

# MISSISSINAWA VALLEY ATHLETIC HANDBOOK

## MISSISSINAWA ALLEY SCHOOLS RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR THE CONDUCT OF STUDENTS PARTICIPATING IN ATHLETIC ACTIVITIES

The most important goal of the Mississinawa Valley Schools athletic program is to provide every participant the opportunity to grow mentally, morally, physically, and emotionally. To assure that the program can provide these opportunities, a degree of self-discipline is required of each participant. Self-discipline involves compliance with the rules and regulations concerning personal behavior.

Rules promote order and safety, and assist participants to reach maximum performance potential. Every participant should adhere to the rules of the school, and conduct him or herself as a “good citizen” of the school and community at all times. Dedication and personal sacrifice by each participant promote a sense of group unity and common goals.

Compliance with rules helps each participant learn values that carry beyond the athletic program and into daily living. Mississinawa Valley Schools recognize a serious problem in the use and abuse of chemicals among students. Research has shown that use and abuse of tobacco, drugs, and alcohol have harmful effects on the user’s mental, physical and emotional health. Therefore, regulations concerning tobacco, drugs, and alcohol will be in effect for all athletes and other extra-curricular participants from the first day of practice in the summer until after the last contest, all equipment is returned and the athletic banquet is completed, whichever is latest in the spring.

It must be remembered that participation in athletic activities is not a right, but a privilege that may be regulated. Therefore, all students who participate in interscholastic activities at any time must meet the following regulations. Failure to comply with the regulations could jeopardize a student’s whole athletic extra-curricular career.

Athletic extra-curricular activities include those activities which meet one or more of the following:

1. The activity has a paid advisor under contract with the Mississinawa Valley board of Education.
2. The activity has identified practices and/or rehearsals.
3. The activity has an established or declared season or period of competition or rehearsal.
4. The activity or group represents Mississinawa Valley Schools in performance or competition.

In order to make students and parents aware of expectations, copies of these regulations will be provided to all athletic activity participants.

Students in the Mississinawa Valley Schools may elect to participate in the following interscholastic sports:

Baseball	(boys)
Basketball	(boys and girls)
Football	(boys)
Golf	(boys and girls)
Softball	(girls)
Volleyball	(girls)
Cheerleading	(boys and girls)
Bowling	(boys and girls)

In an effort to maintain excellence in our interscholastic athletic program and reinforce positive attitudes toward the importance of competitive sports, the Athletic Department of the Mississinawa Valley Schools would like to make the following recommendations relating to training and conditioning rules and general behavior expected from our athletes.

1. The Athletic Department does not recommend nor condone students, either athletes or non-athletes, to smoke, drink alcoholic beverages, or take any kind of chemical mood modifier. We will do everything within our power and ability to work with young people participating in interscholastic athletics to counsel and educate our athlete as to the abuse of these behaviors. Every effort will be made to work closely with the parents or athletes to insure that abuses do not occur. The cooperation and support of parents is essential and greatly valued.
2. The Athletic Department recommends that all student athletes receive proper daily nutrition and sufficient rest each and every day. It is essential that parents cooperate in our effort to teach the importance of diet and rest as they relate not only to athletes, but also to a healthy adult life.

3. Students participate in interscholastic athletics as a privilege. This privilege must be earned. Student athletes, just like any other student, are expected to exhibit mature behavior consistent with the rules and policies of the school in general.

## **ROLE OF THE COACH**

Our coaches not only teach the fundamental skills necessary to our athletes in order that they might excel in a particular sport, but they also develop character, leadership and value of healthy competition, sportsmanship, and fair play.

Each coach possesses his/her own unique methodology for teaching not only the fundamentals of the sport, but also the attitudes and values of sportsmanlike conduct. It is the belief of the Athletic Department that each coach should have latitude in the development of our athletes. This latitude or coaching prerogative should be consistent with the rules and regulations governing all students whether athletes or non-athletes.

## **ACADEMIC GUIDELINES**

The Mississinawa Valley Athletic Department recognizes the importance of receiving a good education in today's society. It places a high priority upon the student athlete receiving the best possible education. With emphasis upon quality education of the student athlete and the accountability of the teacher/coach, the Mississinawa Valley Athletic Department strongly supports the following academic policy.

The Athletic Department has adopted the Ohio High School Athletic Association guidelines as part of the Mississinawa Valley academic standards.

