

Wolverine Middle/High School



Athletic Policy

Board Approved
August, 2013

Superintendent
Matthew Baughman

High School Principal
Mark Slotman

Athletic Director
Mark Slotman

Wolverine Community Schools Athletic Department
General Information

Athletic Director:	Mark Slotman
Address:	13131 Brook St. Wolverine, MI 49799
Phone Number:	231-525-8201 ext. 1002
Email:	dtippett@wolverineschools.org
League:	Northern Lakes Conference
Participation Schools:	Alanson, Alba, Boyne Falls, Ellsworth, Harbor Light, Mackinaw City, NMCA, Vanderbilt, and Wolverine
Ticket Prices:	Tickets are sold at the door for all home basketball and volleyball games. Ticket prices are: Students: \$2.00 Adults: \$4.00 Seniors: \$2.00 Family \$10.00 Season Family Pass: \$100.00 <u>Family Rate includes immediate family only.</u> Ticket prices for district contests or regional contests are set by MHSAA and are usually much higher.
Boosters Club:	President: Lisa Waldie The Wolverine Athletic Boosters is open to all community members in the Wolverine Community School District. All sports enthusiasts are encouraged to join.
Transportation:	Transportation will be provided for all away games during the season. Student spectators are not allowed to ride in the same vehicle as the team.

PROPER CHAIN OF COMMAND

COACH



ATHLETIC DIRECTOR



HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL



SUPERINTENDENT



SCHOOL BOARD

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INTRODUCTION

The Wolverine Community School District athletic program is an extension of its educational program and adheres to the philosophy and objectives prescribed by the Wolverine Board of Education and the Michigan High School Athletic Association. This handbook is designed for student-athletes and the parents of all participants in activities sponsored by the Department of Athletics for Wolverine Community Schools. Its content will help define the policies and procedures used within the Department of Athletics.

High School

Varsity Boy Sports

Basketball
Baseball
Cross Country
Golf

Varsity Girl Sports

Basketball
Softball
Cross Country
Volleyball
Golf-Boys

Junior Varsity Boy Sports

Basketball

Junior Varsity Girl Sports

Basketball
Volleyball

Middle School

Boys

Basketball
Cross Country

Girls

Basketball
Cross Country
Volleyball

*Note: Cheerleading and equestrian are not considered athletic teams by the Board of Education and the Athletic Department. They are considered clubs, which fall under the academic eligibility guidelines of the Athletic Department and all other guidelines provided by the school student handbook.

PHILOSOPHY OF ATHLETICS

General Philosophy of Athletics

- A. To allow Wolverine students the opportunity to experience the benefits of interscholastic athletics.
- B. Wolverine programs will be conducted within the framework of rules, regulations, and good sportsmanship.
- C. To expect and encourage Wolverine athletes to conduct themselves in a manner complimentary to their school, family, and community in all aspects of athletics.
- D. Participation will be determined by skills, attendance at practice, effort, and eligibility.

The philosophy of the middle school athletic programs for boys and girls athletic programs is one of development in the following areas:

- 1. Athletic skills.
- 2. Learning to practice and play with 100% effort and intensity.
- 3. Concept of team membership in place of individual interests.
- 4. Realizing that team membership means meeting eligibility requirements.
- 5. Learning to compete with other players.
- 6. Realizing that team membership is a privilege, not a right.

The philosophy of junior varsity programs is to prepare players for varsity-level competition. This involves:

- 1. Continued skill development.
- 2. Developing a winning attitude.
- 3. Developing teamwork in the place of personal interests.
- 4. Learning to understand and accept individual role on team.

The philosophy of varsity-level teams in all sports is to play to potential in order to be as competitive as possible. Involvement of all individuals is secondary to competing to win.

GOALS FOR THE ATHLETIC PROGRAM

1. To provide an organized and balanced program of interscholastic athletics for as many secondary students as possible, consistent with available facilities, personnel, and financial support. To manage these athletic activities in harmony with Board of Education policy in the Wolverine Community School District, the Michigan High School Athletic Association, and Northern Lakes Conference.
2. To provide mutually acceptable goals between coaches, parents/guardians, student-athletes, student body, and the community.
3. To develop and maintain the highest level of sportsmanship. To develop proper competitive attitudes toward winning and losing. To establish a lasting appreciation for the utmost effort in “giving ones’ all”, always within the rules of fair play.
4. To guide attitudes toward respect for teammates, coaches, officials, and competitors on other teams.
5. To strive for excellence through involvement for the inherent educational worth thus making the focus on tangible rewards a secondary objective.
6. To promote competitive activity as an integral part of the total student development.
7. To promote athletic activities for the purpose of complementing and enhancing the academic programs, through better attendance and retention rates, higher grade point averages, and fewer discipline problems.
8. To promote the lasting qualities of athletics as they relate to skill mastery, self-esteem, and teamwork.
9. To encourage self-reliance and self-worth as a measure and stance against the misuse, abuse, or reliance on legal or illegal drugs in connection with athletic involvement and lifestyle.
10. To strive to always keep athletics in a proper educational perspective, realizing that programs have value as they contribute to the student athlete’s educational experience.
11. To promote realistic preparation for competitive life for student-athletes. This includes the pursuit of “dreams” with academic preparation to include the reality that only a fraction of one percent of high school athletes play college sports, much less get college scholarships, and fewer still, receive professional contracts or reach the Olympics.

