

**Metropolitan Philadelphia
Athletic Association
Policies and Procedures**

Metropolitan Philadelphia Athletic League Policies and Procedures

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Article I. MPAA Philosophy

The goal of the Metropolitan Philadelphia Athletic Association (“MPAA”) is to use athletics and community organization to promote academics, community involvement, and Character Development. The MPAA is designed to be fun and accessible. Aside from the basic eligibility requirements, the MPAA proudly opens its doors to all aspiring student-athletes.

The MPAA is designed to be a continuous positive influence in the social, educational, and athletic development of disenfranchised youth, including students identified with special needs. This will be accomplished through teaching skill development associated with each sport. These ideals will be realized through (1) competitive league sports; (2) recreational activities; and (3) intramural sports programming. The League will partner with schools and community based organizations to achieve its goals.

Research proves that participating in organized sports can be a positive force in promoting the academic achievement and pro-social behaviors of disenfranchised youth while in and out of school. MPAA Members believe that participation in sports activities can positively influence the path of at-risk youth. MPAA Members value sports participation as a catalyst for building good sportsmanship, establishing life-long healthy habits, developing positive peer relationships, and developing trusting relationships with adults.

Article II. Student-Athlete Eligibility

To be eligible to participate in an MPAA practices, scrimmages, or contests (herein collectively referred to as “athletic activities”), a student-athlete must meet the following MPAA student-athlete eligibility requirements or obtain an appropriate waiver. Nothing in this Article shall be construed to prevent individual Members from imposing more stringent eligibility requirements.

Section 2.01 Enrollment

- (a) MPAA student-athletes must be regularly enrolled in and attend a school on a full-time basis or be home-schooled.
- (b) A student-athlete shall be ineligible to participate in the MPAA for a Member-school if his or her enrollment in the school was materially motivated by athletic reasons.
- (c) Any individual who believes that a student-athlete was recruited to enroll in an MPAA Member-school for athletic reasons shall notify the Commissioner, who will perform a prompt and thorough investigation into such allegation.

Section 2.02 Amateur Status

- (a) Rule

MPAA student-athletes must be amateurs. An amateur student is one who engages in athletic competition solely for the educational, physical, mental, social, and pleasure benefits derived thereof.

- (b) Grounds for Losing Amateur Status

A student-athlete loses amateur status if he or she accepts, or if anyone related to the student-athlete accepts on his or her behalf, any compensation, consideration, or award(s) (herein collectively referred to as “awards”) exceeding

\$200 individually or \$500 in the aggregate for or related to the student's athletic ability, participation, performances, services, or training. The receipt of scholarships or educational grants will not impact a student-athlete's amateur status. The Commissioner, in his or her discretion, shall determine whether a particular award was received by or on behalf of a student-athlete for any of the prohibited reasons.

(c) Petition for Approval of Award

A student-athlete may request clarification whether any award(s) would jeopardize his or her amateur status by submitting an MPAA Petition for Approval of Award form. The form may be submitted either prior to or within seven (7) days of receipt of any award(s). The Commissioner may, at his or her discretion, accept for consideration a form submitted more than 7 days after a student-athlete's receipt of an award.

(d) Procedure for Reviewing the Petition for Approval of Award

The Commissioner shall notify the petitioning student-athlete of his or her decision within three (3) days of receipt of the form. The student-athlete shall retain his or her amateur status while the matter is pending.

If the Commissioner determines that the award(s) in question is/are improper, then he or she may order the student-athlete to return such award(s) and/or establish conditions for the receipt of such award(s). Such conditions might include, but are not limited to, community service requirements or charitable contributions commensurate with the value of the award(s) received.

A student-athlete may retain his or her amateur status by complying with or successfully appealing the Commissioner's determination. If the student-athlete appeals the Commissioner's determination, then he or she shall retain amateur status while the appeal is pending. If the appeal proves unsuccessful, the student-athlete may then preserve his or her amateur status by complying with the Commissioner's determination.

Section 2.03 Maximum Age

(a) Purpose

The purpose of this Section is to protect the safety of younger student-athletes and help ensure fair competition.

(b) Middle School Sports

For middle school sports, the maximum age of a participant shall be 15 years at the beginning of a given season. Member-middle schools and organizations are urged to work with other Members to find varsity teams for students to join who exceed the maximum age requirement for middle school sports.

(c) High School Sports

For high school sports, the maximum age of a participant shall be 19 years at the beginning of the season.

Section 2.04 Individual Waivers

(a) Rule

Any student-athlete who fails to meet any of the following requirements may request an individual waiver of such requirement(s). Additionally, a coach or parenting adult of any student-athlete may request a waiver on his or her behalf.

(b) Procedure for Requesting a Waiver

An individual seeking a waiver must submit an MPAA Eligibility Determination Request form to the Commissioner. The form allows the individual the opportunity to explain his or her circumstances and/or why he or she should be granted a waiver. The form must include a signed statement from the individual's Athletic Director certifying that he or she recommends the waiver, along with an explanation why he or she makes such recommendation.

Eligibility determination requests may before submitted either before or after a student loses eligibility or if any questions arise whether a student-athlete might lose his or her eligibility.

(c) Waiver Process

The Commissioner shall make a determination within seven (7) days of receiving an MPAA Eligibility Determination Request form. If the Commissioner chooses to grant a waiver, he or she may issue a full waiver or conditional waiver.

(d) Types of Waivers

A full waiver completely waives the requirement in question.

A conditional waiver shall set forth a condition or conditions that must be satisfied before the waiver takes effect. For example, a waiver may be conditioned on the performance of community service or upon the individual's nonparticipation for a period of time.

