

# ATHLETIC INFORMATION

## TABLE OF CONTENTS (Index on the last page)

ATHLETIC PHILOSOPHY .....	2
FAN BEHAVIOR .....	2
ATHLETIC ELIGIBILITY .....	2
TSSAA ATHLETIC ELIGIBILITY STANDARDS .....	2
MJCA ATHLETIC ELIGIBILITY STANDARDS .....	3
8 <sup>TH</sup> GRADE STUDENTS PLAYING ON HIGH SCHOOL TEAMS: .....	3
ATHLETIC GUIDELINES.....	4
INSURANCE .....	4
REMOVAL FROM A TEAM .....	4

## 2019-2020 ATHLETIC INFORMATION

### ATHLETICS

MJCA is a member of the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association (TSSAA). MJCA maintains an inter-scholastic sports program, competing in varsity football, soccer, basketball, **track and field**, baseball, golf and tennis for boys; varsity volleyball, basketball, softball, **track and field**, golf, tennis, and cheerleading for girls. Many of these sports are also available for Middle School students. On the elementary level, MJCA offers soccer and **5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade basketball**. **Baseball and cheerleading**. The sports program will be expanded as opportunity arises.

#### **ATHLETIC PHILOSOPHY**

The athletic program at MJCA is an integral part of the educational process. Its purpose is to encourage individual physical fitness, develop a knowledge and appreciation of sports, learn athletic skills, cultivate good sportsmanship, instill Christian character, teach life skills, and use all gifts to the glory of God.

In a larger sense, the goal of the program is to provide experiences for individuals to help them become self-disciplined, loyal, and cooperative. It is felt that these character qualities are necessary for success in any endeavor in life. Sportsmanship is the “golden rule” of athletics. It means treating others as you wish to be treated. MJCA strives to develop student-athletes who exhibit the practice of playing fair, demonstrate self-discipline, show respect for authority, and demonstrate the spirit of hard work and sacrifice. Athletes must take loss or defeat without complaint and victory without gloating. They should always treat opponents with fairness, generosity and courtesy. Athletic participation at MJCA is a privilege, not a right. All athletes must maintain the highest standard of conduct and character. All athletes and cheerleaders are considered to be in a leadership position and must demonstrate attitudes and actions that are consistent with the rules and goals of MJCA and its athletic program.

#### **FAN BEHAVIOR**

We encourage all students as well as members of the community to support MJCA athletics by attending athletic events. Good sportsmanship is expected from MJCA fans. Derogatory or unsportsmanlike behavior directed to the opponent or the referees/officials is inappropriate. This behavior does not reflect the high standards of MJCA. Fans are expected to treat guests from opposing schools and the referees/officials with respect and courtesy. Any fan who does not comply with the above policy will be asked to leave or be escorted from the premises.

#### **ATHLETIC ELIGIBILITY**

##### **TSSAA ATHLETIC ELIGIBILITY STANDARDS**

1. A student must earn five credits the preceding school year if less than 24 units are required for graduation or six credits the preceding school year if 24 or more credits are required for graduation. All credits must be earned by the first day of the beginning of the school year.
2. A student must be enrolled **in a school** before the 20<sup>th</sup> school day of the semester, in regular attendance, and carrying at least **six** full courses during the present semester.
3. A student is permitted eight semesters of eligibility beginning with the ninth grade. Junior division students are permitted four semesters of eligibility beginning with the eighth grade.
4. A student shall be ineligible in high school if he or she becomes 19 years of age on or before August 1 or in junior high if he or she becomes 16 years of age on or before August 1.

5. Athletes must live at home with their parents.
6. In order for a transfer student with an athletic record to be eligible at another school there must be a bona fide change of residence by the athlete's parents.
7. All transfer students must be approved by the Executive Director of TSSAA before participating in any game.
8. A student who engages in three or more days of practice – including spring practice – with a high school in which he or she is enrolled shall be ineligible in that sport for 12 months if the student enrolls in another school without a corresponding change in the residence of his or her parents.
9. A student whose name is listed on the school eligibility report cannot participate in an independent game or meet until the season has closed in that particular sport. (This does not include golf, tennis or bowling.)
10. A registered athlete cannot accept any money for athletic skills in any TSSAA sponsored sport.
11. An athlete may accept a medal, trophy, high school letter, sweater, jacket, shirt, blazer or blanket for athletic participation but nothing else of commercial value, and these awards must carry the school's letter or other appropriate award emblem.
12. All expenses to an athletic camp where specified instruction is offered must be paid by the athlete or his parents.
13. When an athlete is charged tuition to attend a school, it must be paid by the parent or bona fide guardian or other family member.
14. A student who repeats the seventh or eighth grade and participates in school athletics while repeating shall be ineligible to participate in athletics in the ninth grade.
15. A student may not participate in an all-star game unless it is sanctioned by the TSSAA and unless he/she has completed high school eligibility in that sport.

