

# Mount Gilead Exempted Village School District Athletic Handbook



## Mount Gilead Exempted Village School District Athletic Department

**338 Park Avenue. ❖ Mount Gilead, OH 43338**

**419.947.6065 (Phone) ❖ 419.946.3263 (Fax)**

**Mascot: Indians ❖ Colors: Purple & White**

Superintendent: Dr. Zack Howard

HS Principal: Debra Clauss

HS Athletic Director: Jack Bault

MS Principal: Clay Grube

MS Athletic Director: Faye Ruhl

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Topic	Page(s)
Sports Offered	2
Philosophy/General Information/Requirements	3
Participation Requirements	3
Sportsmanship Philosophy/Guidelines	4
Player Expectations/Ejection from Contest	5
Player Behavior	5
Spectator Expectations/Fan Code of Conduct	6-7
Parent Role In Interscholastic Competition	8-9
Co-Curricular Activities	10
Financial Obligations and Equipment	10-11
Awards	11-13
Interscholastic Athletics	13
Athletic Code of Conduct	14-17
Eligibility	18-19
Transferring Student with Discipline	19
Acknowledgement of Handbook	19
Two Sport Policy	20

### Mount Gilead Exempted Village School District Sports

Fall Sports	Winter Sports	Spring Sports
Boys & Girls Cross Country (HS/MS)	Boys & Girls Bowling (HS)	Baseball (HS)
Cheerleading (HS/MS)	Boys & Girls Basketball (HS/MS)	Boys & Girls Track and Field (HS/MS)
Football (HS/MS)	Cheerleading (HS/MS)	Baseball (HS)
Golf (HS)	Swimming (HS)	Softball (HS)
Volleyball (MS/HS)	Wrestling (HS/MS)	

## Mount Gilead Exempted Village School District Athletic Department Philosophy

The philosophy and purpose behind the organization and administration of the athletic program in the Mount Gilead Exempted Village School District is based upon the belief that every eligible student may have an opportunity to participate in athletics at his or her level of interest and capacity. The athletic program of the Mount Gilead School District is an important part of the opportunities of learning provided for the children and youth of the community.

### General Information

#### Ohio High School Athletic Association (O.H.S.A.A)

Mount Gilead is a member of the Ohio State High School Athletic Association (OHSAA). It is important for all coaches, parents and athletes to be familiar with the bylaws of the OHSAA. Intentional violation of any bylaws or other policies is a very serious offense. While it is not possible to agree with every rule and regulation, it is important for all to comply with them.

Please visit the Ohio High School Athletic Association website at [www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org).

#### Knox- Morrow Athletic Conference (KMAC)

Mount Gilead is a member of the Knox-Morrow Athletic Conference. The conference consists of public high schools in the North-Central Ohio area. The KMAC is an extremely prestigious and competitive Conference. Teams from the conference are competing at the State level on an annual basis in almost all sports.

#### Requirements for Student-Athlete Participation

As a student-athlete, you are not eligible to participate in any sport until the following is completed (all can be completed in Final Forms):

1. OHSAA Physical Examination Form (submit hard copy to athletic department, email, or upload to Final Forms)
  - a. **MUST BE COMPLETED AND SUBMITTED BEFORE A STUDENT MAY PRACTICE OR PLAY IN A GAME**
2. Emergency Medical Authorization Form
  - a. **MUST BE COMPLETED AND SUBMITTED BEFORE A STUDENT MAY PRACTICE OR PLAY IN A GAME**
3. OHSAA Authorization and Consent Form
4. OHSAA Eligibility and Authorization Statement
5. OHSAA Concussion Information Sheet
6. All academic eligibility requirements satisfied
7. Attend preseason student-athlete and parent meeting
8. Sudden Cardiac Arrest Awareness
9. ImPACT Testing Consent
10. Athletic Handbook Acknowledgement

## **Sportsmanship Philosophy and Guidelines**

The Mount Gilead 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 ensure that all participants have a common understanding of those basic principles. Mount Gilead Exempted Village School District believes 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 and is directed to the behavior of spectators, coaches, and players.

An additional component to consider is coaches' ethics. Mount Gilead Exempted Village School District believes the development of good sportsmanship through the practice of ethical behavior and moral reasoning is one of the acknowledged objectives of interscholastic athletics. Mount Gilead, therefore, expects school administrators, coaches, athletes, and spectators to know and embrace the following fundamentals of sportsmanship.

Mount Gilead should treat visiting teams and their supporters as guests and give them the consideration all human beings deserve. Visiting schools should respect the property and dignity of their host school and its athletic teams. 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 spirit as well as the "letter" of the rules. All participants should strive to maintain self-control at all times. The desire to win should not be accepted as a reason for abandoning rational behavior. A proper perspective must be maintained by all if the potential educational values of athletic competition are to be realized. All participants should learn to recognize and appreciate skill in performance regardless of 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.

