



# Student-Athlete Code of Conduct

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  - (Declaration must be signed & returned to coach)

## **Code Of Conduct**

1. Responsibilities and Expectations of a Maple Hill Student-Athlete:
  - a. Maintain passing grades in all coursework throughout their interscholastic athletic career.
  - b. Abstain from the use of alcohol, tobacco, electronic nicotine delivery systems (vaping/juuling), performance-enhancing, and all other drugs.
  - c. Be a responsible member of the Schodack community (community service).
  - d. Act with respect for yourself, your team, and your school at all times.
  - e. Responsible use of Social Media and online platforms or communication systems, including but not limited to Instagram, Snapchat, Twitter, direct messaging, texting, group chats, and phone calls.
  
2. Conduct of a Maple Hill Student-Athlete:
  - a. Unsatisfactory citizenship on the part of a student-athlete (in or out of season) could result in the student-athlete being dismissed from a team or being deemed ineligible for participation in all interscholastic athletic competition. A student-athlete's conduct is to be guided by the following principles:
    - i. Have respect for the rights and feelings of others.
    - ii. Behave in a manner that reflects positively on yourself, your family, your team, your school, and your community.
    - iii. Behave in a sportsmanlike manner.
  - b. On the field/court
    - i. Student-athletes may not use profanity or tactics deemed as unsportsmanlike conduct by a coach or official.
    - ii. Game officials will always be treated with respect and a sense of understanding.
    - iii. The coaching staff must be treated with respect at all times.
    - iv. Teammates must be treated with respect at all times.
    - v. Try your hardest at all times in practice or in competition.
  - c. Off the field/court
    - i. Student-athletes are expected to conduct themselves at all times in a manner that will reflect positively on their team, our school, and themselves. Any inappropriate behavior (including accusation, involvement with police, and/or arrests) will result in a disciplinary review by the school administration and be subject to suspension or dismissal from the team.
    - ii. Hazing or bullying of teammates will not be tolerated.

3. Attendance:

- a. A student-athlete shall be in attendance within the first 30 minutes of the beginning of the school day in order to practice or participate in an athletic contest.
  - i. Students who have a written legal excuse are exempt from this policy. (Examples: doctors/physicians visits, sickness/death in the family, educational visits, religious observance, or any others listed in the student handbook).
- b. Habitual absences and/or tardiness will affect eligibility as determined by the coach and/or Athletic Director.
- c. Athletes must be present on the day of practice or competition or have a legal excuse, to participate or compete.
- d. Athletes who are illegally absent from or do not participate in physical education classes will not be permitted to attend practices or games on the day of absence or refusal/inability to participate in the Physical Education class.

4. Suspensions:

- a. The following are cause for a student-athlete to be suspended/removed from a team:
  - i. A student-athlete suspended from school will also be suspended from athletics for the duration of the school suspension.
  - ii. Harassment, bullying, profanity, intimidation, taunting, or other acts of misconduct, written, verbal, or electronic communication directed towards anyone.

5. Sportsmanship Guide and Maple Hill Disqualification Policy:

- a. The Maple Hill Interscholastic Athletic program is committed to promoting the proper ideals of sportsmanship, ethical conduct, and fair play at all sports activities.
  - i. Sportsmanship is good citizenship in action.
  - ii. Conduct, which is detrimental to the educational value of athletic activities, could result in appropriate disciplinary action by the school including suspension for the remainder of a game, future games and/or practices, or the remainder of the season at the discretion of the athletic director and coaching staff.
- b. The National Federation of High School Athletics, the New York State Public High School Athletic Association, Section 2, and the Patroon Conference have targeted the area of sportsmanship for a major emphasis. Section II and the Schodack Central School District have instituted the following policy to ensure the

development of and the understanding of the importance of proper sportsmanship and fair play.

- i. Any Maple Hill student-athlete, coach, or spectator who is ejected/disqualified from a contest will be automatically suspended for a minimum of one game.
- ii. The game(s) is to be the next regularly scheduled contest(s) and may be carried over to the next sport season.
- iii. Ejection/disqualification incident reports must be submitted to the athletic director, the Section II office, and the League Sportsmanship Chairperson.
- iv. A conference between the player or coach and the athletic director will take place before the student-athlete or coach is eligible to return.

6. Chain of Communication:

- a. The following chain of communication must be followed.
  - i. The student-athlete should address concerns directly with his/her team coach.
  - ii. If, after speaking with the coach the athlete is not satisfied, the parent/guardian should speak to the coach.
  - iii. The next step would be for the parent/guardian and/or student-athlete to communicate with the Athletic Director.
  - iv. The final step would be to meet with the school principal, Athletic Director, and coaches.

7. Training Rules:

- a. Please See the Sports Standards Charts Attached in Appendix A.
- b. Athletes may practice a maximum of 6 days per week.
- c. Athletes will prioritize Maple Hill athletics over other clubs, activities, and sports teams not associated with Maple Hill High School.
  - i. Maple Hill athletics includes: team games, practices, film sessions, and “get-togethers.”
  - ii. Athletes that do not follow this are subject to the loss of playing time or suspension from the team.
  - iii. At the Junior Varsity and Varsity level, athletes are expected to be at practices and games over school breaks and vacations.

