

Athletic Philosophy

Interscholastic athletics play an important role in the educational program of our student-athletes at Morris Central School and we encourage their success in the classroom as well as on the field. In addition, we strive to teach the concepts of hard work, dedication and commitment. Participation in athletics at the high school level has been shown to help students develop both basic and life skills, learn morals and values, develop self-discipline and self esteem and practice positive sportsmanship, thus improving their academic performance and preparation for life's challenges.

Objectives of the Interscholastic Sports Program**Modified (Grades 7, 8, & 9)**

This program of competitive sports focuses on the fundamentals of the game, team play, understanding of rules, importance of physical and mental training and skill development. At this introductory level a large emphasis is placed on academics, sportsmanship, chemical-free lifestyle, and physical and emotional growth. A smaller emphasis is placed on winning and a larger emphasis is placed on participation, not necessarily on an equal basis.

Junior Varsity (JV)

This program places an increased emphasis on team play, physical conditioning, refinement of basic skills, and understanding how the individual fits in a team role. Winning at the junior varsity level is considered important, however, learning to cope with game situations and how to accept winning and losing with respect are also important. Maximum participation is important; however, not all participants may play equally in each contest.

Varsity (V)

The Varsity level of athletic competition is the pinnacle of the high school athletic program. At this level there is a strong emphasis placed on winning but not on winning at all costs. There continues to be a strong emphasis on academics, sportsmanship, and a chemical-free lifestyle. Team play, physical ability, motivation, mental attitude, and understanding your role are important aspects of competition at this level. Varsity contestants are expected to accept the fact that important lessons are to be learned from winning and losing. It is understood that all participants may not play in every contest.

Interscholastic Sports Offered at Morris Central School**Fall**

Boys and Girls
Soccer: V, M
Cross Country: V, M

Winter

Boys and Girls
Basketball: V, JV, M
Cheerleading

Spring

Boys and Girls
Track & Field: V, M
Boys Baseball: V, M
Girls Softball: V, M



League and Section Affiliation

Morris Central School participates in Section IV and is a member of The Tri-Valley League Athletic Association. The Tri-Valley League consists of eleven teams:

Edmeston Panthers	Cherry Valley/Springfield Patriots
Franklin Purple Devils	Milford Wildcats
GMU Raiders	Richfield Springs Indians
Laurens Leopards	Schenevus Dragons
Morris Mustangs	Worcester Wolverines
Sharon Springs Spartans	

Expectations of Student Athletes

- ❖ Be a good student, be respectful of teachers, staff and classmates
- ❖ Updated health physical on file cleared by school physician or private physician
- ❖ Complete health history questionnaire prior to start of each sport season
- ❖ Attend all practices
- ❖ Follow all school rules and athletic training rules
- ❖ Communicate practice and game schedules with parents
- ❖ Display Sportsmanship towards opponents, officials, spectators and coaches
- ❖ Report all injuries to your coaches immediately
- ❖ Listen to your coaches
- ❖ Be a team player
- ❖ Have fun and represent Morris Central School with pride

Athletic Code of Conduct

Participation in interscholastic athletics is considered a privilege rather than a right. If that student accepts the privilege of being a member of Morris Central School athletic team, he/she must adhere to the rules and regulations outlined in the Code of Conduct, and demonstrate the type of behavior and responsibility related to this privilege. **This Code of Conduct is valid for one school year.**

Team Rules

All team rules and regulations relating to practices, individual conditioning, curfew hours, proper nutrition and game conduct are set forth by the coach of each sport, clearly establishing expectations for that sport.



Practice Attendance

Attendance at practice is essential to develop the greatest degree of skill and teamwork. Student-athletes are expected to attend practices, scrimmages, and games. All requests to be excused from practice sessions must be submitted to the coach 24 hours before the practice for which the request is made.

School Attendance

In order for a student-athlete to attend or participate in a practice or game, it is necessary for the student to attend classes for the full school day on the day of the activity.

