

MaST Community Charter School



Athletic Handbook

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Mission Statement

The MaST Community Charter School Athletic Program will create a pathway for physical, mental, and emotional growth and development for students through learning experiences integrated with the required curricular program including (but not limited to) math, science, and technology that are conducted outside the classroom. Through the offerings of a variety of athletic opportunities, students, teachers, coaches, families, and community members will be brought together to create an environment that develops attributes such as hard work, loyalty, cooperation, fair play, and sportsmanship while promoting the values and benefits of physical fitness throughout their lifetime.

Athletic Philosophy

Participation in interscholastic activities offers students significant lifetime learning experiences that cannot be duplicated in any other instructional setting. It is with this idea in mind that the MaST Community Charter School offers and facilitates a variety of athletic opportunities to further promote student learning outside the classroom. With the overall goal of student-athletes becoming more effective citizens in a democratic society, our athletic philosophy focuses on five key objectives for our students:

- 1) **To work with others**, students will develop self-discipline, respect for authority, and the spirit of hard work and sacrifice, while prioritizing the team and its objectives over personal desires.
- 2) **To be successful**, students will learn that living in a very competitive society, we do not always win, but we succeed when we continually strive to do so and develop a desire to excel.
- 3) **To develop sportsmanship**, students will learn to treat others as they would want to be treated regardless of winning or losing. The students will develop desirable social traits including emotional control, honesty, cooperation, and dependability.
- 4) **To continually improve citizenship**, students will enhance the required skills and knowledge, along with those personal traits, that are necessary for team success.
- 5) **To develop desirable personal health habits**, students will obtain a high degree of physical fitness through exercise and good health habits and develop the desire to maintain this level of physical fitness after formal competition has been completed.

We also believe that athletic competition adds to school spirit and helps students, teachers, coaches, families, and community members have pride in their school. Additionally, the interscholastic competition we promote at MaST allows our students to travel to nearby schools and further educates them on surrounding communities and institutions within the Philadelphia metropolitan area. It is with these ideas and objectives in mind that the MaST Community Charter School Athletic Program works towards its mission.

Governing Bodies

The Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association (PIAA)

MaST Community Charter School is a member in good standing of the PIAA at the high school level. With this membership, the principal and Athletic Department agrees to abide by all rules and regulations of the PIAA.

One of the primary functions of the PIAA is to sponsor and conduct post-season tournaments at the varsity level, leading to the determination of district and state champions. When MaST Community Charter School varsity teams qualify for and enter such tournaments, they are subject to the specific rules and regulations that govern each tournament.

Information about the PIAA and the rules our student-athletes must abide by can be found at www.piaa.org.

Bicentennial Athletic League

MaST Community Charter School is proud to be a member in good standing of the Bicentennial Athletic League (BAL) at the high school level. The BAL is governed by its own constitution as well as by the PIAA. More information about the BAL can be found at www.balsports.com.

Southeastern Pennsylvania Charter Athletic League

MaST Community Charter School is proud to be a member in good standing of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Charter Athletic League (SEPCAL) at the middle school level. SEPCAL is governed by its own constitution.

Athletics Website

MaST Community Charter School's athletics website can be found at:

<http://athletics.mastccs.org>

Please use this website as a primary means of keeping track of schedules, cancellations, facility locations, announcements, new opportunities, rules and regulations, policies, text notifications, and coaches' contact information. Additionally, the team registration link and the athletic fee payment form are located under the "Team Registration" tab. With events constantly changing in the athletics world, this website will provide all of the up-to-the-minute information you need as it happens.

Interscholastic Athletic Offerings

High School Varsity Sports

Sport	Grades	Approximate Season Timelines
Boys' Soccer	9-12	August – October
Girls' Soccer	9-12	August – October
Girls' Volleyball (JV team as well)	9-12	August – October
Cheerleading	9-12	September – April
Girls' Basketball	9-12	November – February
Boys' Basketball	9-12	November – February
Baseball	9-12	March – May
Softball	9-12	March – May

Middle School Sports

Sport	Grades	Approximate Season Timelines
Cheerleading	6-8	August – October
Girls' Basketball - JV	5-6	October - January
Girls' Basketball - Varsity	7-8	October - January
Boys' Basketball - JV	5-6	January - March
Boys' Basketball - Varsity	7-8	January - March
Baseball	6-8	March – May
Softball	6-8	March – May

Participation Emphasis

High School Varsity

Varsity play is designed to develop high proficiency in all aspects of the sport. Winning within the context of the rules, the spirit of good sportsmanship and fair play is emphasized. The amount of game time is determined by the coach's evaluation of the athlete's attitude, attendance, work ethic, skills, and team role at practice.

