



**2026-2027**  
**MLS**  
**Coaching**  
**Handbook**

## **Vision Statement**

We envision our students to be respectful and responsible citizens who make a positive contribution to society.

Participating in MLS extra-curricular contributes to this vision by:

- Promoting respect for teammates.
- Promoting respect for coaches.
- Promoting respect for officials.
- Promoting respect for opponents.
- Promoting responsibility for team rules
- Promoting responsibility for practice effort.
- Promoting high standards of personal conduct.
- Encouraging positive contributions to the teams well being.
- Studies have consistently shown that participation in co-curricular activities is one of the leading indicators of success latter in life.

## **MLS Mission Statement**

The Mission of MLS is to **Make Learners Successful.**

Participating in MLS extra-curricular activities contributes to our school's mission by:

- Promoting academics by requiring minimum grades for eligibility.
- Promoting time management.
- Promoting physical conditioning and proper nutrition.
- Providing an emotional release from daily pressures.

## **VARSITY ATHLETICS**

Varsity athletes are those athletes that exhibit the most skill of those that have tried out for the team. They will have the opportunity to compete against equally talented

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athletes from opposing schools. A purpose of Varsity athletics is to refine the skills of the team in an attempt to provide MLS with the best win-loss record possible while promoting ethical play and positive character traits.

### **JUNIOR VARSITY ATHLETICS**

Junior Varsity athletic programs offer those students who do not yet possess the skills required of Varsity athletes an opportunity to participate in a competitive setting. Junior Varsity athletes are in the process of gaining valuable knowledge, skill and experience required for Varsity competition.

Occasionally, Junior Varsity athletes may participate in Varsity contests based on the decision by the coaching staff that the athlete has made sufficient progress. This should not be misinterpreted as an absolute move to the Varsity level.

### **C SQUAD ATHLETICS:**

C squad athletes are primarily freshmen and sophomores. C squad athletic teams are offered to athletes that do not yet possess the skills necessary to gain significant playing time on the Junior Varsity level. C squads are designed to provide a competitive setting in which to gain valuable knowledge, skill, and experience required for promotion to the Junior Varsity team.

### **JUNIOR HIGH/Elementary SCHOOL ATHLETICS:**

Junior High athletic programs are designed to provide seventh and eighth grade students with the opportunity to participate in activities that will assist in the development of self-esteem, high ideals, and physical fitness. These programs will teach the basic skills of the sport to students who may choose to pursue these activities in the future. The main objective is to insure that the competition provided is educationally sound without placing an overemphasis on "winning".

## **MLS Staff Coaching Philosophy:**

Obviously each of us is entitled to develop our own personal philosophy of coaching MLS students.

We expect you to strive to blend your personal philosophy with our staff philosophy:

- Be organized & prepared.



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- Be a teacher of the game.
- Be a student of the game.
- Be positive & enthusiastic.
- Emphasize attention to detail.
- Care about your players.
  - Be honest.
  - Be direct.
- Lead them to become better people.
- Model integrity.
- Focus on what you can control.
- Enjoy the journey.

### **What Parents Can Expect From Us**

- To protect their children from any physical or emotional harm.
- To treat their children with dignity & respect.
- To teach them the basics of the game.
- To make strategic & tactical decisions with professionalism.
  - Do not allow conflicts with parents to carry over to coaching their children.



### MLS Athletic Guidelines and Procedures -

- **Coaching Assignments** –
  - Coaching positions are an annual assignment made by the Superintendent and MLS School Board.
  - Salary is determined by the negotiated agreement between MLS and the MLS School Board.
- **Pre Season Checklist** – Check that you have all uniforms accounted for and let the athletic director know if you are in need of anything for the season.
- **Post Season Checklist** – Make sure to get all jerseys returned from players in a timely fashion

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- **Post Season Assessments** –Talk with the athletic director about any issues that occurred during the season and what can be done to remedy them for the next season
- **Legal Liability** – The responsibility for keeping things safe and avoiding litigation is shared by coaches, administration, and maintenance staff. **COMMUNICATION** is the key element. Coaches should report in writing any item they perceive as unsafe (security, facility, equipment, outside forces.) The general standard we must follow is: "Would a reasonable person have acted as you did under similar circumstances?" The problem is that the concept reasonableness is open to various interpretations.

