

# Maple Lake High School

“Irish”



# Activities Handbook 2021-22

Dear Students & Parents,

Welcome to the Maple Lake Activities Program. Throughout the years we have developed a great activities tradition at Maple Lake because of students like you, dedicated parents, and a very supportive community. It is our responsibility to carry on and continue to build on this tradition of excellence.

We are very proud of the students who choose to be involved in the Maple Lake Activities Program. These are special individuals who strive to reach lofty goals and consistently do well in their academic performance and attendance.

The purpose of this booklet is to give you first-hand information about questions commonly asked by parents and participants in regards to the Maple Lake Activities Program. We hope that by reviewing this information everyone will be better informed, and the channels of communication between participant/parent and the Maple Lake Activities Program will be improved. If you have any questions about these policies and procedures, please do not hesitate to call the Activities Office at 320-963--7518.

#### Student Accidents

We wish to emphasize that the school district does not provide any type of health or accident insurance for injuries incurred by your child at school. Maple Lake Public Schools is not responsible for any injuries incurred while participating in athletic programs or training. We encourage parents to review their present policies to determine if coverage is adequate

All athletes must have all paperwork (physicals, forms and fees) returned to Heather Haney. If you do not, the coaches will not allow you to participate in practice or games.

Let's keep that "Irish Pride" rising!

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**\*This information can also be found on the Maple Lake School District Website at [www.maplelake.k12.mn.us](http://www.maplelake.k12.mn.us) .**

**\*Parent, Athlete, Coaches and Trainers (PACT) Meeting**

All athletes and parents of athletes will be required to attend a mandatory PACT meeting held prior to each season before activities begin. Students will not be allowed to participate unless parents attend the PACT Meeting or make arrangements to meet with the activities director. This is a policy set by the School Board of District 881. This meeting is set up to open better channels of communication between coaches and parents, get parents and athletes the information they need about the individual programs, take care of paperwork and fees associated with their son's or daughter's participation in activities, and deal with the issues of sportsmanship. By working together we can make things run more smoothly and head off most miscommunications before they start.

**MAPLE LAKE ACTIVITIES PHILOSOPHY**

A. Statement of Philosophy – The Maple Lake High School Activity Program should provide a variety of experiences to aid in the development of favorable habits and attitudes in students that will prepare them for adult life in a democratic society.

The interscholastic activity program shall be conducted in accordance with existing Board of Education policies, rules and regulations. While the Board of Education takes great pride in winning, it does not condone “winning at all costs.” At all times the activity program must be conducted in such a way as to justify it as an educational activity.

B. Activity goal and objectives – Students shall become more effective citizens in a democratic society.

1. OUR SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES – The student shall learn: a person must develop self-discipline, respect for authority, and the spirit of hard work and sacrifice. The team and its objectives must be placed higher than personal desires.

2. To be successful – Our society is very competitive. We do not always win, but we succeed when we continually strive to do so. You can learn to accept defeat only by striving to win by earnest dedication. Develop a desire to excel.

3. To develop sportsmanship – To accept any defeat like a true sportsman knowing we have done our best. We must learn to treat others as we would have others treat us. We need to develop desirable social traits, including emotional control, honesty, cooperation and dependability.

4. To improve – Continual improvement is essential to good citizenship. As participants, you must establish a goal and you must constantly try to reach that goal. Try to better yourself in the skills involved and those characteristics set forth as being desirable.

5. To enjoy activities – It is necessary for students to enjoy participation, to acknowledge all of the personal rewards to be derived from activities, and to give sufficiently of themselves in order to preserve and improve the program.

## **PARTICIPATION POLICY**

It is the philosophy that participation in activities is a privilege that should be earned. Inherent in this philosophy is the idea that as a participant progresses in a particular sport, so will the level of competition. The amount of participation a student enjoys in grades 9 through 12 will reflect his/her skills and abilities. Beginning in grade 9, the student's ability to compete at the varsity level becomes a major goal. The skills and abilities of the student athlete becomes the determining factor of his/her continuation in any given program.

