

*Petoskey Middle
School*



Athletics
2023-2024

PETOSKEY MIDDLE SCHOOL ATHLETIC HANDBOOK

This booklet is intended for Petoskey Middle School students who are members or plan on being members of Petoskey Middle School athletic teams. It is to be thoroughly read by every student athlete and by the athlete's parents.

Middle School Athletic Philosophy:

The Petoskey Middle School Athletic program is designed to accomplish several goals. They are

1. To encourage participation by all students. Athletic participation can be a learning experience as well as being enjoyable.
2. To involve all students that wish to participate. Winning a contest is secondary to the student athlete enjoying the beneficial experience of being involved in a co-curricular activity.
3. To acquaint the student athlete with the basics of a given sport. By providing a foundation and the fundamentals of a sport, the individual may build upon that foundation in later years of involvement.
4. To teach responsibility and sportsmanship by learning to follow rules, maintaining eligibility and understanding how to work and play as a member of a team.
5. To enrich a student's school experiences and help develop the individual into becoming a well-rounded person.

Eligibility Rules for Middle School Students:

The following rules are those established for middle school athletes by the Michigan High School Athletic Association. Individual schools may set stronger eligibility rules as Petoskey has done. The State rules are minimal. Each athlete must comply with State and local rules.

1. You must have been enrolled in a junior high or middle school not later than Monday of the fourth week of the present semester.
2. You must be under fifteen for eighth graders or fourteen for seventh graders at the time of a contest unless the fifteenth or fourteenth birthday occurs on or after September 1 of a current school year. In which case you are eligible for all of that school year in all sports.
3. You must have passed a physical examination for the current school year. The record of that examination must be on file in the school office.
4. You must not be a junior high or middle school graduate.
5. You must not accept any award for athletic performance other than an emblematic award. The value of such an award may not exceed \$15.00.
6. You must not accept any money or other valuable consideration (merchandise, etc.) for participating in any form of athletics, sports, or games, or for officiating in interscholastic athletic contests.
7. You must not participate in any athletic competition during the season in a sport not under the sponsorship of your school, after you have represented your school in the sport.

In addition to the previous list of rules, academic eligibility will be determined on a weekly basis in accordance with the following guidelines.

PETOSKEY MIDDLE SCHOOL ELIGIBILITY

1. The athletic director (AD) will email a list of any students involved in sports whose grade has fallen below 60 percent to each teacher on Wednesday.
2. Each teacher will confirm the accuracy of their students on the list and respond to the AD by 1:00 on the following Monday. (Teachers please inform any ineligible students if possible).
3. The AD compiles a list of ineligible student athletes using the following criteria for ineligibility:
 - a) Grades are below 60 percent in 2 or more classes in the same week. (i.e. Student must be passing 5 or more classes)
4. The AD will email a list of all ineligible student athletes to all teachers and give a list to the appropriate coaches and principal. Parents/guardians of ineligible students will be notified by email or phone.
5. An ineligible athlete may not dress for or participate in contests for the following week. If you do not meet the requirements by the following week, you remain ineligible until you do.
6. A student athlete that is ineligible to participate in contests for the week is expected to still attend practices that week. Individual coaches may determine the extent of participation in practice.
7. Once a student is declared ineligible for the week, a student is not allowed to become eligible to play in that week's contests. All work must be completed and the grade(s) must be above 60 percent in order to be eligible for the following week.
8. It is the student's responsibility to contact teachers to find out what the academic problem is for that class. This should be done as soon as possible.

CODE OF CONDUCT

The purpose of this code shall be to establish a uniform set of guidelines for all student athletes.

- A. Grooming: Athletes shall be clean, neat, and well groomed at all times. Since athletes are the largest representative body of our school, they should be expected to look and act in a way that will bring credit to themselves and their school. Any conduct unbecoming a PMS student-athlete may result in disciplinary action.
- B. Classroom and school behavior: Athletes shall comply with standards established by the school, the student handbook and the Michigan High School Athletic Association regarding scholarship, conduct in class, conduct while at events, conduct while traveling to events, and attendance.
- C. Conviction, status as Youthful Trainee, being bound over after preliminary exam (or waiving such exam), or Probate Court taking jurisdiction of you based upon a Delinquency Petition for a criminal offense, will subject a student athlete to the following discipline in which case the Athletic Board may excuse or modify the following for good cause.

First Offense: Dismissal from the squad for the remainder of the season.

Second Offense: Dismissal from all athletic activities for 12 months from the date of the event in paragraph C.

If the first offense occurs during a season in which the student-athlete is participating, but the event in paragraph C occurs when the student-athlete is not participating, the dismissal shall apply to the season of the next sport in which the student-athlete desires to participate.

- D. Petoskey Middle School follows the M.H.S.A.A. and Petoskey High School's stated code of conduct regarding the use of possession of tobacco, alcoholic beverages, or steroids.

