

*Maxwell Eagles*

*Sportsmanship... Be an Eagle Fan!*



**Athletic Handbook  
2019-2020**

**For Coaches, Student Athletes and Parents**

**Benjamin Reichert  
Athletic Director**



*Maxwell Eagles*

*Sportsmanship... Be An Eagle  
Fan!*

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*Dear Eagle Student-Athletes and Parents,*

*Welcome back to another great year of Eagle Athletics!*

*Maxwell Middle School believes that good sportsmanship is a major part of athletic competition. It is our goal to create a healthy, safe, and exciting atmosphere where good sportsmanship is encouraged.*

*Middle School athletics is an important part of the overall educational program. It affords students the opportunity to challenge themselves both physically and mentally. We believe athletic participation plays an integral role in our mission of preparing and empowering our students for a dynamic world. Keeping with the traditions of the United States Air Force, our student athletes develop skills that they will use throughout their lifetime. Integrity, Excellence, Honor, Courage, Commitment and teamwork will be important elements in successful seasons and also serve them well in whatever career path they choose.*

*Parents, Thank you! Your contributions will not go unnoticed. We invite you to stay involved and invite others to join you in supporting our student-athletes.*

*Most importantly, come out and enjoy a game! You will be seeing athletics at its finest... Eagle Style!*

*Yours in sports,*

***Benjamin Reichert***

*Benjamin Reichert  
Athletic Director*

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## Our Philosophy

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Interscholastic athletics is an important part of the overall educational program. It affords students the opportunity to challenge themselves both physically and mentally. We believe athletes develop skills that they will use throughout their lifetime; Integrity, Excellence, Honor, Courage, Commitment and teamwork. Those skills are important elements in successful seasons and serve individuals well throughout their lives.

Maxwell's aim is to develop a competitive athletic program, but not lose sight of educational values such as sportsmanship, health and scholastic attainment. It is the nature of athletic competition to strive for victory. However, the number of victories is only one criterion when determining the success of a season. Guiding the team and individuals to reach and exceed their potential is the ultimate goal.

## Decision Making in Athletics

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The way we make all decisions in  
Our Athletic Program will be:

*“What is the best for the student-athlete?”*

## Purpose

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The purpose of this Athletic Handbook is to provide our coaches, student-athletes and parents with uniform information regarding the policies and procedures of our Interscholastic Athletic Program.

## Our Mission

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Encourage our student athletes to strive to reach  
their highest potential.

# *Maxwell Eagles Sport Offerings*

Fall

Girls Volleyball  
Coed Cross Country

Winter

Boys Basketball

Spring

Coed Soccer

## **Philosophy for the Modified Level Athletic Program**

The Modified level is designed and made available to student-athletes in Grades 6, 7 and 8. This program prepares student-athletes for the next level of competition by placing emphasis on sportsmanship, learning athletic skills and game rules, fundamentals of team play, socio-emotional growth, physical conditioning, and healthy competition.

Our goal is to maximize participation and playing time for student-athletes. However, if the number of students trying out for the team creates a situation that is difficult to manage, poses a safety problem, or is problematic because of facility considerations, reducing team size by “cutting” may be necessary. Ultimately, the number of teams and size of the team rosters in any sport will be determined by the availability of league schedules, financial resources, qualified coaches, and suitable facilities.

### **Physicals**

The first requirement that needs to be completed prior to trying out for or playing on an Interscholastic Sports Team is to have a physical examination. These forms can be received from the athletic director.

Remember, student-athletes may not tryout or participate if they have not had a physical.

### **Cuts**

Unfortunately there are times a student-athlete may face a situation where he/she does not make the team. When this happens, coaches will meet with each of the students individually to explain to them why they did not make the squad. It is understood that this is a very difficult time for coaches, players, and families. We feel these meetings are vital so that there is a good understanding of why this decision was made.

### **Preseason Meetings – “Congratulations – Your son/daughter made the team!”**

One of the most important ingredients for a successful sport season is effective, open and appropriate communication between the coach, parents and student-athletes. In order to ensure that communication takes place, preseason meetings are scheduled by the Athletic Department at the beginning of each sport’s season. Topics of these meetings include athletic department policies, individual team expectations and rules, the health and safety of the student-athlete and a variety of other subjects. Attendance at these meetings is required for coaches, parents and student- athletes.