1. Eligibility for each grading period is determined by grades received the preceding grading period. **Semester and yearly grades have no effect on eligibility.**
2. **Grades 9-12:** To be eligible, a student-athlete must be currently enrolled in a member school and have received passing grades in a minimum of five one-credit courses, or the equivalent, in the immediately preceding grading period (**Note:** Students taking pose-secondary options must comply with these standards).
3. **Grades 7-8:** A student enrolling in the seventh grade for the first time will be eligible for the first grading period regardless of the previous academic achievement. Thereafter, in order to be eligible, a student in grade 7 or 8 must be currently enrolled in school the immediately preceding grading period and received passing grades during that grading period in a minimum of five of those subjects in which the student received grades. Additionally, a student enrolled after advancement from the eighth grade must have passed a minimum of five of all subjects carried the preceding grading period in which the student was enrolled.
4. For eligibility, summer school grades may not be used to substitute for failing grades received in the final grading period of the regular school year or for lack of enough courses taken the preceding grading period.
5. A Student-Athlete who does not meet the academic standards of eligibility, will not be permitted to participate in a given sport during the entire Sports Season. This includes participating in any aspect of the sport; such as practicing, manager, keeping statistics, camera, etc. The Student-Athlete will not be permitted to participate if he/she becomes eligible at the next nine week grading period during a given Sports Season. (For example: A Student-Athlete is ineligible at the beginning of the Basketball season but at the next nine week grading period he/she meets the academic standard for eligibility, he/she cannot participate.)

## **JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL ELIGIBILITY**

Before you play, you must be eligible. Please review the following checklist with your parents. Unchecked items will likely mean you are NOT eligible. For questions, see the Principal or Athletic Director.

- I am officially enrolled at Mississinawa Valley Junior High School or participating in accordance with state law.
- I received passing grades in at least five subjects during the immediately preceding grading period.
- Both of my parents live in Ohio (or the parent with custody, due to divorce, or having never been married, lives in Ohio).
- I did not turn 15 before August 1, 2016.
- I have not received an award, equipment or prize valued at greater than \$400 per item.
- I am competing under my true name and have provided Mississinawa Valley with my correct home address.
- I have not competed in a **mandatory** open gym/facility, conditioning or instructional program.
- I have not been coached or provided instruction by a Mississinawa Valley coach in a team sport other than during my sport season, during an instructional period approved by the OHSAA or for no more than 10 days between June 1 and July 31.
- I am not competing on a non-school team or in non-school competition as an individual **during my school team's**

**season** in the same sport.

- I have not been recruited for athletic purposes to attend Mississinawa Valley Junior High School.
- I am not using anabolic steroids or other performance-enhancing drugs.
- I have had a physical examination within the past year and it is on file at Mississinawa Valley.
- My parents and I attended a preseason meeting at Mississinawa Valley which the OHSAA requires to be held no later than two weeks after the beginning of each sports season. We viewed a video presentation prepared by the OHSAA to review key eligibility issues, healthy lifestyles and sporting behavior.
- Mississinawa Valley also reviewed with my parents and me its concussion management protocol, we reviewed and signed the Ohio Department of Health's "Concussion Information Sheet" prior to participation and we reviewed a short presentation on concussions available at no cost at [www.nfhslearn.com](http://www.nfhslearn.com).
- My parents and I have signed the OHSAA Authorization Form and the OHSAA Eligibility and Authorization Statement and they are on file at Mississinawa Valley.

### **HIGH SCHOOL ELIGIBILITY**

Before you play, you must be eligible. Please review the following checklist with your parents. Unchecked items will likely mean you are NOT eligible. For questions, see the Principal of Athletic Director.