- ❖ Student-athletes absent from school may not participate or play the day such absence occurs.
- ❖ Student-athletes who miss any class periods on the day of the activity may participate in that day's activity if a doctor's note is presented to the attendance officer that same day.
- ❖ If a student-athlete is absent from school on a Friday, the student-athlete will not participate in practices or games on Saturday unless the athlete's coach is presented with a doctor's note for Friday's absence at the beginning of the practice or game.
- ❖ Exceptions are only to be made by the Principal or Athletic Director.

Academic Eligibility

We expect all student-athletes to work hard in the classroom and to be respectful of their teachers. Every 5 weeks a student's academic progress is communicated to parents by an interim or report card.

1. Student-athletes failing 2 courses will be placed on the Academic Probation List (composed every 5 weeks).
 - a. The student-athlete must meet with the teacher of the courses they are failing to develop an Academic Improvement Plan. The student-athlete is ineligible to participate in practices and games until they have completed the Academic Improvement form with their teachers and shown it to their coach or athletic director.
 - b. The student-athlete will then be able to continue to participate in practices and games for a 2 week probationary period. If the student meets the goals and objectives in the plan and the teacher signs off on the form then their name will be withdrawn from the academic probation list. If the student fails to complete the plan and attain a teacher signature within the 2 week probationary period, then the athlete will be ineligible to participate athletically. The student-athlete will regain eligibility when the teacher (s) has signed off on their academic improvement plan.
2. Student-athletes failing 3 or more courses will be ineligible to participate in athletics. The student will regain eligibility when 2 teachers have signed off on their academic improvement plan.



Alcohol and Drug Use

It is clearly understood that the use of tobacco/vaping products, the consumption of alcoholic beverages and the use of illegal drugs is dangerous to the health and general maturation of the adolescent and impacts negatively on a student-athlete's ability to perform. Therefore, athletes are not to possess, be in the presence of, or use alcohol, tobacco/vaping products, illegal drugs, or misuse of prescription or nonprescription drugs/inhalants on or off school grounds.

First Offense

- ❖ The student- athlete will be suspended for 5 games.
- ❖ The student-athlete will attend practices and athletic contests but may not dress or participate in any contests.
- ❖ The student-athlete may be required to participate in and complete a school provided counseling program.
- ❖ If the student-athlete is a team captain, the captain shall lose that privilege for the remainder of the season.
- ❖ At the end of the season, any student-athlete who is completing a disciplinary action as a result of violation of any rules shall be sanctioned the remaining penalty(ies) in the next subsequent sport played. The Athletic Director shall determine the remaining contest(s) to be missed.

Second Offense

- ❖ The student-athlete will be suspended for 1 year from interscholastic athletics.
- ❖ The student-athlete will forfeit any awards they may receive for that season.
- ❖ The student-athlete may be required to participate in a Otsego County counseling program before being reinstated.

School Suspensions**In-School Suspension/Detention**

1st I.S.S./Det. - The student-athlete will not start in the next athletic contest and may not enter the contest until a minimum of:

- ❖ Varsity Soccer – 20 minutes into the game
- ❖ Modified Soccer – 15 minutes into the game
- ❖ Basketball – 2nd Quarter
- ❖ Baseball/Softball – 3rd Inning
- ❖ Track and Field – May not participate in 1 event

2nd I.S.S./Det. - The student-athlete will not participate in the next athletic contest.

3rd I.S.S./Det. - The student-athlete will be dismissed from the athletic team.

Out of School Suspension

1st O.S.S. - The student-athlete will not participate in at least the next athletic contest (TBD by Athletic Director).

2nd O.S.S. - The student-athlete will be dismissed from the athletic team.

3rd O.S.S. - The student-athlete will be ineligible to compete on ANY athletic team for the remainder of the year.



Images and/or Written Information in the Public Domain

Any information that appears in public such as: Internet or printed material (including but not limited to Facebook, Snapchat and/or other social media platforms etc.) that brings embarrassment, unfavorable views to the student-athlete, team, coaches, family, school or community or violates the Alcohol and Drug policy is subject to penalty by the Principal and/or Athletic Director.

