

MARIN MIDDLE SCHOOL ATHLETIC LEAGUE

General Rules of Sport

MMAL believes athletics are an extension of the classroom, teaching teamwork, pride, respect, commitment, hard work, and sportsmanship. Everyone in our community — athletes, coaches, families, and fans — shares responsibility for creating a positive and safe environment.

Behavior of Coaches

All MMAL coaches should refrain from approaching students at a different school other than the one they coach. Coaches also need to be aware that approaching a grammar school student while wearing school attire would be in violation, undue influence, and their athletic program could be penalized.

Behavior of Students

Visiting school students shall not sit in the bleachers of the home school, and vice-versa. Non-participating students shall stay off all playing areas during, before, and at half time of any contests. All types of noisemakers, such as sirens, tooters, cowbells, megaphones, squawkers, etc., shall be prohibited at all League indoor contests including playoffs.

Changing a League Contest

Any change in the date and/or time of any activity must be mutually agreed upon by the principals (or their designee) of the schools involved. Changes to the MMAL schedules may only occur when there is a school-related conflict, facility issue, holiday, or natural disaster. A contest may be changed due to extenuating circumstances after the review by the board and the board agrees the change is warranted. The principal (or their designee) is the only person authorized to make changes.

If principals (or their designee) mutually agreed on a date change, the game time should remain the same as the originally scheduled contest unless the time change is also mutually agreed upon. It is the responsibility of the school requesting the change in time/date to notify the MMAL commissioner and the officials. Any expenses incurred due to the change will be the responsibility of the team requesting the change unless other agreements have been made.

Emergency Procedures

When the Marin County Office of Emergency Services, the Marin County Department of Health and Human Services or the Marin County Office of Education sends out any disaster warning/health concerns, the MMAL will honor the alert and cancel ALL contests.

Ejections

A coach or player who is ejected shall leave the vicinity of the playing area immediately and is prohibited from further contact, direct or indirect, with the team or other coaches during the remainder of the game. The coach or player is ineligible for the next contest. In the case of soccer, a player who receives two yellow cards is ejected (considered a soft red). The athlete is ineligible for his/her next contest. In the case of a student athlete in the last contest of the season, this policy applies to the next season of sport.

If the coach/player is sitting out a game due to ejection, they cannot be at the site or the vicinity of the site of the contest. If a coach/player attends a contest that they are to sit out of, they will be ineligible for another contest.

Fighting

Any athlete ejected from any athletic event for fighting would automatically not play in the next contest. If ejected a second time during that season, the athlete is ineligible for the season. When any player(s) leave(s) the bench to begin or participate in a confrontation or leaves the bench area during an altercation, they will receive the following penalty:

- Ejection from the contest of those identified by the officials
- Ineligibility for the next contest and player(s) to be placed on probation for the remainder of the season.

An appeal may be made to the MMAL commissioner. The commissioner's decision is final. The officials must make a written report to the commissioner. A second similar infraction will result in cessation of the season for the player(s) with no appeal.

Game Called, Canceled, or Suspended

1. Cancelled, called or suspended games must be made up by the next available date.
2. **Definition of the next available date:** The next available date is the next available day when both teams are without a contest. This means that if a game is cancelled, called or suspended on Tuesday, it should be made up on Wednesday. If it can not be made up on Wednesday, it should be scheduled for Thursday, etc. A day in which both teams are not playing should not be skipped unless officials can not be present. The next available date is the actual next day when neither team is playing **NOT** the next convenient date. If there are numerous contests to be made up, they should be made up in the order they were cancelled.
3. If teams bypass the next available date the Commissioner may rule the contest a loss for both teams.
4. Inclement weather: Home teams will be responsible for canceling games due to inclement weather. All games must be canceled by 1:00 PM.
5. Only the athletic director or MMAL Commissioner may cancel or reschedule a game.

It is the responsibility of the school requesting the change in time/date to notify the MMAL Commissioner and the officials. Any expenses incurred due to the change will be the responsibility of the team requesting the change unless other agreements have been made.

