

**MEDWAY SCHOOL BOARD
ATHLETIC POLICY**

PHILOSOPHY

The primary purpose of interscholastic sports is to contribute to the overall development of the student in concert with the school's philosophy and goals. In this regard it is the responsibility of the athletic program to encourage the participation of all students who wish to be involved in any and all activities. The Medway School Board believes strongly in the development of the total student-athlete and thus understands the athletic program to be an extension of our school program. We work to meet the individual needs and to provide for successful experiences for the student in the classroom: we extend these goals to all our extra and co-curricular programs.

GUIDELINES FOR ELIGIBILITY

Academic Eligibility

In order to be eligible for an upcoming sports season the student must have all "M" or "PM" grades for each self-directed learner expectation.

- A. Student participants who have one or more "DM" in any self-directed learner expectation at the time of either progress reports or report cards will be placed on academic probation for a period of ten (10) school days.
 - 1. In order to reengage in the extra curricular activity at the end of ten (10) school days, students must:
 - a. show evidence of receiving help by staying after school and
 - b. show an effort to the AD that indicates improvement and progress toward a "PM" or "M".
 - 2. Any student who misses practice to receive extra academic help will not be penalized with regard to participation in the extra curricular event.
 - 3. If a student does not show evidence of effort to improve and/or does not earn a "PM" or "M" at the end of the ten (10) school days, the student will be removed from the team for the rest of the season.

- B. Incompletes will be interpreted as a "DM" in work completion. Incompletes must be made up within two weeks of the end of a ranking period in order for the student to become eligible to participate.

- C. The Pupil Evaluation Team will review eligibility of students governed by an individual education plan as appropriate.

- D. Students are also ineligible when they are not regularly enrolled, competed under an assumed name or has participated in an outside team to which an objection is made by local school authorities.

- E. Any student may be temporarily removed from practice or games, by the discretion of the principal or AD, due to lack of work completion or behavior.

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PROCEDURES

Coaches should work with individual students and use probation, temporary suspension, or removal from any activity if either the student's grades are below base requirements or behavior is unsatisfactory.

The Athletic Director is responsible for ensuring that athletes are academically eligible to remain able to participate. Coaches must stress the importance of good grades and attitudes. Coaches should work with students and teachers to ensure their continued eligibility.

This ATHLETIC POLICY will be reviewed with all students at the beginning of school in September and will be included in the Student Handbook.

Attendance at School

Regular school attendance is required of all student-athletes. Student-athletes absent from school any part of the day of a game or practice shall not participate without an excuse as defined by law. Maine State Law (Title 20-A, Section 5001) lists five reasons for excusable absences. These are:

1. Personal Illness – To be verified by appropriate authority as deemed appropriate by the school administration.
2. Appointments with health professionals that cannot be made outside of the regular school day. Appropriate documentation may be requested by the school administration.
3. Observance of recognized religious holidays when the observance is required during a regular school day. Appropriate documentation may be requested by the school administration. Required means that there is no other opportunity for the observance.
4. Emergency family situations as deemed appropriate by the school administration.
5. Planned absences for personal or educational purposes, which have been pre-approved by the school administration.

If a student is absent the day of an activity because of personal illness (Excusable absence #1 above), the student may not participate in the activity. If a student is absent for other excusable reasons the day of the activity (Excusable absences #2 – 5 above), the coach and the administration shall determine if the student is eligible to participate. Students absent for any unexcused reasons (any reason not listed above) shall not participate.

If an activity is scheduled for a weekend and a student is absent on Friday for an excused reason (Excusable absences #1 – 5 above), the coach and the administration shall verify the reason and determine if the student is eligible to play. The primary consideration shall be the well-being of the student.

If a student is chronically absent, (absent 10% or more of the school year) he/she may not be allowed to participate in the activity. If a student is successfully following an attendance contract, he/she may participate. If the student does not follow the attendance contract, participation may be revoked by administration.

Conduct

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Participation in extracurricular activities involve certain responsibilities to the school and community.

All students participating in athletics, or extracurricular activities, do so voluntarily, and are expected to adhere to certain standards commonly accepted as promoting healthy bodies and minds, and in keeping with the traditions of amateur athletic participation. Students who choose to participate are expected and presumed to understand and accept this responsibility as a condition of their participation.

