

Onaway Athletic Program

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Section I

Introduction

A. Athletic Mission Statement

Onaway Schools will provide an environment of athletic competition that encourages all students to participate and show desire, dedication, and determination in the pursuit of excellence that will prepare them to be productive citizens and create community pride.

B. Athletic Program Beliefs

The Onaway Area Schools Athletic Program should:

- Teach individuals to be humble in victory and gracious in defeat.
- Provide and maintain quality athletic facilities and equipment.
- Provide and develop quality coaches to ensure an effective athletic program.
- Promote personal development by building positive self-esteem and nurturing positive behavioral and academic habits, while fostering emotional maturity.
- Teach character qualities such as discipline, responsibility, respect for authority, loyalty, and trust.
- Develop valuable life skills such as leadership, communication, teamwork, sportsmanship, goal-setting, and a healthy lifestyle.
- Instill a winning attitude developed through commitment, strong work ethic, sacrifice, perseverance, and quality competition.
- Nourish social development by building relationships and celebrating school spirit.
- Encourage responsible, enthusiastic support at our athletic events.
- Adhere to Title IX directives.
- Recognize and celebrate the outstanding accomplishments of our athletes, coaches, and teams.

C. Message to Athletes

Participation in interscholastic athletics is a privilege, which must be earned by students who continuously adhere to the standards of conduct, both in and out of school, which are listed in the School Student Code of Conduct, the Athletic Code, and the Team Rules established by the team coaches.

The goal of student-athletes is excellence in academics and in athletics. When athletes wear Onaway School colors, they are representatives of Onaway traditions. Participation in Onaway athletics is a privilege that is earned through hard work and respectful behavior in the classroom as well as during athletic practices and contests. High standards of conduct are expected of Onaway athletes. Other students, staff, parents, and members of the community shall closely observe the conduct of an athlete. His/Her behavior should be above reproach at all times.

The Athletic Code applies to all students, regardless of participation status, commencing the first day after graduating their 5th grade school year and remains in effect the entire calendar year (365 days), whether they are in- season or out-of-season, both on and off school property until the school experience ends.

Failure to obey the School Student Code of Conduct, the Athletic Code, or the Team Rules will result in disciplinary action up to and including suspension from the team, suspension from school, and/or denial of future participation in Onaway athletics.

Your signature on the Athletic Code Contract acknowledges that you have read, understand, and accept the responsibilities and obligations listed in the Code, and that you agree to cooperate with school personnel in enforcing the Code. Failure to return the Athletic Code Contract signed will not exclude you from the expectations of the Code.

D. Message to Parents

Your student has indicated a desire to participate in the high school interscholastic athletic program. Parents of student athletes also commit themselves to certain responsibilities and obligations, which are outlined in the Athletic Code. Your signature on the Athletic Code Contract, along with the signature of your student-athlete, acknowledges that you have read, understand, and accept the responsibilities and obligations listed in the Code, and agree to cooperate with school personnel in enforcing the Athletic Code. Failure to return the Athletic Code Contract signed will not exclude you or your son or daughter from the expectations of the Code.

Parent(s) of athletes participating in fall, winter, and/or spring sports are encouraged to attend the Athletic Parent Meeting scheduled by the Varsity Coach of each sport at the beginning of each season. Copies of the Team Rules will be distributed and discussed with parents at this meeting.

As fans and spectators at athletic events, parents of athletes play a special role in supporting their athlete, the coach, and the team. Parents of athletes are expected to model good sportsmanship at all athletic events. Failure to adhere to acceptable standards of adult behavior may result in removal from the event and/or future events. All parents are invited to join the Athletic Boosters and become part of the long-standing traditions associated with interscholastic athletic support in Onaway.

SECTION II

Guidelines

A. Definition of Athletic Code/Team Rules

The Athletic Code applies to all students, regardless of participation status, commencing the first day after graduating their 5th grade school year and remains in effect the entire calendar year (365 days), whether they are in- season or out-of-season, both on and off school property until the school experience ends. In addition, coaches in any particular sport may impose supplemental rules for his/her team as approved by the Athletic Director. In all cases, the team rules must be consistent with the Athletic Code. In the event of a conflict or inconsistency between the Athletic Code and Team Rules, the Athletic Code will control, with the Athletic Director (A.D.) making the final decision.