ATHLETIC CODE FOR PARENTS AND GUARDIANS

Successful programs have student athletes, parents/guardians and coaches working toward common goals. As a source of encouragement, in schedule arrangements, as a behavior model, and as a program and student supporter, parents/guardians are a critical part of this triangular partnership. Successful athletes and successful programs are often directly influenced by supportive and caring parents/guardians. In this important capacity, these standards should be practiced:

1. Recognize the importance of discussing and understanding with the student athlete the prerequisite of team membership, time commitments, team rules and a commitment to always doing ones' best along with other team, student and family responsibilities.
2. Encourage participation while respecting the student athlete's choice of team or other activity involvement. Sometimes a choice may have to be made if a compromise between two or more interests is not possible.
3. Be involved in parent meetings and other school support groups.
4. Encourage and support involvement by attending contests.
5. Demonstrate positive support at contests as a way of modeling good sportsmanship.
6. Communicate concerns beginning with the athlete or coaching in a positive and appropriate manner.
7. Recognize that mistakes, poor choices, the need to try independence, the expression of ideas and thoughts, failure as well as success, are all important aspect of a young person's growing and learning opportunities.
8. Recognize that the real value of athletic involvement rests in the positive educational lessons that become growing and learning opportunities for the student athlete.
9. Recognize that I am a strong and positive force in supporting, shaping and encouraging the real value of athletic involvement.
10. Understand and support the team concept and recognize how each student athlete accepts, contributes and works toward this goal.
11. Recognize how playing time relates to team level, practice effort, team roles, skill and position.
12. Understand and support the adherence to training rules.

Parent Coach Relations

Parent/Coach Relationship:

Both parenting and coaching are extremely difficult vocations. By establishing an understanding of each position, we are better able to accept the actions of the other and provide greater benefit to the student. As parents, when your children become involved in our programs, you have a right to understand what expectations are placed on your child. This begins with clear communication from the coach of your child's program.

Communication you should expect from your child's coach:

1. Expectations the coach has for your child as well as all of the players on the squad.
2. Locations and times of all practices and contests.
3. Team requirements such as special equipment, off-season conditioning, team camps.
4. Procedure should your child be injured during participation.
5. Team rules and guidelines, and lettering requirements.

Communication coaches expect from athletes:

1. Notification of any schedule conflicts in advance.
2. Special concerns in regards to a coach's philosophy and/or expectations.

As your children become involved in the athletic programs at WHS, they will experience some of the most regarding moments of their lives. It is important to understand that there also may be times when things do not go the way you or your child wishes. At these times, discussion with the coach is encouraged.

Appropriate concerns to discuss with coaches:

1. The treatment of your child, mentally and physically.
2. Ways to help your child improve.
3. Concerns about your child's behavior.

It is very difficult to accept your children not playing as much as you may hope. Coaches are professionals. They make judgment decisions based on what they believe to be the best for all students involved. As you have seen from the list above, certain things can be and should be discussed with your child's coach. Other things, such as the following must be left to the discretion of the coach.

Issues not appropriate to discuss with coaches:

1. Playing time.
2. Team strategy.
3. Play calling.
4. Other student-athletes.

There are some situations that may require a conference between the coach and the parent. These are to be encouraged. It is important that both parties involved have a clear understanding of the other's position. When these conferences are necessary, the following procedure should be followed to help promote a resolution to the issue of concern.

1. Call to set up an appointment with the coach.
2. If the coach cannot be reached, talk to the athletic director. He will set up the meeting for you.
3. Please do not attempt to confront a coach before or after a contest or during practice. These can be emotional times for both the parent and the coach. Meetings of this nature do not promote resolution.

PLEASE WAIT UNTIL THE DAY FOLLOWING A GAME TO CONTACT THE COACH

**TEN COMMANDMENTS
FOR PARENTS WITH ATHLETIC CHILDREN**

1. Make sure your children know that win or lose, scared or heroic, you love them, appreciate their efforts and are not disappointed in them. This will allow them to do their best without a fear of failure. Be the person in their life they can look to for constant positive reinforcement.
2. Try your best to be completely honest about your child's athletic capability, their competitive attitude, sportsmanship and actual skill level.
3. Be helpful but don't coach them on the way to the game, track or field, or on the way back or at breakfast and so on. It is tough not to, but it is a lot tougher for the child to be inundated with advise, pep talks and often critical instruction.
4. Teach them to enjoy the thrill of competition, to be "out there trying", to be working to improve their skills and attitudes. Help them to develop the feel for competing, for trying hard and having fun.
5. Try not to relive your athletic life through your children in a way that creates pressure; you fumbled, too, you lost as well as won. You were frightened, you backed off at times, you were not always heroic. Don't pressure them because of your lost pride.
6. Don't compete with the coach. If the coach becomes an authority figure, it will run from enchantment to disenchantment, etc, with your athlete.
7. Don't compare the skill, courage or attitudes of your children with other members of the team, at least within his/her hearing.
8. Get to know the coach so that you can be assured that the philosophy, attitudes, ethics, and knowledge are such that you are happy to have your child under this leadership.
9. Always remember that children tend to exaggerate, both when praised and when criticized. Temper your reaction and investigate before overreacting.
10. Make a point of understanding courage, and the fact that it is relative. Some of us can climb mountains and not be afraid to fight. Some of us will fight, but turn to jelly if a bee approaches. Everyone is frightened in certain areas. Explain that courage is not the absence of fear, but a means of doing something in spite of fear or discomfort. The job of the parent of an athletic child is a tough one, and it takes a lot of effort to do it well. It is worth all the effort when you hear your youngster say, "My parents really helped, I was lucky in this".

