

Ontonagon Area School Athletic/Co-Curricular Handbook 2025-2026



ATHLETIC/CO-CURRICULAR POLICY

Overview

Ontonagon Area High School sponsors interscholastic athletics in football, girls and boys basketball, volleyball, girls and boys track and girls and boys golf and a variety of co-curricular activities.

Participants in our interscholastic athletics/co-curricular programs is a privilege, not a right. Students wishing to participate do so with the understanding that, in addition to the policies outlined below, there will be rules to follow within each sport. Students should also understand that participation in interscholastic athletics does not guarantee any amount of playing time during a season at any level of competition. Coaches will explain their practice and playing time policies and their team rules at the beginning of each season.

The Athletic Director of the Ontonagon Area Junior-Senior High School is the individual responsible for enforcing athletic policies and establishing procedures, subject to the approval of the Superintendent and the Ontonagon Area Board of Education. Any problems or athletic situations not presented in the athletic policy shall be brought to the attention of the Athletic Director.

Ontonagon Area Junior-Senior High School is a member of the Michigan High School Athletic Association, Inc. If any part of the policy is in conflict with MHSAA handbook, the rule stated in the handbook has precedence over this policy. Ontonagon Area Junior-Senior High School will abide by all rules as stated in the MHSAA handbook.

The Ontonagon Area School District athletic policy begins on July 1 of any year a student is enrolled in the Ontonagon Area School District and continues unbroken until graduation or enrollment is dropped. The policy applies for all interscholastic athletics and

Insurance

Ontonagon Area Junior-Senior High does NOT carry regular health insurance for injuries sustained while a student is participating in athletics. Health care insurance is the responsibility of the parent/guardian or of the adult student personally. Ontonagon Area Junior-Senior High School strongly urges the athlete to be covered by an adequate health insurance policy.

Academic Eligibility

The student athlete may not have failed any semester hours of course work taken the previous semester. Student athletes who have failed any semester hours at the end of a semester will be ineligible for the entire next semester. Student athletes also must not be failing any semester hour class during the current semester. Every **Wednesday**, starting the Wednesday of the second week of the semester, an eligibility check will be made to ascertain the eligibility of all student athletes. Students who are failing any semester hour class during the weekly check of grades will be ineligible for the coming week until the next Wednesday when the weekly grade check is done. The eligibility check will be tracked through PowerSchool (the student data base) and will be reviewed by the principal or the superintendent. The correspondence to the coach (who will notify the athlete) will be the responsibility of the Athletic Director.

Eligibility requirements reset when a student begins 9th grade.

Use of Illegal Substances

Student athletes shall not use, possess, sell or distribute to others: alcoholic beverages, tobacco, or controlled substances. Penalties for violating this policy are as follows:

1. Tobacco (including chewing tobacco)
First offense: 10% of season
Second offense: remainder of season
Third offense: one calendar year
2. Alcohol
First offense: 10% of season
Second offense: one calendar year
3. Controlled substances (including performance-enhancing substances as listed in the NCAA Banned Drug List):
First offense: remainder of season
Second offense: one calendar year
The Principal Athletic Director, Dean of Students or the athlete's coach may impose these penalties.
Violations remain current and are subject to a second offense penalty for one calendar year.

Criminal Activity

Any athlete charged on any felony or any misdemeanor will receive the following penalties:

1. Misdemeanor:
First offense: 10% of season
Second offense: one calendar year
2. Felony:
First offense: one calendar year

Lack of conviction or court remediation action shall remove above actions/penalties. Violations remain current and are subject to a second offense penalty for one calendar year.

Reporting of Violations

The Athletic Director or Principal shall investigate any report of an alleged violation, providing the report.

- Is verbally relayed by an employee of the District
- Is witnessed by and addressed in writing by a parent or other community member
- Is relayed by law enforcement

Parents or guardians of athletes agree to inform the appropriate school authorities regarding any violations by their own children.

