

MOHAWK LOCAL SCHOOLS

Home of the Warriors



Athletic Handbook 2021-22

PHILOSOPHY

The purpose of the Mohawk Schools Athletic Department is to provide a well-balanced and well-planned program of interscholastic athletics consistent with available facilities, personnel and financial support and to operate and manage these athletic activities in harmony with the policies of the Mohawk Local School District Board of Education and the Ohio High School Athletic Association.

Participation in any Mohawk athletic program is an honor and a privilege, not a right.

All such programs shall be based on the following premises:

1. Interscholastic athletics are an integral part of the overall educational program.
2. The main concern of scholastic athletics is the overall development of the student.
3. Athletics is a primary area of exposure to the public.
4. All students are encouraged to participate in the opportunities at Mohawk.
5. The fundamental functions of Mohawk School extra-curricular activities and athletics lies in the work within the classrooms and that extracurricular work should supplement, not interfere with the educational process.
6. It is vital to instill such values as honor, integrity, and sportsmanship in order to develop winners on and off the field.

GOALS

Mohawk offers a variety of boys' and girls' sporting opportunities. These programs operate under the direction of the Mohawk Board of Education, the Ohio High School Athletic Association, the Northern 10 Athletic Conference, Superintendent, Principal, Athletic Director and coaching staff.

In those programs, there are other goals greater than winning a contest, particularly the experience of working cooperatively toward a common goal with a team, applying hard work and effort, and competing within the guidelines of the game.

Other goals include learning one's own physical capabilities and abilities, practicing sportsmanship and graciousness win or lose. Participating in activities should provide recreation and entertainment for participants and spectators alike.

GENERAL EXPECTATIONS OF STUDENT-ATHLETES

General Code of Conduct

- Attend all scheduled practices and contests unless prior arrangements are made with the coach.
- Return all equipment in the same condition it was issued within one week from the last contest.
- Maintain academic eligibility.
- Attend all classes and maintain a good working relationship with all instructors.
- Conduct one's self in such a way that underclassmen will look up to and follow examples.
- Adhere to all team and school rules.
- Strive with strength and determination to do your best.
- Put team needs before individual desires.

And demonstrate sportsmanship – which includes:

- Winning with humility. Losing with grace. And doing both with dignity.
- Treating opponents, fans and officials with respect.
- Respecting the judgment of officials and abide by the rules of the game.
- Accepting the responsibility and privilege of representing Mohawk athletics by displaying positive actions at all times.

Mohawk Student-Athletes must understand that all rules are established with the best interest of all student-athletes and teams in mind and that THESE GUIDELINES ARE YEAR-ROUND, REGARDLESS OF SEASON AND/OR CURRENT PARTICIPATION.

GENERAL POLICIES

Participation in Multiple Activities

- Students may participate in multiple extracurricular activities during the same season if the following criteria are met:
- Student-athlete must file in writing their intent of multi-participation before the official OHSAA start of the season with the Athletic Director.
 - Athletes, parents, Athletic Director, the school principal and coaches will meet prior to the first practice to help determine the participation priorities for the athlete, which will be set forth in a written agreement.
 - If any party desires for changes to be made to the agreement, another meeting will be convened.
 - Continuity of each athletic program is maintained.
 - The student maintains academic eligibility and demonstrates positive participation in both/all extracurricular activities.
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PRE-SEASON

ATHLETIC DOCUMENTS

All student athletes must have the required athletic paperwork completed and filed into **FINAL FORMS** prior to participation in any activity, including pre-season and off-season conditioning and workouts. Failure or refusal to sign or complete these forms will disqualify the student-athlete from participation. Any student-athlete participating in any school athletic program shall carry either the district's student insurance or provide a written statement signed by the student's parent or guardian confirming that the parent or guardian is providing the insurance (Board Policy 8760).

OHSAA Authorization Form	Mohawk High School Participation Contract
OHSAA Eligibility and Authorization Statement	Mohawk Emergency medical form
OHSAA Physical form (good for one school year)	Mohawk Insurance form
OHSAA "Lindsay's Law" Verification Form	Mohawk Informed Consent
Ohio Concussion Information Sheet	

All forms except a physical form, which requires a signature from a health care provider, are to be completed in Final Forms. After a student-athlete's examination, a hard copy of the physical form must be returned to have it uploaded into Final Forms.