B. Sportsmanlike Expectations

A good sport is a true leader within the school and the community. As an athlete of our school, the following points represent sportsmanship behavior you should display:

1. Accept and understand the seriousness of your responsibility, and the privilege of representing your school and community. Conduct yourself in an exemplary manner, before, during, and after contests and events.
2. Learn the rules of your sport thoroughly and discuss them with parents, fans, fellow students, and elementary students to assist both them and you in achieving a better understanding and appreciation of the competition.
3. Treat opponents the way you would like to be treated.
4. Omit intimidating behavior, including taunting, or making any kind of derogatory remarks to your opponents during the game, especially comments of ethnic, racial, or sexual nature. This is not acceptable behavior.
5. Wish opponents good luck before the game and congratulate them in a sincere manner.
6. Respect the integrity and judgment of game officials. Treating them with respect, even if you disagree with their judgment, will make a positive impression of you and your team in the eyes of the officials and all people at the event.
7. Win with humility; lose with grace. Do both with dignity. Avoid excessive celebrating after a play or at the end of a game.
8. Athletic events are among the most school popular activities for participants and spectators. These games and competitions provide another learning experience in life. Integrity, fairness, and respect, the principles of good sportsmanship, are lifetime values enhanced through athletics.
9. It is expected that all student-athletes will conduct themselves in an orderly and self-disciplined manner at all times, both on and off school property throughout the calendar year. Appearance and personal hygiene should be appropriate for travel and other team appearances, in good taste, and consistent with the expectations of the coach, school district, and other team members.

Any form of unacceptable behavior by any student is subject to discipline, which may include removal from the event, suspension of attendance to all Onaway home athletic events up to a full school year, suspension from school, and/or referral to the local authorities.

C. Philosophy of Winning

Winning is the primary objective of each contest within the parameters of our Mission Statement and beliefs.

NO Cut Policy - The purpose of junior high or freshman athletic team is to promote interest, formulate fundamentals, develop young players and create a solid program for the future. Therefore cuts will not be allowed at these levels of play. Since the Varsity team is the culmination of Onaway's athletic experience, winning is a priority and cuts can be made if necessary.

Middle School Athletics - Participation in middle school (7th and 8th grade) athletics is an introduction of interscholastic sports to student athletes. Recognizing that a strong middle school athletic program is the foundation of a successful high school program, middle school athletic participation should be encouraged by providing as many students as possible with an opportunity to learn the skills and physical requirements necessary for athletic competition. Playing time is guaranteed (except during tournament play) to all members of a team during each contest and will be given out as equally as possible.

Junior Varsity Athletics - (Open to freshman, sophomores, and juniors in special situations approved by the AD) Building on what is learned at the freshman level, the focus of OHS JV teams is to prepare and develop athletes for varsity competition. The level of intensity on the practice field as well as in competition should increase, as should the commitment to the sport by the student athlete. Playing time will be guaranteed (except during tournament play) to the top 12 players in girl's and boy's basketball and volleyball, the top 14 players in baseball and softball, and all athletes in the other sports during each contest, but not equally.

Varsity Athletics - (Open to all OHS students) Varsity level athletics are a culmination of the OHS athletic experience. To be chosen to represent OHS as a varsity athlete is a privilege and an honor that is earned through hard work, effort, and commitment to a sport. The best athletes within OHS, regardless of class level, can make the varsity team. At this level, no one is guaranteed playing time as the best student-athletes should be on the field/court/mat/course when the skills and intensity of the competition requires the best.

All student-athletes should be committed and focused at all practices and events, exhibit the highest skill level, demonstrate good sportsmanship on the field of competition as well as off, and be excellent role models of the Cardinal Tradition. All student athletes are guaranteed sufficient practice time, when possible, to enable them to improve their skills and demonstrate a positive attitude.

D. General Information

Physicals and Athletic Code Contract - All athletes must have on file at the Athletic Director's office a Physical that includes a filled out Emergency Medical Release Form, and a signed Athletic Code Contract before they will be allowed to participate in athletics.

Uniforms - Athletes are financially responsible for the proper care and security of uniforms issued to them. Uniforms need to be returned clean. Any uniforms not returned or returned with major defects will be the financial responsibility of the athlete. The student will not be issued another uniform or be allowed to participate in an Onaway athletic contest until either the uniform is returned or payment is received for the replacement. In the case of a senior athlete, he/she would not be eligible to participate in graduation ceremonies unless the uniform is returned or paid for.

Team Membership – Once an athlete has participated in a full week of practice or made a team through cuts, he/she may not change to another sport without permission from the coach of the sport he/she is dropping and the athletic director. If an athlete is dropped from a team for disciplinary reasons, he/she is not allowed to try out for another sport during the same season.

Injury Permission Slip – An athlete who has been withheld from competition or practice by a health care professional, has received serious medical attention during competition or practice, or injures themselves in a way during a competition or practice and the coach feels the athlete should receive medical attention may not participate in a contest or practice until a permission to resume the activity note is received by the athletic director in writing from a health care professional. A parent may not allow their son/daughter to participate against the directions of a health care professional.

Athletic Code Enforcement - The Athletic Code applies to all students, regardless of participation status, commencing the first day after graduating their 6th grade school year and remains in effect the entire calendar year (365 days), whether they are in-season or out-of-season, both on and off school property until the school experience ends. The athletic code is not limited to school conduct at school-sponsored activities or school property. Rather, the Athletic Code applies on a 24-hour basis and has no limitation as to the place of conduct.

