

MARION GIANTS



2015-16 Parent & Student-Athlete ATHLETIC HANDBOOK



Parent & Student-Athlete
'15-'16 Athletic Handbook

GIANT PRIDE!

Marion High School has developed a rich tradition of success in athletics. The entire school and community take pride in the accomplishments of the Giant athletic teams. Marion High School athletics reflect our school's philosophy and commitment to excellence.

Marion offers 20 IHSAA varsity sports plus cheerleading. The boys sports are cross country, football, soccer and tennis in the fall; basketball, swimming and wrestling in the winter; and baseball, golf and track in the spring. Girls sports offered are cross country, golf, soccer and volleyball in the fall; basketball, swimming and gymnastics in the winter; and softball, tennis and track in the spring.

The Giants have won a total 10 IHSAA State Championships in boys basketball, boys tennis and baseball. The Bill Green Arena seats 7,500 spectators and is the 5th largest high school gymnasium in the nation.

Marion H.S. is a member of the Indiana High School Athletic Association (IHSAA), which regulates high school athletics in Indiana. Marion is also a member of the North Central Conference. The NCC is comprised of ten schools divided into two divisions. East Division includes Anderson, Indianapolis Arsenal Tech, Marion, Muncie Central and Richmond. The West Division includes Harrison, Kokomo, Lafayette Jefferson, Logansport and McCutcheon.

PARENTS

Your child has indicated a desire to participate in Marion's voluntary interscholastic athletic program. Students are not obligated to play athletics; playing is a privilege and not a right. This privilege may be revoked if the athlete fails or refuses to comply with the rules. The parent/guardians of student-athletes also commit themselves to certain responsibilities and obligations. Your signature on this Marion Athletic Code of Conduct indicates that you understand and accept those responsibilities and agree to abide in enforcing the Code of Conduct. Your signature is required for your child to participate in athlete contests this year. Parent/Guardians of athletes participating in the fall, winter and/or spring sports should attend the parent informational meeting that each head coach schedules at the beginning of each season. As fans and spectators at athletic events, parents/guardians of athletes play a special role in supporting their child, coach and team. Parents/Guardians are expected to model good sportsmanship at all times during athletic events.

MARION STUDENT HANDBOOK

By signing this Code of Conduct, you are also acknowledging that you have read and agree to the terms of the Marion Student Handbook. The expectations outlined in this Code of Conduct compliment the Student Handbook. If there is a discrepancy between the two, then the Student Handbook would take precedent. You can find the Marion High School Student Handbook at www.MarionGiantsSports.com/HQ/Forms One rule that we do want to highlight is the athletic suspension policy that says the use of tobacco, alcohol, drugs, inappropriate behavior, commission of a crime will result in a suspension of 25% of the team's contests. A second offense results in a 50% suspension and a third offense is a dismissal.



ATHLETE CONDUCT

Participation in the athletic programs at Marion Community Schools is considered an honor and a privilege that entails obligation to the school and community. These expectations are in effect year round (12 months) and athletes are expected to conduct themselves in an exemplary manner at all times. It is expected that all student-athletes will exude better than minimal standards in conduct. These expectations apply to players, managers, cheerleaders and any student helpers on a team.

When you wear the purple & gold as an athlete, you are expected to understand the traditions and responsibilities they represent. In every situation, participation in our athletic program is regarded as a privilege that is earned through hard work in the classroom and in practice and through adherence to the standards outlined in the Code of Conduct, which is in effect the entire calendar year.

The Marion athletic department reserves the right to use a variety of methods to investigate potential Code of Conduct violations. These include, but are not limited to, legal notifications, internet, parent communication and other personal contacts. Violations of the Code of Conduct have no statute of limitations and will be dealt with as discovered by coaches or administrations.

A student-athlete's general conduct and behavior in-and-out of school is a reflection and representation of their school, team, community, family and themselves. It is expected that they will behave appropriately. Any athlete who causes poor team morale or hurts the team harmony may be subject to suspension or dismissal. This includes harassment, hazing, disrespect or improper use of social media. Student-athletes are expected to display proper respect for those in authority, teammates and the opposition. They should have high standards of social behavior and exhibit outstanding sportsmanship. Not only should they strive to be champions on the playing fields but also be champions of character.

