

## **INTRODUCTION**

Dear Athletes and Parents,

We would like to welcome you to another season of Maplewood Athletics. As you probably know, Maplewood has a great tradition in athletics, and there are reasons why we do. Hard work and discipline have been the cornerstones of Maplewood for many years. We would like to see that tradition continue. It is important to remember that being a member of a Maplewood athletic team is a privilege not a right. We feel that a properly controlled, well-organized sports program is important in meeting the needs of our athletes. The following pages will acquaint you with specific policies and necessary information that is important for a well-organized program.

Student athletes are responsible for their conduct as an athlete and personally. No form of hazing is acceptable and will not be tolerated. Please sit down with your son or daughter and read over the information very carefully. We need your support, so that participation in athletics is a positive experience for your child. We hope the information in this handbook is helpful.

Sincerely yours,

Dave Deeter  
Athletic Director  
Maplewood High School

Mike Richards  
Assistant Athletic Director

## **INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS**

The Board of Education recognizes the value to the students of the District and to the community of a program of interscholastic athletics for students as an integral part of the total school experience.

The program should foster the growth of school loyalty within the student body as a whole and stimulate community interest in athletics.

The game activities and practice sessions should provide many opportunities to teach the values of competition and good sportsmanship.

The program of interscholastic athletics should provide students the opportunity to exercise and test their athletic abilities in a context greater and more varied than that which can be offered by a school or the School District alone.

## **INTERSCHOLASTIC SPORTS AT MAPLEWOOD**

Baseball	High School
Boys' Basketball	7, 8, 9, J.V., and Varsity
Boys' Bowling	High School
Cheerleading	High School and Middle School
Cross Country (Boys and Girls)	High School and Middle School
Girls' Basketball	7, 8, JV., and Varsity
Girls' Bowling	High School
Golf (Boys and Girls)	High School
Soccer (Boys and Girls)	High School
Softball	High School
Track (boys and Girls)	High School and Middle School
Volleyball-	High School and Middle School

## **PARENT/STAFF COMMUNICATION**

Involvement requires the commitment of students, parents, coaches, and advisors. To be successful, communication must happen.

### **COMMUNICATION TO EXPECT FROM YOUR CHILD'S COACH:**

1. Time and location of practices and contests.
2. Expectations of the coach for all the players on the squad as well as your child.
3. What is required to be part of the team – Example: fees, special equipment, off-season conditioning.
4. Disciplinary action that could result in your child's removal from participation.

### **APPROPRIATE CONCERNS TO DISCUSS WITH COACHES:**

1. Mental and physical treatment of your child.
2. Skill improvement and development.
3. Concerns about your child's behavior socially or academically.

### **INAPPROPRIATE CONCERNS TO DISCUSS WITH COACHES:**

1. Playing Time
2. Team Strategy
3. Play Calling
4. Other Students/Athletes

### **COMMUNICATION THAT COACHES EXPECT FROM PARENTS:**

1. Concerns expressed directly to the coach.
2. Notification of any schedule conflict well in advance.
3. Support of the program (making sure your son or daughter is on time to practice and follows team rules).

***\*\*Please make sure you have a ride arranged for your child immediately after practices, games, or meets.***

### **PROCEDURES TO FOLLOW IF YOU HAVE A CONCERN WITH A COACH:**

1. Make an appointment with the coach. (DO NOT CONFRONT A COACH AFTER A CONTEST)
2. If the coach cannot be reached, call the athletic director to set up a meeting with the coach.
3. If your meeting with the coach does not provide a satisfactory result, call for an appointment with the athletic director to discuss the concern.
4. If this meeting does not provide a satisfactory result, make an appointment with the principal. **See addendum #2**

We are continually attempting to improve communication with the students and parents. For our programs to be successful it is necessary that everyone involved understand the direction the program is headed.

## RESPONSIBILITIES OF A MAPLEWOOD ATHLETE

Being a member of a Maplewood athletic team is a privilege, not a right. Our tradition has been to compete with honor. We desire to win, but only to bring honor to our athletes, our school, and our community. Over the years we have achieved many league and tournament championships. Many individuals have set records and won All State and All Conference awards. We hope to continue this fine tradition.

## ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS

An athlete cannot compete in a practice, scrimmage, or contest until the following are completed and returned to the coach:

1. Physical exam completed, signed by the doctor, parents, and athlete and on file in the athletic office.
2. Emergency medical form
3. Insurance liability form
4. Student athlete contract (addendum #1)
5. Chain of Command Parent Contract (addendum #2)
6. Eligibility requirements have been satisfied
7. \$50 pay to participate payment must be received before competing in any athletic contest.
8. Parents and Athlete will be required to attend a preseason meeting for each sport.

The Maplewood Board of Education has instated a \$50 flat fee to participate in athletics for the school year. The cost is comparable to workbook fees, and will help off-set the price of athletics at a reasonable rate. Even though the participation fee does not come close to paying for the entire cost of the athletic program, it does help subsidize. The fee must be paid before competing in any athletic contests. Once the fee has been submitted, it will make the student financially eligible to participate in athletics for the entire school year. At the time of payment, students will also receive a "Student Athletic Pass" to be used for free admission to all home athletic contests.

Refunds will not be given unless a student is cut from a sports program during tryouts. **Refunds will not be given due to the student's violation of the athletic contract or if the student quits the team.** If the payment was made by someone other than the students such as the Athletic Boosters, a staff member, etc, the refund will go to them and not to the individual student.

## O.H.S.A.A. ATHLETIC ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

The OHSAA requires a parent meeting to discuss student-eligibility and the school's athletic code of conduct. Parents that can not attend the meeting will be given an alternative to meet the requirement. All students must meet this requirement before participating in their first interscholastic competition.

The following are important rules and regulations set by the OHSAA. Read them carefully. Each athlete receives a pamphlet from their coach from the OHSAA outlining all the important areas of high school athletes. As a parent, you and your child should sit down and go over this pamphlet carefully.

### 1. Scholarship

In order to be eligible in grades 9-12, a student must be currently enrolled and must have been enrolled in school the immediately preceding grading period. During the preceding grading period, the student must have

received passing grades in a minimum of five one credit courses or the equivalent which count towards graduation and have a 1.5 GPA.

The eligibility or ineligibility of a student continues until the start of the fifth school day of the next grading period, at which time the grades from the immediately preceding grading period become effective.

**EXCEPTION:** Eligibility or ineligibility for the first grading period commences with the start of the fall sports season. For the purposes of this Bylaw, “school day” includes faculty in-service days, calamity days and regular school attendance days but not holidays or school breaks.

In order to be eligible, a student in grade 7 or 8 must be currently enrolled at Maplewood and have received passing grades in a minimum of five of all subjects in which enrolled the immediately preceding grading period. Summer school grades may not be used to substitute for failing grades received in the final grading period of the regular school year or for lack of enough courses taken the preceding grading period

## **2. Semesters of eligibility**

When you enroll in grade nine for the first time, you have eight semesters of athletic eligibility taken in order of attendance whether you participate or not.

## **3. Age Limitations**

**GRADES 9-12:** If you are 19 years of age prior to August 1 of the school year, you are ineligible for that school year.

**GRADES 7-8:**

If you are 15 years of age prior to August 1 of that school year, you are eligible to participate in athletics in grades 7-8. Consult your principal for procedures to follow.

## **4. Awards**

You may receive an award or merchandise as a result of your participation in school or non-school competition from any source, provided the value does not exceed \$100 per award.

## **5. Competing under a name other than your own/falsifying your address**

If you compete under a name other than your own or falsify your address, you immediately become ineligible.

## **9. Non-interscholastic participation**

Bylaw 10-3-3 allows athletes to participate in non-interscholastic competition **prior to and after the school season** during the school year under the following conditions:

The number of players from the same school squad (roster) is limited to: Baseball and Softball- 4; Volleyball- 3; Basketball- 2; Soccer- 5. The rule is not in effect from June 1-July 31.

## **10. Student participation conduct penalty**

Any student ejected for unsportsmanlike conduct or flagrant foul shall be ineligible for contests for the remainder of that day as well as for all contests in that sport until two regular season/tournament contests are played at the same level as the ejection. If the ejection occurs in the last contest of the season, the student shall be ineligible for the same period or time as stated above in the next sport in which the student participates. A student under suspension may not sit on the team bench, enter the locker room, or be affiliated with the team in any way traveling to, during or after the contest(s).