## **ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION POLICY**

### 1) 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grade (Team Sports)

At this level players will be given sufficient playing time according to practice merit and capabilities. Players should have opportunities to play various positions and experience some success in their chosen position. Unexcused absences from practices will affect a students' playing time. Winning is not the priority at this level; learning skills is the priority.

### 2) 9<sup>th</sup> Grade/Junior Varsity (Team Sports)

Every effort will be made to get everyone into each game at this level, but playing time is not guaranteed. The coach will decide what position a player will have the greatest chance for success or which position will best benefit the team. Playing time is no longer distributed on an equal basis. Again, absences from practices will have a negative effect on an athlete's playing time or cause dismissal from the team. Winning is now considered when distributing playing time.

### 3) Varsity (Team Sports)

All players may not play in every game at this level. It is the coach's decision as to which position a player plays to give the team its best chance for success. Attendance at practice is mandatory and unexcused absences may be cause for dismissal from the squad. Winning is a great priority.

### 4) Individual Sports

In sports such as Gymnastics, Cross Country, Track or Wrestling, teams are picked based on individual trials & performances through direct competitions with fellow performers (ie: wrestle offs, runoffs, etc.) *Team members can be any grade level (7--12) and the team numbers are set by the MSHSL and at the coaching staff's discretion.*

All coaches would like to be able to play every player on their team every contest, but unfortunately not all games allow this to happen. We ask parents or players to please continue to communicate with the coaches and support their decisions as the school year progresses.

## **TEAM PLACEMENT POLICY**

All students interested in participating in athletics will be given the opportunity. Each player will go through a try-out or evaluation phase at the beginning of each season. This will allow the coaches to determine where different individual players will fit onto teams available for competition. The varsity team will carry no more than the Minnesota State High School League roster limit and will be based on the coaching staff's discretionary size limit for maximum team improvement and efficiency. Junior varsity will be of similar size. All remaining participants will play on the "C" team. If the number of players on the "C" team becomes too large for one coach, another coach or a division of teams will be considered. **Teams will be determined by the individual players' skill level, not limited to players according to grade level.** The skills that will be evaluated include basic fundamental skills, team skills and player attitude. This policy is to allow athletes an opportunity to participate at their appropriate level.

## 10 point Checklist for Student Eligibility

- \_\_\_\_ 1. Making academic progress toward graduation by having obtained the required number of credits toward graduation for my grade.
- \_\_\_\_ 2. Will not have turned 20 before the start of the season in which I plan to participate.
- \_\_\_\_ 3. Physical exam within the last three (3) years on file at the Athletic Office.
- \_\_\_\_ 4. Have not changed schools without a corresponding move by my parents.
- \_\_\_\_ 5. Will not play more than four (4) seasons in any sport in grades 9--12 or participated after eight (8) semesters in grades 9--12. (All eight semesters of attendance shall be consecutive).
- \_\_\_\_ 6. Have never dropped out of school or repeated a grade (9--12).
- \_\_\_\_ 7. Have not accepted cash or merchandise for participating in a sport
- \_\_\_\_ 8. Will not compete in non-school events in my sport during the high school season, once reporting for the school team.
- \_\_\_\_ 9. Have not participated in an all-star game or contest.
- \_\_\_\_ 10. Will not use tobacco or alcoholic beverages; Will not use, consume, have possession, buy, sell or give away any other controlled substance, including steroids. Will not verbally, physically or sexually harass others.

For more detailed information, consult the current athletic eligibility information guide which was included in your son/daughter's eligibility packet.

## STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES/OBLIGATIONS

### Maple Lake High School Parent/Coach (Advisor) Communication Plan

Both parenting and coaching are extremely difficult vocations. By establishing an understanding of each position, we are better able to accept the actions of the other and provide greater benefit to children. As parents, when your children become involved in our program, you have a right to understand what expectations are placed on your child. In order for our programs to be successful, we must all work together in the best possible way – participant, parent, and coach/advisor. As teachers and coaches/advisors, we care a great deal about your son or daughter and want to contribute to his/her individual development in a positive way. We cannot promise that all of your concerns can be resolved to your liking, but we can promise that we will listen to your concerns and address them. **This begins with clear communication with the coach/advisor of your child's program.**

**Communication You Should Expect from Your Child’s Coach/Advisor:**

1. Philosophy of the coach/advisor.
2. Coach’s/advisor’s expectations (i.e. discipline)
3. Locations and times of all practices and contests.
4. Team/activity requirements (i.e. practices, special equipment)
5. Procedure followed should your child be injured during participation.