Transferring/Quitting Team

A student-athlete who requests a transfer to another team may be permitted to join another team with the permission of the Athletic Director after consultation with the coaches involved.

- ❖ A student-athlete who quits a team will not be permitted to join another team during that same season and if they have made a commitment to more than 50% of a season they will not be eligible to play the next sport's season (excludes Modified sports). A committee comprised of the Athletic Director, and two coaches will determine if the student-athlete is ineligible for the next sports season. A season commences when the student-athlete attends his/her first practice session.

Equipment and Property

All student-athletes are held personally and financially responsible for the equipment issued to them. If school equipment is lost, returned in poor condition (given consideration for normal wear and use), or not paid for, the student-athlete will forfeit any honors/awards for that sport and will be ineligible to participate on an athletic team until the equipment is returned or paid for.

24 Hour Rule

If a concern or complaint regarding a coach arises out of a particular game situation or specific incident, a "24 hour cooling off period" will be required before any meeting will be held. This requirement will help ensure that the meeting be more productive and help avoid emotional responses that might otherwise occur if such a meeting were held immediately after the game or incident in question. A parent should simply inform the coach that he/she wishes to set up a meeting, and no further discussion should take place at that time between the coach and the parent. Once the parent and coach meet the concern or complaint should be resolved, if it has not the athletic director will be asked to facilitate another meeting.

The coach is to immediately notify the Athletic Director of the request. The Athletic Director is to arrange a time and place convenient to both parties. The coach and Athletic Director will attend the meeting with the parent and the student-athlete.

Hazing/Harassment

Morris Central School District Board of Education, administration and staff are committed to providing educational, extra-curricular and athletic programs free from harassment, bullying, and/or hazing for all students and staff members. Subjecting someone to acts that are humiliating, indecent, painful or unsafe will not be tolerated. Student-athletes who engage in any of the above mentioned behaviors will be subjected to disciplinary procedures as outlined in the Student Code of Conduct.



Transportation

Parents/guardians may take their son(s)/daughter(s) home after away contests or scrimmages. The coach/advisor of that team will make available a permission form that needs to be signed by the parent. A student-athlete seeking permission to travel with anyone other than his/her parent/guardian prior to the day of the contest/scrimmage must have written permission from their parent/guardian and have approval from the coach and Athletic Director.

Due Process

Prior to imposition of any penalty under the Code, the Athletic Director will notify the athlete of the nature of the infraction and the student will be given an opportunity to explain his or her side of the story.

Appeal Procedure

The student and/or parent/guardian have the right to appeal penalties imposed under the Code to the Principal and Athletic Director. Appeals must be made in writing within **3** school days of assignment of a penalty for a code violation. A response to the appeal will be provided within three school days after receipt of the letter by the Principal and Athletic Director.



Student Athlete and Parent:

Participation on a Morris athletic team is a privilege which should elicit great pride in both the student-athlete and his/her family. It is also a responsibility which requires an extra commitment, both academic and otherwise, by those who wear our school colors and represent their teammates, coaches, school, family and community. Standards of behavior are necessarily high and a willingness to live up to them is a condition for participation. Consistent with these standards, and as a continuing condition of eligibility, student athletes are required to meet prescribed academic standards and sign this letter of commitment. **This commitment is valid for the academic school year.**

The student-athlete's signature, along with that of his/her parent/guardian, indicates they both recognize and understand this responsibility and there is a possibility that athletes may suffer severe injury including permanent paralysis or death as a result of participating in athletic activities.

Sincerely,

Michael Iannelli
Athletic Director

Your signature indicates that you have read and understand the Morris Athletic Code of Conduct.

Print Name of Parent

Date

Signature of Parent

Date

Your signature indicates that you have read, understand, and agree to abide by the intent and the conditions of the Morris Athletic Code of Conduct.

Print Name of Athlete

Date

Signature of Athlete

Date