### **Player Expectations**

Because players are admired and respected, they exert a great deal of influence over the actions and behavior of the community in general both at athletic contests and other various events throughout the community. It is important that players:

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 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.
5. Congratulate opponents in a sincere manner following either victory or defeat.
6. Accept seriously the responsibility and privilege of representing the school and community.

### **Player Ejection from a Contest**

Any student-athlete ejected shall be **ineligible for all contests for the remainder of that day**. In addition, the student-athlete shall be ineligible for all contests at all levels in that sport until two regular season/tournament contests are played (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 participates. A student-athlete while denied athletic privileges may sit on the team bench, accompany and/or travel with the team but may not participate in pregame warmups and may not wear a team warmup or game uniform while on the sidelines/team bench with the team, accompanying and/or traveling with the team.

A student-athlete who is ejected a second time shall be denied athletic privileges for the remainder of the season in that sport. A student-athlete who has been ejected 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 Athletic Director. The period of ineligibility shall commence during the next sport in which the student-athlete participates. All student-athletes participating in the athletic program at Mount Gilead will be held accountable to the OHSAA player ejection rule.

### **Unsportsmanlike Player Behavior with Fans**

No member of any school-sponsored interscholastic athletics squad shall leave the 'playing area' in which a contest is being conducted and enter the spectator area of the facility to engage in any type of conflict—verbal or physical. If a student-athlete leaves the 'playing area' and enters the spectator area of a facility to so engage a person, the penalties may be:

- The student-athletes' privileges to participate in interscholastic athletics can be revoked and the student-athlete can be denied participation for the remainder of the school year.

### **Inappropriate Participant Behaviors**

Participants should avoid 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, it is strongly recommended that the athlete be denied participation for two contests. The denial of athletic privileges 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. Ejection from contest.
4. Use of profanity.
5. Damage/destruction of school property.
6. Theft of school or personal property.

## **Spectator Expectations**

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:

1. Know and demonstrate the fundamentals of sportsmanship.
2. Respect, cooperate, and respond enthusiastically to the cheerleaders, coaches, and student-athletes of all teams.
3. Be positive toward players and coaches regardless of the outcome of the contest.
4. Respect the judgment and the professionalism of the officials and coaches.

### **Spectator inappropriate behavior:**

1. Verbal/physical abuse of officials.
2. Berating players, coaches or other spectators through: chants, signs, cheers, and profanity.
3. Publicly berating school officials within a contest environment.

### **Unacceptable interruptions of a contest:**

1. Throwing objects on the playing area.
2. Entering the playing area.
3. Disruptive behavior.

### **Cheerleaders**

1. Cheerleaders will follow OHSAA tournament rules and recommendations in regards to stunting, mounting, and pyramids

### **Sportsmanship and Social Media**

Sportsmanship extends to the social media environment as well. Students, coaches, and fans should not engage in derogatory exchanges over the Internet, text messages, or other avenues. Such actions may be violations of team rules. Threatening and demeaning speech are strictly prohibited and will be treated in the same way as unsportsmanlike behavior at an athletic contest.

### **Fan Code of Conduct**

Mount Gilead Exempted Village School District, in association with the Ohio High School Athletic Association and the Knox Morrow Athletic Conference promotes interscholastic events and sportsmanship. Sportsmanship is an essential part of any athletic competition and is expected from athletes, coaches, officials and fans. As a fan/spectator (student or adult) of Mount Gilead School District, you are to be an example of positive encouragement while supporting our athletes, coaches and officials. Our behavior should be positive, respectful and encouraging of the athletes, coaches, officials and the game. Failure to be an example of these athletic practices and/or ejection from an athletic contest will result in the following procedures to be taken:

## **Indoor Contest Regulations for all contests**

### **Signs and Banners**

- a. Allowable: Positive signs or banners supporting your school, team, or players that are fixed
- b. Prohibited: Signs or banners against opponents, balloons, confetti, laser pointers, flashlights, and hand-held signs, items that may block the view of other spectators or be harmful to others. Any object that would not be needed to sit and watch a game, etc.

### **Noisemakers**

- a. Allowable: Pep Bands (Can only play during a dead ball, between games or intermission)
- b. Prohibited: Horns, air horns, bells, sirens, drums, sticks, kazoos, whistles, megaphones, etc.

