

 

 

**Dr. M. Lehr, Principal**

**Mrs. N. Kendrick, Asst. Principal/Athletic Director**

**Mrs. J. Daniel, Athletic Program Coordinator**

Dear Student- Athletes and Parents,

On behalf of the entire faculty and staff, I am pleased that you have expressed an interest in participating in the athletic program at Manchester High School. It has been my experience that students who get involved in extra-curricular activities whether they are music, drama, clubs, student government or athletics, have a more fulfilling high school experience. I am honored to be able to work with the athletes, coaches, and community in making this experience both rewarding and positive.

I hope that you will take the time to familiarize yourself with this handbook and understand the school’s guidelines, policies, and expectations for student athletes. To begin however, I would like for you to take the time to read through the philosophy of our athletic department as this is the foundation by which we make all decisions regarding athletics at Manchester High School.

Philosophy of the Athletic Program

Manchester High School recognizes the significance of athletic activities in providing students with important opportunities for a total education. These activities teach students a lifetime of values such as commitment, discipline, hard work, perseverance, leadership, team work, good character, and physical fitness; all of which are the foundation for academic success. Participation in athletic activities contributes to the physical, emotional, and social health of our students and promotes and sense of unity and cooperation among athletes, the student body, and the Manchester community.

Our sports teams will always strive to win, but never at the expense of good character and good judgment. We will always emphasize excellence, improvement, and respect for coaches, teammates, and officials. All Manchester High School athletes should be known for their character and class; humble in victory and gracious in defeat. At the freshman and Junior Varsity levels, winning is a goal but is less important than participation and skill development. Regardless of level, however, our athletic program is designed to develop, promote, and provide the following: self-esteem, school spirit and pride, good citizenship, sportsmanship, cooperation, higher academic performance, responsibility to self and others, positive role models, healthy life styles, team building, and lifelong wellness. We firmly believe that the overall sports experience should not only be rewarding but also engaging and FUN!

Manchester High School further recognizes the unique roles and responsibilities of its coaches and parents in sports activities. Coaches’ and parents’ primary roles should be to teach the lifetime values of our sports philosophy and to always lead by example. The MHS athletic programs are an essential part of the school and the community. Their impact is immensely important in promoting a positive school climate because they offer opportunities for adults to interact with our students in meaningful ways not available in the classroom.

I look forward to your support and involvement in the athletic program and if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at your earliest convenience.

Best Regards,

Nicole Kendrick

Athletic Director

nicole.kendrick@mcssga.org contact number: 706.977.8124

**Georgia High School Association (GHSA)**

Both high schools in the Meriwether County School System are members of the Georgia High School Association.

“The GHSA is a voluntary organization composed of public and private high schools. It strives to promote good sportsmanship and a cooperative spirit among its member schools. It endeavors to maintain high standards so that each pupil competing in each school is on the same basis. In the field of athletics its interest is the safety of the participants; it is on this principle that its athletic rules are based.”

The GHSA operates under a Constitution and By-Laws which outlines the scope and purpose of the

Association. It contains the standards of eligibility to be met by high school pupils for attaining the privilege of participation in inter school contests, and rules controlling the participation among schools. By adoption of the Constitution and By-Laws through its membership, member schools have by their initiative acted to operate and discipline their interscholastic activities and contests.” (GHSA Constitution and By-Laws)

Both Meriwether County School System high schools adhere to GHSA guidelines as well as Meriwether County policies and athletic guidelines. Meriwether County Middle schools adhere to the local board policies as well as the Meriwether County athletic guidelines. Middle schools adhere to GHSA Constitutions and By-Laws as closely as possible (the nature of middle school athletics requires some modifications to GHSA guidelines).