ATHLETE/COACH COMMUNICATION

It is the philosophy of the Marion athletic program to have open communication with student-athletes. Personal problems will be handled individually, but all other team concerns may be discussed as a group. Coaches will be using the model of proper communication used in a family. This communication is done for several reasons:

- The action of one team member will affect all the other team members.
- It will minimize rumors and misinformation that can divide a team.
- Teammates will learn from each other and this will help eliminate repeat problems.

PARENT/COACH COMMUNICATION

We encourage parents to communicate with coaches. Parents and coaches working together can best provide a positive experience for the athlete. Parents with concerns should set up a meeting with the coach. In most instances, it is best to have the athlete at any parent/coach meeting. Parents are NOT to confront a coach at a practice or a game. Doing so could jeopardize your privilege to attend such functions. Parents should talk with a coach and try to resolve the issue before contacting the athletic department or administration.



FORMS

The following forms are available at www.MarionGiantsSports.com and in the boxes outside of the athletic offices.

- IHSA Consent & Release Certificate
- Concussion and Sudden Cardiac Arrest Form (required for participation)
- Physical Examination Form Completed by Doctor (required for participation)
- Health History Form (required for participation)
- Travel with Parent Form (if athlete goes home with parent)
- Physical Education Waiver (if you want to count your sport as a PE credit)

ELIGIBILITY

The following are some of the key requirements to participate in athletics at Marion High School. To see a complete list of IHSA guidelines, go to www.IHSAA.org and to see all of the guidelines in the Marion H.S. student handbook, go to www.MarionGiantsSports.com/hq/forms

- Complete 10 practices before participating in a contest (5 practice days are required if the athlete participated already in a previous sport season during that school year).
- To play in a jamboree or scrimmage, 5 practice days must be completed.
- Pass 70% of classes in the last grading period (5 of 7 classes taken).
- 19 years of age or younger during your season.
- Enrolled in 5 classes
- If absent between 5-10 consecutive days, you must complete 4 days of practice prior to competing.
- Sign/return the following completed forms: Physical Examination, Health History, Consent & Release Certificate, Concussion and Sudden Cardiac Arrest, Code of Conduct (this document).

COMPLAINT PROCEDURE

Step 1: Student-Athlete is advised to meet with his/her coach to resolve any misunderstanding. This meeting should be in an appropriate time and setting (e.g. on the field right before practice is not considered the best time/place).

Step 2: Parents are encouraged to schedule a meeting with the coach if the concern remains unresolved. The athlete should be in attendance.

Step 3: If the complaint is still not resolved, then contact the AD for a meeting. This meeting should include the athlete, coach, parent and AD.

Step 4: If the complaint is still not satisfactorily resolved by the AD, the parents may appeal in writing to the Principal. The Principal will meet with the parties involved.

*All Marion Student Handbook violations must follow the appeal process outlined in the Handbook.



COLLEGE RECRUITING

A secondary function of our coaches and athletic department is to help deserving student-athletes have an opportunity to participate as a college athlete. This involves two areas: recruitment and preparation. College athletics is a business. Going to the next level requires a lot of self-discipline, responsibility, personal initiative and accountability. It is very competitive. The successes, challenges and lessons learned while at Marion H.S. can prepare a student-athlete for college if they have the right perspective. You can find plenty of resources on preparing for college and how to get recruited at www.MarionGiantsSports.com/GiantsHQ/Recruiting.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR CONFLICTS

Marion athletics recognizes that every student should have the opportunity for a broad range of experiences in the area of extracurricular activities. Students, however, should be cautious about participating in too many activities. Interscholastic sports at the high school level require a substantial time commitment which usually extends Monday through Saturday from the first official day of practice until the end of the tournament series. A commitment to a high school athletic team indicates that all non-school conflicts will be resolved in favor of the high school team. If a conflict between activities arises, the student should notify the coach and/or sponsors involved and attempt to resolve the conflict as equitably as possible. If the conflict persists, the student may contact the athletic director for assistance. An outside club sport is not considered a valid reason to miss a school-sponsored athletic contest.