### **Clothing**

- a. Clothing worn to events shall be in good taste. Any item of clothing that expresses a negative connotation towards any of the participating teams, players, coaches, or officials is prohibited. The administration of the host school shall have the final say on all clothing matter as per OHSAA guidelines. Shirts must be worn (no body paint to replace a shirt)

### **Tunnels**

- a. Allowable: Teams and cheerleaders
- b. Prohibited: Student and spectator tunnels

### **Student Sections**

- a. Should be in the bleachers in a designated area determined by the faculty or the host school.

## **KMAC SPECTATOR EJECTION POLICY**

### **First Offense**

- The spectator will be denied the ability to attend any game that a KMAC school is participating at any level or location for 2 weeks. A letter will be sent by the Athletic Director and Principal to the spectator in question notifying them of the punishment.

### **Second Offense**

- The spectator will be banned from any contests involving KMAC schools at any level and any location. A letter will be sent by the Athletic Director and Principal to the spectator in question notifying them of the punishment.

**\*\*\* Any physical contact with an official, player, coach or another fan will result in a lifetime ban from any and all contests involving a KMAC school. \*\*\***

**(Mount Gilead Exempted Village School District will follow the KMAC ejection policy for ALL league and non-league contests)**



## RESPECT THE GAME

### The Parent/Guardian Role in Interscholastic Athletics

- *"A student's success or lack of success in sports does not indicate what kind of parent you are...But having a student athlete that is coachable, respectful, a great teammate, mentally tough, resilient and who tries their best is a direct reflection of parenting."*
- Get to know the coaches. Then you can be assured that his or her philosophy, attitudes, ethics and knowledge are such that you are happy to have your student-athlete under his or her leadership.
- Interscholastic athletics provide learning experiences for students, and unfortunately, sometimes mistakes are made. Just as you would praise a student's effort in the classroom, remember to praise your student-athlete in their attempt to improve academically, athletically, and as a person.
- Remember, the reason you attend athletic contests is to support and cheer for your student's team as well as to enjoy the display of skill and competition. Your role is not to intimidate the other team and its fans.
- A ticket to an interscholastic athletic event allows you the privilege to observe the contest, not a license to be obnoxious and/or verbally abusive to others.
- Show respect for opposing players, coaches, fans and support groups. Treat them as you would treat a guest in your home.
- Refrain from taunting or making any kind of derogatory remarks to opponents. Use only cheers that support and uplift the teams involved. Recognize and show appreciation for outstanding play by either team.
- Learn the rules of the game so that you may understand and appreciate why certain situations are happening.
- Respect the integrity and judgment of the game officials. Understand that they are doing their best to call a fair contest.
- Be a positive behavior role model through your own actions and by censoring inappropriate or unbecoming behavior of those around you at events.

### Communication with your Student-Athlete

- Try your best to be completely objective about your student's athletic ability, competitive attitude, sportsmanship, and skill level.
- Make sure your student-athlete knows that whether they play well or make mistakes, win or lose, you love them, appreciate their efforts and are not in any way disappointed in them.
- Teach them to enjoy the thrill of competition, to try their hardest and to work to continuously improve their skills and attitudes. Help them develop a healthy and balanced perspective toward competing and having fun.
- Be helpful, but do not coach your student-athlete. It's tough not to, but it is a lot tougher for your student to be overwhelmed with advice and critical information.
- Do not compete with the coach. If your student-athlete is receiving mixed messages from two different authority figures, he/she will likely become disenchanting.
- Try not to relive your athletic career through your student-athlete in such a way that creates pressure for your child.
- Do not compare the skill, courage, or attitude of your student-athlete with other members of the team or siblings.



## **Communicating with the Coach**

### ***Communication Parents Should Expect from the Coach***

- Coach's philosophy pertaining to the team and sport.
- Expectations the coach has for your student-athlete as well as all players on the team. Time and location for all practices and contests.
- Requirements such as special equipment needed and voluntary off-season conditioning expectations.
- Procedures for reporting injuries and illnesses.
- Expectations and rule infractions that may result in disciplinary action or denial of participation for your student-athlete.

### ***Communication Coaches Expect from Parents***

- History of injuries or illnesses and/or special concerns for the student-athlete. Information pertaining to your student-athlete that would help the coach be more effective in communicating with him/her.
- Notification well in advance of any schedule conflicts
- Specific concerns regarding the coach's philosophy and expectations.

### ***Procedures for Discussing Concerns with Coaches***

- Player advocates for themselves and schedule a meeting with the coach to discuss concerns.
- Contact the coach to schedule an appointment to discuss your concerns. Meetings with parents will not take place before or after a contest or during practice time.
- Meetings will be attended by the parent, student-athlete, head coach and assistant coach.
- Parents and student-athletes will express their concerns and raise questions as needed. Other players on the team will not be discussed.
- Coaches will attempt to answer all questions in an honest and forthright manner. This may include a discussion of a student-athlete's strengths and weaknesses as well as their perceived role on the team.
  - If a meeting with the coach does not provide a satisfactory resolution, consider scheduling an appointment with the athletic director for further discussion.