**GENERAL ELIGIBILITY RULES FOR HIGH SCHOOL**

 **Participation**

A student is eligible to represent Manchester High School if they meet the following specific requirements:

1. Student must be a bona fide undergraduate member (student) of a Manchester High School.
2. In the judgment of the principal and athletic director, the student must be a representative of the school’s ideals in matters of conduct and sportsmanship on and off school campus.
3. During the period of participation, student must be enrolled in a full academic load.
4. Student must be eligible in accordance with the Constitution and By-laws of the Georgia High School Association (GHSA) and Georgia Rule 160-5-1-.18

See www.ghsa.net > Constitution and By-Laws

 **Age and Attendance Requirement**

1. A student is eligible to enter interscholastic competition when he/she enters the ninth grade and has not obtained the age of 19 by May 1.

2. A student is allowed eight consecutive semesters of competition at the high school level. Cases

involving unusual circumstances should be submitted in writing to the Athletic Director.

3. In order to participate in an extra-curricular event, a student must be present at least half of the school

day according to the school attendance office. The principal has the authority to overturn this rule in

individual cases.

4. Students suspended from school are not permitted to participate in competition or practice on days that they are suspended. Once the suspension is complete, students may once again participate. Students who are assigned ISS are not allowed to practice or compete until the ISS assignment is complete. They may return to practice or competition on the day of the ISS assignment completion.

5. When a team is released from school for an event, it is the athlete’s responsibility to inform the teachers of the classes he/she will be missing, and if at all possible, make up the work before the excused

absence. If not possible, it is the athlete’s responsibility to make up the time and work missed as soon as

possible so as not to jeopardize his/her own academic eligibility or the success of the team.

**Transfer Rule**

1. In the case of a bona fide family move from one district to another, the student shall be eligible for

athletic competition after applying for and receiving clearance through the GHSA.

2. If a student transfers schools without a bona fide family move to another district the student is

INELIGIBLE for varsity competition for a full calendar year. See ghsa.net (Constitution and By-Laws).

The student could be eligible for junior varsity competition while waiting to become eligible for varsity

competition.

3. If by domicile outside Georgia, an athlete is or becomes ineligible; he/she cannot become eligible by

transferring to Georgia.

4. A student who would be ineligible in a GHSA member school because of expulsion may not become

eligible by transferring to another member school.

 **Recruiting and Undue Influence**

Recruiting and Undue Influence are defined as influence by any person connected directly or indirectly with a GHSA school to induce a student of any age to transfer from one school to another, or to enter the ninth grade at a member school for athletic or literary competition purposes, whether or not the school presently attended by the student is a member of the GHSA.

1. The use of undue influence to secure or retain a student for competitive purposes is prohibited, shall

cause that student to forfeit eligibility for one year from the date of enrollment, and shall lead to other

penalties being assessed against the school doing the recruiting as allowed by the GHSA Constitution.

2. Evidence of undue influence includes, but is not limited to, personal contact by coaches and sponsors in

an attempt to persuade transfer, gifts of money, jobs, supplies, clothing, free transportation, admission to

contests, invitation to attend practices and/or games, or free tuition.

 Complaints or reports of violations of this rule will be investigated and handled on a case-by-case basis.

***If coaches are found to be in violation of the recruiting rule, a copy of the investigation will be***

***forwarded to the Professional Standards Commission of the Department of Education.***

**ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION GUIDELINES/ REQUIREMENTS FOR**

**HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS**

A student may participate in athletic programs at Manchester High School provided the

following requirements are met:

**A. Eligibility:**

A student must be listed as eligible to participate on the appropriate form that is completed by the Athletic

Director and submitted to the GHSA (for high school) and the school level Athletic Director.

Athletic Directors are responsible for overseeing the appropriate filing of reports in the home school.

**B. Physical Forms:**

All prospective athletes are required to successfully pass a physical examination by a registered physician and the copy of such examination must be on file in the athletic directors' office. One current physical examination per year is sufficient for all sports during that school year.

**C.** **Insurance Policy:**

Each student-athlete must be covered by either the school approved accident insurance policy or by a family insurance policy. A certification (waiver) signed by the parent and a copy of the insurance card

stating that the student is adequately covered by accident insurance must be on file in the principal's

office.