### WHEN COACHES BECOME LIABLE

Coaches work in an increasingly litigious society and are faced with legal challenges more frequently than in the past. Many times a lack of action, rather than an actual action is the cause for the legal problem that may occur. With that in mind, it is important for coaches to develop comprehensive risk management and liability prevention strategies. The following checklist will help coaches guard against problems produced by negligence of duty:

- Failing to properly plan and / or supervise an activity
- Negligently entrusting a supervisory duty to an under-qualified individual
- Failing to teach proper and protective skills relative to the activity
- Failing to provide and maintain a safe coaching and playing environment
- Failing to inspect, repair, or recondition equipment properly
- Failing to teach athletes to inspect their own equipment for defects or repairs
- Failing to create and enforce policies and procedures for an activity
- Failing to adopt safety standards of pertinent superior administration organizations
- Failing to match or equate athletes based on size
- Failing to warn of inherent dangers of activities
- Failing to assess an injury or incapacity in an athlete
- Failing to keep adequate and accurate records
- Be familiar with all NDHSAA safety regulations

### **Hazing and Initiations -**

Hazing or Initiations of student-athletes by other student-athletes or members of the coaching staff **is not acceptable** and any practice of this type of behavior **will not be tolerated**. Hazing and Initiations (such as but not limited to taunting, teasing, bullying, and harassment) are, or may be illegal, and those student-athletes involved may be subject to suspension.

- **Duty to Warn** - Be sure to let your team know about the possibility of injuries from using certain techniques (both legal & illegal). Failure to warn could make you legally liable if an injury occurs. Warnings should be issued for but are not limited to:
  - Use of the head while blocking and tackling in football.
  - Headfirst sliding in baseball.
  - Intentional fouling in basketball.
  - Diving for a dig in volleyball.
  - Dehydration in running sports.
  - Awareness of implement throwing areas in track.

**Risk Management** - Coaches should be aware that a “duty” to exercise a “degree of care” is

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necessary when coaching interscholastic athletic teams. Each staff member should remember that the “safety of our students” is perhaps the most important factor in the realm of athletics. Be sure to review our athletic emergency plan at the beginning of every season.

- **Care of Injuries** - Injuries from the very minor to extremely severe are unfortunately a risk athletes take when choosing to participate in athletic activities. Coaches must be very careful how we treat and respond to the injured athlete. Don't try to push them back into play too early, even if they want to return if there is any doubt that continuing to play will make the injury worse we must hold them out.

### **Injury Reports** -

- Injuries that affect a player's ability to participate must be reported to the Athletic Director for documentation.

**Eligibility** - All rules of the North Dakota High School Activities Association will apply to all MLS athletic teams. These include but are not limited to:

- No use or possession of alcohol, tobacco or other illegal drugs.
  - Guilt by association, an athlete cannot knowingly be anywhere where minors are in possession or consuming/using alcohol, tobacco, or drugs.
  - Suspensions for alcohol, tobacco or drugs do not carry over into a new school year.
  - In addition an and/or all written drug or alcohol citations received by a student during the summer months will be considered that student's first offense for the upcoming school year; therefore any offense during that school year will result in an 18 week suspension from extracurricular activities.
  - Athletes can have no failing classes. Grades are to be computed from the beginning of the semester for semester long courses and will be weighted accordingly for yearlong courses. Classes must have a value of 1/2 credit per semester.
  - If an athlete fails to acquire the required credits (2.5) at the end of a semester they will be ineligible for a period of three weeks in the following semester.
- **Academic Eligibility Checks**- student eligibility will be determined on Wednesday morning of each school week. Students who are ineligible on Wednesday will remain ineligible until grades are determined the following Wednesday. During the first semester and the second semester (in high school) and the first nine weeks and 3<sup>rd</sup> nine weeks (in elementary), the first grade check will be based on the mid-term grade taken at 4 1/2 weeks. Please refer to the appropriate handbook for eligibility details (Elementary and 7-12)
  - **Establishing Discipline** - Athletics is one of the last places where students expect and readily accept discipline. Discipline is what you do for an individual, not what you do to an individual. Rules should be kept to a minimum but rigidly and fairly enforced. Each coach has the prerogative to establish additional rules pertaining to their team. Have a good reason for each rule you implement. Why is it needed? How does it benefit the player? How does it benefit the team? Remember all NDHSAA and MLS High School rules must be enforced regardless of whether you agree with them or not.