### **Appropriate Concerns to Discuss with Coaches**

- Treatment of your student-athlete.
- Ways to help your student-athlete improve and develop.
- Concerns about your student-athlete's behavior and/or academic accomplishments.

### **Issues Not Appropriate to Discuss with Coaches**

- Your student-athlete's playing time.
- Specific offense, defense or team strategy.
- Coach's play calling or game strategy.
- Player combinations, positioning, or other student-athletes.

**The Mount Gilead Athletic Department has a strict policy in regard to waiting 24 hours to discuss concerns with a coach. Never approach a coach before or after a practice or a game. It does not**

**promote resolution of a problem. Failure to follow the 24 hr rule before addressing a coach could result in the following:**

- First Offense: Meet with the Athletic Director and Principal about behavior and receive a written notification of potential denial of attendance at the contests.
- Second Offense: Individuals will be denied access to 25% of the contests where Mount Gilead is participating in and a minimum of 1 tournament contest.
- Third Offense: Will be denied access for the remainder of the calendar school year to any extracurricular involving Mount Gilead.

### **The Student-Athlete and Transferring Sports**

Student-athletes may not transfer from one sport to another after the first scheduled scrimmage or contest. A student-athlete who withdraws from a sport may not join another sport until the season in which he/she withdrew is completed. A student-athlete who withdraws from a sport may not begin conditioning or "open gym or open facilities" for a sport in the up-coming season without permission from the head coach of the sport the student-athlete withdrew from or until the current sport's season ends. Given the two-sport policy a student must sign and declare their primary and secondary sports prior to the first official practice date.

### **Two-Sport Policy**

Athletes at Mount Gilead Exempted Village School District now have the option to participate in more than one sport during a particular season. See addendum page \_\_\_\_

### **Conflicts in Co-Curricular Activities**

An individual student who attempts to participate in too many co-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 co-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. 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.

When school athletic activities run concurrently one with another, an athlete who is actively participating in one sport or activity may not quit that sport or activity to join another ongoing activity without the consent of both coaches or sponsors involved.

**Students are strongly encouraged to participate in activities in which they can commit fully. This is only fair to other members of the sport/activity. If there are continuous conflicts between multiple school activities, students will have to choose one commitment at that time.**

### **Financial Obligations and Equipment**

Uniforms— In some sports, the athlete may be required to purchase a portion of the game uniform, which will become their property. When a school owned uniform is issued to a student-athlete, it is expected to be returned in the same shape when issued, barring any unforeseen circumstances.

Equipment – All athletes are responsible for the proper care and security of equipment issued to them.

1. All equipment issued to a player is to be worn only at practice, scheduled games or scrimmages involving that particular sport. Exceptions must be approved by the coach (i.e. jerseys).
2. Before any item is attached to, added to, removed from, or worn with a uniform that is issued to an athlete for a specific sport, the athlete must secure permission from the coach.
3. Each athlete is responsible for all equipment issued. Keep it clean and in the best possible condition. The Mount Gilead Exempted Village School District is not responsible for lost or stolen equipment.
4. Athletes should use a lock on athletic lockers to avoid theft.
5. 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 athletic director.
6. 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.
7. Equipment is to be returned or lost equipment paid for within one month of the last contest of the sport. Any athlete who has not returned or paid for lost equipment within one month may be denied the right to participate in athletics until the equipment is returned or paid for.

### **Participation on Non-Varsity Teams**

The purpose for offering non-varsity teams is to allow younger, inexperienced members of a given sport the opportunity to participate and gain experience to prepare them for Varsity level competition.

In sports and activities in which rosters are restricted by a tryout procedure, Seniors (12th grade) may not be permitted to participate on a Junior Varsity team unless approved by the athletic department and coaching staff.

### **Awards**

1st Year Freshman/JV- Participation Certificate, Numerals, JV letter (Only 1 total), Sport Pin (Every Sport)

2nd+ Year JV- Participation Certificate

1st Year Varsity- Participation Certificate, Varsity Letter (Only 1 total), Sport Pin (Every Sport if not already earned)

2nd Year Varsity- Participation Certificate, Bar (Every Sport)

3rd Year Varsity- Participation Certificate. Plaque (Every Sport)

4th Year Varsity- Picture Plaque

## Lettering Policy

Boys and Girls Cross Country- a. One of top 50% of Mount Gilead

b. Be a member of the post-season team

c. Run a varsity standard time (Boys-18:30/Girls-23:00)

d. Coaches discretion based on length of service with XC team, attendance, leadership, character, commitment to improving

Football- a. Must play in 50% of Varsity Quarters

b. Be a part of a Special Team's Unit which meets special teams goals set forth by the coaching staff for the entire season.