Game Supervision

1. There shall be an administrator or designee in attendance at each home game.
2. The home school shall provide adequate supervision to ensure the safety of students, officials and spectators.
3. Upon arrival at the site, the home school supervisor, who will identify him or herself as such, shall contact the visiting coach(es) and officials.
4. The home school supervisor may be an administrator, athletic director or other staff member as designated by the home school.

Ineligible Student(s)

A student who is ineligible due to discipline issues, shall not practice with a team or appear in a uniform at any practice or contest. A student who is ineligible due to academic issues, shall be allowed to practice with a team but may not be issued or appear in a uniform at any contest.

Intention to Not Field a Team

Any school not intending to field a team must declare that by the start of the season of sport (Fall, Winter, Spring).

MMAL Name or Logo

The Commissioner must approve any use of the MMAL name or logo.

Method of Breaking Ties

The Marin Middle School Athletic League will use the following criteria to be used to break a tie unless due to extenuating circumstances the full league schedule cannot be completed by all schools. (In that case winning percentage will be used.):

IF TWO OR MORE TEAMS ARE TIED FOR A PLAY-OFF POSITION THE FOLLOWING WILL BE USED IN ORDER THAT THEY APPEAR:

For all spots except for the last spot:

1. Head to head competition (Winning percentage)
2. Record above the tie (Winning percentage)

If a tie still exists after using 1 & 2 above, then the tie breaking numbers will be used to eliminate a team and the remaining team will qualify for the play in contest.

* Numbers are drawn each spring for each school for each season of sport. It has been determined that a low number (1,2,3...) would be the top. The top number has priority!

Officials

The MMAL office is responsible for contracting with official's organizations. The contracted rates apply to all contests. The MMAL is responsible for all assigning fees for all league contests and are responsible for all accounting, association, cancellation fees as well as the assigning fees for all contests.

Officials-No Shows

If an official does not arrive to officiate and an effort has been made to contact the assignor to verify that an assigned official will not be coming and an attempt has been made to secure another official who is available to officiate the following policy may be used if mutually agreed upon by the coaches:

If a person is a high school student or older and has knowledge of the rules of the sport and meets one or more of the following criteria, they may assume the role of the official:

1. Athletic Director
2. Teacher, Administrator or staff person from either campus
3. Coach from either team
4. Asst. Coach from either team
5. Head Coach from either team provided there is an asst. coach to take over coaching duties. At NO

TIME may a parent officiate a game unless they meet one of the above criteria. Volunteer coaches MAY NOT step in unless they have been fingerprinted, etc. according to Title V and are covered by school liability insurance.

* If there is not an agreement by the coaches and a qualified person is available, the contest may be played under protest.

Protests

1. All protests must be made in writing by the principal or designee of the school making the protest to the principal of the other school involved. A copy shall be sent to the Commissioner.
2. Protests on ground conditions must be made before the contest ends.
3. **Protest of judgment calls by officials will not be accepted.**
4. Protests must be received by 4:00 p.m. of the school day following the contest to be protested, postmarked or clocked on receiving school's clock.
5. The Commissioner shall first review protests based on questioned eligibility if either the complaining or defending school principal requests. Cases involving eligibility of players are not under the 24-hour time

constraint.

6. Protests not resolved between the principals or with the help of the Commissioner may be referred to a Protest Committee at the request of either principal. The Protest Committee shall be composed of three members of the MMAL Board of Managers appointed by the president. No member of the Protest Committee shall be from any school involved in the dispute. The Protest Committee shall listen to all sides of the dispute and make disposition of the case.
7. The Protest Committee will prepare written rationale for its decision to be kept on file in the Commissioner's office.

Reporting Scores

All coaches are required to report scores of contests to the MMAL Commissioner within 24 hours of their events.

Schedules

Each school is responsible to send changes of schedules to the MMAL Commissioner.