- I am officially enrolled at Mississinawa Valley High School or participating in accordance with state law.
- I am enrolled in at least five one credit courses or the equivalent, each of which counts toward graduation.
- I received passing grades in at least five one credit courses or the equivalent, each of which count toward graduation, during the immediately preceding grading period.
- Both of my parents live in Ohio (or the parent with custody, due to divorce, or having never been married, lives in Ohio).
- I have not changed schools without a corresponding move by my parents or legal guardian or by qualifying for one of the exceptions to the OHSAA transfer regulations.
- If I have changed schools (transferred), I have followed up with Mississinawa Valley to ensure that all proper forms (if applicable) have been submitted to the OHSAA office.
- I have not been enrolled in high school for more than eight semesters.
- I understand that I will become ineligible once I turn 20 years old.
- I have not received an award, equipment or prize valued at greater than \$400 per item.
- I am competing under my true name and have provided Mississinawa Valley with my correct home address.
- I have not competed in a **mandatory** open gym/facility, conditioning or instructional program.
- I have not been coached or provided instruction by a Mississinawa Valley coach in a team sport other than during my sport season during an instructional period approved by the OHSAA or for no more than 10 days between June 1 and July 31.
- I am not competing on a non-school team or in non-school competitions as an individual **during my school team's season** in the same sport.
- I have not been recruited for athletic purposes to attend Mississinawa Valley High School
- I am not using anabolic steroids or other performance-enhancing drugs.
- I have had a physical examination within the past year and it is on file at Mississinawa Valley.
- My parents and I attended a preseason meeting at Mississinawa Valley which the OHSAA requires to be held no later than two weeks after the beginning of each sports season. We viewed a video presentation prepared by the OHSAA to review key eligibility issues, healthy lifestyles and sporting behavior.
- Mississinawa Valley also reviewed with my parents and me its concussion management protocol, we reviewed and signed the Ohio Department of Health's "Concussion Information Sheet" prior to participation and we reviewed a short presentation on concussions available at no cost at [www.nfhslearn.com](http://www.nfhslearn.com).
- My parents and I have signed the OHSAA Authorization Form and the OHSAA Eligibility and Authorization Statement and they are on file at Mississinawa Valley.

### **SCHOOL ATTENDANCE**

Students are encouraged to be in school daily. If a student is absent or tardy from school for **ANY** part of a day, the student will be denied participation in the practice, scrimmage or game scheduled for that day.

Absences or tardies for such reasons as license exams, dentist appointment (if a signed note is returned from the dentist), doctor appointment (if a signed note from the doctor is returned releasing the student to return to competition); attendance at a funeral, college visitation, or a court appearance will not affect an athlete's participation. Exceptions to this rule may be granted by the director of athletics, in consultation with the high school principal.

If a student athlete is tardy to school or class more than 2 times during an athletic season, he/she will be denied participation in the practice, scrimmage, or game scheduled for that day.

### **TEAM TRY-OUTS**

The Ohio High School Athletic Association determines the first day of practice for each sport every year. So that athletic teams may be established in a timely fashion, students must try out for a team by the end of the fourth day following the first day of practice for which the student is eligible. Example: If August 1 were the first day of practice, a student needs to try out for the team by the end of practice on August 4th. If no practice were held on August 4th, a student would still need to try out by this date.

New members could be added to a team if:

1. A new student moves into the district with his parents/guardians. The date of enrollment would be the first day of practice, and the student would need to try out by the end of practice on the 4<sup>th</sup> day following the first day of enrollment. Example: A student moves into the school district and enrolls October 5<sup>th</sup>. The student would need to be involved in a try-out by the end of practice on October 8th. If no practice were held on October 8th, the student would still need to try-out by this date.
2. A student regains his eligibility as a result of being academically ineligible when the first practice of the season began. The student would need to try-out by the end of the 4th day following the first day of practice for which the student was eligible. Example: A student did not have the required grade point average at the end of the first quarter to be academically eligible. At the end of the second quarter, the student has the required grade point average to participate. The student's eligibility is regained on January 15th. The student would need to be involved in a try-out by the end of practice on January 18th. If no practice were held on January 18th, the student would still need to try-out by this date.
3. A student receives a medical release from his doctor for an injury/illness that prevented the student from participation on the date of the first practice. The student would need to try-out by the end of the 4th day following the first day of practice for which the doctor released the student. Example: A student has a broken leg at the start of basketball season. On December 1st, the doctor releases the student to return to normal activities. The student would need to be involved in a try-out by the end of practice on December 4th. If no practice were held on December 4th, the student would still need to try-out by this date.

### **TEAM ATTENDANCE**

All team members of all sports will attend all scheduled practices and meetings. No practices are to be missed unless excused. If circumstances should arise whereby the student cannot attend a practice or meeting, the validity of the reason shall be decided by the coach. In all cases, however, the coach must be notified prior to the absence by personal contact, phone call, or written statement.

Absence or lateness to practice due to disciplinary detention will not be tolerated and may result in denial of participation.

Procedures and obligations relating to scheduled practices and athletic events during school vacation breaks must be fully explained to the coach at the beginning of the sport season involved.

