Mid-Piedmont Conference EST. 2023
CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS

MISSION & PURPOSE STATEMENT

The Mid-Piedmont Conference (MPC) shall promote and ensure moral character and administer sound athletic programs which benefit the overall educational and athletic goals for all students enrolled in member schools. The success of the conference is based on the leadership, involvement, and positive sportsmanship of member schools.

ARTICLE 1 – EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE & OFFICERS

1. The conference will be run by a governing committee made up of the athletic directors from the participating schools. If a school does not have an athletic director, it may send another staff member as its representative. The member schools shall work together collectively during face to face meetings and through other forms of communication to keep everyone informed and on track.

2. The conference governing committee will meet prior to each school year to determine season dates and to set the amount for conference dues. Meeting dates occur on Wednesday's 4x's per year- the beginning of school and then 1 week prior to the end of each season and the conference tournaments. Special meetings may be called if needed.

3. The conference will name a President/Secretary/Treasurer each school year. This person will be responsible for maintaining the MPC bank account, preparing agendas, and posting meeting minutes. The conference will pay the President $300 for their work ($100 per season.) The conference will pay the Secretary/Treasurer $300 for their work ($100 per season.)

ARTICLE 2 – MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1 – Members

The MPC membership currently consists of 6 schools: Chatham Charter School (CCS), Clover Garden School (CGS), Cornerstone Charter Academy (CCA), Bethany Community School (BCS), NC Leadership Academy (NCLA), and River Mill Academy (RMA).

SECTION 2 – New Members

1. A school that petitions for conference membership must submit a letter of interest with the conference president by March 31st of the year prior to the fall in which they intend to participate. The letter should include the sports offered over the past two-year period. Also included should be the sports proposed for the upcoming year. The letter should include a description of the on-campus athletic facilities and off-site venues used, enrollment for grades 6-8, related information about the school and complete contact information.

2. A school being considered for membership is required to field at least one boys and one girls team in the MPC primary sports in each of the three seasons each school year. Teams must meet the MPC eligibility requirement for team composition, stated in Rule #2.

3. MPC primary sports are as follows.

a. Fall Season: Boys Soccer, Girls Volleyball, and Cross Country
b. Winter Season: Boys Basketball, Girls Basketball and Cheerleading
c. Spring Season: Boys Baseball, Girls Soccer, Softball, Co-ed Golf, Co-ed Tennis

4. Members failing to meet the primary sports requirement will be placed on probation for that sport and if there is a second offense, the school will be subject to removal from the conference, pending a MPC vote. Every effort should be made to complete a season that is started.
   a. Exiting the Mid-Piedmont Conference: When a school wishes to exit the conference, written notice should be given to the conference prior to March 1st. This will allow ample time to adjust before schedules for the upcoming year are drafted.

5. A school joining the conference must do the following:
   a. Agree to participate for at least one school year.
   b. For membership, a school must be approved by a 5/6 vote of the athletic directors.
   c. Pay $200.00 yearly dues. Due date 9/01 yearly.

ARTICLE 3 – PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

1. To participate, Students must be full-time students and enrolled in grades 6-8. No fifth or ninth graders may participate in MPC athletic competitions. Home-schooled students are not considered full-time students and would be considered ineligible players for MPC contests. Eligibility sheets (of your choosing) should be filed with the AD prior to the beginning of each season and should be available to the conference if requested.

2. Prior to the first match or game of the season, each school within the conference should have on file a roster of your teams that can be submitted to the conference upon request. The roster will have the names of the student athletes, their current grade level and date of birth.

3. The student shall not have reached his/her 15th birthday before October 15 of the current school year. Proof of the student's age shall be available at the respective school.

4. Member Schools shall formulate and implement academic policies and attendance policies for all athletes.

5. Participation by boys in a girl's sport is prohibited. Girls may participate in a boy's sport if the same sport is not offered at the beginning of the school year. If a girl's team forms later that year, they may not play on the girl's team for that year only.

ARTICLE 4 – GAME ADMINISTRATION

SECTION 1 – Rules of Play: The conference will follow the rules set forth by the National Federation of High School Associations. Schools should particularly note field and court size regulations. Field and court sizes should be as close to regulation as possible.

SECTION 2 – Game/Match Length & Rules Clarifications:

1. Basketball games will consist of four six-minute quarters, with ten-minute halftimes. Teams are to be allowed a minimum of a 10-minute pre-game warm-up. Running Clock- when the point difference is greater than 30 after halftime, a running clock will be used for the remainder of the game. Overtime- 3-minute overtime. Team fouls will reset every quarter. Once a team reaches 5 team fouls in the quarter, the opposing team with get 2 foul shots (no more 1 and 1's).

