

MIO ATHLETIC HANDBOOK

POLICIES, RULES & FORMS

ATHLETICS & EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITY POLICY (IN EFFECT 12 MONTHS)

All students who participate in Mio Athletics must maintain a C- (1.667) grade point average during the school year and pass 6 out of 7 classes or that student will be immediately ineligible until the next grade check. For participation in athletics/non-athletic activities, students must also have passed at least five (5) out of seven (7) courses the prior semester and meet any other citizenship or academic standards established as policy by the Mio AuSable Schools. **Failure to do so results in immediate ineligibility for the following semester.** Ineligibility will begin as soon as the Athletic Director prints grades.

1. **Mio AuSable Schools guidelines for eligibility include that students must pass at least five (5) out of seven (7) classes per semester and maintain in the current grading semester and maintain a 1.667 GPA to be eligible for extracurricular activities.**
 - a. Current state eligibility rules will be in effect at all times. These rules are in the office of the Athletic Director.
2. Athletic eligibility will be based on above standards, will be checked weekly on Monday and will be in effect until the next week's grade check.
3. During that period, a student-athlete will be required to continue practice, but will not be allowed to participate in any athletic events. The ineligible student is required to attend Study Sanctuary after school (when available) while ineligible.
 - a. An incomplete will not be totaled into a student's grade point until it has been changed to a grade (see Student Handbook regarding incomplete requirements).
4. The principal or athletic director will notify ineligible athletes, parent/guardian and coaches in writing.
 - a. Academically ineligible students will not be allowed to travel with their team or participate in game day activities.
 - b. If the ineligible student attends an event after school is dismissed, they will attend as a **spectator** and will not be allowed on the bench or sideline. No team penalties will result from non-attendance at these contests resulting from the early dismissal.
5. Appeals of this policy can be taken to an Academic Eligibility Committee for consideration. The committee consisting of the Athletic Director (or designee), Counselor, and Principal will consider extenuating circumstances - i.e. prolonged illness.
6. This policy applies to all students in grades 6-12.
 - a. There is no carry over between the middle school and the high school.
 - b. Ninth grade students will be evaluated under this policy at the initial eligibility check in the fall.
7. The expectation of a C- or 1.667 GPA extends to all extracurricular activities including non-athletic. The advisor is responsible for keeping an eligibility list.

Athletics General Rules & Expectations.

1. Students are to attend all classes the day of a practice/event. They are expected to be in school the day following an event and the day before a Saturday event. A student must also be at school on Monday following a Friday or Saturday event. The principal or athletic director prior to the absence must approve any exceptions. Extenuating circumstances may be considered.
 - a. Being tired or getting home late, are not excuses for being absent the next day.
Pre-excused absences may result in exceptions during Post-season play. More than one class period is considered a full day absent.
1st offense will be a warning.
2nd offense student will sit out 25% of scheduled game(s)
3rd offense-will be one game suspension.
2. All student athletes must abide by the Mio AuSable student ethics policy on page 17 of the MAS Student Handbook.
3. Each student is required to have a physical card on file with the athletic director or coach prior to his/her first practice.

4. All members of athletic/other activity squads will travel to and from all out-of-town contests in school authorized transportation. If school transportation is not available, student may be transported in accordance with Board Policy #8660.
 - a. Any athlete that misses the team bus and travels to the contest site in an unauthorized manner will not be permitted to dress for or participate in the contest.
 - b. Departure times and estimated time of return will be announced by the coach/sponsor and it is important that students notify their parent/guardian of these times.
 - c. Students may be picked up or dropped off only by their parent/guardian and prior written permission from the parents and prior approval from the Athletic Director or Principal.
 - d. The coach/sponsor may wish that all students leave and return as a team and if for some reason a parent/guardian wishes to take their son/daughter after a contest, a signature must be submitted on a school provided sign out sheet. **NOTE: CREATE SIGN OUT SHEET** Students are to return with parent/guardian and only as a last resort.
5. A student must complete the season as a member of the team/organization to be eligible for post-season awards.
6. A student may become ineligible for persistent disobedience in school.
 - a. A committee that includes the athletic director (or designee), principal, counselor, and a teacher may determine this action.
7. Student Handbook and Attendance Policies apply at all times, including the school tardy policy. **NOTE: REVISIT ONCE APRIL UPDATES HANDBOOK.**
8. For all purposes of these policies Sideline Cheerleading shall be responsible to know and follow the rules of the athletic code. Eligibility and disciplinary actions are in full effect for the cheerleading team.
9. Students are not to use or wear any clothing or equipment from the athletic department without permission from the coach or athletic director.
10. Students are not allowed to participate in outside competition of the same sport at any time while their season is being played.
11. Showers, for sanitary reasons, are recommended after all practices and games. Clothing requirements on game days are at coach's discretion.
12. Coaches have the right to establish other rules and curfews for their sport season with prior approval from the athletic director and principal.
13. Any student who wishes to change sports or join a team "in-season" must do so within 2 weeks of that sports beginning practice date. There will be no changing teams after that date. The exception to this rule is if a student moves into the Mio AuSable District after this time period that athlete may join the team with the understanding that he/she must practice with the team five (5) practices with one practice per day to be eligible. A new student must also meet eligibility standards under MHSAA Transfer Rules in order to participate at MAS.
14. An athlete must finish the season during which he/she has served a suspension in order for that suspension to be considered fulfilled.

