

**2020-2021**

**STUDENT ATHLETE HANDBOOK**

**MORRICE  
AREA  
SCHOOLS**

**Michael Dewey - Superintendent**

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**691 Purdy Lane  
Morrice, MI 48857  
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# RETURN TO SCHOOL COVID-19 PANDEMIC DISCLAIMER

Parents and Students,

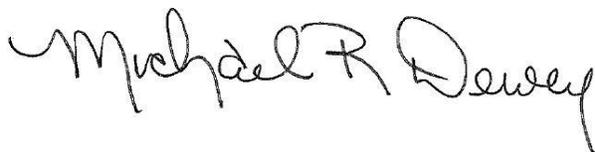
Due to the ongoing guideline changes for returning to school. Please note the following:

The material covered within this student handbook is intended as a method of communicating to students and parents regarding general district information, rules and procedures. Due to the circumstances of COVID-19, material contained herein may be superseded by the Morrice Area Schools Safe Schools Roadmap. Morrice Area Schools reserves the right to alter the Student Handbook and Safe Schools Roadmap without notice or obligation.

Please refer to our detailed return to school plan at:

[www.morrice.k12.mi.us/morricestrongstart2020](http://www.morrice.k12.mi.us/morricestrongstart2020)

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael R. Dewey". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "M" and "D".

Michael R. Dewey  
Superintendent  
Morrice Area Schools

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## **SECTION I**

## **ATHLETIC PURPOSE AND AUTHORITY**

The purpose of the athletic handbook is to:

1. Establish standards of academic, athletic, and behavioral performance for students involved in interscholastic athletic programs at Morrice Area Schools
2. Outline the penalties for failure to meet the standards.

Morrice Area Schools (MAS) athletics are governed by the rules and regulations presented in this handbook along with those of the Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA).

Taking part in Morrice athletics is an extra curricular privilege that is extended to those students whose scholastic record and citizenship status satisfies the standards set forth by this handbook.

## **SECTION II**

### **PHILOSOPHY OF ATHLETICS: We Believe....**

1. That the primary objective of going to school is to secure an education. The ultimate aim of education is to develop desirable and effective citizens and that athletics play a role in the total development of individuals.
2. That the Morrice athletic program is based on the development of fundamental skills, self-discipline, team concepts and a positive attitude while maintaining a competitive posture.
3. Athletes should possess a deep sense of pride in their program and the school, and that all those connected with athletics give the school the highest type of representation.
4. Winning may be a highly motivating factor but is secondary to character building and sportsmanship. Teams and

individuals must learn to accept both winning and losing gracefully.

5. These programs are part of the total educational program and participation will provide a number of opportunities and experiences, which assist students in self-expression, mental alertness, physical growth and educational maturity.
6. That all students who enroll in an athletic program are to be kept in that program unless they are recommended by a coach to go to a higher level program. Cuts may be made in the following programs:
  - A. All varsity level programs
  - B. J.V. Basketball and J.V. Volleyball, which hold a maximum of 15 students on the team
7. All players, coaches, and spectators shall abide by the good sportsmanship rules. Those who do not obey shall be evicted from the game or building. These evictions are at the sole discretion of the Athletic Director, Game Supervisor or School Administrator in charge.

### **SECTION III**

#### **DEFINITION OF AN ATHLETE**

Any student who is enrolled in a junior high or high school not later than the fourth Friday after Labor Day or the fourth Friday in February and whose name appears on a Master Eligibility form will be considered an athlete according to MHSAA, for the duration of his /her junior/senior high school career.

All trainers, statisticians, scorers, managers and helpers must also abide by the following training rules and regulations.

## **SECTION IV**

### **CONDUCT OF AN ATHLETE**

The Athletic Code applies to all students who want to participate in athletics. Athletics includes competitive sports, extracurricular activities, cheerleading and pom-poms. This code applies in addition to other rules and regulations concerning student conduct and imposes additional requirements on student athletes and cheerleaders.

Participation in athletics is a privilege. Those who participate in athletics have a responsibility to favorably represent the school and community. Student athletes are expected to conduct themselves both in and out of school in a manner appropriate to their responsibilities as representatives of the school and district. If a student fails to comply with the terms of this code, the privilege to participate in athletics may be lost in accordance with the terms of this Athletic Code.