**D. Exemplary Sporting Behavior/Sportsmanship:**

Sporting behavior means active demonstration of competitive integrity and ethics, respect for opponents and officials, fair play, understanding of the rules, appreciation for all performances regardless of school, personal and school pride, and gracious acceptance of results. Exemplary sporting behavior is a requirement of all athletes, coaches, parents, and students. The Manchester High School athletic teams, fans, and community will set a standard far above that of the behaviors seen at the collegiate and professional levels in current society. Manchester High School Athletics and the Manchester community will adhere to the following values of sporting behavior:

* During the National Anthem and/or Pledge of Allegiance, students, athletes, and fans will remove caps, stand at attention, face the flag and participate in honoring our country.
* We will treat all opponents, officials, and fans as guests in our school. We will extend to them a

welcoming atmosphere conducive to healthy competition that supports the educational mission of

athletics at MHS.

* Only positive cheers will be used. No profanity or personal attacks from players, coaches or the crowd will be tolerated.
* Cheer and tumbling routines must be performed in front of our own student body or adult crowd.
* Homemade banners are allowed if they display only positive statements. Banners must not block the view of others. Drums, whistles, and bleacher kicking are prohibited.

**E. Team Rules and Expectations:**

**All athletic teams will have written team rules and expectations**. These rules should be specific and should establish clear expectations for behavior and participation. The rules should also specify disciplinary actions that will be taken when team rules are violated. Disciplinary measures should be incremental, enforceable and fair, and must be applied in a consistent manner.

It is recommended the coach involve the captain or team leaders in the development of these rules. The principal and athletic director will review the proposed rules for fairness, enforceability, and consistency with school and school system policy and community standards, must approve team rules.

After approval by the principal and athletic director, the team rules should be reviewed with the members of the team and a copy sent to the parents. It is recommended that coaches request parents to sign a copy of the team rules. The coach should retain a copy signed by the parents. When parents understand the rules and procedures they can help coaches eliminate discipline problems.

***\*\*\*\* Commitment Rule (No Quit Rule): Manchester High School has adopted an extra-curricular commitment rule. Each team or organization will establish a deadline for participants to decide if they would like to no longer be an active participant. Also, if an athlete/participant decides to leave a team or organization before the established deadlines, the athlete may not participate in any other sports or extra-curricular activities until the conclusion of the abandoned sport’s season.***

**There is an expectation for all athletes to be transported by bus to and from each of their competitions. Private transportation is not recommended due to safety risks.**

***\*\*\*Participation fees have been established for all Athletics. Students are expected to honor these participation fees in a timely and reasonable manner. Teams will be conducting fundraisers to assist in some of the financial obligations of each of the athletes. Each coach has established a deadline for all participation fees. Unfortunately, if fees are not paid by the designated deadlines, athletes will not be able to participate until all financial obligations are met.***

**Code of Ethics for Parents/Spectators/Student-Athletes**

**Code of Ethics for Spectators**

* Respects officials and accepts their decisions without gestures or arguments.
* Respects property of others and authority of those who administer competition.
* Respects the judgment and strategy of the coach, and does not criticize players or coaches for loss of game.
* Shows compassion for injured players; applauds positive performance; and avoids profane, vulgar, or obscene language and gestures.
* Appreciates a good play no matter who makes it.

**Code of Ethics for Student-Athletes**

* Remember that academic performance is your primary responsibility.
* Read, familiarize yourself, and comply with policies outlined in the Athletic Handbook and your coach’s specific set of team policies.
* Treat coaches and opponents with respect.
* Respect officials and their decisions without argument or gesture.
* Exercise self-control at all times, setting an example for others to follow.
* Win without boasting, and lose without excuses, and never quit.
* Always remember that you represent Manchester High School, the Manchester community, and Meriwether County Schools, and it is a privilege.
* Report any injury to the coach no matter how slight the injury may appear. If the injury requires a physician’s care, the participant must have written permission from the doctor before returning to the activity.
* Attend class the day of and after a competition.
* Extracurricular activities are not an excuse to be tardy on the day following a competition.