Use or possession of a tobacco, alcoholic beverage, steroids, or possession or use of any other controlled substance will subject a student/athlete to the following discipline:

First Offense:

For tobacco: The coach and/or Athletic Director shall warn the athlete, suspend the athlete for 10% of the regularly scheduled season contests, or if none remain the next tournament contest, and notify the Athletic Board of such action. If the offense occurs when there are no season contests or tournament contests remaining, the athlete's suspension will be invoked at the beginning of the next sport in which the athlete participates. Suspended athletes must attend all practices and games, but may not suit up/dress for the contest(s).

For alcohol/drugs/steroids/NCAA banned/controlled substances: The coach and/or Athletic Director shall warn the athlete, suspend the athlete for 20% of the regularly scheduled season contests, or if none remain, the next tournament contest, and notify the Athletic Board of such action. If the offense occurs when there are no season contests or tournament contests remaining, the athlete's suspension will be invoked at the beginning of the next sport in which the athlete participates. Suspended athletes must attend all practices and games, but may not suit up/dress for the contest(s). In addition the suspended athlete shall be required to receive counseling from a licensed drug/alcohol counselor or agency. Written verification of the completion of or continuing compliance with counseling shall be provided to the Athletic Director. This verification must be received before the athlete is allowed to participate in any contests.

Second Offense:

For tobacco and alcohol/steroids/NCAA banned/controlled substances: Dismissal from all athletic participation for one calendar year. This includes all practices, games, try-outs, and other team functions. A calendar year is defined as 12 months from the date of the second offense. In addition, the suspended athlete shall be required to receive counseling from a licensed drug/alcohol/addiction counselor or agency. Written verification of the completion of or continuing compliance with counseling shall be provided to the Athletic Director. This verification must be received before the athlete is allowed to participate in any team functions.

The 12-month suspension from all sports may be appealed as outlined below:

- An immediate 30-calendar day suspension from all sports. At the end of the 30-calendar day period, the student may ask for an appeals hearing from the Athletic Board. The Athletic Director will be the primary point of contact and will schedule the hearing.
- The student agrees to immediately begin weekly random drug testing at his/her family's expense at a designated testing facility. The Athletic Director will provide a list of establishments offering these tests. The student/family must provide a copy of these test results to the Athletic Director each week. The Athletic Director may choose to mandate, from week to week, when these tests are administered. The student must agree to continue the random testing each week for a 12 month period. A failed drug test shall be considered a third offense.
- During the 30-calendar day suspension, the student will be informed by the Athletic Director as to whether he/she will be permitted or required to attend practice. In no circumstance will the student be allowed to participate in practice during this suspension period.
- At the appeals hearing, the Athletic Board will determine one of many different courses of action:
 - 1) reinstatement with additional conditions that may apply, and/or

- 2) additional suspension, and/or
- 3) a denial of request which would automatically place the student under the 12-month suspension

Information considered at the appeals hearing may include, but is not limited to:

- 1) Documented history of and/or current substance involvement,
- 2) Documented history of and/or current counseling for substance involvement,
- 3) Willingness to participate in and provide documentation of random drug testing at the athlete's family expense,
- 4) Proposed restitution that may include:
 - o Community service
 - o Fees/fines paid
 - o Communication to any aggrieved party.
- 5) Documented court involvement and adherence to conditions established by the Court.

Third Offense

For tobacco and alcohol/drugs/steroids/controlled substances: the student/athlete will be permanently suspended from all athletic participation.

- E. Any student athlete who disagrees with the discipline under A through E above will be provided a hearing by the Athletic Board at which the athlete's parents or other witnesses whom he/she desires will be present. After hearing such evidence the Athletic Board shall confirm or modify the discipline or provide such other discipline as the Board shall deem appropriate.
- G. In all disciplinary cases, the Athletic Director shall notify the parents/guardians (in writing) of the student-athlete's infraction, and inform them of the consequences.
- H. Quitting an established squad - Any athlete who quits an established squad shall be denied the right to practice or participate on another squad until the season ends for the squad that the athlete left unless permission is received from both coaches or the Athletic Director is obtained.

PMS & MHSAA PROTOCOL FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF NATIONAL FEDERATION SPORTS PLAYING RULES FOR CONCUSSIONS

"Any athlete who exhibits signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with a concussion (such as loss of consciousness, headache, dizziness, confusion, or balance problems) shall be immediately removed from the contest and shall not return to play until cleared by an appropriate health care professional."

The language above, which will appear in all National Federation sports rule books for the 2015-16 school year, reflects a strengthening of rules regarding the safety of athletes suspected of having a concussion. For 2015-16, some sports rules required officials to remove from play any athlete who was "unconscious or apparently unconscious." This new language reflects an increasing focus on safety, given that the vast majority of concussions do not involve a loss of consciousness.

This protocol is intended to provide the mechanics to follow during the course of contests when an athlete sustains an apparent concussion.