**Communication Coaches/Advisors Expect from parents:**

1. Concerns expressed directly to the coach.
2. Notification of any schedule conflicts well in advance.
3. Specific concerns with regard to a coach’s philosophy and/or expectations.

Participation in activities at Maple Lake High School can be a rewarding experience. However, it is important to understand that there may be times when things do not go as you or your child wishes. We must all keep in mind that the coach/advisor must work with a particular activity and keep a larger picture in mind, not just what is best for an individual participant. Also, keep in mind that coaches/advisors see participants at each practice, and that they are constantly evaluating in order to determine who deserves to play and participate in order for the team/activity to compete at the highest level possible. There can be factors other than ability and individual performance which enhance participation. At these times, discussion with the coach/advisor is encouraged. Some appropriate concerns to discuss with coaches/advisors are:

1. The treatment of your child, mentally and physically.
2. Ways to help your child improve.
3. Concerns about your child’s behavior.

Coaches/advisors are professionals. They make judgment decisions based on what they believe to be best for all students involved. Therefore, there are some concerns which must be left to the discretion of the coach/advisor:

1. Other students/athletes (please do not ask coaches/advisors to discuss another player/participant).
2. Team strategy and play calling.
3. Playing time for individual participants.

There are situations that may require a conference between the coach/advisor and the parent. These are to be encouraged. It is important that both parties involved have a clear understanding of the other’s position. At the varsity level, if a participant is unclear of his/her role on the team, including his/her playing time, we encourage the participant to discuss his/her situation with the Head Coach/Advisor. If the situation remains unclear, please use the steps listed below. **If playing time is the main concern, please be aware that this is at the Head Coach’s/Advisor’s discretion.**

1. When conferences are necessary, the following procedure must be followed to help promote a resolution to the issue or concern. A concern involving an athletic or non-athletic activity MUST follow an appropriate chain of command to be resolved. The appropriate chain of command is:
  - a. Participant - Coach/Advisor
  - b. Participant/Parent – Coach/Advisor
  - c. \*Participant/Parent – Coach/Advisor – Activities Director (A.D.)
  - d. \*Participant/Parent – Coach/Advisor – A.D. – School Administrator

**\*Parent may have a third party with them during the conference if they so desire.**

All communication begins with the participant and the coach/advisor of their level of activity.( i.e.: A 7<sup>th</sup> grade participant will express any concerns with his/her 7<sup>th</sup> grade coach/advisor before going to the head coach/advisor of that activity).

1. If possible, call the coach/advisor during the day. If the coach/advisor cannot be reached, leave a message for him/her. The coach/advisor will then return the call.
- 2. Please avoid discussing the problems with the coach/advisor just before or after an event or practice. These can be emotional times for both the parent and the coach. Meetings at these times do not promote resolution. (Please refer to Parent/Fan Decorum policy)**
3. When participants need to talk to their coach/advisor, after practice is best. Ask the coach before practice if you can set a time at which you can speak with him/her. Coaches/advisors who teach in the building can many times meet with a participant during the school day if necessary. This can be more productive than a rushed meeting before or after practice.
- 4. Other than to request a meeting or to ask that the coach/advisor call you, do not approach the coach/advisor in a public setting with other parents or participants nearby. This puts both of you in a difficult position.**

Activities programs have been established because research indicates that a student involved in co-curricular activities has a greater chance for success during adulthood. Many of the character traits required to be a successful participant are exactly those that will promote a successful life after high school. We hope the information provided here will make your experience with our activities programs less stressful and more enjoyable for you and your child.