E. Summary of Michigan High School Athletic Association Regulations on Eligibility for High School Athletes as Applicable in Onaway Area Community Schools:

Age - High school students become ineligible if they reach their nineteenth birthday before September 1 of a current school year.

Physical Examination - Students must have on file, in the Athletic Director's office, a physician's statement for the current school year (after April 15th) certifying that he/she is physically able to compete in athletic contests and practices.

Enrollment - Students must be enrolled in school prior to the fourth Friday after Labor Day (1st semester) or fourth Friday of February (2nd semester) for which he or she competes.

Semesters of Enrollment - Students cannot be eligible in high school for more than eight semesters and the seventh and eighth semesters must be consecutive. Students are allowed four (4) first semesters and four (4) second semesters of competition and cannot compete if they have graduated from high school.

Semester Academic Records - Students must have passed enough classes that equal or exceed 20 credit hours of instruction per week the previous semester to be eligible to begin playing a sport during the next semester.

Transfer Students - A student in grade nine through twelve who transfers to Onaway High School from another high school is not eligible to participate in an interscholastic contest for one full semester unless

the student qualifies for immediate eligibility under MHSAA exceptions. The Athletic Director should be notified immediately of the transfer and will determine the eligibility of the student.

Undue Influence - The use of undue influence by any person directly or indirectly associated with a school to secure or encourage the attendance of a student for athletic purposes will cause the student to become ineligible for a minimum of one semester.

Limited Team Membership - After practicing or participating with a high school team, students cannot participate in any athletic competition not sponsored by his/her school in the same sport during the same season. Students in individual sports may participate in a maximum of two non-school individual meets or contests during the school season while not representing their school.

All-Star Competition - Students shall not compete at any time in any sport under MHSAA jurisdiction in All-Star contests or national championships regardless of the method of selection. Participation in such a contest shall cause that student to become ineligible for a maximum period of one year of school enrollment..

Awards and amateurism - Students cannot receive money or other valuable consideration, for participating in MHSAA sponsored sports or officiating in interscholastic athletic contest, except as allowed by the MHSAA handbook. Students may accept, for participation in an MHSAA sponsored sport, a symbolic or merchandise award, which does not have a value over \$25.00. Banquets, luncheons, dinners, trips, and admissions to camps or events are permitted if accepted "in kind." Awards in the form of cash merchandise, certificated, or any other negotiable document are not allowed.

Disqualification: Regulation V Section 3 (D)

The following policies for disqualification shall apply in all sports.

1. When a student is disqualified during a contest for flagrant or unsportsmanlike conduct, that student shall be withheld from competition for at least the next day of competition for that team.
2. Failure of the school, for any reason, to enforce this regulation will prohibit the school from entry in the next MHSAA tournament for that sport, or from the remainder of the current tournament if the disqualification occurs during an MHSAA tournament, or during the last regular season day of competition.
3. Disqualifications from one season carry over to the next season in that sport for undergraduates and coaches, or the next season in any sport for seniors.
4. If the playing rules for sport specify an additional penalty, more rapid progression, or use of such a progression for other violations, the playing rules apply.

F. Eligibility Concerning Previous Semester Records, Current Semester Grades, and Daily Attendance.

Previous Semester Record - The MHSAA requires that students must have passed enough classes that equal or exceed 66 2/3% credit hours of instruction per week the previous semester to be eligible to begin playing a sport during the next semester.

Current Semester Grades – The OHS Board of Education has established academic standards for participation in interscholastic athletics. Students meeting these standards are eligible to participate in athletic contests.

- OHS requires student-athletes to be passing all classes with a “D” grade or better in order for them to be eligible to participate in athletic contests. Academic progress will be determined at the end of every week.
- Student-athletes who do not meet academic eligibility standards in each class during a weekly check will be placed on probation for one week for each particular class that he/she has a grade of D- or lower.
- Athletes may practice and participate in all athletic contests during the probationary period.
- After the probationary period, those students-athletes who raised the grade/grades in question to passing status may continue to play in games with no penalty.
- If a student-athlete, after the probationary period, is still failing one or more courses he/she was on probation for, he/she will then be determined ineligible for athletic competition until the failing grade has been raised on a subsequent eligibility check.
- Athletes will be placed on a weekly probation each time they become ineligible in a class.
- Ineligible athletes will not participate in any contests the week after an unsuccessful probationary period beginning Friday and running through the next Friday’s eligibility check.
- Practice eligibility will be left up to the parent(s) and coaches involved. Ineligible athletes will be unable to participate and dress for athletic contests and will remain ineligible until he/she returns to passing status.

