



STUDENT-ATHLETE HANDBOOK

www.mhspolarbearathletics.com

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GENERAL INFORMATION

NAME OF SCHOOL: Margaretta High School and Middle School

ADDRESS: 209 Lowell Street
Castalia, OH 44824

PHONE NUMBER: 419-684-5351

SUPERINTENDENT: Dennis Mock

TREASURER: Jude Hammond

PRINCIPAL: Rod Smith

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL: Keith Taylor

ATHLETIC DIRECTOR & ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL: Gary Barrett

ASSISTANT ATHLETIC DIRECTOR: Mark Freeh

SCHOOL COLORS: Kelly Green and White

CONFERENCE: Sandusky Bay Conference

DISTRICT WEBSITE: www.margarettaschooldistrict.com

ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT WEBSITE: www.mhspolarbearathletics.com

ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT TWITTER: Margareta Athletics

DISTRICT FACEBOOK: Margareta Local Schools

FORWARD

This handbook has been prepared with the intention of being a reference guide for regulations, existing rules, and information now in effect concerning the athletic policies and procedures of the athletic department at Margareta High School.

It is our hope that this handbook will contribute to a better understanding of policies and procedures which should give us a more efficient athletic program.

It is our wish that this handbook will be helpful to those for whom it is intended. Certainly, from time to time, our policies and regulations may change. We welcome any ideas or suggestions that will improve our athletic program at all times.

MISSION STATEMENT: MARGARETTA ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT

We will build respectful and hardworking young men and women, who will be highly competitive in each respective sport, and who will represent their school and community with pride and dignity. Good sportsmanship will be expected from our coaches, athletes, and parents. Academics will always remain as the top priority of our student-athletes.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE: MARGARETTA ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT

We believe the interscholastic athletic program and other programs which support the interscholastic program exist for the purpose of:

1. Providing boys and girls who have interest and ability in sports with an outlet for the expression of these interests and abilities.
2. Providing an opportunity to experience important lessons of life which are part of athletics. For example:
 - a. The opportunity to see that many limitations, physical and mental can be conquered.
 - b. The joys of teamwork as well as individual accomplishment.
 - c. The ability to accept both victory and defeat gracefully.
 - d. The opportunity to develop ideas and habits of health, fair play, initiative, achievement and emotional control.
3. We believe that athletics provide tangible values for the student body. Athletics can make a substantial contribution to morale, and can provide an outlet for enthusiasm.
4. We believe the welfare of the individual student is always to be the primary concern. The game exists for the student - - - never the student for the game!

In relating the desire to win with the purpose that has been listed, the Athletic Department feels that the lessons can be more easily taught in a winning atmosphere. However, the general philosophy underlying the Margaretta High School Athletic Department as guided by the policies of the Board of Education must emphasize not merely the winning of games, but the development of team and self-discipline, cooperation, and sportsmanship on the part of the students, the faculty, and the residents of the Margaretta Local School District.

Since Margaretta High School is a member of the Ohio High School Athletic Association and the Sandusky Bay Conference, all athletic procedures conform to the rules and regulations of the Ohio High School Athletic Association and the Constitution and By-Laws of the Sandusky Bay Conference.

SANDUSKY BAY CONFERENCE
SPORTSMANSHIP-ETHICS AND INTEGRITY POLICY

The following are ACCEPTABLE BEHAVIORS at an athletic contest in the Sandusky Bay Conference:

- Applauding during introductions
- Cheerleaders leading fans in positive cheers in a positive manner
- Treating the game as a game and not a war
- Applauding the efforts of both teams at game's end
- Showing concern for an injured player regardless of team
- Encouraging, in fact, demanding sportsmanlike behavior from those fans near you

- Departing the game venue in a dignified and ethical manner
- Face painting and spirited costumes when not offensive or suggestive
- Loud positive noise in support of your own team.

The following are CONSIDERED UNACCEPTABLE BEHAVIORS AND SUBJECT TO SANCTION ranging from WARNINGS to DISMISSAL and SUBSEQUENT SUSPENSION FROM ATTENDANCE.

- Using an opponent’s name or number in a cheer or chant.
- Profanity, Taunting, Trash Talking or Heckling.
- Wearing derogatory or offensive attire.
- Standing on seats or excessive bouncing up and down on the bleachers.

MARGARETTA ATHLETIC ADMINISTRATION CHAIN OF COMMAND



Coaches, athletes, and parents should follow the line of authority on all matters pertaining to the athletic department. Ethical procedure demands that issues in the athletic program originating at any level shall proceed upwards through each office of responsibility, or inversely, it shall follow the same line of authority downward. To bypass any office not only delays consideration, but causes misunderstanding.

