

Kettle Moraine

Middle School

Code of Conduct

for

Athletes



The School District of Kettle Moraine does not discriminate on the basis of religion, sex, race, color, national origin, age, ancestry, creed, political affiliation, membership in the National Guard, state defense force or any reserve component of the United States Military or state military forces, pregnancy, marital or parental status, sexual orientation or physical, mental, emotional, or learning disability or handicap or other basis prohibited under state or federal law.

KETTLE MORAINÉ MIDDLE SCHOOL ATHLETIC HANDBOOK

FORWARD

This handbook has been prepared for the benefit of the athletes, the parents, and the coaches in an effort to make athletics a vital district program and an enriching experience for all participants. The athlete, the parents and coaches must have a clear understanding of the athletic program and the training rules in order to develop and sustain a successful program.

STATEMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

Progressive educators have long acknowledged that it is a privilege for an athlete to participate in athletics. It is a privilege for an athlete to represent his or her school in a program of this nature.

Athletics is a completely voluntary program. No student is obligated to take part in any athletic activity. Those who participate must give extra time and extra effort. This is as it should be. In some respects, preparation for participation in athletics differs from intramurals.

Because athletics are voluntary and because those participating represent their school, it is mandatory that to qualify the standards must be the highest. This is particularly true of academic requirements, school citizenship, and sportsmanship. The dignity of the school program is reflected through athletes. Those who take part must conduct themselves in a manner which is above question.

Selection of candidates is necessary. It must not be based upon athletic performance alone but also upon attitude, conduct, cooperation, and an earnest and sincere desire to represent their school in a manner which compliments the school and the community. Athletes have an obligation to themselves, their school, their teammates, and their community. Those who take part have greater responsibilities as school citizens than those who are not privileged to do so.

As a result, there are special standards for those who represent schools as members of athletic teams. It is not too much to expect an athlete to be a good school citizen. The athletes have the privilege of participating in a well-organized program which is of special interest to them and for which the school provides coaching, equipment and facilities. The athletes who believe that being good citizens is too great a sacrifice should be denied the privilege of taking part. It is much better, if the athletes find it impossible to maintain high standards, that they choose not to participate.

Because it is a privilege to represent a school in athletics, it follows logically that the school must have the authority to revoke the privilege when athletes do not conduct themselves in an acceptable manner. Not only does this responsibility exist while the athlete is on the field, the court, or the track, but the good conduct shall be required of them at other times and most certainly while at school. As a member of the school team, the athletes bring attention to themselves and to the school.

The need for the high standards of conduct is strongly defended. Any lowering for a "successful" season is deplored. When the doors of competition are opened to those who have bad habits and to those who are not good citizens, the program suffers. The privilege of

representing the schools should be extended to those who have given evidence they are good school citizens.

Those who lower standards to win contests, or for any other reason, all too quickly learn that it is self-defeating. Any resulting successes are temporary and they are empty indeed. All too soon the schools which lower their standards learn they have paid too great a price for any measure of athletic success.

Participation A Privilege, by Clifford B. Fagan, Executive Secretary, National Federation of State High School Athletic Associations (Retired).

The athletic program in Kettle Moraine is an integral part of the educational curriculum. It provides opportunities for learning experiences inherent in athletics which are difficult to duplicate in other school activities. It should teach attitudes of responsible team play and cooperation. It provides a vehicle for learning mental and physical self-discipline, loyalty, personal pride, pride in the school, respect for the rights of others, and the will to win. It proves that hard work and dedication produce results. A good program can unite athletes and the community.

Participation in the athletic programs of the Kettle Moraine School District is entirely voluntary. The opportunity to participate in the athletic programs is extended to all athletes who are willing to assume the responsibilities outlined in the athletic handbook.

This philosophy represents a point of view which the administration and the athletic department of the district support. It has been included in the handbook because it summarizes the attitude toward athletics which those who are responsible for athletics in this community strive to achieve.