(e) Duration of Waivers

The Commissioner has discretion whether to limit the duration of a waiver to a specific period of time. In the event that the Commissioner does not explicitly limit the duration of a waiver, such waiver shall be presumed to last only through the duration of the season for which the waiver was granted. A waiver may be revoked by the Commissioner at any time at his or her discretion.

Article III. Consent of Parenting Adult

A student-athlete is not eligible to participate in MPAA activities until a parenting adult completes, signs, and submits an MPAA Consent of Parenting Adult form. The form must be submitted to the Athletic Director of the Member with which the student-athlete hopes to participate. The form shall provide consent to the student-athlete's school for the disclosure of the student-athlete's academic records to the Commissioner.

Although the requirements of this Article cannot be waived, an Athletic Directors and the Commissioner shall work together to help a student-athlete obtain the required consent if he or she has difficulty obtaining consent from a parenting adult.

If a student-athlete is not able to obtain the required consent, the appropriate Member shall offer such student-athlete an opportunity to participate in a non-athletic role. For instance, the aspiring student-athlete could be offered a student-coaching or team manager position.

A student-athlete who is legally emancipated shall be eligible to participate in MPAA activities if the Athletic Director of the Member with which said student-athlete hopes to participate submits an MPAA Emancipated Student-Athlete Registration form.

Article IV. Mandatory Health Examinations

Section 4.01 Requirement

A student-athlete is not eligible to participate in MPAA athletic activities until the student-athlete has undergone a comprehensive initial pre-participation physical evaluation performed by an Authorized Medical Examiner, and a completed MPAA Comprehensive Initial Pre-Participation Physical Evaluation (“CIPPE”) form is submitted to the Athletic Director of the Member with which the student-athlete will participating.

Nothing in this Article may be waived.

Section 4.02 Responsibility of Members

Members are responsible for offering physical evaluations to their student-athletes.

Section 4.03 Authorized Medical Examiner

An Authorized Medical Examiner is defined as a licensed physician of medicine or osteopathic medicine, a certified physician assistant, a certified registered nurse practitioner, or a school nurse practitioner.

Article V. Illegal Substances

A Student-athlete shall be permanently banned from participation in the MPAA if the Commissioner determines that he or she used, possessed, or attempted to purchase any illegal drug or harmful substance, including but not limited to alcohol or steroids. Such determination and penalty are subject to review and approval by the Board.

Article VI. Student-Athlete Code of Conduct

This Article shall apply to all conduct that occurs during or related to any MPAA activity.

Section 6.01 Infractions

The following is a non-exclusive list of infractions for which a student-athlete may be disciplined. The Commissioner may, in his or her discretion, discipline student-athletes for conduct that does not fit into the following categories. Nothing in this Article shall preclude a student-athlete’s Member-school or organization from imposing a greater level of discipline for any conduct.

(a) Fighting

A student-athlete who fights during an MPAA scrimmage or contest shall be suspended a minimum of three (3) contests.

(b) Assault

A student-athlete who physically assaults another during an MPAA scrimmage or contest shall be suspended for the duration of the season. If the season has fewer than ten (10) contests remaining, the suspension shall carry over to subsequent seasons such that the student-athlete serves a minimum suspension of ten (10) contests.

(c) Cheating

A student-athlete who cheats during an MPAA scrimmage or contest shall be punished at the discretion of the Commissioner.

(d) Bullying/Harassment

A student-athlete who bullies or harasses another individual shall be suspended a minimum of three (3) contests. Harassment includes any insult, slur, or purposefully negative action directed towards an individual based on that individual's actual or perceived race, ethnicity, physical characteristics, gender, sexual orientation, religion, etc.

(e) Ejection

A student-athlete who is ejected from an MPAA scrimmage or contest shall be suspended a minimum of one (1) contest.

Section 6.02 Procedure

The Commissioner is responsible for investigating all alleged disciplinary infractions, determining whether a disciplinary infraction occurred, and, if applicable, deciding the appropriate disciplinary consequence. The Commissioner must abide by the minimum suspension requirements as set forth in Section 6.01 of this Article.

Section 6.03 Referral to the Commissioner

All student-athletes, coaches, parenting adults, Athletic Directors, Members, and MPAA officials shall promptly report any disciplinary infraction(s) they witness or otherwise gain knowledge of to the Commissioner. Such reports may be made by completing and submitting an MPAA Report of Alleged Violation form.

Article VII. Student-Athlete Suspensions

The MPAA's disciplinary rules are intended to be constructive rather than punitive. Accordingly, student-athletes who are suspended are hereby granted the opportunity to turn their disciplinary infractions into positive and productive experiences by converting suspensions into community service.

Section 7.01 Community Service

A student-athlete may convert his or her first contest of suspension during any season into a commitment to perform four (4) hours of approved community service.

A student-athlete may convert his or her second contest of suspension during any season into a commitment to perform an additional four (4) hours of approved community service.

Section 7.02 Procedure for Requesting Community Service

A student-athlete opting to perform community service rather than serve a suspension must submit an MPAA Community Service Approval form to the Commissioner at least twenty four (24) hours prior to the time at which the suspension would otherwise become effective.

Section 7.03 Commissioner's Determination

The Commissioner shall notify the petitioning student-athlete whether the requested community service is approved within three (3) days of receiving a Community Service Approval form. The student-athlete may participate in MPAA activities while the Commissioner's decision is pending.

The Commissioner's determination shall not be appealable. If the Commissioner determines that a student-athlete's proposal is insufficient, the Commissioner may, in his or her discretion, request additional information or offer an alternative community service option.

Section 7.04 Performance of Community Service

If the Commissioner approves a student-athlete's request for community service in lieu of suspension, then the student-athlete must perform the community service within seven (7) days of receiving approval.

If the student-athlete is unable to timely perform the approved community service due to unforeseen circumstances, then he or she must promptly file a new Community Service Approval form with the Commissioner.