If an athlete quits a team during the regular season he/she will be ineligible to compete in another sport until the end of the regular season of the team they quit has been completed.

If there is approval by the head coaches, director of athletics, and the principal then the athlete may begin another sport.

No student may be a member of more than one team during a sports season with the exception of cheerleading.

### **CONFLICTS IN EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

The Mississinawa Valley School Athletic Department recognizes that each student should have the opportunity for a broad range of experiences in the area of extra-curricular activities. Events will be scheduled, whenever possible, to minimize conflicts. Students have the responsibility to avoid conflicts whenever possible. Should the student identify a conflict, the student should notify the activity sponsors as soon as possible.

Whenever a conflict does occur, the sponsors/coaches of the activities should meet to attempt to resolve the conflict. If the conflict is between two practices, the sponsors/coaches should work on a time frame for sharing the student. If the conflict is between a contest and a practice, the contest will be attended. If the conflict is between two contests, then the sponsors/coaches should meet to resolve the conflict. If the sponsors/coaches cannot resolve the conflict, then the principal or director of athletics may intervene. The decision should be made based on:

1. The relative importance of each event.
2. The relative contribution the student can make.
3. The length of time each event has been scheduled.
4. A discussion with the parents.

Once the decision has been made, the student will follow that decision. The student will not be penalized in any way by the sponsors/coaches.

In-season athletes shall not be permitted to attend an open gym/weight lifting by coaches of an out-of-season sport, unless approval is given by in-season coach.

### **ATHLETIC CONTEST TRAVEL POLICY AND RELEASE**

The Mississinawa Valley Department of Athletics wants to emphasize the importance of student-athletes riding the team bus to and from athletic events. The riding of the team bus creates a bond - a team unity among teammates and coaches. It's an educational classroom where coaches can discuss team goals, strategies, give game or practice instructions. A place where a coach can console, congratulate or motivate an athlete.

If a student athlete missed the team bus at the scheduled departure time, the following procedures will occur:

- \* The coach of the student-athlete will contact the first parent listed on the emergency medical form via text or phone to advise the parent that his/her daughter/son missed the bus.
- \* If a student-athlete misses the bus, it is the responsibility of the student-athletes' parent to provide transportation to the athletic event.
- \* If the student-athlete missed the bus and arrives to the athletic event, the student-athlete will not be permitted to participate for at least half of the contest. It is the coach's discretion as to whether the student-athlete may participate in the remaining half of the contest.
- \* If the student-athlete missed the bus and does not shoe-up at the contest, the student-athlete will not be permitted to participate in the next athletic contest.

Under certain circumstances or exceptional situations, student-athletes may be excused from riding from an athletic contest on school authorized transportation. The parent of the student-athlete must provide written notice to the student-athlete's coach and to the Athletic Director or High School Principal.

The student-athlete and parent(s) and guardian(s) of the student-athlete understands that the Mississinawa Valley School athletic rules require students to ride the buses to and from athletic contests and departure from the this requirement will release the Mississinawa Valley School District employees and officers from all liability for any adverse results that may occur.

### **ATHLETIC ASSEMBLIES**

All student athletes are to attend the athletic assembly to receive their awards. Attendance is mandatory. Student athletes are to dress appropriately (men - dress slacks, shirts, and ties; ladies – dress slacks or dresses). If a student is unable to attend, the student must notify the director of athletics in advance to be excused and still be eligible to receive their awards.

### **EQUIPMENT**

Equipment supplied by the school is to be used only by the student athlete during practice or contests. Each athlete is responsible for all equipment issued to him/her. If the athlete fails to return the equipment, the athlete must pay the replacement cost of it. Each athlete shall return equipment in good condition. Failure to do so will result in payment for damaged equipment. Failure to do so will result in the athlete not receiving any awards and not being allowed to try out for another sport until the lost equipment is found and returned on until the replacement cost has been paid to the director of athletics.

### **DRIVING**

Students will find it necessary to find their own ways to and from practices and home contests as well as to school to ride the provided transportation to away contests. In many cases, this will involve the students driving themselves (and sometimes others). Driving and riding with others has its own set of inherent dangers, and should be recognized by all. All students who drive should drive in as safe a manner as possible. All driving regulations that the school has shall be applicable to athletic driving privileges.

There are two additional regulations for the athlete to follow.

