



PHILOSOPHY AND PURPOSE

The Monsignor Martin High School Athletic Association (MMHSAA) believes that interscholastic activities are an integral part of high school curricula. We feel that interscholastic activities enhance not only physical development but spiritual, social, and emotional development, as well. It is our belief that interscholastic activities play a vital role in the education of the whole student.

This Association is comprised of two leagues, the Boys Catholic High School Athletic Association and the Girls Catholic High School Athletic Association. This association operates under the auspices of the New York State Catholic High School Athletic Association (NYSCHSAA), the New York State Federation of Secondary School Athletics and the MMHSAA

Hereafter, all references to “the MMHSAA” shall mean both the Boys League and the Girls League and our Constitution shall serve as the governing document for each League

The purpose of the MMHSAA shall be:

1. Engender in both participants and spectators the ideals of Christian sportsmanship, morally correct conduct, and fair play according to guidelines of a code of conduct for spectators and areas of responsibility for supervision published by the CHSAA
2. Promote, within the framework of its athletic principles, interscholastic competition for students in grades 9-12 in the Catholic Secondary Schools of the Diocese of Buffalo and with the private school members of this association, and, in doing so, shall protect the mutual interests of the schools engaged therein.
3. Provide member schools the opportunity to conduct interscholastic athletics with the expectation that holds paramount the academic and religious programs of member schools and the academic, spiritual and personal growth of the participant

4. To assure that secondary school competitions are in compliance with Regulations of the Commissioner, the New York State Catholic High School Athletic Association (CHSAA), the New York State Federation of Secondary Schools and the MMHSAA.
5. To assist in the proper interpretation, observance, and improvement of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education (135.4) governing athletics so that interschool athletics are an integral part of the secondary school curriculum
6. To coordinate the cooperative efforts of its member schools to insure fair interschool amateur competition among all schools.
7. To support each of its members in the observance of good sportsmanship and high ideals in amicable interschool relations.
8. To encourage maximum participation in a variety of appropriate athletic activities.
9. Be based upon the spirit of amateurism which protects student athletes from exploitation, commercialism, and professionalism in order to uphold the values of wholesome, clean, appropriate competition in our schools.
10. To participate in research and experimentation to strengthen programs and to improve safety in sports.
11. To cooperate in the development of high standards for officiating.
12. To support the Constitution, Bylaws and Rules adopted by this Association

The Association's programs will be conducted under the administration of the secondary school authorities of the MMHSAA as outlined and specified in this document.

GENERAL OBJECTIVES OF MMHSAA

The Monsignor Martin High School Athletic Association serves as a central organization through which member schools may cooperate to

Encourage as many pupils as possible to participate in athletic games.

Promote sportsmanship in all athletic contests.

Maintain essential minimum standards of eligibility.

Provide means to settle disputed athletic contests amicably and authoritatively.

Conduct appropriate athletic meets and tournaments.

Cooperate with the State Education Department in fostering educationally-sound athletic programs.

Adapt rules governing sports contests to the particular conditions for school competition.

Continually seek data to support rule changes leading to greater safety for school athletes.

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ACTIVE MEMBER SCHOOLS

*Archbishop Walsh High School
208 North 24th. Street
Olean, NY 14760

Nardin Academy
135 Cleveland Avenue
Buffalo, NY 14222

Bishop Timon-St. Jude High School
601 McKinley Parkway
Buffalo, NY 14220

Nichols School
1250 Amherst Street
Buffalo, NY 14216

Buffalo Academy of the Sacred Heart
3860 Main Street
Egbertsville, NY 14226

Park School
4625 Harlem Road
Snyder, NY 14226

Buffalo Seminary
205 Bidwell Parkway
Buffalo, NY 14222

St. Francis High School
S-4129 Lake Shore Road
Athol Springs, NY 14010

Canisius High School
1180 Delaware Avenue
Buffalo, NY 14209

St. Joseph Collegiate Institute
845 Kenmore Avenue
Buffalo, NY 14223

Cardinal O'Hara High School
39 O'Hara Road
Tonawanda, NY 14150

*St. Mary's School for the Deaf
2253 Main Street
Buffalo, NY 14214

Christian Central Academy
39 Academy Street
Williamsville, NY 14221

St. Mary's High School
142 Laverack Avenue
Lancaster, NY 14086

Mt. Mercy Academy
88 Red Jacket Parkway
Buffalo, NY 14220

The Gow School
2491 Emery Road
South Wales, NY 14139

Mount St. Mary Academy
3756 Delaware Avenue
Kenmore, NY 14217

* Indicates that the school is currently not participating in the MMHSAA.

ACADEMIC SPORTS SEASONS

The academic year shall be divided into three sports seasons (Fall, Winter, and Spring). The NYSCHSAA Athletic Council, with the approval of the NYSCHSAA, Inc. Executive Committee, shall determine all sports seasons within the limits of the Commissioner's Regulations. Executive Committee of the NYSCHSAA must approve any necessary changes in such dates.

If a team competes in the same season in which a state championship (regional competition and beyond) is conducted as designated by the NYSCHSAA, Inc. Executive Committee, then the team and its players are ineligible to compete in any other season in that sport in that school year.

Fall offerings

Boys: cross country, football, golf, soccer, volleyball

Girls: cross country, golf, soccer, swimming, volleyball

Winter offerings

Boys: basketball, bowling, hockey, wrestling, swimming

Girls: basketball, bowling, hockey

Spring offerings

Boys: baseball, lacrosse, tennis, track

Girls: Lacrosse, Softball, Tennis, Track

ACCEPTANCE INTO THE LEAGUE (Please see constitution)

ATHLETIC DIRECTORS COUNCIL

An Athletic Directors Council is established to assist the Executive Director who will exercise authority in the day-to-day functioning of the Association and to carry out the philosophy, policies, and rules set forth by the Athletic Directors Council and the Board of Principals.

The Athletic Directors' Council shall consist of one Athletic Director from each of the member schools. The Athletic Director of each school shall have one vote in any deliberation pertaining to their school's involvement in the sport or league matter.

A quorum shall consist of a number equal to or greater than ½ of the total membership. A simple majority vote of the quorum is needed for decisions.

Athletic Directors of member schools must meet as a group at least once during each sports season and once at the end of the school sports seasons for a total of not less than four meetings per academic year. Additional meetings of the Athletic Directors Council may be called as needed by the Executive Director.

The Executive Director, or a delegate from the Executive Committee, will chair meetings of the Athletic Directors' Council and shall set the time and place for meetings of the Athletic Directors' Council

The specific duties of the Athletic Directors' Council are:

- Enforce the Constitution and By-Laws of this Association
- Establish specific procedures and schedules to promote orderly conduct of the athletic competitions sponsored by the Association
- Establish, as appropriate, leagues for the purpose of organizing athletic competitions
- Determine and approve mechanisms for determining school membership in divisions
- Supervise the work and activities of the individual sports' committees;
- Acting as a liaison between the Executive Director and the Principal of their school
- Understanding all rules and regulations set forth by both the state and the league.
- Keeping coaches informed of all rules and regulations.
- Being responsible for all infractions incurred by their school
- Acting as a spokesperson for their coaches at all meetings to inform the executive committee of any concerns the coaches may have
- Attending all scheduled meetings.
- Assisting in the development of the master schedule, including confirming dates with their own school calendar.
- Checking the arbiter schedule to make sure their games are scheduled and that officials have been assigned
- Supervise the work and activities of the individual sports' committees;
- Serving as chairperson or being responsible for a coach at your school who serves as a chairperson for at least ONE SPORT
- Establish maximum admission charges for spectators on a sport-by-sport basis.
- Assisting in the organization and running of the league playoffs, All-Catholic selections and State Tournaments.
- Working with the director to make arrangements for their team to travel to State Tournaments in New York.
- Providing adequate supervision at home sites.
- Ensuring that the head coach attends all pre-season coaches' meetings and the All-Catholic meeting.
 - If a team's head coach fails to attend the league meeting, it will result in a \$100.00 fine.
 - If a coach (head coach or representative) fails to attend the league meeting, it will result in a \$250.00 fine.
 - If a coach fails to attend the All-Catholic meeting, it may result in the coach's athletes being excluded from the All-Catholic team.

AWARDS, CHAMPIONSHIPS AND PLAYOFFS

Freshman and Junior Varsity - Competition will end when league play concludes (no playoffs) and there are no awards.

Championship Awards will be provided for the Playoff Champion.

Varsity - first place teams in each division will receive a school award for regular season.

One division – first place team will receive school award.

Two or more divisions - first place in each division will receive an award

ALL CATHOLICS

The method for selection of All-Catholics will be determined by the Athletic Directors Council and administered by the sport chairperson. Directions for these selections will be forwarded to the Chair, prior to the All-Catholic meeting.

GUIDELINES FOR ALL-CATHOLIC BALLOTING

When voting takes place for All Catholic selections:

You may not vote for any players from your own team.

You must vote for the assigned number of players.

There will be a meeting scheduled at the end of team sport seasons so that each coach has a chance to speak briefly on behalf of the nominated athletes. In addition, each coach should bring a written summary of the accomplishments of nominee(s). There should be enough copies for each coach and the All-Catholic chairperson.

Final voting will be done at this meeting. A representative from each school must be present for this meeting. Schools not represented at the meeting may not have their players represented on the All-Catholic team.

If the coach is unable to attend the meeting, a representative must be sent to the meeting with written summaries.

AMATEUR

All contestants must be amateurs in the sport in which they participate in interscholastic competition. An amateur is one who has never used his athletic skill for monetary gain. A student who signs a contract with a professional team is no longer eligible for interscholastic competition in that sport.

A student who represents a school in an interscholastic sport shall be an amateur in that sport. An amateur is one who engages in athletic competition solely for the physical, mental, social and pleasure benefits derived there from. An athlete forfeits amateur standing in a sport by:

Competing for money or other compensation (allowable travel, meals, lodging expenses may be accepted.)

Receiving an award or prize of monetary value which has not been approved by this Association.

Capitalizing on athletic fame by receiving money, or other gifts of monetary value (scholarships to institutes of higher learning are specially exempted.
Signing a professional playing contract in that sport.

A student who violates the above rule may apply to the league for reinstatement one year from the date of the latest violation.

NOTE: Instructing, supervising or officiating in any organized youth sports program, recreation, playground or camp activities will not jeopardize amateur standing. Receiving compensation as a member of a certified official's group in a sport played at the high school level disqualifies a student from participating in that sport

BONA FIDE STUDENT

Regulation of the Commissioner of Education: A student-athlete must be a bona fide student registered in a Catholic/private school that fulfills the compulsory requirements of the Education Law. A student must satisfy all eligibility standards, enrolled in the equivalent of three requirements for graduation, may be enrolled in one or more college courses for advance placement and must be earning a minimum of three high school credits plus be enrolled in Physical Education to be eligible

A foreign exchange student may be considered a bona fide student if all of these eligibility rules are satisfied.

The NYSCHSAA and the MMHSAA do not permit participation by seventh and eighth graders on a Freshman, J.V., or Varsity squad in member schools.

CAMPS, CLINICS, & PRIVATE LESSONS

The MMHSAA shall not sanction, endorse, ratify, confirm, or approve any camps, clinics, or private lessons.

Bona fide sport camps/clinics are those sponsored by institutions or business enterprises including: colleges, individual schools or school districts, community school programs, etc. For a member school and/or coaches to sponsor a sports camp/clinic for students in grades 5-12, the camp/clinic must be promoted and advertised in public media and be opened to students from more than one school. Sports camps/clinics sponsored by member schools and/or coaches shall be allowed only during the summer period. The camp/clinic shall be from one to five days in length and all days must be consecutive.