Golf- Accumulate 12 points: Points are accumulated by scoring for the team in a competition. Additional point for low score or medalist. Points may be deducted for unexcused missed practice or competition

Volleyball- Participate in 50% of total sets

Cheerleading- participate on the Varsity Cheerleading team

Boys and Girls Basketball- Must play in 50% of Varsity Contests

Boys and Girls Bowling- a. Participate in 70% of matches

b. Contributor when put in a match or excels in practice to make themselves and the team better

Boys and Girls Swimming- good attendance, respectful behavior, finishing the season in good standing both with work ethic and grades/good behavior at school, scoring in a varsity meet.

Wrestling- Must Score 30 Varsity Points

Baseball and Softball- Must play in 50% of total Varsity Contests

Boys and Girls Track and Field- a. Obtain an average of one point per meet. (relay points are divided among the relay members)

b. Score in a championship level track meet

c. Complete 4 years of participation with good standing on the team

d. Meet a performance standard\* in at least one event

*\*For all sports a coach can use his or her discretion if a player had unforeseen circumstances which led to the requirements not being met\**

## **Special Awards**

1st Team, 2nd Team , and Honorable Mention Conference awards are voted on by the coaches of the Knox-Morrow Athletic Conference for each individual sport.

Special patches may be awarded for league, sectional, district, regional or state championship teams or individuals, to include all athletes on the team

*If an athlete or team earns a state championship or state player of the year award in an OHSAA sanctioned sport the Athletic Council will recommend signs for the Board of Education to purchase in collaboration with the Mount Gilead Village Council ordinance.*

## **Away Events and Student-Athlete Transportation**

Student-athletes are expected to travel to and from away practices, scrimmages, and contests on transportation provided by the Mount Gilead School District. In the event of extenuating circumstances, exceptions may be granted by the head coach if the student-athlete provides notification through a written request signed by the parent or guardian. If the request is honored, a student-athlete will be permitted to travel with his/her parents or guardian only.

## **Bench, Team Area and Locker Room Restrictions**

The bench or team area and locker room of each sport is restricted to the student-athletes listed on the OHSAA eligibility form for the sport, coaches, volunteer coaches, managers, athletic trainers, paramedics, physicians, team videographers or other personnel approved by the athletic director or coach. Students, parents and fans are expected to remain in designated spectator areas or seated in the bleachers.

## **Mount Gilead Exempted Village School District Code of Conduct & Rules & Regulations for Interscholastic Athletics**

### **Interscholastic Competition**

Interscholastic competition is offered in ten men's and nine women's varsity sports. School teams are selected and played against those of other schools. Mount Gilead is a member of the Ohio High School Athletic Association. It is important for all students and parents and athletes to be familiar with the by-laws of the OHSAA. Intentional violation of any by-law or other policy is a very serious offense. While it is not possible to agree with every rule and regulation, it is important for all to comply with them. To further the cause of interscholastic athletics and to provide for interscholastic competition in academic areas, Mount Gilead is a member of the Knox-Morrow Athletic Conference. These schools are friends as well as rivals, not only is a high grade of competition maintained but also a high degree of sportsmanship is expected.

Participation in athletics is a choice and a privilege. Participation in contests is at the discretion of the head coach and coaching staff.

## Athletic Code of Conduct

Violations of the Code of Conduct and Rules and Regulations by student athletes that occur on school grounds and/or at school related activities will be subject to additional disciplinary actions according to the Mount Gilead Exempted Village Schools Code of Conduct.

As an athlete and student at Mount Gilead High or Middle School, I have a major responsibility. I must realize that I represent Mount Gilead High or Middle School in everything I do. This responsibility will require me to do the following throughout the school year.

1. I will respect the comments, opinions and decisions of the coaching staff.
2. I will strictly adhere to all team rules and school rules.
3. I will respect the calls and decisions of the officials in charge of the games.
4. I will not let my pride overtake my main purpose on the team. That purpose being to play hard, play fair and play to win.
5. When I play, I will play my hardest, try my best and hold my head high when the game is over regardless of the score.
6. I fully understand that all of the equipment I am issued is the property of Mount Gilead High or Middle School. Failure to turn in any piece of equipment at the conclusion of the season will result in being charged the REPLACEMENT COST of the unreturned items.
7. I also realize that IT IS A PRIVILEGE to be a part of the team and I must do my part to promote team unity and team spirit.
8. Parties  
All coaches are opposed to students attending parties where drugs, alcohol or tobacco are being used. Since attendance at such parties may raise questions as to the student's commitment to uphold school rules, the student is expected to leave immediately.

