

Marathon Junior-Senior High School

Olympian Athletics

2024-2025



Marathon Central School District

Athletic Department

Post Office Box 339

1 East Main Street, Marathon, New York 13803

Phone 607-849-3251

Andy Buchsbaum
Superintendent

Jamie Coppola
Principal

Mr. Bryan Hoyt
Athletic Director

Dear Parent(s) or Guardian:

It is a pleasure to know that your son/daughter has chosen to participate in the interscholastic athletic program here at Marathon Junior-Senior High School for the upcoming Fall, Winter or Spring sport seasons. The goals of learning and the fun that comes with athletic competition are very important and significant aspects of the overall program offered to students in this school district.

Every student who wishes to participate in the interscholastic athletic program must have a CURRENT physical examination on file with the school nurse. In addition, they must complete a 30-Day Interval Health History Update Form that must be kept on file in the nurse's office. **NO STUDENT-ATHLETE can practice, under any circumstance, until the School Health Office has reviewed and signed these forms and forwarded them to each respective coach.**

1. Physical exams can be scheduled through the school nurse or your own physician's office.
2. Family doctor's physical exams are also acceptable. Forms may be obtained from the school nurse. Completed forms must be returned to the school nurse. **However, if you are dropping off a physical form during the summer months please drop off to Mrs. Kacie Penrose in the high school main office.**

In addition, the safety of your child when involved in athletics is always of the utmost concern to those who coach and supervise the athletic program. Through this voluntary participation in interscholastic athletics your child risks the possibility of a serious injury or even death due to unforeseen circumstances. In our continuing efforts to reduce these risk and maintain clear communication with parents and athletes alike we would like to bring to your attention the following school policies which are enclosed in the Student-Athletes Interscholastic Athletic Program Handbook.

After you have read this important information, please understand that you will be mailed your Athletic Eligibility Permission Slip and the 30-Day Interval Health History Form. These forms will arrive in the mail around the first week of August. After the forms arrive, please **COMPLETE THE FORMS AND RETURN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE** but no later than August 16th using one of the methods below:

- **Drop the forms off to the high school main office to Mrs. Kacie Penrose.**
- **Mail the forms to the high school using the following address: Mrs. Kacie Penrose, Marathon Jr/Sr. High School, PO Box 339, Marathon, NY 13803.**

PLEASE NOTE: It is essential that these forms be returned using one of the methods above, as soon as possible, because student-athletes cannot practice, under any circumstance, until the School Health Office has reviewed and signed these forms and forwarded them to each specific coach. If you have question or wish to fax information to the school nurse, Sarah Fairbanks, please contact her using the following numbers: Office Phone 607-849-3210, Office Fax 607-849-3900.

We thank you for your attention to this matter and look forward to both your support and enjoyment of your child's participation in the interscholastic athletic program!

Very truly yours,

Bryan Hoyt, Athletic Director

STUDENT-ATHLETE INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC PROGRAM HANDBOOK

The Board of Education, Administration and Interscholastic Athletics Coaching Staff have established the following rules, policies and procedures governing the participation of students in the interscholastic athletic program, which together comprise the Student-Athlete Interscholastic Athletic Program Handbook (hereinafter referred to as the “Athletic Handbook”). The philosophy of the board is to provide a wide opportunity for participation in this important aspect of our instructional program. Along with participation, comes the requirement for all student-athletes to abide by these rules.

In addition to the requirements set forth in this “Athletic Handbook”, participating coaches, students and parents shall be governed by the policies, bylaws, regulations and any other requirements promulgated by the Interscholastic Athletic Conference, Section IV Athletics or the New York State Public High School Athletic Association (NYSPHSAA).

1. Enforcement Periods

The rules set forth in this “Athletic Handbook” are enforced for each season of participation (Fall, Winter, and Spring) based upon the NYSPHSAA Standard calendar of weeks and the dates formalized by the Interscholastic Athletic Conference and Section IV Athletics.