High School JV and all Middle School Sports

These teams are designed to develop, reinforce, and refine fundamental skills of the sport and should provide equal practice opportunities for all participants. The amount of game time is determined by the coach's evaluation of the athlete's attitude, attendance, work ethic, skills, and team role at practice; however, equal playing time in games is not guaranteed. Coaches strive to teach athletes to compete within the rules of sportsmanship and fair play while developing the ambition to achieve at the next level of competition.

Athletic Fee

There is a mandatory athletic fee (at both the middle and high school levels) for any student playing on one of MaST's sports teams. This money will be used to help pay for the rising costs of running MaST's athletic program. The fee will be **\$110 (per student per sport) at the high school level and \$80 (per student per sport) at the middle school level**. Please note that this is on top of any other fees that are required for particular sports (e.g. cheerleaders that purchase their own bows, sneakers, etc.). Additionally, these fees are subject to change on an annual basis.

This payment must be submitted **prior** to being allowed to try out for a sport through the athletic fee payment form on MaST's Athletics Website (athletics.mastccs.org) under the "Team Registration" tab. While the credit card you use will be charged upon completing the payment form, only those payments from students making the team at the beginning of the season will be kept. Payments will be refunded (within a couple days of the team being posted) for those students not making the team (through the same credit card). Please note that other than this one exception, **all fees are nonrefundable**. This includes any potential situation that arises during a season including (but not limited to) dismissal from the team, academic ineligibility, playing time disputes, etc.

If there are circumstances in which using a credit card for payment is not possible, please contact the athletic director to make alternate arrangements.

PIAA Physical Form

It is both Pennsylvania and MaST Community Charter School policy that any student wishing to try out for a team **must** have a completed, valid PIAA physical form on file. The PIAA physical form **must** be completed, submitted, and approved **prior** to a student being allowed to try out. The form must be turned into the coach, athletic trainer, or athletic director by the time set forth by the coach (which may be before tryouts). Please note that sections 1-6 are the main parts of the physical that need to be completed. Directions for the possible need to submit sections 7, 8, or 9 can be seen below. The physical must be completed **on or after** June 1 leading into the current school year (i.e. for the 2014-2015 school year, the physical must be completed on or after June 1, 2014). **The physical form must be submitted via hard copy only.**

Section 6: This form must be signed/stamped by a doctor, and it must be dated **on or after** June 1 leading into the current school year as described above. Any date prior to this (or a date that is left blank) is not acceptable (which includes **all** physicals submitted during the previous school year), and students will not be allowed to try out/practice if the date is not valid.

Section 7: If a student had a physical form completed (Sections 1-6) from a previous season during the current school year, the student does not need to have another physical done (unless they were injured – see section 8); rather, the student must have section 7 completed, signed by a parent/guardian, and turned in prior to being allowed to try out for the new sport. **This, too, must be submitted via hard copy only.** If this does not apply to a student, this section can be omitted.

Section 8: If a student participated in a sport earlier in the current school year and sought medical treatment from a doctor or hospital since the physical was completed, this form needs to be completed and signed by a doctor prior to the student being allowed to try out/practice. **This, too, must be submitted via hard copy only.** If this does not apply to a student, this section can be omitted.

Section 9: This form specifically relates to wrestling (which MaST does not have) and does not need to be submitted.

*****While it is understood that it can be difficult getting a doctor appointment in a timely fashion and that insurance companies may not pay for a 2nd physical within a one year period, please be advised that these are state-mandated rules and that no exceptions can be made to accommodate an individual student's unique set of circumstances. Additionally, no spots can be reserved on teams for students awaiting their doctor appointment once tryouts are held. If a student is unable to secure a doctor appointment in a timely manner, there are several clinics that offer walk-in hours that will complete PIAA physicals for a fee. Please see the "Resources" tab on the athletics website for further details.*****

Fitness Center Policies and Procedures

The Fitness Center will be available for high school students to use after school on certain days. The schedule can be found on the MaST athletics website. Coaches may utilize the fitness as part of in-season and/or out-of-season conditioning.