1. No student should enter or park in the front parking lot if their practice is at the end of the school day.
2. Students who park in the front parking lot must park in an orderly manner, as is the custom.

## **RISK OF INJURY**

By the very nature of athletic activity, participants are at risk of physical injury. No matter how careful the athlete and coach are, no matter how many precautions are taken, the risk cannot be eliminated. It can be reduced but never eliminated. The risk of injury includes minor injuries such as broken bones, dislocations and muscle strains. The risk also includes catastrophic injuries such as permanent paralysis or even death.

It is important everyone understands these risks, and that athletes follow all safety directions from their coaches because they are established to reduce the risk of injury.

## **SCHOLAR ATHLETE**

The Mississinawa Valley Athletic Booster's Scholar Athlete is determined by having a grade point average of 3.3 or better in the grading period during sport season.

The Cross County Conference Scholar Athlete is determined by receiving a varsity letter and having a grade point average of 3.5 or better. Fall athletes use the first grading period, winter athletes use the second grading period, and spring athletes use the fourth quarter until the time the season ends.

## **ATHLETIC AWARDS**

The Student-Athlete must attend the Sports Awards to receive his/her award, unless prior arrangements have been made with the Athletic Director.

The criteria for determining varsity athletic award winners is as follows:

- A. Basketball - Play in half of the quarters
- B. Football - Play in half of the quarters
- C. Softball - Play in half the games, pitchers must be in three innings
- D. Baseball - Play in half the games, pitchers must be in three innings
- E. Golf - Play in half the matches
- F. Volleyball - Play in half the matches
- G. Bowling - Play in half the matches

### **Awards**

- A. Varsity Player
  - 1. First Award Ever – six inch “M” and insignia
  - 2. First Award in a Particular Sport – insignia
  - 3. Second Award – service bar
  - 4. Third Award – service bar
  - 5. Senior Award – service bar
- B. Reserve and Freshmen Players
  - 1. Insignia

## **DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES**

1. When a student is in violation of any of the rules listed in the Mississinawa Valley Schools' Code of Student Conduct, the principal shall be notified. Disciplinary action consistent with the Mississinawa Valley School's Code of Student Conduct shall be implemented.
2. When a student is in suspected violation of any of the rules listed in Mississinawa Valley School's rules and Regulation for the Conduct of Students Participation in Athletic Activities, the coach/advisor, the director of athletics and the principal shall be notified.
3. The loss of all athletic activity privileges automatically accompanies any suspension or expulsion. Loss of athletic privileges under suspension or expulsion from school should count toward the loss of privileges for the policy.
4. A pupil may be temporarily removed from an athletic activity by a building administrator, director of athletics, teacher, coach, or activity advisor responsible for supervision of the affected activity. Temporary removal is limited to a maximum of 3 school days, or until a hearing is held with the student and parent or guardian (whichever is longer). Before initiating the temporary removal, the student shall be given the opportunity to explain his/her action to the coach, the director of athletics and the building administrator.
5. All temporary removals from athletic activities by a building administrator, director of athletics, teacher, and coach or activity advisor shall be reported to the building principal no later than the next school day following such removal.
6. A discipline committee consisting of the coach/advisor, the director athletics and the building principal will meet to investigate the violation. If the committee feels actions beyond the temporary removal is warranted, the building principal shall give the parent/guardian and the student written notice of the specific offense of which he/she is

being disciplined. Upon request, the student shall be given the opportunity to explain his/her actions at a hearing. This opportunity to explain does not include the right to call witnesses, although the discipline committee may hear the testimony of witnesses if they so desire.

7. If a hearing is requested, the hearing shall be set within 3 school days of the request, unless postponed at the request of the parent. The student shall continue to be temporarily suspended from participation in the athletic activity until the hearing is held.
8. The decision of the hearing committee may be appealed to the pupil's building principal.
9. The decision of the building principal may be appealed to the superintendent for review. As soon as possible, but at a time that is convenient for the superintendent, the student shall be given the opportunity to explain his/her actions. The student does not have the right to call witnesses on his/her behalf, but the superintendent may, at his/her discretion, allow the testimony of witnesses. The superintendent may affirm, modify, or reverse the decision of the hearing committee. The decision of the superintendent shall be final.
10. The pupil shall be removed from the affected athletic activities during the above appeal procedure. The building administrator, director of athletics, coach, activity advisor, or appellate administrator involved shall not unreasonably delay any decision on the loss of athletic activity privileges.
11. Infractions of these rules shall be held on record for a period of one-year (date to date). Infractions shall be accumulated during that time period.
12. These rules shall be in effect for all athletes in season from the first official day or practice until the end of the sports season. The sports season is over when the last contest is played, all equipment is returned, and the athletic assembly has been held, whichever occurs latest.

