

# Mariner Middle School

2023-2024



## *STUDENT-ATHLETE HANDBOOK*

**"ATHLETICS AND ACADEMICS – TOGETHER  
STRIVING FOR EXCELLENCE"**

Adopted – August 1, 2023  
Brian Montag, Intramural Athletic Coordinator

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## **PHILOSOPHY OF ATHLETICS FOR MARINER MIDDLE SCHOOL**

Athletics at Mariner Middle School are seen as an integral part of the total educational process. Participation in extracurricular activities is encouraged and strictly voluntary. It is considered a privilege participating in athletics, and the contents of this handbook are based on this philosophy and mind set. Every member of every team will be treated with respect by every coach, and our coaches are expected to use only positive motivation.

Any parent that chooses to interfere with game play in a derogatory manner through verbal or physical contact with a game official, coach, or student-athlete will be asked to leave the area of competition immediately and risk game cancellation. All concerns/complaints shall be done so through written contact to the school's athletic director and/or school principal. We expect all parents to exercise the same level of sportsmanship as our student-athletes. Remember, a parent's behavior, home or away, reflects Oasis Middle School and sends a message we do not condone.

A first-time offense will result in a one-game suspension followed by a school-year ban for the second offense. Violators will be subject to host school's procedures/policies for actions at away games/matches.

### **MARINER STAFF**

Athletic Director  
Assistant Athletic Director  
Principal  
Assistant Principal  
Assistant Principal

Brian Montag  
Luis Arredondo  
Dr. Mason Clark  
Alanna McCreary  
James Knecht

### **OBJECTIVES**

#### *Physical*

- To provide opportunities for students to reach improved fitness levels.
- To provide opportunities for students to further enhance skill level development.

#### *Social*

- To provide opportunities for positive interactions in a fun filled environment wherein leadership, sportsmanship, and fair play can be developed.
- To develop a better cooperative and harmonious relationship among students regardless of race or sex.

### *Emotional*

- To provide students a healthy emotional setting where self-image can be enhanced and stress can be released in a positive manner. Good sportsmanship will be stressed.

### *Mental*

- To increase student knowledge of rules, terminology, strategies, and basic tournament organization.

### *Educational*

- ❖ To promote teamwork, self-discipline, dedication, commitment, and self-reservation.

## **ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT POLICIES**

### **Student Insurance and Safety**

Students participating in all athletics must provide proof of insurance before participating. Students and their parents/guardian will be required to sign a waiver and submit a physical form from their health care provider. Students will not be allowed to participate in athletics until they have the completed LCSD waiver and physical form. Florida Department of Health forms will **NOT** be accepted.

### **Student Eligibility**

All students are held to eligibility standards created by the Lee County Middle School Athletic Department that may not be listed below.

- For extramural competition, a middle school student may be in any grade level 6 through 8.
  - Any student who turns 16 during the current academic calendar will be considered ineligible for athletic competition.
- All students are welcome to attend the try-out/intramural schedule.
- Students must participate in a try-out schedule before participating in extramural athletic competition.
- Students who have been externally suspended or expelled from school are prohibited from extramural participation during the period of the suspension.
  - Dependent upon infraction, the student may/may not be admitted back to their team upon completion of the suspension.
- Students must have a minimum grade point average of 2.0 from the previous quarter to be eligible for athletic participation during the current/following school quarter.

- o A student who begins the season as ineligible will remain ineligible throughout the entire sport season.
- o Incoming 6<sup>th</sup> grade students will receive a one-semester GPA grace period during their fall (first) quarter as a student at Mariner Middle School.
- o Students must retain good academic standing throughout their sport's season or risk being academically suspended at the discretion of Mariner Middle School administration.
- A student may participate at the middle school level until the age of 15 years 9 months. **A student who turns 16 at any point in their middle school career will be considered ineligible.**
  - o A middle school student may participate only one year in each grade level. A student who repeats a grade will not be eligible during the second attempt at completing said grade level.

### **Student Uniform, Attire and Equipment**

Student-athletes will be provided a uniform top and bottom (when applicable) for athletic competition. All participants will wear appropriate clothing for their sport. The individual uniform will be specified in the description of each sport. Appropriate footwear must be worn in every sport dependent upon playing surface.

At the conclusion of a sports season, student-athletes are responsible for returning the school-provided uniform. School property that is not returned to the Athletic Department will be added to the student's permanent record and will be held financially responsible for those items

- ❖ The replacement fee for any damaged or lost items will be the cost of initial purchase.
- ❖ Student-athletes are expected to wear a non-form-fitting, full or half sleeved uniform top or team t-shirt on **GAME DAYS ONLY!**
  - Sleeveless uniforms are to be worn on game/meet days with a solid colored under shirt.
  - The choice between uniform top or a team t-shirt shall be determined by the head coach. Regular school uniform shall be worn from the waist down.

### **Attendance: Practice, Competition and School**

Attendance at all scheduled practice sessions and competitions are mandatory unless excused by the coach.

- A student must be in school a minimum of three (3) blocks/periods or half day in order to participate in an athletic event scheduled for the same calendar day. An athlete must have an acceptable reason and/or pre-arranged absence such as illness, deficiencies in schoolwork, or other obligations not reasonably anticipated by the athlete.
  - o Any unexcused absence may lead to a disciplinary measure that can result in suspension/removal from the team.