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**Rules regarding discipline should be presented at the pre-season parent / athlete meeting.**

- **Travel with the Team**- Players must have the minimum number of practices met before they are allowed to travel with the team to away games. Players must also be in school for a minimum of half of the school day that their teammates would be there in order to travel.
  - **Players that practice with the team after regular season play** will be able to go to the tournament.
  - **Curfew Regulations** – Curfew regulations shall be administered by each head coach in his/her sport:
    - **Violations of curfews will be set by each coach and shared with the athletes.**
- **Patron Complaint Procedures** - It would be rare for a coach to go through an entire season without someone registering some type of complaint. We encourage the following procedure to be used to allow for an orderly and appropriate flow of communication between our patrons and our coaches. All conflicts should be resolved in a manner best serving the team, the athlete with respect to the professional expertise of the coach and with regard for the rights of parents and patrons.
  - If possible, initial communication should be made with the coach so that the complainant and coach can attempt to resolve the issue.
  - 24 Hour Rule: No communication may take place 24 hours before a contest or 24 hours following a contest.
  - Arrangements should be made for the meeting to take place at MLSHS.
    - Either the parent or coach can request the Athletic Director to be present.
    - It is imperative that we maintain our professionalism during this meeting.
    - The meeting will be about the individual athlete. If another athlete is named during the meeting, the meeting will stop immediately for good or until named athlete and their parent(s) are present at the meeting.
    - **Retaliation of any type towards the athlete will not be tolerated,**
  - If the issue can't be resolved on the first step, the complainant should then contact the athletic director.
  - The third step is to involve the principal.
  - Fourth, the complainant can appeal to the superintendent
- **Procedure for suspension or dismissal -**

Whenever a coach believes a member of his/her team has acted in a manner which may require dismissal from the team, he/she may restrict the player from any further participation pending a hearing to be conducted by the Athletic Director, Principal, Coach, and student-athlete. A coach should report the incident and their actions to the Athletic Director and Principal immediately following the incident.

SUSPENSION- DISMISSAL GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE:

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In the event there are conflicts or problems arising out of athletic disciplines, regulations or policies, the following steps should be taken:

1. Parents or Guardian should discuss and try to resolve the issue with the Head Coach of the sport.
  2. Issues that cannot be resolved at the Head Coach level should then be forwarded to the Athletic Director for further consideration and investigation.
  3. Unresolved complaints and grievances at this level may be discussed with the High School Principal. A meeting with the Coach, Athletic Director, Principal and the grieved Parent to discuss established policies as it pertains to the grieved athlete.
- **Enforcement** - Penalties for loss of eligibility or violations of team rules should be administered fairly and with consistency. When team rules are violated it is the coach's responsibility to provide an appropriate penalty. If school or NDHSAA violations are reported the principal or superintendent shall investigate the alleged violation. If he finds probable cause to believe the allegation is true he shall inform the athlete, coach and athletic director.
    - If a suspension is issued it shall begin from the date and time notification is given the school administrator.
    - **If a suspension is not imposed and the student is found to be in violation of the alcohol, tobacco, anabolic steroids, and any controlled substance any interscholastic contests or activities participated in by that student will be forfeited.**

Coaches and other school officials are not expected to police off school grounds or non-school activities. We do have the responsibility to investigate credible complaints registered against our athletes. A credible complaint is made in person or signed documents. An anonymous tip is generally not considered a credible tip requiring investigation.

- It could lead to an investigation if the anonymous tip adds to a list of other suspicions you may have concerning an athlete. In this case share your concerns with the Athletic Director and Principal.
- **Concerns About Officials** – If you have a complaint concerning an official's ability or conduct you are to bring it to the attention to the NDHSAA. Berating in the press or on radio or TV violates a coach's code of ethics and the rules of sportsmanship. **The MLS Public School will initiate disciplinary action if a coach violates this rule.**
- **Requisitions** - Grade, junior high and assistant coaches should make recommendations to their head coach for equipment needed for the following year. Head coaches should then present athletic program needs to the activities director. The AD will consult with the superintendent on the items requested. All high priced items the Superintendent has final approval. Fall and winter coaches should make their requests shortly after the completion of their season. Spring coaches should make their requests in January proceeding their season.
- **Purchase Orders** - All purchases to be billed through the school office must be accompanied by a school purchase order obtained from the business manager.