School Discipline

Any student suspended (including in-school suspension) or expelled from school will not be able to participate in practice, games, or team related events during the days of his/her suspension or expulsion.

Any student transferring into the Ontonagon Junior-Senior High School while being disciplined for athletic reasons at his/her former school will have the circumstances reviewed by the hearing committee (described below). The hearing committee will have the option of continuing the disciplinary measures in effect at the student athlete's former school.

Appeals Process

The appeals process for decisions made concerning this policy will have three steps. The athlete may be represented by counsel at any or all steps.

1. Within three school days of the decision, the athlete or his/her parents or guardians may request a hearing. The hearing committee will be the principal, athletic director and coach. The purpose of the hearing will be to discuss the charges and review the circumstances of the alleged violation. After the hearing the committee will decide to either enforce the penalty or reinstate the athlete.
2. If the athlete and/or his/her parents are not satisfied with the hearing committee's decision, the matter may be appealed to the Superintendent. This appeal must be requested in writing within five school days of the hearing committee's decision.
3. If not satisfied with the Superintendent's decision, the matter may be appealed to the Board of Education. This appeal must be filed in writing within ten school days of the Superintendent's decision. The decision of the Board of Education will be final.

Athletic Participation Fee

In 2011, the Ontonagon Area School Board adopted a "pay to participate" policy.

- A. All active students in one (1) of our interscholastic athletic teams will be subject to the participation fee policy.
- B. Players will be required to pay a fee that has been determined by the School Board.
- C. No student shall be listed on an active roster for game or transportation purposes unless the participation fee is paid.
- D. There will be no refunds of this participation fee if a student quits, is injured or unable to play, or is removed from the team.

Concussion Awareness

Parents and athletes must sign a concussion awareness (public act 342 & 343 of 2012) form before the athlete may participate in any sport. This requirement has been adopted by the Ontonagon Area School Board of Education July 2013. Parents can learn more at: www.cdc.gov/concussion

Managing Heat & Humidity

It is required that the MHSAA member schools adopt a policy to minimize the risk of heat-related illness in interscholastic athletic programs; the following policy has been adopted by the Ontonagon Area School Board of Education July 2013.

1. Thirty minutes prior to the start of an activity, and again 60 minutes after the start of that activity, take temperature and humidity readings at the site of the activity. Using a digital sling psychrometer is recommended. Record the readings in writing and maintain the information in files of school administration. Each school is to designate whose duties these are: generally the athletic director, head coach or certified athletic trainer.
2. Factor the temperature and humidity into the heat index calculator and chart to determine the heat index. If a digital sling psychrometer is being used the calculation is automatic.

If the heat index is below 95 degrees:

All sports

- Provide ample amounts of water. This means that water should always be available and athletes should be able to take in as much water as they desire.
- Optional water breaks every 30 minutes for 10 minutes in duration.
- Ice-down towels for cooling.
- Watch/monitor athletes carefully for necessary action.

If the heat index is 95 degrees to 99 degrees:

All sports

- Provide ample amounts of water. This means that water should always be available and athletes should be able to take in as much water as they desire.
- Optional water breaks every 30 minutes for 10 minutes in duration.
- Ice-down towels for cooling.
- Watch/monitor athletes carefully for necessary action.

Contact sports and activities with additional equipment:

- Helmets and other possible equipment removed while not involved in contact.
- Reduce time of outside activity. Consider postponing practice to later in the day.
- Recheck temperature and humidity every 30 minutes to monitor for increased heat index.

If the heat index is above 99 degrees to 104 degrees:

All sports

- Provide ample amounts of water. This means that water should always be available and athletes should be able to take in as much water as they desire.
- Mandatory water breaks every 30 minutes for 10 minutes in duration.
- Ice-down towels for cooling.
- Watch/monitor athletes carefully for necessary action.
- Alter uniform by removing items if possible
- Allow for changes to dry t-shirts and shorts.
- Reduce time of outside activity as well as indoor activity if air conditioning is unavailable.
- Postpone practice to later in the day.

