

Optimized Color Palette:



Promoting sportsmanship, equity, and student development across middle school athletic programs in Marin County, California.

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CONSTITUTION

Article I — Name

The league shall be known as the Marin Middle School Athletic League (MMAL).

Article II — Affiliations

The MMAL is governed by applicable state and local laws, member district policies, and league adopted rules and procedures. Member schools and participating programs agree to follow:

- Member district and school site policies for student participation, supervision, and safety
- Applicable California Education Code and administrative guidance
- Sport rules as adopted by the MMAL (generally based on NFHS rules unless otherwise stated)
- Any countywide requirements if the MMAL is operated in partnership with the Marin County Office of Education (MCOE) and participating districts

No rules or regulations under this Constitution or Bylaws shall conflict with applicable law or member district policy. If a conflict exists, the higher authority (law or district policy) prevails.

Article III — Authorization

The MMAL is established as a collaborative league of participating public and private middle schools serving grades 6 through 8 (or as defined by a member school's grade configuration). Participation is voluntary and requires adoption of the league MOU agreement and the bylaws set forth.

It is understood that no member school or governing body will take action contrary to the Constitution and Bylaws of the MMAL without first advising the Board of Managers and providing reasonable time for conference and resolution. If a member school takes contrary action that materially impacts league integrity, safety, or fairness, the Board of Managers may impose sanctions up to and including suspension of membership.

Article IV — Purpose

The purpose of the MMAL is to promote, coordinate, and regulate interscholastic athletic activities among member middle schools in a manner that:

- Supports the educational mission of schools
- Prioritizes student safety, development, and belonging
- Teaches sportsmanship, ethical conduct, and fair play
- Creates equitable access and competitive balance appropriate for middle school athletes

- Establish consistent league operations, scheduling standards, and expectations for participants and spectators

Middle school athletics are an extension of the school experience and should support academic engagement and positive youth development. Athletics should not interfere with classroom learning except when deemed necessary and approved by each school's administration.

Article V — Membership

Membership is determined by the MMAL Board of Managers and includes schools that:

- Serve middle school grade levels and field teams in MMAL
- Agree to abide by the MMAL Constitution, Bylaws, and sport-specific rules
- Maintain required supervision, safety protocols, and eligibility verification
- Pay league dues and fees as adopted

Current membership list to be inserted once finalized.

Dues

Each member school is expected to pay annual dues to defray league operating costs. Dues will not include the costs for AD/Coaching stipends or salaries, background checks or any school site requirements, team uniforms, team supplies or equipment, facilities, and officials.

Dues are determined and collected annually based on the criteria outlined in the MMAL Memorandum of Understanding. Special assessments may be made, when necessary, by vote of the Board of Managers.

At the Commissioner's discretion and by action of the Board of Managers, any dues not paid by the established deadline may result in the delinquent school teams being ineligible for league competition until paid. Contests scheduled during the delinquent period may be handled as forfeits, or no contests as determined by the league.

Officiating fees are the responsibility of the school site and will be billed by the MMAL as schedules are created.

Article VI — Officers

A. Commissioner — Employed by the Marin County Office of Education

B. Officers of MMAL shall include:

- Committee Chair
- Committee Vice Chair
- Committee Secretary
- Committee Finance Lead

C. The MMAL shall employ or appoint a Commissioner and may employ or appoint an Assistant Commissioner to administer league operations according to job descriptions and expectations established by the Board of Managers. This will not be a voting member.

Article VII — Board of Managers

- A. The government of the MMAL shall be vested in the Board of Managers, consisting of one designated representative from each Local Educational Agency (LEA)
- B. It is the responsibility of each member of the Board of Managers to communicate league issues to relevant constituencies including district leadership, school administration, families, coaches, and student athletes, as appropriate.
- C. Each member school is entitled to one vote on all questions before the Board of Managers. The Commissioner will not have a general vote. In the event of a tie, the Commissioner will be the tie-breaking vote.
- D. Regular meetings shall be scheduled throughout the school year. The Committee Chair and/or the Commissioner may call for special meetings or cancel meetings when necessary.
- E. A quorum to conduct business is a majority of member schools. Business may be conducted by majority vote of those present once quorum is met. A quorum will constitute half of all member schools, plus one.
- F. The Commissioner is the chief administrative officer of the Marin Middle School Athletic League (MMAL), responsible for overseeing league operations, enforcing bylaws, and coordinating communication among member schools and the Board of Managers. All items listed in the bylaws, fiscal updates, and conduct-related issues will require a vote and/or discussion. Other items stipulated in the essential duties and responsibilities will be at the discretion of the Commissioner.