Member schools and/or coaches shall not pay fees, meals, lodging, or other expenses on behalf of student-athletes. Free sports camp/clinics are permissible provided the camp/clinic is free to everyone.

Student athletes in grades 5-12 may attend as many individual or team camps/clinics of their choosing during the out-of-season and summer periods on an unattached basis provided they do so at their own expense. Student-athletes shall NOT attend any type of camp/clinic in a sport

once that sport season has started and the athlete has officially reported for membership on the school team. Students may take private lessons at any time provided they do so at their own expense.

COMBINING TEAMS

In the interest of maintaining competition, we will allow schools to combine when the combining of schools is done to sustain an existing program or when a school is attempting to grow their own program for the purpose of developing their own team. The MMHSAA reserves the right to direct students wishing to participate in a sport to another MMHSAA that needs the students to sustain a program. The combining of schools is not for the purpose of just providing opportunities at a school that does not have a team. The joining together of students from two or more-member schools to form a single team shall be permitted subject to the following conditions:

- Permission must be obtained from our league on an annual basis.
- League approval must be reported to the NYSCHSAA, Inc., Executive Committee.
- A petition to combine must be filed with the league no later than ONE WEEK following the season's official starting date. ([FORM](#))
- This petition must be signed by the Athletic Directors and Principals of both/all schools.
- The petition must then be sent to the Executive Director. The Executive Director will submit the form to the members of the Executive Committee for approval.
- The schools petitioning must document the following:
 - The host school responsible for the sport. This school will be charged for all league costs for the sport (league fees, fees for officials, etc.). It will be incumbent upon the host school to work out financial responsibilities with the other combining schools to recapture league fees, fees for officials, etc.
 - Head Coach - this is the person in charge of making calls or contacts for these athletes
 - Payment of Head Coach - the combining schools will need to work out the costs associated with the head coach and coaches
 - Anticipated number of participants
 - Criteria for playing time (It is up to the combining schools, not the league, to establish this.)
 - One roster, to be submitted by the Head Coach
 - If a championship is won, both schools will get trophies
 - The schools must establish a joint uniform to be worn by all competitors
 - For individual sports: A school may be represented by a single athlete (or more, but less than a full team) in an individual sport provided:
 - The school pays the entire league fee for that sport
 - The school pays their share of officials' expenses for that sport

COACHING REQUIREMENTS

FIRST AID/AED/CPR CERTIFICATION

First aid instruction is mandatory for coaches of high school and extra-class nonpublic athletic activities.

- 1) It shall be required of coaches of high school extra-class athletic activities in a nonpublic school system, except as provided in subdivision two of this section, to hold a valid certificate of completion of a course of study in first aid knowledge and skills offered by the American National Red Cross and approved by the commissioner, or to meet equivalent requirements as certified by the commissioner. Any such course of study or equivalent requirements must include instruction in the administration of adult cardiopulmonary resuscitation.
- 2) Prior to the start of each sports season, coaches must provide valid evidence to their chief school officer that their first aid and adult cardiopulmonary resuscitation knowledge and skills are current pursuant to the requirements established by the American National Red Cross or that they meet equivalent requirements as certified by the commissioner.

With regard to AEDs: Although not subject to New York State's mandatory AED law, MMHSAA member schools are strongly encouraged to observe the law's requirements as a "best practice." For events that the MMHSAA hosts, there will be AED equipment present as well as people who know how to operate the equipment. For competitions hosted by member schools, it will be the independent responsibility of each school to ensure whether and how the school will observe these best practices relating to AED's.

VIRTUS Training

All coaches as well as any other individuals who are involved with a full member school's athletic teams must be both background checked in a manner acceptable to the Diocese and must also be certified through the "Protecting God's Children" program that is offered and facilitated by the VIRTUS Online service provider. The full members that are signatories hereto must act in a reasonably expeditious manner to comply with these requirements following the adoption date set forth below. Any future full members must comply with these requirements prior to or promptly following admission as a full member. ([link](#))

Private school members are not required to have VIRTUS Training provided the school principal on a yearly basis submits a letter with the following information:

What type of (Abuse Training) is giving to their coaches annually to insure the safety of students?

List of coaches that have received training and dates of background checks.

They must also include a copy of their liability insurance.

The list of coaches maybe updated seasonally.

CONCUSSION TRAINING

The New York State law requires coaches, physical education teachers, school nurses, and athletic trainers to undergo biennial concussion training. ([Link to training](#))

COLLEGE RULE

A student is no longer eligible to represent the school in that sport in that season if the student participates in practice or competition with or against any individual or team(s) representing a college that season. Prior to completion, the MMHSAA Executive Director may grant an exemption of the College Rule for an individual sport athlete when vying for a standard that would qualify them for the Olympic trials and/or Olympic Games when this opportunity is not offered through the New York State Catholic High School Athletic Association and/or the National Federation of State High School Associations. The exemption would permit a student to participate as an "unattached" individual with no affiliation to their school team in a competition against open and college competitors in an approve

A student who violates this rule may apply to the league for re-instatement one year from the latest violation

COMPETITION: INTERSTATE, INTERNATIONAL, AND NON-FEDERATED GAMES INTERNATIONAL CONTESTS

Member schools may sponsor contests for their athletic teams with foreign countries' secondary school teams for the purpose of cultural exchange and competition under the following conditions:

- League and Playoff schedule may not be altered to accommodate such a contest.
- Teams with which contests are scheduled must be comprised of players comparable in ages to our senior high school level.
- All competitors on the New York State high school team must be eligible according to NYSCHSAA regulations.
- All contests must be scheduled according to appropriate sport standards.
- The number of organized practice sessions in preparation for international competition shall be restricted to the number required before a first contest in that sport.
- The MMHSAA must approve the plans and the Executive Director must be notified at least sixty days prior to the scheduled event.

When hosting an international contest, sanctioning request forms must be initiated by the host member school through NFHS (www.NFHS.org). One application per state will be filed when a foreign team tours and plays more than one school.

When hosting an international contest, the contest must be conducted within the school's sport season as established by its NYSCHSAA and must be counted as one of the maximum number of contests. The hosting of a scrimmage with a foreign school's team does not require sanctioning. It is the school's responsibility to determine that the criteria listed in the Eligibility Standard of Interschool Scrimmage/Practice Sessions are satisfied.

National Federation Sanction is necessary for international competition. Forms for requesting this sanction must be completed online using the NFHS web site (www.NFHS.org/scanctioning) and must be filed 60 days prior to date of competition.

INTERSTATE CONTESTS

Sanctioning is a means of encouraging well-managed competition. The sanctioning program has the primary purpose of protecting the welfare of high school students. A secondary purpose of the sanctioning program is to protect the existing programs sponsored by member schools. Schools may obtain information regarding the sanctioning process and print Application for Sanction forms (NFHS applications) from the NYSPHSAA web site (www.nysphsaa.org). When schools schedule interscholastic contests with schools in other states, each school will observe its own state regulations and standards of eligibility.

No member school will engage in athletic competition, scrimmage, and/or practice with an out-of-state school which is not a member in good standing of its respective state high school athletic association or has not been approved by the respective state association, if the school is ineligible to join. Furthermore, member schools will not compete in any interstate contest which is sponsored solely by an outside agency. For dual contests, it is the school's responsibility to determine that these criteria are satisfied.

No member school shall compete in any contest, unless such contests have the approval of the MMHSAA and the NYSCHSAA.

A member school wishing to host a contest involving an out-of-state school must file an application for Sanction for any contest involving four or more schools, or any contest involving three or more states. Timeline, application fee, and application form information are available on the NYSPHSAA web site, [Interstate Sanctioning](#).

A member school planning to participate in an interstate contest involving four or more schools, or any interstate contest which is co-sponsored by an organization other than a member high school, must give notice of entry to the MMHSAA office so that the school may receive verification that the contest has been sanctioned. NOTE: Failure to comply with the above regulation may cause a team or individuals to be ineligible from that date of participation for the remainder of that sport season.

NYSCPHSAA will approve events that have non-member schools participating provided there is no direct competition with a non-member school.

NON-FEDERATION MEMBER SCHOOLS

- No scrimmage or game shall be played with other than public, private, and parochial schools that belong to the New York State Federation of Secondary School Athletic Associations.
- Verification of membership may be secured from the NYSPHSAA website (www.nysphsaa.org).

- All other schools which are registered with the State Education Department shall apply for
- Friends and Neighbors status with NYSPHSAA to be eligible to compete with NYSCHSAA and with NYSPHSAA member schools. Applications must be processed through the Sectional Athletic Council in which the school is located. The application shall contain the agreement to abide by the NYSPHSAA, Inc., rules and will be signed by the applicant. The application, with an administrative fee of two hundred dollars, shall be forwarded by the Section Secretary to the Executive Director of the State Association with recommendations and substantiating statements for or against approval. The State Executive Committee shall make the final determination.
- Approval shall only be for a period of two years at which time schools may reapply for Friends and Neighbors status.
- The State Executive Committee shall make the final determination. Approval shall be for a period of two years at which time schools may reapply for Friends and Neighbors status.
- Friends and Neighbors schools may compete against NYSPHSAA, Inc., member schools only through the league level of play.
- Friends and Neighbors schools are eligible to compete with NYSPHSAA, Inc., member schools in all Sections excluding post-scheduled contests.
- The two-hundred-dollar fee is payable every year.

OUTSIDE AGENCIES

- Cooperation is permitted with any organization, college or university, which may offer encouragement and/or the use of facilities for competition. An application for approval is to be submitted to the MMHSAA. A copy of the application shall be forwarded to the NYSCHSAA.
- Approval may be given if these conditions are satisfied:
- Secondary school personnel shall be responsible for planning and conducting the activity.
- Contests shall be developed with due regard for the health and safety standards.
- Insurance shall be provided which will protect the participants in case of injury and the organization or institution against liability.
- The philosophy and standards that are to be followed shall be consistent with those of the NYSCHSAA.
- Financial arrangements are to be clearly specified in the application for approval.

OUTSIDE COMPETITION

- Participation in non-school athletic contests is governed by the jurisdiction of the local league. A student may participate as an individual as a member of a National Team or in an Olympic Development Program during the school year if such participation is approved by the student's high school principal. The principal should notify the Executive Director in all cases.

DRONE POLICY

The Monsignor Martin High School Athletic Association prohibits the use or possession of unmanned aircraft or aerial systems (UAS), also known as drones, for any purpose by any person or entity at all scrimmages, regular season and post season events. This prohibition applies to the area above and upon all spectator areas, fields of play, courts, arenas, stadiums, mats, gymnasiums, pools, practice facilities, parking areas and or other property being utilized for the purpose of the interscholastic activity.

If there is a report of UAS activity at an athletic event school, MMHSAA officials will, in consultation with the sports officials, suspend the play until such time as the UAS is removed from the area as defined above or the school, MMHSAA and sports officials determine it is safe to proceed.

For purposes of this policy, a UAS is any unmanned airborne device or aircraft. The MMHSAA and/or Member School reserves the right to refuse admission to anyone operating or attempting to operate a UAS or to request the immediate removal of any person using or attempting to use a UAS in violation of this policy.

The MMHSAA Executive Director has the authority to grant an exception to this policy to law enforcement, public safety agencies, MMHSAA media partners, or other entities or individuals. Any request for an exception to the policy must be submitted to the Executive Director at least a week prior to the event. The exception is limited to the specific event requested and requires the consent of the host venue.