Be a real fan of high school sports

The start of a new school year means that high school sports are once again in full swing at the state's 762 high schools. Student-athletes and coaches all over northern Michigan will be trying their utmost to be the best possible representatives of their schools and communities. Officials and referees will be doing their best to ensure a level playing field for all.

I've been a high school player, a high school coach, a high school official and above all a fan of high school athletics. Because of this background I can say without fear of contradiction that every athlete, coach and referee participate in high school sports because of a love of sports and a desire to do something positive. This takes a lot of effort and tremendous dedication.

When we attend a high school contest, the only honorable way to support their efforts is to be real fans, not false ones. About 99.9 percent of the fans that attend high school events are already "real fans." They cheer for their teams and set a good example of sportsmanship for the players on the field or court and the youngsters in the bleachers.

Unfortunately, though, there always seems to be at least one "false fan" at every event. You know who I'm talking about. The false fan is the person al-

most always male) who is on his feet from the opening whistle of every contest protesting at the top of his lungs every call by an official, second guessing every decision by a coach and casting derogatory remarks at every opposing player.

When you come across a false fan, here's what you must realize. His odious behavior has absolutely nothing to do with supporting his team. It has everything to do with calling attention to himself, a pathetic attempt to get everyone else to "look at me." Ask yourself this: If false fan was the only person in the stands would he act this way? Of course not. The goal of his performance is to make others pay attention to him, so unless there's an audience why put on a show?

He's probably a has-been or never-was. If he did play high school sports it obviously was the highlight of his life and nothing he's done since has amounted to a hill of beans so he continually needs to remind others that he once was "somebody." But remember this: An empty barrel makes the most



Neff Zone

Jim Neff

noise.

One thing a false fan will never do is volunteer to be a high school official. You would think this would be a no-brainer for a false fan. After all, he has the eyes of an eagle because he can make calls from 200 yards away in the bleachers that referees actually on the field miss, he knows all the rules backward and forward, and he has plenty of vocal volume to make calls. Gee, why let all that talent go to waste? Why not go to www.mhsaa.com/resources/official.htm and sign up to be an official? We all know why this scenario won't happen, don't we? Does the term "complete fraud" describe the false fan accurately?

I'm not saying all of us don't boo a referee's call once in a while or yell "pass the ball" (or some other pearl of strategic wisdom) on occasion. It's a natural part of being a fan involved in a game. But real fans cheer FOR their team, not against the opponent. Real fans tip their caps to good play by opposition players. And real fans don't embarrass themselves, their schools or communities

by exchanging low-class barbs with false fans from other schools.

All fans might benefit from reviewing these simple points about high school athletics.

- Remember that you are at a contest to support and yell for your team and to enjoy the skill and competition; not to intimidate or ridicule the other team and its fans.
- Praise student-athletes in their efforts to improve themselves as students, as athletes, and as people.
- Remember that a ticket to a school athletic event is a privilege to observe the contest, not a license to verbally assault others and be generally obnoxious. Be a positive behavior model at events through your own actions.
- Understand that you are possibly the biggest role model in a child's life. Carrying on wildly in the stands at games and challenging the authority of coaches and officials does little to model positive behavior in the child's presence.
- Don't live your life through your child's (or other student-athlete's) athletic achievements. This is their time. This is their place. Let them play.

JIM NEFF is a local columnist. Comments to neffzone@gmail.com. Read Neff Zone columns online at www.neffzone.us.

GOVERNING BODIES

The athletic program at Wolverine Community Schools follows the rules, regulations, and policies as set forth by the following governing bodies:

1. Wolverine Board of Education
2. Michigan High School Athletic Association
3. National Federation of High School Athletic Association
4. Wolverine Athletic Department
5. Northern Lakes Conference

Michigan High School Athletic Association

The Wolverine Community Schools are voluntary members of the MHSAA by Board of Education action. The purpose of the MHSAA is to promote, develop, direct, protect, and regulate amateur interscholastic athletics relationships between member schools, to stimulate fair play, friendly rivalry, and good sportsmanship among contestants, schools, and communities.

The Superintendent of Schools

The executive function is delegated to the Superintendent of Schools by the Board of Education. The superintendent is charged with the responsibility of devising ways and means of efficiently executing the policies adopted by the Board of Education.

