MUNCY JR./SR. HIGH SCHOOL

STUDENT-ATHLETE HANDBOOK

2026-2027

GO INDIANS!

PURPOSE

The purpose of this handbook is to serve as a reference for all students and parents involved in the Muncy Athletic Program. All guidelines are for the safety and total well being of the student-athletes.

STATEMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

The Muncy School District believes that a dynamic program of student athletics is vital to the educational development of the student.

The Muncy Junior-Senior High School Athletic Program provides a variety of experiences to aid in the development of good habits and attitudes in students that will prepare them for adult life in a democratic society. The major objective of the Athletic Program is to provide wholesome opportunities for students to develop favorable habits and attitudes of social and group living.

The Interscholastic Athletic Program will be conducted in accordance with existing Muncy School District as well as PIAA policies, rules and regulations. While our school district takes great pride in winning, it does not condone "winning at any cost" and discourages any and all pressures, which might tend to neglect good sportsmanship and good student development. At all times, the Athletic Program should be conducted in a manner justifying it as an educational activity.

The Athletic Program will be available to all students who demonstrate an interest in participation, regardless of their individual abilities. Accordingly, appropriate skill levels should be established within athletics, when feasible, so that students may participate as fully as possible regardless of their ability levels.

Coaches should teach the specific skills necessary for improvement in athletics, citizenship, and sportsmanship and provide guidance in the development of good sportsmanship, cooperation, leadership, ethical behavior, citizenship, teamwork and dedication.

The ultimate goals of the Athletic Program should be to enable athletes to realize the value of participation without overemphasizing the importance of winning and to develop and improve positive citizenship traits among the program's participants.
The Principal in conjunction with the Athletic Director is responsible for supervision of the Interscholastic Athletic Program in which his/her school participates.

STUDENT- ATHLETE CODE OF CONDUCT:

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

A. All student athletes are expected to represent themselves, their team and the Muncy School District in a positive manner at all times, thereby contributing to school pride and spirit. Participation in interscholastic athletics is a privilege, not a right. As such, Muncy student-athletes shall follow these guidelines:

1. Show respect for administration, faculty, coaches, game officials and other students at all times
2. Treat others as you wish to be treated.
3. Show respect for all private, public and personal property at all times.
4. Practice honesty at all times.
5. Demonstrate respect for all opponents and guests visiting Muncy.
6. When visiting an opponents' school, behave in an exemplary manner at all times, including the trip to and from the contest.
7. Behave at all times in a manner that will reflect positively on the individual athlete as well as the team and Muncy schools.

MUNCY HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC CODE

I. General Regulations

A. All PIAA, League and School District rules must be followed in all cases of eligibility, transfer, attendance, physical examination, insurance coverage, start dates and use of school equipment.
B. Each coach has the responsibility to know and inform all team members and parents of pertinent PIAA, League and School District rules.

C. Conduct by a student-athlete that is determined by the head coach and/or school administration to be detrimental to the Athletic Program, school or district will result in counseling by the head coach and school administration with possible suspension from the team.
D. Athletes are prohibited from moving from one sport to another sport during the same season (after the season has begun) without the mutual consent of both coaches. It is the responsibility of the student-athlete to speak to each coach.
E. Athletes must travel to and from athletic contests in transportation provided by the Muncy School District. Exceptions include injury or prior arrangements with Athletic Director or Principal.
F. Any display of unsportsmanlike conduct toward an opponent or official or the use of profanity during a contest will result in counseling by the head coach with possible suspension. Ejection from a game will result in immediate suspension for the next game at that same level and possible further suspension based on the severity of the incident.
G. Completion of the season is required in order for a student-athlete to be eligible for a letter or any other post-season honor. (Exception: injury that limits participation). No awards shall be given to any student suspended for the remainder of the season.
H. All student-athletes that are feeling ill should stay home from school and inform their head coach. Student-athletes must remain vigilant in their daily hygiene practices to help slow the spread of Covid.

II. Eligibility Requirements

A. A student must be in school by 8:00 am to participate in an athletic practice or contest. Exceptions can be made for approved medical appointments. A doctor's note should be presented to Athletic Director for waiver. Other waivers may be granted at the discretion of the Athletic Director or Principal.
B. Any student who has accumulated a total of 20 or more absences, excused or unexcused, in a semester will be ineligible to participate in practices or games until the student has been in attendance for 45 school days after the 20th absence.
C. A student will be ineligible to participate if they do not live inside the district or pay tuition.
D. A student will be ineligible to participate if they have reached their 19th birthday before July 1st of the current school year.
E. Any student failing **2** or more classes at the end of any given week is ineligible to participate in games the following week (Sunday through Saturday inclusive). Any student failing **2** or more classes at the end of a marking period will be ineligible to participate in practices or games for 15 school days beginning on the first day report cards are issued.
F. Each athlete must maintain amateur status to stay eligible for participation.
G. Each athlete must have a pre-participation physical examination before participating. Physicals done after May 1st will count for the following school year.
H. Charter, Cyber Charter, and Home Schooled student-athletes must meet the same eligibility requirements as students enrolled in Muncy Jr./Sr. High School.
I. Any student that comes out late for the season must accumulate a minimum of 5 practices before they are eligible to compete in a contest.
J. Any student-athlete that has been linked to a positive covid case will need to follow established protocols based on the health and safety plan in effect at the time.