If the student-athlete deliberately or carelessly fails to timely perform the approved community service, then he or she shall receive a two (2) contest suspension for each original contest of suspension he or she promised to convert into community service.

By the end of the seven (7) day community service period, the student-athlete must submit a Completion of Community Service form to the Commissioner. Failure to timely submit this form may subject the student-athlete to penalties at the discretion of the Commissioner.

Article VIII. Character Education

Section 8.01 Community Service Requirement

Each team is required to contribute a minimum of six (6) hours of time to community service activities for each student-participant during the course of each MPAA season.

A student-athlete must contribute a minimum of two (2) hours of his or her community service commitment before he or she is eligible to participate in MPAA games.

The Membership Trustee or Athletic Director shall submit any and all community service projects to the Commissioner for prior approval. Additionally, each Member shall provide photo(s) and a short description of each community service event upon completion of each project.

Student-athletes are required to log their community service contributions by filling out MPAA Community Service Log forms. Each student-athlete must complete and submit one MPAA Community Service Log to his or her coach prior to the first MPAA contest of the season. Each student-athlete must submit another completed MPAA Community Service Log to his or her coach upon completion of his or her community service requirement.

Members are responsible for monitoring whether their student-athletes have met the minimum community service requirements of this Article. Any student-athlete who fails to meet the community service requirement of a given season shall be ineligible to participate in any subsequent MPAA activities until he or she retroactively meets such requirement.

Any Member, coach, Membership Trustee, or Athletic Director that willfully or carelessly fails to enforce the requirements of this section shall be subject to discipline at the discretion of the Commissioner.

Section 8.02 Health and Nutrition Seminars

At least once per school year, every MPAA student-athlete shall participate in a health and nutrition seminar that shall be organized by his or her Member-school or organization. A student-athlete who participates in more than one MPAA sport in a given school year shall only be required to participate in one such seminar throughout the school year.

Article IX. Coaching Requirements

MPAA coaches are expected to set positive examples for their student-athletes. The following requirements are set in place to help ensure that coaches serve as good role models and leaders, and as knowledgeable and capable coaches.

Section 9.01 Criminal Background Checks

- (a) All first-time MPAA coaches and prospective MPAA coaches shall be required to submit to the Commissioner valid (obtained within the past year) copies of the following criminal background check documents:
 - (i) a Pennsylvania State Police background check (Act 34 of 1985) report;
 - (ii) a Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare child abuse history (Act 151 of 1994) report;
 - (iii) a FBI federal criminal history record (Act 114 of 2006) report; and
 - (iv) a signed and completed PDE-6004 form.

Instructions for how to obtain these reports/forms shall be made available on the MPAA website. These forms must be received by the Commissioner before an individual may assume MPAA coaching duties.

(b) Prohibited Crimes

No individual may participate as a coach in the MPAA if any of the forms he or she submits indicate any of the following convictions:

- (i) Any conviction from any of the following criminal offenses, at any time:
 - Criminal homicide
 - Aggravated assault
 - Stalking
 - Kidnapping
 - Unlawful restraint
 - Rape
 - Sexual assault
 - Indecent assault
 - Corruption of minors
 - Sexual abuse of children
 - Sexual exploitation of children
 - Incest
 - Indecent exposure
 - An offense under the Controlled Substance, Drug, and Cosmetic Act
 - Obscene and other sexual materials and performances
 - Involuntary deviate sexual intercourse
 - Prostitution and related offenses
 - Offenses dealing with infant children
 - Luring a child into a motor vehicle or structure
 - Endangering the welfare of children
 - Concealing the death of a child
 - Aggravated indecent assault
 - Sexual intercourse with an animal
 - Unlawful contact with a minor
 - Solicitation of minors to traffic drugs
 - Statutory sexual assault
 - Institutional sexual assault

- (ii) Any conviction for any felony offense over the past ten (10) years;
 - (iii) Any conviction for any misdemeanor of the first degree over the past five (5) years; or
 - (iv) Any other conviction under which an individual is prohibited from working in a school setting with contract with children pursuant to 24 P.S. § 1-111.
- (c) Arrests

No individual may participate as a coach in the MPAA if he or she is arrested for or convicted of any of the offenses enumerated above unless and until the individual is exonerated of such charge(s) or the charge(s) is/are withdrawn.

(d) Reporting Arrests

Coaches and prospective coaches must notify the Commissioner within forty eight (48) hours of any arrest. Such notice shall be made by submitting an updated PDE-6004 form. Failure to timely report an arrest shall disqualify an individual from coaching in the MPAA absent a showing of a compelling circumstance.

(e) Mandatory Updates

Upon knowledge or reasonable suspicion by the Commissioner that any coach or prospective coach was arrested and/or committed a crime, the Commissioner may order such individual to submit new or updated background check documents.

Each Member's Membership Representative and Athletic Director are jointly responsible for reporting any known or reasonably suspected arrest of or crime committed by any coach or prospective coach of the Member-school or organization. Failure to report shall result in disciplinary consequences.

Section 9.02 CPR Certification

At least one (1) coach or assistant coach for every team must be certified in First Aid/CPR/AED by the American Red Cross before a team begins organized practices, scrimmages, or games. At least one individual with such certification must be present during all team athletic activities. A temporary waiver may be granted, subject to the approval of the Commissioner, if another adult who has such certification or training will be present during all such activities.

Section 9.03 Coaching Education Program

Every coach must attend, at least once per year, an MPAA Coaching Education seminar prior to the season(s) he or she intends to coach during. The seminar will typically be organized and held by the Commissioner three (3) times per year. The purpose of the seminar is to ensure quality coaching and leadership in accordance with MPAA principles and standards.

If a coach or prospective coach is unable to attend a requisite MPAA Coaching Education seminar, he or she must promptly notify the Commissioner. The Commissioner shall, in his or her discretion, offer an alternative Coaching Education opportunity for the individual.