MARGARETTA ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT COMMUNICATION GUIDE

Introduction

We are very pleased that your son or daughter has chosen to participate in the Margarett Local School District interscholastic athletic program. Our goal is to provide our student-athletes with the most rewarding experience possible. We believe that this goal may not be realized without appropriate lines of communication available to all parties involved. This “Communication Guide” has been developed to help coaches, parents, administrators, and athletes communicate more effectively.

Communication You Should Expect From The Coach

- Philosophy of the coach

- Expectations the coach may have for your child and team
- Locations and times of all practices and contests
- Team requirements (attendance, off-season conditioning, fees, equipment, eligibility, etc.)

Communication The Coach Expects From Parents And Student-Athletes

- Notification of scheduling conflicts well in advance
- Special needs of the athlete that may not be apparent to the coach
- Concerns expressed directly to the coach first

Appropriate Concerns To Discuss With A Coach

- The mental and/or physical treatment of your child
- Concerns about your child's behavior
- Ways to help your child improve

Concerns Not Appropriate To Discuss With A Coach

- Playing time/Position Assignment
- Team strategy/Play calling
- Matters concerning other student-athletes

Procedure For Addressing Appropriate Concerns With A Coach

- Encourage your child to first address the concern with the head coach
- Contact the head coach to set up an appointment
- If the head coach cannot be reached after a reasonable amount of time, call the Athletic Director. An appointment with the head coach will be arranged for you.
- **Important!** Please **do not** attempt to confront a coach before or after a contest or practice session. These can be emotional times for both the parent and coach. Meetings of this nature do not promote resolution and in fact often escalate the situation.

What If The Meeting With The Coach Did Not Provide A Satisfactory Resolution?

- Although total agreement may not always be reached, a meeting affords the opportunity for productive discussion and better understanding. If a parent desires further discussion, please call the Athletic Director to set up a meeting.
- The Margareta Local School District in conjunction with the Athletic Department follow the chain of command listed below. We ask that you observe the order of this line of communication if you elect to pursue any concern you may have in regard to the athletic program.

1. Head Coach
2. Athletic Director

3. Building Principal
4. Superintendent
5. Board of Education

Parents' Role In Interscholastic Athletics – Communicating With Your Child

- Make sure your children know that win or lose, you love them, appreciate their efforts and are not disappointed in them. This will allow them to do their best without fear of failure. Be the person in their life they can look to for constant positive reinforcement.
- Try your best to be completely honest about your child's athletic ability, competitive attitude, sportsmanship, and actual skill level.
- Be helpful, but don't coach them. It's tough not to, but it is a lot tougher for a child to be flooded with advice and critical instruction.
- Teach your child to enjoy the thrill of competition, to be "out there trying," to be working to improve their skills and attitudes. Help them develop the feeling for competing, for trying hard, for having fun.
- Try not to relive your athletic life through your child in a way that creates pressure. Remember, you were frightened at times and were not always heroic. Your child needs your support. There is a thinking, feeling, sensitive, free spirit in that uniform who needs a lot of understanding, especially when things don't go their way. If they are comfortable with you win or lose, then they are on their way to maximum enjoyment.
- Don't compete with the coaches. If your child is receiving mixed messages from two different authority figures, he or she will likely become confused.
- Don't compare the skill, courage, or attitude of your child with other members of the team.
- Get to know the coach. Then you can be assured that his or her philosophy, attitudes, ethics, and knowledge are such that you are happy to have your child under his or her leadership.
- Always remember that children tend to exaggerate, both when praised and when criticized. Temper your reaction and investigate before overreacting.

STUDENT ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES

Academics:

- Students in grades 9-12 must maintain a 1.5 grade point average in the most recently completed quarter. They must also have a passing grade of "D" or higher in the equivalent of five full credit courses or more. (Example: Physical Education does not count as a full credit course)
- Students in grades 7-8 must maintain a 1.5 grade point average in the most recently completed quarter. They must also have a passing grade of "D" or higher in any five courses or more. Students who are just entering 7th grade are automatically eligible during the first quarter of the school year.