Furthermore, I understand that if I falter in any of the above areas, I am liable for discipline by the head coach.

The administration reserves the right to place additional conditions on the length and severity of consequences of violation(s) depending upon the severity of the offense.

### TRAINING RULES

1. There is to be no use of tobacco (smoking, chewing, snuff), alcohol, illegal drugs or abuse of legal drugs during the sport season.
2. Team members should be in bed by 10:30 p.m. on nights before their games and should get at least 8 hours of sleep on other nights.
3. Team members will attend ALL team functions, unless previously excused by the head coach.
4. Team members will travel TO AND FROM all athletic contests with their team, unless previously excused by the head coach. This also applies to the cheerleaders and being excused by their advisor.
5. Team members will dress in accordance with the wishes of their coach for all team-related functions.
6. Any team member under school suspension or ISR is not eligible for athletic participation. This includes practices and games.
7. **Team members must be in school attendance within the first hour of school in order to participate in practices or games.** Extenuating circumstances will be considered by the Principal and/or Athletic Director.
8. Team members will abide by these rules and those of the Athletic Code of Conduct.
9. All coaches can supersede any of these rules.

This policy is in effect out of season as well as in season and will continue into the next season that student participates in.

### **Social Media Policy: Code of Conduct**

Playing and competing for the Mount Gilead School District is a privilege not a right. Student-athletes are held in high regard and are seen as role models in the community. As leaders we have the responsibility to portray our team, our school and ourselves in a positive manner at all times.

Social networking sites have increased in popularity and are used by the majority of student-athletes.

Student-athletes may not be aware that third parties including the media, faculty/administrators, future employers, college coaches and staff members, and OHSAA officials can easily access their profiles and view all personal information. This includes all pictures, videos, comments and posters.

Inappropriate material found by third parties affects the perception of the student, the athletic department and the Mount Gilead School District. This can be detrimental to a student-athlete's future and reputation.

Examples of inappropriate and offensive behaviors concerning participation in online communities may include depictions or presentations of the following:

1. Posting photos, videos, comments or posters showing the personal use of alcohol, tobacco, i.e., holding cups, cans, shot glasses etc.
2. Posting photos, videos, and comments that are of a sexual nature. This includes links to websites of a pornographic nature and other inappropriate material.
3. Posting pictures, videos, comments or posters that condone drug related activity. This includes but is not limited to images that portray the personal use of marijuana, and drug paraphernalia.
4. Using inappropriate or offensive language in all comments, videos and other postings. This includes threats of violence and derogatory comments against other students.
5. Misrepresenting the District, School and Team.

If a student-athlete's profile and its contents are found to be inappropriate in accordance with the above behaviors he/she will be subject to one or more of the following penalties:

1. Written warning and a meeting with the Athletic Director and Head Coach .
2. Consequences as determined by the athletics department, for example, denial of athletic privileges or removal from the team.

If you are ever in doubt of the appropriateness of your online public material, consider whether it upholds and positively reflects your own values and ethics as well as the athletics department and the Mount Gilead School District.

### **Tobacco, Alcohol, Drug Usage**

While tobacco, alcohol and drug usage is addressed in the student handbook, it should be noted that there can be additional consequences for any student athlete who has violated these school rules. The observation by any Mount Gilead faculty member, coach, or law enforcement agency is sufficient evidence to confront the subject with impending disciplinary action. Violations of this Policy may lead to denial of participation and/or removal from the Mount Gilead School District interscholastic athletic programs. The student athlete will be held accountable for the Substance Abuse Policy cumulatively through his/her interscholastic career grades 7-12. For example: a violation during the 7th grade followed by a violation in the 10th grade would constitute a second offense.



Violations by student athletes that occur on school grounds or at school related activities may be subject to additional disciplinary actions according to the Mount Gilead School District Code of Conduct.

Consequences to the Substance Abuse Policy:

- **Alcohol/Tobacco/Drug Offense -**

- **Self-Referral:** Student will be denied participation for 25% of a season. A student athlete will be afforded the opportunity of a one time (initial level) voluntary self-referral. A self-referral means the student would admit guilt to a school official prior to the beginning of any investigation of the student's possible violation.
- **1st offense:** Student will be denied participation for 50% of a season.
- **2nd offense:** Student will be denied participation for one complete season.
- **3rd offense:** Student will be denied participation for one calendar year from the date of offense.
- **4th offense:** Student will be denied participation for the rest of the student's career.