### **Unsportsmanlike Behavior**

The conduct of any Mariner Middle School athlete shall be such as to bring no discredit to the athlete, parents, or school. This includes behavior and actions both on and off the playing field/court. A student who commits an act of malicious or hateful nature towards an official, opponent, teammate/coach, or spectator will be subject to disciplinary measures or removal from a team.

- Upon approval of the Athletic Director, students may not participate in any team functions, including practice or games.
  - o Student-athletes removed by the coach and Athletic Director may not be granted access to any or all remaining team functions (i.e. practice, contest, etc.)
- A student's classroom behavior will be dealt with on a per incident basis and any punishment will be given at that time dependent upon the infraction.
  - o Students must not receive additional punishment from a coach if punishment from the office of the Assistant Principal or Principal is assigned.
    - i.e. lunch detention, morning/after-school detention, ISS, or OSS

### **Quitting a Sport**

If an athlete decides to quit a sport after the first scheduled contest, he/she must meet with and give a written explanation to the coach *and* athletic director.

### **Playing Time**

During regular and post-season competition all athletes will **NOT** receive the same amount of playing time. There is no guarantee playing time will be similar from game to game. Participation during post-season play will not follow same regular season guidelines. Please see "Parent/Coach Relationship" below. What can be guaranteed is that your student will have the opportunity to grow and develop their skills within our program.

### **PARENT/COACH RELATIONSHIP**

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 benefit to children. As a parent, when your child becomes involved in our program, you have a right to understand what expectations are placed on him/her. Clear communication from the coach is imperative.

#### Communication Expected from Coach to Parents

- Coaches' philosophy
- Expectations the coach has for your child as well as the entire team
- Locations and times of all practices and contests
- Team requirements (such as special equipment, off-season workouts, etc.)
- Procedures to follow in case of an injury
- Discipline that will result in denial of participation

#### Communication Expected from Parent to Coach

- Notification of any schedule conflicts well in advance (i.e. vacation, college visits, etc.)
- Specific concerns regarding expectations
- Specific concerns regarding your child's health

As your child becomes involved in the programs at Mariner Middle School, he/she will experience some of the most rewarding moments in his/her life. It is important to understand that there may be times when events, situations, or rulings will not go the way you or your child wish. At these times, discussion with the coach is encouraged.

#### Appropriate Concerns to Discuss with the Coach

- Treatment of your child either mentally and/or physically
- Ways to help your child improve
- Concerns about your child's behavior

It is very difficult to accept if your child does not play as much as you would like. Coaches are professionals. They make decisions based on what they believe to be best for the whole program. The above list itemizes topics that can and should be discussed with the coaches. Other items, such as those listed below, must be left to the coaches' discretion.

#### Issues **NOT** Appropriate to Discuss with the Coach

- Playing time
- Team strategy
- Play calling
- Other student-athletes

There are situations that may require a conference between the coach and the parent. Conferences are encouraged. It is important that both parties involved have a clear understanding of the other's position.

#### Guidelines

Call or email the head coach. Contacting the assistant coach will make your displeasure known but the ultimate chance at resolution lies with the head coach as all major team-related decisions are his/hers to make. If the coach does not return a call within twenty-four (24) hours, contact the Athletic Department. Please, **DO NOT** attempt to confront a coach before or after a contest or practice. These can be emotional times for both the parent and coach. Meetings of this nature generally do not promote resolution.

#### Unsatisfactory Resolution

Please call and set up an appointment with the Athletic Director to discuss the situation. At this meeting, the appropriate next step can be determined. If the situation is still unresolved, a meeting can be arranged with the Principal, Athletic Director, and coach.

### **TRANSPORTATION**

Lee County School buses will be used to transport student-athletes to and from all away contests. Students are to maintain proper behavior while traveling to and from competition. Parents are welcome to transport their own child home, but it is mandatory that all student-athletes be signed out by their parents with their coach.

- Notification is necessary when parents are transporting more than their own child home from an athletic competition.
- It is vital that parents be on time when picking up their child from Mariner Middle School following an away competition. Students are informed to contact parents in route to Mariner in order to ensure a quick departure for both coaches and athletes.
  - o Failure to pick up your child in a timely manner after two consecutive away competitions will result in a one-game suspension for the student during the next scheduled away contest.



## **TICKET AND ADMISSION INFORMATION**

All home contests for basketball and volleyball will utilize the GoFan ticketing system. Tickets can be found on the [GoFan website](#).

- Gate Tickets – Home middle school events in MMS Gym:  
Adults: \$3.00  
Students: \$1.00
- No charge for children 4 and under, but they must sit with a parent!

## **ATHLETIC PROGRAMS OFFERED AT MARINER MIDDLE SCHOOL**

Cross Country

Golf

Basketball

Tennis

Volleyball

Track & Field

Soccer

## **MARINER MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE OF THE YEAR**

Criteria

Minimum two-sport athlete with 3.0 GPA or above to one male and one female athlete.

1. Great Attitude on and off the court/field
2. Commitment to the team
3. Being a leader on the team
4. Willing to help, teach and assist their teammates
5. Positive Sportsmanship shown amongst their teammates, opponents and officials
6. Succeeding in the classroom by being eligible for every game or meet throughout the sports seasons
7. A multi-sport athlete who participates in a minimum of 2 sports throughout the same school year
8. Exhibit top performance as a scholar athlete
9. Always does what they are supposed to be doing when they are supposed to be doing it