A student who is ejected a second time shall be suspended for the remainder of the season in that sport. A student who has been ejected for unsportsmanlike conduct for the second time in the season during the last

contest shall be ineligible for the period of time/number of contests subject to the discretion of the Commissioner. The period of ineligibility shall commence during the next sport in which the student participates.

It is the responsibility of the local school authorities to ensure this regulation is enforced. When an ineligible student is allowed to participate, forfeiture of the contest is mandatory. The regulation shall apply to all regular season and tournament contests and in no way limits the discretionary authority of the Commissioner as specified in the OHSAA Tournament Regulations.

## CONDUCT OF AN ATHLETE

The conduct of an athlete is closely observed. It is important that your behavior be above reproach in the following areas:

**On the Field-** In the areas of athletic competition, an honorable athlete does not use profanity or illegal tactics. He or she is modest in victory and gracious in defeat. It is expected that Maplewood athletes will congratulate the opponent on a well-played game.

**In the Classroom-** In the academic area, a good athlete becomes a good student. As a student athlete it is part of your responsibility to perform in the classroom as well as on the court, field, course or track. Plan your schedule so you have sufficient time to prepare for your studies. Be a leader! Show respect for other students and teachers.

**In the Community-** You are a representative of Maplewood High School in the community as well. Your conduct should reflect the goals and objectives of the athletic program. **Absolutely no hazing will be tolerated.** Respect for others should direct your actions.

## TRAINING RULES AND REGULATIONS

Each coach will distribute his or her rules and regulations at a meeting. It is important that you discuss these expectations with your child. The following contract will be signed by each athlete and parent before participation:

### **MAPLEWOOD ATHLETIC MEMBERSHIP AGREEMENT**

***I will not sell, distribute, use or possess any mood altering chemical (drugs or alcohol).***

***I understand that the use of tobacco of any kind (smoking or chewing) is not permitted.***

***I will not knowingly attend or remain at any student gathering where students and/or minors are using or consuming alcohol or illegal drugs or improperly utilizing prescription medications.***

***I will not be involved in any criminally related activity.***

***I accept this agreement as morally binding and will honor each item in the agreement.***

***If for some reason this contract is broken, I will be dismissed from the team immediately for that season.***

***The contract follows on addendum #1.***

## **MAPLEWOOD ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT POLICIES**

### **TRAVEL**

Athletes will remain with their squad and under the supervision of a coach while attending away contests. All regular school bus rules will be followed. Athletes must ride the bus home after away contests unless they have the proper form filled out and signed by the principal, coach, and parents. This form may be obtained from the coach or the high school office and is to be completed and returned to the coach 24 hours in advance of the contest for which the release is requested. While we recognize the differences inherent in the various sports and that some variation may be appropriate, we maintain that the concept of "team" is extremely important and central to our athletic program. Participation in inter-scholastic athletics is a choice made by the student athlete and supported by the family. This choice necessarily entails a commitment to all aspects of the program to the fullest extent possible. Traveling as a team provides "together time" that encourages the psycho-social team concept. This time may also be utilized for announcements and/or coaching relating to the operation and success of the group. Therefore, any request for release should be a serious circumstance that may be considered good and just cause.

Except in emergency situations (i.e. illness, injury) the 24 hour rule shall remain in effect. Further, only in these emergency situations will participants be released from being required to remain in attendance with their team until the conclusion of the contest(s).

Except in extreme emergency situation no student athlete will be released to anyone other than her/his parent/guardian.

### **LIGHTNING AND INCLEMENT WEATHER**

#### **Recognition and Management**

Occasionally it may be necessary to interrupt an outdoor interscholastic athletic contest due to lightning in the area. Officials, coaches, certified athletic trainers, athletes and administrators should be educated regarding the signs indicating thunderstorm development. Due to the fact that this natural phenomenon is highly unpredictable, upon first sign of lightning or other threatening weather (thunder), the contest officials and school administrators shall monitor weather in the area. Upon the first indication that thunderstorm development is within 15 miles of the contest, the contest official shall suspend the competition until 30 minutes after the storm has left this 15 mile zone. In order to protect student-athletes, and or other participants, there shall be access to appropriate shelter in the event of such suspension. All contest suspended shall be resumed at the point of interruption.