Article X. Conduct of Coaches

Coaches are required to display exemplary conduct at all times during participation in MPAA activities. The Commissioner possesses authority to discipline coaches for any behavior that is detrimental to any student-athlete, Member, or the MPAA. In addition, coaches are responsible for promoting the safety, development, and wellbeing of MPAA student-athletes.

Section 10.01 Behavior

Coaches are required to treat all student-athletes and MPAA participants with respect. Coaches shall refrain from yelling at or insulting student-athletes or other MPAA participants.

Section 10.02 Supervision

Coaches must ensure that student-athletes are properly supervised during all organized MPAA activities. At least one coach must be present during all MPAA athletic activities.

Section 10.03 Safety

Coaches must read, understand, and faithfully implement the MPAA Safety Guidelines and Information publication, available online at mp-aa.org.

Coaches must take reasonable precautions to avoid heat illness, dehydration, and weather-related safety risks.

Coaches must review each student-athlete's MPAA Comprehensive Initial Pre-Participation Physical Evaluation form in order to be made aware of any recorded health conditions.

Coaches must abide by the concussion protocols as set forth in Article XVI. In addition, all coaches must complete the Center for Disease Control's "Heads Up: Concussion in Youth Sports" online training course.

Coaches must never encourage or tolerate the use of illegal performance enhancing drugs, such as steroids or human growth hormone.

Section 10.04 Student-Athlete Participation

Although playing time and roles need not be entirely equal, coaches should offer all student-athletes on a team a meaningful opportunity participate.

Section 10.05 Illegal Drugs, Alcohol, and Tobacco

Any individual who possesses, attempts to obtain, consumes, and/or is under the influence of any illegal drug(s) during any MPAA activity shall be forever barred from coaching any MPAA sport.

Any individual who consumes or is under the influence of alcohol during any MPAA activity shall be suspended from coaching any MPAA sport for a period to be determined by the Commissioner.

Any individual who consumes tobacco during any MPAA activity shall be suspended from coaching any MPAA sport for a period to be determined by the Commissioner.

Section 10.06 Community Service

In order to set a positive example for student-athletes, each coach must organize, supervise, and participate in all community service project(s) with each team he or she coaches.

Section 10.07 Academic Encouragement

After every grading period during a given season, each coach must communicate with every team member's teacher(s) to discuss each student-athlete's academic performance. Each coach must also review every team member's grades with the individual student-athlete and offer academic encouragement and/or advise.

Article XI. Complaints Against Coaches

Any individual, whether a student-athlete, parenting adult, coach, member-school official, or MPAA official, is encouraged to report any coach's failure to meet the requirements of Article X to the Commissioner by utilizing an MPAA Coach Complaint form.

Upon receipt of any MPAA Coach Complaint form, the Commissioner shall promptly and thoroughly investigate the matter. Upon concluding such investigation, the Commissioner may decide to impose discipline upon the coach in question.

Nothing in this Article shall be construed to require that a formal MPAA Coach Complaint form must be submitted in order for disciplinary action to be taken against a given coach.

Article XII. Recruitment of Student-Athletes

Section 12.01 Recruitment by Member-Schools

No coach, Member-school, or any administrator or employee of any Member-school may recruit any student-athlete to enroll in a Member-school for primarily or substantially athletic reasons.

Section 12.02 Recruitment by Member-Organizations

No coach, Member-organization, or any administrator or employee of any Member-organization may offer any compensation, gifts, or other otherwise inappropriate enticement to any student-athlete for participation on any MPAA team. Additionally, no Member-organization shall exert any pressure or undue influence on any student-athlete to join an MPAA team.

Section 12.03 Enforcement

If any coach of Member official is determined to have recruited a student for primarily athletic purposes, then such individual shall be suspended from the MPAA for at least one (1) full year. Additional penalties may be imposed on the Member, subject to approval by the Board of Trustees.

Section 12.04 Reporting

If any individual knows or suspects that a coach, Member, or any administrator or employee of a Member has recruited or attempted to recruit a student-athlete for athletic purposes, such individual shall immediately report the matter to the Commissioner. An individual making such report is encouraged but not required to do so by completing and submitting an MPAA Report of Alleged Violation form.

Section 12.05 Investigation

Upon receiving any report or information regarding possible recruitment, the Commissioner shall conduct a prompt and thorough investigation into the matter. If the Commissioner determines that such report or information has

reasonable merit, he or she must convene all non-interested Delegates together to discuss the matter. The individuals involved shall be suspended from the MPAA for a period of not less than one (1) year upon a majority vote of all non-interested Delegates present.

Article XIII. Officiating Requirements

Section 13.01 Criminal History

- (a) All new officials and prospective officials shall be required to submit to the Commissioner valid (obtained within the past year) copies of the following criminal background check documents:
- (i) a Pennsylvania State Police background check (Act 34 of 1985) report;
 - (ii) a Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare child abuse history (Act 151 of 1994) report;
 - (iii) a FBI federal criminal history record (Act 114 of 2006) report; and
 - (iv) a signed and completed PDE-6004 form.

Instructions for how to obtain these reports/forms shall be made available on the MPAA website. These forms must be received by the Commissioner before an individual may officiate any contest.