### **Practice Sessions**

Student-Athletes are expected to attend all scheduled practice sessions and games unless excused by the coach in conjunction with the parent. The importance of practice is clearly stated in the philosophy statements.

## **Questions or Concerns**

From time to time during the course of an athletic career in our school, parents may have questions or concerns that need to be discussed. To appropriately address these questions or concerns we have established a protocol, or if you will, a chain of command to be followed to make sure we have everyone included in the communication loop as follows:

- Ask the player
- Contact the Coach
- Lastly, contact the Athletic Director

## **Sportsmanship**

Student-Athletes, Coaches, Parents, and Fans must recognize the importance of being a “Good Sport” when participating in or attending athletic contests. Remember to treat our visiting team members, students, and adult spectators as guests and we will expect the same when we visit other schools. Officials are the proper authorities to make decisions regarding rules. Their interpretations and decisions are to be accepted. Remember that an athletic contest is only a game and should be treated as such for the well being of players, coaches, school, official, fan or community. Please be a ...”Eagle Fan.”

## **Student Athletic Injuries**

No student-athlete should be allowed to practice or play in an athletic contest if he/she is suffering from an injury. The diagnosis of and prescription of treatment for injuries is strictly a medical matter and should under no circumstances be considered within the province of the coach. A coach’s responsibility is to see that injured players are given prompt and competent medical attention, and that all details of the physician’s instructions concerning the student’s functioning as a team member are carried out. No student-athlete will be allowed to practice or compete if there is a question whether he/she is in adequate physical condition. A physician’s certificate may be required before a student-athlete is permitted to return to practice or competition.

## **Safety**

Maxwell will take reasonable steps to see that physical risks to student-athletes participating in interscholastic athletic programs shall be kept at a minimum by:

- Requiring medical examinations of participants.
- Obtaining appropriately certified and/or licensed officials to judge all contests.
- Ensuring that equipment is both safe and operative within approved guidelines.

## **Supervision**

Student-athletes must be supervised by the coach in charge of the sport. Coaches are responsible for:

- Supervision of the locker room.
- Supervision of the team during practice and at games.
- Supervision of student-athletes at the end of practice. This may entail bus duty, or making sure student-athletes have transportation home.

## **Athletic Eligibility Policy**

### Purpose

The faculty, staff, and administrators at Maxwell believe that extracurricular involvement is an integral part of a student's total educational program, as it forms a connection between the student and the school community and nurtures each student's special interests and abilities. However, the commitment required for participation in many activities could, in some cases, prove detrimental to the academic goals and achievements of some students. Therefore, an academic eligibility policy has been developed to ensure students' academic success in order to participate in extracurricular activities.

### Activities Involved

Extracurricular Participation is defined as involvement in any non-credit bearing, school sponsored organization or activity that occurs over a period of time. This policy does not include one-time activities such as dances, proms, balls, and banquets.

### Initial Eligibility

Any student who has failed one or more classes at the latest interim or marking period (progress report or report card), whichever occurred immediately prior to the activity is on probation or ineligible to participate. For the purposes of determining eligibility for fall, the final grades from the previous year will be used. Any passing grades obtained in summer school will supersede final grades from June. Student athletes who have been declared academically ineligible shall have the right to appeal for extenuating circumstances to the Director of Athletics. An appeal will be heard as quickly as possible upon the written request being initiated from the student. Students will be allowed only one (1) appeal during their school career, grades 6-8.

### Definition of a Probation Student

1. If a student has failed one class during any 5-week grading period he/she will be placed on Probation:
  - A student placed on Probation may continue to participate in all activities and will be monitored over a three-week period by means of an eligibility update form.
  - The student must follow the remediation plan to be eligible to participate in practices, meetings, performances or games.
2. A student will maintain eligibility if the three-week update indicates that he/she is no longer failing one class.
3. If the student is still failing one class at the end of Probation (three week period),

he/she will become ineligible (remaining two weeks). The following will apply:

- A student declared Ineligible may still practice or attend meetings, but is not permitted to participate in games or performances. The student must follow the remediation plan to participate in the practices or meetings.
- Students will remain Ineligible until the next marking period or interim progress report period.