#### **Conflict between Athletics and other School Activities**

It is the philosophy of the school that both athletic and fine arts play an important role in the lives of students and their families. It is with this in mind, and with mutual respect, that advisors, coaches and the activities director coordinate their schedules. The purpose is to avoid bringing pressure on participants as a result of conflicting schedules. The following regulations are an attempt to provide an equitable basis concerning the scheduling of events for students and a procedure to follow if conflicts do arise.

#### Scheduling of Events

- A. The Activities Director and music department chair will schedule events in the spring of the year as completely as possible for ensuing year.
- B. Events scheduled after that date will have to be cleared with the master schedule in the principal's office. Official district, region and state additions or corrections should take precedent over non-conference and locally scheduled events.
- C. Both the activities director and music department chair are to receive in writing proposed dates for events which are scheduled after the initial schedule is drawn up.
- D. When it becomes necessary to reschedule a sport or music activity which has been postponed because of weather conditions, the coach or director must check the existing school schedule before rescheduling the event. If there is possible conflict, the change must be approved by the activities director.

#### Conflicts in Co-Curricular Activities

- A. An individual student who attempts to participate in several co-curricular activities may occasionally be in a position of a conflict of obligation. When this occurs, the wishes of the student will be heard and taken into consideration.

- B. The activities department recognizes that each student should have the opportunity for a broad range of experiences in the area of co-curricular activities; therefore, we will attempt to schedule events in a manner to minimize conflicts.
- C. Students have the responsibility to do everything they can to avoid continuous conflicts. This would include being cautious about belonging to too many activities where conflicts are bound to happen. It also means notifying the faculty/coaches/advisors involved immediately when a conflict does arise.
- D. When a conflict arises, the advisors/coaches will work out a solution so the student does not feel caught in the middle. If a solution cannot be found, the principal will make the decision based on the following: the relative importance of each event, the importance of each event to the student, the relative contribution the student can make, how long each event has been scheduled, and the opinion or wishes of the parents.
- E. Once the decision has been made and the student has followed that decision, he/she will not be penalized in any way by either advisor/coach. If it becomes obvious that a student cannot fulfill the obligation of a school activity, he/she should withdraw from that activity.

### **Eligibility**

Eligibility requirements shall be those set forth by the MSHSL as well as the following:

1. Players must attend a minimum of one week 5 days of practice before becoming eligible for games and must also comply with minimum rules as set forth by the MSHSL.
2. Players absent from school shall be denied the right to participate in either practice or games on that day or night. However, if the absence is excused (ie. funeral, field trip) and approval is given by the parent/guardian, the coach, and the school principal, the student may practice/play.
3. A student must be in attendance ½ day (by 12:00 noon) to practice or compete in a game.
4. The MSHSL Rule for Chemical Eligibility will be as follows: During the calendar year, regardless of quantity, a student shall not: a) possess or use a beverage containing alcohol b) possess or use tobacco, and/or c) use or consume, have in possession, buy sell or give away any other controlled substance.

### **PENALTIES**

#### **1. First Violation**

Penalty: after confirmation of the first violation, the student shall lose eligibility for the next two (2) consecutive interscholastic events or two (2) weeks of a season in which the student is a participant, whichever is greater. No exception is permitted for a student who becomes a participant in a treatment program.

#### **2. Second Violation**

Penalty: after confirmation of the second violation, the student shall lose eligibility for the next six (6) consecutive interscholastic events in which the student is a participant. No exception is permitted for a student who becomes a participant in a treatment program.

#### **3. Third and Subsequent Violations Penalty:**

- a. After confirmation of the third or subsequent violations, the student shall lose eligibility for the next twelve (12) consecutive interscholastic events in which the student is a participant.
- b. If after the third or subsequent violations, the student on her/his own volition becomes a



participant in a chemical dependency program or treatment program, the student may be certified for reinstatement in MSHSL activities after a minimum period of six (6) weeks. Such certification must be issued by the director or a counselor of a chemical dependency treatment center.

4. Penalties shall be accumulative beginning with and throughout the student's participation in a high school activity.

IF AN ATHLETE DENIES VIOLATING THE ABOVE ELIGIBILITY RULES BUT AT A LATER DATE IS FOUND TO HAVE VIOLATED THAT RULE, DOUBLE PENALTIES WILL BE ENFORCED.