**Code of Ethics for parents of Athletes**

* Encourage your child and team……….Be enthusiastic and supportive…Show School pride and spirit.
* Maintain a positive attitude whether your team is winning or losing.
* Refrain from being insulting or showing bad sportsmanship during the competition. Any problems or concerns should be brought to the attention of the Athletic Director or Head Coach at another time, not during an event or immediately after an event as a coach’s primary responsibility after an event is facilitating transportation from the event or an organized dismissal from an event.
* Support the team with sponsored events such as fundraisers.
* Parents, as spectators, are expected to exhibit good sportsmanship at all times. Spectators, including parents, who in the judgment of the principal and/or athletic director, behave in ways that are inappropriate, will be referred to School Resource Officers and asked to leave the competition immediately.
* Respect the judgment and strategy of the coach.
* Do not criticize the players and/or the coach for the loss of a game.

**Communication Plan for Athletic Concerns**

Good communication is critical in athletics on and off the playing field. A communication plan is in place to assist and improve communication between parents, coaches and administrators, ultimately for the benefit of the student athlete.

Involvement in athletics and activities will allow students to experience some of the most rewarding times of their lives. However, there will likely be times when things don’t go their way or they disagree with a coach. It is important that students and parents realize these difficult situations are very much a part of the learning experience as are the good times.

The coaches work hard to do the best they can do for all athletes, and we ask the parents and students to respect the fact that their decisions are often times extremely difficult, and are made based on factors of which students and parents may not be aware. The student, not the parent, is strongly urged to talk to the coach about any issues or problems that arise during the season. This is not only the most direct and productive means of communication, but also a valuable method of teaching responsibility.

**Communication the PARENT should expect from your child’s COACH:**

* The coach’s philosophy and criteria for the team selection.
* Specific team policies and consequences for when policies are not followed or training rules are not adhered to.
* Expectations the coach has for your child as well as all of the players on the team.
* Locations and times of all practices and contests.
* Team requirements, i.e. practices, special equipment, out of season conditioning.
* Any special events or activities planned, including optional team garments that the team is considering to purchase.
* Procedure to follow if your child is injured during participation.
* Specific ways to improve your child’s athletic ability.

**Appropriate concerns PARENTS should discuss with COACHES:**

* Notification of any schedule conflicts well in advance.
* Specific concerns with regards to the coach’s philosophy and/or expectations.
* If their child, at any time, feels threatened, intimidated, or uncomfortable in any way by actions of teammates and/or coach (es).
* Ways the parent can help the child improve.
* Any concerns the parent may have regarding the child’s behavior or performance in or out of school (Often times, a coach may have a very positive influence in the lives of the athletes).

***\*\*\*\*\*It is recognized that situations may arise where parents find it necessary to raise a concern with a coach, and it is imperative that the parent(s) adhere to the following communications guidelines:***

**Protocol for registering concerns:**

1. Contact the coach first to set up a meeting.
2. If the coach cannot be reached, contact the Athletic Director.

**MOST IMPORTANTLY:**

1. **DO NOT CONFRONT A COACH BEFORE, DURING, OR AFTER PRACTICE OR A CONTEST. THESE CAN BE EMOTIONAL TIMES FOR BOTH PARTIES. MEETINGS OF THIS NATURE DO NOT PROMOTE RESOLUTION.**

*\*\*\*It can be very difficult to accept your child not playing as much as you may hope. Coaches are professionals. They make judgment decisions based on what they believe is best for the team.*

**Issues not appropriate to discuss with Coaches:**

1. Playing time.
2. Play calling.
3. Team strategy.
4. Other student athletes.

There are situations that may require a conference between a coach and the parent. In most instances, it is vital that the athlete be present. It is important that all parties involved have a clear understanding of the other’s position.