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- A form for equipment / clothing being billed to the school but paid for by the athlete is located in the forms section of this handbook.
  - Athletes should pay for the equipment / clothing before the order is placed.
  - A purchase order is still required for items being purchased by the student.
  - Unauthorized Purchases:
    - Any coach or staff member who makes an unauthorized purchase of equipment or supplies does so at the risk of **personal liability**.
    - The school district **will not** recognize this purchase or assist with the payment of the debt for these items.
- **Student Purchases-** If you plan to order clothing items for the team that will be paid for by the students themselves the request must be made to the Athletic Director and approved by the Superintendent. Money should be collected from students before the order is placed. A purchase order must be obtained from the business manager if the purchase is to be billed to the school.
- **Care of Equipment & Uniforms**

The procedure for issuing, collecting, storing, and accounting of equipment and uniforms for all sports is the responsibility of the members of the coaching staff at the High School and Junior High levels. The Varsity Coach may delegate to subordinate coaches but retains responsibility for all equipment and uniforms.

### **Coaches should review the following**

1. All uniforms and equipment will be inventoried.
  2. The coach will inventory / count all uniforms no later than **one week prior to the first game** to insure each athlete has a uniform and necessary equipment. The coach will also distribute equipment / uniforms to players and record items and numbers on equipment sign out form.
  3. When LAHS teams are participating in NDHSAA contests, only school issued uniforms will be worn by our athletes.
  4. Extra uniforms will be stored and locked in a secure area by the coach.
  5. Any changes in uniform issue will be recorded by the coach as the season progresses.
  6. Coaches will insure that uniforms are properly cleaned and maintained by players throughout the season.
  7. Uniforms will be collected by coaches from the team at a specified time at the end of the season, in clean condition.
  8. Coaches should make repeated efforts to get equipment back. Failure to return equipment should be penalized by withholding awards and ceremony privileges, in addition to being charged for replacement.
  9. Athletes that have not returned all uniforms and equipment shall not be issued a uniform or equipment the following season. (Include this on your end of season report).
  10. Coaches have not completed their obligations until a complete inventory of all equipment and uniforms has been completed.
  11. Equipment may not be loaned to athletes out of season without approval of the Athletic Director.
  12. If reconditioning is necessary, notify the Athletic Director at the end of season interview.
- **Disposing of Old Uniforms and Equipment**
    - Uniforms that will no longer be used by any of our athletic teams should be.
      - Donated to other programs in need. JH/Elementary programs

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- Sold to students or alumni for a nominal fee.
  - Disposed of.
- Equipment that will no longer be used should:
  - Properly disposed of by disabling it so it cannot be used. It can not be left as a temptation for others to use.
  - If it is to be given to an athlete as a training aid at home a parent or guardian must sign a release. ([Appendix #13](#))
- **Booster Club Requests** –
  - The Mavericks Boosters Club are active in supporting all our athletic teams. When making a request for financial assistance please fill out a form and give the Athletic Director a copy.
- **Fundraisers** - Many coaches have run various types of fundraisers to supplement the funding of their programs. The **athletic director and principal must approve** all fundraisers. To bring some uniformity to this process and to make it easier for our office staff to process this income:
  - Things to keep in mind when fundraising:
    - Have limitations. Is this a needed fundraiser?
    - Try to avoid going to businesses and asking for donations.
      - Sell a product or perform a service instead.
    - All raised money while fundraising for MLSHS athletes and while being a coach in our school system will go through the office.
- **Expense Reimbursement** – Any expenses that will be reimbursed must be preapproved by administration
- **Mandatory Rules Clinics:** Most clinics are now completed online through the NDHSAA website. If you do not complete within allotted time **you will be responsible for the fine.**
- **Athletes Quitting a Team** – If a student quits a team in season (contests have begun) he/she will not be allowed to participate in another sport/activity until he/she has returned all uniforms / equipment issued to the athlete.
- **Physicals:** Each athlete must annually have a physical examination completed by a Doctor of Medicine or Osteopathy, Nurse Practitioner, or Physicians Assistant under the supervision of a physician. Physical forms must be on file before they are allowed to practice.
- The physical examination or health updates must be taken **April 15** or later to be valid for the coming school year.
- **Practice Attire:** Athletes must wear shirts during, going to and returning from practice.
- **Counting Practice Days:** The number of required practices needed for contest participation can not begin until a completed physical is on file with the athletic director or the high school office.