Denial Disqualification: A student shall be disqualified from all interscholastic athletics for **NINE ADDITIONAL WEEKS** beyond the student's original period of ineligibility when the student denies violation of the rule, is allowed to participate and then is subsequently found guilty of the violation.

#### Academic Eligibility

1. Academic Eligibility refers to academic standards that students must uphold to be eligible to participate in co-curricular activities. These activities are in the areas of **fine arts, athletics and academic extensions**.

#### MAPLE LAKE ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Student eligibility is based on academic success as well as a commitment of the participants to follow the high school league behavior rules. To be eligible to participate, **students must receive passing grades in all classes**.

1. Any student receiving one or more failing grades at mid-quarter or quarter break is ineligible for a minimum of two weeks or 2 events whichever is longer.
2. At the end of the second week the student will submit an "eligibility slip" and every week thereafter, until the next set of grades is issued verifying eligibility. Eligibility slips are due by noon the last day of the academic week in order to be able to compete the following week. (Slips can be submitted earlier in the week)
  - a) Students that submit slips with passing grades from all teachers are allowed to play the next week.
  - b) Students still failing continue to be ineligible. Students who do not submit slips on time are also ineligible.
  - c) After the initial first week, grades are checked weekly placing the emphasis on sustaining academic improvement. If the student is not passing for the week, he/she becomes ineligible for that week until an 'all passing' slip is submitted.
  - d) The only exception to the above stated rule is in the fall when school starts again. Since fall athletes (Football 9-12, Volleyball 9-12, Cross Country 7-12) start three weeks before school starts and those academically ineligible from the spring have no chance to make up their failing grades until school starts, the following will be followed.
    - \*\* Cross Country – 2 meets or 2 weeks whichever is longest.
    - \* Football – 1 scrimmage and 1 game at the beginning of the season. \*\* Volleyball – 2 games or 2 weeks whichever is longest.
    - \*\* Cross Country & Volleyball can have MSHSL competitions at the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> 2 weeks.
    - \* Football can't have a MSHSL game until the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> week.

3. Students can move from eligible to ineligible on a weekly basis between mid-quarter and the end of the quarter as well as between quarter-end to the next mid-quarter, depending upon their weekly grade progress (2-3 week span)

#### Equipment

The exact uniform and equipment issued to a participant at the beginning of a season must be returned to the coaching staff at the end of the season. **Items that are not returned within two weeks of the end of the season or the date that a participant drops or quits, whichever is earlier, will be charged to the participant.** No student may compete in the following season unless previous obligations have been satisfied.

#### Insurance

School District #881 has no provision for medical insurance coverage for participants and it shall thus be the responsibility of each participant to provide his/her own coverage. School District #881 carries liability insurance coverage in the event of negligence and is named as the cause of an accident. School District #881 is also covered by the MSHSL catastrophic insurance program.

#### Student Accidents

We wish to emphasize that the school district does not provide any type of health or accident insurance for injuries incurred by your child at school. We encourage parents to review their present policies to determine if coverage is adequate.

#### Medical Policy

Physical examinations are required at least once every three years and medical forms must be on file in the high school activities office before participation can be allowed. Participants shall be responsible for their own physical examinations at their own expense. The MSHSL Parents' Permit and Health Questionnaire must also be completed and received by the school before participation can be allowed. After major surgery or serious illness or injury, the attending physician must verify in writing the student's readiness for participation. The general rule is that seventh and tenth grade students, as well as transfer students, will need physical examinations.

#### **ACTIVITY FEES (Subject to change)**

There will be an activity fee assessed each participant for each activity in which they participate. The fees are as follows:

**Class I Activities:** JH Speech, Co-curricular 3 Act Play, and 7th and 8th grade athletic activities are \$90 per activity, with 3rd activity at \$45. \$160.00/St Tim's Students

**Class II Activities:** Mock Trial, 9-12 Speech, Knowledge Bowl, 1 Act Play, Robotics and all 9-12 grade athletic activities are \$115.00 per activity, with 3rd activity \$58.00

The family maximum fee for students in Class I and Class II activities is \$500.00 per year.

