Martin Public Schools Middle/High School Athletic Handbook
2019-20

Martin Public School’s Athletic Handbook works in conjunction with the Middle and High School Handbook.

Philosophy of Athletics
Athletics are part of the total educational program of the Martin Public Schools. We realize not everyone can be a team member, but we do realize everyone can benefit from the program. The criterion upon which our program is judged is as follows:
• Interscholastic participation is a privilege, not a right.
• Participation in interscholastic athletics is for those that have physical skills appropriate for the respective sport.
• Success of the program is not solely determined by the won and loss record.
• School and community values should be evident throughout the program.
• The school community is identified by the publicity generated through its athletic program.
• The coaching staff, athletes, student body, and adult followers should never act in a manner that would be detrimental to the name of Martin Public Schools.
• The student’s athletic experience should be fun.

Philosophy of Middle School Athletics
Participation in middle school athletics is an introduction of interscholastic sports to student athletes. Recognizing that a strong middle school athletic program is the foundation of a successful high school program, middle school athletic participation should be encouraged by providing as many students as possible with an opportunity to learn the skill and physical requirements necessary for athletic competition. Playing time is guaranteed to all members of a team during each contest, but not equally.

Philosophy of Freshman Athletics (when applicable)
The Martin athletic program will continue to teach and begins here to instill pride in the Clipper tradition, focusing on teamwork, character building, spirit building, participation, time management, competition, building fundamental motor skills and good sportsmanship. The goal is to provide student athletes with the tools necessary in all areas of life as to build a solid foundation of the high school program. Every attempt will be made to provide playing time to each athlete during each contest, but not equally. Freshman athletics begins to instill a winning attitude.

Philosophy of Junior Varsity Athletics (includes freshman and sophomore athletes)
Building on what is learned at the freshman level, the focus of Martin’s JV program is to prepare and develop athletes for varsity competition. The level of intensity on the
practice field as well as in competition will increase, as should the commitment to the sport by the student athlete. Every effort will be made to provide quality game time during a season to all athletes who demonstrate a strong work ethic and efforts to improve, but playing time does not have to be equal.

Philosophy of Varsity Athletics (Open to all Martin students)
To be chosen to represent Martin as a varsity athlete is a privilege and an honor that is earned through hard work, effort and commitment to a sport. The best athletes within Martin, regardless of class level, can make the varsity team. At this level, no one is guaranteed playing time as the best athletes should be on the field/court/mat/course when the skills and intensity of competition requires the best.

All student athletes should be committed and focused at all practices and events, exhibit the highest skill level, demonstrate good sportsmanship on the field of competition as well as off and be excellent role models of the Clipper tradition. Students who participate are expected to represent the highest ideals of character by exemplifying good conduct and good citizenship on and off the playing field/court/mat/course.

Potential Dangers in Athletic Participation
Parents and student athletes should fully understand and appreciate the risk of serious personal injury associated with participation in the educational sports program provided by Martin Public Schools. Participation in school athletics involves flying objects, swift movement of bodies which many times are airborne, and unavoidable collisions. Athletic activities are hazardous and taking part in such activities is calculate risk-taking on the part of the student athlete and parents. It is also understandable that to many young adults, the potential benefits exceed participation in a stimulating adventure and satisfies the student athlete’s desire for competition, strenuous effort, and creative activity. Reducing injuries to a minimum without subtracting from this adventure is a continuous goal of the coaching and administrative staff.

Squad Selection Procedure
- Philosophy
  - Martin Athletic Department’s desire is to see as many student-athletes as possible participate in the athletic program. Coaches are encouraged to keep as many student-athletes as they can without compromising the integrity of their sport.
- Limitation of Team Membership
  - Coaches of respective sports and the Athletic Directory will determine minimum and maximum team membership limits. When the “Squad Reduction Policy” is used, the coach will keep the Athletic Director informed concerning the method and time of “cuts”.
- Squad Reduction Policy
  - Choosing the members of any athletic team is the sole responsibility of the coaches of the teams involved
  - Prior to try-outs the coach shall provide the following information to all candidates for the team:
    - Extent of try-out period
    - Criteria used to select team
    - Number of members to be selected
    - Practice commitment if they make the team
• Procedure
  ➢ Have completed minimum number of practices
  ➢ Be allowed, when possible, to compete in scrimmage situation
  ➢ Be informed of “cut” and the reason for it
  ➢ Cut list should be posted
  ➢ Consider alternative opportunities for participation in sport
  ➢ Coach should discuss potential issues with Athletic Director
  ➢ Parents may set up a meeting with a coach to discuss why an athlete was cut and what the athlete can work on to improve his/her skills