Every student wishing to use the Fitness Center during after-school hours must have **three** forms on file with the school. The forms for items #1 and #2 are on the athletics website under the “Fitness Center” tab. Item #3 can be completed by simply going to the Fitness Center when it’s open after school and watching the training video on site. Please be advised that in order to participate in any sort of fitness center workout (whether it is in-season or out-of-season), all three of these criteria must be met:

1. A signed “Acknowledgement and Waiver” form for Fitness Center usage must be on file in the athletic office (must be done on an annual basis even if previously completed).
2. A completed “After School Fitness Center Participation” physical that is signed and stamped by a doctor must be on file in the athletic office. The only exception is if a student has already submitted a PIAA physical form for trying out for a high school sport **during the current school year**; the PIAA form will serve as acceptable documentation of a doctor’s clearance.

IF A STUDENT WANTS TO USE THE FACILITY AND KNOWS HE/SHE WILL BE TRYING OUT FOR A SPORTS TEAM AT SOME POINT DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR, IT IS RECOMMENDED TO COMPLETE THE PIAA SPORTS PHYSICAL AS IT WILL BE ACCEPTED IN BOTH AREAS.

3. A student signature form indicating he/she watched the training video must be on file in the athletic office. This can be done upon entering the fitness center after school during regularly scheduled hours.

Once again, unless a student has all three criteria met, he/she will not be permitted in the fitness center during after school hours (even if other team members are using the facility).

Requirements Needed to Try Out for a Team

There are **three** requirements that must **all** be completed **prior** to being allowed to try out for a team. If any of these items are not completed, a student will not be able to try out for the team he/she wishes. As such, please ensure you follow these guidelines exactly. More detailed directions can be found on MaST's Athletics Website under the "Team Registration" tab.

1. Register online the sport
2. Complete the payment form for the athletic fee
3. Submit the valid PIAA physical form

Tryouts

It should be understood that representing MaST Community Charter School through athletics is a privilege. Students are encouraged to become involved in athletics each season. Participating in tryouts is necessary in order to be considered for an athletic team. In some programs, there is a risk of not being selected for a team. Team sizes may be limited due to the nature of the sport, the number of candidates, the transportation and uniform availability, or to ensure player safety and practice time.

The coaching staff of each team has the sole responsibility for selecting members of the team and the amount of playing time. Prior to tryouts, all candidates will be informed as to the expectations that the coach has for them during tryouts.

Tryouts may span one day or multiple days. Any student not selected is encouraged to explore other possible roles with the team (e.g. team manager). If a student is not selected for a team, he/she may contact the coach personally for an explanation. This should be done by the student and not by the parent.

Expectations and Responsibilities of Student-Athletes

1. The student-athletes of MaST Community Charter School will be committed to the school athletic program by:

- Following the rules set by the coaches and the school.
- Participating enthusiastically.
- Making appropriate personal sacrifices for the good of the team.
- Recognizing that student participation in athletics is a privilege.
- Setting challenging and realistic goals.
- Developing a winning attitude.
- Maintaining high academic standards in accordance with MaST's guidelines for extracurricular activities detailed in the family handbook.
- Being committed to skill development in their sport.

2. The student-athletes of MaST Community Charter School will communicate openly, positively and honestly with respect for coaches, teammates, parents, officials, and opponents by:

- Developing a team attitude.
- Being coachable and open to constructive feedback.
- Sharing appropriate individual and team concerns with the coaching staff.

3. The student-athletes of MaST Community Charter School will demonstrate good citizenship and sportsmanship by:

- Behaving with integrity.
- Exhibiting pride in their team and school.
- Playing by the rules.
- Accepting responsibility as a role model for others.
- Supporting other sports within the school.
- Playing with dignity and grace, regardless of winning or losing.

4. The student-athletes of MaST Community Charter School will develop and maintain mental and physical (health) behaviors by:

- Being alcohol and drug free.
- Practicing self-discipline.
- Demonstrating good personal health habits.
- Dealing with challenges in a positive manner.