### Definition of an Ineligible Student

*1. If a student has failed two classes during any 5-week grading period he/she will become Ineligible:*

- A student declared Ineligible may still practice and attend meetings with his/her team but is not permitted to participate in games or performances during the next three weeks of the eligibility calendar.
- The student must follow the remediation plan to be eligible to participate in practices, meetings, performances or games.
- A student will regain his/her eligibility if the three-week update indicates that he/she is no longer failing one class.
- If the student is still failing one class at the end of his/her ineligibility (three week period), he/she will remain ineligible (remaining two weeks).

### Definition of an Ineligible Student

*1. If a student has failed three classes during any 5-week grading period he/she will become Ineligible:*

- A student declared Ineligible with three failures may not practice and/or attend meetings with his/her team and is not permitted to participate in games or performances during the next three weeks of the eligibility calendar.
- The student must follow the remediation plan to help regain his/her eligibility.
- A student will regain his/her eligibility if the three-week update indicates that he/she is no longer failing one class.
- If the student is still failing one class at the end of his/her ineligibility (three week period), he/she will remain ineligible (remaining two weeks).

## **Interscholastic Sport's Rules**

Participation in Interscholastic Sports is a privilege and carries with it responsibilities to our school, teams, student body and community. The Interscholastic Sport's Rules covers two very specific areas: Training Rules and Citizenship/Sportsmanship Rules.

The Student Athlete's conduct both in and out of season can result in either positive or negative consequences. The consequences for violation of either the Training Rules or Citizenship/Sportsmanship Rules will apply on a career basis beginning in the sixth grade.

### *Training Rules*

The use of tobacco (smoking and chewing), alcohol and illegal drugs are detrimental to one's health and physical condition. Maxwell's faculty, staff and administrators do not condone the use of these substances and upholds the Interscholastic Sports Training Rules.

### *Citizenship/ Sportsmanship*

Student-athletes are expected to live by the laws of our country, state, county, and base. Rules and policies of our school and the athletic department are also expected to be followed at all times. Further, our student-athletes are expected to demonstrate good sportsmanship during all contests and practices.

### *Application of Rule Violations*

Violations have been broken down into three categories: first category is *Training Rules and Citizenship/ Sportsmanship Rule Violations*; the second is *Alcohol & Tobacco Use/Abuse Action* and the third is *Other Major Violations*. For each of these categories is a description of the levels of consequences. These levels are determined by the seriousness of the violation and by the number of offenses for a particular student-athlete.

## Category 1 - Training Rules and Citizenship/Sportsmanship Rule Violations

This category includes but is not limited to the following violations:

- Cheating
- Fighting
- Forgery
- Harassing/Bullying
- Excessive Truancy
- Unsportsmanlike Behavior
- Vandalism
- Hazing
- Theft
- Inappropriate use of technology/media
- Indecent exposure

## Category 2 – Alcohol & Tobacco Use/Abuse Action

This category includes but is not limited to the following violations:

- Use/possession of Alcohol
- Use/possession of Anabolic Steroids
- Use/possession of Tobacco (smoking or chewing)
- Use/possession of Illegal Drugs

The Athletic Director reserves the right to evaluate the severity and consequences of any issue involving a member of an activity, club, organization, or team at any time.

Consequences: The following are the consequences for a Category 1 or 2 violation:

1<sup>st</sup> offense: A minimum of 10% of next contests, not to exceed 20% of contests. Student may practice with the team, but may not dress for suspended contests.

2<sup>nd</sup> offense: A minimum of 20% of next contests, not to exceed 40% of contests. Student may not practice with the team for 5 days and may not dress for or participate in contests.

3<sup>rd</sup> offense: Student-Athlete may be suspended from participation in Interscholastic Sports for a period of time from 60 days up to 1 calendar year. However, student may not practice with the team, or dress for or participate in contests.