### **ABSENCE FROM SCHOOL**

A student absent due to illness for more than ½ day will be denied participation in all athletic activities, including practices & contests, on the day of absence. The student athlete must arrive before 10:40 to be eligible to participate in athletics that day. A student may not leave school before 10:40 to be eligible. Certain exceptions may apply (i.e. college visits, funerals, etc.)

Students with an excused absence must be in school for at least one full period to participate in any athletic activity. Certain exceptions may apply (i.e. college visit, funerals, etc.)

## MAPLEWOOD ATHLETIC ELIGIBILITY

In addition to the OHSAA requirements for eligibility, Maplewood School District also requires the following: All students in grades **5-12** must have a minimum grade point average of 1.5 in the grading period immediately preceding participation.

Eligibility or ineligibility is effective until the next grading period.

Any student who has met the GPA minimum of 1.5 who receives an “F” on his/her report card will be required to sit out the next two contests per failing grade starting the day of the issuance of report cards. For sports with a small number of contests, such as golf, CC, and track, students will be required to sit out 1 contest for each “F”.

### Example

1 F = 2 Contests benched

2 F's = 4 Contests benched

Physical Examinations- Athletes must have passed a current year physical exam and have it on record in the Athletic Office. The form must be completely filled out and signed by the doctor, student, and parents.

The Board further directs that only those students may participate in the program of interscholastic athletics that have:

- A. Maintained a satisfactory academic record;
- B. Attended school regularly;
- C. Demonstrated good citizenship and responsibility;
- D. Returned all school and athletic equipment.

## DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS FOR SCHOOL MISBEHAVIOR

1. Out of School Suspension. -- for soccer, volleyball, basketball, baseball, and softball- athlete may not participate in contests equal to the number of days O.S.S. plus one additional contest. For all other sports- athlete may not participate in contest equal to the number of days O.S.S.
2. Saturday Detention- 1 contest suspension
3. Two Out of School Suspensions in one season will result in removal from the team.
4. If the contest is cancelled or postponed, the next date is enforced.
5. Tournament contests are included in suspensions.
6. Enforcement of the rules begins on the first day of conditioning/practice for the season.
7. Athletic suspensions begin on the day the principal assigns school suspensions.

## MAPLEWOOD ATHLETIC AWARDS

### MIDDLE SCHOOL

The Archie Griffin Sportsmanship Award will be given to one male and one female athlete in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade.



## **VARSITY**

The first year Varsity award will be a certificate and a six-inch “M” with the appropriate pin designating the sport. No athlete shall receive more than one varsity letter. The second year Varsity award will be a large gold bar for each sport that a letter is earned.

The third year Varsity award will be a second large gold bar. Managers and statisticians must have two years of service to receive a Varsity “M” letter.

## **SENIOR AWARDS**

Seniors who earn a varsity letter will receive a seven-inch 3-D “M” with appropriate pins designating the sports in which they lettered during high school. They will also receive a silver foil certificate listing the varsity sports and years in which they earned letters. Other senior awards include: The Archie Griffin Sportsmanship Award, Courageous Student Award, State Award, and the Athletic Boosters Award.

## **LEAGUE AFFILIATION AND TICKET PRICES**

Maplewood is part of the Northeastern Athletic Conference. Member schools include: Badger, Bloomfield, Bristol, Fairport, Lordstown, Maplewood, Mathews, St. John, Pymatuning Valley, Southington, and Windham.

**Admission prices, set by the league, are \$6.00 for adults, \$4.00 for students and Senior Citizens not living in the Maplewood School District for all varsity sports. All Middle School sports are \$4.00 for adults, \$2.00 for students and seniors. Senior Citizens, age 60 and older and reside in the Maplewood School District, are admitted free to Maplewood extra-curricular events.**

## **ATHLETIC BOOSTERS**

The Maplewood Athletic Boosters may meet on the second Thursday of every month during the school year at 7:00 p.m. in the high school library. They are instrumental in the purchase of equipment and the improvement of athletic playing fields for Soccer, Volleyball, Golf, Bowling, Baseball and Softball. Each year they host many fundraising events. New members are welcome.

