

# Athletic Handbook

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Madison Academy



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# Madison Academy Athletic Handbook

## Philosophy

The mission of the Madison Academy (MA) athletic department is to enrich the spiritual lives, develop the social and moral character, and enhance the physical skills and wellness of our students by means of a competitive athletic program, administered in a Christ-centered environment.

## Vision:

MA athletics is a program developed to prepare students for everyday life. Our athletic program follows the vision, mission, and values of Seventh-day Adventist Christian principles. Strong emphasis is placed on the following:

- **Integrity** – Demonstrate Christ-like wholeness privately and publicly
- **Service** – We will model Jesus' example of serving
- **Teamwork** – We will express our unity in Christ
- **Excellence** – We will honor and glorify God in all we do

The success of an athletic program can be demonstrated by students who have been challenged to mature in mind, body, and a relationship with God. Colossians 3:17 challenges us to do everything to the glory of God, and it is the goal of the MA athletic program to instill this in the minds and actions of our students.

## Try-Out Eligibility

Tryout eligibility is determined by the previous quarter or semesters, grades, citizenship and attendance. To be eligible students must have:

- 2.5 GPA no F's and I's
- Less than 15 attendance points/Per quarter Less than 30 for Semester
- Less than 10 demerits/ Per Quarter Less than 20 for Semester

### **Eligibility Check**

Volleyball	Previous year 4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter
Basketball	1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter
Soccer	1 <sup>st</sup> Semester

## Varsity Plus

At Madison we believe in grace and sometimes students will need second chances. If a player does not meet tryout eligibility but can meet the requirements for the next quarter then that player can be granted permission to rejoin the team to play games. For example if student A cannot tryout for soccer because of 1<sup>st</sup> semester eligibility check but can show eligibility during 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter then player A can join the team for 4<sup>th</sup> quarter games.

## Weekly Grade Check

Weekly Grade Check will be done Friday Morning. Students can not have any F's. If bellow Students can still practice and must attend any games but must not play.

### Team/Player Expectation

This Athletic program is an instructional/competitive program with the goal being to provide solid instruction for all players to prepare them for higher levels of healthy competition. As a result, hard decisions need to be made about team personnel, positions, play time, etc. with this in mind MA athletics has the following policies in place:

- **Every effort is made to form a team on which for every player to play. Unfortunately there are times when cuts will be made for a team due to lack of funds to hire extra coaches or lack of playing opportunities for that team.**
- Players, who are on the “bubble”, do not make the cut, or miss tryouts may be put on “Red Shirt” status. Red Shirt players can practice with the team, but do not play in games. At any time a coach can move a player from Red Shirt to the active roster
- Players are selected for teams based on the talent and work ethic of players, not according to what year they are in school.
- All players must have a current physical in order to participate in athletics. These are required every year.
- Team members are required to attend and be on time to all practices, games, and team functions. **If you cannot be there, you need to let your coach know as soon as possible.**
- It is expected that athletes will stay away from alcohol/drugs and tobacco while they are members of this team. If it is discovered that anyone has been using these substances or has been at a place where these substances are present, they will be asked to leave the team for the remainder of the season. If an athlete has a problem with any kind of substance abuse there is help available to them, but it needs to be dealt with before the incident.
- Sportsmanship is expected and demanded of all players and coaches. If you are dismissed from a game there may be consequences at the next game.
- Any damaged uniform will be replaced at the players expense
- Uniforms are only to be used for athletic competition.

### Sportsmanship of Players and Parents

- All Parents and Players are expected to demonstrate the highest level of sportsmanship while representing MA. **DON'T LET YOUR BEHAVIOR BRING A NEGATIVE LIGHT ON YOUR FAMILY OR MA.** Your actions should represent those of a Christian.
- **Officials are off-limits for parents. Do not yell at the referees-before, during and after the match-no matter what the perceived error or injustice.** Players must learn to perform under adversity, and to not waste emotion or effort on things not within their control, and we expect the parents to do the same.
- Please cheer for our teams efforts and successes. Parents and other fans should never celebrate our opponents' mistakes.
- While watching a game, keep all comments positive. Remember, you are sitting among parents from other schools.
- Help out in the “Madison Way” by enforcing great sportsmanship to those around you.