Expectations and Responsibilities of Parents

1. The parents will communicate fairly and openly with coaches by:
 - Communicating openly, honestly, and with respect.
 - Communicating issues and concerns in a timely manner including those of physical and emotional well-being on behalf of their student.
 - Attending any parent meetings disseminated by the coaches.
 - Following the appropriate chain of communication as follows:
 - 1) Parent to Coach (this should follow a student to coach meeting)
 - 2) Parent to Athletic Director
 - 3) Parent to Principal/CEO

2. The parents will demonstrate good sportsmanship by displaying the following behaviors:
 - Providing support for coaches, officials, and referees in order to provide a positive, enjoyable experience for all student-athletes.
 - Understanding the game is for the students and not for the adults.
 - Recognizing that student participation in athletics is a privilege.
 - Using good sportsmanship as a spectator and conduct themselves in a manner that reflects well on both the team and the school.
 - Promoting the team by being supportive and helpful of the school program.
 - Refraining from coaching their student from the stands or sidelines.
 - Expecting consistent student attendance at practice and games.

3. The parents will create a positive and supportive environment to promote their student-athlete's well-being by:
 - Supporting good conditioning and healthy lifestyle habits.
 - Placing the emotional and physical well-being of their student ahead of any personal desire to win.
 - Expecting their student to play in a safe and healthy environment.
 - Supporting their student in planning how to meet their academic responsibilities given the demands of training and practice.
 - Being a role model for other parents by remaining positive at sporting events

Expectations of Conduct for Spectators and Guests

“The ideals of good sportsmanship, ethical behavior and integrity should permeate all interscholastic athletics in our community. In perception and practice, good sportsmanship shall be defined as those qualities of behavior, which are characterized by generosity and genuine concern for others. Our athletic fields should be the laboratories to produce good citizens reflecting “fair play” in every area of life.”

Expectations of Spectators, Guests and Other Fans

- Game attendance is a privilege and not a license to verbally assault others or to be obnoxious.
- Respect the entire playing of the National Anthem.
- Respect decisions made by contest officials.
- Be an exemplary role model by positively supporting teams in every manner possible, including content of cheers and signs.
- Become aware of the purpose of the league and rules to keep winning in its proper place.
- Respect fans, coaches and participants.
- Recognize outstanding performances on either side of the playing field.
- Cheer for our team and not against the other team.

Suggested Positive Behavior Guidelines

- Applaud during introduction of players, coaches and officials.
- Accept all decision by officials.
- Handshakes between participants and coaches at end of contest, regardless of outcome.
- Search out opposing participants to recognize them for outstanding performance of coaching.
- Applaud at end of contest for performances of all participants.
- Demonstrate concern for injured player, regardless of team.
- Encourage supporting people to display only sportsmanlike conduct.

Unacceptable Behavior

- Yelling or negative chanting or gestures toward opponent.
- Booing or heckling an official’s decision.
- Criticizing officials in any way; displays of temper with an official’s call.
- Taunting or trash talk.
- Refusing to shake hands or to give recognition for good performances.
- Blaming loss of game on officials, coaches, or participants.
- Laughing or name-calling to distract an opponent.
- Using profanity or displays of anger that draw attention away from the game.
- “Coaching” the student-athletes during a competition from the stands.

Code of Conduct for Athletic Participation

The MaST Community Charter School standard is designed to encourage responsible and safe decision-making by all students and to promote a positive learning environment. Student-athletes are subject to school rules and regulations as well as all rules set forth by governing bodies as cited in the MaST Community Charter School Family Handbook and by this Athletic Handbook. All participants are reminded that they must be good citizens in order to represent their school and community in athletic activities. Violations of school rules will be dealt with accordingly as detailed in the Family Handbook. Violations resulting in suspension from school will automatically preclude student involvement in co-curricular and/or athletic activities for the length of the suspension.

The MaST Community Charter School maintains that the possession and/or use of illicit drugs and unlawful possession and/or use of alcohol and tobacco by minors/students is wrong and can be physically and/or emotionally harmful to students. Therefore, MaST Community Charter School has strict rules against being knowingly in the unlawful presence of and/or possession, sale, transfer, and/or use of these substances, whether or not they are on school property or at a school function. MaST Community Charter School, as a member of the PIAA, meets or exceeds their standards for code of conduct and discipline.

