

MOHAWK WARRIORS



Athletic Handbook 2024-2025

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 athletics is an honor and a privilege, not a right.

This program shall be based on the following premises:

1. Interscholastic athletics are an integral part of the overall educational program.
2. The main objective of scholastic athletics is the overall development of the student.
3. Mohawk Athletics provide the community a primary source of insight to the development of Mohawk students.
4. All students are encouraged to participate in the extra-curricular opportunities provided by Mohawk.
5. As members of Mohawk Athletic teams, student-athletes will develop and practice such values as effort, respect, sportsmanship, integrity, pride and teamwork

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, The Mohawk Schools Superintendent, Principal, Athletic Director and coaching staff.

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

Other goals include developing one's own physical 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

Members of Mohawk's Athletic Teams are expected to...

- Attend all scheduled practices and contests unless prior arrangements are made with the coach.
- Return all equipment in the same condition it was issued.
- Maintain academic eligibility.
- Attend all classes and maintain a respectful working relationship with all instructors.
- Conduct one's self in such a way that 'young Warriors' will admire and model.
- Adhere to all team and school rules
- Strive to perform well in the classroom and in athletics • 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 by displaying positive actions at all times.

All rules and policies described in the Mohawk Athletic Handbook are established with the best interest of all student-athletes and teams therefore, THESE GUIDELINES ARE YEAR-ROUND, REGARDLESS OF SEASON AND/OR CURRENT PARTICIPATION.

GENERAL POLICIES

Participation in Multiple Activities

Students wishing to may participate in multiple extracurricular activities during the same season must meet the following criteria:

- Prior to the official start of the season, the Student-athlete submit a letter of intent to the Mohawk Athletic Director stating the desire to participate in multiple sports in the same season.
 - If such approval is granted, the athletes, parents, Athletic Director, the school principal and coaches will meet prior to the first practice to help determine the participation schedule for the athlete.
 - The continuity and objectives of each athletic program is-must be maintained.
 - In order for the request to be granted, the student-athlete requesting a multi-sport season must provide evidence of a strong academic standing and positive participation in past 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 condition 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 that the parent or guardian is providing the insurance (Board Policy 8760).

All of the following 'e-documents' are to be completed in Final Forms **PRIOR TO ANY TEAM ACTIVITIES**

Contact Information	Directory Information Release
Demographic Information	Drug Testing Policy
Health History & Medical Profile Medications	Athletic Handbook
Injuries & Hospitalizations	SportCare Consent to Treat
Past & Ongoing Health Conditions OHSAA	OHSAA Preseason Meeting Presentation
PPE Physician Questions	OHSAA Student Athlete Eligibility
Emergency Medical Authorization	Concussion Acknowledgement
Pick-Up Permissions	ImPACT Testing Consent
Acceptable Use Policy	Sudden Cardiac Arrest Awareness
Student Handbook	OHSAA Authorization
Release Forms	*OHSAA PPE Physical (for Physicians) – See note below
Consent for Mental Health Counseling Services	

*An OHSAA PPE Physical form must be completed by a health care provider. After a student-athlete's examination, a hard copy of the physical form must be returned to have it uploaded into Final Forms.

ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY

Academic eligibility standards for Mohawk student-athletes are set forth by the Ohio High School Athletic Association and the Mohawk Local School District Board of Education.

OHSAA Standards

High school student-athletes must pass the equivalent of five one-credit courses that count toward graduation in the prior grading period in order to be eligible for the current grading period. Those entering ninth grade, must have passed four courses in the final quarter of their eighth grade year.

Junior High school student-athletes must have passing grades in four (4) subjects in the preceding grading period. - All 7th graders are granted complete eligibility for the first quarter of the school year.

Mohawk Standards – High School

Complete Eligibility:

Five credits AND a quarter GPA of 2.0 or higher

Conditional Eligibility:

Five credits AND a quarter GPA of 1.70 to 1.99

Conditional Eligibility allows for athletic participation on the condition that the student-athlete attends two mandatory study table sessions per week. (If a student misses two study table sessions he/she will forfeit the privilege of participation in one game or performance. Any subsequent missed study table session will result in immediate ineligibility and dismissal from the current sport/activity for the remainder of the season.)