ATHLETIC CODE

1. PHILOSOPHY OF ATHLETICS

- a. Athletics is part of the total education program of the Mio AuSable Schools. We realize not everyone can be a team member, but we do realize everyone can benefit from the programs that are offered.
- b. Interscholastic participation is a privilege, not a right, and carries certain responsibilities.
 - i. Participation in the Interscholastic Athletics is for those that have the desire and necessary physical skills in the respective sport.
- c. The win and loss record does not determine success of the program.
- d. School and community values should be evident throughout the program.
 - i. The school district plus the Mio AuSable Community are identified by the publicity generated through its athletic program.
 - ii. The coaching staff, athletes, student body, and adult followers should never act in a manner that would be detrimental to the name of the Mio AuSable Schools.
 - iii. The Mio AuSable School has adopted the Pay to Participate policy. See forms and policy in the Back of the Hand Book
- e. Daily practice times and limits
 - i. Practice times will be set by the coaches and made known to all athletes

- ii. Daily practice time limits
 - 1. Middle School limit: 2.5 hours
 - 2. High School limit: 3 hours
- f. Sunday Activities- It is the policy of the Mio Public Schools to refrain from holding any activities that are mandatory or implied to be required on Sundays.
- g. Sunday practices, which are not mandatory, may only be held if there is a Monday competition for an in-sport season and is approved by the Athletic Director and Principal.
- h. NO PRACTICES will be held on the following days/dates:
 - i. Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year's Eve or New Year's Day.
 - ii. These are times for families and will be respected as such.

2. THE ATHLETE'S VALUES

- a. There may be occasions when you will have a conflict of responsibilities. We suggest the following set of values to aid you in determining your prime responsibilities.
 - i. Home and personal responsibilities
 - ii. Academic responsibilities
 - iii. Athletic responsibilities
 - iv. All other school and social responsibilities
- b. We have to build a good reputation in the area of school and community sportsmanship. Please review the following suggestions for future consideration.
 - i. A student spectator represents his school the same as the athlete.
 - ii. The good name of the school is more valuable than any game won by unfair play.
 - iii. Accept decisions of officials without dispute.
 - iv. Recognize and show appreciation of fine play and good sportsmanship on the part of the opponent.
 - v. Advocate that any spectator or athlete who continually demonstrates poor sportsmanship be excused from the athletic program.

3. VIOLATION OF ATHLETIC TRAINING RULES

- a. The administration and coaching staff of Mio AuSable Schools are committed to a positive approach to the training and conduct of all students participating in the athletic program. Therefore, all the athletes are expected to dedicate themselves to abstaining from the use or possession of:
 - i. Tobacco products (including vape, inhalation devices and smokeless)
 - ii. Alcohol
 - iii. Narcotics as described by Michigan Compiled Law
 - iv. Prescription Medications not prescribed to the athlete
- b. Possession is defined as; use, physical possession or in one's personal domain i.e. lockers, vehicle, bags etc.
- c. Any student choosing to participate in Mio athletics is expected to refrain from any activity unbecoming a Mio athlete.
 - i. An athlete should not be involved in the commission of any felony, misdemeanor, or any other activity, which degrades the integrity of school athletics and may be suspended or removed from the team for such activities.
 - ii. Athletes must properly conduct themselves inside and outside of school at all times, including social media platforms, and exhibit an acceptable attitude toward schoolmates, teachers, and administration.
 - iii. An athlete may be suspended or removed from a squad for failure to comply
- d. An athlete not abiding by these rules is subject to discipline.

4. DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

- a. Any violation of athletic rules may result in athletic disciplinary action if the athlete participates in a sport within the next twelve (12) month period from date of violation.
 - i. The violation will carry over into the next sport regardless of the limit.
 - ii. Parents or guardians will be notified in all cases of suspension, by written letter or phone call.
 - iii. Suspended athletes will not be allowed to travel with their team if an early dismissal is required. If the suspended athlete attends an event after school is dismissed, they will attend as a spectator.
 - iv. No team penalties will result from non-attendance at these contests resulting from the early dismissal.
- b. During times of suspensions, the athlete must practice with the team, attend the game (unless an early dismissed from school is required), but not in uniform and abide by all other team rules and regulations.
- c. In the case of suspension from school by the high school principal, the athlete may not be allowed to practice or participate in games until the suspension has been lifted or fulfilled.

- i. An in-school suspension ends at 3:26 p.m. on the last day of suspension.
 - ii. An out-of-school suspension ends at 8:25 a.m. on the next day following the suspension.
- d. The Athletic Council will use the following as recommended minimum suspensions when dealing with athletic violations. However, the council has full authority to suspend for any length of time or not to suspend, depending upon the nature or type of offense and its circumstance. Athletic suspensions are based on the number of contest dates (Example: Basketball has 20 dates of contests, 25% of the season shall result in 5 dates of contests on the schedule, Tri-meets for Volleyball or Wrestling are considered 1 date of contest)
 - i. First offense violation of athletic rules may result in:
 - 1. Suspension of 25% of current athletic season.
 - 2. If suspension occurs late in the sport season so as the 25% suspension is not fulfilled, the suspension shall carry over to the next sport in which the athlete participates in, regardless of when that participation may be.
 - 3. If a student athlete reports himself/herself for a rule violation to the Athletic Director (without having been “caught” by authorities or school personnel), the suspension may be for 15% of the current athletic season. Honesty is being rewarded in first offense violations by a reduction in suspension time.
 - ii. Second offense violation of athletic rules may result in:
 - 1. Suspension of 50% of current sport season or sport season the athlete will participate in. If suspension occurs late in the sport season so as the 50% suspension is not fulfilled, the suspension shall carry over to the next sport in which the athlete participates in, regardless when that participation may be.
 - iii. Third offense violation of athletic rules may result in:
 - a. Suspension of the next 12 months of athletics.
 - iv. Fourth offense violation of athletic rules may result in:
 - a. Suspension of the next 24 months of athletics.
 - v. Fifth violation of athletic rules may result in:
 - 1. Suspension of the remainder of your high school years.
- e. Athletes facing a suspension will appear before the Athletic Council, which may consist of the Athletic Director (or designee), the principal, two teachers, and a head coach (not coaching the athlete at the time).
 - i. This council will convene as soon as possible following knowledge of the infraction.
 - ii. The athlete will have the opportunity to state their case before the council before any suspension is issued. However, if the athlete has a contest before the meeting is possible with the Athletic Council, and the Athletic Director deems it necessary, the athlete may be suspended until the Council can convene.
- f. Athletes may appeal any suspension or penalty to an appeals committee, which may consist of the Superintendent, ~~Principal~~, and up to two Board members. A written notice of appeal needs to be given to the high school Principal within two working days of the suspension. If this deadline is not met, the appeal will not be considered. NOTE: The appeal committee has the right to review any disciplinary action and add to or make less, the penalties involved. **There is no appeal beyond this committee.** This policy will affect all students participating in all extra-curricular activities,
- g. Action will be taken by the Athletic Council following the conviction of, or admission to, a felony or misdemeanor. They will also take action following substantiated charges brought by law enforcement officers, registered officials, coaches, Board of Education members, administration, or staff members including coaches.
- h. Suspensions will begin when the athlete is academically eligible and physically able to participate in their current sport. Violations of athletic rules carry over each year that the student attends Mio AuSable Schools. However, athletes in grades 9-12 who had a violation in grades 7-8 will not have that violation held against them should another violation occur. **A transfer student’s violation(s) from his/her previous school will carry over to Mio AuSable Schools.**

5. Communicating with School Officials Regarding Athletics

- a. Parents should become informed about the “chain of command” used at Mio AuSable Schools, or where to begin the communication sequence regarding a problem or concern. Most questions are easily and completely answered by communicating directly with the person in charge of the program before moving on the next level on the chain of command. The easiest way to communicate is via a simple phone call or email.
- b. Proper Sequence to Follow:

- i. Coach
- ii. Athletic Director
- iii. Secondary Principal
- iv. Superintendent
- v. Board of Education

6. ATHLETIC INSURANCE POLICY

- a. Participation in interscholastic athletics at Mio AuSable Schools is strictly voluntary on the part of the athletes and his/her parents or guardians.
- b. ***The school system does not cover any costs, which may be incurred as a result of an injury suffered in participation of athletics. Therefore, any costs that may occur are to be covered by individual insurance, or other private means, and not by the Mio AuSable Schools.*** Your signature on this form indicates that you are aware of this (and all other athletic policies) and accept the responsibilities for any costs that may be incurred. Please rest assured that the coaching staff and the entire school will provide the best training they can for the sport, and that safety is our number one concern.