The Superintendent recommends to the Board of Education the appointment of all personnel who are given any responsibility for handling interschool athletics, approves all policies and procedures recommended by staff, and is in fact directly responsible to the School Board for the successful performance of the organization.

The School Principal

The School Principal is the administrative head of interscholastic athletic activities as well as all other activities of the school. As administrative head of the school, he/she is directly responsible to the Superintendent of Schools and to the MHSAA.

Supervision of athletic contests is a cooperative matter among the principals and athletic director.

The MHSAA rules listed in this handbook are only a summary of some of the regulations affecting student eligibility. Most rules are found in the MHSAA Handbook which can be located in the school administrative offices. In addition, Wolverine Community Schools has the authority to establish more stringent standards and to enact codes of athletic conduct that are in the best interests of individual students, the team, and the community.

MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION ELIGIBILITY RULES FOR SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

To be eligible to represent Wolverine Community Schools in interscholastic athletics, the student must observe the following rules:

1. **Age:** The student must be under nineteen years of age, except that a student whose nineteenth birthday occurs on or after September 1 of a current school year is eligible for the balance of the school year.
2. **Physical Examination:** Students must have on file, in the school's office, a physician's statement for the current school year (after May 15) certifying that he/she is physically able to compete in athletic practices and contests. NO STUDENT SHALL BE ABLE TO COMPETE IN OR ATTEND PRACTICE OR GAMES UNTIL A COMPLETED PHYSICAL CARD IS TURNED IN TO THE HIGH SCHOOL OFFICE OR TO THE COACH. Failure to comply will result in suspension from athletics.
3. **Enrollment:** Students must be enrolled in school prior to the fourth Friday after Labor Day (first semester) or the fourth Friday of February (second semester). A student must be enrolled in the school for which he or she competes.
4. **Semesters of Enrollment:** A student cannot be eligible in high school for more than eight semesters and the seventh and eighth semesters must be consecutive. Students are allowed four first semesters and four second semesters of competition and cannot compete if they have graduated from high school.
5. **Undergraduate Standing:** A student who is a graduate of a regular four-year high school or who is a graduate of a secondary school that has the same requirements for graduation as a regular four-year high school shall not be eligible for interscholastic athletics. However, a student who satisfactorily completes the required number of credits for graduation in less than eight semesters will not be barred from interscholastic athletic competition, while passing at least twenty credit hours of undergraduate work, until the end of the eighth semester as far as the provisions of this section are concerned.
6. **Previous Semester Record:** A student must have successfully completed twenty credit hours of work (four classes) for the last semester he/she was enrolled in grades 9-12.
7. **Current Semester Record:** Academic eligibility checks of not more than ten weeks are required. If a student does not pass at least twenty credit hours when checked, that student is ineligible for competition until the next check, but not less than for the next Monday through Sunday.

8. **Transfer Students:** A student in grades 9 through 12 who transfers to another high school is not eligible to participate in an interscholastic contest for one full semester unless the student qualifies for immediate eligibility under one or more of the thirteen published exceptions. Students and parents anticipating a change of schools should first seek advice from their high school administrator.
9. **Undue Influence:** The use of undue influence by any person indirectly or directly associated with a school to secure or encourage the attendance of a student for athletic purposes, shall cause the student to become ineligible for a minimum of one semester.
10. **Limited Team Membership:** After practicing or participating with high school teams, students cannot participate in any athletic competition not sponsored by his or her school in the same sport during the same season. Exceptions include ice hockey and all individual sports which apply the rule from the point of a student's first participation in a contest or scrimmage, rather than practice. Students in individual sports may participate in a maximum of two non-school individual meets or contests during the school season while not representing their school.
11. **All-Star Competition:** Students shall not compete at any time in any sport under MHSAA jurisdiction in all-star contests or national championships regardless of the method of selection. Participation in such a contest shall cause that student to become ineligible for a minimum period of one year of school enrollment.
12. **Awards and Amateurism:** Students cannot receive money or other valuable consideration for participating in MHSAA-sponsored sports or officiating in interscholastic competitions, except as allowed by the handbook. Students may accept, for participation in MHSAA-sponsored sports, a symbolic or merchandise award that does not have a value over \$25. Banquets, luncheons, dinners, trips, and admission to camps or events, are permitted if accepted "in kind." Awards in the form of cash, merchandise, certificates, or any other negotiable document are never allowed.

FAILURE TO COMPLY

Any student who fails to meet any of the eligibility regulations will not be allowed to participate until such a time as she/he complies with the regulations. The student is ineligible until deficiencies are corrected. Students who fail to pass the required classes during the previous semester are ineligible for the entire current semester.

An ineligible student who participates creates a situation of forfeiture of contests she/he has participated in for the team. Any questions concerning eligibility status should be clarified with a building administrator immediately.

ATHLETIC POLICY OF WOLVERINE MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL

Wolverine Middle/High School is a member of the Northern Lakes Conference with Alanson, Alba, Boyne Falls, Ellsworth, Harbor Light, Mackinaw City, and Vanderbilt. Students are welcome to participate in interscholastic athletics, provided that the requirements outlined in this policy are adhered to by the student-athlete. Athletics is defined to include students participating in sports and students participating in cheerleading and dance.