If a student with conditional eligibility has reached grades that would qualify he/she for complete eligibility at the time of the release of midterm grades, they may reduce their study table sessions to once per week.

Limited Eligibility:

A student-athlete with a quarter GPA of 1.69 or less and/or less than passing grades in five (5) credits 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. Students may be able to reach conditional eligibility or complete eligibility at midterm. However, these students must continue to attend two mandatory study table sessions per week. If student athletes do not reach conditional eligibility by midterm of the grading period they will be removed from the team and not granted any continuing participation privileges.

You must attend study tables weekly to remain eligible for practice or participating with your team/activity. This includes the weight room and any extracurricular activity. Study tables are held weekly in a designated room and at a designated time. The Athletic Director will inform you of these dates and times. Your attendance will be documented and sent to the Athletic Director. It is your responsibility to get transportation to the study tables and to be on time. You may not make up a missed study table with any other date or time in order to remain eligible for the upcoming contest.

All policies regarding JH study table and participation match those established for high school students.

ATHLETE HEALTH and FITNESS

Athletic Training Services

- The health and safety of Mohawk student-athletes are of foremost concern. Mohawk partners with Wyandot Memorial Hospital's Sports Care to provide a certified athletic trainer ~~for~~ who will be available at all of Mohawk's home contests and will travel with the varsity football team.
- The athletic trainer will establish a schedule for the training room(s) and arrangements for treatment should be made with both the coaching staff and trainer prior to attending. The trainer is not a doctor, but he/she can make qualified recommendations for athletes, coaches and parents in regards to the health and safety of athletes.
- Sycamore EMS Services 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.
- If an athlete is injured at an away game and receives the services of a medical professional from another school, Mohawk will heed the recommendations of that professional until treatment and the extent and level of return to play can be determined by Mohawk personnel.

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 but not limited to loss of consciousness, headache, dizziness, confusion or balance problems; and from that point forward, 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.

EQUIPMENT

- All athletic equipment is the property of the Mohawk Schools 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 may be sold to senior players after the season with all potential purchases be controlled by the head coach and Athletic Director.
- Equipment and uniforms belonging to Mohawk School must be returned upon request of the head coach. Anyone not complying with this policy will not be allowed to participate in their next sport and/or graduation ceremonies until all equipment and uniforms have been returned.

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 **student** activities in the gym(s), field house, weight

room, locker room(s), 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. If road conditions remain less than ideal at the scheduled time of a practice or event, attendance at that event will remain optional.
- High School sport practices or contests will not be permitted if under a level 2 snow emergency at the time of practice.
- Practices are not mandatory and no student-athlete will be penalized for absence due to weather concerns. In order to be excused from practice due to travel concerns, the student-athlete or his/her parent must notify the coaching staff in advance of practice.
- Activities and practices may be changed with the permission of the Athletic Director or principal.
- Junior High mandatory practices will not take place when school is cancelled for any reason.
- JH games may possibly take place in the event of a fog related closure if weather permits.

• Early Dismissal Due to Inclement Weather/Other Circumstances

- In the event that inclement weather forecasts or other circumstances lead to school being dismissed prior to the regular dismissal time, all after-school activities will be cancelled unless special exceptions for high school events are made by the principal, Athletic Director and coaches involved.

Transportation

- Head coaches reserve the right to require team members to ride the team bus before and after contests.
 - Parents or guardians may be granted permission to transport his/her student home with a parent/guardian signature on the bus form.
 - Student-athletes are not permitted to ride home from events with anyone other than their parent/guardian.
 - During the regular season when school transportation is canceled by the district (due to inclement weather), Mohawk athletes will not be participating in that event.
 - Student athletes may drive to events, when not in season, if the event is within 20 miles of Mohawk High School.
 - Upon the occasion when the district provides alternate transportation by a private party transportation company, parents/guardians of the athlete must complete the school-approved permission form prior to travel.
 - If a student-athlete is unable to report to the departure point prior to the departure of the team bus, he/she must contact the coach in a timely manner. If they miss the bus, the coach reserves the right to deny participation.
 - If a team member misses the bus due to detentions or any disciplinary reasons, the athlete will not be allowed to participate in that event.
 - All early dismissals from school for athletic contests will be arranged in advance so student athletes will have time to get assignments in advance for any missed class time.
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- Post season rules for transportation may change with permission by the athletic director and HS Principal