The following behavior constitutes a violation of Medway School Board standards:

- A. Behavior which results in being found guilty in a court of law or committing a juvenile offense.
- B. Using any form of alcohol or illegal substance (ie. Drugs)- *See Drug & Alcohol Use Policy*
- C. Being suspended or expelled from school.
- D. Being a consistent or serious disciplinary problem in school or while representing the school or community.

Frequent detentions and/or reports of inappropriate behavior may cause a suspension from a team. School administration and the Athletic Director will determine when a one-week suspension is necessary. Students are expected to be on their best behavior when they are representing their school and community at practices and games. Flagrant misbehavior may result in suspension and/or expulsion from the team to be determined after a meeting between the coach and the administration.

Physicals

Student athletes must have a current physical examination prior to beginning practice for an athletic activity. This examination will be valid for two (2) years.

A Student Extra-Curricular Activity Information Sheet will be submitted each year, prior to sport participation, to the school nurse for review. Information Sheets needing further evaluation will be sent to the student's personal physician, or school physician, and a physical exam given if indicated.

Insurance

All student athletes must show proof of insurance in order to participate at any practice or game.

INJURIES

Student athletes are to report all injuries immediately to the coach/advisor, regardless of severity.

Practice

Practice policies will be determined by the coach, but it is the expectation that *all* athletes on the team will participate during practice sessions in a meaningful way. Practices are to be used for the development of all participants. If it is necessary to miss a practice it is the student's responsibility to notify the coach before the practice. A practice schedule will be established. Coaches will schedule enough practices to adequately prepare students. Practices and/or games will not exceed five per week at the middle school level. Saturday practices may be scheduled for

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teams at the middle school level from time to time with the approval of administration, but attendance will be optional.

MISCELLANEOUS

Awards

Every participating student will be recognized by a certificate and/or a small token. Fall, winter, and spring ceremonies will be held.

Dress and Grooming

Students are expected to follow the school dress code when dressing for athletic events. We also encourage students to dress nicely when attending an away game (ex. Dress pants, button up or polo shirt, etc.) If clothing for away games becomes a financial hardship, please let the school know ahead of time. Students who do not dress appropriately for away games will be asked to call home for a change of clothes.

Emergency Card

Every coach will have an emergency card for each child. The coach will have these cards with them at all practices and/or games.

Equipment and Clothing

The student-athlete will assume responsibility for all issued equipment and clothing and will be assessed for any lost or damaged items. The student-athlete will complete a form when issued equipment and/or clothing so that proper records are maintained.

Playing Time

The above mentioned philosophy states that the primary purpose of inter-scholastic sports is to contribute to the overall development of the student. Keeping in line with the fact that the Medway School Board believes strongly in the development of the total student-athlete, all coaches are strongly encouraged to allow each student athlete to participate in each contest in a meaningful way.

Travel

When bus transportation is provided, all student-athletes are required to travel to and from out-of-town contests with the team. Permission may be granted by the coach to allow a student-athlete to be released to his parent or guardian provided the parent/guardian makes personal contact with the coach and signs a release form for the student. Permission may be granted by the Administration to allow a student to be taken to games with prior approval from the school office.

“No Cut”

All students meeting the above requirements who complete tryouts for a sport shall be assigned to a team.

REVISED 8.21.17 Second Reading and adoption: 10/10/2017

Revised: May 1, 2012

Adopted Date: 1/20/98

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Code - R

**PROCEDURES CONCERNING BASKETBALL TEAM
SELECTION AND SCHEDULING**

1. All seventh and eighth grade students who come out for basketball will be assigned to either the A Team or the B Team.
2. From 12 to 15 players will be chosen by the coach for the A Team. The remaining players will be assigned to the B Team.
3. If the resulting B Team has fewer than twelve players as of November 15th, the Athletic Director may allow sixth graders to try out to fill the roster of twelve players.
4. There will be no sixth graders on the A Team. (Suspended 1/14/2020 until further review)
5. Regular season game recommendations will be:
 - A. A Team – Fourteen games
 - B. B Team – Eight games
6. The Boys and Girls teams may participate in one post-season tournament sponsored by the school department. If teams attend, school transportation must be provided.

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