(b) Prohibited Crimes

No individual may participate as an official in the MPAA if any of the forms he or she submits indicate any of the following convictions:

- (i) Any conviction from any of the following criminal offenses, at any time:

- Criminal homicide
- Aggravated assault
- Stalking
- Kidnapping
- Unlawful restraint
- Rape
- Sexual assault
- Indecent assault
- Corruption of minors
- Sexual abuse of children
- Sexual exploitation of children
- Incest
- Indecent exposure
- An offense under the Controlled Substance, Drug, Device and Cosmetic Act
- Obscene and other sexual materials and performances
- Involuntary deviate sexual intercourse
- Prostitution and related offenses
- Offenses dealing with infant children
- Luring a child into a motor vehicle or structure
- Endangering the welfare of children
- Concealing the death of a child
- Aggravated indecent assault
- Sexual intercourse with an animal
- Unlawful contact with a minor
- Solicitation of minors to traffic drugs
- Statutory sexual assault
- Institutional sexual assault

- (ii) Any conviction for any felony offense over the past ten (10) years;

- (iii) Any conviction for any misdemeanor of the first degree over the past five (5) years; or

- (iv) Any other conviction under which an individual is prohibited from working in a school setting with contract with children pursuant to 24 P.S. § 1-111.

(c) Arrests

No individual may participate as an official in the MPAA if he or she is arrested for or convicted of any of the offenses enumerated above unless and until the individual is exonerated of such charge(s) or the charge(s) is/are withdrawn.

(d) Reporting Arrests

Officials and prospective officials must notify the Commissioner within forty eight (48) hours of any arrest. Such notice shall be made by submitting an updated PDE-6004 form. Failure to timely report an arrest shall disqualify an individual from coaching in the MPAA absent a showing of a compelling circumstance.

(e) Mandatory Updates

Upon knowledge or reasonable suspicion by the Commissioner that any official or prospective official was arrested and/or committed a crime, the Commissioner may order such individual to submit new or updated background check documents.

Section 13.02 Training

The Commissioner is responsible for ensuring that prospective officials are competent and adequately trained in the sport(s) for which they hope to officiate. Accordingly, the Commissioner is responsible for determining which qualifications are required for officials. Such qualifications might include prior experience, the passage of an officiating examination, or a demonstrable understanding of the rules governing a given sport.

All officials must complete the Center for Disease Control's "Heads Up: Concussion in Youth Sports" online training course.

Section 13.03 Registration Form

A prospective officials must complete and submit an MPAA Officials' Registration form by the deadline(s) posted for each sport on the MPAA's website. Hiring and scheduling decisions shall be made at the recommendation of the Commissioner, and subject to the approval of the Board of Trustees.

Section 13.04 Conduct of Officials

MPAA officials must actively promote safety and good sportsmanship during all contests in which they officiate. Additionally, MPAA officials must at all times officiate in a fair and unbiased manner.

All officials must abide by the safety protocols enumerated in these Policies and Procedures.

Any complaints regarding the conduct of an MPAA official may be directed to the Commissioner's attention by submitting an MPAA Officiating Complaint form. Discipline shall be subject to the Commissioner's discretion.

Article XIV. Conduct Towards Officials

Consistent with the MPAA's emphasis on good sportsmanship, it is expected that all MPAA participants, whether student-athletes, parenting adults, spectators, coaches, or Member officials, will at all times treat officials with respect and good manners. Arguing with or taunting an official is prohibited under all circumstances. If any individual is ejected from an MPAA activity by an official, he or she will be suspended from participating in or attending at least one (1) subsequent MPAA contest.

Article XV. Rules for Individual Sports

Section 15.01 General Rules

Prior to every season, the Commissioner shall promulgate general rules and requirements governing each sport. These rules and requirements may include, but are not limited to, the following topics: scoring, timekeeping, uniforms, and officiating.

Section 15.02 Mandatory Safety Protocol

The Commissioner shall promulgate rules and requirements governing mandatory protective equipment and safety rules for each sport. Safety rules and requirements for individual sports must be followed at all times, and failure to do so may result in discipline at the discretion of the Commissioner.

Article XVI. First Aid and Safety

The MPAA is committed to doing its best to protect the safety and wellbeing of all participants, including student-athletes.

Section 16.01 Concussion Protocol

(a) Concussion Signs and Symptoms

The potential signs and symptoms of a concussion include the following:

Somatic Symptoms

- Headache
- Fatigue
- Dizziness
- Balance Problems
- Nausea
- Vomiting
- Visual Disturbances
- Light sensitivity
- Sound Sensitivity
- Sleep Difficulties
- Numbness or Tingling

Affective Symptoms

- Personality Changes
- Emotional Disturbances
- Irritability
- Sadness
- Nervousness

Cognitive Symptoms

- Difficulty Remembering
- Loss of Consciousness
- Disorientation
- Difficulty Concentrating
- Delayed Verbal Response
- Delayed Motor Response
- Abnormal Speech (slurred)
- Feeling Mentally Foggy
- Grogginess

(b) Removal from Physical Activity

In the event that a student-athlete exhibits or describes feeling any of the signs and symptoms identified above, the coach and/or official who gains knowledge of such signs and symptoms must immediately remove the student-athlete from physical activity.

Once a student-athlete is removed from physical activity, his or her coach and/or an official shall evaluate the student-athlete to determine whether he or she requires immediate medical attention.

In no event may a student-athlete return to play on the day of a suspected concussion. A student-athlete who is suspected of having sustained a concussion may only return to play upon being cleared by a licensed physician of medicine or osteopathic medicine (MD or DO).

Section 16.02 First Aid Kit

Every coach must possess a first aid kit that is available at all times during MPAA activities. In the event that a student-athlete bleeds during an MPAA activity, his or her coach shall use the first aid kit to sanitize the blood and cut while wearing a disposable latex glove. No student-athlete may return to play while he or she has an open cut or blood wound.

Section 16.03 Medical Disqualification

If a coach has knowledge of or suspects that any student-athlete has any injury, illness, or medical condition that may cause the student-athlete's participation in an athletic activity to be dangerous to the student-athlete or any other individual, the coach must temporarily disqualify the student-athlete from participating until he or she recovers from the injury, illness, or medical condition. In the event that a student-athlete has a serious injury, illness, or medical condition (including, but not limited to, broken bones, severe bleeding, serious ankle sprains, etc.), the coach must temporarily disqualify the student-athlete from participation until he or she is medically cleared by a licensed physician or osteopathic medicine (MD or DO).