The following chart indicates the “Athletic Handbook” enforcement dates for individuals and teams for the upcoming 2018-19 sports seasons and will be enforced up to and including the end date regardless of when a student-athlete’s competitive season ends. In addition, the sections on *Appropriate Behavior of Student-Athletes and Substance Abuse-Alcohol, Tobacco & Illicit Drugs* pertains to ALL student-athletes 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Fall	Start Date	End Date
Modified Season	August 26 th	November 17 th
Varsity Season	August 26 th	November 17 th
Winter	Start Date	End Date
Modified 1st Season	October 28 th	March 16 th
Modified 2nd Season	January 3 rd	March 16 th
Varsity Season	November 18 th	March 16 th
Spring	Start Date	End Date
Modified Season	March 24 th	June 14 th
Varsity Season	March 17 th	June 14 th

2. Academic Eligibility Provisions

The Board of Education, Administration, Staff, Parents and Students, governing the participation of students in the extracurricular activities, has established the following policy. The philosophy of the board is to provide a wide opportunity for participation in this important aspect of our instructional program. Along with participation, comes the requirement for all students to abide by these rules.

Definition: Extra-curricular is defined as an official school sponsored activity that is outside the prescribed curriculum.

Examples of extra-curricular activities include but are not limited to:

- Clubs/organizations (examples include: Drama, FBLA, Student Council, Marching Band, etc.)
- School sponsored athletic teams (any sport- fall, winter, spring, and at any level - modified, JV, and varsity)
- Attendance at school related function after hours (examples include: sporting events, concerts, plays, etc.)
- School dance (examples include: regular school dances and formal dances)

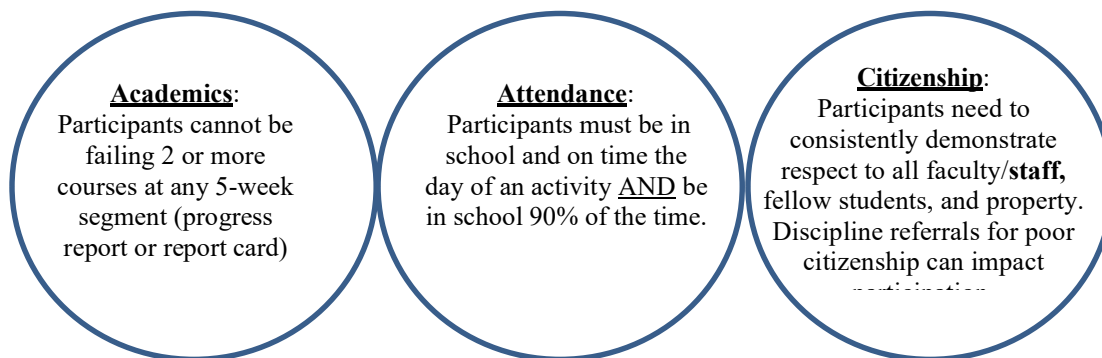
Participation in all extra-curricular activities is a privilege that demands responsibility. The purpose of the extra-curricular program is to promote educational attitudes and behaviors that will help students find success in life beyond school. Participants have a responsibility to model behaviors that display high academic standards, leadership, sportsmanship, cooperation and service in both the school and community.

Why have a code of conduct for JSHS extra-curricular activities?

Participation in all extra-curricular activities is a privilege that demands responsibility. The purpose of the extra-curricular code is to promote educational attitudes and behaviors that will help students find success in life beyond school.

What are the requirements of the code?

The code has three (3) components. All three components weigh equally, and all three components must be achieved in order to earn eligibility for any extra-curricular activity.



What if one (or more) of the components to the code is not achieved?

If during any 5-week segment of the school year, a component(s) is not achieved, an administrator will notify the student about what component(s) was (were) not achieved. This student will be put on probation for the next 5-week segment.

The student on probation will be provided adequate time during the next consecutive 5-week segment to remedy the component(s) that was not achieved. Mandatory study table sessions will need to be attended for any student who does not meet the academic component. Effective in the 2022-2023 school year, study tables will not accumulate from one 5-week segment to another.

Once a student has been notified by administration or guidance that he/she has not met the code and is on probation, then he/she will continue to remain eligible for participation in all extra-curricular activities for the current 5-week segment as long as he/she is actively working on improving what is needed to meet the code's components. If at the end of the current 5-week segment, a student has yet to meet the required three components, then he/she will become ineligible for participation in any extracurricular activities for the next 5-week segment. Any ineligible athlete may attend and participate in team practices. They may attend but not participate in home games. They may neither attend nor participate in away games. School assistance will always be provided to help encourage achieving the three required components to regain eligibility for extra-curricular activities. At the end of every 5-week segment, eligibility list, probation lists and ineligibility lists will be created.