Playing Out of Level
• Coaches affected by the moved student athlete should meet with parents, and Athletic Director to discuss the following with the outcome being positive for the athlete.
  o How will the move affect the academic work of the athlete?
    ▪ What kind of student is the athlete?
    ▪ What kind of study habits does the athlete have?
    ▪ Are the length and number of practices and games going to affect class work?
    ▪ What kind of help is available for the athlete?
  o How will the move affect the athlete emotionally?
    ▪ What kind of pressure will be put on the athlete?
    ▪ Is the athlete emotionally mature enough to play at this level?
  o How will the move affect the athlete socially?
    ▪ Does the athlete have any friends on the team?
    ▪ How great is the age difference?
  o How will the move affect the athlete physically?
    ▪ Is the athlete physically mature enough to play at this level?
    ▪ Will the chance of injury be increased greatly?
  o How will the amount of playing time affect the athlete?
    ▪ Will the athlete contribute to the team during the game?
    ▪ Will playing time be sufficient to justify the move up or down?

• Parent Contact
  o Discuss the pros and cons of the move.
  o Get input from the parent about the move.

• Re-evaluate
  o Any decision to move an athlete should be re-evaluated periodically during the season. The Athletic Director with consultation from the parents and coach will decide if a change needs to occur.

Objectives of Athletics
An athletic program should have objectives if it is to be meaningful. These objectives should be applicable for all levels. The objectives should be consistent with its philosophy and the educational objectives of Martin Public Schools. The Martin Public Schools Athletic Program is dedicated to the following objectives within means available:
• Provide all athletes with the best teaching and coaching personnel possible.
• Provide all athletes with the best facilities and equipment possible.
• Provide the opportunity for all athletes to participate in the best interscholastic program possible.
• Provide all spectators an opportunity to identify with and support the interscholastic teams of Martin Public Schools.
• Provide all athletes an opportunity to grow physically and emotionally through participation in the athletic program.

The Goals of Athletic Participation
The goal of every athlete is to become a more effective citizen in our democratic society. This can be realized by achieving the goals through athletic participation.

• YOU LEARN TEAMWORK—To work with others in a democratic society a person must develop self-discipline, respect for authority, and the spirit of hard work and sacrifice. You accomplish this by placing the team and its objectives higher than your personal desires.

• YOU LEARN TO BE SUCCESSFUL—Our society is very competitive. You will NOT ALWAYS WIN, but you WILL SUCCEED WHEN YOU CONTINUALLY STRIVE to do so.

• YOU LEARN TO BE A GOOD SPORT—You must learn to humbly accept success. You must also learn to accept defeat knowing that you’ve done your best. You must constantly strive to treat others, as you would have them treat you. Through participation in athletics you must develop positive social traits. Some of these traits worth mentioning are: emotional control, honesty, cooperativeness, and dependability.

• YOU LEARN TO ENJOY ATHLETICS—Athletes are involved in athletics for many reasons, including the enjoyment derived from participating. It is hoped that you will learn to enjoy this period in your life and appreciate your personal rewards.

• YOU MUST LEARN DESIRABLE HEALTH HABITS—To be an active, contributing citizen, it is important to obtain and maintain a high degree of physical fitness through exercise and good health habits. Your participation in athletics should demonstrate to you the importance of good health habits. It is hoped that you will have developed a desire to maintain this level of physical fitness after formal competition has been completed.

Sportsmanship
It is important to both our school and our community that Martin Public Schools athletic teams and spectators (adults as well as students) show sportsmanship always. Please review the following suggestions for future considerations.

• A student spectator represents his/her school the same as the athlete.
• The good name of the school is more valuable than any game won by unfair play.
• Recognize and show appreciation for fine play or good sportsmanship on the part of the opponent.
• Accept decisions of officials without dispute.
• Advocate that any spectator or athlete who continually demonstrates poor sportsmanship be excused from the athletic contest or program.

