

Martin Murphy Athletic Handbook



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Purpose of the Interscholastic Athletic Program

The opportunities provided by the interscholastic athletic program will enable students to:

- Develop skills in all areas of growth: physical, intellectual, emotional and social.
- Develop interest in life-long leisure activities, either as participants or spectators.
- Develop self-discipline; self-motivation; good, strong character; and the ideals of good sportsmanship.
- Acquire special skills in the activities of their choice.
- Participate in team play and develop team-oriented skills that produce successful teams characterized by loyalty, cooperation, and fair play.
- Compete in interscholastic athletic events.
- Achieve personal, team, and school goals.

Statement of Philosophy

Athletics is an integral part of the school program and, as such, is a vital facet in the life of the school. The purpose of the athletic program is to offer as many opportunities as possible to develop athletic skills, good attitudes, strong character, and school spirit, which reach beyond the athletic fields.

Academics

The number one priority for your son or daughter at Martin Murphy Middle School should be the pursuit of academic excellence. Athletics is an extension of the classroom and offers an excellent opportunity to learn about one's self and working with others. Students are encouraged to seek extra academic help if necessary. Student-athletes should arrange with their teachers and coaches to make an appointment for extra help before school, during any scheduled study halls, during lunch hours, or after school prior to practice. A student should feel proud of their academic accomplishments and want to strive for success in the classroom. Commitment and dedication to this program also means the student's academic progress. Your education will enable you to reach your goals in life. All athletes are considered student-athletes. A GPA of 2.0 must be maintained to be eligible. Any discipline issues that arise during the school day may have an impact on your child's participation in athletics.

Attendance Regulations

1. Students are expected to attend all scheduled practices and competitions. Each sport team will provide a schedule before the season gets underway.
2. If an athlete is absent from school, the athlete is not permitted to practice or participate in a scheduled event on that day. The exceptions are prearranged appointments as approved by the director or principal.
3. Any athlete who is suspended shall not be allowed to participate in any athletic event during the period of suspension.
4. Once a competition gets underway, all decisions regarding play are within the jurisdiction of the game/meet official(s).

Communication

Good, open, two-way communication is the key behind any success a student-athlete will experience and one that he/she can utilize to further his or her endeavors. The student-athlete and parent(s)/guardian carry the same responsibility as the coach to maintain open lines of communication. **If, at any time throughout the year, a student-athlete or parent has a concern regarding anything related to the program, they must first try and communicate with the coach.** If the concern cannot be resolved through open dialogue with the coach, then the student-athlete/parent should follow the chain of command until their concern can be satisfactorily resolved.

Communication You Should Expect From Your Child's Coach

1. Philosophy of the coach.
2. Expectations for your child and all players on the squad.
3. Locations and times of practices and contests.
4. Team requirements, i.e., fees, special equipment, off-season conditioning.
5. Procedures should your child be injured during participation.
6. Discipline that may result in denial of your child's participation.

Communication Coaches Expect From Parents

1. Concerns expressed directly to the coach outside of practice/game/matches/meets times.
2. Notification of any schedule conflicts well in advance.
3. Specific concern in regard to a coach's philosophy and/or expectations.

Appropriate Matters to Discuss With Coaches

1. The treatment of your child both mentally and physically.
2. Ways to help your child improve.
3. Concerns about your child's behavior.

Issues Not Appropriate To Discuss With Coaches

1. Team strategy.
2. Play calling.
3. Playing time.
4. Other student-athletes.

Procedure To Follow If You Have A Matter To Discuss With The Coach

1. A first-hand message can be left for any coach who teaches at the school.
2. Please do not confront a coach before or after a contest or practice. At these times emotions run high and resolution is not promoted.
3. Contact the athletic director and make an appointment to discuss the situation if a satisfactory resolution was not reached.

Discipline

All coaches are to address discipline and consequences of certain actions in the specific team's rules and regulations. Keep in mind that the Board's policy pertaining to student's rights will supersede all rules. Parent's must read and sign off on a form declaring that they have read the team rules, understand them, and will accept the consequences of any infractions as stated in the rules. This must be done before participation is granted to their child. The key to good discipline is creating an open line of communication and leading by example. Keep in mind that a student may be dismissed from the team for any conduct that brings the person, the team, the school, and/or the community into negative light. Of course, the Athletic Director and Principal will make these decisions after careful review of each situation. This is also a reminder that athletes are students first and any behavioral or disciplinary issues in the classroom can impact the participation on the team.

Disqualification

Students that are disqualified from a game by an official must be removed from the immediate area. If a student-athlete is disqualified from play they must not be present at any games while they are under suspension. If they show up for a home or away game, your team may have to forfeit that contest.

Playing Time

While parents have the best interest of their child in mind, it is the job of the coach to be concerned with what is best for the team and program. There are no guarantees regarding playing time. Coaches will inform student-athletes of their roles on the team and how that will affect playing time. Coaches will also provide student-athletes with suggestions on how to improve and feedback on where they stand. Any questions regarding playing time should come from the player and should be directed to his/her coach.

Sportsmanship Responsibilities

The Player:

- 1) Treats opponents with respect
- 2) Plays hard, but plays within the rules
- 3) Exercises self-control at all times, setting the example for others to follow.
- 4) Respects officials and accepts their decisions without gesture or argument.
- 5) Wins without boasting, loses without excuses, and never quits.
- 6) Always remembers that it is a privilege to represent the school and community.

The Spectator:

- 1) Attempts to understand and be informed of the playing rules.
- 2) Appreciates a good play no matter who makes it.
- 3) Shows compassion for an injured player; applauds positive performances; does not heckle, jeer or distract players; and avoids use of profane and obnoxious language and behavior.
- 4) Respects the judgment and strategy of the coach, and does not criticize players or coaches for loss of game.
- 5) Respects property of others and authority of those who administer the competition.

Acceptable and Unacceptable Behavior Standards

Acceptable Behavior:

- 1) Applause during introduction of players, coaches and officials.
- 2) Players shaking hands with opponent who fouls out while both sets of fans recognize the player's performance with applause.
- 3) Accept all decisions of officials.
- 4) Handshakes between participants and coaches at end of contest, regardless of outcome.
- 5) Treat competition as a game.

- 6) Coaches/players search out opposing participants to recognize them for outstanding performance or coaching.
- 7) Applause at the end of the contest for performances of all participants.

Unacceptable Behavior:

- 1) Yelling or waving arms during an opponent's free-throw attempt.
- 2) Disrespectful or derogatory yells, chants, songs or gestures.
- 3) Booing or heckling an official's decision.
- 4) Criticizing officials in any way; displays of temper with an official's call.
- 5) Yells that antagonize opponents.
- 6) Refusing to shake hands or give recognition for good performances.
- 7) Blaming loss of game on officials, coaches or participants.
- 8) Laughing or name-calling to distract an opponent.
- 9) Use of profanity or displays of anger that draw attention away from the game.