Any use granted under this provision must comply with the applicable FAA regulations as well as any and all requirements set forth by MMHSAA. News media must have the necessary FAA authorization. Any individuals granted an exception would be required to sign a document acknowledging and agreeing to the terms of use and agreeing to hold the MMHSAA and its member schools harmless from damage to persons or property.

ELIGIBILITY: DURATION OF COMPETITION

A pupil shall be eligible for senior high school athletic competition in a sport during each of four consecutive seasons of such sport commencing with the pupil's entry into the ninth grade and prior to graduation, except as otherwise provided in this sub clause, or except as authorized by a waiver granted under clause (d) of this subparagraph to a student with a disability. If a board of education has adopted a policy, pursuant to sub clause (a)(4) of this subparagraph, to permit pupils in seventh and eighth grades to compete in senior high school athletic competition, such pupils shall be eligible for competition during five consecutive seasons of a sport commencing with the pupil's entry into the eighth grade, or six consecutive seasons of a sport commencing with the pupil's entry into the seventh grade. A pupil enters competition in a given year when the pupil is a member of the team in the sport involved, and that team has completed at least one contest. A pupil shall be eligible for interschool competition in grades 9, 10, 11 and 12 until the last day of the school year in which he or she attains the age of 19, except as otherwise provided

in sub clause (a)(4) or clause (d) of this subparagraph or in this sub clause. The eligibility for competition of a pupil who has not attained the age of 19 years prior to July 1st may be extended under the following circumstances.

If sufficient evidence is presented by the chief school officer to the section to show that the pupil's failure to enter competition during one or more seasons of a sport was caused by illness or accident beyond the control of the student, such pupil's eligibility shall be extended accordingly in that sport. In order to be deemed sufficient, the evidence must include documentation showing that as a direct result of the illness or accident beyond the control of the student, the pupil will be required to attend school for one or more additional semesters in order to graduate.

If the chief school officer demonstrated to the satisfaction of the section that the pupil's failure to enter competition during one or more seasons of a sport is caused by such pupil's enrollment in a national or international student exchange program, that as a result of such enrollment the pupil will be required to attend school for one or more additional semesters in order to graduate, and that the pupil did not enter competition in any sport while enrolled in such program, such pupil's eligibility shall be extended accordingly in such sport. (d) Waiver from the age requirement and four-year limitation for interschool athletic competition for students with disabilities in senior high school grades 9, 10, 11, and 12. For purposes of this clause, the term non-contact sport shall include swimming and diving, golf, track and field, cross country rifle, bowling, gymnastics, skiing and archery, and any other such non-contact sport deemed appropriate by the Commissioner. A student with a disability, as defined in section 4401 of the Education Law, who has not yet graduated from high school may be eligible to participate in a senior high school non-contact athletic competition for a fifth year under the following limited conditions: (1) such student must apply for and be granted a waiver to the age requirement and four-year limitation prescribed in sub clause (b)(1) of this subparagraph.

A waiver shall only be granted upon a determination by the superintendent of schools or chief executive officer of the school or school system, as applicable, that the given student meets the following criteria:

- Such student has not graduated from high school as a result of his or her disability delaying his or her education for one year or more;
- such student is otherwise qualified to compete in the athletic competition for which he or she is applying for a waiver and the student must have been selected for such competition in the past;
- such student has not already participated in an additional season of athletic competition pursuant to a waiver granted under this sub clause;
- such student has undergone a physical evaluation by the school physician, which shall include an assessment of the student's level of physical development and maturity, and the school physician has determined that the student's participation in such competition will not present a safety or health concern for such student; and
- the superintendent of schools or chief executive officer of the school or school system has determined that the given student's participation in the athletic competition will not adversely affect the opportunity of the other students competing in the sport to successfully participate in such competition.

FORFEITS

Member schools shall avoid forfeiting games and should consider such action only under the MOST serious and unavoidable circumstances. Forfeits can have an important effect upon the final standings and this effect is NOT always in the best interest of the schools involved.

Any forfeit must be reported immediately to the chair of that sport as well as the Executive Director. The Executive Committee has the power to sanction any school with respect to forfeits beyond that which is prescribed in that particular sport's

Forfeits can occur prior to, during or after a game has been played. In the event of a forfeit prior to a game being played where no game is played, the final score is reflected as listed below in favor of the non-offending team. If a forfeit occurs during the game or after a game is played, the final score and all game statistics stand, and only the teams' win-loss records are changed to reflect the forfeit. [Example, Team A wins a game 21-0, but later forfeits the result. Team A's record is 0-1 with 21 points for and zero against; while Team B's record is moved 1-0 with zero points for and 21 against.]

Football 20-0

Soccer 1-0

Cross Country

Golf

Volleyball 3-0

Wrestling

Hockey 3-0

Basketball 2-0

Baseball/Softball 7-0

Track

Tennis 5-0

FORFEITURE OF GAME(S)

If a school voluntarily forfeits two or more scheduled games in one sport, the school shall be fined \$500 and will be ineligible to participate in playoffs and their athletes will be ineligible for post-season awards.

FAILURE TO COMPLETE SEASON

Regular Season. A school that does not participate in a sport after signing the participation form should notify the MMHSAA office prior to the season. A school may be suspended by the Executive Committee in that activity for a period of one year, unless sufficient justification is shown for not participating.

Any school that qualifies for the playoffs in a sport and fails to participate or complete the official regular season schedule of games/matches, unless excused for valid reasons by the Executive Committee, may be suspended from that activity for a period not to exceed one calendar year.

FORFEITURE OF CONTESTS

Forfeiture of Contest at Site of Contest: In order for a contest to be forfeited by a school, the contest officials shall declare the contest a forfeit at the site and send a written report to the MMHSAA the same day. If the contest is forfeited by the visiting team, the visiting team shall be responsible for the officials' game pay, travel fee and any other expenses incurred the home team. If the contest is forfeited by the home team or the home team does not show up for the contest and the visiting team travels to the site, the home school shall pay the officials' game pay, travel fees, and the visiting team's expenses.

Regular season and "home and away" playoff contests shall be forfeited to the offended team when a team, for any reason, arrives at the contest site more than 15 minutes late for the scheduled starting time. If a team appears within the 15-minute "grace" period, it shall have its players on the field/court ready to play within 15 minutes of their arrival. If two games are scheduled involving the same schools (baseball/softball) this rule shall apply to the first game. If the second game has a scheduled time, the forfeiture shall also apply to that starting time. If the second contest has no scheduled start time, that contest shall be forfeited by the official to the offended team if a team fails to appear 30 minutes after the forfeiture time of the first contest.

If a team notifies the MMHSAA, the host organization, the tournament director or assistant director prior to contest time that it will be late for what is considered a valid reason, the contest may be delayed up to 60 minutes from the scheduled contest time and the offending team will be responsible for any additional expenses. If the team is not present by that time, the game shall be forfeited. Without prior notice, the 15-minute forfeiture in the above shall apply. If its' game is not forfeited, a team shall be ready to play within 15 minutes after it arrives at the site.

The Executive Committee of MMHSAA reserves' the right to reverse a forfeit pending an investigation.

FORFEITURE OF CONTEST PRIOR TO TRAVELING TO SITE OF CONTEST

A school may elect to forfeit a scheduled game prior to arriving at the contest site if the MMHSAA Official Contest Forfeiture Form is filled out in its entirety by the forfeiting school's principal, signed by both the principal and the head coach and submitted to the MMHSAA and the opponent school's principal for acceptance as a forfeit. If accepted by the receiving school principal and the MMHSAA Executive Director, or his/her designee, the [form](#) shall serve as official notice that the sending school is forfeiting the contest and acknowledges that the results of the contest will be posted on the school's record as a forfeit loss and the opponent's record shall reflect a forfeit win. Once the form is submitted, the results shall stand and the game cannot be played at a later date.

A forfeit granted using this method shall count as a forfeit and any school which forfeits two (2) or more contests in a season shall be removed from league play and shall not be eligible for championship honors. The purpose of this method of forfeiting is designed to reduce the cost of travel and payment of officials when it is determined that a game shall be forfeited.

Effects of Forfeitures

If a school forfeits two or more contests during the season, the following shall apply:

1. Results of all games played shall remain
2. Opponents remaining on the school's schedule shall have the choice to accept a forfeit and reschedule the game with another opponent with a written request to the MMHSAA.
3. If a school cannot meet its contractual obligation for a team contest and the other school is awarded a forfeit team victory, then the school gaining the forfeit victory may schedule a replacement contest with another school.
 - a. This in no way would place the school receiving the forfeit victory over the limit of contests for that sport since that school did not play an extra contest but only received credit for a forfeit victory.
4. This policy does not apply to individual match-ups within a team contest such as wrestling, golf, tennis, etc.

WITHDRAWAL DURING A COMPETITION

1. Removal of a team from competition prior to completion of that competition shall be considered a gross act of unsportsmanlike conduct.
2. Any school whose coach or school official who removes a team from the playing floor or field in protest of an official's decision or for any other reason prior to the completion of the contest shall be found in violation of the sportsmanship rule and penalized accordingly including being subject to automatic probation.
3. In such a case, the school shall forfeit the contest and an administrator and the coach responsible for the action shall appear before the Executive Committee.
4. The school shall be fined \$500.00.
5. Should an emergency arise, which makes it advisable to discontinue a contest, it should be done by mutual consent. If such an emergency arises, the applicable playing rules shall prevail

COACH EJECTION

When the misconduct of a coach warrants being banished (ejected) from playing area during a contest, a responsible adult school official, (principal, assistant principal athletic director, assistant coach, or other full-time certified employee) must be available to direct and supervise the team for the remainder of the game. If no responsible school official is available, the game shall be forfeited.

A coach who refuses to leave the playing area after expulsion, resulting in the forfeiture of the contest, shall be subject to automatic probation. This is considered to be a gross act of unsportsmanlike conduct.

FORFEITURE DUE TO INELIGIBLE PLAYER

1. A contest in which an ineligible player is allowed to participate shall be forfeited to the opposing school and any team and individual events/honors won shall also be forfeited.
2. If a team is required to forfeit a contest(s) in the playoffs, only the team awarded the forfeit in the most advanced round of play in the playoffs shall be reinstated in the

playoffs. A team reinstated after the finals shall be declared the champion, and there shall be no runners-up in that sport.

3. A team having to forfeit a contest(s) for allowing an ineligible player and/or coach to participate shall be fined \$500.

FORFEITURE DUE TO AN ASSUMED NAME

1. Participating under an assumed name in any athletic contest shall result in a forfeit of the game and make the student/athlete ineligible for the remainder of that sport season. The MMHSAA may extend the period of ineligibility in that sport to one year from the date of violation.
2. The coach responsible for the student's participation will be ineligible to coach for the remainder of the season. This is considered to be a gross act of unsportsmanlike conduct.
3. A team having to forfeit a contest(s) for allowing an ineligible player and/or coach to participate due to an assumed name shall be fined \$1000.

FIGHTING

- A school involved in a fight, before or after a contest, (from the time it arrives until it departs) may be fined \$500.00.
- If a player(s) leaves the bench and comes onto the field or court and is ejected according to NFHS rules, (ejected from the contest and sent to the dressing room) they will also be suspended for 20 percent of the team's total number of regular season games. (Ex.: 2 games in football, 4 games in basketball and soccer, etc.)
- The team will be placed on probation and fined \$500.00.
- If the ejections or violations occur during the playoffs or last contest of the year, the team will be placed on probation for the next sport regular season and a monetary fine will be assessed on the school not to exceed \$1500.00
- Other penalties may be imposed on the school and/or individual(s) to a degree in keeping with the severity of the violation.