Conduct of an Athlete
The conduct of an athlete is closely observed in many areas of life. It is important that your behavior be above reproach in the following areas always:
• Students and parents are reminded that the school rules and regulations as set forth in the student handbook are the basis for dealing with all student-related matters. The Athletic Code of Conduct is to be viewed as an addition to the high school handbook and is intended to deal with the behavior and conduct of the student athlete in non-school related settings.
• On the field of competition, your conduct should be beyond reproach at all times.
• In the classroom the good athlete becomes the good student. A person can’t be lazy in the classroom and think he can be an outstanding athlete. If one is lazy in the classroom, then one will be lazy on the practice field.
• The way we act and look on campus is of great importance. Athletes should be leaders and fellow students should respect and follow their example.
• Good grooming and dress are necessary in maintaining pride and respect for your team, yourself, and your school. On “game days”, student-athletes will dress-up in either team apparel or dress-up clothes.
• The use of school equipment is important. We are committed to purchasing the best always. If you destroy or steal equipment, then you are taking from yourself and teammates. Each athlete is financially responsible for all equipment checked out.
• Any athlete removed from a team for disciplinary reasons will not be allowed to try out for another team during the same season. (Example: wrestling to basketball).
• All Martin athletes should refrain from keeping late hours. Keeping late hours can hinder athletic performance and put a drain on mental and physical energy.

Being an athlete carries with it a great responsibility. Not everyone is fortunate enough to have this opportunity in his/her life to participate in athletics. Since you are afforded this opportunity, you will be expected to observe these guidelines while participating in our athletic programs.

General Information
• There may be occasions when you will have a conflict of responsibilities. We suggest the following set of values to aid you in determining your prime responsibilities.
  o Home and church responsibilities
  o Academic responsibilities
  o Athletic responsibilities
  o All other social and school responsibilities
• An athlete may win one (1) varsity letter, Clipper back patch, and set of numerals, in his/her high school career.
  ➢ Freshmen year: Graduation year numerals
  ➢ Sophomore year: “Clipper” back patch
  ➢ Junior year: Varsity letter
  ➢ Senior year: Pin
  o Should an athlete earn more than one letter, he/she will be given a certificate or pin designed for that purpose.
• Athletes who have not turned all equipment in from one sport will not be eligible for any future sports participation, either practice or games, until the equipment has been accounted for or the school district reimbursed.
• To participate in an athletic contest, an athlete must be in school the entire school day. This includes half days of school.

Students who have been suspended from school or placed on in-house suspension for disciplinary reasons (example: skipping school, fighting, smoking, etc.) are not to practice or participate in athletic competition of any kind until they are reinstated in school.

• Unexcused absences from practice from athletic competition shows a lack of responsibility and commitment to the team and will not be tolerated.
  o 1st offense: The athlete will not be allowed to participate in at least the first 25% of the next scheduled competition
  o 2nd offense: The athlete will not be allowed to participate in the next scheduled contest but must practice with the team, attend the contest and sit with the team in street clothes.
  o 3rd offense: The athlete will be removed from the team. This penalty is equivalent to that of the quitting policy. I.E. 25% of the next in-sports season.

• No student may practice or participate on any athletic team without a physical on file in the high school office. When a student voluntarily participates in interscholastic athletics, he/she agrees to abide by the Martin Middle School or Martin High School Athletic Code throughout his/her athletic career. This Athletic Code applies to candidates, members, and managers of all athletic teams.

• A student-athlete may only be failing one class to stay eligible. If a student is failing two classes, he/she will be ineligible for a one-week period (Sunday-Saturday). See Academic Eligibility of Student-Athlete Guidelines

Grades are checked every week at the Middle and High School.
• According to MHSAA guidelines, a student who fails to pass the equivalent of 66% of a full-time student’s potential class load at the end of any semester period may not be eligible for 60 school days.

• When an athlete is injured requiring medical attention, a signed statement from the doctor must be presented to the Athletic Director allowing the athlete to return to participation.

• Athletes may participate in 2 sports per season with permission from parents, coaches and administrators. Athletes must contact the athletic department for forms and more information. Academic performance will be evaluated weekly to determine the athlete’s eligibility.

Academic Eligibility of Student-Athlete Guidelines

• Rosters will be obtained from coaches after the first week of practice and verified by the athletic department.

• Eligibility lists will be established from rosters obtained from coaches by athletic office.

• Eligibility lists will be computerized.

• Computerized eligibility lists will be returned to coaches to confirm all student-athletes are on the eligibility list for their specific team.
• A preliminary eligibility check will be run on Tuesday of each week.
  o Academic eligibility will be checked every week starting the third Friday after
    practice officially begins (in the fall, after the first full week of school)

• A specific team list will be emailed or delivered to respective coaches. Also, parents and
  the student-athlete will be notified that the student-athlete is potentially ineligible.

• Student-athletes who are potentially ineligible will be required to go to a one-hour
  study table or meet with the teacher of the subject(s) in question for one hour after
  school once during that week. Designated days if not meeting with the teacher will be
  announced.