ATHLETE HEALTH and FITNESS

Athletic Training Services

- The health and safety of our student-athletes are of foremost concern. Mohawk provides a trainer for home contests and will travel with the varsity football team.
- The athletic trainer will set hours during the week in the training room(s) and arrangements can be made through the coach when needed. The trainer is not a doctor, but he/she can make recommendations. EMS and a physician will be present for all home varsity football games.
- If an athlete is injured during a contest and a physician or trainer is present and renders treatment, the athlete must have the approval of the physician or trainer before returning to play or practice. The physician or trainer will determine the extent and level of return to play or practice, not the coach or parent/guardian.
- Other Health related: Athletes are required to comply with all health and safety requirements and executive orders issued by state, local, and federal authorities. These may include additional COVID-19 requirements.

Concussions

- A concussion is a traumatic brain injury that interferes with normal function of the brain. "Bell ringers" are serious brain injuries, and loss of consciousness is not required for it to be considered serious. Ohio's Return to Play Law of 2013 requires coaches or referees to remove from play any athlete who exhibits signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with a concussion, such as loss of consciousness, headache, dizziness, confusion or balance problems; the student-athlete cannot return to play for the remainder of that day. Thereafter, the student cannot return to practice or competition until cleared with written authorization from a physician or trainer approved by the school board in accordance with state law.

ACADEMICS

Participation Eligibility

The academic eligibility for student-athletes at Mohawk School is determined by standards and requirements set forth by the Constitution and Bylaws of the Ohio High School Athletic Association and the Mohawk Local School District Board of Education.

Academic Eligibility

- High school student-athletes must pass the equivalent of five (5) one credit courses that count toward graduation each prior grading period in order to be fully or provisionally eligible for the current grading period.
- Junior high school student-athletes must have passing grades in 4 subjects taken in the preceding grading period. All 7th graders have full eligibility for the first quarter of the school year.
- The grade point average (GPA) is evaluated at the end of each quarter grading period and is applied to the following quarter grading period.
- Notification: The Athletic Director will investigate the academic standing of all student-athletes involved in preseason or tryouts for a sport and will provide a list of limited eligible athletes and notify the parents or guardians in writing. Each head coach will receive a list of limited eligible students at each quarter. Interim GPA calculations will be used to evaluate student's continued participation in the study table.
- If a student-athlete's quarterly grades qualify him/her to return to full or provisional participation in the next grading period, that return may begin on the first day of the new grade period.
- **Full eligibility: A quarter GPA of 2.0 or higher**
- **Provisional Eligibility: A quarter GPA of 1.70 to 1.99**
- Provisional Eligibility allows for athletic participation as long as the student-athlete attends two mandatory study table sessions per week.
- If a student misses a study table session, he/she will forfeit the privilege of participation in one game or performance. Any subsequent missed study table session will result in immediate dismissal from the current sport/activity for the remainder of the season.
- Interim GPA calculations will be used to evaluate continued participation in the study table.
- **Limited Eligibility: NOT Passing five (5) credits (4 JH) AND/OR a quarter GPA of 1.69 or less.**
- A student-athlete with a quarter GPA of 1.69 or less and/or less than passing grades in five (5) credits (4 JH) will be granted limited athletic participation privileges. These students MAY attend practice, team dinners, travel, pictures, roster, pep rallies, Senior Night, obtaining a uniform, but MAY NOT dress for and compete in contests until eligibility standards are reached in the next grading period. These students must also attend two mandatory study table sessions per week.
- If a student with limited eligibility has reached grades that would qualify him/her for full eligibility at the time of the release of midterm grades, they may reduce their study table sessions to once per week.

Age

Any 7th or 8th grade student who attains the age of 15 prior to August 15 may not participate in junior high athletics, but may participate in high school athletic programs.

Transfer Students

Students transferring into the district and interested in participating in athletics should meet with the athletic director. This is to verify your eligibility status with the Ohio High School Athletic Association transfer regulations.

Academic Credit

Students who complete two athletic seasons on any athletic team will be eligible to receive one $\frac{1}{4}$ academic credit applied to physical education class requirements.

ATHLETICS and SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Students are expected to be in all classes each school day. Students involved in athletics or extracurricular activities may not be absent more than ninety (90) minutes of the school day in order to participate in an extracurricular activity that day unless a medical excuse is submitted upon arrival or prior approval has been granted by the Athletic Director or the school principal.

IN-SEASON

Equipment

All athletic equipment is the property of the Mohawk Local School and is to be treated with pride and respect.