OBJECTIVES

1. Winning and participation are desirable at all levels of athletics. Defining winning as "maximizing of effort" and participation as "maximizing of an athlete's involvement," however, indicates that giving both objectives equal importance at all levels may not serve either well.
2. At the secondary level, athletic programs should emphasize participation, and continue to teach physical conditioning and knowledge of fundamentals. Competition and winning attitudes are an integral part of their training, but participation is to be the emphasis at these levels.
3. Coaching is an essential component of all levels of the athletic program. Because the emphasis of the various levels differ, coaches should be recruited and evaluated based on the goals and objectives.

**INTERSCHOLASTIC SPORTS OFFERED AT
KETTLE MORAINÉ MIDDLE SCHOOL**

BOYS	GIRLS
<p>WINTER SEASON Basketball 7th Grade, 8th Grade Wrestling..... 6th Grade, 7th Grade, 8th Grade</p> <p>SPRING SEASON Track 7th Grade, 8th Grade Volleyball 7th Grade, 8th Grade</p>	<p>FALL SEASON Basketball..... 7th Grade, 8th Grade</p> <p>SPRING SEASON Track..... 7th Grade, 8th Grade Volleyball..... 7th Grade, 8th Grade</p>

SECTION I. ATHLETIC CODE (For Middle School Students):

A district shall have a code of conduct for its athletes, and it is strongly recommended that the code (a) be developed with the involvement of athletes, coaches and administration and adopted by the board of education, and (b) designate the period of time involved in a suspension in advance of the school year.

1. An athlete is required to follow the district's code of conduct on a year-round (12 month) basis.
2. Violations of the district's code shall result in suspension of the athlete from competition for no less than one contest for acts (a) involving use of alcohol, (b) use, including chewing, of tobacco and (c) use, possession, buying or selling of controlled substances and/or (d) other behaviors unbecoming an athlete as outlined herein or determined by the athletic director.
3. During the season, if an athlete commits a violation of school rules resulting in suspension from school (either in-school or out), the athlete must be withheld from the contest. The athlete will not be permitted to practice during the suspension.

SECTION II. Basic Requirements in the Kettle Moraine School District

The board of education has established the following policies which shall be uniformly maintained and enforced by all participants in athletics within the Kettle Moraine School District. KMMS students participating in athletics must abide by the following specific Rules of Eligibility.

1. **ELIGIBILITY:** The student must meet all of the enrollment and attendance requirements established by KMMS.
2. **FORMS AND RELEASES**
 - A. **WISCONSIN INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION ATHLETIC PERMIT CARD PERMIT CARD:** All middle school athletes participating in sports shall file a physical examination and permit card properly signed by the parent/guardian and physician before taking part in tryouts or practices for the sport.
 1. The actual physical examination is required every two years unless the athlete has had a significant operation, serious illness or injury. In such cases a more frequent

exam will be required. An examination done after April 1 is good for the following two school years. An examination done before April 1 is good for the remainder of that school year and the following school year.

- a. First year or examination year, both the physician and the parent must sign **(GREEN CARD)**.
- b. Second year or alternate year, only the parent must sign **(BUFF CARD)**.

2. An annual dental examination is recommended but not required.

- B. CONCUSSION POLICY CONSENT FORM:** This form must be completed by the athlete and a parent and is kept on file at the Community Education office. Typically, it is handed in at registration, but it may also be collected at the middle school prior to participation. Only one form is required, no matter how many sports the student participates in, and the form is valid for one year.
 - C. ATHLETIC CODE/INSURANCE COVERAGE FORM:** This is a dual form that covers an insurance waiver --*the school district does not furnish insurance coverage*—and a code of conduct agreement. This form must be completed for each sport and turned in to the coach.
 - D. KMMS ATHLETIC HEALTH FORM:** One must be filled out for each sport and given to the coach.
 - E. KMMS ATHLETIC INFORMATION CARD:** One must be filled out for each sport and given to the coach.
 - F. INDEPENDENT TRAVEL CONSENT AND RELEASE** (this is an *optional* form) If parents wish to allow alternate transportation, this form must be completed and turned in to the coach.
3. **PARTICIPATION FEE:** A participation fee of \$80.00 will be charged to all middle school athletes who choose to participate in athletics. Payment must be made to the coach or the middle school's administrative office prior to the athlete being allowed to actively participate.
- A.** A coach or advisor is required to submit a roster of participants to the office as soon as it can be completed. Any athlete who does not pay the fee will be ineligible to take part in any practice or event until the fee is paid.
 - B.** No refunds shall be granted except where cuts are made or injury or extended illness occurs which prevents continued participation. In case of a cut, the fee would be refunded in full. In the case of injury or illness, 50% would be refunded provided the injury or illness occurred during the first half of the season. No refunds would be given thereafter. No refunds will be given for suspension resulting from attendance, academic, or training regulations.
 - C.** No athlete shall be denied an opportunity to participate because of the inability to pay the fee. Determination will be at the discretion of the principal.