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- **Practice Scheduling** - Coaches sharing facilities should meet before their season to work on practice scheduling. If needed consult the athletic director. When the practice schedule has been completed give a copy to the athletic director. When scheduling practices take into consideration:
    - Sunday practices only allowed under the following provisions:
      - After 2 p.m.
      - Must have a game on Monday
    - Consult the schools master schedule for concerts or other conflicts.
    - Wednesday is church night. All practices must be concluded prior to 5:45 PM.
    - Setup for games must also be considered when planning a practice. Custodians / coaches need time and room to properly set up the gym for a game.
    - Arrangements must be made to have the locker rooms available when visiting teams arrive,
    - Teams must be allowed sufficient time to warm up for the game. Junior High & JV teams need at least 20 minutes while varsity teams need at least 30 minutes.
  - **Supervision of Athletes** - Have a coach supervising all areas our athletes are using. Meetings, locker room, practice areas, game areas, trips. A coach must:
    - Remain in the school until all your athletes have left after practice or games.
    - If you're the last to leave the school be sure the doors are locked.
    - Be the first to enter and last to leave when your team enters another school.
    - Maintain close supervision when your team stops in public places while on trips.
  - **Senior / Parents Night** – For the final home game of the year all programs that provide game programs for their games will include a special recognition before that night's game.
- NDHSAA Requirements** –There are requirements from the NDHSAA that must be completed by all head coaches. All high school teams must have a roster and varsity team picture (with cutline), and schedule uploaded to the NDHSAA web site, many sports also have timelines to register athletes for postseason competition. Be sure to check and double check **all requirement dates** for your sport and make sure they are completed in time. **Coaches will be responsible for all fines from the NDHSAA if the requirements are not completed on time.**
- **Transportation** – Coaches must discuss with the AD (preseason form) what timelines they would like to follow for away games. The AD will then prepare the schedule with dismissal times & departure times for the month that will be forwarded to the transportation director.

Coaches must insist of players, managers, cheerleaders etc. riding the team bus to and from games. Students may ride with parents or other adults if the parents have made personal contact with one of the coaches. These occurrences should be rare on the varsity level. **Under no circumstances can an athlete drive him or herself or ride with another student.** Coaches should also hold their team accountable for reasonable bus cleanliness.

**When prior written approval has been given by parents, students may be dropped off at Renville corner, Lansford School or 8 mile corner per coaches discretion.**

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- **Open Gym** - Coaches that open the gym to allow their athlete to get some pre-season work in must follow the following guidelines:
  - Open gyms are open to all athletes and all sports.
  - They do not allow athletes currently in season in another sport to participate without permission from the coach of the sport in season. We must work very hard to respect each others program and allow athletes to focus on the season they are currently in.
  - Kids sometimes feel they can do everything, but it's hard enough keeping up with academics, family responsibilities and their practices without getting up early or staying late working on skills for their next sport
  - A coach must be present in the gym at all times.
- **Report Results to the Media** - It is the head coach's responsibility to contact the media himself or assign an assistant coach to do it. Even after away games it is important to call the media (win or lose) if the school we are playing is out of our normal coverage area.
  - Renville County Farmer – rcf1@srt.com
  - ND High School Sports [ndhighschoolsports@yahoo.com](mailto:ndhighschoolsports@yahoo.com)
  - Minot Daily News
  - Associated Press 1-800-300-8340
  - AP Fax: 1-800-832-0338 Email: [apscores@ap.org](mailto:apscores@ap.org)

### **MEDIA & PUBLIC RELATIONS-**

The Coach - Media relationship doesn't have to be a negative one. Each varsity coach should use the media as a tool to promote their team. Please keep in mind the following tips when speaking with any member of the media:

***Think before you speak.*** Remember you are a representative of the school district, and athletes and their parents will read your comments. Be a good role model

***Be positive and enthusiastic.*** Minimize negative comments, talk about the areas your team did well in and where they might need to improve. Remember that you should not use terms like: **"We stink"** or **"these are the worst players I have ever coached"** and any other phrase that is similar. If you don't have anything good to say - don't say anything.

***Don't blame officials or players.*** It doesn't change the outcome, you will look like a "whiner", and it will seem as if you are looking for any excuse.

***Protect your athletes. Do not*** share the details of any disciplinary actions involving any member(s) of your team. Any comment leaked to the press may lead to civil litigation due to privacy and due process. A simple "No Comment" is a great answer in those situations. If you are unsure of how to answer a difficult question, forward the reporter to the Director of Athletics.

***Call in the score of the contest.*** If you are the **Home Team** then call in the results of each contest immediately after, regardless of the outcome. Do not intentionally fail to contact the

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newspapers because your team lost the contest.