- Any equipment issued is to be worn only at practice or during scholastic contests involving that sport, unless otherwise specified and permitted by the coach and Athletic Director.
- School owned equipment is not to be taken from the buildings for use by another organization
- Each athlete is responsible for all equipment issued. Any items lost, stolen, damaged, or not returned in the same condition will become the athlete's financial responsibility.
- Under certain conditions items such as jerseys and uniforms can be sold to senior players after the season. This sale will be controlled by the head coach and Athletic Director.
- Equipment and uniforms belonging to the school must be returned to the head coach upon request. Anyone not complying with this policy will not be allowed to participate in their next sport and/or graduation until all equipment and uniforms have been returned to the coach.

Facilities

- Mohawk students have facilities and equipment made available to them by the Mohawk Local Schools and the Mohawk Athletic Boosters. In order to maintain these facilities, all activities in the gym, field house, weight room, locker room, outdoor facilities, MCI building or auditorium must be supervised by a coach or board-approved adult.

Scheduling Of Practices/Events

School Cancellations

- High School sport practices and contests will continue as scheduled if weather permits.
- Activities and practices may be changed with the permission of the Athletic Director or principal.
- Practices are not mandatory and no student-athlete will be penalized for absence.
- Junior High events and/or practices will not take place when school is cancelled.

Early Dismissal Due to Inclement Weather

- All after school activities will be cancelled unless special exceptions are made.
- Special exceptions may be made by the principal, Athletic Director and coaches involved.
- Practices are not mandatory and no student-athlete will be penalized for not being in attendance.

Transportation

- Head coaches reserve the right to require team members to ride the bus before and after contests. Parents or guardians may be granted permission to take his/her student home if written permission is granted by the head coach or Athletic Director.
- If an athlete wishes to ride home with an adult other than a parent or guardian, written requests must be made by all adults involved.
- Teams not using the school bus must be transported by parents/guardians of the athletes or coaches to and from athletic contests. Any exception to this must have written consent from the parents of the student-athletes involved using the school-approved permission form and have administrative approval of arrangements.
- If a team member misses the bus, the athlete will not be allowed to participate in that event. Any exception must be arranged prior to the departure time with the coach.
- All early dismissals for athletic contests will be arranged in advance so student athletes will have time to get assignments in advance for any missed class time.

Wednesday/Sunday practice policy

- Wednesday practices will be completed by 6:30 p.m. and Wednesday contests will be avoided when possible. Exceptions include baseball and softball games and any contests scheduled for special circumstances including, but not limited to special events, tournament games and make-up games.
- Sunday contests and/or practices are prohibited without the prior approval of the school administration.

DISCIPLINE

Incident Reporting

Any information gathered from anonymous sources, cyberspace or any social network outlets can be used in discipline matters or proceedings if the administration deems the information credible, or authentic. The source of such information does not have to be divulged by the administration.

Regulations/Violations/Denial of Participation Procedures

- A copy of all individual coaches' rules must be distributed and reviewed with all athletes and a copy filed with the Athletic Director prior to the first scheduled practice.
- A coach may deny an athlete participation in team activities for no more than five school days for team rule violations.
- Coaches shall explain the infraction to the athlete and the cause of any denial of participation.
- A coach will file a report with the Athletic Director within three (3) days stating the reason for denial of participation, date of infraction, and action taken.
- If a coach feels a student-athlete has violated a rule(s) to such a degree that it warrants removal from the team, he/she will file a written request with the Athletic Director.
- If the Athletic Director agrees with removal of the athlete from the team, then the removal may take place.
- The Superintendent, High School Principal and Athletic Director are authorized to take any action in connection with the rules and expectations provided in this section and may also include the following sections:

Criminal Activity

- Any student, while a member of an athletic team representing Mohawk Local School, who engages in serious criminal activity, as determined by the District Administration, may be subject to appropriate discipline, including dismissal from the team.
- Any student, while a member of a Mohawk athletic team, home or away, who destroys, damages, defaces, or steals any property of Mohawk School, including school buses, or property of an opponent's school or facilities will be disciplined by their coach and could be subject to school discipline and/or dismissal from the squad. Any repair costs or restitution for damages are the responsibility of the student found to have caused such damage.
- Obscene or inappropriate gestures, profanity or disrespect to officials, coaches, players, or fans will not be tolerated. The limit of such behavior is at the determination of the administration, athletic director, or coach and may result in discipline, removal from the contest and/or dismissal from the team as set forth above..
- Athletes may be referred to the following services/activities following a violation of these regulations as a condition of future participation: counseling services, conferences with parents, community service, restriction from participation, after or before school for additional school work or for counseling.