ELIGIBILITY

All students must be eligible under the MHSAA regulations.

1. Students must be passing 20 hours of class work (4 classes meeting 5 days per week). This eligibility will be determined on the basis of the weekly eligibility check and the semester grades. A person not meeting this classroom requirement on the basis of the weekly check, will be ineligible for one week or until the state requirement is satisfied whichever is longer and ineligible for one semester if ineligible on the basis of semester grades.
2. Students must pass a yearly physical examination before they begin participation in athletics.
3. Transfer students may not compete in-game contests until their eligibility is cleared through MHSAA regulations. These students may practice with the team.
4. A student entering the 9th grade for the first time will be eligible regardless of their previous semester grades.
5. All students must also be eligible according to Wolverine High School eligibility standards
6. Students will be ineligible for one week, Tuesday through Monday, if they receive failing grades in two classes or in the same class for two consecutive weeks. Student's eligibility will be based on a cumulative average of the student's work from the beginning of each quarter. Eligibility will be checked weekly.

7. An athlete who is absent from school for any length of time may not participate in practice or games unless extenuating circumstances have been agreed upon by the athletic director and building principal. An athlete is to always consult their coach before missing practice or a game.
8. Students must return to the administrative office the signed copy of the physical form before the first scheduled practice to be eligible to participate in practice or a scheduled contest. No practicing will be allowed until a physical examination has been passed by the athlete.
9. Disciplinary action as a result of poor school conduct will cause for being ineligible to compete in athletics. Examples of poor conduct but not limited to these: are skipping school, cheating, fighting, stealing, destruction of school property, disrespect, poor citizenship, and insubordination.
10. Students assigned detention must attend detention. No detentions will be rescheduled in order to work around a student athlete's practice or game schedule.
11. Students suspended, both in and out of school, will not be allowed to participate in that day's athletic activity, both practice and games.
12. If a student is sent home early for behavior, that student may not return to participate in after-school athletic activities.
13. The athletic policies shall be sent to the parents with an agreement to be signed by the parents and students that they have read the rules and agree to support them. This signed statement shall be returned before the student will be allowed to participate in sports.

ATHLETIC CODE

All students participating in athletics will conform to the following Athletic Code in reference to general conduct. The Athletic Code is in effect during the entire calendar year.

1. No use or possession of tobacco in any form.
2. No drinking or possession of alcoholic beverages.
3. No use or possession of illegal drugs or narcotics.
4. Acts of dishonesty and unlawfulness other than traffic violations committed inside or outside of school will be grounds for restriction.
5. Acts of conduct detrimental to the school will be grounds for restriction.
6. Unauthorized possession of athletic equipment belonging to Wolverine Community Schools will be grounds for restriction and/or prosecution.

The above restrictions apply to all students from the time they first report for any sport sponsored by Wolverine Community Schools until they have graduated after their senior year or are no longer taking part in athletics.

ACTION TO BE TAKEN FOR VIOLATING THE ATHLETIC CODE

The penalty for the use or possession of tobacco, alcoholic beverages, or illegal drugs or narcotics shall be the following:

First Violation-The athlete shall be suspended from participation in:

- (a) Twenty percent (20%) of the games of the current sports season in which the athlete is participating.
- (b) A combination of 20% of the games of the current sports season of participation and in the following sports season in which the athlete will participate when the violation occurs near the end of a current season of participation.
- (c) 20% of the games in the following sports season in which the athlete will participate when the violation occurs while the athlete is not currently participating in a sport.

During this period of suspension, the athlete will remain on the team participate in all practices attend all games and team meetings, and make contact with an advised counselor one day per week for counseling. Failure to meet these conditions will result in an extension of the period of suspension as determined by the Athletic Committee.

Second Violation-All suspension conditions will be the same as the first violation, except that 20% will be replaced by 50%. If the second violation occurs 24 calendar months after the first violation occurred, the violation will be treated as a first violation.

Third Violation-The athlete will be suspended from all participation in the athletic program for a period of one calendar year from the date that the penalty is assessed. The athlete will also be referred to the school counselor for counseling in a substance abuse program.

The type of restriction that will apply to acts of dishonesty and unlawfulness, other than traffic violations, actions or acts of conduct detrimental to the school, and unauthorized possession of athletic equipment will be determined by the Athletic Committee.

Previous violations for an individual are voided upon completion of a 24-month period during which another violation does not occur.

An athlete who violates the Athletic Code after their sport season is completed may be penalized by having their awards taken away from them if they are not participating in any other sport.

The sport season shall be defined as the time during which a specific sport is being played starting with the first practice day and ending with the last interscholastic contest. The off

season shall be defined as the time during the calendar year when a student is not involved in a sports season.

Appeal Procedures

Any violation of the Athletic Code that is brought to the attention of the athletic director and has occurred during the time that school is in session, will be acted upon within 72 hours by the Athletic Committee. Violations that occur during the summer vacation will be acted on after August 1st. The parents of the athlete involved will be notified by certified mail of the action taken by the Athletic Committee within five days after the decision has been made.