Article VIII — Amendments

- A. Amendments to the Constitution or Bylaws require a two-third vote of all member schools.
- B. Recommendations for change may come from the Commissioner, committees, or members of the Board of Managers.
- C. Sport-specific rule changes should be proposed through the coaches and athletic director's feedback process as established by the league (typically end-of-season review). Approval of these rules will be at the discretion of the Commissioner and Athletic Directors as they do not amend the constitution or bylaws.

Article IX — Communications

- A. Agendas and minutes of MMAL Board of Managers meetings shall be distributed to member school representatives and district counterparts, as appropriate.
- B. Member school representatives are responsible for communicating proposed actions with their school communities for input prior to Board votes.
- C. The Commissioner is responsible for distributing official league communications, schedules, and decisions.

Article X — Fiscal Responsibility

- The Commissioner shall be responsible for managing league finances and presenting financial reports at Board of Managers meetings. They will work with the MCOE Business Office to secure the necessary reports to satisfy the Board of Managers' inquiries.
- League books shall be reviewed annually according to procedures adopted by the Board of Managers.
- The Budget will be adopted annually.
- In the event that changes to the fiscal structure charged to the LEAs need to be updated or any other major financial shifts, an Ad-Hoc Finance Committee will be formed at the direction of the Board of Managers or the MCOE staff.

Article XI — Bylaws

BYLAWS

11.1 — Commissioner of Athletics

The MMAL Commissioner is directly responsible to the MMAL Board of Managers, serves as chief executive of league operations, and supervises MMAL activities in accordance with league policies, member school agreements, and applicable district and legal requirements.

Major Duties & Responsibilities

- Manages all daily operations of the MMAL and ensures compliance with league policies and bylaws
- Serves as the liaison between schools, athletic directors, coaches, officials, and the MCOE
- Provides assistance and support with all league documentation, including rules, eligibility standards, and scheduling protocols
- Organizes and facilitates meetings with Athletic Directors
- Organize and arrange meetings with the MMAL Board
- Creates, distributes, and maintains season schedules for all sports and divisions
- Manages league competitions, playoffs, and championship events
- Coordinates the assignment and payment of officials to ensure fair play and consistency
- Collaborates with Athletic Directors and Site Administration at each school
- Ensures that all officials complete certification and background clearance requirements
- Prepares the league's annual budget, ensuring transparency and sustainability

- Invoices member schools for participation in the league under the established funding model
- Works with MCOE and community partners to identify funding, sponsorship, and grant opportunities
- Monitors Title IX and gender equity compliance across all sports and member schools
- Provides assistance to member schools to establish and enforce eligibility, behavioral, and disciplinary policies for student-athletes and families
- Represents the MMAL in communications with schools, parents, community organizations, officials' groups, and at league events
- Promotes sportsmanship, safety, and inclusion throughout all programs
- Assesses league performance annually and recommends improvements to operations and policies
- Collects participation data and feedback to support program evaluation and improvement
- Facilitates and promotes league expansion, training, and special initiatives
- Other duties as assigned

11.2 — Eligibility

Eligibility for middle school athletics is determined by:

- Member district and school site academic and behavior policies
- MMAL minimum eligibility standards adopted by the Board of Managers
- Any sport-specific age or grade participation rules adopted by the league

Minimum MMAL baseline recommendation:

- Students are currently enrolled and attending school in good standing
- Students meet school or district academic standards for participation
- Students have completed required participation forms (physical clearance, insurance, concussion acknowledgment, code of conduct)
- Students are not under disciplinary restriction that prohibits participation

Each school shall verify eligibility for all participants in each season using the MMAL eligibility verification process and timeline established annually by the league.

11.3 — Community Standards: Conduct, Sportsmanship, and Spectator Expectations

Code of Ethics

All participants, coaches, families, and school representatives are expected to:

- Emphasize sportsmanship, ethical conduct, and fair play
- Protect the physical and emotional safety of student athletes
- Show courtesy to visiting teams and officials
- Respect the integrity and judgment of sports officials
- Promote leadership, responsibility, and growth mindset

- Remember that contests are part of the education and development of our students. Sportsmanship is the primary goal.

Code of Sportsmanship

MMAL athletics exist to foster dignity, respect, and safety for student athletes, coaches, officials, and spectators.