• A final eligibility check will be run on Friday of that same week at 2:00 p.m. and a copy
  of the eligibility list will be emailed or handed to coaches of that season.

• The coach, student-athlete and parents/guardian will be notified on Friday of the
  ineligibility.

• Student-athletes deemed ineligible will not participate in the following week’s (Sunday
  through Saturday) athletic event(s) for his or her sport.

• The ineligible student-athlete will be required to go to a one-hour study table after
  school either/or meet with the teachers of the subjects in question for one hour twice
  that week.

• Student-athletes not meeting the criteria for becoming eligible will not be eligible for
  athletic events the following week.

Criteria for Ineligibility
• A student-athlete will be academically ineligible for one week (Sunday-Saturday) if the
  following occurs:
  o Fail 2 or more classes

• A student-athlete will be required to attend one-hour study sessions if one of the
  following occur:
  o Failing any class
  o 2 or more D’s

• This is a guideline to help student athletes stay eligible. It does not make them eligible.
  The MHSAA rules supersede all eligibility requirements. Parents are encouraged to use
  teacher conferences and the student portal to help be informed of their child’s progress.

Summary of Eligibility for Senior High School and Middle School Students
• Enrollment – Have been enrolled in high school by the fourth (4th) Friday after
  Labor Day (1st semester) or the fourth (4th) Friday of February (2nd semester).
• Age-High School - Be under nineteen (19) years of age at time of
contest unless nineteenth (19th) birthday occurs on or after September 1 of a current school year, in which case student is eligible for balance of that school year in all sports.

8th Grade – To compete on a team limited to 8th graders an 8th grader must be under fifteen (15) years of age at time of contest unless fifteenth (15) birthday occurs on or after September 1 of a current school year, in which case student is eligible for balance of that school year in all sports.

7th Grade - To compete on a team limited to 7th graders an 7th grader must be under fourteen (14) years of age at time of contest unless fourteenth (14) birthday occurs on or after September 1 of a current school year, in which case student is eligible for balance of that school year in all sports.

• **Physical Examination** – Prior to participation in a tryout or practice every student must submit a statement from an MD, DO, Nurse Practitioner or Physician’s Assistant that they are physically able to compete in athletic tryouts, practices and contests and provide consent to information otherwise prohibited by HIPPA and FERPA laws. These statements must be on file in the appropriate school office and must be for the current school year, not necessarily in conjunction with the insurance year. The earliest date that a physical can be dated for use in the coming school year is April 15. This allows the school sports physical to also be used for summer activities.

• **Seasons of Competition** – (High School) Have not more than the equivalent of two (2) first semester, two (2) second semester seasons of competition in a four (4) year high school including present season.

• **Semester of Enrollment** – (High School) Not have been enrolled for more than the equivalent of eight (8) semesters in grades nine to twelve (9-12), inclusive. The equivalent of seven and eight must be consecutive. Three weeks enrollment or participation in one (1) or more athletic contests constitutes a semester of enrollment.

• **Undergraduate Standing** – Not be a high school graduate.

• **Previous Semester Record** – Have passed at least 66% for work taken during the previous semester of enrollment.

  High School - passes a minimum of four (4) classes of five (5) offered.
  Middle School - passes a minimum of five (5) classes of six offered.

• **Current Semester Record** – Be carrying and doing passing work in at 66% of classes during the present Semester up to within seven (7) days of the contest.

  High School - passes a minimum of four (4) classes of 5 offered
  Middle School - passes a minimum of five (5) classes of 6 offered

• **Transfers** – A student enrolled in grades 9-12, who changes schools is not immediately eligible in the new school UNLESS they meet one of 15 exceptions and fall within one or more of 33 interpretations. When a student who does not meet an exception becomes eligible depends on when the student enrolled in the new school. If a student changes school before the 4th Friday after Labor Day, they are eligible on Dr. Martin Luther King Day, if they change schools after that but before the 4th Friday of February they are eligible on August 1 to start fall sports.
• **Awards** – Must not have accepted any award or merchandise exceeding $25.00 in value for athletic performance. Athletes accepting cash merchandise certificates or negotiable certificates are in violation.

• **Amateur Practices** – Not have accepted money, or other valuable considerations in excess of $25.00 from any source for participating in any form of athletics, sports, or games, or for officiating interscholastic athletic contests unless registered as a participant of the LEGACY program sponsored by the M.H.S.A.A., or have signed a professional athletic contract. Reinstatement will not be considered for one (1) year.