#### **MJCA ATHLETIC ELIGIBILITY STANDARDS**

1. Students who are not enrolled/re-enrolled for the upcoming school year will not be permitted to participate in athletic or cheerleading tryouts, camps, and practices.
2. All student athletes (grades 6-11) must be passing a minimum of six credit-receiving classes at the end of each of the first three quarters. Seniors must be passing five credit-receiving classes at the end of each of the first three quarters. At the end of the year, the second semester grades will be used to determine eligibility for the following fall.
3. Academically ineligible students may be reinstated at the three week report or six week report if they are passing all of their classes with a minimum of a "C".
4. The TSSAA standard of needing six passed credit-receiving classes (the previous year) and taking five credit-receiving classes (the current year) remains valid and in place.
5. Exceptions to eligibility guidelines for extenuating circumstances must be approved by the administration.
6. A student who repeats the seventh or eighth grade and participates in school athletics while repeating shall be ineligible to participate in athletics in the ninth grade.

#### **8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE STUDENTS PLAYING ON HIGH SCHOOL TEAMS:**

It is the belief of the MJCA Athletic Department that both students and teams are better served if they play with their age appropriate teams. There are five basic reasons for this....

1. Leadership – We are in the business of teaching young men and women to be leaders. The 8<sup>th</sup> grade season is a crucial time for this. They are now among the oldest on their team and are expected to carry a leadership role.

2. Experience – The quality of game experience that an 8<sup>th</sup> grade student receives at the middle school level will (most of the time) trump the game experience that they would receive as an under-aged high school player.
3. Success – If we expect our high school teams to be successful, we need our feeder programs to learn how to experience success and winning. If we are pulling the better players off of that team and weakening our middle school programs, they will be less likely to experience the success that it takes to build confidence for the next level.
4. Physical – Most of the time middle school boys and girls are not physically ready to compete with 18 year old men and women.
5. Loyalty – Students and parents need to be loyal to their middle school counterparts and help make their peers compete at a higher level.

With these reasons in mind, we understand that there are always exceptions to any rule. The following are some of the reasons that we would allow an 8<sup>th</sup> grade student to participate at the high school level:

1. If there is not a middle school team offered, at MJCA, in the participating sport.
2. If the high school team is lacking the numbers to participate, a try-out of 8<sup>th</sup> graders may be permitted.
3. The Athletic Department deems it necessary (for the betterment of the program and athlete) to make such a move.

This decision is up to the Athletic Department alone. The coaches may give input to the athletic director, but may NOT make this decision on their own. This type of action is to be a rare exception to the rule, and not to be a common practice.

### **ATHLETIC GUIDELINES**

Specific guidelines for athletic travel, dress, conduct, and other pertinent policies are established by the MJCA Athletic Department. A copy of the athletic guidelines is available on the school website.

### **INSURANCE**

Proof of medical insurance is required for participation in athletics. Refer to Insurance Coverage and Exceptions under Medical Information section. MJCA does not carry insurance coverage for injuries incurred while playing or practicing football.

### **REMOVAL FROM A TEAM**

Any MJCA athlete who either quits a team or is removed from a team is not eligible to participate on another MJCA team until the full completion of the season of the team that he/she was removed from or quit. This rule goes into effect on the first legal game date (not first actual game date) of the season through the final game of the season.

## INDEX

### A

ATHLETIC ELIGIBILITY 2

    MJCA ATHLETIC ELIGIBILITY STANDARDS 3

    TSSAA ATHLETIC ELIGIBILITY STANDARDS 2

ATHLETIC GUIDELINES 4

ATHLETIC PHILOSOPHY 2

### E

8TH GRADE STUDENTS ON HIGH SCHOOL TEAMS: 3

### F

FAN BEHAVIOR 2

### I

INSURANCE 4

### R

REMOVAL FROM A TEAM 4