The athlete will have the right to appeal the decision of the Athletic Committee to the Athletic Council. The appeal shall be made in writing through the athletic director within five days after receipt of the decision of the Athletic Committee.

The Athletic Council shall hear the appeal of the decision within seven days of receipt by the athletic director of the appeal. The student shall have the right to appear with counsel, before the Athletic Council, to present their side of the case. The Athletic Council shall render a decision on the appeal within five days of the completion of the hearing. Parents are to be notified of the decision by certified mail within five days of the completion of the hearing.

If the student is not satisfied with the decision of the Athletic Council, they may appeal this decision to the Board of Education of the Wolverine Community School District. This appeal shall be made in writing through the superintendent of schools within five days after receiving the decision of the Athletic Council. The Board of Education shall hear the appeal within 21 days of receipt of the appeal but not less than seven days of receipt of the appeal and shall render a decision within five days after the completion of the hearing. Parents are to be notified of the decision by certified mail within five days of the decision of the Board of Education. The student shall have the right to appear with counsel at the Board of Education hearing.

Athletic Committee

The Athletic Committee shall consist of the high school principal and the athletic director. If the principal and the athletic director are the same person, the principal shall select a faculty member to serve as the second person on this committee. The purpose of the Athletic Committee shall be to render decisions concerning violations of the Athletic Code. If either of these people are not available, the superintendent will appoint substitutes.

Athletic Council

The Athletic Council shall consist of an administrator, two coaches, and two faculty members who do not coach. The administrator shall be the chairman of the council. The Athletic Council shall be an ad hoc committee, appointed by the high school principal, to hear appeals of decisions rendered by the Athletic Committee. A new council shall be appointed for each case under appeal. A person cannot be a member of this council if they served on the Athletic Committee which rendered the first decision in the case. After hearing the facts of the case, the

Athletic Council shall either uphold the decision of the Athletic Committee or reverse the decision of the Athletic Committee finding that the athlete is not in violation of the Athletic Code. At least four members of the committee shall be present at the hearing to render a decision on the appeal.

STUDENT ATHLETE RESPONSIBILITIES

Students should understand that the athletic program is an important part of their overall education. Athletics offers many opportunities for the total development of each individual. Once students decide to participate, they must understand that they are accepting the privileges and benefits of participation and must meet certain specific obligations and responsibilities. Student-athletes should also plan their activity time so that they can give sufficient time to their studies and their sport to ensure successful performance in both areas.

Equally important to the development of skills needed to compete in an individual sport is the development of positive social attitudes and interpersonal relations. Students who participate on interscholastic athletic teams represent themselves, their families, their team, their school, and their community. Since the community as a whole provides the support necessary to operate the athletic program, student-athletes should conduct themselves in a manner acceptable to the supporters of the program.

Athletes should exhibit control of all aspects of their behavior while serving as a representative of their high school athletic team.

In addition to the above, athletes will be responsible for the following obligations:

1. All students are to furnish their own practice equipment such as clothing, shoes, baseball and softball gloves, and hats. The athletic department will not be responsible for personal equipment, clothing, or personal belongings lost or damaged due to a student's negligence.
2. All students are responsible for equipment issued to them by the school. Any damaged or lost equipment must be paid for by the student. A student will not be allowed to play another sport or continue in the current sport until the lost or damaged item(s) are paid for or a payment plan is set in place and approved by the Athletic Committee. No awards will be given at the conclusion of each season until all obligations have been cleared by the Athletic Committee.
3. All students are to keep their personal belongings in their locker room lockers or take them home. All money and valuables are to be locked in the lockers or left in the Athletic Office for safekeeping. Athletes are to keep the locker room clean.
4. "Horseplay" in the locker room, on the practice fields, or on the gym floor will not be allowed.
5. Each athlete's appearance, talk, and action will influence people's opinions of themselves, their home, their team, and their school. Students will be expected to conduct themselves in a manner that will leave the best opinion possible.

6. Each student is to adhere to the grooming and curfew regulations established by each coach. Coaches may request the participant to “dress up” on the day of the game and at the games.
7. When a student wants to quit a sport, he/she is to first consult the coach to explain their reason for quitting.
8. An athlete owes it to themselves to get the greatest possible good from their high school experiences. Don’t cheat yourself by not training or giving less than 100% in your athletic activities.
9. Uniforms, unless purchased by the individual, are the property of the school. Athletes are not allowed to wear their uniforms outside of interscholastic competitions unless allowed by the head coach on game days. This includes but is not limited to practice, home, and school.
10. Each athlete of a traveling squad will travel to and from interscholastic competition via school transportation. Exceptions to this regulation may take place only with PRIOR WRITTEN arrangements made between the athlete’s parent/guardian and the coach. Failure to follow this procedure will result in a suspension.
11. Only athletes, managers, coaches, and those delegated by the athletic director will be allowed to travel to athletic contests via school transportation.
12. Players are to leave the high school immediately after their scheduled practice or contest has been completed.
13. Players are not allowed to remain in school after school hours while waiting for their event unless they are under the direct supervision of their coach. Violations will result in suspension from that night’s event.
14. As a player, you are expected to play, have fun, and enjoy the game. The game is for you! Demonstrate sportsmanship toward your opponents and treat them with respect. Exercise self-control at all times, accepting decisions and abiding by them. Respect the judgment of the officials and their interpretations of the rules. Regarding clarification of a ruling, communicate with the officials through your captain only. Accept victory with humility and defeat with grace. Be neither boastful nor bitter.
15. Athletes are required to return all completed paperwork assigned in this handbook before they will be permitted to participate.
16. Athletes are to return all signed statements from their parent/guardian indicating that they have received and read the school’s athletic policies including the coach’s specific team rules.
17. An athlete is expected to display a high degree of sportsmanship in relationship to opponents, teammates, coaches, officials, and spectators. These positive behaviors are encouraged. Excessive display of temper, loss of self-control, use of profanity or abusive language, or the making of obscene gestures will not be tolerated. The athletic director and/or coaches may invoke any or all of the options listed for each violation:
 - a. Athlete/coach conference
 - b. Suspension
 - c. Removal from the team
18. Athletes represent Wolverine while they are traveling as a team. It is expected that athletes will conduct themselves as good citizens at all times.

