MONTPELIER JUNIOR/SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL
COACHES RULES 2026-2027

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. Coaching philosophies will differ from coach to coach in this district. This rulebook is a common set of rules being established to communicate athletic department expectations of all Montpelier junior/senior high athletes. Each head coach employed by the Montpelier Exempted Village School District will adhere to the provisions set forth in this coach's rulebook.

ATHLETE EXPECTATIONS

- Athletes should arrive to practices, games or other team functions on time
- Athletes should have all required equipment for practice or game each day
- Athletes should behave in school, during practices and games and on bus trips
- Represent the school and community of Montpelier in a positive manner at all times
- Support your fellow teammates and athletes
- Exhibit a positive attitude

GAME AND PRACTICE ATTENDANCE POLICY

- All games and practices are mandatory. All players must be on time unless arranged with the coach prior to practice or game.
    - Consequences for unexcused absences from practice:
        1st unexcused- disciplined by the coach
        2nd unexcused- one game suspension
        3rd unexcused- removal from the team
    - Consequences for unexcused absences from a game:
        1st unexcused- one game suspension
        2nd unexcused- removal from the team
- **Excused** absences include:
    - Family emergencies
    - Funerals
    - Teacher consultations
    - Medical appointments
    - School sponsored activities

**Notes need to be turned in 3 days prior to the absence for it to be excused unless it is an emergency.

- Players that miss a practice or game or are late to a practice or game for a detention, coaches will administer consequences.

- In order to participate in any school day practice or contest, athletes must be in attendance for all class periods before 11:21 a.m. or after 11:21 a.m. (either periods 1-4 or 5-8). Field trips, alternate learning experiences, concurrent enrollment, medical/dental appointments, funerals and special family situations may be excused with proper written documentation or administrative approval.

PRACTICES

- Practice times will be determined by each head coach
- Practice gear will be determined by each head coach
- Open or closed practice settings will be determined by each head coach
- Cell phone use will be determined by each head coach
- Practice times may change after original schedules have been handed out

PLAYING TIME

- Playing time is not a right or guarantee and must be earned
- Cutting is an option if numbers deem necessary
    - This will be a last resort especially at junior high levels
- Coaches will consider attendance habits, punctuality and performance during practices
- Coaches will never be available to talk immediately after a game
    - If parents have concerns or questions, please wait and contact the coach the next day
- Unacceptable behavior by players regarding playing time
    - Make unnecessary comments about lack of playing time
    - Ask about playing time during games or competition
    - Bring attention to yourself because of lack of playing time

PLAYER APPREARANCE

- All athletes must maintain a clean and respectable appearance at all times. You are representing Montpelier Schools and your individual program.
    - Clothing related to drugs, alcohol, profanity and/or poor taste are prohibited
    - Uniforms are school property and should be taken care of at all times
    - Colored hair other than original color are prohibited
    - Facial piercings during practice /games or on game day are prohibited
    - Facial hair is at coaches discretion

CURFEWS

- Curfew rules will follow the Village of Montpelier guidelines. See Athletic Handbook for entire policy.

SPORTSMANSHIP

- An atmosphere of true sportsmanship will be exhibited during all practices, bus trips and competitions. Unacceptable behavior is, but not limited to:
    - Taunting opponents or officials
    - Derogatory comments/gestures towards opponents or officials
    - Swearing
    - Hazing of teammates

GRADES

- Grades are the most important factor for our athletes. Each athlete must understand that they are a student first, and an athlete second.
    - See the 2026-27 athletic handbook for the quarterly and weekly grade policy

TRANSPORTATION

- All athletes are required to ride to and from athletic events on the bus unless a pre-approved note has been provided to a coach. Students will only be permitted to ride with their own parents or guardian.
- All athletes must follow the bus rules while being transported

COACHING AUTHORITY

- All board approved coaches have the right to administer discipline for any of the following violations:
    - Fighting
    - Disrespectful behavior
    - Swearing or offensive language
    - Detentions or classroom behavior
    - Conduct that brings negative attention to the athletic department and team
- Respect for all coaches, teachers, teammates, opposing teams, fans, officials and other peers is expected at all times.

ATHLETE MISCONDUCT

- Each head coach will monitor their own athletes during each season.
- Each head coach will handle the day to day discipline of "minor" infractions set in the Athletic Policy Handbook.
- All "major" infractions will be handled by the athletic department.
- Please review the 2026-27 athletic handbook for Code of Conduct violations and consequences.

SCHOOL SUSPENSIONS

- Out of School Suspension
    - Athletes will NOT be permitted to attend or take part in any team activities on days serving out of school suspensions including practices, team functions and/or games. This includes school transportation to and from the game.
    - In the event there are no games scheduled on days of the out of school suspension, athletes will serve a 1 game suspension at the next scheduled game on the team calendar.
- In School Suspension
    - Any athlete that is given an in-school suspension will be subject to discipline actions by the team's head coach or acting head coach
    - Athletes may take part in ALL team activities on days that an in-school suspension is being served.