The foregoing procedure is intended to promote fairness in the denial of athletic activity privileges. It should not be construed as creating any right to participate in athletic activities and does not apply to the denial of participation in the first instance (such as failure to "make" the team).

Any loss of athletic activity privileges of less than 24 hours does not need to comply with the foregoing procedures.

The foregoing procedures do not apply in cases where the loss of athletic activity privileges is a consequence of the pupil being suspended or expelled, unless the loss extends beyond the period of suspension or expulsion.

#### **DEFINITION OF A SPORTS SEASON**

The sports season shall be the maximum number of contests allowed by the Ohio High School Athletic Association even if the Mississinawa Valley Schools have not scheduled that number of athletic contests. The season begins with the first official day of practice as established by the Ohio High School Athletic Association and ends when the last contest is played, all equipment is returned, and the awards assembly is completed, whichever occurs last. A student may try out for a different sport season team prior to the athletic banquet but after the last contest.

#### **TOBACCO**

In accordance with the Rules and Regulations for the Conduct of Students Participating in Athletic Activities of the Mississinawa Valley Schools, possession or use of tobacco in any form (i.e., cigarettes, cigars, snuff, chewing tobacco, etc.) is a violation of the rules and will result in the following consequences:

#### **FIRST VIOLATION**

1. A student found in violation for the first time shall be prohibited from the participation for one-third of the current sports season and/or a review by the varsity coach/advisor, the director of athletics, and the building principal. If the student agrees to participate in a tobacco education program approved by the school administration, the penalty shall be reduced to one-tenth of the current sports season. Refusal or failure to complete tobacco education program shall result in application of the full one-third penalty. The student must practice with his/her athletic group, travel with the group, and sit with the group during competition (but not in uniform). All training rules and regulations of the activity must be followed by the participant.

When a student-athlete is denied participation in a sport due to a violation of the Code of Conduct rules, the student-athlete may not dress or participate as a member of another team in that sport during the denial period. Because of the uniqueness of the football schedule, a "varsity" player denied participation may not be used as a reserve player, either prior to or immediately after the denial period. Similarly, a "reserve" player denied participation may not dress as a "varsity" player until after the denial period.

Any student-athlete who is denied participation is still a member of the team. The student-athlete may attend contests with the team, and ride with team. The student-athlete may not be in uniform, ready for competition, nor may the student-athlete participate in any manner in warm-ups.

2. Self-Referral Policy: Prior to a violation a student may seek assistance for dealing with a drug/alcohol problem by

self-referral to their coach/advisor, director of athletics, or school administrator. By initiating a self-referral and agreeing to participate in a drug/alcohol program approved by the school administration, there shall be NO prohibition from athletic activities. Refusal or failure to complete the drug/alcohol program will result in the full one-third penalty. Self-referrals which results in no prohibition from participation are still considered first violations. Self-referral cannot be used as a method of avoiding disciplinary consequences.

## **SECOND VIOLATION**

1. A student found in violation during the current school year for the second time will be prohibited from participation in the athletic activity program for the remainder of the current sports season and/or a review by the varsity coach/advisor, the director of athletics, and the building principal. Any additional violations will be treated the same as the second violation.
2. All costs for assessment, treatment, rehabilitation or counseling for a tobacco-related problem shall be the responsibility of the student.

## **DRUGS AND ALCOHOL SALE OR DISTRIBUTION**

In accordance with the Rules and Regulations for the conduct of Students Participating in Athletic Activities for the Mississinawa Valley Schools, a student selling or distributing mood-altering chemicals, non-prescribed drugs, steroids, alcohol or other intoxicants at any time is in violation of the rules and subject to the following consequences.

## **FIRST VIOLATION**

1. A student found to be violation will be immediately prohibited from participation in athletic activities for the remainder of the season and/or a review by the varsity coach/advisor, the director of athletics, and the building principal.
2. The building principal will contact the parent or guardian of the student in violation.
3. The building principal will notify the Darke County Sheriff's Department. All evidence and pertinent information shall be submitted to the proper authorities.