## Financial Obligations

Cost Breakdown for teams:

Girls Volleyball=\$100  
Cross Country= \$50  
Boys and Girls Basketball=\$100  
JV Basketball=\$100  
Co-Ed Soccer=\$100

- **Two weeks after the team is selected. In order to continue practice or play.**
- **THIS FEE IS NONREFUNDABLE AFTER THE SECOND WEEK'S PRACTICE**

## Practices and Games

Teams have the right to practice on the following days:

- Sunday: **Varies on Sport**
  - Monday: **Varies on Sport**
  - Tuesday: **Varies on Sport**
  - Wednesday: Off
  - Thursday: **Varies on Sport**
  - Friday: Off
  - Saturday: Night games only.
- We will never have games on Wednesday and rarely on Friday (before sunset). Wednesday and Friday are considered dead days and we will not use them for athletics. Occasional we will have Saturday night games which will be after sunset.
  - A copy of the athletic schedules is on the school website and will be shared with parents and players on Google Drive Calendar.
  - Games and practices sometimes are canceled or rescheduled. We will try to communicate as soon as possible any changes in the schedule.

## Communicating with coaches

If a player has a conflict or concern during the season, the following line of communication is to be followed:

1. Player meets with the coach
2. Player and parent meet with the coach
3. Player and parent meet with coach and athletic director
4. Player and parent meet with coach, athletic director, and principal

We are glad to speak to you about your athlete, but ask that you:

- Ask that your athlete try to work out sport specific issues directly with the coach before enlisting your assistance.
- Avoid jumping to conclusions. Sometimes teenagers tend to exaggerate both when praised and criticized.

### 24/48 Hour Rule

If you are concerned about a sport related issue that requires you to speak directly with a coach, we ask that you wait at least 24 hours after the triggering event. But then deal with the issue at hand in the next 48 hours or forever drop it. Please make an appointment with the coach/coaches and in a civilized manner approach at an appropriate place to solve the issue at hand. Cooler heads are inevitably more productive. We always enjoy chatting with parents at the beginning or conclusion of matches, but cannot address non-emergency issues at that time. We also cannot interrupt practice sessions.

### Travel Polices

- Athletes must travel to and from all athletic events by means of school transportation. Parents who wish to pick their student up from an event must sign the student out with the coach. **Students are only allowed to leave with their parents or custodial guardians.**
- Under extenuating circumstances, it is possible for an athlete to use other means of transportation providing the parent/guardian makes arrangements with the Athletic Director or Principal **prior to** the activity (i.e., written request stating specifics and signed by the parent/guardian). **Under no circumstances is a student released to another student driving a vehicle.**
- Team Members are expected to do their homework on the bus or at the games of the team they are not playing on.
- Team members should always bring a lunch on trips. We rarely stop on the way home due to the lateness of when we get back. Our goal is get your athlete back home as soon as possible after the contest.

### Sabbath travel

- As a Seventh-day Adventist institution, we will uphold the standards of our church relative to the Sabbath and its observance. We will not travel to and from any tournaments or sporting activities during Sabbath hours, nor will we participate in any such event if there is a reasonable expectation that Sabbath travel will be required.

### Expected Return Time

- In order to avoid parent/guardian concerns; please advise your parents/guardian of the approximate return time, along with where the bus/vus/van will unload. Please have your parent/guardian waiting for you at school. The coach is responsible for supervising athletes until parents arrive.

### Proper Behavior on the Bus

- Proper behavior guidelines are established for the safety and well-being of others. Please give transportation personnel undivided attention at all times, especially when addressing safety issues upon departure.
- Should we be traveling after dark on any evening, guys and girls will be divided on the bus.

### Valuables

- Simple advice. If you want to keep it—don't bring it.

## **General Rules**

### **Dedication**

An athlete must be willing to dedicate himself/herself to sports. The athlete should be aware that nothing worthwhile is accomplished without hard work and a sincere desire to succeed. The athlete must also realize that he/she must work out of season as well as during the season. He/she must also be willing to sacrifice his/her own desires for the good of the team.