The conduct of an athlete is closely observed in many areas of life. It is important that your behavior be above reproach at all times. Being an athlete carries with it a tremendous amount of responsibility.

Being an athlete means:

1. Your behavior on and off the field should always exemplify good sportsmanship.
2. You must avoid using foul language and berating officials or other players. Other forms of disrespect to people or equipment will not be tolerated.
3. You have vested interest in using and protecting school equipment and uniforms. Each athlete is financially responsible for all uniforms and equipment issued to them.
4. You should maintain a good appearance, good health habits, respect rules and authority, demonstrate leadership,

promote team pride and discipline, and work to eliminate disruptive influences in the halls, classroom, practice field or wherever you may be as a player or spectator.

5. You will act as a positive role model on school grounds. Athletes that cause disruptive behavior, or fail to perform minimum standards of work in the classroom or on the field may lose the opportunity to participate in an upcoming contest and/or be disciplined in some other way. When a teacher contacts the Athletic Director about failing to meet these criteria, the Athletic Director will hold a conference with the athlete.
6. Athletes must show maturity and leadership in the use of social media (Facebook, Twitter) websites. Negative comments about players, coaches, teams and sports are not appropriate and will be handled as a violation of the code of conduct and will be handled based on the severity of the violation.

## **SECTION V**

### **ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY**

Eligibility for most athletics is also governed by the rules of the Michigan High School Association and, if applicable, these rules will apply in addition to this Athletic Code. In a case of a conflict between MHSAA and this Athletic Code, the most stringent rule will be enforced.

1. All student athletes must meet the MHSAA minimum academic eligibility to be considered to participate in Morrice Athletics.
2. The athlete's grades will be reported to the Athletic Director between 8:00 am and 3:00 pm on Wednesday. The Athletic Director will forward the ineligible students names to coaches.

Any missing work, which could affect eligibility, must be submitted in plenty of time to give the teacher an opportunity to enter grades by 3:00 pm on Friday of the same week. Any student athlete deemed ineligible, will be assigned tutoring in place of practice, if the two conflict. The ineligible student athlete, who is assigned tutoring, will not be disciplined for missing practice, as the tutoring will be counted as practice. If the practices do not conflict, the ineligible student MUST attend tutoring in order to attend practice that same day. Students will produce written proof to their coach, from the teacher/tutor, that they attended tutoring that day to make them eligible to practice. If the student fails to produce the written documentation that they attended tutoring, then they will be prohibited from participating in the practice, and will be counted as an unexcused absence. If ineligibility continues as of Friday at 3:00 pm, the student athlete will be considered ineligible immediately, and will be ineligible until the following Friday (7 days ).

3. In order for a Morrice student to compete, he/she must be passing all seven classes or its equivalence on a weekly basis.- Students must be passing for the current Marking Period and the cumulative Semester grade.
4. An athlete that is ineligible will not be dismissed early for an athletic contest.
5. Semester Grades:
  - a. **Passing 6 out of 7 classes:** If an athlete fails one class at the end of the semester they are still eligible to participate the following semester. During the semester athletes must pass all seven classes.
  - b. **Passing 5 out of 7 classes:** If any athlete fails two classes at the end of a semester, they will be considered ineligible until the next eligibility listing comes out, but not to exceed two weeks. After the two-week penalty phase, he/she must be passing all seven classes on the weekly eligibility check to regain his/her eligibility. This rule

applies to both semesters and carries over from one school year to the next, except for incoming ninth graders.

- c. **Passing 4 or less out of 7 classes:** Students who fail to pass 5 out of 7 classes at the end of the semester will be considered academically ineligible for 60 scheduled school days. After the 60<sup>th</sup> day the student must be passing all seven classes on the weekly eligibility check to regain his/her eligibility.
- 6. **Credit Recovery:** A student may make up credit, from a previous semester, in a credit recovery program which will count towards their eligibility. The school will have 10 business days from the time they are officially notified by the credit recovery program/teacher to register the credit. Eligibility will be restored following all other academic eligibility requirements.
- 7. If a student is failing two or more classes he/she cannot practice with their team. However, this athlete must attend practice and be visibly working to improve his/her grades under the supervision of the coaching staff.
- 8. The ineligible player will be benched during the game and will appear with the team in street clothes.