Daily Attendance - A student must attend school all day the day of a practice or contest to be eligible to participate. Exceptions will be made for absences due to school-sponsored events, medical appointments, and unforeseen circumstances. The Athletic Director or the building Principal, prior to competition, must approve all exceptions. Team coaches will be responsible for checking the attendance of their athletes prior to starting practice, warming up for a game, or traveling. Athletes who practice in violation of this rule will be suspended for their next day of practice. Athletes who compete in violation of this rule will be suspended for their next date of competition.

Suspensions can carry over to the next sports season.

G. Team Rules and Violations

Team rules must be in writing and approved by the Athletic Director prior to the start of the season and will be distributed to athletes at the parent meeting, first tryout, or practice if there are no tryouts scheduled. Parents will receive a copy of the team rules during the required Parent Meeting that the coach schedules at the beginning of the season or upon request. Penalties for violating team rules may not be more severe than the penalties approved by the Athletic Code.

Each coach shall be afforded a reasonable amount of discretion, subject to final approval by the A.D., in interpreting and applying his/her team rules, in determining whether an athletic department rule has been broken, and in setting the appropriate penalty for the athlete who has broken a team rule.

Discipline imposed by a coach and approved by the Athletic Director, which results in suspension or removal from the team may be appealed in accordance with procedures set forth under “Procedures and Appeals.” Pending an appeal, the penalty or disciplinary action imposed by the coach and approved by the Athletic Director shall remain in effect.

H. Rules for Suspended Athletes

1. A student who is suspended from school may not practice or be in attendance at practice. If the school suspension covers the day of a contest, the suspended student may not travel, dress, or sit on the bench with his/her team.
2. An athlete who is placed in in-school suspension (ISS) for any part of the day, excluding teacher directed, may not practice or play in a contest that day.
3. Athletes suspended during the season may forfeit any claim to athletic awards that season, pursuant to Team Rules.

I. Team Advancement Guidelines

The intent of advancing an athlete to a level beyond which he/she would normally play (9th grade athletes at the freshman or junior varsity level and 10th grade athletes at the junior varsity level) is to provide an exceptionally talented athlete the opportunity to enhance his/her experience and skill development, as well as contribute to the success of the team.

The following Team Advancement Guidelines must be followed:

- The Head Varsity Coach is responsible for making the initial recommendation regarding who should be considered.
- The proposed team advancement must be discussed and approved by the A.D., the Varsity Head Coach, and the parent(s)/guardian prior to any discussion of the opportunity with the athlete. Academic progress, emotional maturity, and peer relationships, as well as athletic ability will be considered in these discussions.
- Serious consideration should be given to the effect the advancement will have on the team the athlete may move to and the team the athlete may leave.
- If the athlete is advanced, every effort will be made to provide an adequate amount of playing time, which provides the opportunity to improve his/her skills.
- The team advancement decision must be assessed regularly by the coach, the athlete, and the parent(s)/guardian. The placement decision may be reversed.
- If an athlete is advanced for a second time during the season, permanent placement at the higher level will continue until the end of the season.
- Jr. High athletes at Onaway cannot, by MHSAA rule, be advanced to the freshman level and above.

J. Dual Sports

High School students may participate in up to two sports per season provided all team and MHSAA rules governing practices and contests are abided by.

Students in dual sports may not practice for a combined total of more than three hours in any one given day. Students in dual sports will identify a primary and a secondary sport and shall always attend primary practices over secondary practices, primary contests over secondary contests, primary contests over secondary practices and secondary contests over primary practices.

Dual sport athletes who commit an athletic violation will not participate in an athletic contest until they have served out their consequence in their primary sport.

K. Transportation

All members of an athletic squad must travel to and from all away contests in school-sponsored transportation. Deviations may be granted by the building Principal or Athletic Director on an individual trip basis.

1. Parents may make a request in person and sign a release form that is with the coach at the contest, requesting the athlete be allowed to ride with parent/guardian from the contest.
2. Parents may allow their child to ride home from a contest with another adult as long as prior (before the bus leaves) written permission has been confirmed by the Athletic Director or Principal. The adult that the child is being released to must still sign a release form that is with the coach at the event.
3. Athletes may not be released to anyone that is under 21 years of age except an immediate family member (brother or sister).
4. Parents may not give approval to ride home with another parent over the phone.

L. Varsity Letter Requirements

All participation requirements are with the expectation that the athlete finishes the season in good standing.

Football – Participation of 8 quarters or team membership for the regular season.

Girls Basketball – Participation in 4 games or team membership for the regular season.

Golf – Team membership for the regular season or at the discretion of the coach.

Boys Basketball – Participation in 4 games or team membership for the regular season. Volleyball – Participation in 4 matches or team membership for the regular season.

Wrestling – Team membership for the regular season or at the discretion of the coach.

Competitive Cheer – Team membership for the regular season or at the discretion of the coach.

Baseball – Participation in 8 games or team membership for the regular season.

Softball – Participation in 8 games or team membership for the regular season.