2. Baseball games will consist of seven innings with a two-hour time limit from the scheduled start time. No new inning will begin after two hours. The time limit will be waived during tournament play. Teams may use bats with a maximum – 5 differential. Base distance must be 80-feet minimum but can be up to 90 feet. Pitching mound should be comparable to base length. Metal cleats will be allowed (except on a portable mound). Portable mounds require tennis shoes/turf shoes only- no cleats of any type. Run rule: 10 after 5 or 15 after 3. Coaches will be required to use the attached pitch count sheet (NCHSAA) in an effort to protect our athletes. This will be provided by the athletic director and the coaches of the opposing team must sign to verify each teams pitch count. The school will keep these on file to verify the athlete is protected.

3. Softball games will consist of seven innings with a two-hour time limit. No new inning will begin after two hours. The time limit will be waived during tournament play. Base distance should be 60-feet and the pitching mound should be 43 feet length. Metal cleats will be allowed. Run rule: 10 after 5 or 15 after 3.

4. Soccer games will consist of two 30-minute halves. Mercy rule will be in effect for a leading score of 7 or more after the half. If the game ends in a tie after regulation, two 5-minute overtimes will be played. If the game is tied after playing overtime, the game ends as a tie. There is no sudden death. If a conference tournament game ends in a tie, two 10-minute overtimes will be played. If the game is tied at the end of overtime, the winner will be decided by penalty kicks in accordance with National Federation rules. Two certified officials should be used for all conference games. Conference tournament games should be played using regulation size goals and on a field that meets at least the minimum regulations for size. Rule 1-Section 1-Article 1 from The National Federation of State High School Associations 9NFHS) Rulebook states: "The field of play shall be rectangular, 100 to 120 yards long and 55 to 75 yards wide. The following minimum dimensions are recommended: Junior High Schools – 100 by 55 yards." In staying consistent with the high school regulations, we will wear dark uniforms at home games and white uniforms at away games.

5. Tennis matches shall consist of 6 singles and 3 doubles matches. An 8-game pro-set shall be used for each of the nine matches with regular "add" scoring. A tiebreaker will be played using first to 7 points, win by 2. The conference tournament shall be "Dual Team" format with higher seeds hosting. All other USTA rules will be followed. Regulation tennis balls will be used.

6. Volleyball matches will be the best 2 out of 3 games. First two games will be played to 25. If a third game is required, it should be played to 15. *Even if the same team wins the first two games, a third CAN be played to 15-If agreed upon by both coaches ahead of time.* (Non-mandatory third game does not apply to tournament games.) Rally scoring will be used. Warm-up before the match will be five minutes, five minutes, and shared three minutes (5-5-3). Net height is 7-feet 4 1/8". Each team will supply a line judge for the match. Unless specified, National High School Federation rules will be followed. Officials shall be certified in volleyball by the National Federation.

7. Cross Country race distances should be between 1.5 to 2.2 miles. Distance will be 2.2 miles for the championship meet. A walk-through of the course will precede each meet. The top-5 finishers for each team will count towards the team score for the meet. Ties will be broken using the times of tied-team's 6th-place runners. A team with only 5 runners would lose. A runner must compete in one more than half of the conference scheduled races in order to be eligible to participate at the conference finals. At each race, boys will run first followed by the girls. Championship race- will run 3 races- top 10 boys/ top 10 girls/ all other runners. Boys will run first, and girls will run second.

8. Co –Ed golf will be played in the spring. 9 holes will be played. There is no limit on the number of players that can be on a golf team, but only the top 3 scores will count towards the team's total. Players will play from the forward most tee. A swing is defined as contact between the club head and the ball (a swing and a miss does NOT count as a stroke). Scoring: double par for max score- once double par is reached, the player should pick up their ball and record the score.

9. Cheerleading is a recognizable activity support by the MPC. The rules and guidelines laid out for middle school cheerleading will be the American Association of Cheerleading Coaches and Administrators.
    a. Cheerleaders will greet the opposing team's cheerleaders during pregame or halftime. At no time should the cheerleaders go thru the line postgame.

SECTION 3 – Sportsmanship & Game Conduct

1. Technical Fouls and Red Cards

1. A coach or player removed by an official from the game will be suspended automatically from participation for the remainder of that game and the next scheduled game. The removal/ejection of a player or coach shall be reported to the conference president by the athletic directors of both participating schools with 24 hours of the incident.

2. A coach or player will be automatically suspended for the season if removed/ejected a second time and the player/coach will be placed on probation for one year. The probation ends in the season in which the violation occurred. If the ejection occurs on the last game of that sport season, it will continue to the next season that they participate in.

3. Exceptions will be considered based on the nature of the infraction. Emphasis is on behavior and attitude of the coach/player, rather than judgment calls by officials.