19. Athletes are expected to attend all practices and scheduled competitive events. Enforcement will be in accordance with the team requirements as set forth by the coach for that sport.
20. An athlete who is absent from school may not participate in practice or games unless extenuating circumstances have been agreed upon by the athletic committee. An athlete is to always consult their coach before missing practice or a game.
21. All athletes are required to work in the concessions stand for one game per every sport participated in. For example, if an athlete plays three sports, that athlete must work three games in the concession stand. A parent may serve in the athlete's place. Failure to follow through with a scheduled time will result in the inability to dress for the following games until the requirement has been fulfilled.

TEAM MEMBERSHIP EXPECTATIONS

Varsity sports take a high level of commitment. Please take into account your son/daughter's responsibility to their team when planning trips and vacations.

<u>Season</u>	<u>Start</u>	<u>Vacations</u>
Fall	Mid-August	Summer Break
Winter	November	Christmas Break/Mid-Winter Break
Spring	March	Spring Break/Memorial Day Weekend

All schools do not have a common calendar. Contest dates and requirements result in contests that are sometimes required during vacations. This is particularly true of Mid Winter Break. Student-athletes need to consider these requirements and commitments prior to team membership.

TRYOUTS

All sports that make cuts will allow a minimum of three days for student-athletes to try out. If a student-athlete is going to be absent during the tryout period, they must make arrangements with the head coach before tryouts begin. For unexcused absences, student-athletes will not be allowed to make up days for the time missed. For excused absences, by the head coach or athletic department, student-athletes will be granted additional try-out days for the days missed. All student-athletes trying out will have to perform the same skill test given by the head coach.

TRANSPORTATION POLICIES

Travel to all athletic events shall be made by school bus or other approved vehicles with an approved adult in the vehicle; this should be a coach, a teacher, or a parent. Whenever a coach wishes to use cars for transporting a student(s), this should be cleared with the principal and/or the superintendent. Coaches permit only qualified personnel transportation privileges.

At the beginning of each season, the athletic office will produce a transportation schedule for all schools, coaches, the central office, principals, and transportation director. All changes will be made through the Athletic Office. The Athletic Office should be notified of any desired or necessary changes, additions, deletions, or corrections to the published schedule. Requests for special runs should be made in time to make necessary preparations. It must be remembered that requests are made for transportation by other segments of the school system. When school busses are used, the following general rules should be observed:

1. A coach shall travel on the bus.
2. Team members are to remain in their seats and conduct themselves in a manner that will promote good safety factors.
3. Windows should remain closed unless permission is otherwise granted.
4. Nothing should be stuck out of or thrown from a window.
5. The bus should be recognized as part of the school system and no conduct should be allowed that reflects adversely upon the individual, the team, or the school.
6. The team should cooperate and help the driver in every way possible.
7. All players are to travel to the game in the team bus and return in the same way. Personal transportation privileges may be granted when the player follows the appropriate steps. (See Student Athlete's Responsibilities #10)

AWARDS

To qualify for an award, the athlete must participate for the entire season, including post-season play except as prevented by injury. In case of an injury, the coach will determine if the athlete will receive an award.

Junior varsity players may be called up to participate on the varsity team. The player has the option to move up or not. If a player moves up to the varsity level, they are expected to complete the remainder of the season including post-season play. Failure to do so may result in not receiving a junior varsity or varsity award.

A person who completes a junior varsity season and then is called up to the varsity for postseason play but quits the varsity before the postseason is completed will be considered as not completing the season and thus would not receive any award.

A person who wishes to move from the varsity team to a J.V. team must have written permission from both of the coaches and the approval of the athletic director before the move can be made. The athlete will then receive a J.V. award and not a varsity award.

An award will not be granted until all equipment issued to the athlete has been returned following the conclusion of the season. The awards are as follows:

A. Junior High Year Award:

1. All first-year players will receive a certificate.
2. All second-year players will receive a certificate.

B. Junior Varsity Year Awards:

1. All first-year players will receive a certificate and a 5” monogram letter.
2. Second and third-year players will receive a certificate.