Boys & Girls Track – Participation in 5 meets or team membership for the regular season

M. Season Awards

Awards will be presented when the season has been successfully completed. An athlete will only receive one chenille letter the first time they letter in a Varsity sport. An athlete shall not receive more than one Varsity letter award during his/her school career. Certificates shall be presented to each athlete should he/she earn more than one award. A plaque will be awarded for the third and fourth year Varsity awards.

- 1st Year – Certificate, Chenille Letter
- 2nd Year – Certificate
- 3rd Year – Certificate, Plaque
- 4th Year – Certificate, Plaque

N. End of Year Awards

Outstanding Athlete Award – This award goes to the most outstanding senior male and female student-athlete.

Claude Morrison Scholar-Athlete Award – This award goes to a senior male and female student-athlete who has made a contribution to a team in at least one sport and has a GPA over 3.5.

Dick Dunn Award – This award goes to any male and female student that has demonstrated overwhelming desire, dedication, and determination in a varsity sport over the past year.

Sportsmanship Award – This award goes to a senior male and female athlete who has displayed excellent sportsmanship throughout their athletic career.

Cardinal Commitment Award – This award goes to any senior athlete who receives at least nine (9) varsity letters for their outstanding dedication to athletics.

Charlie Schaar / Fred Elowsky Award: This award goes to a male and female athlete that shows service to their school through support of athletics.

SECTION III

Athletic Code Violations and Penalties

All athletes agree to abide by the following Code of Conduct, which prohibits illegal or inappropriate actions.

Allegations of Athletic Code violations may be made to the Athletic Director at any time. Allegations made by students or adults not employed by the school district in some capacity must be presented in writing to the Athletic Director who will investigate and determine the validity of the accusation prior to administering any disciplinary action. Onaway Area Community School employees, including coaching staff, are obligated to report any and all allegations of athletic code violations to the Athletic Director as soon as they become aware of said violation.

Violations of the Athletic Code accumulate throughout the athlete's high school career. Seventh or Eighth grade students who violate the Athletic Code will be put on probation during their ninth grade year. If the athlete does not violate the Athletic Code as a freshman, the athlete will be removed from probation. If a violation does occur during the athlete's freshman year, the athlete will be penalized at the level of violation they have accumulated since the beginning of their 7th grade school year. After probation has been completed in good standing, these then Junior High Students would be eligible for the "Big 5" awards.

The fact that an athlete is not formally petitioned or charged and/or convicted of any infraction, misdemeanor or felony, shall not prevent the building Principal or Athletic Director from making an independent investigation determination as to whether such actions by the athlete are a violation of these rules. The building principal or Athletic Director may determine that a violation of these rules occurred if there is reasonable cause to believe a violation of these rules has occurred. Police charges, other than traffic violations, immediately constitute an Athletic Code violation.

Dual sport athletes who commit an athletic violation will not participate in an athletic contest until they have served out their consequence in their primary sport.

A. Group 1 Violations

1. Actions by a student or athlete at home or away contests that would be deemed as unsportsmanlike conduct (i.e., obscene gesture, unsportsmanlike conduct toward official, etc.).
2. Actions by an athlete at home or away contests that would bring disfavor upon the school.
3. Leaving the site of an away contest without permission.

Group 1 Penalties

The student will be suspended from attending at least the next home athletic contest and the athlete will be suspended from his/her team for at least the next contest. Subsequent #1 violations could result in longer suspensions. The suspensions may carry over to the next sport season in which the student may attend or athlete participates.

Athletes suspended for Group 1 violations shall be allowed to practice during the period of suspension.

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The fact that an athlete is not formally petitioned or charged and/or convicted of any infraction, misdemeanor or felony, shall not prevent the building Principal or Athletic Director from making an independent investigation determination as to whether such actions by the athlete are a violation of these rules. The building principal or Athletic Director may determine that a violation of these rules occurred if there is reasonable cause to believe a violation of these rules has occurred. Police charges, other than traffic violations, immediately constitute an Athletic Code violation.

Dual sport athletes who commit an athletic violation will not participate in an athletic contest until they have served out their consequence in their primary sport.

B. Group 1 Violations

1. Actions by a student or athlete at home or away contests that would be deemed as unsportsmanlike conduct (i.e., obscene gesture, unsportsmanlike conduct toward official, etc.).
2. Actions by an athlete at home or away contests that would bring disfavor upon the school.
3. Leaving the site of an away contest without permission.

Group 1 Penalties

The student will be suspended from attending at least the next home athletic contest and the athlete will be suspended from his/her team for at least the next contest. Subsequent #1 violations could result in longer suspensions. The suspensions may carry over to the next sport season in which the student may attend or athlete participates.

Athletes suspended for Group 1 violations shall be allowed to practice during the period of suspension.