CHEERLEADING

Though not an IHSAA varsity sport, cheerleading is considered a varsity sport at Marion High School. There are two separate seasons (fall and winter). All requirements for participation which apply to other athletes (such as physicals, other forms and parent meeting attendance) apply equally to cheerleaders.

NATIONAL ANTHEM

Parents, coaches and students are expected to stand and honor our flag during the National Anthem. Males should remove their hats. Coaches may outline additional expectations. If you disagree with honoring the flag, then this should be addressed ahead of time with the coach or AD so that an alternate plan can be put into place for your situation. Marion athletic contests are not the appropriate venue for protests.

HAZING & BULLYING

Bullying and hazing is not encouraged nor tolerated. If you suspect this type of behavior has occurred, please report the incident in writing to the school office. You can also call or text 765-997-8585 for the bully hotline. In appropriate ways of addressing alleged bullying that will not start a required investigation by MCS staff include: posts on social media sites/feeds, gossip or complaints to anyone besides school staff. Additionally, hazing is defined by the NFHS as "any humiliating or dangerous activity expected of a student to belong to a group, regardless of their willingness to participate." All activities and interactions between teammates should be positive and safe.



DUAL SPORT PARTICIPATION

Dual sport participation during the same season is permitted under the following conditions:

- The athlete and the family are in favor of competing for both teams.
- The coaches of the affected sports are in agreement that this is a desirable situation.
- The coaches of the affected sports, athlete and the athletic director will meet to determine if a schedule for practices and competition can be mutually agreed upon.
- The athlete is expected to practice regularly with both sports.
- The athlete will not be permitted to leave practice early in order to attend a practice in the other sport without the permission of both coaches.
- The athlete will not be permitted to miss any practice s or contests in either sport without the consent of both coaches.
- A prioritized list of contest levels will be established before the first contest of either sport, such as the following:
 - Contests take precedence over practices
 - IHSAA tournament games
 - Conference games
 - Other tournaments
 - Non-conference games
- The athlete will be required to determine their “primary” and “secondary” sports. This determination will be used only to resolve scheduling conflicts that arise after the start of the season.
- If the letter requirements of both sports are met, then the athlete will be eligible to receive letters and awards in both sports.
- All final authority regarding conflicts and clarifications of this policy shall be determined by the athletic director.

TRANSFERS

If a student wishes to transfer to Marion, they must enroll with the school before participating in workouts or practices. A transfer form must be filled out by the parent and/or student before competing in any games.

Marion High School will strictly enforce IHSAA by-laws regarding student-athlete transfers.

If a student wishes to leave Marion and transfer to another school without a corresponding change in residence by the parents or guardians, they will be recommended for “Limited Eligibility” which allows for JV participation for the next 365 days. If there is reason to believe that the change of schools involves athletics in any way, the recommendation will be “No Eligibility” in athletics for a period of 365 days. Marion High School will consider any hardships relevant to the transfer if necessary.



BUS TRAVEL

Behavior that is unacceptable in the classroom is unacceptable on the bus. Examples of misbehavior are: vulgarities, touching someone else, using a voice above conversation level and athlete's placing extremities or any other objects outside a window.

Athletes should thank the bus driver when exiting the bus.

No trash or litter should be left on the bus.

Athletes must ride the bus to the athletic contest.

Athletes can ride home with parent/guardian only if a form is signed and given to the coach or athletic department before riding home with the parent. Athletes can only go home with parent/legal guardian. Form can be found at www.MarionGiantsSports.com/hq/forms

CANCELLATIONS & DELAYS

In the event of a practice or contest cancellation, the coaches will communicate this information with their team. For contest cancellations, the public will find this information on the athletic website (www.MarionGiantsSports.com) and the athletic twitter page (www.Twitter.com/GiantsSports). You can also sign up for email alerts at _____.

When school is canceled, workouts and practices are not permitted until after noon on that day. Any workouts/practices on the day of canceled school automatically become voluntary. Athletic contests will still be played unless otherwise communicated.

If school is delayed, any morning workouts/practices that were scheduled should also be delayed for the length of time that school is delayed. These also automatically become voluntary.