Hazing/Bullying

Hazing/Bullying/Cyberbullying is prohibited by law. A student should not use any intimidation, either physical or mental, to create an atmosphere of fear or mental anguish to members of his/her team. This includes those actions taken and situations created in connection with initiation into any team or organization. Any student athlete found to be instigating or involved in taking part in hazing, bullying, and/or cyberbullying of another student and/or student athlete may be denied participation in team activities.

ALCOHOL, TOBACCO, DRUGS USE POLICY

The Mohawk Local Schools Board of Education requires that each student enrolling in one or more of the district's interscholastic athletic programs must sign an enrollment application by which they agree to participate in a random and reasonable suspicion drug testing program, conducted and paid for by the district, during the term of the academic year in which the student will be participating.

The Superintendent or designee shall develop administrative guidelines which provide for a drug testing procedure that will produce consistently reliable test results and protects the student's rights to privacy.

Any athlete who tests positive for illicit, banned or controlled substances as defined under federal law (hereinafter "drugs"), other than a prescribed medication, shall be disciplined in accordance with the Mohawk Local Schools' Drug Testing Policy, and the Athletic Code of Conduct adopted by the Board.

Alcohol, Tobacco, Drugs Use Incident Reporting

- The student-athlete may be reported by a responsible adult witnessing the violation and the adult must be willing to: Appear at a school hearing pertaining to the witnessing of the violation, sign a statement that he/she witnessed the violation, be part of the investigation by the administration related to the allegations.
- It is the responsibility of the athlete to leave gatherings where alcohol or drugs are present. Student athletes may be questioned by the administration, coach or athletic directors if there is reasonable suspicion to suggest that a violation has occurred.

Alcohol, Tobacco, Drugs Use Violations/Discipline

- The use, sale, possession, distribution, consumption, and transport of alcohol, tobacco (including any alternative nicotine product), and other drugs cannot and will not be permitted by Mohawk student athletes, regardless if their parent/guardians are present.
- The use, sale, possession, distribution, consumption, and transport of any drugs or any look-alike substance or drug paraphernalia, such as but not limited to vapor devices, regardless of whether drugs, alcohol, or tobacco are found in or on such paraphernalia, will not be permitted and will result in discipline measures.
- The Athletic Code of Ethics is enforced year round. Therefore, any alcohol, drug and tobacco offenses will accumulate.
- For High School students, the violation accumulation period is: the conclusion of the eighth grade year through the conclusion of the senior year.
- For Junior High Students, the violation accumulation period is: 30 days prior to the start of the 7th grade year through the conclusion of the 8th grade year.

Self-Referral:

- A student may provide a self-referral, which may be done only once in grades 7-8 and once in grades 9-12. Self-referrals can only happen before a test is performed and will result in a 50% reduction of the pending penalty upon registration with a certified chemical dependency program or counselor and the passage of additional testing, as determined by District Administration.
- Self-referrals are encouraged at any time, but can only be used to reduce the penalties for the first or second violation.

Alcohol, Tobacco, Drugs Use Offense Schedule

First Offense

- The student-athlete will be denied participation for 20% of all games played in that sport season or upcoming sport season, as determined by the Athletic Director. If there are not enough games remaining to cover the penalty, it will carry over to the next sport in which he/she participates.
- The athlete must participate in all practices during their denial of participation. They must attend all contests and sit with the team on the bench, though they may not participate in warm-up activities or wear the team uniform.
- The student must make an appointment with a certified chemical dependency counselor (or at an agency certified by the Ohio Department of Health or the Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services) for chemical dependency assessment and follow the recommendations of the program. The parent/guardian is responsible for all expenses and for providing Mohawk Local Schools with documentation that the student completed all recommendations of the program. This must be done before the athlete may return to athletics.
- There will be no credit of games given for attending counseling. Games missed due to ineligibility and/or injury time and scrimmages will not count towards fulfilling the denial of participation.
- The student must also test negative in a drug/alcohol screen test before they may return to the team or start another sport. This test will be at the athletes own expense.