Section 16.04 Additional Safety Protocol

At his or her discretion, and upon approval from the Board of Trustees, the Commissioner may promulgate additional safety guidelines, protocol, and information for all sports or for one or more particular sport(s).

Section 16.05 Violations of Safety Protocol

Any coach or official who willfully or carelessly fails to follow any of the requirements of this Article shall be disciplined by the Commissioner, subject to the Commissioner's discretion. Any willful or careless violation of the Concussion Protocol must result in a period suspension.

Article XVII. Team Academic Standards

Section 17.01 Discipline of Teams

Any team that fails to meet the team academic standards of this section shall be disciplined at the discretion of the Commissioner. The Commissioner may refrain from imposing any discipline only upon a finding of compelling circumstances.

Section 17.02 Discipline of Members

Each Member is responsible for the compliance of its teams with this Article. Any Member that deliberately or carelessly fails to ensure such compliance may be disciplined at the discretion of the Commissioner and subject to approval by the Board of Trustees.

Section 17.03 Student-Athletes with Academic Disabilities

Student-athletes with academic disabilities or suspected academic disabilities cannot be removed or excluded from a team on account of having a perceived negative impact on a team's academic standing.

Article XVIII. Equal Opportunity

Section 18.01 Nondiscrimination Policy

The MPAA will not discriminate against any person on the basis of age (except as set forth in Article II), race, religion, sex, sexual orientation or creed. Any individual or entity that violates this policy shall be suspended or banned from the MPAA for a minimum period of one (1) year.

Section 18.02 Title IX Requirements

All Members must strive to treat male and female student-athletes in an equitable manner. In particular, Member-schools shall meet the following guidelines:

- (a) Funding and resources should be made available on a substantially proportional basis to the number of male and female participants in a member-school's MPAA athletic program;
- (b) Male and female student-athletes should receive substantially equivalent treatment, benefits, and opportunities regarding facilities; and
- (c) The athletic interests and abilities of male and female student-athletes should be equally accommodated.

Section 18.03 Open Door Policy

Student-athletes with physical disabilities shall be welcomed to participate in MPAA teams. No MPAA team may exclude any student-athlete with a physical disability unless including such individual would cause the exclusion of another student-athlete.

Article XIX. Multi-Member Teams

The MPAA recognizes that some Members may lack sufficient student-athletes and/or resources to field a desired MPAA team. In order to open participation to such Members, the MPAA hereby adopts the following policies.

Section 19.01 General Rule

In order to pool enough student-athletes and/or resources to form a desired MPAA team, two or more Members may join to create a multi-Member team.

Section 19.02 Petitioning Process

Members that wish to form a multi-Member team must submit an MPAA Petition for Multi-Member Team form to the Commissioner at least thirty (30) days prior to the applicable season. The form shall certify that the petitioning Members are not seeking a competitive advantage by joining together.

Section 19.03 Approval Process

Upon receipt of an MPAA Petition for Multi-Member Team form, the Commissioner shall promptly forward a copy of the form to all Board members. All Board members whose Member-schools or organizations are not directly involved in the petition in question shall vote whether to approve such petition. The petition shall be approved if a majority of the Board members who vote do so in favor of approving the petition.

Section 19.04 Responsibilities of Members

All Members that join to form a multi-Member team shall be jointly responsible for all MPAA related agreements, arrangements, disputes, and disciplinary matters involving such multi-Member team.

Article XX. Number of Allowable Practices and Contests

Section 20.01 Maximum Number of Contests

The Commissioner shall promulgate regulations establishing, based primarily upon safety and academic considerations, the maximum number of allowable contests per season for each sport.

All contests, including contests against non-MPAA teams, shall count towards a team's number of maximum contests.

Section 20.02 Practice Time and Scheduling

The Commissioner shall promulgate regulations establishing restrictions on practice time and scheduling for each sport, including the maximum weekly hours of practice time and days on which practices are not permitted.

Section 20.03 Enforcement

No team may intentionally circumvent the rules set forth in this Article, including by organizing or promoting non-organized activities or by organizing or promoting the formation of any non-MPAA team. Such actions shall be subject to discipline at the discretion of the Commissioner, subject to approval by the Board of Trustees.

Article XXI. Competition Against Outside Teams

Upon approval by the Commissioner, MPAA teams may compete against non-MPAA teams. The Commissioner may only grant such approval provided that the non-MPAA team in question meets the age requirements of Article II and further provided that such team is not affiliated with a Member or former Member that is currently banned or suspended from the MPAA. Additionally, the Commissioner shall only grant such approval upon a finding that the safety of participants will be adequately protected during the competition.

Article XXII. Scheduling and Forfeitures

In order to ensure that all MPAA teams are active participants in the league, the following scheduling rules are hereby set forth.

Section 22.01 Timely Appearance

Upon mutual agreement of both teams, any contest may be rescheduled provided that the teams inform the Commissioner by 12:00pm prior to the scheduled contest.

Section 22.02 Forfeiture

If a team fails to timely appear for a scheduled contest without properly rescheduling, the team's failure to appear shall result in forfeiture unless the coach of the opposing team agrees to waive this provision and play the contest later than scheduled.

Section 22.03 Penalties for Forfeiture

If any team forfeits two (2) or more games in a season due to its failure to timely appear, such team will be subject to discipline at the discretion of the Commissioner and subject to approval by the Board of Trustees.

If any Member's cumulative teams, including associated multi-school teams, forfeit four (4) or more games in a school year due to their failure to timely appear, such Member will be subject to discipline at the discretion of the Board of Trustees.