FRACAS

- Only the head coaches will go on the playing field or court to stop the fracas. All assistant coaches are to keep the substitutes off the playing area.
- Officials are instructed to stop a fracas from starting, but not to be involved once it gets underway.
- Cameramen must be instructed to keep the camera running and film the entire fracas – this is vital to the MMHSAA investigation.

GENERAL REGULATIONS

All rules and regulations from the NYSCHSAA Constitution, eligibility standards, sports standards, and league rules must be abided by. Violations of these may result in the following:

- Forfeiture of games

- Probation for the school year
- Elimination of your school from the league for the school year.

The executive committee will make the final decision with the executive director officially notifying the offending school.

HEALTH EXAMINATION

A student who may engage in interscholastic competition shall receive an adequate health examination and may not practice or participate without the approval of the school medical officer. The results of the physical shall be valid for a period of 12 months during the last day of the month in which the physical was conducted. Unless the medical examination is conducted within 30 days of the start of a season, a health history update is required. Any pupil, whose safe participation is in question as a result of the health history interview, or injury, or prolonged absence, must be prequalified by the school physician prior to participation

If the 12-month period for the physical expires during a sports season, participants may complete the season as long as a health history was conducted prior to the season. For example, a physical conducted on August 1 would be valid through August 31. If a student plays beyond August (ex. football), the student may complete that sports season as long as an interval health history was conducted before the start of the season. Immediately following the last sanctioned tournament competition for that season, a new physical is required if the student is going to play another sport. Sport season includes tryouts

NOTE: Medical examinations may be scheduled at any time during the school year and may be valid for a period of twelve continuous months except for a student absent from school for five or more consecutive days or who has received an injury. The MMHSAA recommends that each incidence of prolonged absence should be reviewed individually by the coach and the athletic director, consulting with the school physician when necessary, and a reasonable amount of practice time and playing time be established based on the athlete's readiness for safe return. A physician must requalify such students before returning to competition. All approvals shall indicate the activities permitted

LEAGUE DIVISIONS

League divisions are based upon the number of teams participating in a sport and approved by the Athletic Directors Council. Divisions can be found in the individual handbook for each sport.

LEAGUE FEES

League fees are due by October 1 of each year. Schools failing to make payment will receive one late notice. Failure of payment may result in the following consequences:

- Elimination of participation in league playoffs
- Probation to include no post-season participation or league awards
- Suspension of league participation

Schools that start the season in arrears are immediately on probation until the outstanding balance and the present season dues have been paid in full.

OFFICIALS

Officials will be assigned by Arbiter Computer System in accordance with the Executive Director.

PROFESSIONAL TRYOUTS

No try-out for or practice with a professional team is approved except during the summer vacation period. A student who participates in such a try-out is ineligible to represent the school in that sport. A student who violates this rule may apply to the league for reinstatement one year from the date of the latest violation.

PROTESTS

Protests must be lodged according to specific sport rules or Monsignor Martin HSAA League Rules. Protests are lodged through the school's Athletic Director to the Chairperson of that sport and to the Executive Director.

PROSELYTIZING STUDENTS

No school, through any of its officers, or by any other means, shall directly or indirectly offer any inducement to a pupil of any school to sever connections with that school and transfer to another for athletic purposes. There shall be NO PROFESSIONAL RECRUITING of athletes; however, if a potential transfer requests information, he/she may be informed of the school's programs and encouraged to attend.

PROFESSIONAL RECRUITING of athletes means any financial inducement of a student or his/her parents or guardian by a person working for said school, whether paid or unpaid, in order to secure that student for athletic purposes. Also included under the term PROFESSIONAL RECRUITING are the following:

- Visits to the student's home.
- Invitations to dinner, to professional or college athletic events, or the giving of tickets to such events; in addition, gifts, or monetary awards, etc., may not be given to prospective student athletes. (exceptions are allowed for shadow days, student recruitment and tournaments.)
- Inviting the student to train or compete in athletic activities with high school students.
- Writing letters to potential players is not allowed. No letter should be sent to elementary students for specific reasons of encouraging them to participate and/or guaranteeing them a spot in your sports program.
- If a coach is seen at any athletic event approaching a student from another school for the purpose of recruiting, this incident should be put in writing and sent to the Director of Athletics. It will then be presented to the Executive Committee by the school's Athletic Director. If the school in question is found violating this rule they shall be suspended from that sport in which the violation occurred for ONE YEAR from the date of a proven violation.

- Scrimmage/contest against elementary school students is prohibited.
- Promises of financial aid, scholarships, or any other financial inducement.

Any school violating this article shall be suspended from the sport in which the violation occurred for one year from the date of a proven violation. Charges of proselytizing and professional recruiting may be instigated by any member school and then investigated by the Executive Committee. Findings will be forwarded to the Board of Principals of the Association for final disposition.

RECRUITMENT AND UNDUE INFLUENCE

Recruitment and Undue Influence is defined as the use of influence by any person connected directly or indirectly with a MMHSAA school to induce a student to transfer from one school to another, or to enter the ninth grade at a member school for athletic purposes whether or not the school presently attended by the student is a member of MMHSAA. The use of undue influence to secure a student for competitive purposes in a sport is prohibited. An infraction shall cause the student to forfeit eligibility in that sport for one year from the date of enrollment. The offending school shall be subject to review by the Executive Committee and possible further penalties.

Evidence of undue influence includes, but is not limited to, personal contact by coaches and sponsors in an attempt to persuade the student to transfer, including but not limited to:

- gifts of money
- jobs
- supplies
- clothing
- free transportation
- admission to contests
- invitation to attend practices and/or games
- free and/or reduced tuition

Any school violating this article shall be suspended from the sport in which the violation occurred for one year from the date of proven violation.

REPORTING SCORES

All sports are required to report their scores and statistics in a manner that is approved by the league. Athletic directors will be notified of delinquent statistical reporting. Failure to do will result in the following:

1. First offense – warning to the athletic director and to the coach
2. Second offense - \$100 fine and 24-hour notice to bring your stats up to date
3. Third offense - \$250 fine and suspension of coach

MaxPreps

For the sports using MaxPreps to track league records and statistics, please set up an account and send the account information to the league chairman and to the executive director at mmhsaa2017@gmail.com.

More MaxPreps Links

App links

<http://support.maxpreps.com/hc/en-us>

<http://www.maxpreps.com/mobile/home.aspx>

The winning coach for VARSITY must REPORT scores to the Buffalo News: 849-4461
Scores for J.V. must also be reported to the sport chairperson by the winning coach within 24 hours. Failure to do so will result in penalties:

1. First offense is a written warning to both athletic director and principal.
2. Each additional offense may result in supplementary discipline, at the discretion of the Executive Committee.

REPRESENTATION

A contestant or athletic team shall not represent a school except in conformance with all rules and regulations. It shall be the duty of school administration and the school principal to require that athletic activities be limited to competition between secondary school students.

- Teams: To be eligible for playoffs, diocesan, inter-diocesan or state competition, a team must have competed in six school-scheduled contests which occurred on six different dates during the season.
- Individuals on team Sports: For the sports of baseball, basketball, ice hockey, lacrosse, soccer, softball, and volleyball, an individual is eligible for the team if the student has been an eligible participant on a team in that sport in that school for a minimum of six scheduled contests during the regular season.
- For football, a student must be an eligible participant for a minimum of three contests.
- For Competitive Cheerleading, a student must be an eligible participant for a minimum of two competitions.
- Team/Individual and Individual Sports: For the sports of cross country, golf, swimming, tennis, outdoor track, indoor track, and wrestling, an individual must also have represented their school in six scheduled contests during the season to be eligible. These required contests must have occurred on six different dates and must have been conducted prior to the conclusion of the team's regular schedule.
- For bowling, a student must also be an eligible participant as stated in the handbook

Schools may submit a written request to MMHSAA for adjustment of contests for an individual participant based on medical documentation that confirms the individual was not able to participate in the required number of contests due to a medical condition.

A [medical waiver](#) must be completed and sent to the Executive Committee along with all the required medical documentation.

NOTE: a medical waiver will not be granted if the student could have been eligible for the required number of contests outside of the student's period of incapacitation.

All games, meets, and tournaments must be conducted by appropriate secondary school authority.

Participation by a student in more than one sport in the same season is allowable in MMHSAA and the student's participation in multiple sports shall be determined by the individual school.

Games and practices between school teams and adults (including alumni or faculty) are not approved.

Male and female pupils on interschool athletic teams:

- Equal opportunities to participate in interschool competition, either on separate teams or in mixed competition on the same team, shall be provided to male and female students, except as hereafter provided. In schools that do not provide competition for male and female students in a specific sport, no student shall be excluded from such competition solely by reason of sex, except as provided in the following subsections.
- In the sports of baseball, basketball, boxing, field hockey, football, ice hockey, lacrosse, rugby, soccer, softball, speedball, team handball, power volleyball where the height of the net is set at less than eight feet, and wrestling the fitness of a given student to participate in mixed competition shall be determined in accordance with the educational philosophy of the school, including its religious, moral and ethical behavioral objectives and in accordance with standards and criteria issued by the State Education Department.
- Where a school provides separate competition for male and female pupils in interschool athletic competition in a specific sport, the chief executive officer of the school may permit a female or females to participate on a team organized for males. However, where separate competition is provided, males may not participate on teams organized for females.
- To avoid unfair advantage, a student who elects to participate in an interschool sport may not represent a school in that sport in a subsequent sport season in that school year.

GRADE: A student regularly registered in grades 9 – 12 inclusive may participate provided they meet the eligibility standards of the Duration of Competition.

- AGE: A student shall be eligible for interscholastic competition in grades 9, 10, 11, and 12 until the student's 19th birthday. If the age of 19 is attained on or after July 1st, the student he may continue to participate during that school year in all sports.
- Freshman rule: Any student who attains the age of 16 before the July 1st date of his or her entrance into the ninth grade is ineligible for all freshman competition. A student is not eligible for freshman competition for more than two semesters.
- Any student who attains the age of 17 before the July 1st date of his or her upcoming school year is ineligible for all Junior Varsity ("JV") competition. This rule does not apply to cross country, bowling, wrestling and track.

ROSTERS

All rosters must include all the required information and be electronically generated. The roster must be submitted electronically to the Executive Director no later than the first day of competition on google sheets roster template, unless otherwise specified in the sport handbook. Please note that electronic rosters will be assumed to be signed by both the school principal and the athletic director.

- Cross Country, Golf, Wrestling, Bowling, Swimming, Tennis, and Track should be submitted in alphabetical order.
- All team rosters must be in numeric order according to the home jersey number.
- The league will send one roster to the other members of the MMHSAA. In addition, the school should send rosters to your non-league opponents.

PLAYER MOVEMENT IN MMHSAA

Players may be moved between JV and Varsity rosters until the following dates:

Fall - third Friday in September

Winter - January 1

Spring - third Friday in April

After the above dates, rosters are frozen and additions to the varsity roster at this point will become a permanent member of the varsity. It is recommended that each team submit a final varsity roster by each of these dates.

Following the varsity roster date listed above, a J.V. member may move up to varsity temporarily under the following circumstances:

- If a varsity squad is depleted sport due to reasons of ineligibility, illness, or injury, with the approval of the Executive Committee.
- The sport chairperson of each division and the team you are playing are notified prior to the player participating.
- The J.V. player moves down when the original player comes back.

Once the above dates have been passed, no varsity player may move down to J.V.

ADVANCEMENT IN LEVEL OF COMPETITION

Varsity Competition: Once a student has competed in a varsity league and/or non-league contest past the roster deadline date, he or she is ineligible for all future JV or freshman competition in that sport, even though he or she is eligible class-wise and age-wise. Similarly, any freshman that competes on a JV level contest in either a league or a non-league contest past the roster deadline date is ineligible for any future freshman competition. Cross-country, track, tennis, wrestling, swimming and bowling, are exceptions to this rule.