1. The officials will have no role in determining concussion other than the obvious one where a player is either unconscious or apparently unconscious as is provided for under the current rule. Officials will merely point out to a coach that a player is apparently injured and advise that the player should be examined by a health care provider for an exact determination of the extent of injury.
2. If it is confirmed by the school's designated health care professional that the student did not sustain a concussion, the head coach may advise the officials during an appropriate stoppage of play and the athlete may reenter competition pursuant to the contest rules.

3. Otherwise, if competition continues while the athlete is withheld for an apparent concussion, that athlete may not be returned to competition that day but is subject to the return to play protocol.
 - a. Only an MD or DO may clear the individual to return to competition.
 - b. The clearance must be in writing.
 - c. The clearance may not be on the same date on which the athlete was removed from play.
4. Following the contest, an Officials Report shall be filed with a removed player's school and the MHSAA.
5. In cases where an assigned MHSAA tournament physician (MD/DO) is present, his or her decision to not allow an athlete to return to competition may not be overruled.

SANCTIONS FOR NON-COMPLIANCE WITH CONCUSSION MANAGEMENT POLICY

Following are the consequences for not complying with National Federation and MHSAA rules when players are removed from play because of a concussion:

- A concussed student is ineligible to return to any athletic meet or contest on the **same day** the concussion is sustained.
- A concussed student is ineligible to return to competition in a meet or contest on a **subsequent day** without the written authorization of an MD or DO.

These students are considered ineligible players and any meet or contest in which they have participated is forfeited.

In addition, that program is placed on probation through that sport season of the following school year.

For a second offense in that sport during the probationary period – that program is continued on probation through that sport season of the following school year and not permitted to participate in the MHSAA tournament in that sport during the original and extended probationary period.

MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION

1. Any student participating on any interscholastic or intramural team is responsible for his or her conduct on or off the playing area. The student will display and adhere to good sportsmanship while participating for the Petoskey Middle School at home or away.
2. Any student participating on any interscholastic or intramural team must abide by the rules set by the school concerning travel from one site to another. Travel to and from must be with the team unless prior written permission is granted by the coach and/or parent to travel otherwise. A student athlete should only be released to his/her parent or guardian.
3. Athletes are responsible for all school equipment which is issued during a sport season. Athletes should maintain their equipment according to rules established by the coach of that sport. Any equipment which is not returned or is lost will be reported by the coach to the Athletic Director. Athletes will be billed by the school for replacement of lost equipment.
4. The Board of Education does not assume any legal responsibility relative to doctor and hospital expenses. Athletics are voluntary and the student participates with the knowledge of his or her parents and at their own risk of injury.
5. The individual coach of his or her sport may have reasonable rules that will insure the proper conduct of members of the team. Examples: missing practices, tardy to practices, disrespect for team members, etc.

6. It is expected that all athletes will follow the tradition of "dressing up" on game day. This tradition identifies them as athletic representatives of Petoskey Middle School.
7. Athletes will be required to be in school at least 4 periods on days of contests in order to be eligible to participate in the game. The only excuse for missing any class periods will be medical with approval of the Principal or Athletic Director. Athletes are expected to be in school the day after a contest.
8. An athletic physical card and a medical information/release form must be on file in the school office before a student may participate (practice or play) in any sport.
9. Participation in athletics is a privilege that is earned and maintained by each individual student.
10. Whenever Petoskey Schools are closed due to inclement weather, all middle school sports(home or away) are canceled.
11. Students who have In-School Suspension or Out of School Suspension, are not permitted to participate in events on the days of their suspensions.

Middle School Sports

The following activities are available as interscholastic and/or intramural sports at Petoskey Middle School.

		<u>Intramural</u>	<u>Interscholastic</u>
Fall Season:	Cross Country	6	7, 8
	Football		7, 8
	Volleyball	6,7,8	7, 8
Winter Season:	Boys' Basketball	7, 8	7, 8
	Girl's Basketball	7, 8	7, 8
	Dance Team	7, 8	
	Wrestling		6, 7, 8
	Skiing	6	7, 8
Spring Season:	Track (Girls and Boys)	6	7, 8

AWARDS

Certificates of participation will be awarded to all student athletes who remain a member of any of the athletic teams for the entire season for that sport.

TEAM RULES

All athletes should be aware that individual coaches may establish team rules covering practice, attendance, etc. that are as binding as school rules. By participating in a sport (or on a team), the student athlete accepts the rules established by the coach and school.

STUDENT/PARENT PARTICIPATION FORM

I have received and reviewed the Petoskey Middle School Athletic Handbook and accept and understand the philosophy and rules as established by the Michigan High School Athletic Association and the Petoskey Middle School office.

I understand that in order to practice and play, an athletic physical and a medical information/release form must be on file in the school office.

Parent Signature

Date

Student Signature

Date

Grade