Administration/Guidance will be in charge of notifying all students, parents, teachers, and advisers/coaches of code infractions, ineligibility, and eligibility for students.

Advisors and Coaches will be responsible for submitting accurate student rosters to the High School Main Office within one week from the start of their program. In addition, it is the advisers and coach's responsibility to keep the High School Main Office aware of additions and deletions to the student rosters throughout the remainder of the program term.

A. **Academic Standards:** Participants who are experiencing academic difficulty **MUST** receive academic assistance.

The student, parent(s), coach, teacher(s), advisor(s) and guidance or counseling staff should all participate in assisting the student in overcoming his/her deficiencies in the appropriate subject areas. Non-compliance may result in appropriate disciplinary action, including suspension from the extracurricular activity, until the student has satisfied his/her academic responsibilities.

In order to remain academically eligible to participate in extracurricular activities, the student will do the following:

1. Meet with the appropriate teacher(s) and make arrangements for extra help in the specific courses.
2. Be involved in organized study table sessions and/or organization group programs.
3. Develop a plan for making up missed work and bringing themselves current in their deficient courses

It is the responsibility of the student, parent(s), coach, advisor(s), teachers, counselors and guidance personnel to see that this plan is developed and followed. Regular communication is essential between parties to ensure success for the student.

1. All courses that earn a grade for a student are included in this code of conduct.
2. If you are failing 2 courses at any given 5-week segment you will automatically be placed on probation list for the next 5-week segment.
3. If you are failing 3 courses at any given 5-week segment you will automatically be placed on ineligible list for the next 5-week segment.

4. If a student is on probation, he/she still will be eligible to participate in extra-curricular activities as long as that student attends an after-school study table for a minimum of 4 study tables sessions for the entire 5-week probation segment. Students on probation must attend one study table each week. Late Bus transportation is available on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday afternoons. Student must sign up in the Main Office on these particular days. A student staying at after school study tables will request a note to provide the adviser/coach to enter the activity late due for entering the study table session. Students may choose which four days are most convenient for their schedule as long as one session is completed per week. Study tables are a quiet venue for students to individually complete work and better prepare for their courses. Meeting with individual teachers for extra help may be arranged in place of study tables.
5. If at the conclusion of the 5-week probation segment a student has been able to achieve the code's standards, then he/she will no longer be on probation.
6. If at the conclusion of the 5-week probation segment a student has not been able to achieve the code's standards, the student will be ineligible until the standards are met.
7. Appeal of Academic Ineligibility – An ineligible student may appeal their status 2 ½ weeks (halfway) into the 5-week time period by:
 - a) Writing a letter to the principal, detailing what steps they have taken in each class to earn academic eligibility.
 - b) Having the student's coach write a letter of endorsement to appeal the ineligible status.
 - c) The principal will reach out to the student's teachers to see if they endorse the appeal.
 - d) The principal has final determination of moving a student's status from ineligible to probation at the 2 ½ week mark

3. *Student Attendance & Athletic Participation*

To participate in a practice or an interscholastic contest **STUDENT-ATHLETES MUST BE IN SCHOOL BY THE BEGINNING OF THEIR FIRST PERIOD CLASS** or provide a legal excuse for being late to school. Student-athletes who are dismissed early from school must also provide a legal excuse for being dismissed if they are planning to return for practice or a contest. Leaving school to pick up athletic equipment or necessary clothes for practices or games is not considered to be a legal excuse for missing an academic class. Student-athletes should arrive at school prepared to participate in the athletic program.

Students who are absent from school for a full day due to personal illness or who are illegally absent cannot participate in extracurricular activities on that day. This includes attending practice or any games as a spectator on that day. (An illegal absence is any reason not acceptable to the State Education Department's guidelines listed in the BOE Attendance Policy # 7110 or in the Junior Senior High School Student Handbook and Code of Conduct under the topic of Attendance.)