Junior Varsity Competition: This competition shall be restricted to freshman sophomores and all age appropriate juniors in all sports with the exception of cross-country, track and field,

swimming, and bowling. These sports have their own special classifications. A student is not eligible for JV competition for more than six semesters from his or her entrance into ninth grade, except as mentioned above.

A student-athlete can only compete in one post-schedule playoff in a given sport during the same season.

ROSTER SIZE

All rosters are unlimited in size for MMHSAA. Please note that should your team qualify for the CHSAA State or NYS Federation Tournament, your roster size may be limited by state regulations.

MULTIPLE SPORTS IN THE SAME SEASON

A student may participate in two sports in the same season at the discretion of each individual school. Please note that league games/matches will not be changed to accommodate students participating in two sports in a single sport season.

As a courtesy, student sports not officially affiliated with our league may submit a roster to be kept on file.

REGULAR SEASON CANCELLATION POLICY

In the event you cancel a home athletic contest because of weather or as the result of your school cancelling all school or after school activities, you should first call, text and/or email the officials from arbiter. You can find all the information that you need to contact the official by signing into the Arbiter and clicking on the official's name assigned to the game. Once all officials have been notified, email me the game number and I will cancel the game on the arbiter. When contacting the officials, I suggest that you ask them to RSVP to your cancellation notice. Texting the officials seems to be the best method of notification and tracking their response.

If at all possible, making the decision at least 2 hours before the schedule start as this is best for all parties involved in the contest. If officials are notified within 2 hours of the schedule start time of a contest, per their contract, they would be entitled to file a Form X. (Form X is a request to be paid for a contest.) If officials are not notified and show up to officiate a game that you have cancelled, you are required to pay them the full amount.

SPORTS SEASONS

Designating sport seasons' length is an attempt to provide balance to the athletic calendar and to afford students an opportunity to compete in a variety of sports throughout the school year. It is designed to prevent conflicts that may exist between in-season sports and out-of-season sports. The school principal and athletic director shall be responsible for assuring that coaches under his/her charge are in strict compliance with the provisions of the sports season rule.

The MMHSAA sports season for a school team is defined as that period beginning with the opening date of practice as called by each coach within the official starting dates and extending through the school team's last game of the season to include playoff games and the state championships, if applicable, in a particular sport. The actual sports seasons for an individual sport can be found on the MMHSAA Sports Standards.

Subject to the approval of the school principal, a coach may have out-of-season organizational meetings with his/her players or potential, enrolled and attending players. Additionally, subject to the approval of the school principal, "out of season practice sessions" are permitted if they follow the rules in this document.

PENALTIES

The penalties for a school in violation of the sports seasons rule shall be as follows:

1. The school may be placed on disciplinary or restrictive probation not to exceed one calendar year.
2. The school may be suspended from the association until the violation is assessed by the Executive Committee.
3. The school may be suspended from participating in that sport not to exceed one calendar year.
4. The school shall be fined not to exceed \$500.00.
5. Other penalties may be imposed on the school and/or individual(s) to a degree in keeping with the severity of the violation.

OUT OF SEASON

Schools shall not require or sponsor activities in the name of the school team outside the school season of the sport involved. A school sponsored team or group of any number of students sponsored by the school, which resembles the school's team, outside the MMHSAA defined season for that sport, such as at a team camp, may only include enrolled students at the school. School personnel (including non-faculty coaches) may coach independent teams outside of the sport season.

An independent team is a sports team not directly sponsored or supported by a high school through the use of any of the following:

1. School uniforms
2. School equipment
3. Funding in any manner from the school's athletic account or funding from the school's athletic boosters' club

OUT OF SEASON ACTIVITIES

Out of season activities will begin at the conclusion of the last MMHSAA championship event until the first official day of practice for that sport. Out of season activities in all MMHSAA sports at the school's facilities, use of school equipment and sport specific apparatus are subject to the approval of the school principal.

During the defined out of season period, any number of students from the same school may play on an independent team without affecting his/her eligibility regardless of who coaches the independent team.

OUT-OF-SEASON PRACTICES SESSIONS

Our regulations stipulate that all organized practice and games be conducted in the appropriate season (See Sports Standards); therefore, a school planning or administering out-of-season recreations programs should avoid any implication of out-of-season practice and play. School-sponsored activities conducted out of the sport season such as general conditioning, weight training, weight lifting, intramurals, recreation, open gyms, club activities, and camps are permitted provided such programs are:

- not mandated by coaches or school personnel;
- participation is voluntary and is not required directly or indirectly for membership on a school team
- such programs are available to all students in an Open Facility Format. The intent of an open facility is to provide an opportunity for a recreational activity to occur. The facility is provided so that any student in the school has an opportunity to participate therefore participation in the program must be open to all students enrolled in the school.
- participants will furnish their own clothing (sweat suits, shorts, shoes, etc.).

Conditioning programs are defined as a session where students work on physical fitness and conditioning by use of weights, running, and/or exercises. Conditioning does not allow for the use of individualized and specialized sports equipment or apparatus, including but not limited to: balls, bats, protective equipment, blocking dummies, batting cages, charging sleds and other implements related to specific activities. Participation in conditioning activities must be optional.

Allowable Participants

High School Programs: Only students who are fully enrolled in the high school administering an out-of-season sports program may participate as long as they meet one of the following categories:

- Students who are fully enrolled in the school administering the program and have attended classes at the school.
- Eighth grade students who have registered and enrolled at the high school which is administering the program will be eligible beginning June 1st.
- Transfer students who have registered and enrolled but have not attended classes at the high school which is administering the program will be eligible beginning the last Friday of June.

Coaches may coach their son or daughter at any time on an individual basis. This does not give a coach the authority to coach an entire team on which their son/daughter may be participating.

In-Season Practices

Organized practice in grades 9 – 12 is a session of an athletic squad of more than one student for the purpose of providing instruction and practice in physical conditioning activities, skills, team play, and game strategy designed expressly for that sport under the supervision of a qualified coach employed by the school. Such instruction and practice shall be held only during the season designated for that sport.

No student shall be permitted to participate in school-organized practice or play on seven consecutive days. Only one practice session a day and only six days a calendar week may be counted towards total practice sessions required. These practice sessions shall be organized and planned for a reasonable length of time (at least 45 minutes) and shall include vigorous activities related to the sport for the purpose of improving the physical condition of the players.

NOTE: Each practice game counts as one of the inclusive games allowed in any sport season, but practice sessions may be arranged with other schools. In practice sessions:

- both squads use the same field simultaneously
- both coaches making corrections and giving instructions to players as they would do during their own practice

Athletes whose seasons are lengthened due to participation in playoffs and Championship contests are allowed to count conditioning practices towards their new sports as follows:

1. Sports with six (6) practices for the individual before the first contest/ scrimmage will be allowed to carryover three (3) days;
2. Sports with ten (10) practices for the individual before the first contest/ scrimmage will be allowed to carryover four (4) days.

Note: this rule applies only when an athlete's first season overlaps with the athlete's second season and the athlete **moves directly into the second sport season**.

POST-SEASON

No team or individual student may represent its school in any post-season games, meets, or tournaments.

If an individual represents a school in any post-season games, meets, or tournaments in which they have not qualified, the following penalties will apply:

1. The school responsible for entering the student will be fined \$500 per student entered per event.
2. The coach entering the individual will be suspended from all post season play for the following year.

POST-SCHEDULE

No team, or individual student, may represent its school in any post-season contest other than those conducted by school authorities in accordance with approved standards or approved with the written permission of the Executive Director. A school's season officially ends with their elimination from the playoffs or with them winning a championship.

If a team represents a school in any post-schedule games, meets, or tournaments without the written permission of the Executive Director the penalties for violation of contest limitations will apply.

VIOLATION OF CONTEST LIMITATIONS CHSAA SPORT STANDARD (TEAM)

Schools in violation of the contest limitations are schools that played more than maximum number of contests allowed or more than the maximum number of games inclusive of all playoff games and scrimmages:

Example from NYS CHSAA-MMHSAA 19-20 Playoff Standards

Maximum number of games: 22

Maximum number of games including all games, scrimmages and playoffs 28.

Therefore, if a team plays all 22 games and include a possibility of 4 playoff games including league and state championships, they have room on their schedule for 2 scrimmages. If a team plays less than the allotted maximum number of games and includes all possible playoff games, they would have room for more scrimmages. Please keep in mind that for Federated sports, you must include possible Federation games into your total.

Penalties

If an individual or team exceeds the maximum number of contests permitted, the penalty is team ineligibility from the date of violation for the rest of the season. In the sports of wrestling, cross country, indoor track & outdoor track, swimming & diving, and bowling, when an individual exceeds the maximum number of contests, only the individual would no longer be eligible for that season.

First offense:

- If discovered prior to the playoffs:
- If a team exceeds the maximum number of contests permitted, the penalty is team ineligibility from the date of violation for the rest of the season.
- If an individual exceeds the maximum number of contests permitted, the penalty is ineligibility from the date of violation for the rest of the season. In the sports of wrestling, cross country, indoor track & outdoor track, swimming & diving, and bowling, when an individual exceeds the maximum number of contests, only the individual would no longer be eligible for that season. When an athlete exceeds the maximum number of contests the level in which the student- athlete participated as an ineligible competitor will be affected.
- The school shall be placed on, restrictive probation not to exceed one calendar year.
- the following season's schedule will be reduced by 2 games for every 1 game the team has played in excess of the standard.
- If discovered after the playoffs:
- All playoff wins will be vacated and any championships will be vacated.
- The team will be ineligible for the following season's post-season play
- the following season's schedule will be reduced by 2 games for every 1 game the team has played post season.
- The school will be fined \$250 per game to exceed \$500.00

Second offense by any team in the school:

- if the second offense by a team within the school's athletic program happens within 4 years of the first offense, the entire school's athletic program will be ineligible for post season play and awards for 1 year effective the date of the 2nd offense.
- the 4-year probation period will re-start with the second offense.

Third offense within the designated time frame:

- A recommendation will be made to the Board of Principles to expel the program from the league for failure to follow league by-laws and rules

NOTE: Other penalties may be imposed on the school and/or individual(s) to a degree in keeping with the severity of the violation including a reduction in the number of contests in which it may participate during the following year

Consistent with good ethical standards the prompt reporting of the knowledge of an infraction shall be made to the proper authorities in writing.

VIOLATION OF INDIVIDUAL EXCEEDING MAXIMUM NUMBER OF CONTEST LIMITATIONS

If an individual represents a school in more than the allowable maximum number of contests, the individual is immediately ineligible for further competition and all games in which the individual was an available participant beyond the max, will be forfeited.

SENIOR ALL-STAR CONTEST

A student who participates in any all-star contest or exceptional senior athletic contest not approved first by the diocesan league in which the contest is to be held, and secondly by the NYSCHSAA, shall be ineligible to compete in interschool athletics in all sports for a period of one year from the date of such participation.

An all-star contest shall be any athletic contest for which admission is charged or donations accepted in which one or more of the competing teams is composed of one or more players who during the school year is a member of a high school team in the same sport, and whose participation in the all-star contest is based on outstanding performance as a member of the high school team.

SPORTSMANSHIP CODE

All member schools must abide by the Monsignor Martin High School Athletic Association's Sportsmanship Policy.