Section 22.04 Hardship Waiver

At the discretion of the Board of Trustees, the above-described penalties may be waived upon any showing of reasonable hardship by the team(s) or Member in question.

Article XXIII. Appeals

Individuals or Members may appeal any decision or act of discretion by the Commissioner by submitting an MPAA Appeal Form to the Commissioner.

Upon receipt of any MPAA Appeal Form, the Commissioner shall promptly distribute a copy of such form by email to all members of the Board of Trustees.

Section 23.01 Procedure for Hearing Appeals: Formal Hearing

For matters involving appeals of disciplinary penalties against teams or Members, a hearing shall be convened as soon as practicable during which the Commissioner should explain his or her reason(s) for the underlying decision and the appealing party shall be granted an opportunity to state the grounds for seeking an appeal. A quorum of Trustees must be present in order for such hearing to occur. The appeal shall be granted upon a majority vote of the Trustees participating in such vote.

Section 23.02 Procedure for Hearing Appeals: Informal Review

For all other matters, Trustees shall vote on whether to grant an appeal within three (3) days of the Commissioner's distribution of the MPAA Appeal Form. Individual Trustees shall email their votes to the Commissioner.

Section 23.03 Discussion of Appeals

Trustees are free to discuss an appeal while the matter is pending.

Section 23.04 Interested Parties

Any Trustee who is affiliated with a Member that is directly involved in an appeal cannot vote during such appeal. Such Trustee may not exert or attempt to exert influence on any other Trustee while the matter is pending. For purposes of this Article, a Member that filed a complaint against another Member is not directly involved in such matter.

Section 23.05 Conditional and Partial Appeals

The Trustees may decide to alter the Commissioner's decision without entirely overturning it. For instance, the Trustees may decide to grant an appeal conditionally or partially.

Section 23.06 Majority Required

An appealable decision by the Commissioner may only be altered or overturned upon a majority vote by the Trustees who vote on the matter. Interested Trustees and Trustees who have abstained will not be counted towards or against any such majority.

Section 23.07 While an Appeal is Pending

The Commissioner's decision shall remain in effect while an appeal is pending.

Article XXIV. Amendments by Petition

The purpose of this Article is to help ensure that the MPAA remains a dynamic league that continually strives to best serve the interests of its Student-Athletes.

Section 24.01 Petitions

All individuals are encouraged to formally submit new ideas and proposed changes to the MPAA Policies and Procedures by submitting an MPAA Proposed Amendment form to the Commissioner at any time.

At the end of each school year (on approximately July 1 of each year), the Commissioner shall compile and distribute all submitted MPAA Proposed Amendment forms to all Trustees. Alternatively, if the Board appoints a committee pursuant to Section 25.05, the Commissioner shall immediately forward all MPAA Proposed Amendment forms to the committee members upon receipt of such forms.

Section 24.02 Provisions That Cannot Be Amended

The following provisions of the MPAA Policies and Procedures cannot be deleted or materially compromised: Article III (Consent of Parenting Adult), Article IV (Mandatory Health Examinations), Section 9.01 (Criminal Background Checks of Coaches), Section 9.02 (CPR Certification), Section 10.02 (Supervision), Section 10.03 (Safety), Section 13.01 (Criminal Background Checks of Officials), Article XVI (First Aid and Safety), Section 18.01 (Nondiscrimination Policy), Section 18.02 (Title IX Requirements), Section 20.01 (Maximum Number of Contests), Article XXV (relating to this list of exempt provisions), and Section 29.02 (Conditions of Membership).

Any amendment relating to the foregoing provisions cannot weaken the requirements of such provisions; however, amendments can strengthen such provisions.

Section 24.03 Process for Deciding Amendments

Prior to the beginning of each school year, all available Trustees shall convene to vote upon all pending MPAA Proposed Amendment forms. The Commissioner shall notify all Trustees of the time and place of the meeting at least thirty (30) days in advance. The Commissioner shall preside over the meeting.

Section 24.04 Appointment of Proxy Trustees

If any Trustee is unable to attend the meeting described in Section 25.03, he or she may appoint a Proxy Trustee from his or her member-school or organization who shall attend such meeting and vote on behalf of the Trustee.

Section 24.05 Appointment of a Committee

The Board may appoint a committee to recommend which proposed amendments should be considered by the full Board of Trustees. If a proposed amendment is not approved by such committee, it will not be presented for consideration by the full Board.

Section 24.06 Approval by Board of Trustees

Subject to Section 25.02 and Section 25.05, proposed amendments shall be presented to the Board of Trustees to be voted upon. Such proposed amendments shall become effective upon approval by a majority of the Board members who vote.

Article XXV. Amendments by Motion

Section 25.01 Motion to Amend the Policies and Procedures

Subject to Section 25.02, any Trustee may move for the Board to consider any amendment of the MPAA Policies and Procedures during any meeting of the full Board of Trustees. Such amendment may be initiated by any individual.

Section 25.02 Notice

Any moving Trustee must provide all other Trustees with a minimum of seven (7) days written notice by regular mail or email of his or her intention to bring such motion to consideration of the Board. The notice shall contain the text of the proposed amendment. The moving Trustee may make revisions to the text of the proposed amendment after providing written notice so long as such revisions are generally consistent with the original purpose of the amendment.

Section 25.03 Approval

Such amendments shall become effective upon approval by a majority of the Board members who vote.

Article XXVI. Authority of the Commissioner

Section 26.01 General Authority

Subject to Article XXVIII (regarding “Appeals”), the MPAA Bylaws, any express statements to the contrary in these Policies and Procedures, and the provisions of this Article, the Commissioner shall possess general authority regarding the day-to-day operational, administrative, personnel, and programmatic affairs of the MPAA.

The Commissioner shall possess such additional authority as set forth in these MPAA Policies and Procedures.