If a student has a legal excuse, i.e., a doctor or dentist appointment, sickness or death in the family, a religious observance, inclement weather, court appearance, etc., he/she should bring a note to the administration immediately upon returning to school so that permission to participate may be granted. Abuse of this aspect of the policy may result in the need for consultation between the parent, athlete, coach and administration. If it is deemed necessary, the administration may impose restrictions upon the student for repeated abuse of the policy. If there is continued abuse or if extraordinary circumstances exist, the administration has the prerogative to decide whether or not the student-athlete may participate on any given day.

Student-athletes are to be in all classes, study halls, lunch or any other locations to which they are assigned through their academic schedule. If violations result in assignment to in-school or out of school suspension, the student-athlete is prohibited from participating in athletic practices or contests in accordance with the guidelines in Section 6 of this "Athletic Handbook". In addition, student-athletes must dress out and participate in Physical Education Class in order to practice or participate in games on that day, unless special circumstances exist and they have been approved by the administration.

4. *Appropriate Behavior of Student-Athletes*

Student-athletes represent the Marathon Central School District in and out of the sport season. Participation as a student-athlete, therefore, requires that the student-athlete conduct himself/herself according to high standards and consistent with the Junior Senior High School Student Handbook and Code of Conduct. Such violations could result in temporary or permanent suspension from athletic activities in addition to disciplinary penalties levied by the district.

In addition, student-athletes must recognize:

Code of Ethics/Sportsmanship. The Marathon Olympians Athletics Program values sportsmanship to the highest degree. It is the duty of all concerned with high school athletics to do the following:

- To emphasize the proper ideals of sportsmanship, ethical conduct and fair play.
- To eliminate all possibilities which tend to destroy the best values of the game.
- To stress the values of playing the game fairly.
- To show courtesy to visiting teams and officials.
- To establish a healthy relationship between visitors and hosts.
- To respect the integrity and judgment of sports officials.
- To achieve a thorough understanding and acceptance of the rules of the game and the standards of eligibility.
- To encourage leadership, use of initiative, and good judgment.
- To recognize that the purpose of athletics is to promote the physical, mental, moral, social, and emotional wellbeing of the individual player.
- To remember that an athletic contest is only a game, not a matter of life or death of a player, coach, school, official, fan, community, state or nation or world.

Specifically, but not limited to, student-athletes must refrain from the following violations of the Junior Senior High School Student Handbook and Code of Conduct.

“Harassment” and/or “Bullying” means the creation of a hostile environment by conduct or by threats, intimidation or abuse, including cyberbullying, that either (1) has or would have the effect of unreasonably and substantially interfering with a student’s performance, opportunities or benefits, or mental, emotional and/or physical well-being, including conduct, threats, intimidation or abuse that reasonably causes or would reasonably be expected to cause emotional harm; or (2) reasonably causes or would reasonably be expected to cause physical injury to a student-athlete or to cause a student to fear for his or her physical safety. Participation in “Harassment” and/or “Bullying” of any student, teacher or other District staff member by a student-athlete is unacceptable and could result in temporary or permanent suspension from athletic activities in addition to disciplinary penalties levied by the District.

“Cyber Bullying” means harassment/bullying, as defined above, through any form of electronic communication. Social media, (such as Facebook, Google+, Instagram, LinkedIn, MyLife, Myspace, Snapchat, Tagged, Tumblr, Twitter, etc.), brings with it benefits and risks, and all student have a responsibility to use these platforms appropriately. In particular, student-athletes are representatives of their teammates, team, family, school, and community and must recognize that appropriate use of social media is essential. Participation in “Cyber Bullying” of any student, teacher or other District staff member by a student-athlete is unacceptable and could result in temporary or permanent suspension from athletic activities in addition to disciplinary penalties levied by the District.

“Hazing” is any action or situation, with or without the consent of the participants, which intentionally, or recklessly endangers the mental, physical, or academic health or safety of a student. This includes, but is not limited to any situation which:

- Creates a risk of injury to any individual or group
- Causes discomfort to any individual or group
- Causes embarrassment to any individual or group
- Involves harassment of any individual or group
- Involves degradation of any individual or group
- Involves humiliation of an individual or group
- Involves ridicule of an individual or group
- Involves or includes the willful destruction or removal of public or private property for the purpose of initiation or admission into, affiliation with, or as a condition for continued participation.