Second Offense

- The student-athlete will be denied participation from all athletic competitions for a period of ninety team contact days. This will not include Sundays or days when a sport is not in season.
- This 90-day denial of participation will carry over into the next athletic season in which the student-athlete desires to participate.
- The student must make an appointment with a certified chemical dependency counselor and follow recommendations of the program. The parent/guardian is responsible for all expenses and for providing Mohawk Local Schools with documentation that the student completed all program recommendations. This must be done before the athlete may return to athletics.
- The student must also test negative in a drug/alcohol screen test before they may return to the team or start another sport. This test will be at the athletes own expense.

Subsequent Offenses

- If an athlete has a second offense within a calendar year of the first offense they will be denied participation for a calendar year from the date that the penalty is first imposed.

Third Offense

- The student-athlete will be denied participation from all interscholastic athletics for one calendar year from the date that the penalty is first imposed.
- Denial of participation will be preceded by the student-athlete being given the opportunity to explain his/her conduct..
- The parents/guardians of the athlete in violation of the aforementioned policies will be notified of the denial of participation by the coach, Athletic Director, or principal.
- Any student convicted of a felony charge will be denied participation in accordance with a third offense procedure.
- The student must make an appointment with a certified chemical dependency counselor and follow recommendations of the program. The parent/guardian/custodial liaison is responsible for all expenses and for providing Mohawk Local Schools with documentation that the student completed all recommendations of the program. This must be done before the athlete may return to athletics.
- The student must also test negative in a drug/alcohol screen test before they may return to the team or start another sport. This test will be at the athletes own expense.

POST-SEASON AWARDS

Simpson and Cheney Awards

- The Gary Cheney Award is presented to Mohawk's outstanding senior male athlete. The Wendy Simpson award is presented to Mohawk's outstanding senior female athlete. The following procedure is used to select those awards:
- As with individual athletic honors in our region (N10, District, etc.) varsity head coaches will nominate candidates for the Simpson and Cheney Awards. Head coaches must choose an athlete on their roster. From all nominees, coaches will then choose a winner. Head coaches will be permitted two male votes and two female votes, assistant coaches one vote. Upon a tie, 'Co-winners' will be awarded.

Varsity Letters

- First year letter winners will receive: Letter "M" and companion certificate, service bar, Numerals (if not already issued) and sport figurine (varsity cheerleaders will receive one megaphone, varsity managers and statisticians will receive a MGR or STAT pin. An athlete who competes but is injured to the point of preventing further participation for the season may receive a varsity letter if at the time of injury he/she would have qualified for a letter.
- Second, third, and fourth year letter winners will receive: Certificate and Service bar
- Award of Participation winners will receive: Certificate of participation, Numerals
- In order to be eligible for a varsity letter, etc. an athlete must have been a member of the team for the entire season.

Requirements to Earn a Mohawk Varsity Letter

- Baseball – Appear in at least half of the games. A pitcher may also receive a letter by starting one-third of the games played or by pitching one-third of the innings played.
- Basketball – Appear in at least half of the total quarters including tournament games.
- Cheerleader – Participate in all regularly scheduled contests unless excused by the advisor.
- Cross Country – Finish as one of Mohawk's top five runners in at least half of the meets or finish as one of Mohawk's top seven in at least two-thirds of the meets.
- Dance – Dance Team awards will be issued from and according to the policies of the Mohawk Music Department
- Football - Appear in at least half of the quarters.
- Golf - Appear in at least half of all varsity contests or place in the top 10 in the league meet.
- Manager - Work for the entire season, with same attendance policy as the athletes.
- Softball - Appear in at least half of games played.
- Track - Must place in the top four in an invitational or earn an average of one point per meet prior to the league meet for the season.
- Volleyball - Appear in at least half of the games.
- Wrestling - Appear in at least half of the contests, with one victory

Varsity M Benefits/Cards

- All Mohawk graduates who have earned at least one varsity letter and participated in Mohawk Athletics during their senior year will receive a one-year pass to all Mohawk High School home athletic events and a one-year membership to the Mohawk Field House Fitness Facility. Both of these cards are valid for one year from the date of graduation. Cards must be obtained from the Mohawk Administration Office.

Wall Of Fame

- Any Mohawk Student-Athlete who is voted to All-Ohio First Team, Second Team, Third Team or Honorable or Special Mention or places at the state tournament will have the honor of having his/her picture added to the Mohawk Wall of Fame. Pictures will be presented at a home event the following calendar season.
- All student-athletes who are named All-Ohio will receive a copy of the picture that is to be displayed.