4. MULTIPLE PARTICIPATION

- A. An athlete may compete in only one sport in any given season. No athlete who is dropped from one squad for disciplinary reasons, or who quits, shall be eligible to compete in another sport during that season. Any athlete who is "cut" from a squad may try out for another sport during that season.
- B. An athlete may participate in both athletics and other co-curricular activities at the same time, provided there is agreement with both of the affected coaches and/or advisors.

5. **ATTENDANCE:** An athlete has an obligation to be at school and in all classes. The athlete who has any unexcused absences the day of a contest is ineligible for participation that day. The athlete must be in school for one-half of the day of classes and have an excused absence for the remainder of the day, or be granted an excused absence by the administration, in order to participate in after-school practices or contests. An athlete who is ill on Friday and is absent the whole day shall be withheld from competition on Saturday unless the athlete brings a written statement from his/her parent(s) giving their permission for the athlete to compete, and the coach feels in his/her best judgment that the athlete is well enough to compete.

All athletes are expected to be in school the day following a contest unless injured, excused for medical appointment, or granted an excused absence by the administration.

Interpretation: One-half day means the athlete must be in attendance 1st thru 4th or 5th thru 8th period.

6. **TRAVEL REGULATIONS/TRANSPORTATION:** Transportation is provided by Kettle Moraine School District to athletic events. Parents are responsible for transportation home except for long trips (Burlington, Beaver Dam, etc). Students will be informed of any trips offering transportation both ways.

The parent may make prior arrangements with the middle school administration through a Travel Release form in advance of the trip. Details of these arrangements will be forwarded to the coach, and the athlete may be released to the designated adult.

7. **EQUIPMENT:** One of the values of athletics is to teach responsibility, and this should apply to the care of athletic equipment as well as other school property. Equipment is a very costly item in the athletic budget. The Kettle Moraine School District prides itself in furnishing good quality, safe athletic equipment. It is expected that athletes will take excellent care of their equipment.
- A. The athlete has the responsibility for the care and keeping of all athletic equipment issued by the school and for the return of same. It is also understood that this equipment is worn for practice or games only and nowhere else unless specifically requested to do so. If the equipment is lost, the athlete shall reimburse the school at the replacement cost for the lost equipment.

8. ATHLETIC INJURIES

- A. Any athlete who is injured during an athletic practice or contest should report the injury to the coach at once. Minor emergency treatment will be handled by the coach.

- B. In the event of any serious injury, the nearest emergency medical service will be obtained, and parents will be notified.
 - C. Should an injury be discovered after the athlete has returned home, the coach should be contacted at once.
- 9. COACHES' EXPECTATIONS:** Each head coach or advisor of athletics and activities shall develop expectations for the athletes participating in their sport or activity. These expectations shall pertain to areas not specifically referred to in this handbook.
- A. These expectations shall be in written form, spell out penalties and shall be discussed with the athletes.
 - 1. These expectations shall be reviewed with and approved by the middle school athletic director prior to the start of the season.
 - 2. Violation of these expectations will be handled by the head coach or advisor with the decisions being forwarded to the middle school athletic director.
 - 3. Penalties established by the coach or advisor may not exceed penalties established in this handbook.
 - B. The following items are specific topics which each head coach or advisor shall include in their expectations. Other areas may be added at the discretion of the coach or advisor:
 - 1. The athlete is expected to exhibit good citizenship and responsible behavior in and out of school and during athletic practices and competitions.
 - 2. The use of profane, abusive, or discriminating language or pattern of behavior which is used to taunt or demean another individual, and the use of inappropriate gestures, is unacceptable and will not be tolerated.
 - 3. Tardiness to practice or a contest, or the absence from a practice or contest, either with approval or non-approval, interferes with the development of the team. Consequences are specified by the coach.
 - 4. The proper appearance and grooming, and the proper dress or attire for travel, is expected.
 - C. Prior to the imposition of any penalty, the athlete shall have the opportunity to present his/her position to the coach.
- 10. REMOVAL FROM A TEAM:** Removal from a team will be made by the principal or his/her designee. The principal or his/her designee will confer with the athlete before any removal action is taken. Causes for removal from a team may include, but not be limited to, the following:
- A. Use or possession of alcohol or tobacco or use, possession, buying or selling of illegal controlled substances.

