



MORGAN ACADEMY

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to Morgan Academy Athletics! We're excited to have you as part of Morgan Academy's proud athletic tradition. This legacy of excellence was built by the student athletes and coaches who came before you, and it's our responsibility to carry it forward with pride and respect. At Morgan, everything we do—on and off the field—reflects our commitment to honor our school and those who helped shape its athletic history. *We Are Morgan.*

THE PROPER ROLE OF ATHLETICS

Athletics play a valuable role in the high school experience, offering students opportunities for growth, discipline, and teamwork. Still, it's important to remember that our core mission is to develop individuals of character, wisdom, and integrity. Sports serve as one of the many tools we use to help shape well-rounded individuals prepared for life beyond the game.

ORGANIZATION

The Athletic Director oversees the administration of all athletic programs in accordance with the policies set by the Morgan Academy Board of Directors and the Alabama Independent School Association (AISA). This role operates under the direct supervision of the Head of School. Coaches for each sport work under the guidance and direction of both the Athletic Director and the Head of School. The primary mission of the athletic department is for every sport to positively contribute to the growth and development of the student athlete, the school, and the broader community. Core values such as integrity, respect, and sportsmanship are fundamental to this mission. Cheer sponsor reports directly to the Head of School.

ATHLETIC PHILOSOPHY

Our philosophy is straightforward: Academics comes first, team comes second, and individual interests come third. The athletic program supports the school's mission of developing individuals with wisdom and integrity. We strive for each team to achieve its highest potential, which begins with each athlete striving to reach their own personal best. The philosophy of the Morgan Academy Athletic Department is to offer opportunities for students to grow in athletic ability, sportsmanship, discipline, and character. All student athletes are expected to uphold the Morgan Academy Student Code of Conduct both on and off the field.

TRYOUTS / CUTS

Our goal is that every student who wants to participate is able. However, with a finite amount of space and time, we may hold tryouts and cut some athletes.

- Each team's maximum size will be set by the coach after consulting with the Athletic Director.
- Coaches, after consulting with the Athletic Director, have final word regarding cuts. (Cheer will follow the Morgan Academy Cheerleader Rules.)
- Cuts will be based on what is best for the specific team / program.

ELIGIBILITY

Morgan Academy athletes are subject to the AISA eligibility rules, found online at aisaonline.org. In addition to meeting AISA eligibility rules, all Morgan Academy student athletes must meet the criteria set forth in the Morgan Academy student handbook.

- A. Unless excused by the administration, students must attend 4 classes on the day competition is held.
- B. If an athlete quits a sport during the season, they will not be allowed to participate in another sport until cleared by the Athletic Disciplinary Committee. Athletic Disciplinary Committee will consist of the Athletic Director, Headmaster, and Head Coach of the athlete involved.
- C. Athletes may not practice, play, or travel with team while suspended / expelled from school.
- D. Athletes who prove detrimental to the team may be barred from participating by the Athletic Director or Head of School.
- E. A student may not participate in tryouts, summer workouts, or sports pictures until they are an enrolled student with board approval at Morgan Academy.

SPORTSMANSHIP

Learning to deal with both success and adversity as a mature person is one of the most durable, valuable lessons an athletic program can teach. To be clear with our athletes, parents, and coaches, we have developed the following policies in support of good sportsmanship:

- First Ejection: Any coach or player ejected will meet with their direct superior and will be required to pay any AISA fines from their own pocket. Players who are ejected will be benched, suspended, or dismissed from the team at the discretion of the coach and / or athletic director.
- Second Ejection: Any coach or player will be suspended for one game after their second ejection. This suspension may be lengthened at the discretion of the coach and / or athletic director.
- Third Ejection: Any coach or player ejected three times in one season will be dismissed from the team.
- Last Games: Any suspension that results from the last game of a season will be carried into the next season.

Ejections are cumulative across multiple sports for one school calendar year.