As members of the Monsignor Martin High School Athletic Association of the Diocese of Buffalo, we believe that interscholastic athletics are a necessary component of education, and we support and encourage Christian ideals and values that embody good sportsmanship. Therefore, we pledge sportsmanship and dedication to the high standards of the Monsignor Martin High School Athletic Association. As players, we pledge unselfishness, hard work, and respect. As spectators, we pledge courtesy and respect towards everyone.

Sportsmanship Philosophy

- We believe that interscholastic athletics is an important part of education and support the ideals and values embodied in good sportsmanship.
- We believe that sportsmanlike behavior is essential if interscholastic competition is to contribute usefully and constructively to the broad goals of education and to the quality of life of those involved.
- We pledge ourselves individually and collectively to encourage and support the development and maintenance of a sportsmanlike atmosphere for athletic competition.

Code of Conduct Philosophy

1. A genuine interest in and enjoyment of interscholastic competition requires conduct that reflects the understanding that contests as a part of an overall school program are intended to be enjoyed. Behavior that reflects a winning-at-all-costs attitude violates this standard.
2. Interscholastic competition provides valuable lessons and learning experiences that are not possible in the regular classroom setting. All involved must support the need to develop the ability to compete with enthusiasm and to accept winning with grace and losing with dignity.
3. Coaches, players, and fans should know that participation is an honor and privilege which requires them to conduct themselves in a manner that brings honor and pride to their school and community.
4. Respect for the cultural and ethnic diversity of one's opponents, their school, and community is a fundamental tenet of wholesome athletic competition. This standard suggests that planned activity is needed to demonstrate a warm and friendly welcome, mutual respect, and a genuine readiness to participate in a sportsmanlike manner.
5. Players should demonstrate both knowledge of the rules and respect for game officials and their decisions. Coaches and school officials have the responsibility to teach and encourage these attributes.
6. The Monsignor Martin High School Athletic Association operates under a [Zero Tolerance Policy](#).

Sportsmanship Pledge

The following statement will be read over the public-address system just prior to the pledge to the flag. If there is no public-address system, the statement will be read to both teams by the site chairperson or his representative:

The New York State Catholic High School Athletic Association and the Monsignor Martin High School Athletic Association requires that game administrators, school administrations and officials enforce a [ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY](#) for athletes, coaches, and spectators. They will not tolerate negative statements of actions between opposing players, especially abusive language, trash talking, taunting, or baiting of opponents. If such comments are heard or actions seen, a penalty will be assessed immediately. Spectators are reminded that berating of officials;

the making of negative comments toward either team; or displaying inappropriate behavior are ejection offenses.

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he playing field is an extension of our classrooms. Please practice good sportsmanship." This announcement stands as the official warning of the ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY. Let today's contest reflect mutual respect between all participants and spectators.

SCHOOL

The Association recognizes and appreciates that the influence and responsibility of the school administration with regard to good sportsmanship extends to all levels of competition. However, it must also be seen that the MMHSAA has been vested with the responsibility to ensure that all contests under its jurisdiction are conducted satisfactorily. This standard applies to all regular season and post-schedule play.

As of July 1, 2013, the Dignity for All Students Act (Dignity Act-Section 52.2, Part 80 and 57-4) is to provide all school students with an environment free from harassment, bullying (including cyber bullying), and discrimination, as well as to foster civility in schools. The Dignity Act focuses on the prevention of discrimination behaviors, including harassment/bullying through the promotion of educational measures meant to positively impact school culture and climate, which includes the interscholastic programs.

Athletics are considered an integral part of the school's program of education which provides experiences that will help girls and boys physically, mentally, and emotionally. The element of competition and winning, though it exists, is controlled to the point that it does not determine the nature of the program. Students are stimulated to want to win and excel, but the principles of good sportsmanship prevail at all times to enhance the educational values of contests. It is the responsibility of the school to see that all participating athletes and their parents sign a sportsmanship contract to participate in a sports season.

ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

The development of good sportsmanship depends largely on the goals and philosophy of the sports program and that of the school administration. Coaches are in a position to greatly influence the attitudes and values of the athletes. If the coach follows the rules of the sport and stresses fair play and honesty, the athletes are more likely to develop these values. It is essential that all coaches adhere to the Monsignor Martin Sportsmanship Policy.

Coach

Any coach excluded by a certified official from an interschool competition for unsportsmanlike conduct, including taunting, is ineligible to coach any interschool competition in that sport until after the next previously-scheduled contest at the same level (e.g., junior varsity, varsity, etc.) has been completed. In individual sports, a multi-day contest is considered to be a contest. Disqualification from one season carries over to the next season of participation. The coach may

not be present at the game site nor communicate in any manner during the contest with any person present at the site.

NOTE: "Not being physically present at the site" means a disqualified coach is not to be present in the locker room, on the sidelines, in the stands, or site area before, during, or after the game/meet. (See definitions section of the handbook)

Any coach who does not serve the penalty for violating the Sportsmanship Standard will be ineligible to participate in the next two regularly-scheduled contests. If the coach continues to not serve the penalty, the matter will be referred to MMHSAA for further action. If the coach is involved in the NYSCHSAA play-offs, the matter will be referred to the Executive Director of the NYSCHSAA.

Any coach:

1. Who receives a disqualification penalty in a sport shall not participate in the next regularly-scheduled contest;
2. Who receives a second disqualification penalty in the same sport in the same season shall not participate in the next two regularly-scheduled contests; and
3. Who receives a third disqualification penalty in the same sport in the same season will not be allowed to participate for the rest of the season (regular season or post-schedule play); the Executive Committee will assess the penalty carrying over into the next season of participation.

The Executive Committee will have the authority to extend the period of ineligibility in those cases where the actions of the individual who was disqualified from a contest or scrimmage warrant such an extension. The period of ineligibility cannot exceed one year from the date of the disqualification.

A coach who strikes, shoves, kicks, or makes other physical contact with the intent to annoy, harass, or intimidate another person (e.g., official, another coach, player, fan) shall be expelled immediately and banned from further participation or coaching in all sports for a period of time to be determined by the Executive Committee; the period is not to exceed one year from the date of the offense.

PLAYERS

Participation in athletics is an integral part of the student's educational experience. Such participation is a privilege that carries with its responsibilities to the school, to the league, to the team, to the student body, to the community, and to the student him/herself. Through his/her play and in his/her conduct, he/she is representing all of these groups. Therefore, he/she has a responsibility to uphold the ideals of good manners and sportsmanship. The experiences he/she receives from participating in athletics contribute to the knowledge, skill, and emotional patterns that he/she possesses.

Any member of a squad disqualified by a sport official for unsportsmanlike conduct, including taunting, or for a flagrant foul shall, not participate in that sport in the next previously-scheduled contest. In individual sports, a multi-day contest is considered to be a contest. The contest in which the athlete was disqualified must count in the total maximum number of contests permitted. Disqualifications from one season carry over to the next season of participation.

Any player:

1. Who receives a disqualification penalty in a sport shall not participate in the next regularly-scheduled contest;
2. Who receives a second disqualification penalty in the same sport in the same season shall not participate in the next two regularly-scheduled contests; and
3. Who receives a third disqualification penalty in the same sport in the same season will not be allowed to participate for the rest of the season. If the third ejection takes place in the last contest of the season (regular season or post-schedule play,) MMHSAA will assess carrying the penalty over into the next season of participation.

MMHSAA will have the authority to extend the period of ineligibility in those cases where the actions of the individual that was disqualified from a contest or scrimmage warrant such an extension. The period of ineligibility cannot exceed one year from the date of the disqualification.

Any member of the squad who strikes, shoves, kicks, or makes other physical contact with the intent to annoy, harass, or intimidate an official shall be expelled from the game immediately and banned from further participation in all sports for a period of time to be determined, not to exceed one year from the date of the offense. NOTE: Members of the squad include players, managers, score keepers, timers, and statisticians.

OFFICIALS

Unprofessional conduct on the part of an official, such as, but not limited to, taunting, baiting, or use of profanity, shall be reported by a school administrator from the aggrieved school to the section executive director. A request will be made to the appropriate sport officials' chapter to investigate the incident and to report their action to the MMHSAA in a timely manner.

VIOLATIONS

Unsportsmanlike conduct includes, but is not limited to:

1. Verbal and offensive language/gestures by the player, coach, or spectators.
2. Intentional injury to another player.
3. Flagrant misconduct, such as fighting.
4. Destruction of another school's property by spray painting, egg tossing, or general trashing of the grounds.

These infractions do not include "technical violations" related to a specific sport that result in disqualification.

PENALTIES

If a school uses an ineligible student in any interscholastic contest, such contest shall be forfeited to the opposing school or schools. In individual sports, the use of an ineligible player would result in the contest being forfeited, however, the performances and outcomes of the other individuals would stand.

The procedure for ineligibility appeals is as follows:

- All appeals regarding ineligibility of athletes must be made within 24 hours of the determination to the Executive Director
- The appeal must be made via e-mail. Only an athletic director or principal can make the appeal.
- The Executive Director, in consultation with the Executive Committee, the Chair of the Board of Principals and the Chair of the particular sport's committee involved, will render a timely decision that will be delivered via e-mail.
- For any violation of eligibility or sports standard, a school or a school authority may be censured, placed on probation, suspended or subject to other disciplinary as outlined in this handbook.

Consistent with good ethical standards, the prompt reporting of the knowledge of an infraction shall be made to the Executive Director.

Any athlete ejected from a contest must be ineligible for the next league contest. Individual sports may have a stricter rule. The Association has the right to increase any suspension if it feels the actions of the individual(s) involved warrant further punishment.

Any one of the following penalties may be imposed against an offending player, coach, team, or school. The penalty will be dependent on the severity of the infraction.

LEVEL I - Reprimand and Probation

A letter will be sent from the grievance committee to the principal, athletic director, and coach (if applicable) and will include a description of the infraction.

A response from the offending school is to be sent to the grievance committee within three school days and must include the action that will be taken against the offender. With the written reprimand, a probationary status will be imposed on the team or individual for the remainder of the season. Probation does not limit eligibility for competition.

LEVEL II - Suspension and Forfeiture

Forfeiture - will be imposed for team infractions. Forfeiture of a specific contest does not limit eligibility from further competition.

Suspension - involves an individual player or coach suspended from competition for a minimum of one game. After the suspension has been served, the player or coach is eligible to return to competition.

LEVEL III - Disqualification

Disqualification of a player or coach from competition is the final step taken after other options have been exhausted. The player or coach will be disqualified for the remainder of the season. Any person removed from a contest for unsportsmanlike reasons will be subject to a committee review of the incident.

If any school's team members are found guilty of destroying another school's property, that team will be disqualified for the remainder of the season. If the incident is after the season, the team will be disqualified from the post-season play for the following school year. In addition, no player from the offending school will be eligible for league awards. If damage has been done to a school by non-athletes, a letter will be sent to the school involved with a request for a response within three days.

NOTIFICATION

The coach of each team will notify their athletic director. The two athletic directors will then investigate the situation, discuss it with each other, and notify the Executive Director. The director will then take it to the sportsmanship committee if necessary. The policy must be enforced whether it is a league or non-league contest.

RIGHT TO APPEAL

A right to be appeal a decision of the Executive Committee or their representatives must be claimed to the office of the Executive Director in writing within 24 hours of the decision (next working day). A school has a right to appeal all decisions and this must be to the Executive Director in writing within 24 hours of the decision being announced (next working day).

SPECTATORS/PARENTS

Spectators and parents are all guests at our athletic competitions and as such have a responsibility to abide by our school and league philosophy. Therefore, it is expected that good sportsmanship will prevail for the duration of the contest.