Hazing includes physical injury, assault or battery, kidnapping or imprisonment, intentionally or recklessly placing at risk of mental or emotional harm (putting “over the edge”), degradation, humiliation, the compromising of moral or religious values, forced or coerced consumption of any liquid or solid, placing an individual in physical danger (at risk) which includes abandonment, and impairment of physical liberties which interference with a student’s academic or athletic endeavors or sense of safety in the educational setting. Participation in “Hazing” by a student-athlete is unacceptable and could result in temporary or permanent suspension from athletic activities in addition to disciplinary penalties levied by the District.

Furthermore, student-athletes must not exhibit conduct or behaviors that, in the eyes of the coach or administration, are detrimental to the team. Though this behavior may not be a direct violation of the Code of Conduct, or may have taken place out of the school environment, it remains a concern for the school due to the reflection such negative behaviors may have on the school district, the athletic program, the coaching staff and fellow athletes. Such conduct or behaviors could result in temporary or permanent suspension from athletic activities consistent with the procedures contained herein.

The administration and/or the coach, upon consultation with the administration, may determine that appropriate disciplinary action is warranted as a result of any violations of the Junior Senior High School Student Handbook and Code of Conduct or this "Athletic Handbook". The administration and/or the coach, upon consultation with the administration, shall have the authority to levy a penalty in connection with a student-athlete's participation in the athletic program, including but not limited to suspension from practices and contests, suspension from other forms of contact with the team, such as travel and end-of-season activities, and other appropriate penalties up to and including a permanent ban from participation in the interscholastic athletic program. Such penalty shall be in proportion to the severity of the student-athlete's violation(s) of the Junior Senior High School Student Handbook and Code of Conduct or the "Athletic Handbook".

5. *Substance Abuse: Alcohol, Tobacco & Illicit Drugs*

Student-athletes in the Interscholastic Athletic Program are not to use, consume, be in possession of, or distribute alcoholic beverages, or tobacco or nicotine type products in any form (including cigarettes, chew, snuff, snus, rub, dissolvable tobacco, e-cigarettes, vaporizers, etc.). The first violation of non-compliance will result in an immediate suspension from the next two athletic contests in the school year. A second offense will result in immediate suspension from participation in the athletic program for the remainder of the school year.

Student-Athletes in the Interscholastic Athletic Program are not to use, consume, be in possession of, or distribute any other illegal drugs or drug related paraphernalia, including unauthorized or improper use of prescription drugs. The first violation of non-compliance will result in immediate suspension from the athletic program for the remainder of that sports season. A second offense will result in immediate suspension from participation in the athletic program for the remainder of the school year. This includes ALL forms of contact with the team, such as, practice, games, travel, end of season activities, etc.

6. *In-School and Out of School Suspension*

Student-athletes who are assigned to in-school suspension may not participate in practices or games on the day of the in-school suspension. If a student is serving a full day of in-school suspension over the course of two days, (i.e., the afternoon of the 1st day and the morning of the 2nd day), the student cannot participate in practices or games on either day. In-school suspension effectively suspends student-athletes' participation on each day of assigned in-school suspension. The coach at his/her discretion may require the student-athlete to attend all practices, sit with team members, with or without a uniform, at games/matches from which he or she has been suspended. Student-athletes who are required to attend may not participate in any aspect of the practice or game other than observing.

Student-athletes whose behavior warrants being suspended out of school for one day or more will be suspended from athletic participation for a minimum of the next two athletic contests, after he/she returns to school. Contests that are missed during the out of school suspension DO NOT count toward the additional two contest once a student-athlete returns to school. The next two athletic contests following the out of school suspension will be specifically identified based upon the current sports schedule at the time the out of school suspension is levied. Rescheduled or added contests that occur after the suspension has been levied cannot be used towards the student-athlete's suspension from the next two athletic contests after he/she returns to school. This suspension includes representing or traveling with the team to contest where a suspended student-athlete may not be participating, but may be traveling to support the team. The following events will be deemed as ONE contest: A rescheduled double header in baseball or softball, a multi team contest in Bowling, Cheerleading, Golf, Track & Field, or Wrestling, and a multi-day Bowling, Cheerleading, Golf, Track & Field, or Wrestling Tournament. Additional clarification on what constitutes the next two contests shall be determined by the Athletic Director and the Principal.

A second out of school suspension will result in removal from the athletic team for the remainder of that sport season. This includes ALL forms of contact with the team, such as, practice, games, travel, end of season activities, etc.