Wednesday / Sunday practice policy

- Wednesday practices will be completed by 6:30pm and Wednesday contests will be avoided when possible. Exceptions include years in which Christmas and New Year's holidays occur on the weekend, limiting open dates for 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 practices, camps and events are permitted only with the approval of the Principal and/or Athletic Director (All events will be made non-mandatory and will not be permitted before 2:00 pm.)

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, authentic, or is able to verify the source. The anonymity of the source 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 from participation for no more than five school days for team rule violations.
- Coaches shall explain the infraction to the athlete and his/her parents and the cause of any discipline related denials 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 warrants removal from the team, he/she will discuss the matter and/or 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 subsequent to a due process hearing.
- 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:

Criminal Activity

- The Superintendent, Principal and Athletic Director are authorized to take any action in connection with student athlete conduct. Any student, while a member of an athletic team representing Mohawk Local Schools, at any time of the school year, in or out-of-season, who engages in any criminal activity (excluding traffic violations) may be subject to dismissal from the team. Examples: breaking and entering, theft, assault and battery, etc.
- Any student who commits any felony criminal activity may be denied participation by the administration or the head coach for up to one calendar year from the time of infraction.
- Any student who is convicted of any misdemeanor criminal activity in or out-of-season, may be denied participation for up to one calendar year from the time of infraction based on the severity of the infraction.
- Any student who commits any felony criminal activity may be denied participation by the administration or the head coach for up to one calendar year from the time of infraction.
- Any student, while a member of a Mohawk athletic team-who destroys, damages, defaces, or steals any property of Mohawk High School, including school buses, or property of an opponents' school or facilities will be disciplined by their coach and could be subject to school discipline and/or dismissal from the team. Any repair costs or restitution for damages are the responsibility of the student found to have caused such damage.
- Obscene or inappropriate gestures, racial slurs, profanity or disrespect to officials, coaches, players, or fans will not be tolerated. Any student-athlete displaying such behavior may face discipline, including but not limited to: discipline from coach and/or administration, removal from the contest or criminal prosecution

- If the Athletic Director agrees with a coach's request to remove an athlete from the team, the removal may take place subsequent to a due process hearing.
- The Superintendent, Principal and Athletic Director are authorized to take any action in connection with student athlete behavior. In addition to the rules and expectations provided in this section, which may include, but are not limited to: Counseling services, conferences with parents, and community service.

Hazing/Bullying

- Hazing/Bullying/Cyberbullying is prohibited by law. The use of intimidation, either physical or mental, to create an atmosphere of fear or mental anguish by a student-athlete upon other members of his/her team will not be tolerated. 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 will be subject to the steps listed in the Regulations/Violations/Denial of Participation Procedures section above.

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 e-sign on Final Forms 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 of Mohawk Local Schools 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 substances other than a prescribed medication shall be disciplined in accordance with due process, 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.
- Violations denied by the student-athlete, but found to be true after investigation, will result in the consequences beginning at the second offense schedule

Alcohol, Tobacco, Drugs Use Violations/Discipline

- The illegal use, sale of, possession of, distribution of, consumption of, and transport of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs cannot and will not be permitted by Mohawk student athletes, regardless if their parent/guardians are present. These acts are illegal by the Ohio Revised Code and will be treated accordingly. (Refer to the High School Student Handbook for definitions)
- The use, sale of, possession of, distribution of, consumption of, and transport of any intoxicant or any look-alike controlled substance such as but not limited to vapor devices, drug paraphernalia devices will not be permitted and will result in the same discipline measures as illegal drugs.
- The Athletic Code of Conduct 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 are accepted only 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.
- Self-referrals are encouraged, 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 from 20% of all games played in that sport or upcoming sport. If not enough games remain in the season, 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.
- 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 suspension.
- In addition to being denied participation in 20% of all games, students on the First Offense Schedule must also complete **ALL** of the requirements listed in the 'Alcohol, Tobacco, Drugs Use Offense Return to Play Requirements' below.