TRYOUTS & ATHLETE'S ROLES

Coaches make the decision as to which student-athletes comprise their team(S). Coaches will indicate when, where and what is involved with the tryout process. It is up to each varsity head coach to determine the role for each student-athlete within the entire program. The nature of athletics is that it is ever-changing; therefore it is possible that a student-athlete's role could change during the season. Disagreement with a role does not mean that the coach is bad or is treating the student-athlete unfairly. There will always be differences of opinions about how to coach. Ultimately, the varsity head coach is in charge of the entire program and makes the decisions that they deem are best for the entire program. We do not have an equal playing time policy at Marion.

DROPPING OUT OF A SPORT

Quitting a team is a serious matter. No athlete should quit a team without first talking with their coach. Student-athletes that quit a team or are removed from a team for disciplinary matters cannot attend conditioning, open facilities, workouts or practice for another sport until their season is complete (last contest) or until both head coaches and the athletic director release them to the next sport. This does not apply to athletes that do not make a team.



MISSED PRACTICES

Athletes are expected to attend all practice sessions and meetings during the season. These include practices on Saturday or during vacation periods. No Sunday practices or workouts are allowed. Almost every sport is affected by a holiday at some time during the season. The vacation policy should be communicated with players at the start of the season. Prior to the season, parents and players must decide whether they can make the commitment necessary to be part of the team. Parents and players must understand that when a player misses a practice, his/her role on the team may change. It may take several practices to regain the player's former status on the team.

MARION GEAR

Some coaches may offer certain items for sale through the use of an online store. They will communicate this with you if it gets set up. You can also purchase some items directly from the athletic department at select games or by calling 765-664-2941. There is also a new area near the main office at the high school that has some items for sale. A final option for purchasing Marion gear is clicking on the "my locker" tab at www.MarionGiantsSports.com

SEASON PASSES

Giant passes are available for admission into all games for the entire year. Individual sport season ticket packages are also available. Individual game tickets are \$5. Pre-K is free. Complete details can be found at <http://mariongiantssports.com/hq/buy-tickets/>

YEAR-END BANQUETS

Each coach will communicate to their team when the year-end banquet will be held. It is normally held a couple of weeks after the conclusion of the season in the Marion H.S. cafeteria. Athletic and team awards are typically handed out during this time. Each team's "banquet" looks a little different since the coaches (or parent group) is in charge of organizing it.

EQUIPMENT

Student-athletes are responsible for the care and return of all equipment and/or uniforms issued to them. Nothing should be returned to the athletic office or main office. All equipment/uniforms must be turned into the coach. All equipment that is issued is on a loan basis and is the property of Marion Community Schools. Athletes must replace lost equipment at replacement cost. Equipment should not be used for non-athletic purposes. All equipment is to be properly cared for and returned at the request of the coach. All equipment must be returned before the scheduled banquet before awards will be awarded. The exception to this is if they purchase the uniform themselves (many individual sports require this).

USE OF FACILITIES

No students are to use the Marion H.S. athletic facilities without the supervision of a Marion coach or Marion H.S. employee. When athletes use these facilities, they are expected to treat the areas with respect, return all equipment to its proper storage area when finished and leave the area "looking better than how they found it."



MARION WEBSITE & SOCIAL MEDIA

As representatives for the school, student-athletes are responsible for their public conduct even when they are not acting as student-athletes. Athletes will be held to the same student-athlete standards in their public use of electronic media (Facebook, twitter, Instagram, Youtube, Vine, LinkedIn, Snapchat, etc...) as they are for any other public conduct. If an athlete's use of electronic media interferes with the athlete's ability to effectively perform his or her athletic duties, the athlete may be subject to disciplinary action, up and including dismissal from the team. Public criticisms of school officials, coaches or teammates will not be tolerated. Freedom of speech does not mean freedom from consequences for unwise choices.

If an athlete wishes to use a social network site or similar media for personal purposes, the athlete is responsible for the content on the athlete's page, including content added by the athlete, the athlete's friends or members of the public who can access the athlete's page. The athlete is also responsible for maintaining privacy settings appropriate to the content.