The Rocket Rebounders may meet on the second Wednesday of every month during the school year at 6:00pm at The Lake Tavern. They are involved in supporting the basketball programs at all levels for boys and girls in the Maplewood School District.

The Running Rockets Booster Club may meet on the second Thursday of each month at 8:00pm at the Green Eagle Winery. They help support the boys and girls Track and Cross Country Teams in the Maplewood School District.

## **NCAA ELIGIBILITY**

Students in their junior year who plan to participate in collegiate sports should meet with their school counselor to discuss NCAA guidelines. They should register with the NCAA prior to their senior year. Parents should go to [NCAA.org](http://NCAA.org) to review specific guidelines.

# MAPLEWOOD ATHLETIC MEMBERSHIP AGREEMENT

## ADDENDUM #1

While a member of the team:

- ◆ I will not sell, distribute, use or possess any mood altering chemicals (Drugs or Alcohol)
- ◆ I understand that the use of tobacco of any kind (smoking or chewing is not permitted.)
- ◆ I will not knowingly attend or remain at any student gathering where students and/or minors are using or consuming alcohol or illegal drugs or improperly utilizing prescription medications.
- ◆ I will not be involved in any criminally related activity.
- ◆ I accept this agreement as morally binding and will honor each item in this agreement.

### 1<sup>st</sup> Offense

Dismissal from the team immediately and prohibited from participating in any athletic activity for the remainder of the season.

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Offense

Dismissal from the team immediately and prohibited from participating in any athletic activity for one calendar year.

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Offense

Dismissal from the team immediately and prohibited from participating in any athletic activity permanently.

Team \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Athlete \_\_\_\_\_

### PARENT SECTION

As a parent, I have read and understand the above Maplewood Membership Agreement and agree that my child will uphold the rules and regulations put forth by the Maplewood Athletic Department. If my child breaks any of the above rules I understand that he/she is subject to discipline by the Athletic Department and/or Administration.

Signature of Parent/Guardian \_\_\_\_\_

**MAPLEWOOD ATHLETIC AGREEMENT  
ADDENDUM #2**

Participation in inter-scholastic athletics is a privilege afforded students in the Maplewood Local School district. I certify that I have received a copy of the Student Handbook, the Athletic Handbook and the requirements and/or rules as established by the coach/advisor for the program in which I am participating.

By choosing to participate in an activity that is a part of the Maplewood inter-scholastic activity program I hereby agree to abide by all rules, regulations and procedures as established by the Ohio High School Athletic Association, the Maplewood Local School District and the coach/advisor of the specific program in which I wish to participate.

**CHAIN OF COMMAND  
PARENT CONTRACT**

I agree to adhere to the following steps if I have an athletic concern:

**STEP 1**

Schedule a meeting with the coach to calmly and rationally discuss concerns.

If resolution of the problem is not reached, pursue next step.

**STEP 2**

Contact the athletic director to schedule a conference to calmly and rationally discuss concerns.

**STEP 3**

Contact the building principal to schedule a meeting. The meeting may include the athletic director and/or coach.

If resolution of the problem is not reached, pursue the next step.

**STEP 4**

Contact the building principal to schedule a meeting with the superintendent to discuss concerns/problems. The superintendent may schedule a meeting with the school board if requested only after all preceding steps have been taken.

I agree to adhere to this Chain of Command policy if I have a concern or problem regarding athletics.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Athlete

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## Table of Contents

Introduction.....	1
Interscholastic Sports At Maplewood .....	2
Interscholastic Athletics.....	2
Parent/Staff Communication.....	3
Responsibilities Of A Maplewood Athlete .....	4
Athletic Participation Requirements .....	4
O.H.S.A.A. Athletic Eligibility Information.....	4
Conduct Of An Athlete .....	6
Training Rules And Regulations.....	6
Maplewood Athletic Membership Agreement.....	6
Maplewood Athletic Department Policies .....	7
Maplewood Athletic Eligibility .....	8
Disciplinary Actions For School Misbehavior .....	8
Maplewood Athletic Awards .....	8
Athletic Boosters.....	9
NCAA Eligibility.....	9
Membership Agreement.....	10
Addendum #1 .....	10
Addendum #2.....	12