Students should be aware that if they are part of a group that is engaged in activities contrary to school rules, they may come under suspicion and be subject to investigation if that is deemed appropriate by the administration. It is wise, therefore, either to prevent the wrongdoing, or failing that, to remove one's self from the group as soon as possible without putting one's self at risk.

Student-Athlete Process for Communicating and Resolving Concerns

Athletic involvement, while fun and rewarding, can be very time consuming and emotional. Due to the level of effort and emotion invested, conflicts between players and coaches may inevitably arise. All conflicts should be addressed professionally and as soon as possible. To accomplish this, MaST Community Charter School has set forth the following guidelines.

FIRST STEP: Student-Athlete and Coach Contact

The student-athlete should meet individually with the coach to share concerns and/or discuss any issue or conflict. It is the student-athlete's responsibility to make an attempt to meet with the coach before involving others, if at all possible.

Times to be avoided when initiating contact:

- Immediately prior to and/or right after a contest
- During an active practice session
- During a time when other students are present and/or when the discussion is readily visible by others
- When it is apparent that there is not sufficient time to allow for complete discussion

SECOND STEP: Parent/Guardian and Coach Contact

If a conflict between a student-athlete and a coach remains unresolved or becomes a chronic issue, the parent/guardian and student-athlete should schedule a meeting with the coach. The student-athlete should be involved and present at this meeting.

THIRD STEP: Parent/Guardian and Athletic Director Contact

If a satisfactory resolution is not reached through direct contact with the coach, the student-athlete and parent/guardian should inform the coach that they intend to contact the athletic director. A meeting with the athletic director should be scheduled through the athletic office.

FOURTH STEP: Parent/Guardian and Principal/CEO Contact

If existing concerns remain following a meeting with the athletic director, the student-athlete and parent/guardian should initiate contact with the principal or CEO.

Athletic Program Policies

Please refer to the MaST Community Charter School Family Handbook for important information regarding the following items:

- Academic Eligibility and Grading Policies
- Standardized Testing Policy
- Attendance (includes eligibility policy for student-athletes arriving late to school)
- Behavior
- Drug Use (including performance enhancing drugs)
- Guest/Spectator Policy
- Evening Events
- Away Events
- PIAA Physicals Policy
- Uniforms
- Weather/Postponements

School Suspension

Any student who is suspended out of school may not participate from the time in which the suspension is issued until the reinstatement meeting has been conducted. Any student who is issued an in-school suspension may not participate on the issue date or during school hours of the scheduled date of service.

Vacations and Extended Absences

Each team member is expected to be present for all team practices and games. Due to scheduling parameters, a number of our teams will practice and/or play games during scheduled school vacations and days off. Student-athletes who know that they will be absent from scheduled events for an extended period of time should discuss their situation with the coach prior to trying out for the team. Coaches will discuss with the student-athlete what the penalty will be if they miss games and/or practices due to a vacation or extended absence.

Excused Absences

Certain excused circumstances may be considered where a student may be absent and still be allowed to participate in a practice/contest after school on that day (possible exceptions include attending a funeral, doing a college visit, etc.), but these situations require pre-approval by the Principal before eligibility is granted for that day.

Facilities / Supervision

The proper care of athletic facilities is the responsibility of each coach and student-athlete. Damage to any equipment or facility must be reported immediately to the athletic director. A member of the coaching staff must supervise all activities by student-athletes, and no student is allowed access to any of the athletic facilities without proper supervision. Student-athletes are expected to respect all athletic facilities. We expect the student-athletes to take pride in their facilities and those of opponents by using trash cans and keeping the facilities in good condition. Any type of vandalism will not be tolerated. Student may not use the gymnasium or fitness center unless there is proper supervision. Coaches may not leave the facility until all student-athletes have left the facility.

Off-site facilities are an integral part of the athletic program, and there will be zero tolerance for students' actions and behaviors that jeopardize the school's standing with these community organizations. Facilities are expected to be left in the same (or better) condition as they are found when first arriving.