• **Limited Team Membership** – Not have participated in any outside competition in a sport during the season after the athlete has represented his or her school in that sport except individual sports meets or contests. Not have participated in a so-called all-star, charity, or exhibition contest during the school year.

• When a student is disqualified during a contest for flagrant or unsportsmanlike conduct, that student shall be withheld by his/her school for at least the next contest (1-day of competition) for that team. Disqualifications (meaning the athlete must be in attendance but cannot participate) for one season carry over to the next season in that sport for undergraduates or the next season in any sport for seniors. (MHSAA regulations)

**SUMMER DEAD PERIOD**

The summer dead period is a period of seven full consecutive calendar days after school is out in June and after a school's participation in MHSAA tournaments is completed. This year the summer Dead Period is **June 30th-July 7th (2019)**. During the dead period, there is no involvement or contact by the school or coach with students in grades 7-12 in any MHSAA tournament sport. It is a zero coach-player period; at school or elsewhere. There are to be no school or coach conducted open gyms, conditioning or weightlifting programs on school premises or sponsored by the school or coach at other facilities. The Representative Council adopted the following to further clarify the intent of the summer dead period: The Summer Dead Period is intended to provide at least seven consecutive days when school coaches will have no contact with students in grades 7-12 of the school district in any manner related to any sport sponsored by that school. Unplanned, casual, normal community contact is permitted. The Summer Dead Period applies to all levels of MHSAA member schools; coaches and students in grades 7-12 except that non-school summer baseball and softball practices and competitions regularly scheduled throughout the summer may continue with school coaches and students from the same district (e.g. American Legion) It is intended that no sport-related involvement, including attendance at school sport-related fundraisers and functions, take place during the Summer Dead Period. It is intended that no sport activities occur on school premises during the Summer Dead Period that involve school coaches or are sponsored by the school or supported by the school. Because school personnel are prohibited from holding such activities, it is intended that no school facilities be planned for use by non-school groups or individuals for athletic purposes (including student-led practices or conditioning) during the Summer Dead Period.

**PRE-SEASON DOWN TIME**

The preseason down time specifies for no open gyms for a period of six to 14 days prior to the start of each season. Mainly, it's designed for from Aug. 1 to the start of fall sports practices, 14 calendar days before winter sports start, and from March 1 until the
beginning of spring sports.

**TRAINING RULES**

Students shall be regarded to be under the rules of the Athletic Code beginning with their first day of participation in interscholastic athletics and continuing through to their date of graduation or the last date of participation whichever is later. This includes vacation breaks, summer recess, and off-season times. The participation is always under the student athletic code from the beginning to the end of their athletic career.

Violating training rules is in affect for a student-athletes’ entire high school career. This becomes effective July 20, 2015.

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**Tobacco/Controlled Substance Policy**

- **Tobacco**
  - Smoking and other tobacco uses are a danger to a student’s health and to the health of others. The school prohibits the sale, distribution, use, or possession of any form of tobacco or electronic cigarettes or similar devices during school time or at any school activity. This prohibition also applies when going to and from school and at school bus stops. Violations of this rule could result in suspension or expulsion. “Use of tobacco” shall mean all uses of tobacco, including cigars, cigarettes, or pipe tobacco, chewing tobacco, snuff, or any other matter or substance that contains tobacco, in addition to papers used to roll cigarettes. The display of unlighted cigars, cigarettes, pipes, other "smoking" paraphernalia or tobacco products on one’s person is also prohibited by this policy.

- **Controlled Substance**
  - Alcohol, intoxicants, drugs, look-a-like drugs, non-alcoholic beer, steroids, inhalants, and the distribution/sale or misuse of drugs prescribed by a physician.

The principal may arrange for a breath test for blood-alcohol to be conducted on a student whenever s/he has individualized reasonable suspicion to believe that a student has consumed an alcoholic beverage.

The student will be taken to a private administrative or instructional area on school property with at least one (1) other member of the teaching or administrative staff present as a witness to the test.

The purpose of the test is to determine whether or not the student has consumed an alcoholic beverage. The amount of consumption is not relevant, except where the student may need medical attention.

If the result indicates a violation of school rules as described in this handbook, the student will be disciplined in accordance with disciplinary procedures described in this handbook. If a student refuses to take the test, s/he will be advised that such denial will be considered an admission of alcohol use with the consequent discipline invoked. The student will then be given a second opportunity to take the test.
A student's use or sale of a performance-enhancing substance is a violation that will affect the student's athletic eligibility and extracurricular participation.