## **ATTENDANCE ELIGIBILITY**

Once a student exceeds the attendance credit level (currently nine days of absence in a semester) as defined in the Morrice Parent/Student Handbook, that student becomes ineligible at that point. The athlete will remain ineligible until the minimum requirements have been met.

## **SECTION VI**

### **TRAINING RULES AND REGULATIONS**

**THE RULES AND REGULATIONS SET FORTH IN THIS DOCUMENT COVER MORRICE AREA SCHOOLS ATHLETES TWELVE MONTHS OF THE YEAR.**

1. The student's privilege to participate does not supersede a coach's right to coach or other team members' rights to practice or participate in a competitive manner. A coach may at anytime dismiss a student from his/her squad for any justifiable reason. Before taking such actions, the athlete, coach and Athletic Director will meet to discuss the issues involved.
2. For both category "A" and "B" violations the athletic director or principal will meet with the student to explain the violation, the discipline for it, and the appeal process.

### **CATEGORY "A" VIOLATIONS**

Category "A" violations are considered serious acts which occur in school, at school events, away from school, or during the off season. Category "A" violations may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- A. Possession, use, or transfer of controlled substances.
- B. Possession, use, or transfer of alcoholic beverages.
- C. Unlawful possession, use, or transfer of weapons/look-alikes.
- D. Major theft.
- E. Arson
- F. Vandalism

- G. Gross misbehavior.
- H. Persistent disobedience.
- I. Striking or threatening school personnel.
- J. Assault
- K. Use of any tobacco products.

## **DISCIPLINARY ACTION FOR CATEGORY "A" VIOLATIONS**

### **FIRST AND SECOND OFFENSES:**

If a student or that student's parent voluntarily informs school officials of the violation, the disciplinary action will be reduced by half. The disciplinary action recommended in all cases should be considered as the minimum. If circumstances warrant, more severe disciplinary action may result. The athletic director or principal shall inform the student and parents of the disciplinary action.

### **FIRST OFFENSE:**

After confirmation of the violation, the student shall lose the privilege of participation in his/her current activity (or next activity if not in season) for 33% of the season's contests.

### **SECOND OFFENSE:**

After confirmation of the violation, the student shall lose the privilege of participation in all activities (starting with his/her next activity if not in season) for six months.

### **THIRD OFFENSE:**

After confirmation of the violation, the student shall lose the privilege of participation in all activities for two calendar years.

Note: Any loss of privilege of participation will continue during the appeal process.

## **CATEGORY "B" VIOLATIONS**

Category "B" violations relate to conduct unbecoming of a representative of MAS. These violations can occur in school, at school events, away from school, or during the off season. Category "B" violations may include, but are not limited to the following:

- A. Skipping school.
- B. Fighting
- C. Insubordination
- D. Threatening or harassing other students.
- E. Cheating
- F. Dismissal from class.
- G. Minor theft.
- H. Forgery
- I. Sexual harassment.
- J. Berating officials.
- K. Using foul language.
- L. Possession, use or transfer of any Malt beverages labeled as non-alcoholic.

## **DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURE AND ACTION FOR CATEGORY "B" VIOLATIONS**

### **FIRST OFFENSE:**

1. Discipline may include:
  - A. Loss of privilege and/or participation for up to one contest.

- B. And/or other disciplinary procedures that the Athletic Director feels is warranted.
2. The athletic director or principal shall inform the student and parents of the disciplinary action.

### **SECOND OFFENSE:**

1. Discipline may include:
  - A. A loss of privilege and/or participation for two or more contests.
  - B. And/or other disciplinary procedures that the Athletic Director feels is warranted.
2. The athletic director or principal shall inform the student and parents of the disciplinary action.