## **POSSESSION AND/OR USE OF DRUGS OR ALCOHOL**

In accordance with the Rules and Regulations for the Conduct of Students Participating in Athletic Activities of the Mississinawa Valley Schools, except for supervised, doctor-prescribed medication, a student under the influence, buying, using or possession illegal, mood-altering chemicals, non-prescribed drugs, steroids, alcohol or other intoxicants at any time is in violation of the rules and is subject to the following consequences:

## **DEFINITION OF POSSESSION:**

1. In a car, van, room, house, etc. with others when drugs, alcohol, or paraphernalia are present.
2. Physically in possession of drugs, alcohol or paraphernalia.

## **FIRST VIOLATION**

1. If a student is found to be in violation during the current school year, the student will be prohibited from participation in athletic activities for one-third of the current sports season and/or a review by the varsity coach/advisor, the director of athletics, and the building principal. The student must practice with his/her athletic group, travel with the group, and sit with the group during competition (but not in uniform).  
When a student-athlete is denied participation in a sport due to a violation of a Code of Conduct rules, the student-athlete may not dress or participate as a member of another team in that sport during the denial period. Because of the uniqueness of the football schedule, a "varsity" player denied participation may not be used as a reserve player, either prior to or immediately after the denial period. Similarly, a "reserve" player denied participation may not dress as a "varsity" player until after the denial period.  
Any student-athlete who is denied participation is still a member of the team. The student-athlete may attend contests with the team, and ride with the team. The student-athlete may not be in uniform, ready for competition, nor may the student-athlete participate in any manner in warm-ups.
2. Self-Referral Policy: Prior to a violation a student may seek assistance for dealing with a drug/alcohol problem by self-referral to their coach/advisor, director of athletics, or school administrator. By initiating a self-referral and agreeing to participate in a drug/alcohol program approved by the school administration, there shall be NO prohibition from athletic activities. Refusal or failure to complete the drug/alcohol program will result in the full one-third penalty. Self-referrals which results in no prohibition from participation are still considered first violations. Self-referral cannot be used as a method of avoiding disciplinary consequences.

## **SECOND VIOLATION**

1. A student found in violation during the current school year for the second time shall be prohibited from participation



in athletic activities for the remainder of the current sports season and/or a review by the director athletics, and the building principal.

2. If the student seeks assistance for dealing with a drug or alcohol problem by self-referral to their coach/advisor, director of athletics, or school administrator after having a first violation on their record, it is considered a second violation.

### **THIRD VIOLATION**

1. A student found in violation during the current school year for the third time shall be denied participation for the remainder of the current school year.
2. All costs for assessment, treatment, rehabilitation, or counseling shall be the responsibility of the student.

### **MAJOR MISCONDUCT**

There are times that unfortunate incidents occur during the course of a sports season that could be classified as a major misconduct. Such actions could be, but are not restricted to, insubordination to coaches or school officials, physical attacks upon coaches, players, officials, etc., or an illegal activity such as stealing, vandalism, etc. The buying, selling, use of, or possession of tobacco, alcohol, drug, or look-alike drugs on school property shall be considered a major misconduct.

Hazing is also a major misconduct. Hazing activities of any type are inconsistent with the educational process and shall be prohibited. No student, including leaders of student organizations, shall plan, encourage, or engage in any hazing.

Hazing is defined as doing any act or coercing another, including the victim, to do any act or initiation unto any student or other organization that causes or creates a substantial risk of causing mental or physical harm to any person. Permission, consent, or assumption of risk by an individual subjected to hazing does not lessen the prohibition contained in this policy.

If hazing or planned hazing is discovered, involved students shall be informed of the prohibition contained in this policy and shall be required to end all hazing activities immediately.

### **FIRST VIOLATION**

1. A student found to be in violation will be immediately prohibited from participation in athletic activities for the remainder of the current sports season and/or a review by the varsity coach/advisor, the director of athletics, and the building principal.
2. The building principal will contact the parent or guardian of the student in violation.
3. The building principal will notify the Darke County Sheriff's Department if applicable. All evidence and pertinent information shall be submitted to the proper authorities.

The athletic activities of the Mississinawa Valley School are designed for the benefit of both the students and the school. Students volunteer to participate in athletic activities. They are expected to accept the responsibilities granted by maintaining a high degree of conduct throughout the year at all times. These rules and regulations are separate from and carry consequences in addition to those invoked by the normal school code of Student Conduct.