of appeal of consequences to the building principal.

This must be done in writing within 24 hours of the consequences being determined. All consequences will be enforced during the appeal period. A final appeal may be made to the superintendent of schools or his/her designee in writing within 24 hours of the consequences being determined. All consequences will be enforced during the appeal period.

Academic Requirements

Athletic participation is a privilege, predicated on the academic achievement of each individual student. The academic eligibility policy for the Montpelier Schools, are determined by several factors: Grade Point Average, Earned Credit and Failing Grades.

1. Each high school athlete must maintain a 1.25 Grade Point Average. Incoming freshman are eligible if they meet the Junior High standards during the last grading period.

2. Each high school athlete must be passing the equivalent of five (5) one-credit classes.

3. Each high school athlete may not be failing more than one scheduled course.

4. All junior high athletes must be passing (5) One credited class. Incoming 7th grade students have no grade requirements to be eligible.

Absence Policy

Absence from practice:

A. Excused

1) Advance notice from athlete in writing to the appropriate coach.
2) Reason considered unavoidable and excusable by the coaches.

Penalty: Athlete may miss necessary mental and physical preparation for contest resulting in non-participation in that contest.

B. Unexcused: All absences not falling into the excused category above.

Penalty: First offense – coach's discretion.
Second offense - suspension for the next contest.
Third offense- suspension for the next two contests.
Fourth offense- suspension from the team.

Absence from Contest:

A. Excused

1) Advance notice to coaches
2) Emergency situation
3) Medical, driving tests, dental, legal, counseling, others as deemed excusable by the coach.

B. Unexcused
1) First offense: suspension for the next game.
2) Second offense: suspended for the next two contests.
3) Third offense: suspension for the next four contests
4) Fourth offense: suspension from the team.

Holidays/Vacations

The coaching staff and administration realize that there are times when families must spend time together. However, a student athlete who misses practices or games because of a vacation or trip must realize that these absences may jeopardize their position or status on the team. Both parent and athletes must realize that any time missed will only serve to diminish team unity and to cause disruption in any established chemistry amongst the team members. The coaches and athletic administration fully support families spending time together. We understand that not all families can take vacations at specific times of the year but families should notify coaches prior to scheduling a vacation/holiday if it means an athlete will miss a regularly scheduled practice or contest. Both parent and athlete should realize that any time missed will diminish the building and/or maintaining of continuity within the team.

A. Excused: If an athlete is going on a family vacation with a parent/guardian/custodian or is attending a school-related activity during a school recess, advance notice must be given to the coach by the first day of official team practice or as soon as the absence is known.

B. Unexcused: Not going with a parent/guardian/custodian or with a school-related group is an unexcused absence. If a contest is missed, the consequences are:
1) 1-3 days (practices/games) missed: suspended one contest
2) 4-6 days (practices/games): suspended two contests
3) 7+ days (practices/games) missed: suspended three contests

Game Day Participation

In order to participate in a school-day practice or contest, a student athlete must be in attendance all periods before 11:30 a.m. or after 11:30 a.m. (approximately 1/2 day). Field trips, alternate learning experiences, concurrent enrollment, medical/dental appointments, and special family situations may be excused by an administrator.

Physical and Emergency Medical Forms

Each athlete must have on file in the office of the athletic director/designee a completed physical form and emergency medical form before beginning practice. The Athletic

Code of Conduct signature page must be completed before the first scrimmage or game.

Athletes That Quit a Sport

An athlete that quits or is dismissed from a team after the first two weeks of scheduled practice will be ineligible to participate in any other sport, activity (practice, open gym, etc.) until that current sport season is completed. A season shall be defined to include post season tournaments as well as the regular season.

If any student athlete, at the conclusion of the season, is not a team member in good standing, the athlete will forfeit the privilege to attend the sports award presentation and to receive all letters and/or awards. Additionally, all athletes are required to turn in all school issued uniforms and equipment. If the athlete fails to do so, they will be declared ineligible to start another sport and will not be able to receive their certificate, letter, and awards of the sport they participated in.

Transportation

All athletes are expected to ride to and from contests in a school bus or van. In special situations a parent/guardian/custodian may transport his or her child, with written permission from the parent/guardian/custodian presented to the coach in advance.

A request for transportation should be made by either the athletic director or the coach, by means of the approved procedure. Assigning of all bus drivers is the sole responsibility of the transportation supervisor. Any last minute changes to an approved transportation contract, must be made to both the athletic director AND the Transportation Supervisor.

Uniforms and Equipment

Uniforms: In some sports, the athlete will be required to purchase a portion of the game uniform, which will become his or her property.