A reduction in fees is available for those that qualify for the free & reduced lunch program. If hardship cases exist, check for information on fee reduction with the Activities Director. This does not apply to Co-op Fee's. Co-op fees can be established by the host school, the cooperative or by Maple Lake High School and can be higher than those charged for Class I and Class II activities. The fee for Boys and Girls Swimming and Diving has been set at \$230 for Maple Lake High School students.

Summer Marching Band: These fees are separate from Class I and Class II activities and do not go towards the maximum of fee caps.

**Reduction in fees available for those that qualify for the free & reduced lunch program. To be eligible for these reduced rates you must mark yes or no under #9 on the MLHS Rules of Conduct form and sign.** Data Privacy issues restrict us from checking who qualifies. If hardship cases exist, check for information on fee reduction with the Activities Director. This does not apply to Hockey Fees. Hockey fees are set by the host school or the cooperative and the hockey association.

**All fees MUST be paid prior to participation in a practice or contest!**

In cases of injury or illness, transfer out of the district, or being cut from the squad, a refund will be made up until the time of the first contest. **NO refund will be given if a student quits an activity after the second week.**

**Please note: Any 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grade athlete who goes through the acceleration process to play on any level of the high school team (varsity, junior varsity or “C”-squad) or any 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grade athlete who is part of an activity which only has a senior high program must appear on our MSHSL eligibility form.**

All activity fees are to be remitted to Heather Haney in the High School Office at Maple Lake High School. Any reimbursement for fees paid must be initiated by a request from the participant to the advisor. The advisor will then advise the Activities Director in writing that said participant is entitled to the requested refund. Refunds will be given if participants quit within the first week of their practice or if injured within three weeks of the start of play. All monies for equipment and uniforms are to be collected in advance of distribution.

### **Athletic Code of Responsibility**

#### **A. Conduct of Athletes**

The member schools of the MSHSL believe that participation in inter-scholastic activities is a privilege that is accompanied by responsibility.

As a student participating in my school’s interscholastic activities, I understand and accept the following responsibilities:

I will respect the rights and beliefs of others and will treat others with courtesy and consideration.

I will be fully responsible for my own actions and the consequences of my actions.

I will respect the property of others.

I will respect and obey the rules of my school and the laws of my community, state and country.

I will show respect to those who are responsible for enforcing the rules of my school and laws of my community, state and country.

I will treat opponents with respect: **shake hands prior to and after all contests.**

I will respect the judgment of contest officials, abide by rules of the contest and display no behavior that could incite fans.

I will accept seriously the responsibility and privilege of representing school and community: display positive public action at all times.

I will live up to high standards of sportsmanship established by the coach.

I will control emotions and behaviors in all contests.

I will control response to spectator comments.

I will refrain from fighting, taunting, and disrespectful commentary.

I will allow only the captain to approach an official to seek information concerning rule applications or interpretations. All such interaction must be done in a respectful manner.

#### B. Conduct of Athletes/Students as Spectators

I realize that a ticket is a privilege to observe a contest and support high school activities, not a license to verbally assault others or be generally obnoxious.

I will respect decisions made by contest officials.

I will be an exemplary role model by positively supporting teams in every manner possible, including content of cheers and signs.

I will respect fans, coaches and participants.

I will serve as a role model of sportsmanship.

I will not bring noisemakers, confetti, or other objects into contests.

I will refrain from crowd booing, foot stomping, making negative comments, or applying blame on the participants, coaches, or contest officials.

I will not exhibit any disrespectful or derogatory yells, chants, songs, or gestures, for example, yelling or waving arms during opponent's free-throw attempts or any other time during a contest.

#### C. Penalties

First violation: Any action determined to be in violation of the Athletic Code of Responsibilities will cause that individual to be ineligible for the next regularly scheduled game/match/meet that the individual would compete.

Second violation: The penalty will carry a four (4) regularly scheduled game/match/meet ineligibility.

Any questions about the Maple Lake High School Activities Program, call Dan Krause, MLHS Activities Director (320) 963--7518.