7. DUAL SPORT PARTICIPATION POLICY

Mio-AuSable High School supports student-athletes who wish to participate in two school-sponsored sports during the same athletic season. While this opportunity can enhance a student's high school experience, it also requires clear communication and cooperation between all parties involved to ensure the student's academic, physical, and emotional well-being.

Requirements for Dual Sport Participation:

- **Planning Meeting:**

Before the season begins, any student interested in dual sport participation must attend a planning meeting that includes:

- The student-athlete
- Their parent(s)/guardian(s)
- The head coach from each sport
- The Athletic Director

- **This meeting will result in a Dual Sport Agreement, which outlines:**

- A mutually agreed-upon schedule prioritizing practices, games/meets, and rest
- Primary vs. secondary sport designation, if necessary (e.g., in case of direct conflicts)
- Academic expectations and monitoring plans
- A system for ongoing communication throughout the season

- **Priority and Conflict Resolution:**

In the event of a scheduling conflict, priority will be given according to the terms established in the Dual Sport Agreement. Coaches are expected to collaborate professionally to support the athlete's participation in both sports.

Guidelines for Coaches and Staff:

- Coaches shall not guilt, shame, or coerce student-athletes into choosing one sport, practice, or competition over another.
- Coaches must not pressure students by questioning their loyalty, commitment, or team spirit based on their participation in a second sport.
- All communication about expectations should remain student-focused, respectful, and aligned with the best interests of the student-athlete.

- Coaches are prohibited from engaging in divisive behavior or public commentary that pits one program or coach against another. Such actions undermine the integrity of our athletic program and will be addressed by the Athletic Director.

Oversight and Support:

- The Athletic Director will serve as the final authority in any unresolved scheduling or priority disputes.
- Coaches who violate this policy may be subject to disciplinary action, including review by administration and potential restrictions on future coaching assignments.

Our commitment is to foster a positive and collaborative athletic culture where student-athletes are supported in pursuing their passions without unnecessary conflict or pressure.

ATHLETIC POLICY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Dear Parent or Guardian,

In order for your child to participate in any athletic activity, you and your son/daughter must sign this athletic policy. This will indicate you have read and accept the athletic policy as written.

I have read and agree with the Athletic Policy of Mio AuSable Schools.

Parent's name (printed)

Parent's Signature

Student's name (printed)

Student's Signature

Date

Grade

***PLEASE NOTE: PARENTS AND STUDENTS MUST HAVE A SIGNED ATHLETIC POLICY ON FILE WITH THE ATHLETIC DIRECTOR IN ORDER TO PARTICIPATE IN ANY ATHLETICS.**

Mio AuSable Schools

WAIVER AND PERMISSION TO TRANSPORT CHILD

Child: _____

Event: _____ **Date:** _____

Location: _____

Driver: _____

I give permission for my child ("student") to be transported in a motor vehicle driven by the individual identified above to an athletic event at the specified location on the date indicated above. I understand that my child is expected to follow all applicable laws regarding riding in a motor vehicle and is expected to follow the directions provided by the volunteer driver and/or other adult volunteers.

I have read, understand, and have discussed with my child that:

1. They will be traveling in a motor vehicle driven by a volunteer adult and they are to wear their safety-belt while traveling;
2. They are expected to respect each other, the vehicles they ride in, and the people they travel with during the trip;
3. Riding in a motor vehicle may result in personal injuries or death from wrecks, collisions, or acts by riders, other drivers, or objects; and
4. They are to remain in their seats and not be disruptive to the volunteer driver of the vehicle.

I recognize that by allowing my child to be transported by a volunteer driver in their personal vehicle, as with any activity involving motor vehicle transportation, my child may risk personal injury or permanent loss. I hereby attest and verify that I have been advised of the potential risks, that I have full knowledge of the risks involved in this activity, and that I assume any expenses that may be incurred in the event of an accident, illness, or other incapacity, regardless of whether I have authorized such expenses. As a condition for the transportation received, I, for myself, my child, my executors and assigns, further agree to release and forever discharge Mio AuSable Schools' and Mio AuSable Schools Board of Education's agents, officers, employees, and volunteers from any claim that I might have myself or that I could bring on my child's behalf with regard to any damages, demands, or actions whatsoever, including those based on negligence, in any manner arising out of the transportation arrangements specified above. I have read this entire waiver and permission form, fully understand the contents, and agree to be legally bound by its terms.

Parent/Guardian Name (Please Print):

Parent/Guardian Signature:

Date: _____