Equipment: The athlete is responsible for the proper care and security of equipment issued to him or her. All equipment either not returned, or returned with excessive and wear will be subject to a financial penalty for the athlete.

A. All equipment issued to a player is to be worn only at practice or scheduled games or scrimmages involving that particular sport. Exceptions must be approved by the coach (i.e. jerseys).

B. Before any item is attached, permanently adhered to, removed from, or worn with a uniform that is issued to an athlete for a specific sport, it must be cleared by the head coach.

C. Each athlete is responsible for all equipment issued. Keep it clean and in the best possible condition. The school district is not responsible for lost or stolen equipment. It is suggested athletes use a lock on athletic lockers to avoid theft.

D. All athletic equipment is the property of the Board of Education and the athletic department; therefore, school equipment may not be taken from the school building for the use of any other organization or for personal use. Any exception must be approved by the coach or athletic director.

E. All equipment issued to an athlete must be returned at the end of the school season. Equipment that is not returned for any reason or is damaged beyond normal wear and tear must be paid for at REPLACEMENT cost. Equipment is to be returned or lost equipment paid for within one week of the last contest of the sport. Any athlete who has not returned or paid for lost equipment within one week will be denied the right to participate in athletics until the equipment is returned or paid for.

F. Under certain circumstances equipment (i.e. uniforms) can be sold to team members at the end of the season. This sale will be controlled by the head coach and athletic director. The price will be set by the athletic director and will be the REPLACEMENT cost of the item. The money will be collected by the head coach prior to equipment being given to the athlete.

Locker Section

3313.20 of the Ohio Revised Code authorizes a Board of Education to adopt a policy which authorizes a principal to search any student locker and the contents thereof upon reasonable suspicion that the contents contain evidence of a criminal or school rule violation. Lockers remain the property of the Montpelier School District while on loan to students and are, therefore, subject to supervision and inspection by school authorities whenever and wherever necessary. It is the student's responsibility to use lockers for school purposes only. Lockers are not to be used for articles which may be of such nature as to be harmful, dangerous, in violation of school or legal restrictions, or disruptive to the school process. Such articles are subject to confiscation. Students are not permitted to permanently mark or deface the outside of lockers. In the instance of a student violating the locker rule, the student will be assessed a fine.

Individual Coach's Rules

Each head coach is encouraged to set team rules in addition to the rules in the Athletic Handbook. Rules and penalties for tardiness, curfew violations, inappropriate practice/game dress, and misconduct are examples of acceptable coach's guidelines. These rules should be given in writing to all athletes, parents, and the athletic director at the beginning of each season.

Hazing

Hazing in athletic activities is prohibited. Hazing is defined as doing any act or coercing another, including the victim, to do any act of initiation toward any student or other organization that causes or creates a substantial risk for causing mental or physical harm to any person. No student athlete shall plan, encourage, or engage in any form of hazing in practices, competition, or performances. Permission, consent, or assumption of risk by an individual subject to hazing does not lessen the prohibition contained in this policy. The student athlete may be denied participation from athletics for violation of this policy.

Age Limitation: Ohio High School Athletic Association

If a student enrolled in high school attains the age of 19 before August 1, the student shall be ineligible to participate in high school interscholastic athletics for the school year commencing in that calendar year. A student shall become eligible for high school athletics when the student attains the fifteenth birthday before August 1, or when the student attains ninth grade standing. The student is eligible at the school where the student is expected to enroll at the ninth grade level.

In determining the age of a student, the date of birth as recorded in the school records shall be considered as final, except that when birth records, filed within six years after date of birth, are available in the State Bureau of Vital Statistics or a comparable government agency shall be used. If this information is not available and if the school records do not agree, the earliest date of birth shall be considered the valid date of birth. Family Bibles, physician's statements, parents' affidavits, baptismal certificates, etc., will not be accepted in lieu of birth certificates. Amendments to birth certificates filed after six years from date of birth will not be considered.

Residence Requirements

There are many complicated rules governing residence. Generally an athlete's parents or legal guardian must live in the Montpelier School District for the student to be eligible. There are exceptions to this; if there is any question as to residence requirements, the best procedure is to check with the superintendent or principal. A student playing while ineligible can cause Montpelier to forfeit contests and can be declared ineligible by the O.H.S.A.A. for up to one year.

Athletes in Two Sports

The Athletic Department will allow athletes to participate in two sports in the same season. There is a proper format that must be followed in order for this to happen.