Contact sports and activities with additional equipment.

- Helmets and other possible equipment if not involved in contact or necessary for safety.
- If necessary for safety, suspend activity.
- Recheck temperature and humidity every 30 minutes to monitor for increased heat index.

If the heat index is above 104 degrees:

All sports

- Stop all outside activity in practice and/or play, and stop all inside activity if air conditioning is unavailable.

Note: When the temperature is below 80 degrees there is no combination of heat and humidity that will result in need to curtail activity.

Medical Conditions

Medical conditions, including pregnancy, that arise after the student is medically cleared to participate by an athletic physical, must be reported to the coach. The coach shall require a doctor's authorization before that athlete will be permitted to continue participation in that sport. Unless the condition is called to the attention of the coach or of an administrator or by exercise of reasonable observation should have been known by the coach, all responsibility for reporting such condition shall rest with the student athlete and/or the parents or guardians. The coach will however be required to make reasonable inquiry if a medical condition is suspected but that inquiry shall not extend beyond an inquiry to the student and/or the student's parents or guardians.

Transportation

Students are required to travel to and from athletic events by the transportation provided by the school.

Extenuating circumstances (an appointment out of town) may sometimes arise and a student must ride with the parent to the event. This must be communicated with the coach ahead of time.

Parents who wish to have their student athlete ride home with them must sign the request form provided by the coach at each event. A student who is 18 years of age must also have a parent's signature on the request form.

Drop off destinations: A student may be dropped off (with written permission) at one of two destinations only if the destination is on the bus route home.

1. Pat's Auto in Greenland
2. Konteka in White Pine

No student shall participate in inter-scholastic athletic competition, or practice therefore, unless and until the student has returned the consent form of the Athletic Policy, properly signed, indicating that the student and his or her parents have read and understand and accept the policies listed above, and has returned a properly completed and signed physical card for the current school year to the K-12 office where it will be retained for the active school year. Coaches will retain a copy of the physical card.

By fully completing the MHSAA physical card, the athlete's parent or guardian grants consent for school personnel to make decisions regarding medical care for the athlete in the event that the parent or guardian cannot be contacted. This advance consent includes emergency care and or hospital care as may be deemed necessary under the then-existing circumstances and acknowledges that the parent or guardian will assume the expenses of such care.

School Day Absences

Athletes will be excused from class if it is necessary to leave for an athletic contest. The athlete must make prior arrangements for make-up work with the teachers for the classes he/she will miss. In order to practice or complete in athletics, athletes must be in attendance during at least half of the school day.

Occasionally due to timing of events, weather conditions or bus trouble, athletes and coaches arrive back at the school at a late hour. All athletes are expected to attend school the next day regardless of what time you get home the night before.

Weight Room and Gym

The weight room and gym are open on a regular schedule for students to utilize. At no time, may a student utilize either facility without adult supervision and permission.

Equipment and Uniform

Each athlete is responsible for their equipment and uniforms. Any lost, damaged, or unreasonable wear of your equipment, you will be required to pay for the loss, damage, or unreasonable wear. All equipment must be turned in at the end of the season.

Ontonagon Area School-STUDENT ATHLETE/PARENT INFORMATION AND CONSENT FORM
2025-2026

Student's Name _____ Date of Birth _____

Student's Address _____ City _____

Student's Cell Phone _____

Grade _____

Parent/Guardian _____

Mother's Phone _____ Father's Phone _____

In case of emergency and parent/guardian can't be reached.

Name _____ Phone _____ Relationship _____

Name _____ Phone _____ Relationship _____

List any known allergies of student

List any medications student is taking _____

Comments _____

Please check if the items below have been completed.

1 An updated physical form is on file with the coach and K-12 office. ☐

2 Concussion form has been filled out. ☐

3 Athletic policy has been read by both student and parent. ☐

I have read the 2025-2026 Athletic Handbook and accept all articles presented in the handbook.

STUDENT

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____