III. Specific Regulations

A. The student-athlete is accountable to abide by all rules and regulations in the Muncy Junior-Senior High School student handbook, the *Pathfinder,* along with the athletic program and individual team rules and regulations.
B. The student-athlete shall attend all practices, contests and team meetings unless excused in advance by the coach or is absent from school. An athlete wishing to be excused shall take a written request from parent/guardian to the head coach, Athletic Director, or Principal for consideration.
C. Any student-athlete who is suspended in-school or out of school is ineligible to participate in athletic practices or events during that same time frame.
D. Those student-athlete's, whose behavior outside of the school in a way reflect detrimentally on the individual, the team, school or community may face disciplinary action, including suspension from the team. Insubordinate, abusive, and profane behavior will not be tolerated and will result in counseling by the head coach and/or athletic director, and/or principal.
E. Any student-athlete found to be selling, providing, in possession of, or under the influence of drugs, alcohol, tobacco or controlled substances, including steroids, shall be referred to the school administration for appropriate discipline. Action including suspension, expulsion and/or police involvement will be determined by the school administration.

These rules and regulations shall apply to any violation, on or off school premises. Serious infractions of the High School Athletic Code may also subject the student to discipline under the general student discipline code, which may include suspension or expulsion from school and/or police involvement. The decision to involve the general student discipline code is at the discretion of the administration. Also, please note that the school district has numerous cameras located on the interior and exterior of the buildings. All students, employees, and visitors are under video surveillance. The content of that video surveillance may be used by the school administration and law enforcement to investigate disciplinary incidents.

IV. **Parent-Coach Communication Guidelines**

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 benefits to children. As parents, when your children become involved in our program, you have right and a responsibility to understand what expectations are placed on your child. This begins with clear communication from the coach of your child's program.

A. Communications you should expect from your child's coach:
- The philosophy of the coach
- Expectations the coach has for your child, all the players on the team, and the team as a whole
- Location and times of practices and contests
- Teams requirements, including practice, equipment, out of season opportunities or conditioning programs
- Actions that could lead to discipline which may result in the denial of your child's participation

B. Communications coaches expect from parents:
- Concerns expressed directly to the coach
- Notification of any schedule conflicts well in advance of the occurrence

As your children become involved in the interscholastic athletic programs of the Muncy School District, they will experience some very rewarding moments. It is important to understand that there also may be times when things do not go the way you or your child wish. At these times discussion with the coach is encouraged.

C. Appropriate parental concerns to discuss with the coach:
- The treatment of your child
- Ways to help your child improve
- Concerns about your child's behavior

It is difficult to accept that your child may not be playing as much as you hope. Coaches are professionals and they make their decisions based on what they believe to be best for each student involved, as well as the team and the program. As you can see from the list above there are certain things that can be discussed with the coach. Other things, such as the amount of playing time, coaching strategies, and concerns about other students should be left to the discretion of the coach.

Situations may arise that require a conference between the coach and the parent. It is important that both parties involved have a clear understanding of the other's position. When these conferences become necessary, the following procedures should be followed to help promote a resolution to the issue or concern.

D. Procedure you should follow when discussing a concern with a coach:
- Encourage your child to speak directly to the coach. Many times the matter can be resolved through this discussion.
- Call the coach to schedule an appointment.
- If the coach cannot be reached, call the athletic director's office. We will assist you in arranging a meeting with the coach.
- Please do not present your concerns to the coach immediately before, during or after a contest or practice. These can be emotional times for all parties involved.
- If the meeting with the coach does not provide a satisfactory resolution, call and set up an appointment with the athletic director to further discuss your concern.

E. Coaches expectations of each parent/guardian
- Support and encourage your child to be the best student-athlete that they can be.
- Work to promote a positive environment that is conducive to the development of your child.
- Become familiar with, and review the rules and regulations with the student-athlete.
- Communicate any concern in a timely manner.
- Treat all coaching personnel with courtesy and respect and insist that your child do the same.
- If a student-athlete is injured during an event or practice which requires hospitalization, it is the parent's responsibility to fill out the necessary insurance paperwork. The school carries a secondary excess policy for injuries. Please see the athletic trainer for insurance information if your son/daughter sustains an injury that could require expenses beyond your primary insurance.

There is significant research which indicates involvement in extra-curricular activities increases the chances of being a successful adult. The Muncy School District offers a wide variety of these extra-curricular activities. Many of the character traits required to be a successful participant are exactly those that will promote a successful life after high school.