1. Athlete must obtain proper paperwork (contract) form A.D.
2. Athlete must talk with both head coaches from each sport
3. A written note by the parent/guardian must be presented with the contract.
    a. The contract must be signed by parent and athlete.
4. Head coaches and athletic director will meet to discuss pros/cons for each athlete.
5. A final decision will collectively be reached by both head coaches involved and the athletic director. The decision must be unanimous. The following area's will be considered before vote is taken:

a. Will the athlete help both programs?
b. Can the athlete handle both sports and academics at the same time?
c. What other non athletic organizations is this person involved in?

If the coaches and A.D. votes yes, the athlete must take the following steps:

1. Must decide which sport is the" major" sport and which sport is the" minor" sport and meet with both coaches.
    a. Incase of a conflict of sports, the athlete will be expected to honor their "major" sport first.
2. Have contract signed by each head coach, A.D. and parents.
3. Contract must be turned in to athletic director two weeks prior to the sport season and be on file before it is final.

A "major" will trump a "minor" when two contest take place on the same day but if the "minor" has a contest and the "major" has a practice, the athlete will be required to attend the "minor's" contest.

In order for this policy to work, the athlete is responsible for any and all conditioning and practice that both sports will require. If this is not being met by the athlete, the coach and/or athletic director reserves the right to revok his or her contract at any time.

Additional Policies

Study Tables: Academics are deemed to be the most important part of the student-athlete experience. It is the Montpelier Athletic Departments feeling that the student must uphold their end of the academic process while in season as well as out of season.

1. The MHS Athletic Department will strongly encourage student-athletes who have a D or F to attend study tables. The D and F list will be compiled each Monday and given to all coaches. This will assist the student-athlete with keeping up with daily assignments and getting additional help. We understand that we can not force athletes to attend but the ultimate consequence will be denial of participation if the student-athlete does not meet the minimum academic requirements.
2. Study Tables will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays starting the third week of school. Out of season coaches will monitor these sessions each week.

Dropping Sports: An athlete may find it necessary to drop a sport for a good reason. If this is the case, the following procedures must be followed:

1. Talk with your immediate school coach and then the head coach.
2. Check in all equipment issued to you.

College Recruitment Policy: In the event an athlete should be contacted personally by a college recruiter, he/she has an obligation to work through his/her coach and the athletic department. Inform your coach of such a contact as soon as possible. College recruitment information is available in the Athletic Department.

Conflicts In Extra-Curricular Activities: An individual student who attempts to participate in too many extra-curricular activities will, undoubtedly, be in a position of a conflict of obligations. The Athletic Department recognizes that each student should have the opportunity for a broad range of experiences in the area of extra-curricular activities and, to this end, will attempt to schedule events in a manner so as to minimize conflicts.
Students have a responsibility to do everything they can to avoid a continuous conflict.

Due to the time demands on a student athlete, and to protect the sport that is in season, it is not recommended that athletes practice a different sport from which they are currently competing in. However, the head coach of the "in season sport" may grant permission for his or her athlete to participate or practice another sport. This must be communicated to the athletic director.

This would include being cautious about belonging to too many activities where conflicts are bound to happen. It also means notifying the faculty sponsors involved immediately when a conflict does arise.

Risk of Participation: All athletes and parents, guardians, or custodians must realize the risk of serious injury, permanent disability, or death which may be a result of athletic participation. The Montpelier School District will use the following safeguards to make every effort to eliminate injury:

1. Maintain a continuing education program for coaches to learn the most up-to-date techniques and skills to be taught in their sport.
2. Insurance: Students participating in the athletic program must be protected by an accident insurance policy in one of the following ways: school insurance or a school insurance waiver form signed by the parents stating that they have adequate insurance coverage. The O.H.S.A.A. has purchased a lifetime catastrophic insurance plan that will cover any athlete who is injured to the extent of or more than $25,000 in medical expenses. This is above what accident and health insurance carried by the family pays above $25,000.

Earning a Varsity, Junior Varsity Letter and Numerals

It is desired that the letter "M" be something the athlete must earn by athletic ability, but not be so unattainable that only the outstanding athlete can achieve it. It is also desired that the coach of each sport have a large amount of leeway in determining who receives the letter.

It is the firm belief of the Montpelier Athletic Department that awards earned should be

worn with dignity and class. Athletes are to display their awards in such a manner and are expected to behave in an appropriate manner when wearing them; the athlete represents the team and the school when wearing the award — actions that detract from a positive image will not be accepted.