- Fan Behavior/Ejections: Any fan ejected will be required to pay any AISA fines out of their pocket. Fans ejected multiple times may be suspended or barred from attending athletic events by administration. When a school official submits a complaint to the Board of Directors regarding a spectator's conduct, the Foundation member responsible for that spectator may be required to appear before the Athletic Committee for review and possible action. In addition to our internal policy, we are also subject to the Alabama Independent School Association and the State of Alabama:

AISA Sportsmanship Policy: The AISA will not tolerate and/or condone demonstrations of poor professionalism or sportsmanship, especially displays which lead to altercations/or forfeiture. The AISA Athletic Committee and the AISA State Board will take a very firm and rigid stand in matters of this concern and will levy harsh sanctions on those involved. Note: Any person guilty of unsportsmanlike involvement with the players, coaches, officials, and/or other fans before, during, or after any AISA interscholastic event may be fined \$500.00 and the school(s) represented by the involved may be placed on a minimum of (1) year probation. Schools are responsible for all fines levied.

Alabama Sports Official Bill 36: Alabama has severe punishment for angry sports fans that attack game officials, coaches, and administrators. The crimes of harassing, menacing, and assaulting the above are harsher than normal for these convictions. This law applies to all levels of athletics.

MORGAN ACADEMY HAS THE RIGHT TO HANDLE ALL SITUATIONS THAT ARISE FROM POOR SPORTSMANSHIP FROM PLAYERS, PARENTS, FANS, AND COACHES AT THE DISCRETION OF THE ADMINISTRATION AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

APPEARANCE / DRESS CODE

Dress code for each team will be set by the Athletic Director in conjunction with the individual coach; failure to follow the team dress code will be disciplined by the coach and/or Athletic Director. Also, the dress code will follow the school handbook. Uniforms must be approved by the Board of Directors.

AISA APPEARANCE POLICY

Per the AISA, athletes may not compete with exposed body art, piercings (other than one earring per ear for females), facial hair, non-traditional hairstyles or hair coloring.

MULTIPLE SPORT ATHLETES

In the event a student athlete competes in two (2) sports during the same season, the following will serve as the guidelines for the coaches, family, and student athletes for managing practices, games, etc.

- 1) Games take priority over practice
- 2) Varsity takes priority over junior high
- 3) Region games take priority over non-region games
- 4) Athletes who start take priority over bench players
- 5) If all is equal at this point, then the primary sport will take priority over the other sport.

As each of our programs are reliant upon athletes who play multiple sports, conflicts can arise. All care should be taken to not place the student-athlete at the center of the conflict between two (2) sports/programs. If a situation occurs that cannot be determined by these criteria, both coaches should confer with the Athletic Director to determine the proper course of action.

EXPECTATIONS OF COACHES

1. Understand that building young people with wisdom and integrity is more valuable than winning at any cost.
2. Clearly communicate expectations and schedules to athletes in advance and follow the schedule you set.
3. Support the school community and enforce school rules.
4. Support the entire athletic program and recognize that, as a small school, we must share athletes and resources to be successful.
5. Set an example of ethical and moral conduct in all personal contact with student-athletes, parents, officials, the media, the public, and AISA.
6. Be gracious in victory and accept defeat with dignity.
7. Model consistency and respect in the way you treat athletes, parents, colleagues, opponents, and officials.
8. Honor the spirit and letter of the rules of the sport.

EXPECTATIONS OF STUDENT-ATHLETES

1. Be gracious in victory and accept defeat with dignity.
2. Be respectful in the way you treat teammates, coaches, opponents, and officials.
3. Be coachable.
4. Follow the expectations and policies communicated by your coach.
5. Value what's best for the team over what's best for the individual.
6. Mentor younger athletes / students.
7. Love your sport, but value learning over athletic pursuits.
8. Maintain team unity.

EXPECTATIONS OF PARENTS/FANS

All parents/fans are asked to support the athletic program by adhering to the following expectations:

1. Do not discuss playing time or positioning with coaches; that is a matter to be handled between athlete and coach.
2. Give coaches 24 hours after a game before approaching them to discuss issues.
3. Respect the time of coaches by scheduling any necessary meetings in advance via email to the Athletic Director.

4. Refrain from conversations that encourage dissension.
5. Encourage athletes to communicate with their coach, rather than fighting their battles for them.
6. Understand that our coaches place the needs of the team and school over the needs of any individual athlete.
7. Refrain from criticizing coaches in front of the athletes they coach, since coaches are not permitted to criticize parents in front of their children.
8. Do not converse with athletes (yours or others) while games are in progress.
9. Be respectful to all athletes, fans, coaches, and officials – no profanity, obscene cheers or gestures, negative signs, or other actions that would demean individuals and/or the sport.
10. Parents of athletes are required to participate in concession stand duty for each sport. Failure to fulfill your concession stand duty or secure a replacement for your duty will result in a \$100 fine.