**Next Steps after parent/athlete/coach meeting**

What a parent can do if, in their opinion, the meeting with the coach did not provide a satisfactory resolution:

1. Call and set up an appointment with the Athletic Director to discuss the concern.
2. After this step, an additional meeting may be held with the parent, coach, athlete, and Athletic Director.

**\*\*\*The intent of this communication plan is to help make this experience in the Manchester High School Athletic Program more enjoyable and productive for all athletes, coaches, parents, and fans.**

**Extra-Curricular Activities (Manchester High School)**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Activity | Head Coach/Sponsor |
| Football | **Tanner Glisson** |
| Girls Basketball | **Mikal Underwood** |
| Boys Basketball | **Curtis Noble** |
| Baseball | **Ryan Daniel** |
| Soccer | **Efren Munoz** |
| Girls Soccer | **Jeff Renner** |
| Girls Track | **Mikal Underwood** |
| Boys Track | **Cory Phillips** |
| Golf | **Kyle Phillips** |
| Softball | **Laura Banks** |
| Tennis | **Stephen Holmes** |
| Band | **Jahbarhi Watson** |
| Football/Basketball Cheerleading | **Nikita Hill** |
| Majorettes/Dance/Flag | **Hancock/Ethridge** |
| Literary Team/Yearbook Sponsor/Drama | **Honour Owens** |
| Academic Team | **Cory Phillips/Kyle Phillips** |

**Compliance Statement**

**My signature indicates that I have had an opportunity to read and ask questions concerning the Manchester High School Parent/Student-Athlete Handbook. I understand what is expected of me and know that I must follow these guidelines in order to participate as an athlete.**

**Athlete’s name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Parent’s signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Parent’s contact information\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Manchester High School405 Fifth Avenue, NorthManchester, Georgia 31816Phone 706.846.8445 Fax 706.846.2082 | Michael LehrPrincipalNicole KendrickAssistant PrincipalJennifer CainGuidance Counselor |



**Athletic Responsibility Acknowledgment**

Athlete's Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Sport(s)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Grade\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ School Year\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

***Prior to participating in any practice or tryout session for any interscholastic sport, each***

***athlete must adhere to the following:***

1. Successfully pass a physical examination by a registered physician and the copy of such

examination must be on file in the athletic directors' office. One current physical

examination per year is sufficient for all sports during that school year.

2. Return to his/her coach the Athletic Responsibility Acknowledgment Form properly signed.

***As a student athlete participating voluntarily in interscholastic athletics in The Meriwether County School District, I understand that:***

1. I will abide by the Meriwether County Schools student code of conduct, Manchester High School's athletic handbook, the coaches’ team rules, and the rules of GHSA.

2. I will conduct myself in an exemplary social manner at all times and understand that I

may be suspended and/or dismissed based on violations occurring in or away from

school.

3. I will be responsible for all athletic equipment issued to me throughout the season, will return

such equipment at the conclusion of the season, and will pay the current replacement cost for any

of the equipment not accounted for by me at the end of the season.

4. I will not use or be in possession of tobacco, alcohol or narcotics. If I do use any of these

substances, am in possession of such substances, or am suspended from school for use or

possession of the substances, I will be subject to disciplinary actions.

5. I acknowledge that I have been properly advised, cautioned, and warned by administrative

and coaching personnel of my high school that I am exposing myself to the risk of injury,

including, but not limited to, the risk of sprains, fractures and ligament and/or cartilage

damage which could result in a temporary or permanent, partial or complete impairment in

the use of my limbs, brain damage, paralysis’ or even death. Having been so cautioned and

warned, it is still my desire to participate in sports and to do so with full knowledge and

understanding of the risk of injury.

6. I, along with my parents, certify that I have read and understand all of the Meriwether

County School District athletic policies in the parent/student athletic handbook and in

order to be eligible for participation I must comply with all requirements listed.

Student signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_