To earn the following, one must perform or meet the following:

1) Varsity Letter: Participate in at least half the quarters played in a varsity contest. One quarter or period constitutes as two consecutive plays; coaches discretion.
2) Junior Varsity Letter: Participate in at least half the quarters played in a JV contest. One quarter or period constitutes as two consecutive plays; coaches discretion.
3) Numerals: All freshmen will receive their numerals.
4) Certificate: All athletes will receive their certificate of participation.

Statisticians

All students who have been selected to compile statistics for a sports team must do so satisfactorily for the entire season.

Managers/Student Trainers

Any student who manages or trains satisfactorily for the entire sports season is entitled to the appropriate awards for that sport.

Student Athlete Recognition

The guidelines will be followed in recognizing athletes for pictures and size of picture to be displayed in the hallway of Montpelier Schools. The Montpelier High School Athletic Department will recognized those athletes who achieve and gain recognition either by the O.H.S.A.A., sportswriters statewide, or coaches' associations statewide according to the following:

TEAM SPORTS: Football, B/G Basketball, Volleyball, Baseball, and Softball. Final Four qualifications include: Volleyball, B/G Basketball, Baseball, Softball. Play-offs include: Football. 8 x10 picture (Appearance) and 16 x 20 (Championship).

INDIVIDUAL: 8 x 10 (1st Team, 2nd Team, Honorable and Special Mention).

INDIVIDUAL/TEAM SPORTS: Golf, B/G Cross Country, Wrestling, B/G Track. 8 x 10 (Team or individual runner-up, Team or individual state qualifier) and (16 x 20 Team or Individual champion, 1st Team).

The reason for the difference between team sports and team/individual sports lies in the opportunity an athlete does(n't) have to prove that they are the best at their particular position or sport.

Athletic Department Pass Policy

Scheduling of athletic contests will be under the direction of the athletic director. Tickets for games will be made available and under the direction of the athletic director. Rules for distribution of tickets and passes will be according to the following:

1. No admission charge to an athletic contest will be made for attending team physicians, working game crew personnel, and field maintenance personnel.
2. Cheerleaders and junior varsity participants shall be admitted free to all home games in which they are participating.
3. Participants of special recognition nights shall be admitted free.
4. Pre-school children accompanied by one or both parents shall be admitted free, but not to occupy a reserved seat.
5. A staff pass to all home school sponsored athletic events will be issued to all employees who have fulfilled Athletic Department work requirements.

League Passes

League passes will be distributed for the school year to Board of Education members, administrators, athletic director, all head coaches. In addition, passes will be issued to additional personnel needed to carry out activities of each sport season, such as assistant coaches and more. Any remaining passes will be kept in the Athletic Director's Office to be signed out by other members of the Athletic Department on a single contest basis, to be returned immediately following the contest.

Senior Night

The Athletic Department will sponsor special night for the parents of seniors, if coaches request this for their program. Responsibility to organize names and inform parents is that of the coach and athletic director. Parents will be admitted free for program.

Pep Rallies

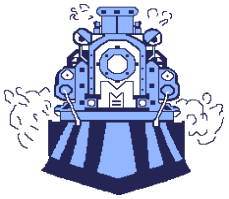
All pep assemblies and rallies must be approved and scheduled by a coach and a by cheerleader advisor with approval of a building principal.

Post-Season Practice and Sports Seasons

There shall be no practice in a sport once the season is complete. Seasons in high school shall be either the last scheduled regular season contest, or elimination from state tournaments. Seasons will begin on the allowable date set by the Ohio High School Athletic Association. Exceptions to high school would be athletes who are participating in all-star contests and invitationals.

Practice Sessions

Any TEAM may practice on Sunday's but it will be on a ***voluntary*** basis. No MHS athletic TEAM will make practices ***Mandatory*** on a Sunday. If a practice occurs on a Sunday, it must be between the hours of 1pm and 6pm. There shall be supervision



and/or control at all times when boys and girls are in locker or shower rooms, weight room, on the field, and in the gym. Athletic conditioning programs may be held prior to regular practice sessions. They must be supervised at all times by members of the coaching staff. Anyone may participate in these programs.

There will be no practices on Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, New Year's Day, along with no practice on Christmas Eve after 12 noon. In the event of cancellation of school, practices may continue at the coach's discretion. However, practices during bad weather, cannot be mandatory. Practice sessions starting dates will be no sooner than allowable dates set by the Ohio High School Athletic Association.

It is recommended that practice session be limited to a maximum of two hours in length. Consideration should be given to the age and physical maturity of participants. Practice schedules should be turned into the athletic director on a monthly basis. Finally, if a student is not in school at least half of the day, he/she may not participate in practice unless prior arrangements are made with the principal or athletic director.