PARENT/COACH COMMUNICATION

Communications from Coaches to Parents

1. General coaching philosophy
2. Team/player expectations and requirements
3. Practice/game schedule and location
4. Injury procedure/information

Communication from Athletes to Coaches

1. Scheduling conflicts (in advance)
2. Personal issues or concerns regarding playing time, positioning, etc.

Communications from Parents

1. Concerns about issues other than those listed below.

Not Appropriate for Parental Discussion with Coaches

1. Playing time*
2. Team position*
3. Team strategy or play calling
4. Other student-athletes

*Items 1 & 2 may be addressed by the players with the coaches following the procedures outlined below.

CONFLICT RESOLUTION at Morgan Academy:

We believe that clear and open communication is the best path to conflict resolution. Conflicts are only successfully resolved when the affected parties get together and talk it out. This is modeled in scripture, as we are told to approach the source of a problem personally, rather than discussing the issue with others. As a matter of policy, Morgan Academy insists that our community discuss their issues face-to-face, with maturity. Nothing in the history of the world has ever gotten better through gossip and backbiting. This is one of the most important lessons we can teach our children. When conflicts or issues arise, the following procedure should be followed to help promote a resolution:

1. Student-athlete contact coach. The student athlete should present the conflict/issue to the coach as soon as possible. Student athletes need to become their own advocates, as this is an essential part of the transition to adulthood. Most of the problems can be resolved at this step.
2. If this is not possible, or has not resolved the issue, a parent can contact the coach directly. Do not approach a coach with a complaint before, during, or just after a practice or game. Both parties need a 24 hour "cooling off period." Email to schedule a time to meet.
3. If resolution cannot be reached in a meeting with the coach, schedule a meeting with the athletic director. If the complaint concerns the Athletic Director, proceed to step four. The Athletic Director will call all involved parties together (including the athlete) to work toward resolution.
4. Contact the head of school. The head of school will call all parties involved together (including the athlete) to work toward resolution.
5. Contact the Board of Directors. The Board may choose to interview parties involved or may conduct an internal investigation without interviews. The decision by the Board of Directors is final. Students and parents may be confident that following protocol to voice a complaint/issue will not result in any sort of retribution toward the athlete. We make great efforts to train our staff on proper conflict resolution, and each staff member is committed to treating each student fairly, even when issues arise.

TEAM RULES

The following rules apply to all Morgan Academy teams. Each coach may supplement these rules at their discretion. A copy of the coach's supplemental rules should be communicated clearly to each player.

1. Players must maintain eligibility according to AISA and Morgan Academy requirements.
2. Players are required to attend all practices and games unless excused by the coach. Players not excused may be disciplined by the coach. Two (2) unexcused practices and the student could be dismissed from the team. Vacations are unexcused practices. Legitimate unexcused absences can be discussed at the discretion of the coach or Athletic Director.
3. Missed practices are made up as determined by the coach.
4. Players are to be on time for practices, games, team meetings, etc.
5. Players guilty of inappropriate conduct during non-school events/hours that negatively affect the Morgan Academy athletic program will be disciplined by the Athletic Disciplinary Committee.

6. If an athlete quits a sport during the season, they will not be allowed to participate in another sport until cleared by the Athletic Disciplinary Committee.

7. Students who receive an in-school suspension (ISS) will be ineligible to practice (during or after school) in any extracurricular activities for the time of the suspension. Students who receive an out of school suspension (OSS) will be ineligible to participate (practice, play, travel) for the time of the suspension. Minimum one game suspension.

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8. If a student fails to bring any part of their uniform to a game, coaches cannot take a uniform or part of a uniform from one player to be used by another player.

9. Players must put the team first.

10. Grade checks: Grade checks will be conducted by the Athletic Director and Guidance Counselor at the end of the fourth week of each nine-week grading period and again at the conclusion of the grading period. The results will be reported to the Head of School. Athletes who have a 64 or below will miss the next game(s) until grade is pulled to a 65 or above. Students in danger of failing will have weekly grade checks until satisfactory grade is reached. A student who fails a core course in the semester will be ineligible for sports.