### **THIRD OFFENSE AND SUBSEQUENT OFFENSES:**

1. The athletic director or principal will meet with the student to explain the violation, the discipline for it, and the appeal process. At this point, it is possible that a Class "B" offense will be treated as a Class "A" offense and dealt with accordingly.
2. Discipline may include:
  - A. The student shall lose the privilege of participation in his/her current activity (or next activity if not in season) for five contests
  - B. And/or other disciplinary procedures that the Athletic Director feels is warranted.
3. The athletic director or principal shall inform the student and the parents of the disciplinary action and of the appeal process.

CATEGORY "B" Sanctions will be in effect for one calendar year.

*NOTE: Any loss of privilege of participation will continue during the appeal process.*

*Transfer students will serve at least the same period of ineligibility as imposed by their previous school.*

*A student who transfers to Morrice Area Schools after becoming ineligible because of a student or athletic conduct code violation(s) at the previously attended school shall remain ineligible at Morrice Area Schools for not less than the period of ineligibility imposed by the previously attended school. This would be the case even if the student's situation would otherwise satisfy one or more of the exceptions to the transfer regulation of Morrice Area Schools and the Michigan High School Athletic Association (Regulation I, section 9), and even if the act which caused the student's ineligibility at the previous school would not be a violation or cause the same period of ineligibility at Morrice Area Schools.*

## **SECTION VII**

**Any athletic contract between coach and player/parent must be approved and signed by the Athletic Director and Superintendent prior to release.**

### **ADDITIONAL RULES AND REGULATIONS:**

1. All athletes shall travel to and from away contests with the team in order to participate in the next scheduled contest. Exceptions may be made by the Coach, Athletic Director, or Principal and must be **in writing from the parent AND APPROVED IN ADVANCE**. Release of the student will be to parents only.

2. Athletes who are serving in school or out of school suspensions for violating provisions of the Student Code of Conduct shall not practice nor attend games during the term of the suspension. Suspensions are considered to take effect at 2:55 p.m. the day the athlete was informed of the suspension (or the time set by the Principal if different from the above rule.)
3. Athletes violating provisions of the Athletic Code may be required by the coach to practice with the team, attend games but not in uniform, and abide by team regulations.
4. Penalties for violating the Athletic Code shall not be served concurrently.
5. All students participating in Morrice athletics will only wear school-issued or approved uniforms during competition. This includes personally purchased apparel, like socks, hats, undershirts etc.
6. A game day dress code will be established by the coach and approved by the Athletic Director for each team. Failure to comply could mean a one game suspension or other consequences determined by the coach or athletic director.
7. For weekend events, Friday's attendance will count as the day of the game. Any exception will be determined by the Athletic Director or Principal.

## **UNIFORMS:**

1. All uniforms are to be turned in to the coach at the completion of each season. If a student/athlete fails to turn in any portion of their uniform, they will be unable to participate in any open gyms, weight training, conditioning or practice for any other sport until the entire uniform has been turned in and accounted for.
2. Uniforms are NOT to be turned in to the building secretary unless arrangements are made in advance by the coach.

3. Any item not returned will be billed to the student/athlete at the cost it will be to replace said items.
4. Uniforms will be turned in undamaged. Uniforms damaged other than that of normal usage for the sport will be the responsibility of the student/athlete to replace at the cost of replacement.

### **ATTENDANCE REGULATIONS:**

1. An athlete shall be in attendance the entire school day and must participate in each class. Exceptions may be made for gym or weight lifting if approved by teachers and coaches on the day of an athletic contest. If an Athlete is more than fifteen minutes late for school or misses more than fifteen minutes of any class on any day, he/she will be ineligible to play, or practice, that day.
2. Excused school absences include:
  - A. A death in the family or close friend.
  - B. Serious emergencies (reoccurring events should be corrected and are not considered emergencies).
  - C. Doctor or dentist appointments with verification.
  - D. Court appearances.
  - E. Prearranged absence.

Attendance in school is vital. If the athlete habitually misses school after a day of competition or misses school to avoid going to practice, the athlete will face disciplinary action, up to and including removal from the team.

### **JOINING A TEAM LATE:**

Occasionally it may be necessary to go out for a sport after the first day of practice has passed. This will only be allowed if the

coach does not have an objection and there is room on the team without cuts. No matter what the circumstance is, an athlete shall not be allowed to compete in a contest until they have made up the days of practice they missed. The Athletic Director will set the date in which the athlete may participate in a contest. Any exception to this is at the discretion of the Athletic Director or Principal.