8. Abstinance from tobacco, alcohol, and drugs:
  - a. Schodack Central School District No Smoking Policy
    - i. To comply with Federal and State law and to acknowledge the health hazards associated with smoking, particularly in an environment where children are present, the Schodack Board of Education prohibits the use of nicotine products, including but not limited to any electronic nicotine delivery system, smoking and chewing tobacco in all school facilities, on all school grounds, and in any vehicle used to transport children or school personnel.
    - ii. The chemical health policy at Maple Hill Jr/Sr High School is in effect year-round, in and out of season, on and off the field, in and out of uniform.
    - iii. A student-athlete caught violating the chemical health policy will face consequences including, but not limited to a meeting with the Athletic Director, reduced playing time, and loss of eligibility.
      1. The use of tobacco, alcohol or drugs is strictly forbidden.
      2. Any student who uses tobacco products, alcohol or controlled substances in any form other than those prescribed by a physician for his or her own use will be subject to consequences as outlined in section 10. If this behavior takes place in school or at any school-related activity, the student will be subject to all other penalties which apply in addition to the removal from a team or activity.
      3. A coach, faculty or staff member, administrator or Board of Education member has a responsibility to report a student observed violating this rule at any time.
      4. Parents also have a responsibility to notify the coach or administrator when they are aware that their child has violated this rule.
      5. A student-athlete may make a self-report for a violation of the Athletic Code of Conduct. This self-report must be made prior to any investigation or reported allegations to the school authorities. Self-reports should be made to the principal or Athletic Director.

## **Guidelines for the Imposition of Penalties:**

1. Academic Ineligibility:
  - a. Failing one class at the time of the interim report or report card.
    - i. Sports Study Hall is available for athletes to utilize.
    - ii. Eligible for practices and competitions.
  - b. Failing two classes at the time of the interim report or report card.
    - i. Mandatory Sports Study Hall 3 days per week.
    - ii. Eligible for practice and games with remedial plan turned in.
    - iii. The student will remain in the sports study hall until the next interim report or report card.
    - iv. The remedial form completed and left in AD's mailbox every Friday.
      1. Failure to submit remedial form may result in suspension from the team.
      2. The remedial form can be found in Appendix B.
  - c. Failing three or more classes at the time of the report card.
    - i. Mandatory Sports Study Hall 3 days per week.
    - ii. Ineligible for practice until failing only two classes.
      1. May attend practice but ineligible to participate.
    - iii. Ineligible for competitions until a passing grade is attained in all classes or all but two classes.
    - iv. Remedial Form completed and left in AD's mailbox every Friday.
      1. Failure to submit remedial form may result in suspension from the team.
2. Alcohol, Nicotine and other drugs
  - a. First Offense in an interscholastic athletic career.
    - i. At the discretion of the athletic director, removal for up to 25% of the team's competitions.
    - ii. May attend competitions and sit with the team, but may not dress in uniform.
    - iii. Eligible for practice.
  - b. Second Offense in an interscholastic athletic career
    - i. At the discretion of the athletic director, removal from the team for the remainder of the season.
    - ii. May not attend practices, team events, or competitions.
  - c. Additional Offense in an interscholastic athletic career
    - i. Removal from all interscholastic athletic teams for at least one calendar year and up to the remainder of the high school career.

## Declaration of Understanding & Commitment

- I have read and understand the responsibilities and expectations of me as a Maple Hill Student-Athlete as outlined in the Athletics Code of Conduct.
- I will be a satisfactory citizen on and off the field/court/mat and will use the principles outlined in the Code of Conduct section 2 to guide my behavior.
- I will attend school regularly as expected and will arrive to school on time. I am aware of the consequences if I fail to abide by attendance expectations.
- I understand the serious athletic consequences in place for in-school suspension and out-of-school suspension and that all types of misconduct will not be tolerated.
- I have read and understand the Sportsmanship Guide and Disqualification Policy.
- I will respect and follow the proper “Chain of Communication” as outlined in the Code of Conduct, section 6.
- I understand expectations regarding participation priorities and rules for training.
- I agree to abstain from all types of vape, tobacco, alcohol, and drugs, year-round, on and off the field/court/mat.
- I have read and understand the Academic Eligibility policy and am fully aware of the steps I need to take to become eligible if I fall below the standard for eligibility.
- I have read and understand the serious athletic consequences imposed if I do not abstain from vape, tobacco, alcohol, and drugs.
- I understand that the following people have a responsibility to report a student observed violating the rule of abstinence from vape/tobacco/alcohol/drugs, etc...
  - Any coach, faculty, staff, administrator, or Board of Education member
  - Any parent, any student, any by-stander, and yourself
- ❖ Self-reports should be made to the Principal or Athletic Director

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Keep the above Declaration. Return this slip to your coach.

Date Returned: \_\_\_\_\_

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Student-Athlete Print/Sign Name

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Parent or Guardian Print/Sign Name