C. Varsity Year Award:

1. All first-year players will receive a certificate, sport pin, 7” monogram letter, and graduation numbers for the first sport this is achieved.
2. Second-year players will receive a certificate and a chevron.
3. Third-year players will receive a certificate and a chevron.
4. Fourth-year players will receive a certificate and a chevron.

All of the above will be provided by the Wolverine Middle/High School Athletic Department. If a coach or parent wishes to provide something else, it must first be approved by the athletic director and must fall under MHSAA guidelines.

Letter jackets are a positive symbol of a team’s success and school involvement. If planning on ordering them, they should be ordered after a letter has been earned. The athletic department does not provide them but can provide you with several vendors for order consideration.

COLLEGE INFORMATION

Selecting a college and making career plans are two of the most important decisions to be made by high school student-athletes and their parents. School guidance counselors are an important resource in this process.

The NCAA has provided a Guide for College Bound Student Athletes and Their Parents. NAIA and NCAA eligibility rules, grade point averages, core courses, SAT and ACT scores, and financial aid forms are important parts of the information. Additional information is provided on topics like athletic resumes, time management, preparing for tests, and evaluating a potential school.

If you are planning on playing sports at the next level, do not wait until your senior year. Certain things must be done in order to prepare, starting your junior year. If you would like more information, please talk to your coach, the athletic director, and your school guidance counselor.

ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION FEE POLICY

Due to the rising costs absorbed by schools, it is becoming increasingly harder to sponsor interscholastic athletics. To counter these difficulties, many schools have required parents and guardians to pay a fee in order for their child to participate in sports. Wolverine Community Schools are in the same financial condition as these other schools. To counter the costs of operating a gymnasium, transportation, and uniform and equipment use, the following pay-to-play policy has been put into action:

1. For families with one child participating in interscholastic athletics at Wolverine Middle/High School, a fee of \$25.00 must be paid before participation can take place.
2. For families with more than one child participating in interscholastic athletics at Wolverine Community School, a flat fee of \$50.00 must be paid before participation can take place.
3. At Wolverine, we value those who volunteer at athletic events. If you would rather volunteer at athletic events than pay the fee, you may:
 - a. For one child, volunteer to work five hours.
 - b. For more than one child, volunteer a set amount of ten hours.
 - c. These hours must be set up with the athletic director prior to the start of the season and can include but are not limited to: admissions, concessions, cleaning, and supervising fundraisers.
 - d. If this method is chosen, the parent/guardian must come into the athletic office and sign up for available positions.
4. The volunteer hours do not have to be completed before your son/daughter can participate, but the volunteer form must be completed and turned in.
5. The athletic participation fee is good for an entire school year (August-June).
6. No reimbursement will be made if the student quits the team or is dismissed from the team for violating team policies.
7. Only those who are cut from a team will be issued a reimbursement if that is the only sport played.
8. Reimbursements will be made at the end of the year, following the completion of all athletic seasons.

If you have any questions that need clarification, please do not hesitate to call the athletic director or high school principal with your questions.

Wolverine Middle/High School

Parental Permission Form

Middle/High School Athletic Procedures and Regulations

Student's Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

As a parent (or legal guardian) of the above-named student, I hereby grant permission for my student to participate in interscholastic athletic competition during the upcoming school year. By completing this form, I acknowledge that I have read, accept, and agree to support the school district's Athletic Handbook and Code of Conduct.

Signature of Parent or Guardian

Date

Waiver Form

We will assume all financial responsibilities for our son/daughter while participating in interscholastic sports at Wolverine Middle/High School. This is in respect to injuries obtained during practice, games, or travel.

In case of injury during practice sessions, games, or travel, I give my permission to the head coach, assistant coach, athletic director, or principal to transport and seek immediate medical attention.

Facts concerning my student's medical history including allergies, current medications, and other pertinent information are:

Name of Family Doctor: _____
Address: _____
Telephone: _____
My Home Phone: _____
My Work Phone: _____
Emergency Contact Name: _____
Emergency Number: _____

Signature of Parent or Guardian

Date

Wolverine Middle/High School Athletic Participation Fee Form

Name of Family: _____

Number of Students Participating in Sports: _____

Names of Those Participating:

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| 1. _____ | 2. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 4. _____ |
| 5. _____ | 6. _____ |
| 7. _____ | 8. _____ |

PLEASE CHOOSE ONE OF THE FOLLOWING OPTIONS:

_____ I choose to pay the monetary fee of either \$25 (ONE STUDENT).

_____ I choose to pay the monetary fee of \$50 (MORE THAN ONE STUDENT).

OR

_____ I choose to volunteer for 5 hours (ONE STUDENT).

_____ I choose to volunteer 10 hours (MORE THAN ONE STUDENT).

Name of Parent/Guardian: _____

Phone Number: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Do Not Fill Out The Bottom Portion. Administrative Use Only

_____ Fee has been paid in the amount of _____.

OR

_____ Volunteer hours have been signed up for.

Volunteer hours were completed on _____.

Athletic Director Signature

Date