## **MULTI-SPORT PARTICIPATION:**

Participation in two sports in the same season is a decision that will be made by the Athletic Director after conferring with the Principal and with coaches involved. Concerns that will be addressed include: the student's grades, the student's citizenship, practice, game compatibility, not displacing another athlete from being able to compete and any other concerns the coaches, Athletic Director or Principal may have. **The student must declare – in writing – their primary sport.** If one of the two sports is considered a club sport it will be considered the secondary sport. Athletes may only declare this once per season. Playing time is NOT guaranteed for the primary or secondary sport. If academic eligibility becomes an issue during the season the athlete may be required to drop the secondary sport.

The guidelines above apply to both Junior High and High School students. For Junior High students who participate in multiple sports a practice schedule needs to be developed to ensure that multi-sport athletes are not practicing more than two (2) hours per day.

If an athlete drops one sport, but stays with the other sport, the penalty for dropping the one sport, will be three (3) immediate

game dates, for the sport in which they remain. The athlete who quits a sport will not be reconsidered for future multi-sport opportunities.

### **DROPPING FROM A TEAM:**

On occasion, an athlete may find it necessary to drop a sport. If this is the case, the following procedure must be followed:

- A. Talk with your coach.
- B. Report your situation to the Athletic Director
- C. Check in all equipment within five (5) school days of quitting the team.

An athlete desiring to drop from a squad prior to the end of the first two weeks of scheduled practice shall notify the coach or athletic director by the next scheduled practice and must turn in all equipment within five (5) school days.

An athlete quitting after the first two weeks of scheduled practice shall be prohibited from participation in another sport in the same season. It is very important for athletes and their team, to complete the season that they start. Because of this, athletes will not be able to play a sport in the following season if they quit a team after the first two weeks. Exceptions will be made in extreme or unavoidable circumstances. Before quitting a team it is imperative to talk with the Athletic Director and Principal to ensure that you do not lose eligibility to play in a different sport during the next season.

## **SECTION VIII**

### **TRAINING OR CONDUCT RULE VIOLATIONS**

Violations can be witnessed and reported by any school staff member, law enforcement agency, or by admission of the athlete.

1. Written verification of an athlete's violation shall be made to the Athletic Director or Principal within five school days, when school is in session. School vacations and summer vacation are natural exceptions to this rule, but verifications should be made as soon as possible.
2. The Athletic Director will inform the athlete and coach of the violation and suspension within three school days.

## **SECTION IX**

### **APPEALS**

An athlete may challenge the suspension by making an appeal to the Principal within 48 hours of notification of a suspension. A further appeal can be made within 48 hours by asking the Principal to convene an Athletic Board. This Athletic Board may be made up of a student council representative, teacher, coach, and a parent.

The athlete may have a fellow teammate, student council representative, parent or all three attend the meeting on their behalf. This committee is expected to reach a decision within 24 hours unless the athlete is informed that additional time is needed. The student may make further appeals to the

Superintendent within 24 hours of the Athletic Boards' decision.  
All appeals and remedies are limited to:

- A. Reinstatement to the team
- B. Issuance of any award earned prior to the suspension.

## **SECTION X**

### **ATHLETIC TEAM AWARDS**

- A. Freshman Year Award - Numerals indicating the year that the athlete will graduate
- B. Sophomore Year Award - An "Oriole" patch.
- C. Varsity Award - 5 inch, 3 dimensional orange "M" on a black background. Being a member of a Varsity team does not automatically mean that all members will receive a Varsity letter. Athletic letters will be awarded to participants upon the recommendation of the Athletic Director or the coach of the sport in which they are participating.
- D. An athlete shall not receive more than one junior high, one freshmen (when applicable), one junior varsity, and one varsity award during his/her junior/senior high school career.
- E. Each award shall include a certificate Chevrons will be issued to the athlete who earns a letter for each year and in each sport after receiving the Letter "M" award.
- F. The school reserves the right to recall for just cause, any athletic award granted. It also reserves the right to request that students remove improperly worn letter awards.