- School administrators have primary responsibility for conduct and supervision at contests
- Host administrators should identify themselves with each other and officials at the start of contests
- Complaints about conduct should be addressed first at the site level, district level, then elevated to the MMAL as needed. This will be stipulated in the Incident Reporting Form
- Coaches are responsible for teaching and enforcing sportsmanship expectations with athletes and families
- Officials may issue penalties consistent with sport rules; administrators may remove spectators for inappropriate behavior
- Athletes are expected to show respect for opponents and officials and refrain from taunting, profanity, or unsafe behavior
- Spectators must remain in designated areas and avoid confronting officials, players, or coaches
- Cheering should support one's own team and avoid demeaning chants, profanity, or interference with play

Spectator Code of Conduct

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

Expectations

- Cheer positively and support all athletes
- Treat players, coaches, officials, and other spectators with respect
- Sit in designated areas and represent your school with pride
- Be welcoming and respectful to visiting teams and officials
- Never interfere with players or officials
- Remain off all playing surfaces at all times
- Follow directions from event staff and administrators

Not Allowed

- Profanity, derogatory language, or slurs of any kind
- Taunting, jeering, or harassing behavior
- Responding to negative behavior from others
- Booing teams or officials
- Throwing objects or using noise makers (indoor events)

- Offensive signs, gestures, or displays
- Use of flash photography or phone lights during play

Consequences

Failure to meet these expectations may result in:

- Immediate removal from the event
- Suspension from future games
- School or league disciplinary action

Ejected spectators must miss a minimum of one (1) game. Repeated or severe violations will result in extended suspension from all MMAL events.

Reminder: All school rules apply at all athletic events.

Pursuing Victory with Honor

Participation is a privilege. Winning never overrides safety, respect, or student development. Member schools will adopt and enforce codes of conduct for athletes, coaches, and spectators, and will model the values of trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship.

11.4 — Ejection Policy

An ejection is the removal of a player, coach, or spectator for unsportsmanlike or unsafe conduct.

Minimum MMAL Penalties

- Ejection from a contest requires immediate removal from the playing area and no further contact with the team for the remainder of the contest. Any ejection must be reported.
- Any ejected player, coach or spectator is ineligible for, at minimum, the next scheduled league contest.
- A second ejection in the same season may result in removal for the remainder of the season, subject to Board review
- Schools may impose additional disciplinary action consistent with district policy
- Appeals follow the MMAL Investigation and Hearing process in Article VI

11.5 — Athletic Probation

Athletic probation may be imposed for repeated or serious violations that threaten safety, equity, or sportsmanship. Probation is reserved for significant incidents and requires documentation, investigation, and Board action.

Level 1 — Single Serious Incident

A single serious incident not appropriately addressed at the site level.

Possible consequences: Monitoring, loss of home advantage, forfeits, required action plan.

Level 2 — Repeated or Major Incident

Repeated Level 1 incident or a major safety or conduct incident.

Possible consequences: Neutral site contests, fan restrictions, suspension from playoffs, season restrictions.

Level 3 — Continued Non-Compliance

Repeated Level 2 incidents or failure to comply with probation terms.

Possible consequences: Suspension from league competition, removal of home contests, longer-term probation.

Any school placed on probation must submit an action plan and demonstrate corrective change to the Commissioner to be reviewed by the Board of Managers.

11.6 — Complaint Resolution, Investigation, and Hearing Procedures

Complaint Process

1. A written, signed complaint is submitted to the MMAL office
2. The Commissioner notifies the school named and requests a site-level investigation
3. The Commissioner reviews the investigation and may impose a penalty consistent with league policy
4. If further review is needed, the Commissioner consults the Committee Chair and may convene a hearing panel of neutral member school representatives
5. Hearings may determine facts, rule violations, eligibility, undue influence concerns, or penalties not clearly stated
6. Decisions may be appealed to the next level defined by league procedure (Commissioner to Hearing Panel to Board of Managers)

Appeals and Hearings

The MMAL will follow the appeals and hearing procedures established in these Bylaws. When relevant, the MMAL will also defer to member district complaints and due process procedures.

Violation and Penalty/Resolution Options

Penalty options, from least severe to most:

- Letter of concern or reprimand
- Required corrective action plan
- Game or contest forfeiture
- Probation of program for a defined period
- Loss of home contests
- Neutral site requirement
- Fan restrictions
- Ineligibility for league championships or postseason events
- Suspension of membership (school or sport) for a defined period

11.7 — Recruitment and Undue Influence Policy

The MMAL is committed to fair access and appropriate school-based participation. Member schools will avoid recruitment and follow all eligibility and undue influence that undermines competitive balance and student trust. Each school will annually acknowledge that coaches and program leaders understand league expectations for team formation.

Consequences may include forfeits, probation, scheduling restrictions, and postseason ineligibility.

Adopted by the MMAL Board of Managers | May 27, 2026 | Marin County, California