SUMMARY

Because the Monsignor Martin High School Athletic Association believes that good sportsmanship is essential for all participating, the league pledges itself to encourage positive displays of sportsmanship by teaching and playing through example in the hopes of shaping the future of our league.

STATE AND FEDERATION TOURNAMENT

NYSCHSAA tournaments are presently held in basketball, boys bowling, boy's lacrosse, boy's hockey, boys swim, football, golf, girls cheer leading, soccer, track, volleyball, and wrestling. In Basketball, we will participate in the Girls "AA," "A," and "B" classifications with the winner of our A-Division playoffs representing us in the "AA" and the other Finalist representing us in

the "A." Winner of the "B" division represents us in the "B." – Boys "A," "B" playoff winner in respective classifications.

The teams winning our playoffs will be our representatives in Football, Lacrosse (B), Hockey (B), Soccer, Softball and girls Volleyball. Please note: the girl's tournament rotates dioceses; therefore, it is downstate for two years and then in Buffalo for one year.

In Wrestling (B), Swim (B), Bowling (B) Golf, and Track, individuals must qualify for the State Federation tournaments are currently held in basketball, golf, and cross country. In basketball, the winners of the NYSCHSAA tournament in each classification are the representatives at the Federation Tournament. In golf and track, athletes qualify by their finish in the CHSAA tournament. In cross country, a set up by the Federation allows us one team and three individuals determined by the All-Catholic Cross-Country Meet.

TICKET PRICES

The Executive Committee sets the price for all playoff games.

The league maximum that you may charge for Home game admission will be \$5.00.

A higher admission fee may be charged if mutually agreed upon by both schools and provided to the Executive Director in writing.

The Athletic Directors may mutually agree upon a home admission charge for a particular sport at the seasonal directors' meeting. (e.g., all schools will charge \$2 for all home swimming events)

The home school must notify the opposing schools if you will charge and the cost of admission.

MMHSAA PLAYOFF GATE

Admission for MMHSAA playoffs hosted by a member school will not exceed \$10.

Admission for events hosted by a member school, where MMHSAA makes presale tickets, will be \$5.00 presale and no more than \$10.00 at the door on the day of the game.

Admission for all games at a neutral site where MMHSAA will be determined by the Executive Committee.

Admission for State Tournaments which MMHSAA hosts will be \$10.00.

TRANSFER RULE

Definitions

1. The term "eligible" or "ineligible" means being eligible or ineligible to compete for a member school in interscholastic athletic competition.
2. The term "transfer student" means a student who leaves a departing school to enroll at an accepting school.
3. The term "departing school" means the high school from which a transfer student transfers in a given school year.
4. The term "accepting school" means the high school to which a transfer student transfers in a given school year.

Transfer Rules

1. Rules Regarding Freshmen and Sophomores

- a. With regard to fall sports:
 - i. A Freshman or Sophomore transfer student is eligible for fall sports at an accepting school two weeks after the student's registration at the accepting school, provided the student has registered at the accepting school prior to September 1st of the current school year.
 - ii. Notwithstanding rule 1(a)(i) above, a Freshman or Sophomore transfer student who registers at an accepting school prior to September 1st of the current school year will not be eligible to participate in a sport at the accepting school where that transfer student was an eligible participant for an interscholastic competition in that same sport at a departing school during the current school year.
- b. With regard to winter sports:
 - i. A Freshman or Sophomore transfer student is eligible for winter sports at an accepting school provided the student has registered and is attending the accepting school prior to September 16th of the current school year.
 - ii. A Freshman or Sophomore transfer student who transfers on or after September 16th of the current school and prior to February 1st of the current school year is eligible for winter sports at an accepting school beginning on February 1st of the current school year provided that student has been attending the accepting school for at least two weeks prior to participating in such sport. A Freshman or Sophomore transfer student who registers in a timely manner under this subsection "ii" and thereafter starts to attend an accepting school between January 18th and January 31st of the current school year will be eligible to participate in a winter sport at the accepting school two weeks following the first date of attendance at the accepting school.
 - iii. Notwithstanding rule 2(b)(ii) above, a Freshman or Sophomore transfer student who registers at an accepting school on or after September 16th and prior to February 1st of the current school year will not be eligible to participate in a sport at the accepting school where that transfer student was an eligible participant for an interscholastic competition in that same sport at a departing school during the current school year.
- c. With regard to spring sports: A Freshman or Sophomore transfer student is eligible for spring sports at an accepting school provided the student has registered and is attending the accepting school prior to February 1st of the current school year.
- d. Nothing in this rule should be construed in a manner so as to render a Freshman or Sophomore transfer student ineligible for a sport at an accepting school other than a sport or sports for which a transfer student was an eligible participant for

interscholastic competition at a departing school during the current school year. For example: A Freshman or Sophomore transfer student who was an eligible participant in soccer, a fall sport, at a departing school in a current school year can be eligible to participate in cross country, another fall sport, at an accepting school during the same school year.

- e. In order to be eligible, a Freshman or Sophomore transfer student's **accepting school must complete and submit an electronic Transfer Form** at the time of or promptly after registration at the accepting school.

2. Rules Regarding Juniors

- a. A Junior transfer student is eligible provided the student transfers to an accepting school prior to September 1st of the current school year.
- b. Notwithstanding rule 2(a) above, a Junior transfer student who registers at an accepting school on or before August 31st of the current school year will not be eligible to participate in a sport at the accepting school where that transfer student was an eligible participant for an interscholastic competition in that same sport at a departing school during the current school year. In the event of such a transfer, the Junior transfer student will be ineligible in that sport at the accepting school for a period of one year from the date of the student's registration at the accepting school.
- c. A Junior transfer student who transfers to an accepting school on or after September 1st of the current school year is ineligible for a period of one calendar year from the date of registration at an accepting school with regard to any sport in which the student was an eligible participant for interscholastic competition during the previous school year.
- d. Nothing in this rule should be construed in a manner so as to render a Junior transfer student ineligible for a sport at an accepting school other than a sport or sports for which a transfer student was an eligible participant for interscholastic competition at a departing school during the prior or current school year. For example: A Junior transfer student who was an eligible participant in soccer, a fall sport, at a departing school in [a/the] prior school year can be eligible to participate in cross country, another fall sport, at an accepting school during the current school year without regard to whether such transfer occurs on or before August 31st of the current school year.
- e. In order to be eligible, a Junior transfer student's **accepting school must complete and submit an electronic Transfer Form** at the time of or promptly after registration at the accepting school.

3. Rules Regarding Seniors

- a. A Senior transfer student is ineligible at an accepting school with regard to any sport in which the student was an eligible participant for interscholastic competition during the previous school year.
- b. Nothing in this rule should be construed in a manner so as to render a Senior transfer student ineligible for a sport at an accepting school other than a sport or sports for which a transfer student was an eligible participant for interscholastic competition at a departing school during the prior or current school year. For example: A Senior transfer student who was an eligible participant in soccer, a fall sport, at a departing school in [a/the] prior school year can be eligible to participate in cross country, another fall sport, at an accepting school during the current school year.
- c. In order to seek an eligibility exemption, a Senior transfer student's **accepting school must complete and submit an electronic Transfer Form** at the time of or promptly after registering at the accepting school.

4. Any challenge of an eligibility determination under these rules shall be resolved in the manner prescribed by the Constitution and Bylaws of the Monsignor Martin High School Athletic Association, including without limitation Article III, Section D thereof.

Exemptions

- A. A transfer student whose departing school was a boarding school is eligible at an accepting school two weeks after the student begins attending the accepting school.
- B. A bona fide foreign exchange student may be granted one year of eligibility during the student's first year of residence provided that the student (a) is a participant in an established foreign exchange program approved by the Council of Standards for International Travel (CSIET) and (b) complies with all applicable State Education Department and NYSPHSAA standards.
- C. Transfer students whose departing school has closed or ceased to operate may transfer to an accepting school of the student's choice and may be eligible immediately for interscholastic competition at the accepting school.
- D. In the event a transfer student is not otherwise eligible under these rules and the transfer was necessitated by the relocation of the student's permanent residence, or a change of the student's custodial parent's residence, an accepting school may request in writing an exemption to the eligibility rules set forth above.
- E. In order to seek any of the above exemptions, the accepting school must complete and submit an electronic Transfer Form at the time of or promptly after the transfer student's registration and set forth good cause for the requested exemption.

PLEASE NOTE:

With regard to all transfer students, an administrator from a member school must fill out and submit the electronic Transfer Form.

An accepting school's athletic director or admissions director, or other duly authorized representative, must complete and submit the electronic Transfer Form and must also send any additional supporting documentation to the Executive Director of the Monsignor Martin High School Athletic Association. Each member school maintains and has access to the electronic Transfer Form. Any school that falsifies any information on the electronic transfer form will have the entire athletic program placed on probation for a period of one year. A response to a transfer request will follow within two weeks of the submission of the electronic Transfer Form and the Executive Director's receipt of any additional supporting documentation.

Travel Policy and Information for State Playoffs

To ensure adequate transportation and accommodations for State Playoff travel, MMHSAA must make arrangements and reservations well before the scheduled State contests. MMHSAA will reserve coach buses for these trips. Hotel reservations/arrangements will be made for groups of 10 rooms or more and will be held on MMHSAA lines of credit. If your school is making its own arrangements and reservations, you must IMMEDIATELY inform the Executive Director of MMHSAA so that the League's reservations/arrangements can be cancelled.

GENERAL INFORMATION AND POLICIES

MMHSAA reserves rooms only for participating teams and their coaches, where the requirement is 10 rooms or more.

Only athletes that have qualified for State competition will be able to travel under MMHSAA sponsorship. Qualified athletes will be determined by the Sport Chairperson, along with the approval of the MMHSAA Executive Director.

Additional travelers: Any other person requesting travel on MMHSAA sponsored transportation will be charged for travel expenses by MMHSAA through the school they are associated with. This refers to athletes who have not qualified for State competition, parents, and other spectators. The Sport Chairperson and Executive Director will determine if there is enough room on the bus for additional individuals to travel. The Executive Director will determine what the travel fee will be. **MMHSAA WILL BILL EACH SCHOOL FOR THEIR ADDITIONAL TRAVELERS.** Additional travelers are responsible for their own room reservations and charges.

TEAM SPORTS

LEAGUE STIPENDS FOR TEAMS FOR STATE CATHOLIC CHAMPIONSHIPS
\$1500.00 - Boys/Girls (B/G) Soccer, B/G Basketball, B/G Lacrosse, Girls Volleyball, Girls Softball (yearly)
\$5000.00- Boys Football, Boys Hockey (every other year)

TRAVEL POLICY

Once a team has qualified for the State tournament the school of the qualifying team will need to do the following:

HOTEL ACCOMODATIONS

- If using the hotel reservation held by MMHSAA, you will need to contact the hotel and provide them with a school credit card and tax-exempt form. **THE TRAVELLING TEAM IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL HOTEL CHARGES.**
- Prior to leaving, the coach or AD must forward to MMHSAA an accurate room count and rooming list, listing the athletes/coaches staying in each room
- If not using a hotel reservation held by MMHSAA (reservations less than 10 rooms) you will need to make your own hotel accommodations.
- In the event that MMHSAA is charged for a school team's hotel charges, the school will be invoiced for all hotel charges plus a 20% service fee.

BUS TRANSPORTATION

Contact the bus company and provide an itinerary for the reserved bus.

Travel stipends will be deducted from the bus company invoice. Each school will be billed by MMHSAA for any/all hotel and bus transportation charges that they accrue, in excess of the sport stipend. All charges must be paid in full to MMHSAA by each school within 30 days of invoicing. Each school is responsible for their coaches and bus driver(s) room charges.