Athletic Trainer and Return-To-Play Policies

MaST Community Charter School has an athletic trainer on site to evaluate and treat athletic injuries as they may occur. The athletic trainer provides medical assistance or treatment for athletic contests and practices, but is limited to being at one place at any one time. In the case of injury, the athletic trainer will evaluate and recommend care of the injury to the parent/guardian. If an injury occurs and the athletic trainer is located at another facility for another practice or contest, every coach has means of contacting the trainer as needed. The athletic trainer's hours vary, but they're typically 2:00-6:00 PM during the fall and spring seasons and 3:00-7:00 PM during the winter season.

Any injury sustained during participation in an athletic event, whether practice or game, should be reported to the coach and athletic trainer as soon as possible. This policy is necessary for student-athlete safety and is essential for providing optimal care and facilitating return to play.

If a student-athlete is seen by a physician for an injury or illness, the individual must obtain written notification from the physician stating his/her condition and playing status - including return to activity. Clearance from a physician to participate in activity does not automatically ensure the individual will be permitted to return to activity. The athletic trainer will ultimately be responsible for determining when an individual can return to participation and the nature/ extent of that participation. **This is both PIAA and school policy, and there are absolutely no exceptions to this rule.**

CONCUSSION MANAGEMENT POLICY

Date Adopted: 8/15/12

Based on information gathered from the American Academy of Neurology (AAN), the National Athletic Trainer's Association (NATA), the American Medical Association, and the Center for Disease Control (CDC), and in compliance with Pennsylvania state law, the following is the policy for concussion management and return to play criteria for the Mathematics, Sciences & Technology Community Charter School (the "Charter School"):

All student athletes participating in a school-sponsored contact or collision sport shall be evaluated and cleared to participate in writing by an Appropriate Medical Professional (as defined in the Safety in Youth Sports Act) with training in the evaluation and management of concussion. Such clearance must be provided within the first three days of practice or the establishment of a team roster, whichever is last.

Any additions to rosters should be tested prior to an individual participating in any sport with exposure to contact, including balls and/or equipment (e.g. field hockey balls, lacrosse sticks). Any testing after the first three days must be scheduled through the Athletic Director on an individual basis. Students suspected of having a concussion are not allowed to participate in any athletic activity (including Physical Education class) until the student athlete is evaluated and cleared for return to participation in writing by an Appropriate Medical Professional with training in the evaluation and management of concussion.

If a student athlete is suspected of having a concussion, they are to be removed from practice/competition immediately and not allowed to return to any physical activity (including Physical Education class) until they have been evaluated and cleared in writing by an Appropriate Medical Professional with training in the evaluation and management of concussion.

Students diagnosed with concussion, or presenting signs and symptoms of concussion, need to have a graded concussion checklist generated and symptoms monitored daily. Once all symptoms have passed, the student athlete can be re-tested after a minimum of four days with no recurrence of symptoms for a first concussion, or fourteen days for a second concussion. Athletes who are diagnosed with three concussions in a single school year are not to be allowed to return to any physical activity (including Physical Education class) unless cleared by a neurologist or concussion specialist. Following a negative (pass) test, the student athlete may participate in a physical exertion test the following day. If no signs and symptoms return during the exertion test, the student athlete may begin a gradual return to activity. Athletes who have a positive (fail) test may not be re-tested for a minimum of 48 hours.

Return to activity should be done incrementally after clearance and should take three or more days to completely return the student athlete to full activity. All return to play activities must be approved by the Athletic Director. Any variance to this is to be done only at the discretion of the Athletic Director or the student athlete's physician. Physical Education teachers must be notified if any student athlete's ability to participate in class is restricted.

The Charter School's CEO or his designee has the final say on a student athlete's clearance status following concussion, regardless of documentation provided by the student athlete. "When in doubt, sit them out" is the Charter School's position for concussion management and all decisions will be made with that in mind.

The Charter School, through the Athletic Director, will be utilizing the ImPACT Test (Immediate Post-Concussion Assessment and Cognitive Testing) which is a computerized evaluation system that can be used to help medical professionals diagnose concussions and return-to-play status. In essence, the neurocognitive 20 minute computer baseline test will be administered to all student-athletes at the start of every season (student-athletes participating in multiple seasons will only need to do it once). During the course of a season, if a student-athlete is suspected of having a concussion, the same test will be administered 48 hours after the injury. The computer software will compare the baseline test results with the post-injury test results, and it will create a report that can be sent to students, parents, or doctors' office. While the report cannot diagnose a concussion by itself, it can be a valuable tool for an authorized medical professional to use in his/her diagnosis and the student-athlete's return-to-play status. Starting with the upcoming school year and along with a new concussion policy that complies with the Safety in Youth Act, the Charter School will be implementing this additional tool to fully prioritize the health and well being of our student-athletes.