### Category 3 - Other Major Violations

This category includes but is not limited to the following violations:

- Sexual assault
- Assault
- Endangering
- Being convicted of a misdemeanor and/or felony
- Organizing or hosting gatherings where drinking or the use of illegal drugs takes place
- Possession of a dangerous or concealed weapon
- Selling, distributing or providing alcohol or illegal drug

The Athletic Director reserves the right to evaluate the severity and consequences of any issue involving a member of an activity, club, organization, or team at any time.

Consequences: The following are the consequences for a Category 3 violation:

- 1<sup>st</sup> offense: Student-Athlete will be suspended from participation in interscholastic sports for a period no less than 30 days and up to 1 calendar year and a minimum of 40% of next contests. Student may not practice with the team, or dress for or participate in contests.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> offense: Student-Athlete will be suspended from participation in interscholastic sports for 1 calendar year. Student may not practice with the team, or dress for or participate in contests.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> offense: Student-Athlete will be suspended from participation from interscholastic sports for the remainder of High School career.

### Procedures

Upon receiving a report of an Interscholastic Sports Rule violation, the following procedures will be followed:

- Validation of Report
- Discussion with student-athlete
- Determination of Consequences
- Notification of Parents

## Definitions/Interpretations (Consequence Timelines)

### In-Season

If a student athlete is In-Season, the consequence timeline begins immediately. If the duration of the consequence goes beyond the end of the current season, it will carry over into the next season that they participate. The beginning date for calculating this carry-over would be the official practice start date of that particular season.

### Out-of-Season

If a student athlete is Out-of-Season, the consequence timeline begins in the next season in which the student-athlete participated. The beginning date for calculating this carry-over would be the official practice start date of that particular season. There can be an alternative consequence for incidences that occur outside of the student's participation within the sport or activity. Students may have an option of the consequences stated or be given alternative hours based on the educational options below. There will be a certain amount of mandated hours that need to be completed before the next season the student athlete participates.

#### Category 1 and 2 violation:

1. 1<sup>st</sup> offense- 8 - 16 hours
2. 2<sup>nd</sup> offense- 16 - 36 hours
3. 3<sup>rd</sup> offense- No alternative

#### Category 3 violation:

1. 1<sup>st</sup> offense- 48 hours
2. 2<sup>nd</sup> offense- No alternative
3. 3<sup>rd</sup> offense- No alternative

### Educational Component

As part of an educational component of the consequence phase, Student-Athletes MUST enroll in a program to assist them in dealing with any of the issues that led to the violation of the Athletic Code of Conduct if applicable. This educational component may include the following:

- Substance Abuse Program
- Smoking Cessation Program
- Anger Management
- Community Service
- In-School Service
- Other Intervention Services as needed

### Appeal Process

Should there be a need for an appeal, an Athletic Hearing Committee, comprised of the Athletic Director, a coach, Building Administration, and a Counselor will be convened to hear the appeal.

## **Student Responsibilities**

- Class Attendance – Every student-athlete must attend classes regularly and on time. Student-athletes will be governed by any and all policies regarding medical and academic eligibility that are in place in the district as approved by the Board of Education.
- Team Practices and Games – All team members are expected to attend all practices and games unless excused by the coach. To be excused, the student-athlete must be in direct contact with the coach prior to the practice or game from which the athlete wishes to be excused. Parents and student-athletes are required not to schedule non-emergency appointments during practice and game time. Unexcused absences will result in disciplinary action by the coach.
- Absences and suspensions – All student-athletes must be in attendance by 8:10am on the day of practice or contest unless otherwise legally excused. If a student is in In-School Suspension or Out-of-School Suspension, he/she will not participate in that day's practice and/or contest.
- Squad Morale – Any student-athlete whose attitude, in the opinion of the coach and the Athletic Director, has an adverse effect on the squad morale may be dismissed from the team.
- Dismissal After Athletic Contests – Each team members is expected to stay until the end of the contest. Dismissal will be made by the coach.
- Transportation – Buses are provided for all away contests. Student-athletes are expected to ride the buses to and from away contests unless there is an extenuating circumstance. In that case, alternate means of transportation must be requested in writing/Email and approved by the coach.
- Care of Equipment – All student-athletes are responsible for equipment issued to them and will be subject to replacement costs of any equipment that has been assigned to them and lost or damaged.