The Department of Community Health periodically distributes to the District the list of banned drugs based on bylaw 31.2.3.1 of the National Collegiate Athletic Association. Use of any drugs or substances appearing on this list will affect the student's athletic and extracurricular participation.

The school has a "Drug Free" zone that extends 1000 feet beyond the school boundaries as well as to any school activity and transportation. This means that any activity, possession, sale, distribution, or use of drugs, alcohol, fake drugs, steroids, inhalants, or look-alike drugs is prohibited. Attempted sale or distribution is also prohibited. If caught, the student could be suspended or expelled, and law enforcement officials may be contacted. Sale also includes the possession or sale of over-the-counter medication to another student.

The sale, distribution, possession, or use of drugs, alcohol, fake drugs, steroids, inhalants, or look-alike drugs that has a negative effect on the school environment is prohibited. Attempted sale or distribution is also prohibited. This includes nonalcoholic beers and wines, and the like. Many drug abuse offenses are also felonies. Sale also includes the possession or sale of over-the-counter medication to another student.

**TRAINING VIOLATION CHART**

- **Tobacco/Controlled Substance**
  - **First Offense** - Violation of training rules are 25% of a season suspension.
  - **Second Offense** - Violation of training rules are 50% of a season suspension
  - **Third Offense** - Loss of eligibility for athletics for the remainder of high school career.

**Training and Disciplinary Violation Procedure**

- School employees such as school board members, administration, teachers, and coaches, who witness an offense, shall have power to inform the athletic director in writing so that disciplinary action in accordance with the established procedure can take place on the violation. Police notification, police reports, and court records may also be utilized.

- All acts of violation of training rules and disciplinary action shall be given to the athletic director in writing and dated by the person witnessing the violation. Violations must be reported to the athletic director within 30 days after the violation occurs and all penalties served within 365 days of the reported date or the penalty is dropped. The athletic director will then have 30 days to act following notification. The order of appeal for disciplinary action will be as follows: athletic director, standing athletic committee.

- Court convictions for violations of the training rules and conduct not becoming an athlete will serve as justification for suspension in accordance with the athletic handbook. The athletic director will have 30 days after publication of the court notice to act.
• The standing athletic committee reserves the right to review the record of any athlete who consistently violates training rules for more drastic and far-reaching disciplinary action. Also, the standing athletic committee has the right to overrule any coaches’ disciplinary decisions, which the standing athletic committee feels is not in keeping with amateur athletics.
• The standing athletic committee has power of suspension for reasons other than above training rules.

• All training rule violations must be served as consecutive athletic contests, which will include any and all post season competition as defined in Regulation 1, Section 12, of the MHSAA Handbook.

Suspension Stipulation
• If a student athlete is academically ineligible during his/her suspension, the disciplinary action does not begin until they are deemed eligible.
• If a student athlete is participating in two (2) sports during one season, the disciplinary action will affect both sports.
• There is only one first/second/third career training offense, whether it is tobacco, alcohol or drugs. There is not one of each.
• Any athlete who has violated training rules must continue to practice with his/her team unless they are suspended in or out of school. Athletes are also to attend all contests as a spectator on the bench (must not be in uniform).
• If the total contest dates for suspension cannot be fulfilled in the current athletic season, the suspensions will carry-over to the next sport in which the athlete participates in.
• The number of contest dates to be missed by an athlete in violation of training rules is calculated by taking the number of contests dates or meets scheduled and multiplying by the percentage factor of the violation. Calculations which end in .4 or below are rounded down, .5 are rounded up.
  o A percentage of the remaining in-sport season will be determined, and the rest of the percentage will carry over to the next in-season sport.

Appeal Process
• An athlete may request reinstatement after being suspended from athletic participation.
  o Request for reinstatement shall be made in writing to the athletic director within five (5) business days of suspension.
  o The athletic director shall solicit comment from the teaching staff, coaching staff, and administration who may comment either favorably or unfavorably regarding reinstatement.
  o The athletic director shall then either reinstate the athlete or decline reinstatement within ten school days of the request for reinstatement.
  o If reinstatement is denied, an appeal may be made by the athlete to the standing athletic committee. The standing athletic committee consists of three school board members.

Quitting Policy
- An athlete that quits a sport or has 3 unexcused absences from athletic competition will miss 25% of the scheduled contests for the next in-season sport.
- The policy goes into effect if the athlete dresses/plays in the first regular season contest or if the team is selected using the “squad reduction” policy.