At no time will a student athlete suspected of having a concussion be allowed to participate in any physical activity related to any activities sponsored by the Charter School.

TO THE EXTENT THAT ANYTHING IN THIS POLICY COULD BE CONSTRUED TO CONFLICT WITH THE SCHOOL'S CHARTER OR APPLICABLE STATE AND/OR FEDERAL LAWS, THE APPLICABLE STATE AND/OR FEDERAL LAWS AND/OR CHARTER CONTROL.

Out of Season Sports Involvement

Participation in out of season workouts, clinics, camps, leagues, or other related sport activities is strictly up to the discretion of the student-athlete and his/her parents/guardians. While such participation will undoubtedly improve one's knowledge and skill, it is the individual's decision whether or not they wish to become involved in such activities. Participation in such activities will have no bearing on the student-athlete's participation on a MaST Community Charter School athletic team. The athletic department encourages all students to take full advantage of the activities we offer and become involved in more than one sport.

According to PIAA rules, a coach or any other representative of the school may not require a student-athlete to participate in a sport or training program outside of the PIAA defined sport season. Voluntary conditioning sessions open to all students in the school and which are entirely devoid of sports specific activity may be conducted between sessions provided no candidate is either required to participate or penalized for not doing so. All coaches are reminded that if they are conducting conditioning sessions that no sport specific play should take place as part of that session.

Awards

The MaST Community Charter School letter will be awarded to any student at the high school level who fulfills the postseason award criteria detailed below. A participatory trophy will be awarded to any student at the middle school level that fulfills the same criteria. In addition, the athletic department gives two awards per athletic team at both the middle school and high school levels. These additional awards (along with who they're distributed to) are at the discretion of the coaching staff for each team. Should they choose, individual coaches may opt to distribute additional awards not affiliated with the athletic program.

Postseason Award Criteria

1. Acceptable practice and game attendance throughout the season.
2. Successful completion of the season.
 - a. A student-athlete must be academically eligible at the end of the season.
 - b. Student-athletes removed from the team for disciplinary reasons will not be eligible for a letter/trophy.
 - c. If a player is injured during a practice or game and is unable to finish the season, he/she will receive a letter if he/she continues to support the team.
3. Team managers shall receive a letter at the discretion of the head coach.

Transportation

The primary means of transporting student-athletes to and from practices and games is via coaches driving school-owned vans. Buses will be utilized as needed. It is the expectation of MaST Community Charter School that these vans are treated with respect and are left in the same (if not better) condition when vacating the vans than when entering the vans. All trash must be removed when vacating the vans. Any vandalism that occurs will be treated with strict disciplinary action. As part of the team registration process, there is a form for parents/guardians to sign authorizing permission to transport student-athletes as such.

Uniforms

Students are issued articles of clothing which make up their athletic uniforms. These articles are the property of MaST Community Charter School and must be returned at the end of the season. They also must be returned in the same condition that they were issued (with the understanding there will be normal wear and tear). Parents/guardians will be financially responsible if any of these articles are lost, damaged, or stolen, and they will be billed accordingly for replacement articles if necessary. As part of the registration process, there is a form that details all of the articles that will be distributed (along with a parent/guardian signature acknowledging these policies).

Hazing Policy

Purpose

The Board believes that it is essential to maintain a safe, positive environment for students and staff that is free from hazing. Hazing activities of any type are inconsistent with the educational goals of the district and are prohibited at all times.

Definitions

For purposes of this policy, **hazing** is defined as any activity or situation that recklessly or intentionally endangers the mental health, physical health or safety of a student, or which willfully destroys or removes public or private property, for the purpose of initiation or membership in or affiliation with any organization operating under the sanction of or recognized by the Board.

Endanger the physical health shall include, but not be limited to, any brutality of a physical nature such as whipping; beating; branding; forced calisthenics; exposure to the elements; consumption of any food, alcoholic beverage, drug or controlled substance or other substance; or other forced physical activity that could adversely affect the physical health or safety of the individual.