Section 26.02 Approval by the Board of Trustees

The following decisions by the Commissioner require approval by the Board of Trustees:

- (a) The scheduling of MPAA sanctioned games;
- (b) The hiring and firing of officials;
- (c) The promulgation of mandatory safety protocol for individual sports;
- (d) Approval of MPAA sanctioned sports;
- (e) Suspensions or bans of student-athletes, coaches, or Members for greater than one (1) year; and
- (f) The promulgation of rules regarding the number of allowable practices and games

Article XXVII. Types of Membership

The MPAA opens itself to membership from both schools and community organizations. Schools that gain membership into the MPAA are hereby referred to as “Member-schools.” Community organizations that gain membership into the MPAA are hereby referred to as “Member-organizations.”

Article XXVIII. Membership Requirements

In order to ensure quality Members who are dedicated to the MPAA’s philosophy and mission, the following rules and requirements are hereby set forth.

Section 28.01 Criteria for Membership

In order to gain admission into the MPAA, a prospective Member must submit an MPAA Membership Application form to the Commissioner and demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Board of Trustees that it meets each of the following criteria.

- (a) The applicant must follow the instructions of this MPAA Membership Application form;
- (b) School based applicants must pledge to sponsor a minimum of six MPAA teams in different sports;
- (c) The applicant shall nominate a Member Representative from the applicant’s organization to serve on the MPAA Board of Trustees; the applicant shall appoint an Athletic Director (note: the Membership Representative may also be the Athletic Director);

- (d) The applicant shall tender payment of initial membership dues in accordance with the MPAA acceptance notification;
- (e) By a time set by the MPAA each year, the applicant must remit all membership dues owed and provide a copy of a resolution that was approved and executed by the Governing Entity having jurisdiction over the prospective Member and states that, in all matters pertaining to MPAA athletic activities, the prospective Member shall be governed by the By-Laws, Policies and Procedures, and Rules and Regulations of the MPAA; and
- (f) Through its MPAA Membership Application form, the applicant must demonstrate an ability and commitment to promote the mission and philosophy of the MPAA.

Section 28.02 Conditions of Membership

As a condition of membership, each Member agrees to:

- (a) Abide by all rules and regulations of the MPAA, including these Policies and Procedures, the MPAA Bylaws, and any regulations promulgated by the Board of Trustees or the Commissioner;
- (b) Ensure that student-athletes are monitored by at least one coach at all times during all MPAA athletic activities;
- (c) Actively ensure that all safety requirements of these Policies and Procedures are followed;
- (d) Accept the responsibility to educate student-athletes, coaches, parenting adults, and other appropriate persons regarding the MPAA's rules and regulations;
- (e) Ensure that the administrative decisions of the MPAA Board of Trustees and/or the Commissioner be accepted in good faith by all Members;
- (f) Abide by all decisions made by the MPAA Board of Trustees and/or the Commissioner;
- (g) Refrain from distributing gifts to individual student-athlete(s) within the Member's program;
- (h) Monitor its athletic program and self-report to the Commissioner any violation(s) of MPAA rules and regulations as soon as the Member is aware of possible violations; and
- (i) Be responsible for the conduct of its administrators, coaches, student-athletes, students, and parenting adults and for any knowledge possessed by its administrators.

Section 28.03 Cooperation with MPAA Rules and Regulations

The officer(s) and/or administrator(s) of any Member, who, by act or attitude, shall refuse to accept, or shall hold in contempt or derision the rules and regulations of the MPAA, or shall permit or acquiesce in such contempt or derision on the part of any group of individuals associated with the Member, shall subject such Member to possible sanctions, suspension, and/or ban from the MPAA.

Section 28.04 Gifts

All gifts received by a Member are Member property and may not be given to any individual student-athlete(s). Members should ensure that such gifts are distributed equitably. Gifts supporting travel to athletic competitions

must be devoted only to reasonable costs of travel, lodging, and food. Travel-related gifts must be distributed through the Member.

Article XXIX. Requirements of Member-Organizations

The purpose of this Article is to help ensure that Member-organizations do not gain an unfair competitive advantage over Member-schools due to their ability to draw participants from throughout the community.

Section 29.01 Geographical or Neighborhood Boundaries

The Board of Trustees may impose any limitation on the participant pool for a given Member-organization, including but not necessarily restricting such pool to a given geographical area or neighborhood.

Section 29.02 Tryouts

Member-organizations must obtain approval from the Commissioner prior to holding tryouts for any MPAA team. Any request for such approval shall be made by submitting an MPAA Request for Tryouts form. Any attempt to circumvent this provision shall be subject to discipline at the discretion of the Board of Trustees.

Article XXX. Approval of Sports, Members, and Teams

The Board of Trustees is solely responsible for approval of all MPAA sports, Members, and teams.

Section 30.01 Approval of Sports

Prior to each school year, and at any other time at the Board's discretion, the Board of Trustees shall vote whether to approve sport(s) for an upcoming season.

Section 30.02 Approval of Members

Upon receipt of an MPAA Application for Membership form, the Commissioner shall immediately distribute such form to all Trustees for consideration. Any Trustee may contact the Member Representative of the applicant.

Following receipt of an MPAA Application for Membership form, the Board of Trustees shall vote at the next scheduled meeting of the full Board of Trustees whether any applicant-Member(s) shall be admitted to the MPAA. Such vote may be tabled for a later Board meeting if the application was received within five (5) days of the scheduled Board meeting or if the Board determines that additional information or consideration is warranted.

Section 30.03 Approval of Teams

All MPAA teams must be approved by the Board of Trustees. Members hoping to participate in a given sport are required to submit an MPAA Team Application form to the Commissioner at least thirty (30) days prior to the beginning of a particular season.

Practices and organized team activities may not commence until such team is approved by the Board of Trustees.