**ELECTRONIC DEVICES POLICY (Cell Phones, iPad, Tablets, etc.)**

- **Grades 7-12**
  - Cell phones may not be used during the school day from 8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. At all other times, students must stow cell phones and other electronic devices in their lockers. Cell phone use is not a right. It is a privilege and can be lost at any time. If cell phones or other devices are out during school hours, they will be confiscated by school staff. Parents may be requested to pick up the items from the school office. At any school event (field trips, sporting events, etc.), school personnel have the authority to confiscate a device they feel a student is using inappropriately and turn it in to the building principal.

- **Damaged School Electronic Devices**
  - Any student who damages a school purchased electronic device (such as a graphing calculator, Ipad, Chrome Book, etc.) will be responsible for paying one-half or the full cost of replacing the device depending on the circumstances, which will be reviewed by administration. The school will not be liable for personal electronic devices (including cell phones) at school in the event the device is lost, destroyed, or stolen.

**Conduct of Athletes**

- A firm and fair policy of enforcement is necessary to uphold the regulation and standards of the athletic department. All student athletes shall abide by a code of ethics, which will earn them the honor and respect for their participation that competition in the interscholastic program affords. Any conduct that results in dishonor to the student athlete, the team or the school is not acceptable. Acts of unacceptable conduct such as, but not limited to, theft, vandalism, breaking and entering, hazing, cheating, disrespect, immorality, sexual harassment or violation of law tarnish the reputation of everyone associated with the athletic programs. The coach, athletic director and principal are charged with assuring compliance with the Athletic Code of Conduct. Penalties for noncompliance will be fairly and firmly levied and administered by the athletic director and/or principal.

Pursuant to Martin Public School District Board of Education policy #5500, each student is responsible for his or her conduct in school, in school vehicles, and at school related events.

- Students and parents are reminded that the school rules and regulations as set forth in the student handbook are the basis for dealing with all student related matters. The Athletic Code of Conduct is to be viewed as an addition to the Martin Middle/High School handbook and is intended to deal with the behavior and conduct of the student-athlete. Through your participation in athletics, you will be required to abide by the rules and regulations outlined in BOTH the Martin Public Middle/High School Student Handbook as well as the rules and regulations outlined in the Martin High School Athletic Handbook. Thus, you are open to disciplinary action under both said handbooks.

- **Conduct Unbecoming an Athlete (ie. Theft, insubordination, truancy, weapons violation, trouble with the law, fighting, plagiarism, or anything that would negatively represent the individual, team and/or school.)**
Discipline for this violation will rest in the hands of the PRINCIPAL and the ATHLETIC DIRECTOR.

If the athlete wishes to appeal a decision, he/she may appeal to the STANDING ATHLETIC COMMITTEE* within five (5) business days.

These rules are in effect 365 days a year.

Rules of Conduct and Sportsmanship for Athletic and Extra Curricular Events

- Students are encouraged to attend games, cheer, clap and otherwise encourage participants. Support, however, must be exhibited in a sportsmanlike manner. Students who behave in an unsportsmanlike manner may be denied admission to school events for up to a year in addition to any other penalty prescribed by the student conduct code.
- Any fan, including adult-fans, who behaves in an unsportsmanlike manner during athletic or extra-curricular events may be denied admission to school events.
- We have determined some behaviors that are deemed acceptable and unacceptable. This is definitely not an all-inclusive list. Common sense must also prevail in sportsmanlike behavior. Should the green highlighted areas be in the regular student handbook.

- **Acceptable Behavior:**
  - Applause during introduction of players, coaches and officials.
  - Accept all decisions by officials.
  - Cheerleaders lead fans in positive yells in a positive manner.
  - Handshakes between participants and coaches at end of contest, regardless of outcome.
  - Treat competition as a game, not a war.
  - Coaches/players search out opposing participants to recognize outstanding performance.
  - Applause at the end of the contest for performance of all participants.
  - Everyone sharing concern for an injured player, regardless of the team.
  - Encourage surrounding people to display only sportsmanlike conduct.

- **Unacceptable Behavior:**
  - Taunting, trash talk and other intimidating actions.
  - Disrespectful or derogatory yells, chants, songs or gestures.
  - Booing or heckling of official’s decision.
  - Criticizing officials in any way; displays of temper with an official’s call.
  - Yells that antagonize opponents.
  - Refusing to shake hands or give recognition of good performances.
  - Laughing or name-calling to distract an opponent.
  - Use of profanity or displays of anger that draw attention away from the game.
  - Wearing extreme/unalusual clothing or excessive face or body painting, which detracts from the action on the playing surface.