## CENTRAL MINNESOTA CONFERENCE SPORTSMANSHIP PLAN

### Adopted 2001

#### **I. Belief Statement**

The ideals of good sportsmanship, ethical behavior and integrity permeate our culture. The values of good citizenship and high behavioral standards apply equally to all activity disciplines. In perception and practice, good sportsmanship shall be defined as those qualities of behavior, which are characterized by generosity and genuine concern for others. Good sportsmanship is viewed by the Central Minnesota Conference as a concrete measure of the understanding and commitment to fair play, ethical behavior and integrity.

#### **II. Program Goals/Expectations**

Good sportsmanship is strived for in all Central Minnesota Conference events. Good sportsmanship is a responsibility of players, coaches, faculty, cheerleaders, students, adult spectators and officials. Promotion of good sportsmanship at Central Minnesota Conference events should include a demonstration of respect for opponents and officials. All involved in a conference event should maintain self-control throughout the contest. Rules of the event should be understood and skill and performance should be recognized regardless of team affiliation. Good sportsmanship is the cornerstone of a quality athletic program and the conference.

#### **III. Sportsmanship Committee Members**

The committee shall consist of Athletic/Activity Directors from the following high schools: Maple Lake, Eden Valley-Watkins, Howard Lake-Waverly-Winsted, and Paynesville.

#### **IV. Code of Conduct**

##### **The Athlete**

- \*Follows the rules
- \*Represents school and community

##### **The Coach**

- \*Teaches fair play
- \*Respects officials decisions
- \*Models sportsmanship
- \*Knows the rules
- \*Applies rules fairly
- \*Respects players and coaches

##### **The Spectator**

- \*Respects officials decision
- \*Cheers positively
- \*Models positive school pride

#### **V. Promotion Strategies**

- \*Each CMC school would display a Sportsmanship Banner in their gym
- \*Display Welcome signs for the visiting schools
- \*Print CMC Code of Conduct on athletic programs
- \*Include in Central Minnesota Conference By-Laws
- \*Discuss sportsmanship at monthly Athletic Director meetings
- \*Attend Fall CMC Students-Leadership workshop
- \*Attend Fall CMC Coaches meeting

## **VI. Rewards for good behavior**

\*CMC Team/School Recognition

\*MSHSL State Sportsmanship Banner

## **VII. Consequences for Acts of Misconduct**

\*CMC fan deportment policy will apply

\*Athletes/Coaches governed by MSHSL guidelines.

## **VIII. Evaluation Procedures**

\*Sportsmanship will be addressed at monthly Athletic Director/Administrator meetings as needed.

\*Reevaluate plan at May Athletic Directors meeting.

## **Parent/Fan Decorum Policy**

At a time when society is experiencing increased incidents of physical confrontations and unmanaged anger associated with youth sports, Maple Lake High School wishes to state its philosophical stance for keeping our athletes, coaches, and fans safe: insisting on proper behavior and promoting our positive reputation in regards to sportsmanship.

We recognize that the majority of our parents and fans set a behavioral example of the highest standard. However, the few who do not, force us to address these issues.

Our coaches, student-athletes, and regular students are subject to school rules and expected behavior as established by the Minnesota State High School League, Central Minnesota Conference and Maple Lake School Board. It therefore becomes incumbent upon us to set standards for the behavior of our adult fans and parents.

Maple Lake High School supports the MSHSL and the Central Minnesota Conference rules and the emphasis on good sportsmanship. We embrace this fully by definition and in spirit of intent. Proper human courtesies, kindness and decorum must apply to all relationships and situations, and sports are no exception. High school and junior high sports exist to build character, to allow students to express themselves through physical exertion and skills, and to provide entertainment. Maple Lake will not condone or permit inappropriate parental behavior directed towards Maple Lake staff or players, the opposing school and all its representatives, or the game officials. Inappropriate behavior is embarrassing to the school and reflects poorly on our values as a community.

Parents and fans need to understand certain facets of the structure of high school activities and the relationship involved. Notably . . .