In reference to percentages of seasons and complete seasons, the following will be employed. If an athlete is caught under the drug/alcohol and tobacco policy at the first offense level after the sixth game of the football season, he/she would be denied participation for the final four football games (40%) as well as ten (10%) percent of the next season in which he/she participates.

### **Conduct, Character and Discipline of Athletics**

In matters pertaining to personal conduct in which athletics are not involved, the school itself is to be the sole judge as to whether the pupil may play on its teams.

In matters pertaining to personal conduct in which athletics are involved, such as gross violations of sportsmanship, attacks on officials and other acts of misbehavior, the State Association shall have jurisdiction to determine the penalties involved and whether or not the pupil may participate in athletics.

Any athlete ejected from an athletic contest in any sport for unsportsmanlike conduct can immediately be denied participation.

### **Insubordination and Sportsmanlike Conduct**

This is an extremely broad area, which covers a wide variety of problems that ultimately depend on good judgment, fairness, and the best interests of all our athletes for the proper solutions. This dictates that a consistent approach be taken in dealing with these kinds of problems. The following approach will be followed by coaches in the disciplinary process:

1. The incident is specifically recorded, and parents are notified by mail.
2. The coach makes the athlete aware that additional problems may result in dismissal from the team.
3. If the behavior is of a serious enough nature on the first offense, the athlete may be dismissed immediately.
4. Dismissal from any athletic squad requires the approval of the athletic director.

## **School Suspensions**

### ***In-School Restriction/Out of School Suspension***

- During the duration of In School Restriction/Out of School Suspension athletes may not practice or participate in a contest on the dates of suspension. Additional Coach administered discipline may be administered including dismissal from the team.

If a player is dismissed, or quits a team before the season ends, he/she will not be permitted to attend/participate in any open gyms, practices, or other activities for any other athletic sport until his/her prior team's season is completed, i.e., if a student quits or is dismissed from the Football team (fall sport) he/she cannot start working out with basketball (winter sport) until the fall season is completed.

**Please Note: Foregoing penalties are minimums, and the coach retains the discretion to impose greater penalties as he or she deems appropriate.**

### **DISCIPLINARY POLICY (One Calendar Year)**

The following rules apply to all sports while an athlete is officially participating; a school year is defined as August 1<sup>st</sup> through July 31<sup>st</sup>. Once an athlete officially participates for the first time, the Tobacco and Drug/Alcohol Policies are enforced year round for the remainder of the student's athletic eligibility. The year round policy eliminates any questions about in-season and out-of-season application of rules. The sequence of penalties applies throughout a student's entire athletic career (7-12). A student becomes a participating athlete upon attendance at their first official regular season practice and continues until they graduate or lose athletic eligibility due to Ohio High School Athletic Association rules regarding age or semesters.

While being denied the privilege of athletic participation the athlete may:

- A. Ride with the team. This is the decision of the Head Coach.
- B. May not dress (may not wear any part of the team uniform). May be with the team on the sidelines. This is the decision of the Head Coach.
- C. May practice -- this decision will be up to the Head Coach.

### **Due Process**

1. All students and parents/guardians shall read and sign this athletic policy before students are permitted to participate in athletics. (practices/games)
2. If an infraction of this rule occurs, the student will be notified by the Athletic Director. The student shall have the right to present his/her side of the story prior to a decision of disciplinary action.
3. If the student does not agree with the Athletic Director's decision as to disciplinary action, then he/she has the right of appeal to the high school principal. The principal's decision shall be final.

## Eligibility for Participation in Interscholastic/Extracurricular Activities

### *Middle School requirements for eligibility are:*

- Students in grades 7-12 must maintain a minimum Grade Point Average of 2.0 the preceding quarter to be eligible to participate in Interscholastic Athletics.
- In addition to a minimum Grade Point Average, Student-Athletes in grades 7 and 8 who pass less than 4 classes will be considered academically ineligible for the following quarter.
- Students entering the 7th grade for the first time will be considered eligible for the first grading period regardless of previous academic achievement.
- If a student falls below a 2.0 grade-point average the student may still have the ability to participate if the following requirements are met:
  - **1.99-1.67-** Students will be required to do weekly grade checks with the Athletic Director. If a student falls below at 2.0 by interim reports he or she would be required to use an Academic Plan
  - **1.66 and below-** Students have the option to use their Academic Plan in Middle School. Students will not only have to do weekly grade checks with the Athletic Director, but will also have to receive tutoring from teachers in classes they are struggling in.
- **Number of seasons of participation-** A student shall be eligible 4 continuous semesters from the date they enroll as a 7th grader. He/she shall not be eligible for more than 2 seasons of participation in any sport.
- **Ineligible players** – A student shall not be allowed to appear at any scrimmage or interscholastic contest in the athletic uniform of his/her school if he/she is not eligible to play.
- **Eligibility based upon age** – Once a student attains the age of 15, the student will no longer be eligible for interscholastic athletic competition notwithstanding where that 15th birthday falls in relation to the sport season.