Communication Coaches expect from Parents

- Concerns expressed directly to the coach.
- Notification of any schedule conflicts well in advance.
- Specific concerns regarding a coach’s philosophy and/or expectations.
  - As your children become involved in the Martin Public School’s Athletic program, they will experience some of the most rewarding moments of their lives. It is important to understand that there may also be times when things do not go the way you or your
child wishes. At these times, discussion with the coach is encouraged. There are situations that may require a conference between the coach and the parent. These are to be encouraged. It is important that both parties involved have a clear understanding of the other’s position.

Appropriate concerns to discuss with coaches
- The treatment of your child, mentally and physically.
- Ways to help your child improve.
- Concerns about your child’s behavior.
  - It is very difficult to accept your child’s not playing as much as you may hope. Coaches are professionals. They make judgment decisions based on what they believe to be best for all students involved.
  While there are certain things, which can and should be discussed with your child’s coach, there are also things, which must be left to the discretion of the coach.

Issues not appropriate to discuss with coaches
- Playing time.
- Strategy.
- Play calling.
- Other student-athletes.

If you have a concern to discuss with a coach, the procedure you should follow...
- Please wait 24 hours. Call the coach to set up an appointment.
- If the coach cannot be reached, call the Athletic Director, (269)-672-5554 ext. 1104. They will set up the meeting for you.
- Please DO NOT attempt to confront a coach before or after a contest or practice.
  These can be emotional times for both the parent and the coach. Meetings of this nature do not promote resolution.

Follow-up
- What can a parent do if the meeting with the coach did not provide a satisfactory resolution?
  - Call and set up an appointment with the Athletic Director at 672-5554 ext. 1104 to discuss the situation with Coach and Athletic Director.
  - At this meeting the appropriate next step can be determined.

Athletic Insurance
- Martin Public Schools does not assume financial responsibility for medical, hospital, or ambulance expense incurred because of athletic injuries. Athletics is a voluntary program in which students may participate at their own risk.
  A signed physical permission form indicating your insurance coverage must be returned to the main office before your son/daughter may begin participation. Insurance coverage became mandatory beginning with the 2015-16 school year. If you do not have insurance coverage, insurance may be purchased in the high school main office.

MHSAA Protocol for Concussions
• Officials will have no role in determining a concussion.
• If competition continues while the athlete is withheld for an apparent concussion, that athlete may not be returned to competition that day but is subject to the return to play protocol.
  o The clearance may not be the same date on which the athlete was removed from play.
  o Only an M.D., D.O., Physician’s Assistant or Nurse Practitioner may clear the individual to return to activity.
  o The clearance must be in writing and must be unconditional. It is not enough that the M.D., D.O., Physician’s Assistant or Nurse has approved the student to begin a return-to-play progression. The medical examiner must approve the student’s return to unrestricted activity.
  o Member schools are required to complete and submit the forms designated by the MHSAA to record and track head injury events in all levels of sports.
  o In cases where an assigned MHSAA tournament physician is present, his or her decision to not allow an athlete to return to activity may not be overruled.
• If a concussed student returns to a contest without a written medical examiner’s permission, the contest which the athlete enters has the following consequences:
  o The contest will be forfeited.
  o The program will be put on probation for the remainder of the season and through the following sport season.
  o A second offense will result in a probationary period and not be permitted in the MHSAA tournament in that sport during the original and extended probationary period.

NCAA Initial Eligibility
• Many college athletic programs are regulated by the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA), an organization founded in 1906 that has established rules on eligibility and financial aid. The NCAA has three (3) membership divisions - Division I, Division II, and Division III. Institutions are members of one or another division according to the size and scope of their athletic programs and whether they provide athletic scholarships.
• If you are planning to enroll in college as a freshman and you wish to participate in Division I or Division II athletics, you must be certified by the NCAA Initial-Eligibility Clearinghouse. The clearinghouse was established as a separate organization by the NCAA membership institutions in January 1991. The clearinghouse ensures consistent interpretations of NCAA initial-eligibility requirements for all perspective student-athletes at member institutions. For a list of approved classes please go to www.ncaa.org/eligibility/cbsa/. Please check this list of approved classes your freshmen year so that you can plan accordingly.
• Student Athlete responsibility while in high school
  o During Junior year complete the following:
    ▪ Student Clearinghouse Release form and fee
    ▪ Foreign Student application (see guidance counselor)
    ▪ Official transcript mailed by Martin High School
    ▪ Your ACT or SAT score (see guidance counselor)