TRANSFER STUDENTS (from OHSAA.org):

The basic transfer bylaw is quite simple. If a student transfers (changes) high schools at any time after establishing eligibility as a ninth grader (either by attending a school for five days or playing in a fall sport prior to the beginning of school), the student is INELIGIBLE at the new high school for the first fifty percent (50%) of the maximum allowable regular season contests in those sports in which the student participated during the twelve (12) months immediately preceding this transfer. NOTE: For purposes of this bylaw, a student is considered to have participated in a sport if he/she has entered, if for only one play, a scrimmage or contests at any level of competition/contests (e.g. freshman, junior varsity and varsity). No ruling is required from the Commissioner's Office, and no paperwork is necessary if a student transfers and cannot meet an exception to the transfer bylaw. Understanding that basic rule is fundamental to dealing with transfer students.

Of course, in our society today, students do indeed change schools for various reasons. To deal with those limited scenarios our member schools have adopted six exceptions, one of which MAY apply to a student who changes high schools. The use of the word MAY is instructive since not all transfer students can meet one of these exceptions and for each of these exceptions, the transfer student is INELIGIBLE until ruled eligible by the Commissioner's Office. For a student to avail herself/himself of one of these exceptions, action on the part of the member school administrator as well as the OHSAA staff is required.

TRIPLE THREAT ATHLETE INITIATIVE

In order for our athletic programs to remain competitive with other area schools, it is very important that we encourage our students to become involved in a sport in each of the three seasons (Fall, Winter, and Spring). In the 2011-2012 school year, a new tradition began. Any student who participates in a sport in each of the three seasons will receive a Triple Threat T-Shirt, and an All-Sports Pass for the following school year. In order to qualify for this recognition, a student must remain in good academic standing at all times, and they must complete each season as a member of their teams. Only Margaretta sponsored teams will be counted (not Rec teams, travel teams.).

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS FOR ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION

1. EMERGENCY MEDICAL FORM: All students must have a current emergency medical form on file at the school. Coaches must keep a copy of this form in order for a student to be allowed to practice.
2. PHYSICAL PACKET: Each student must be cleared by a medical physician before being permitted to practice. The current physical packet must be completely filled out and kept on file in the Athletic Office. Physicals are only good for one calendar year. A blank physical packet can be found in the Athletic Office, or on the Margaretta Schools Athletic website www.mhspolarbearathletics.com .

3. DRUG TESTING CONSENT FORM: All students must turn in a drug testing consent form in order to participate in extra-curricular activities. This form is to be kept in the Athletic Office. Students who do not submit this document will be denied the privilege to participate in sports until it is turned in. The drug testing policy and a blank drug testing consent form can be found in the Athletic Office, or on the Margareta Schools Athletic website www.mhspolarbearathletics.com .

4. OHIO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CONCUSSION INFORMATION SHEET: All students must turn in this document which provides students and parents awareness information on concussions. The document requires a signature from the student-athlete and the parent/guardian. This form is to be kept in the Athletic Office. A blank concussion information form can be found in the Athletic Office, or on the Margareta Schools Athletic website www.mhspolarbearathletics.com.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITY DISCIPLINE CODE

All students and their parents/guardians are responsible for being familiar with the Margareta Student Handbook. One specific section of the handbook that you will want to pay close attention to is the Extra-Curricular Activity Discipline Code, which includes the Code of Conduct for Athletics. The Margareta Student Handbook for High School and Middle School students can be found on the Margareta Schools website (www.margarettaschooldistrict.com). Additionally, a paper copy of the Student Handbook will be available in the High School Office upon request.

MARGARETTA ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT

Contract for Participating on Two Athletic Squads at the Same Time

Step 1: An athlete shall declare within the first week of practice for the given sports season which two teams he/she would like to be considered for that season. This request must be made by submitting this from to the Athletic Director.

Step 2: The Athletic Director will then communicate with the coaches of each of these two teams to determine if it is possible for the athlete to participate on both teams during the same season. Each situation will be addressed on a case-by-case basis. After communicating with both coaches, the Athletic Director will make a decision, and return the completed form to the student. The Athletic Director's decision will be final, and no appeals will be permitted.

Step 4: If the Athletic Director determines that the student may participate in both sports during the same season, the coaches of both sports must work-out a schedule with the Athletic Director and student, to determine what days the student will be able to make practices and games/meets for each team.

Step 5: In cases of conflict, the student-athlete shall attend the game/meet of their declared "primary sport", unless other arrangements have been agreed upon with both coaches.

Step 6: If the athlete breaks the contract, he/she will forfeit any awards or recognition that would have been earned in the program neglected.

Step 7: If the athlete earns a letter in both sports he/she will be awarded a letter in each sport.