Students must maintain a 2.0 average in core subjects. However, if a student has a 64 in any one subject, they will sit out until that grade is pulled up.

SCHEDULING, PRACTICES, and WEIGHTS

1. All scheduling must be completed and/or approved by the Athletic Director and coordinated with the school calendar. AISA area games receive first priority in scheduling. Other games should be with quality programs requiring limited travel.

2. Unless necessary, teams should never schedule three away games between Monday and Friday of the same week. When area/region games are re-scheduled, this does not apply.

3. The Athletic Director sets the maximum allowable number of games per week / per month / per season.

4. Games should not be scheduled on Wednesday unless scheduled by AISA. Baseball/softball and track are the exceptions.

5. No mandatory practices on Sunday without administrative approval.

6. Wednesday practices should end by 5:00.

7. Summer practices/conditioning are mandatory as assigned by coaches.

FACILITIES

1. General repair and maintenance of all facilities is the responsibility of the coaches and supported by the school.

2. Players may be used by coaches for facility maintenance.

3. Coaches and players should leave benches and locker rooms clean.

4. Coaches should make sure all facilities are properly secured, including turning off lights prior to leaving.

EQUIPMENT

1. Coaches shall not enter into any agreements with any company to purchase equipment or uniforms without approval of the Athletic Director and Head of School.

2. Coaches should keep the Athletic Director informed of equipment needs.

3. No equipment or uniforms may be ordered without approved Purchase Order by the Athletic Director and Board of Directors.

4. Coaches are responsible for managing the inventory of their equipment.

5. All equipment and uniforms should be properly always secured.

EARLY DISMISSAL

Because of scheduling and travel time, it is sometimes necessary for teams to leave school early.

- Coaches should get leave times approved by the Athletic Director.
- Coaches should email the office staff and faculty to inform them of leave times the day before.
- It is the responsibility of the athlete to arrange with teachers to make up any missed work.
- Students are expected to make up work within the time limits set by the teacher.

TRANSPORTATION

When available athletes must travel on Morgan Academy approved transportation. When transportation is not provided, parents may drive their child to games. No Student will be allowed to drive to a game.

Athletes wishing to ride home with parents after away events must get approval from their coach if school transportation is provided. Parents must sign their student-athlete out with their coach.

UNIFORMS

Athletes are responsible for taking proper care of uniforms and must return them in good condition at the time specified by the coach. Lost or damaged uniforms must be replaced by the athlete.

ATHLETIC FUNDING

Funds for operating the athletic program are generated by the school through participation fees, advertising, gate admission, concessions, merchandise sales, donations, and fund raisers. The Athletic Director (in consultation with individual coaches) and the Head of School develop the yearly athletic budget. Athletic fees are due and payable before the first official day of game. Participation will not be allowed until fees are paid.

QUITTING A SPORT

After five practices (or the first game) have passed, an athlete who quits for any reason other than injury may not participate in another sport until the sport they quit has ended and cleared by the Athletic Disciplinary Committee. Any uniform / spirit pack fees will still be due; sports fees may be prorated at the discretion of the coach and athletic director.

The following consequences are in place for students that quit a sport(s) more than once:

1st Time to Quit: The player may not participate in another sport until the sport they quit has ended.

2nd Time to Quit: The player must sit out of all sports for one calendar year.

REQUIRED PAPERWORK: (Grades 4-12)

No athlete may participate in open gyms, tryouts, practices, workouts, and scrimmages/games until the following paperwork has been fully completed and turned in and cleared by the athletic director:

- Medical history form
- Physical form signed by doctor
- Participation form
- Medical Release form
- Insurance form
- Concussion form
- Cardiac Arrest form

This paperwork must be filled out yearly. It is only good for one year from the date it was signed by the doctor.

DISCLAIMER :

Morgan Academy reserves the right to amend, alter, or delete portions of the handbook throughout the course of the school year as the Board and Administration deem necessary and proper without prior notice.

----- I acknowledge that I have read the Morgan Academy Athletic Handbook and will abide by the policies and procedures herein, at all times.

Player(s)

Date

Parent(s)

Date