1. The coach alone is responsible for deciding how much each participant plays. Participation is a privilege, not an inherent right. At Maple Lake, our athletes in grades 7 and 8 will have close to equal playing time as long as the athlete follows all guidelines assigned by the coach. In C- squad/9<sup>th</sup> grade, the playing time may not be equal but the athlete will receive significant playing time as long as the coach's guidelines are followed. On Junior Varsity and Varsity teams, the coach will determine playing time in relation to the athletes' skills and attitudes and also the needs of the program.
2. By allowing one's child or children to play sports, the parent is, in effect, turning the child over to that coach for that time period. The coach will instruct the child and keep the child safe within the normally accepted standards. Coaches are operating with the best interests of all student athletes in their charge.

3. It is inappropriate for a parent to confront a coach immediately after an event. Parents must wait 24 hours after an event before they meet with the coach. A tournament, meet (track, cross country, speech), etc. is considered an event and the coach must not be confronted until at least 24 hours after the last game of the tournament is played. This “cooling off” period will help avoid conflict at a potentially emotional time. If a parent cannot reach satisfactory resolve from the coach, he/she may then contact the Activities Director.
4. It is never acceptable to make derogatory comments about the officials, coaches, players of either team, or other parents and fans at an athletic event.
5. It is never acceptable to be swearing at public athletic events.
6. It is not acceptable to come to an athletic event intoxicated.
7. Being offensive in any other fashion is not acceptable.

Parents who violate any of these standards of decorum risk sanctions established by the Central Minnesota Conference Fan Department Policy and the Maple Lake School Board including, but not limited to, the following:

- A. A warning, verbal or written.
- B. Removal from the contest or premises.
- C. Banishment from attendance at athletic contests for a set period of time or even permanently.
- D. The severing of further contact with team personnel.
- E. Civil or legal action.

In conclusion, the Maple Lake activities department commends those parents who have always exhibited exemplary behavior and have served as positive role models for our student-athletes. We encourage our parents to volunteer, to become involved with our teams, and to be supportive of the attempts of the entire community to educate our youth.

By working together, we will establish Maple Lake athletes as a “class act”.

**Where we let players play  
Coaches coach  
Officials officiate  
And let the fans be positive**

## **Fan Department Policy**

### I. Purpose

The schools of the Central Minnesota Conference seek to provide a safe environment for athletes and fans at events and to that end expect fans to demonstrate good sportsmanship during athletic events. It is expected that all spectators will treat all athletic participants, coaches, and representatives of competing teams with respect at home and away interscholastic events.

### II. Definitions

A. Good sportsmanship is viewed as a concrete measure of the understanding and commitment to fair play, ethical behavior, and integrity.

B. Examples of good sportsmanship and respect for competing teams includes, but is not limited to:

1. Appreciating good play no matter the player.
2. Working cooperatively with contest officials and supervisors in keeping order.
3. Refraining from booing or making negative comments about officials or participants.
4. Showing respect for public property and staying off the contest floor or field.
5. Representing yourself and your school with proper conduct.

C. Examples of negative, inappropriate, or potentially unsafe fan behavior includes, but is not limited to the following:

1. Participating in disrespectful or derogatory yells, chants, songs, or gestures.
2. Booing, heckling, disrespectful criticism of officials.
3. Antagonizing or inciting fighting among fans or players.
4. Having in one's possession or using artificial noisemakers.
5. Acting in ways clearly contradictory to expectations for good sportsmanship.

### III. General Statement of Policy

A. Administrators will be responsible for ensuring that an appropriate level of supervision is scheduled at all school contests. This might include coaches, supervisors, administrators and law enforcement officials.

B. Inappropriate or potentially unsafe fan behavior will not be tolerated.

C. Should fan(s) continue to act inappropriately or act egregiously, the following disciplinary action will be taken:

1. On the first offense, the supervisor or an administrator will informally visit with the fan, explain the impropriety of the behavior and warn of the consequences for future inappropriate behavior.
2. On second offense, the individual will be ejected from the contest, or suspended from the next contest, and warned that any future inappropriate behavior will result in a suspension for a set number of contests for the remainder of the school year. Failure to leave school grounds when ejected will constitute trespassing.