- **Dual Sport Athletes** - In the fall and spring seasons it is possible for an athlete to want to participate in two separate sports. It takes a very special athlete to be able to do this successfully. When this does occur the athlete must inform both head coaches which program will be his/her priority sport. This is necessary when conflicts occur between the two sports, especially when this occurs late in the season as teams near or enter post-season competition. It is only fair that each team and coach know going into the season where the athlete's priority will be. An exception to this rule will be considered when the athlete is participating at the sub varsity level in their designated sport and have the opportunity to participate at the varsity level in their other sport. The student should be encouraged to participate at the varsity level.
- **Overlap of Seasons**- When seasons overlap due to post-season competition athletes must be allowed to concentrate on their sport involved in post-season competition. Once eliminated from advancement they shall be allowed to join their next season's activity.
- **Guidelines for Lettering**
  - **Football**
    - Participate in at least 8 quarters of varsity game play.
    - No Unexcused Practices
  - **Basketball**
    - Participate in varsity game play. (Quarter minimum set by coach)
    - No unexcused practices
  - **Track**
    - An athlete must score 3 or more points in a meet or they have to place in a varsity meet
    - No unexcused practices
  - **Golf**
    - The athlete must place in the top five MLS scores in any one meet that they participate in.
    - No unexcused practices
  - **Volleyball**
    - Participate in at least 6 varsity games
    - No unexcused practices
  - **Baseball/Softball**
    - Participate in at least five (5) innings of varsity play. (Partial inning participation in a given game will be applied as full inning participation at a game's end)
    - No unexcused practices
  - **Trap Shooting**
    - Must average 17 points or more per round at the end of the season
    - May not miss any competitions weeks during the season
    - Must participate consistently with the team for 2 years or more
    - No unexcused practices
  - **Student Managers/Stats**
    - Be at all required practices and games
    - No unexcused practices

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- **Music-Band**
    - Two semesters of participation in band and
    - Perform a solo or be a member of an ensemble in district competition, OR
    - Four semesters of participation in band
  - **Music-Chorus**
    - Two semesters of participation in chorus and
    - Perform a solo or be a member of an ensemble in district competition, Or
    - Four semesters of participation in chorus
  - **Speech**
    - Students must attend a minimum of four meets throughout the season.
    - Students must compete in the regional contest
  - **Drama**
    - Students must attend all scheduled practices unless permitted to miss by the director
    - Students must participate in the regional one-act competition
- **Awards** - Again each coach will decide what post season awards to give. A copy of all award winners shall be given to the athletic director.
- **State Tournament Attendance** –
- **Our team participating:**
    - Coaches and advisors directly in charge of the program will be provided transportation and rooms (rooms depend on location of tournament).
    - Coaches are responsible for their athletes throughout.
- Scheduling** - Head coaches should address next year's schedule well in advance of the end of their season. Consult with the athletic director if any major changes are planned. The sooner we can address any schedule changes the better. Some games may have been scheduled on multi - year agreements.
- **Fall sports should bring scheduling concerns by the first of October.**
  - **Winter sports should bring scheduling concerns by the first of January.**
- **Advancement of Junior High School Athletes to Varsity Teams**
- Junior High Athletes may be moved up to Varsity or JV competition  
Procedure must be followed, and a form will be filled out from the athletic director.
- **District/Region/State Passes** – Passes are awarded
- Active Players and a stats person (up to the maximum number of athletes on the team roster prior to the tournament plus two for stats)
  - Coaches and spouses (4 Passes)
  - Admin passes (6 passes)
  - Regular season home Bench Workers (3 Passes)
  - If any passes remain, they will be given out at the discretion of the athletic director

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- **Off Staff Code** – Non-school coaches that are hired to fill coaching staffs will be subject to a background check.
- **Coach – Athlete Communication** – There is a fine line that must be drawn between the coach and the athlete. You cannot come close to it, let alone cross it. The athletes in your program don't need another friend. They need a COACH!  
Sports you will be used by teams to communicate changes in schedules for games or practices.
- **Concussion Management** – In the spring of 2011 The North Dakota state legislature approved a law, NDCC 15.1-18.2 that requires school districts to implement a concussion management program. The law requires all school districts provide concussion information to student athletes and parents. The law further requires each school district must document that student athletes and parents have viewed the information before students will be allowed to participate.
  - Our coaches will be required to receive biennial training in regard the nature and risk of concussion. (NFHS online concussion course)