C. Group 2 Violations

1. Use or possession of tobacco in any form.
2. Use, possession, or being under the influence of alcohol.
3. Use, possession, or being under the influence in any form of marijuana.
4. Actions, in or out of school, which result in being charged with a misdemeanor offense, other than a traffic violation. (Misdemeanor Offenses include larceny, malicious destruction of property, or any citations pertaining to drugs or alcohol.)
5. Hazing, which is defined as any initiation, harassment, or invidious act that results in personal injury as a result of intent.
6. Citations / Documentation from the Sheriff's Department will initiate the disciplinary actions regardless of any pending charges.

Group 2 Penalties

First Violation

The first Group 2 violation of an athlete's career will result in exclusion from competition for 30% (rounded to the nearest whole number) of the next consecutively scheduled events in any sport.

- If the suspension is not completed in one sports season, it will be carried over to the next sport season in which the athlete participates. (Example: An athlete is suspended after the eighth football game in a nine-game season. He/She will miss 10% of the football season, which would consist of the last game plus 20% of the next season's contests of any sport in which he/she participates.
- Group 2 Violation #4 that results in loss of playing time or school attendance for the student that is victimized per medical or other clinical evidence—may result in up to permanent banishment from OMS/OHS sports depending on the severity of the injuries incurred. In this instance the A.D. and the building Principal shall make the decision jointly.

Second Violation

The second Group 2 violation of an athlete's career will result in exclusion from competition for 75% (rounded to the nearest whole number) of the next consecutively scheduled events in any sport.

- If the suspension is not completed in one sports season, it will be carried over to the next sport season in which the athlete participates. (Example: An athlete is suspended after the eighth football game in a nine-game season. He/She will miss 10% of the football season, which would consist of the last game plus 65% of the next season's contests of any sport in which he/she participates.

Third Violation

The third Group 2 violation of an athlete's career will result in dismissal from the athletic program for one calendar year from the date of the violation. If the athlete has participated in an athletic contest after the date of the violation, the dismissal will be one calendar year from the date of the last participated in athletic contest.

Fourth Violation

The fourth Group 2 violation of an athlete's career will result in elimination from participation in all future athletics at Onaway Area Community Schools.

Additional Consequences of Group 2 Violations:

1. In addition to the penalties listed above, the athlete may, at the discretion of the AD, forfeit the privilege of attending other athletic or co-curricular activities.
2. The A.D. or the head coach of the sport in which the athlete is participating at the time of the violation with the consultation of the A.D., may withdraw or remove any team or individual honors or awards for which the athlete has otherwise qualified.
3. Athletes that are serving first and second violations are expected to fulfill all team obligations by attending all practices and actively participating as directed by his/her coach. In addition, the student athlete is expected to attend all games from which he/she is suspended and to sit with the team in street clothes.

D. Group 3 Violations

1. Use, possession, or being under the influence of any illegal or controlled substance (other than physician prescribed) including steroids and other illegal performance enhancing drugs.
2. Actions, in or out of school, which would be deemed felonies under the criminal code.

Group 3 Penalties

First Violation

The first Group 3 violation of an athlete's career will result in exclusion from competition for 75% (rounded to the nearest whole number) of the next consecutively scheduled events in any sport.

- If the suspension is not completed in one sports season, it will be carried over to the next sport season in which the athlete participates. (Example: An athlete is suspended after the eighth football game in a nine-game season. He/She will miss 10% of the football season, which would consist of the last game plus 65% of the next season's contests of any sport in which he/she participates.

Second Violation

The second Group 3 violation of an athlete's career will result in dismissal from the athletic program for one calendar year from the date of the violation. If the athlete has participated in an athletic contest after the date of the violation, the dismissal will be one calendar year from the date of the last participated in athletic contest.

Third Violation

The third Group 3 violation of an athlete's career will result in elimination from participation in all future athletics at Onaway Area Community Schools.

Additional Consequences of Group 3 Violations:

1. In addition to the penalties listed above, the athlete may, at the discretion of the A.D., forfeit the privilege of attending other athletic or co-curricular activities.
2. The A.D. or the head coach of the sport in which the athlete is participating at the time of the violation with the consultation of the A.D., may withdraw or remove any team or individual honors or awards for which the athlete has otherwise qualified.

E. Application of penalties

1. Penalties shall not be considered served unless the athlete fully completes the season during the suspension. Quitting the team is not considered "serving the penalty". If the penalty takes the athlete through to the end of the season, the suspended athlete must continue attending practice and games to count the penalty as served.
2. The suspended athlete's attendance and participation at practice and attendance at contests will be as follows:
 - a. The athlete must attend and participate at practice.
 - b. The athlete must attend games and will ride the team bus unless otherwise academically ineligible.
3. If a subsequent offense is committed while a previous penalty is being served, the penalty for the subsequent offense will not begin until the penalty for the first offense has been served.
4. Application of offenses can go together. Ex. One group 1 and one Group 2 Penalty will be combined for a subsequent punishment. Serving a Group 2 for 30% and then receiving a Group 3 will result in more than a 75% violation.