### *High School requirements for eligibility are:*

- Section 4-4-1 of the Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA) Constitutions and bylaws: “In order to be eligible in grades 9-12, a student must be enrolled and must have been enrolled in school the immediately preceding grading period. During the preceding grading period, the student must have received passing grades in a minimum of FIVE one-credit courses of the equivalent which count toward graduation”.
- Summer school grades earned may not be used to substitute for failing grades from the preceding grading period of the regular school year.
- A minimum Grade Point Average must be maintained on a quarterly basis. Must have maintained at least a 2.0 grade-point average as well as passing grades in a minimum of 5 one-credit courses for the grading period prior to the grading period in which s/he wishes to participate. If a student falls below a 2.0 grade-point average the student may still have the ability to participate if the following requirements are met:
  - **1.99-1.67-** Students will be required to do weekly grade checks with the Athletic Director. If a student falls below at 2.0 by interim reports he or she would be required to use an Academic Plan
  - **1.66 and below-** Students have the option to use one of their two Academic Plans in HS. Students will not only have to do weekly grade checks with the Athletic Director, but will also have to receive tutoring from teachers in classes they are struggling in.
- **Number of seasons of participation (HIGH SCHOOL ONLY)** – A student shall be eligible eight continuous semesters from the date they enroll as a 9th grader. He/she shall not be eligible for more than four seasons of participation in any sport.

- **Transferred students** – A student must submit an affidavit and be approved by the O.H.S.A.A. for eligibility clearance.
- **Ineligible players** – A student shall not be allowed to appear at any scrimmage or interscholastic contest in the athletic uniform of his/her school if he/she is not eligible to play.
- **Eligibility based upon age** – Once a student attains the age of 20, the student will no longer be eligible for interscholastic athletic competition notwithstanding where that 20th birthday falls in relation to the sport season.

Students educated at home or enrolled in a nonpublic school who are permitted to participate on a District interscholastic team must fulfill the same academic, nonacademic, and financial requirements as any other participant.

**Policy for a Transferring Student Athlete with a Disciplinary Punishment.**

The member schools of the Knox-Morrow Athletic Conference will honor any time imposed disciplinary punishment against a student athlete if that student transfers from any other school.

Athletic Director's will check any incoming/transferring student's eligibility from the previously attended school immediately upon participation in the first sport at the KMAC school.

I HAVE READ THE ABOVE AND UNDERSTAND THE CONTENTS.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Student Signature

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Parent/Guardian Signature

# Mount Gilead Exempted Village School District

145 N. Cherry St.  
Mount Gilead, Ohio 43338  
Telephone: (419) 946-1646

Dr. Zack Howard  
Superintendent

Mrs. Debra Clauss  
High School Principal

Mr. Clay Grube  
Middle School Principal

Mr. Jack Bault  
Athletic Director

## Mount Gilead Exempted Village Schools Athletics Same Season- Two Sport Policy

Athletes at Mount Gilead Exempted Village School District have the option to participate in more than one sport during a particular season. If a student decides to participate in more than one sport at a time, a coach shall not discourage the decision. The coaches should work together to make this situation as smooth as possible. Realizing that there is potential for conflicts when an athlete is participating in two sports at the same time, the following guidelines MUST be adhered to:

1. BEFORE being allowed to participate in two sports during the season, the athlete, his/her guardian, athletic director, and the two coaches involved must meet and agree.
2. The athlete must declare a primary sport and secondary sport before the first official practice date.
  - a. The athlete will have an opportunity to re-declare his or her primary sport at the time of their initial primary sport's OHSAA tournament draw.
    - i. The athlete MUST meet again with the Athletic Director, both coaches, and his/her guardian if he/she wants to re-declare
3. A contest will always take precedence over a practice in the other sport.
4. In the event that it would not be possible for an athlete to participate in both sports on the same day, he/she will NOT be able to drive themselves to the second contest. Only the athlete's guardian will be able to transport the athlete.
5. On days that an athlete is not participating in a contest, he/she will make an effort to practice for both sports. If only one sport can be practiced, it will be the primary sport.
6. All eligibility rules will remain the same.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Student-Athlete)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Parent/Guardian)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Primary Sport)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Secondary Sport)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Primary Sport Coach)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Secondary Sport Coach)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Athletic Director)