Schools reaching Federation State Championships are responsible for all their own hotel and transportation expenses.

INDIVIDUAL SPORTS

G/B Golf, Boys Bowling

- Each school is responsible for their own travel and hotel arrangements
- MMHSAA will provide \$1500 for each sport to offset travel expenses. The \$1500 will be divided by the number of athletes that qualified for State Catholic Championships. (5 athletes qualify- $\$1500.00/5=\300.00 stipend for each athlete travelling).
- Schools that have athletes reaching Federation State Championships are responsible for all their own hotel and transportation expenses.

G/B Track, G/B Cross Country

BUS TRANSPORTATION

MMHSAA will provide \$1500.00 for each sport to offset travel expenses, and will be combined (\$3000.00) to offset bus transportation costs for both B/G athletes. Any additional bus charges above the \$3000.00 will be divided by the number of athletes and coaches travelling. Each

school will be allotted 2 coaches per track team, unless space allows for additional staff. Each school will be invoiced this amount times the number of seats that they reserve on the bus.

HOTEL ACCOMODATIONS

Prior to leaving, the school's Athletic Director must forward to MMHSAA an accurate room count and rooming list, listing the athletes/coaches staying in each room
MMHSAA will make hotel reservations for athletes and coaches. All schools will be invoiced for all hotel charges accrued

Bus Driver room charges will be divided by the number of athletes/coaches travelling. This amount will be added to the hotel room charge invoice of each school

Track and Field- Schools that have athletes reaching Federation State Championships are responsible for all their own hotel and transportation expenses.

Cross Country- There is no State Catholic Championship in Cross Country. Therefore, the travel stipends will help cover the New York State Federation Championship.

THUNDER AND LIGHTNING POLICY

“Thunder and lightning necessitate that all contests be suspended. The occurrence of thunder and/or lightning is not subject to interpretation or discussion - thunder is thunder, lightning is lightning. If lightning and/or thunder is observed, all outdoor activities will be suspended immediately. Players and spectators shall be directed to report to a shelter, a building normally occupied by the public or if a building is unavailable, participants should go inside a vehicle with a solid metal top (e.g., bus, van, car). The officials and responsible authorities shall make every reasonable effort to resume and complete the contest, with full consideration of the weather and site conditions (as they affect safety and playing conditions). The official/coaches shall wait 30 minutes from the time the last boom is heard and/or the last strike is seen before starting or resuming play.

CLARIFICATIONS

PRIOR TO CONTEST

If thunder/lightning is observed at the site of an outdoor contest by the officials/coaches 30 or fewer minutes prior to the scheduled start of that contest, the official/coaches and the responsible school authorities shall not permit the contest to begin. Before the contest can begin, a 30-minute period void of any strike or boom must be observed.

DURING THE CONTEST

If thunder/lightning is observed at the site of an outdoor contest by the officials during the playing of the contest, the official/coaches shall immediately cease play for 30 minutes. Play may not resume until there has been a period of at least 30 minutes in which a boom or strike has not been observed. The rules of the sport shall determine whether the contest is ‘official’ or must be resumed later. (Please refer to item #5 Suspended Games located in MMHSAA Playoff Detail).

Once the game has been rescheduled, please notify me as soon as possible with the original game number and details. so that it can be re-scheduled in the Arbiter. Officials are at a premium so the sooner the game is re-scheduled the better our chance at getting you officials.

TOBACCO, ALCHOHOL, and CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES

Position Statements: It is the position of the MMHSAA that scholastic athletes and other students must abstain from the use of alcohol and controlled substances and refrain from using tobacco, smokeless tobacco and vaping products.

No coach or school representative should use alcohol, tobacco, vaping products or other drugs before, during, or immediately after or until his/her supervisory duties are completed. The use of tobacco products is prohibited by coaches, players, and game officials during practice, scrimmages, and competitions.

CHAIRPERSONS

BASKETBALL	Kyle Husband (Boys) Doug Webster (Girls)
BASEBALL	Paul Nasca
FOOTBALL	Jerry Smith
SOCCER	Michael Thoin (Boys) Brittany Heist (Girls)
CROSS COUNTRY	Chris Mekelburg (Boys) Rick Skarbucha (Girls)
TENNIS	Mark Szafnicki (Boys) Kacie Mills (Girls)
HOCKEY	Sam Belsito (Boys) Meghan Sleezer (Girls)
VOLLEYBALL	Thomas Weislo (Boys) Don Pieczynski (Girls)
SWIMMING	Brian Anken (Boys) Barbara Rooney (Girls)
TRACK	Steve Otremba (Boys) (Girls)
SOFTBALL	Doug Webster
BOWLING	Al Simmons (Boys) Frank Sewastynowicz (Girls)
GOLF	Ron Montesano (Boys) Doug Webster (Girls)
LACROSSE	Pete Hudecki (Boys) James Pernick (Girls)
WRESTLING	Pete Kennedy

NEW YORK STATE ORGANIZATIONAL SYSTEM
For Extra class Interschool Athletic Programs

New York State Education Department
Board of Regents

Commissioner of Education

NYSPPHSAA,INC.Member Schools NYSCHSAA Member Schools, PSAL Member Schools,
NYSISAA Member Schools

New York State Federation of Secondary School Athletic Associations

New York State Catholic High School Athletic Association

Archdiocese of New York Member Schools
Diocese of Rockville Ctr Member Schools
Diocese of Brooklyn Member Schools
Diocese of Buffalo Member Schools

DIOCESE OF BUFFALO

Secretary of Education

Board of Principals

Chair of the Board of Principals

Executive Director

Athletic Directors Council

Chairpersons

Coaches

APPENDIX

REFERENCES

MONSIGNOR MARTIN HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION CONSTITUTION
AND BYLAWS

CONSTITUTION OF THE NEW YORK STATE CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC
ASSOCIATION

REGULATIONS OF THE COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION

GUIDELINE FOR CHAIRPERSON FOR SPORTS MEETING

Rule Updates:

LEAGUE STRUCTURE

PRACTICE BEGINS:

LEAGUE BEGINS:

ALL CATHOLIC / PLAYOFF DATES:

STATE COMPETITION:

COACHES' MEETING:

CHAIRPERSON:

ALL-CATHOLIC MEETING:

OFFICIALS' FEES:

VARSIITY –

JUNIOR VARSITY –

FRESHMAN –

ROSTER: DUE:

PLEASE USE LEAGUE-SUPPLIED TEMPLATE

PRIOR to first day of LEAGUE COMPETITION

**** Copy must be sent to all participating schools, chairperson, and Executive Director**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Order of events: (Sport specific)

An individual may participate in: (Sport specific)

Qualifying for All Catholics

All-Catholic Voting/Qualifying (Sport specific)

All coaches must be CPR/AED & First Aid certified. With regard to AED, please see the MMHSAA handbook entry regarding First Aid, CPR, AED for MMHSAA position on AED's.

Official scoring

Completed vouchers for official payment will be provided by the home school and returned to their athletic director. Payment must be made within 30 days of contest.

***WINNING COACHES (all levels) MUST CALL CHAIRPERSON AFTER THEIR CONTEST WITH RESULTS. END OF THE WEEK UPDATES MUST BE CALLED OR EMAILED IN TO THE CHAIRPERSON FOR LEAGUE STANDINGS TO BE PUBLISHED IN THE BUFFALO NEWS.**

***WINNING COACH MUST ALSO CALL THE BUFFALO NEWS THAT NIGHT WITH RESULTS OF CONTEST**

SPORTS: 849-4461 (before 9:30 pm)

HEAT INDEX PROCEDURES

Administration of Heat Index Procedures:

- Feels-Like Temperature (Heat index) will be checked one hour before the contest/practice by a certified athletic trainer, athletic director, or school designee when the air temperature is 80 degrees (Fahrenheit) or higher.
- Download WeatherBug app to your phone or log into www.weatherbug.com.
- Enter zip code or city and state in the location section of the app or online.
- If the Feels-Like temperature (heat index) is 90 degrees or above, the athletic trainer, athletic director, or school designee must re-check the Feels-Like temperature (heat index) at halftime or midway point of the contest. If the Feels-Like temperature (heat index) temperature is 96 degrees (Fahrenheit) or more, the contest will be suspended.

Please refer to the following chart to take the appropriate actions:

	Feels-Like Temp (Heat Index) under 79 degrees	Full activity. No restrictions
R E C O M M E N D E D	Heat Index Caution: Feels-Like Temp (Heat Index) 80 degrees to 85 degrees	Provide ample water and multiple water breaks. Monitor athletes for heat illness. Consider reducing the amount of time for the practice session.
	Heat Index Watch: Feels-Like Temp (Heat Index) 86 degrees to 90 degrees	Provide ample water and multiple water breaks. Monitor athletes for heat illness. Consider postponing practice to a time when Feels Like temp is lower. Consider reducing the amount of time for the practice session. 1 hour of recovery time for every hour of practice (e.g., 2hr practice = 2hr recovery time).
	Heat Index Warning: Feels-Like Temp (Heat Index) 91 degrees to 95 degrees	Provide ample water and water breaks every 15 minutes. Monitor athletes for heat illness. Consider postponing practice to a time when Feels Like temp is much lower. Consider reducing the amount of time for the practice session. 1 hour of recovery time for every hour of practice (e.g., 2hr practice = 2hr recovery time). Light-weight and loose-fitting clothes should be worn. For practices, only Football Helmets should be worn. No other protective equipment should be worn.

REQUIRED	Heat Index Alert: Feels-Like Temp (Heat Index) 96 degrees or greater	No outside activity, practice, or contest should be held. Inside activity should only be held if air condition.
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WIND CHILL PROCEDURES

Administration of Wind Chill Procedures:

- Feels-Like Temperature (Wind Chill) will be checked one hour before the contest/practice by a certified athletic trainer, athletic director, or school designee when the air temperature is 39 degrees (Fahrenheit) or lower.
- Download WeatherBug app to your phone or log into www.weatherbug.com.
- Enter zip code or city and state in the location section of the app or online.
- If the Feels-Like temperature (wind chill) is 10 degrees or below, the athletic trainer, athletic director, or school designee must re-check the Feels-Like (wind chill) temperature at halftime or midway point of the contest. If the Feels-Like (wind chill) temperature is -11 degrees (Fahrenheit) or lower, the contest will be suspended.

Please refer to the following chart to take the appropriate actions:

	Feels-Like Temp (wind chill) above 40 degrees	Full activity. No restrictions
R E C O M M E N D E D	Wind Chill Caution: Feels-Like Temp (wind chill) 39 degrees to 20 degrees	Stay adequately hydrated. Notify coaches of the threat of cold related illnesses. Have students and coaches dress in layers of clothing.
	Wind Chill Watch: Feels-Like Temp (wind chill) 19 degrees to 10 degrees	Stay adequately hydrated. Notify coaches of the threat of cold related illnesses. Have students and coaches dress in layers of clothing. Cover the head and neck to prevent heat loss.
	Wind Chill Warning: Feels-Like Temp (wind chill) 9 degrees to -10 degrees	Stay adequately hydrated. Notify coaches of the threat of cold related illnesses. Have students and coaches dress in layers of clothing. Cover the head and neck to prevent heat loss. Consider postponing practice to a time when the Feels Like temp is much higher. Consider reducing the amount of time for an outdoor practice session.

REQUIRED	Wind Chill Alert: Feels-Like Temp (wind chill) -11 degrees or lower	No outside activity, practice, or contest should be held.
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Special Note: Alpine Skiing will be exempt from this policy and will follow the regulations of the host ski center where the practice or event is being held.