### **Drugs, Alcohol and Tobacco Policy**

Possessing, selling, or furnishing drugs, alcohol or tobacco is considered a Most Serious Offense and is taken very seriously by school administration. Refer to Madison Academy's *Student Handbook*.

### **Attendance**

As a member of our team, we want to be proud of your appearance. Athletes are expected to dress neatly and keep well groomed. On the day of a contest guys are expected to wear a shirt, tie and nice slacks. Girls are expected to wear either nice slacks or a skirt, along with a nice blouse.

### **Respect**

Athletes will show respect for all coaches, teachers, officials, spectators, school facilities, equipment and opponents at all times.

### **Responsibility for Equipment**

Athletes shall assume responsibility for all athletic equipment issued to them and will be expected to pay for any lost, misplaced, stolen or abused equipment.

### **Participation**

Athletics is voluntary. Participation is not required for graduation and thus, being on a sports team is a privilege, which must be earned, and is not a right.

### **Athletics as a Part of the Educational Program**

1. Athletics are just one of many parts of the educational program that is offered to students. Students are in school to learn. As a result, academics will always come first.
2. Maintaining academic eligibility is the student-athlete's responsibility, not that of the coaches or teachers.
3. Eligibility can be lost because of poor attendance or citizenship.
4. Participating in athletics and being on a team may mean sacrifices. The commitment an athlete makes to his/her team and coach requires that choices be made and priorities kept.

### **Being a Part of the Team**

1. Athletes learn many skills to play their chosen sport, but the most important skill that must be learned is teamwork.

2. To be successful, every member of the team must work together to make the whole greater than the sum of the parts.

### **Coaches Obligation**

Coaches may set standards of behavior and expectations for their sport which, if violated, may result in the participant being suspended or dismissed from the team for the remainder of the season. Each coach may furnish the participant with a copy of their team rules and expectations at the beginning of the season. Additional team rules must be approved in advance by the Athletic Director or Principal.

### **Conduct On and Off the Field**

1. **On the field:** Athletes are respectful towards their teammates, coaches, opponents, fans and officials. They play by all the rules of the game all the time.
2. **On campus:** Athletes set an example of good citizenship. They help promote school spirit and they should strive to be positive leaders in school activities.
3. **At all times:** Athletes represent their team, school and community. Athletes should be conscious of their appearance and manners at all times.

### **Keeping Athletics in Perspective: for Parents and Guardians**

1. Emphasize that academics always comes first.
2. Assist the student to structure time wisely so that athletics do not interfere with academics.
3. Use athletics as a way to teach our teens how to react and interact with other people during tense situations. Help your athlete understand that athletic ability varies with body maturity and that effort is just as important as natural ability.

### **Lettering**

Some sports may, at the discretion of the coaches and Athletic Director, offer student-athletes the opportunity to earn a letter in their sport. The criteria for this achievement varies by sport, however in all cases a student's citizenship record will be considered. Students with major or repeat discipline issues, or whose attendance or academic performance is questionable may be disqualified from the opportunity to letter in their sport.

Players should play in at least half of their scheduled games, quarters or have a regular role in the game.

### **Respect**

Athletes will show respect for all coaches, teachers, officials, spectators, school facilities, equipment and opponents at all times.

### **Responsibility of Equipment**

Athletes shall assume responsibility for all athletic equipment issued to them and will be expected to pay for any lost, misplaced, stolen or abused equipment.

Equipment and uniforms given to athletes will be collected by the Athletic Director the day after the last competition in each sport (uniforms must be washed before they are turned over to the director).

All equipment will be kept in the same area in the off season. It should only be used by the coaches and players during the season. All other time of use must be approved by the Athletic Director or Principal.

### **Missed school for athletic contest**

If a team is gone for a game during school hours it will be marked as a school activity for attendance. Students will then have an equivalent amount of time to get in their homework. For example, if the team is out of school one day, they have one extra day to turn in their homework.