F. Procedures and Appeals

The following procedural steps will apply in all cases where a student athlete is alleged to have violated the Athletic Code or Team Rules.

1. An alleged Group 1, 2, or 3 violation by an athlete should be brought to the attention of the A.D., in writing. If the A.D. believes that there is a probability that the athlete in question committed a violation of the Athletic Code or Team Rules, the A.D., the building principal, or both, will confront the athlete with the alleged violation and ask for a response. After hearing the athlete's response, the A.D. may: (1) further investigate; or (2) render a decision as to whether or not the athlete has violated the Athletic Code or Team Rules. If the A.D. decides that a violation has occurred, the consequences will be as set forth under Group 1, 2, or 3 penalties. The athlete, his/her parent(s), and the head coach of the sport in which the athlete is participating at the time of the alleged violation will be informed of the violation and the athlete will be removed from participation in competition. Written notice of the A.D.'s decision regarding

the alleged violation will be further provided to the athlete, his/her parent(s) and the coach within five school days.

2. After receiving notification of the A.D.'s decision to remove an athlete from participation, the athlete and/or parent(s) may request a hearing with the Principal to dispute either the nature of the charges or the consequences imposed upon the athlete. The hearing will occur within five school days of the request.
3. The principal or the A.D. may temporarily suspend an athlete from participation in athletics prior to a hearing if an athletic event is scheduled to occur before a hearing could reasonably be held. If the athlete and/or parents dispute the principal and/or AD's decision, they may request a hearing with the extra-curricular committee for a final rendering.

4. The purpose of the hearing will be to determine if there is sufficient evidence to show that a violation has occurred, and if so, to determine the appropriate penalty. If the Superintendent determines the athlete has violated the Athletic Code or Team Rules, the consequences will be as set forth in the Athletic Code or Team Rules. However, the Superintendent may increase, reduce, or otherwise modify consequences imposed by the A.D. or head coach.
5. If the athlete and parent(s) are not satisfied with the above decision, they may appeal to the Board of Education. The penalty imposed on the athlete will remain in effect until the outcome of the appeal. A committee of the Board of Education will meet with the athlete and parent(s) within five school days to determine if the decision will be upheld. The Board committee will notify the athlete and parent(s) in writing of its decision on the appeal within three school days following the hearing.

Flagrant Unsportsmanlike Conduct

Flagrant unsportsmanlike conduct will be determined on a case by case basis. The determination can be made by the coach, athletic director, principal, or superintendent. Due to not being able to specifically define this conduct, the final determination must be made jointly by two of these separate individuals.

Examples of what may be considered flagrant unsportsmanlike conduct would be striking or verbally disrespecting an official, striking a player on or off the playing field, portraying obscene gestures at a crowd or opposing team, etc. These examples include, but are not limited to actions that will be considered flagrant unsportsmanlike conduct.

First Violation

The first flagrant unsportsmanlike conduct violation of an athlete's career will result in exclusion from competition for 30% (rounded to the nearest whole number) of the next consecutively scheduled events in any sport.

If the suspension is not completed in one sports season, it will be carried over to the next sport season in which the athlete participates. (Example: An athlete is suspended after the eighth football game in a nine- game season. He/She will miss 10% of the football season, which would consist of the last game plus 20% of the next season's contests of any sport in which he/she participates.

A flagrant unsportsmanlike conduct that results in loss of playing time or school attendance for the student that is victimized per medical or other clinical evidence—may result in up to permanent banishment from OMS/OHS sports depending on the severity of the injuries incurred. In this instance the A.D. and the building principal or superintendent shall make the decision jointly.

Second Violation

The second flagrant unsportsmanlike conduct violation of an athlete's career will result in exclusion from competition for 75% (rounded to the nearest whole number) of the next consecutively scheduled events in any sport.

If the suspension is not completed in one sports season, it will be carried over to the next sport season in which the athlete participates. (Example: An athlete is suspended after the eighth football game in a nine- game season. He/She will miss 10% of the football season, which would consist of the last game plus 65% of the next season's contests of any sport in which he/she participates.

Third Violation

The third flagrant unsportsmanlike conduct violation of an athlete's career will result in dismissal from the athletic program for one calendar year from the date of the violation. If the athlete has participated in an athletic contest after the date of the violation, the dismissal will be one calendar year from the date of the last participated in athletic contest.

Fourth Violation

The fourth flagrant unsportsmanlike conduct violation of an athlete's career will result in elimination from participation in all future athletics at Onaway Area Community Schools.