Endanger the mental health shall include any activity that would subject an individual to extreme mental stress, such as prolonged sleep deprivation, forced prolonged exclusion from social contact, forced conduct, forced conduct which could result in extreme embarrassment, or any other forced activity which could adversely affect the mental health or dignity of the individual or any willful destruction or removal of public or private property. The Board defines 'forced' as any activity upon which the initiation or admission into or affiliation with or continued membership in an organization is directly or indirectly conditioned shall be presumed to be forced, the willingness of an individual to participate in such activity notwithstanding.

Authority

The Board does not condone any form of initiation or harassment, known as hazing, as part of any school sponsored student activity. No student, coach, sponsor, volunteer or employee shall plan, direct, encourage, assist or engage in any hazing activity. Further, the Board directs that no administrator, coach, sponsor, volunteer, or employee shall permit, condone, or tolerate any form of hazing.

The school will investigate all complaints of hazing and will administer appropriate discipline to any individual who violates this policy. The Board encourages students who

have been subjected to hazing to promptly report such incidents to the administration.

Delegation of Responsibility

Administrators shall investigate promptly all complaints of hazing and administer appropriate discipline to any individual who violates this policy. Students, administrators, coaches, sponsors, volunteers, and employees shall be alert to incidents of hazing and shall report such conduct to the building CEO or designee. He/she will take appropriate action.

The school shall annually inform students, parents, coaches, sponsors, volunteers and staff that hazing of students is prohibited.

Training shall be provided to administrators who shall, in turn, train those working directly with the student activities.

Complaint Procedure

1. When a student believes that he/she has been subject to hazing, the student shall promptly report the incident, orally or in writing, to the CEO or designee.
2. The CEO or designee shall conduct a timely, impartial, thorough, and comprehensive investigation of the alleged hazing.
3. The CEO or designee shall prepare a written report summarizing the investigation and recommending disposition of the complaint. Copies of the report shall be provided to the complainant, the accused, and others directly involved, as appropriate.
4. If the investigation results in a substantiated finding of hazing, the CEO or designee shall recommend appropriate disciplinary action, as circumstances warrant, in accordance with the Student Disciplinary Code. Additionally, the student may be subject to disciplinary action by the coach or sponsor, up to and including exclusion from the activity.
5. If the hazing constitutes criminal conduct, the school will report the action to the police or juvenile authorities.
6. The Board of Trustees Discipline Committee and the Board President shall be kept informed throughout the process. The Board of Trustees shall take appropriate action when necessary.

Cooperative Sponsorship with George Washington High School

To maximize athletic opportunities for student-athletes at the high school level, MaST Community Charter School has developed a cooperative sponsorship with George Washington High School. If students are interested in playing any of the sports listed below, they are eligible to try out for these teams at George Washington High School. As part of the cooperative sponsorship, students cannot play for their local high school, catholic school, or any other school (unless the local school happens to be Washington). Additionally, students cannot play for one of Washington's teams if MaST offers the sport (e.g. a student cannot play on Washington's baseball team because MaST offers a baseball team). Please note that these sports are subject to change.

<u>Fall Sports</u>	<u>Winter Sports</u>	<u>Spring Sports</u>
Football	Wrestling	Track and Field (Boys and Girls)
Field Hockey		Boys' Tennis
Girls' Tennis		Lacrosse (Boys and Girls)
		Boys' Volleyball

Policies for Participating on an Athletic Team at George Washington High School

1. To begin the process, interested students should notify MaST's athletic director of his/her interest. MaST's athletic director will then contact Washington's athletic director.
2. Student-athletes must adhere to all policies (including academic eligibility, attendance, etc.) set forth by both MaST Community Charter School and Washington in order to participate.
3. MaST does not provide any transportation to or from Washington. Parents and students participating are responsible for securing transportation (or taking public transportation).
4. Students must have the necessary paperwork on file at both MaST and Washington in order to participate. The paperwork, along with additional policies and procedures regarding dismissal, can be found on the MaST Athletics Website under the "Resources" tab.
5. Students are responsible for making up any work they miss due to early dismissals.
6. The handling of all injuries and medical information is taken care of by Washington's athletic department.
7. MaST assumes no liability once a student departs the building to fulfill his/her athletic commitment at George Washington High School.