Marion athletics has an official website and social media platforms for the use of providing information about Marion athletics and promoting the achievements of Marion teams and student-athletes (past, present and future). We do our best to keep these updated. At times, we will make mention of or use a photo of some of our student-athletes. Photo selection is based upon quality of photos available, relevancy to the topic/article, and marketability of the team or student-athlete. Please make a note when you sign this code of conduct if you do NOT want your student-athlete mentioned or their photograph used.

INSURANCE AND INJURIES

Due to the nature of athletic activity injuries may occur. While the school provides the opportunity for athletic participation, the parent retains the right of denial of such participation and must carry the responsibility for medical care and insurance coverage for their child. Marion H.S. does not offer athletic insurance. If an injury occurs, then the student-athlete's family is responsible for any and all medical bills associated with the injury. It is strongly encouraged that you check to make sure that your health insurance covers athletic injuries. In the past, the IHSAA has offered catastrophic insurance to cover major injuries incurred during participation in approved IHSAA sports program. Contact the IHSAA at webmaster@ihsaa.org or 317-846-6601 to see if your injury would qualify.

Marion has a partnership with "Athlete Packs" to provide competitive pricing to our student-athletes for athletic training supplies. You are not required to use this service but it is intended as a convenience to our student-athletes. If you should need athletic training supplies (braces, tape, mouth pieces, water bottles, etc...), then feel free to visit <http://www.athletepacks.com/marion-high-school/>

Student-athletes should communicate clearly and consistently with our athletic trainer about medical issues (whether or not they are related to athletics). This allows our training staff to better diagnose and treat current and future medical issues.



ATHLETIC AWARDS & LETTER JACKETS

Junior Varsity

Year 1 - Small 'M' (Chevron if already received a numeral)

Year 2 - Chevron

Year 3 - Numerals (Chevron if already received a numeral)

Year 4 - Certificate

Varsity

Year 1 - Big 'M' & Sports Pin

Year 2 - Sports Pin & Numerals (if they have yet to receive one during their career)

Year 3 - Sports Pin

Year 4 - Sports Pin

- Each varsity head coach will determine and communicate their criteria for varsity letters at the beginning of each year. They must turn in paperwork at the conclusion of the season for awards to be distributed.
- Awards are for each of the 20 recognized IHSAA sports seasons, as well as both fall & winter cheerleading.
- Student-Athletes can only receive one (1) "Small-M" or "Numerals" during their career.
- Managers will receive the same awards as JV or Varsity except they will receive manager pins instead of sports pins.
- Varsity jackets can be sized, ordered and purchased through Pro Prints Gear (765-674-8627). A voucher must be picked up at the athletic office and signed acknowledging your varsity letter status. You can purchase a male or female version of the letter jacket.
- Awards will typically be distributed at the year-end banquet by the coaches. Banquets vary from sport-to-sport. If you are not able to receive your award, then you should pick it up from your coach or the athletic office within the next two weeks.
- Individual or team championship patches, pins or medals can be ordered separately and must be paid for by the individual or through the team's fund-raising account at the time of order.
- 3-sport varsity athlete maximum would be:
 - 3-Big M's
 - 12-Sports Pins (4 in each sport)
 - 1-Numerals



SIGNATURE & ACKNOWLEDGEMENT PAGE

I have read the Marion Athletic Code of Conduct and agree to abide by the expectations stated therein. I also agree to abide by the team rules established by my coach. I also understand that that this Code is in effect 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 12 months per year, both inside and outside of school and/or school related activities.

Student-Athlete Name (PRINT)

Student-Athlete Signature & Date

I have read the Marion Athletic Code of Conduct and agree to abide by the expectations stated therein of me as the parent of a student-athlete. I am signing for not only myself but my household. I also understand that the expectations of my student-athlete are year-round. I realize that my son/daughter is subject to disciplinary measures should he/she violate the rules of this Code of Conduct or the coaches.

Parent/Guardian Name (PRINT)

Parent/Guardian Signature & Date

Parent/Guardian Name (PRINT)

Parent/Guardian Signature & Date

** Both parents must sign. In the case of a divorced or separated family situation, then the parent/guardian with custody should sign.*