2. Game Protests/Grievance

The protest of a game or filing a grievance pertaining to a game or situation must be submitted to the conference president within 24 hours after completion of the game. Protest/ grievances filings must be in writing to the conference. Within 72 hours, a committee consisting of the athletic directors uninvolved in the protest will meet to resolve the dispute by vote.

ARTICLE 5 – LEAGUE SCHEDULING

SECTION 1 – Regular-Season Play

1. Members of the governing committee will volunteer to formulate a centralized schedule for 'official' conference sports for the fall, winter and spring seasons. The centralized schedules are just guidelines. Member schools can reschedule games as desired prior to MPC Tournament dates. Scheduling games in any sport remains the responsibility of each school in the conference when a centralized schedule isn't available.

2. Max 14 games plus tournament (3) Total 17 games. If your sport does not have a conference tournament, then you can play 16 regular season games.

3. The home team is responsible for booking and paying for officials

4. Teams are responsible for bringing their own water coolers for their athletes. Athletes should always have refillable water bottles with them for indoor/outdoor.

5. Sports without the minimum number of four teams are not considered 'official' conference sports and must be scheduled by the individual member schools

6. In fairness to all the MPC members, schools should make every effort to complete their MPC schedule of games in each sport. MPC games should take priority over non-conference games. When a game must be cancelled due to weather, the game should be made up on the next available date.
    a. If a team has to forfeit their season, then all conference games that had been played against that school, become non-conference for the remaining teams.

SECTION 2 – Post-Season Play & Tiebreaker Policy

1. Tournaments may be scheduled in a sport in which four schools' field a team.

2. MPC Tournament formats will be agreed on by the governing committee. The 1st round and semifinals games will be played at the home of the higher seed and the championship game will be at a predetermined host school. If a gate is charged at finals, it will be $7 for everyone. The host school will pay their expenses and then split the remaining funds with the conference. If the host school loses money on the championship game, the conference will reimburse the home school for costs incurred.

    i. Bracket Format (6 teams)
        1. 1 BYE
        2. 2 BYE
        3. 3 v 6
        4. 4 v 5

3. For Championship Game we will use the same number of officials used in High School Sports.

    i. Volleyball-4/Basketball-3/Soccer-3/Softball-2/Baseball-2

4. Tournament seeding format will depend on the number of participating schools and will be determined at the scheduled conference meetings. Seeding will be determined by win-loss record. In situations where there is an uneven number of conference games played, due to weather cancellations or other unavoidable circumstances, final standings for tournament seeding will be based on the winning percentage for MPC conference games. If there is an unusual circumstance, the governing committee, by a majority vote, could make special accommodations to justify the final standings.

5. The MPC will pay the hosting school (athletic director) $50 for hosting a conference tournament.

6. The MPC will charge $7 for Championship Games in the Conference Tournament.

   i. Proceeds from all 3 rounds of the conference tournament will be sent to the conference.

7. In conference tournament play, a school does have the right to opt if it is presented in writing before the seeding is completed.

8. MPC Tiebreaker Policy – The following will determine seeding in the event of a tie:
   a. Head to head competition
   b. Record against conference teams, beginning with the top seed, until tie is broken.
   c. Coin toss.

ARTICLE 6 – CONFERENCE AWARDS/TROPHIES

1. A regular season champion trophy will be awarded to the first-place team for each sport. In the case of co-champions, each of the teams tied would receive a trophy. A tournament champion trophy will also be awarded from the conference when a tournament is warranted.

2. The conference will award a sportsmanship trophy in each sport. The coaches will vote and present to the AD to bring to the conference. The conference will also award an overall Sportsmanship Award at the end of the school year based on how many individual Sportsmanship awards a school has won.
   i. Each Sport- Each Sport- Ad's will submit voting from their coaches using the following breakdown.
      1. 1st Pick = 5 points/ 2nd Pick = 3 points/ 3rd Pick = 1 point. Top points will be awarded Sportsmanship award for that sport. The conference will present a certificate to the school.
      2. End of the Year Sportsmanship. The school that wins the most sportsmanship per sport awards, will be awarded the "Sportsmanship of the Year" plaque. In the event of a tie- we will revert back to the total number of points per sport that a school achieved.

3. The MPC will not award All-Conference Awards.

4. For XC-The MPC will award the top 5 female runners with a medal, the top 5 male runners with a medal, and the top 10 of each with certificates or ribbons.

5. For Co-Ed Golf: The MPC will present a tournament trophy to the top team and certificates to the top 5 golfers.

6. For Tennis: Regular season & Conference Tournament Trophy

ARTICLE 7 – AMENDMENTS

1. Amendments or changes to the Mid-Piedmont Conference rules must be approved by a majority vote of the athletic directors (governing committee).