7. *Transportation Policy*

In any bus trip (athletic, spectator, field trip, etc.) the following procedure MUST be followed.

Students MUST ride both TO AND FROM all school events, which includes practices, where a bus has been provided. The only exception is, if a student-athlete wants to ride back from an event with THEIR PARENT/GUARDIAN(S) and the parent/guardian(s) PERSONALLY contact the coach in charge while at the event and signs the student out on the sign out form, they will be allowed to leave.

PLEASE NOTE: COACHES CANNOT ACCEPT NOTES OR GIVE PERMISSION TO STUDENTS, UNDER ANY OTHER CIRCUMSTANCE, TO RIDE WITH ANYONE OTHER THAN THEIR PARENT/GUARDIAN(S).

8. *Coaches Review Panel*

If, in the opinion of the coach of a particular athlete, extenuating circumstances exist that should be considered in implementing the rules, policies and procedures in this “Athletic Handbook”, the coach in question may request that the Director of Athletics convene a Review Panel to evaluate the concerns at hand. This Review Panel will consist of the Athletic Director, the High School Principal, and one other member of the District’s coaching staff. In the event that the Athletic Director is also the coach requesting the review panel, the Superintendent of Schools will replace the Athletic Director.

The review panel will have the authority to alter, but not to eliminate, prescribed penalties recorded herein. When doing so, the panel members must be unanimous in their decision. (NOTE: This is a review for internal purposes only. Parents and students have due process review under the following provisions).

9. *Student-Athlete Due Process Appeal*

Any student who is suspended and/or a parent/guardian of a student who is suspended from an interscholastic team may appeal that suspension through the following process.

Stage 1: Within five (5) days of notification of suspension, the suspended student and/or their parent/guardian(s) may request an informal meeting with the High School Principal and the coach to discuss the matter, after which the High School Principal will render a decision.

Stage 2: Within five (5) days of the High School Principal’s decision, the suspended student and/or their parent/guardian(s) may formally request a meeting with the Superintendent of Schools to grieve the decision in Stage 1. The request must be in writing and must enumerate specific points upon which the aggrieved party bases his/her appeal. The Superintendent of Schools is to respond by setting up a meeting as soon as possible, but no later than ten (10) days after receiving the written request. Following the meeting, the Superintendent shall issue a written decision.

Stage 3: Within ten (10) days of receipt of the Superintendent’s decision, appeal the decision of the Superintendent of Schools to the Board of Education. This appeal must also be in writing, again recording specific points of contention on which the appeal is based.

Stage 4: Final appeal is made to the Commissioner of Education, State Education Department Albany, New York.

PLEASE NOTE: The Board of Education, administration, and Interscholastic Athletics Coaching Staff want to be clear that the appeal process is designed to provide student-athletes the opportunity to have their situation reviewed at various levels. In all issues involving behavior, alcohol or drug abuse, the school district is expressly interested in developing responses to appeals that will assist the student-athlete and their parents in dealing with issues that not only affect their athletic participation, but also may result in more serious and harmful effects on the student. We look favorably upon appeals that offer a willingness on the behalf of the student-athlete to participate in programs that will deal with behaviors or abuses that endanger the very lives of our students.

Below is a listing of some of the programs that are seen as constructive activities that show the willingness to alter behaviors or habits that may result in students earning back the privilege to participate in interscholastic athletics through the appeal process.

- Approved drug and alcohol counseling
- Regular individual counseling
- Behavior management plans
- Community service activities

These programs can be designed with the assistance of school staff or may be engaged in within the private sector. The individuals responsible for decisions at each stage of appeal may approve or disapprove of the plans. For those private sector plans, proof of regular participation must be submitted to the High School Principal. However, any reduction in a student-athlete's suspension is contingent upon continued participation and/or completion of such programs. If a student fails to fully participate in these programs, the District reserves the right to immediately reinstate the original term of suspension.

The goal of our interscholastic athletic program is to provide our students with exceptional learning opportunities through the world of interscholastic athletics competition. These rules are established to provide consistency in dealing with the many facets of conducting such an expansive athletic offering. Many of the more common issues are enumerated above. This policy is not all encompassing but sets a direction for dealing with specific issues as well as providing a philosophical approach to concerns not listed.