- B. Continued violations of the KMMS Student Handbook which is given to each student.
 - C. Repeated violations of school athletic or team policies.
11. **QUITTING A TEAM:** The normal rules for athletes quitting a team is that they make themselves ineligible for any sport during that season which has already begun. An athlete who goes out for a sport, but is "cut" would be eligible to try out for and participate in another sport during that season.
12. **AWARDS, ETC.:** Awards will be given as specified by the coaches. All participants are expected at these programs, just the same as they would be expected at a practice or team meeting.

SECTION III. Code of Conduct

We recognize that young athletes are frequently influenced by the behavior of adults. There is a wide gap between standards of professional and amateur athletics and between college and middle or high school athletics. Middle school athletes should recognize this difference and not accept standards known to exist outside of middle school.

Respect, courtesy, honesty, and good sportsmanship are basic to good citizenship and should form the basis for all behavior. Since athletes represent the school, their behavior and appearance frequently determine the opinion others have of the school and the individuals within the school.

Training rules are a matter of self-discipline. The best performance the individual is capable of producing comes only after the body and the mind have been conditioned through a regular training routine. Smoking, drinking of alcoholic beverages, or consumption of illegal drugs are prohibited for any middle school athlete.

One of the primary purposes of education is to provide each individual with a good background of health and physical fitness. Athletics should be considered as an integral part of the health and physical fitness objectives.

Further, athletics is an achievement of physical skills and a desire to participate in competitive activities. All such participation should be conducted in a manner which makes the activity beneficial to an athlete's development.

To be beneficial, athletics should develop motor skills, aid physical development and health, and afford profitable use of leisure time. It should also provide an interest around which one may talk, plan, and work, and should be a learning experience for teaching courage, leadership, loyalty, sportsmanship, cooperation, and discipline.

In order to maintain the highest level of training in all sports, athletes are encouraged to assist their teammates to abide by training rules. Any athlete who is aware that a team member is about to violate training should remind the athlete of the seriousness of his/her action in an attempt to dissuade them from further error.

Proper food and regular sleeping habits are important for growing young people. Eight to nine hours of sleep are recommended by medical authorities for middle school athletes.

The following are established policies of the athletic program. Deviation from these standards will mean suspension from part or all of the program. Unless otherwise described, the term "violation" in this code means a confirmed or admitted violation. In an attempt to encourage individuals to be accountable for their behavior and to seek help early if a violation occurs, all participants have a one-time option to refer themselves to the middle school athletic director before a discipline report is made. By doing so, the athlete may have the penalty reduced.

A. PERSONAL CONDUCT RULES: The following actions and behavior are unacceptable for middle school athletes:

1. Commits any acts of willful, persistent, disruptive behavior, or any act which violates or is subject to penalty under Wisconsin State Statutes, Kettle Moraine School District Policies, or any local ordinances.
2. Commits or participates in acts of vandalism at a district school, a school function, or at schools with whom we compete.
3. Commits or participates in acts of theft involving the property of the school district or schools with whom we compete.

B. PENALTY: The principal or his/her designee reserves the right to impose a penalty as deemed appropriate by the severity of the infraction(s).