## **SECTION XI**

### **REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICIPATION**

- G. An athlete must have the following fully executed documents on file at the school office before the athlete's first

participation in any activity. Athletic equipment should not be issued and students must not be allowed to try out or practice until an acceptable signed statement of physical examination and consent has been provided.

- H. A current physical examination report (given on or after April 15 of the previous school year) completed by the M.D., D.O., Physician's Assistant, or Nurse Practitioner who administers the physical examination and which finds that the athlete has passed a physical examination and is physically able to participate in athletic tryouts, practices and contests. Parents or guardians of the athlete are required to obtain adequate insurance coverage for their children in the event of injury. Morrice Area Schools does not carry insurance for the athletes. The Morrice Area Schools Board of Education does not assume any liability for injuries to students while participating in interscholastic athletics. This, in effect means that the responsibility for expenses incurred in athletics for doctors, ambulance, or any medical expense of any injury will be assumed by the parent or guardian.
- I. A permission slip to participate in the specific sport in which the athlete intends to participate signed by the athlete's parent or guardian; and
- J. Proof/statement of status of medical insurance; and
- K. A receipt showing the athlete and his/her parents received a copy of the Athletic Code, understand the terms of the Athletic Code and agree to abide by its terms and conditions.

## **SECTION XII**

### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

## Acknowledgement

I acknowledge that I have received the Morrice Area Schools Student Athlete Handbook for 2020-21 School Year and that it is my responsibility to read, understand and follow the guidelines developed by the school district. I understand that not following these guidelines may prevent me from participating in school sponsored sports.

The information in this handbook is subject to change as situations warrant, and it is understood that changes in the handbook may supersede, revise, or eliminate one or more of the policies. These changes will be communicated to me by the athletic director or head coach as appropriate. I accept responsibility for keeping informed of these changes.

---

Student Athlete

Date

As the parent of a student athlete I understand that it is my responsibility to read, understand and help my child follow the guidelines developed by the school district. I also understand that if my child does not follow these guidelines their eligibility to participate in school sponsored sports will be in jeopardy. If I have questions, comments or concerns I will address them with the coach and/or athletic director as appropriate.

---

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

**MORRICE AREA SCHOOLS**  
**SAME SEASON/TWO SPORT/POLICY**

Athletes at Morrice High School are allowed to participate in more than one Sport during a particular season. If a student decides to participate in more than one sport at a time, a coach shall in no way discourage this decision. Rather, the coaches involved should work together to make this situation as smooth as possible. Realizing that there is potential for conflicts arising when an athlete is participating in two sports at the same time, the following guidelines will be adhered to:

1. The athlete will declare a primary sport and a secondary sport.
2. A contest will always take precedence over practice in the other sport.
3. A league contest will always take precedence over a non-league contest.
4. If league contests are scheduled on the same day, the athlete will participate in his/her primary sport.
5. MHSAA tournament events will take precedence over non-league or league events. In the event that two MHSAA tournaments are held on the same day, the primary sport will take precedence as in #5.
6. If non-league contests are scheduled on the same day, the athlete will participate in his/her primary sport.
7. In the event that it would be possible for an athlete to participate in both sports on the same day, he/she will not be allowed to drive to the second contest. Only an athlete's parent or guardian will be allowed to transport the athlete.
8. Coaches are not to discipline an athlete for a missed practice on a day that the athlete is competing in his/her other sport.
9. On days that an athlete is not in competition, he/she should make an effort to practice both sports. If only one sport can be practiced, it should be the primary sport.
10. All eligibility rules will remain the same.
11. An athlete must begin practicing in each of the two sports at the beginning of each sport's season.
12. Junior High multi-sport athletes will only be allowed two (2) hours of practice time per day.
13. **Before being allowed to participate in two sports during a season, the athlete, his/her parents/guardian, AD, and the two coaches involved must meet and sign below.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Athlete

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian

\_\_\_\_\_  
Primary Sport

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secondary Sport

\_\_\_\_\_  
Primary Sport Coach

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secondary Sport Coach

\_\_\_\_\_  
Athletic Director

Approved                       Denied

Reason for Denial:
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