Additional Consequences of flagrant unsportsmanlike conduct violations:

1. In addition to the penalties listed above, the athlete may, at the discretion of the AD, forfeit the privilege of attending other athletic or co-curricular activities.
2. The A.D. or the head coach of the sport in which the athlete is participating at the time of the violation will withdraw or remove any team or individual honors or awards for which the athlete has otherwise qualified, after the first violation.
3. After the first violation, the athlete will not be considered for any of the year end overall athletic awards.
4. Athletes that are serving first and second violations are expected to fulfill all team obligations by attending all practices and actively participating as directed by his/her coach. In addition, the student athlete is expected to attend all games from which he/she is suspended and to sit with the team in street clothes.

G. Complaints From Parents and Athletes

Most complaints are a result of a misunderstanding and can be resolved with a conversation between the individuals involved. An athlete is advised to meet with his/her coach as the initial step in resolving any misunderstanding. If the athlete is unwilling to meet with the coach, the parent(s) are encouraged to schedule a meeting with the coach. A coach should never treat an athlete differently as the result of a parent complaint, action, or opinion. Coaches should comply with the A.D.'s directives, Team Rules, Athletic Code, and the School Code of Conduct.

1. If the concern is not satisfactorily resolved after meeting with the coach, the athlete, and/or parent(s), it should be discussed with the A.D. informally in an attempt to resolve the situation.
2. If the athlete and/or parent(s) wish to make a formal complaint to the A.D. about the coach, it should be put in writing with a copy provided to the coach.
3. The A.D. will investigate the complaint, and discuss the concern with the coach and the Head Varsity Coach of that particular sport. The investigation may include observation of practice sessions and/or contests by the A.D. The results of the investigation and subsequent action(s) to be taken to resolve the complaint will be documented in writing by the A.D. and a copy provided to the parent(s)/guardian, coach, and his/her file.
4. If the formal complaint is not satisfactorily resolved by the A.D., the athlete and/or parent(s) may appeal, in writing, to the superintendent. The Superintendent will meet with the parties involved in a further attempt to resolve the situation.
5. If the complaint is not satisfactorily resolved at this level, the athlete and/or parent(s) may appeal to the Board of Education of Onaway Area Community Schools, in writing.

Acknowledgment of Parent and Athlete Code of Conduct

By acknowledging this agreement, I understand that if my behavior during an athletic contest warrants my being expelled from the contest, I will not be allowed to participate in the next athletic contest. If this action occurs a second time, I will be dismissed from the athletic program for the remainder of that season. A Sportsmanship Rule violation cannot be appealed.

If an athlete is placed in out-of-school suspension, he/she may be dismissed from the team for the remainder of the season. If the athlete feels that they have been unfairly treated, he/she can appeal this decision to the School Principal. The Principal will review the incident during the next school day and decide on the appeal that day. If the appeal is granted, the athlete will be immediately reinstated.

I also understand that if my school time behavior warrants out of school suspension that I may immediately be dismissed from the athletic program for the remainder of the season.

Onaway Area Community School’s Athletic Codes of Conduct Signature Form

This form must be acknowledged by both the student athlete and his/her parent/guardian and returned to the coach prior to participation in practice or games.

I have read, understand and will abide by all rules set forth in the Onaway Area Community School ‘s Athletic Codes of Conduct Handbook.

I will allow my name, picture and statistics to be printed in programs, news media articles and/or videos.

All equipment checked out to me will be returned or I will reimburse the athletic department for missing or damaged equipment or uniforms.

Student Athlete Signature Date

Student Athlete printed name

Parent/Guardian Signature Date

Parent/Guardian Print

Onaway Fan Behavior

Dear Onaway Public Schools Students, Parents and Community Members:

To begin, thank you for your continued support of our student-athletes, coaches, and teams. Your enthusiasm and energy create an incredible atmosphere that inspires our athletes to give their very best on and off the field; however, we also want to remind everyone of the importance of maintaining a positive and respectful environment during our events. As representatives of Onaway Public Schools, it is our shared responsibility to model the highest standards of sportsmanship and conduct.

Here are some key expectations for all students, parents and athletes attending Onaway sporting events, home or away:

- 1) Show Respect: Treat players, coaches, officials, and fellow spectators with courtesy and respect at all times. Remember, the officials and coaches are there to support the development of our student-athletes.
- 2) Maintain Positive Behavior: Cheer FOR our teams, not AGAINST our opponents or officials. Refrain from criticism, negative comments, booing, or unsportsmanlike conduct that detracts from the enjoyment of the event.
- 3) Follow School Policies: Ensure that your actions comply with Onaway Public Schools' policies and the guidelines set forth by the Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA).

Please note that Onaway Public Schools reserves the right to remove any individual from an athletic event who engages in inappropriate or disruptive behavior; furthermore, individuals who are removed from an event may face an extended ban from attending future events. We ask for your cooperation in creating an atmosphere that upholds the values of respect, integrity, and community pride. By doing so, we can ensure that our athletic events remain a safe and enjoyable experience for everyone. Thank you for your understanding and continued support. Let's work together to make this year one to remember for all the right reasons.