Second Offense

- The student-athlete will be suspended 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 any athletic season in which the student desires to participate.
- In addition to being denied participation for 90 days, students on the Second Offense Schedule must also complete **ALL** of the requirements listed in the 'Alcohol, Tobacco, Drugs Use Offense Return to Play' section below.

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 time of infraction.

Third Offense

- The student-athlete will be suspended from all interscholastic athletics for one calendar year from the date of the violation or last appeal, whichever comes last.
- Any student convicted of a felony charge related to drugs or alcohol will be denied participation in accordance with a third offense procedure.
- Denial of participation will be preceded by the student-athlete being given the opportunity for a due process hearing and shall be done at the earliest possible time.
- In addition to being denied participation for a calendar year, students on the Third Offense Schedule must also complete **ALL** of the requirements listed in the 'Alcohol, Tobacco, Drugs Use Offense Return to Play' section below.

Alcohol, Tobacco, Drugs Use Offense Return to Play Requirements

At each offense level, student-athletes who desire to return to competition must fulfill **ALL** of the following requirements all of **which are the financial responsibility of the student-athlete/parent/guardian.**

- **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
- **Test negative in a drug/alcohol screen test.** The student must also test negative in a drug/alcohol screen test before they may return to the team or start another sport.

ADDING A VARSITY TEAM

- The adoption of a varsity program into Mohawk athletics must meet the following guidelines
 - The team must operate as a club for two consecutive years under a high school level club program.
 - All financial responsibility will fall onto the club and not Mohawk Local Schools.
 - The club must maintain the number of athletes to complete a roster whether they are operating as a coed, boys or girls team.
 - At the conclusion of year two and entering year three, the club must have had a total number of athletes to complete a lineup plus 4 additional players each year. (*Ex. An 11-person sport should have a minimum of 15 players each year and a total of 45 players*)
 - Upon completion of the second season, the chairperson for this club has one month to apply for entering into a varsity program. An email with verification of rosters and proposal must be given to the Athletic Director.
 - The Athletic Director will present the proposal to the athletic council for consideration.

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, Conference, District, etc.) varsity head coaches will nominate candidates for the Simpson and Cheney Awards. Head coaches must choose an athlete ~~on~~ from their roster. After the list of nominees is compiled by the Athletic Director, all high school coaches will vote to determine the winners. In the voting process, coaches will vote for both male and female candidates with a head coach's vote counting as two (2) points, all current assistant coach and AD votes counting as one (1). In the event of 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
- Second, third, and fourth year letter winners will receive: Certificate and sport insignia
- Award of Participation winners will receive: Certificate of participation, Numerals
- To be eligible for a varsity letter, etc. an athlete must have been a member of the team for the entire season.
- Dance Team awards will be issued from and according to the policies of the Mohawk Music Department

Requirements to Earn a Mohawk Varsity Letter

- Baseball – Position players/Batters: Appear in at least 50% of games. Pitchers: Start at least 20% of all games • 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.
- 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 varsity matches.
- Wrestling - Appear in at least half of varsity contests, earning at least two victories
- **Note: Varsity Letters in all sports may be awarded based on a coach’s discretion**

Letter Winner Benefits

- Former Mohawk student-athletes may receive a complimentary one-year membership to the Mohawk Field House Fitness Facility under the following guidelines:

The former Mohawk student-athlete must have earned a varsity letter during their senior year The former Mohawk student-athlete must be a graduate of Mohawk High School.

If a student-athlete was dismissed from a team at any time during their season year, he/she will not qualify for a complimentary field house pass.

- Membership cards must be obtained from the Mohawk Administration Office and remain valid for one year from the date of graduation.
- Mohawk reserves the right to revoke passes if users are not following the rules and regulations of the field house.

Wall Of Fame

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