C. TRAINING RULES (For Middle School Athletes)

Any athlete found to be possessing, attempting to possess, using, manufacturing, distributing, dispensing or being under the influence of illegal drugs, abusive use of inhalants, legal drugs, other controlled substances, look-alike drugs, drug paraphernalia, alcohol, and/or tobacco products shall be suspended from participation in athletics. This rule is to be in effect and enforced for twelve months of the year. These expectations begin when an athlete participates in any activity for the first time, and remains continuously in effect until the athlete graduates or completes competition of the sports season in the school in which they are enrolled.

Athletes are strongly encouraged to leave any situation where alcohol and/or other drugs are available or served to underage persons unless accompanied by their own parent or legal guardian.

D. DISCIPLINARY ACTION: Violations of the school rules, academic expectations or training rules may be presented to the middle school administration by a parent, coach, teacher, administrator, law enforcement officer, or other responsible member of the community observing an infraction of the code. The alleged violation must be in writing, must state the violation and essential supporting details, and must be signed. The written violation report is forwarded to the principal for possible disciplinary action. In order to be valid, this report must be filed with the principal or his/her designee no later than thirty (30) calendar days after the violation.

E. CONSEQUENCES: Infractions may be consequenced with any of the actions listed in the Student Handbook. Additional consequences may be imposed with consultation of the coach and an administrator including limiting participation in athletic contests.

SECTION IV. Spectator Sportsmanship

The audience is an important part of the athletic program. Support from the audience can be a source of significant encouragement for the athletes. It is critical that Kettle Moraine fans exhibit high standards of sportsmanship and citizenship. Negative behaviors which are derisive or disrespectful to referees, athletes, fans, students, parents or school staff are inappropriate. Those who engage in such behaviors or who are in violation of school policies or local ordinances will be subject to removal from the athletic event and subject to referral to appropriate authorities.

Positive support from fans demonstrates enthusiasm for athletics and school spirit.

We are all representatives of the Kettle Moraine School District. We need to represent ourselves and the school in superior ways, as individuals and groups, with much enthusiasm and great character.

The Kettle Moraine School District believes that good sportsmanship is essential to a successful extracurricular program. The elements of fairness, courteous behavior, and gracious acceptance, in both individual performance and team contests, must be incorporated into this program.

With these objectives in mind, the Kettle Moraine School District strongly supports the following fundamentals of sportsmanship:

- A. Respect is to be shown opponents at all times. The opponent should be treated as a guest, greeted cordially on arriving, given the best accommodations, and accorded the tolerance, honesty, and generosity which all human beings deserve.
- B. Officials are to be accorded respect at all times. Officials should be recognized as impartial decision makers who are trained to do their job and who can be expected to do so to the best of their ability. Good sportsmanship implies the willingness to accept and abide by the decisions of the officials.
- C. The rules of the contest are to be known, understood, and appreciated. A familiarity with the current rules of the game and the recognition of their necessity for a fair contest is essential. Good sportsmanship suggests the importance of conforming to the spirit as well as the letter of the rules.
- D. Self-control must always be maintained. A prerequisite of good sportsmanship requires one to understand his/her own bias or prejudice and the ability to prevent the desire to win from overcoming rational behavior. A proper perspective must be maintained if the potential educational values of athletic competition are to be realized. Good sportsmanship is concerned with the behavior of all involved in the game.
 1. All spectators shall behave in a manner which respects others, regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, place of origin, nationality, physical or mental disability.
 2. All spectators are to refrain from using tobacco on school property.
 3. Spectator language should be such that it will reflect favorably on the school and the students.

4. Spectators under the influence of alcohol or drugs will be removed with parent and/or police notification.
 5. Common courtesy shall be shown to all visiting spectators and their cheers.
 6. Spectators shall respect all decisions of contest officials.
- E. Skill in performance, regardless of affiliation, is to be recognized and appreciated. Applause for an opponent's good performance is a demonstration of generosity and good will that should not be looked upon as treason. The ability to recognize quality in performance and the willingness to acknowledge it without regard to team membership is one of the most highly commendable gestures of good sportsmanship.