

Ubly Community Schools



Athletic Handbook

2026-2027



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1. Athletic Information Page

Ubly Community Schools

2020 Union Street – Ubly, MI 48475

Important phone numbers:

Jim Becker, Athletic Director

Athletic Office: 989-658-8202 ext. 57024 Fax: 989-658-2072

jbecker@ublyschools.org

Important dates:

Homecoming Date: 18 September vs. Reese 7pm (Football)

Coming Home Date: 29 January vs. Marlette 6pm (Boys Basketball)

2. 2026-2027 MHSAA Calendar

FALL

SPORT	1st Practice	1st Contest	Districts	Regionals	States
Cross Country	Aug 10	Aug 19	—	Oct 30 or 31	Nov 7
Football	Aug 10	Aug 27	Oct 30 or 31 & Nov 6 or 7	Nov 13 or 14	Nov 21
Golf Girls	Aug 10	Aug 14	—	Oct 5-10	Oct 16-17
Volleyball	Aug 10	Aug 19	Nov 2-7	Nov 10 & 12	Nov 19-20

WINTER

SPORT	1st Practice	1st Contest	Districts	Regionals	States
Basketball-Girls	Nov 18	Dec 7	Mar 1 & 3 & 5	Mar 8 & 10	Mar 18-19
Basketball-Boys	Nov 11	Nov 30	Feb 22 & 24 & 26	Mar 2 & 4	Mar 11-12
Wrestling	Nov 16	Dec 2	B- Feb 13, G- Feb 14	B- Feb 20, G- Feb 21	Mar 5-6

SPRING

SPORT	1st Practice	1st Contest	Districts	Regionals	States
Baseball	Mar 15	Mar 24	May 27-29 or Jun 1-5	Jun 9 & 12	Jun 17-18
Softball	Mar 15	Mar 24	May 27-29 or Jun 1-5	Jun 9 & 12	Jun 17-18
Golf	Mar 15	Mar 19	—	Jun 1-5	Jun 11-12
Track and Field	Mar 15	Mar 24	—	May 19-21	Jun 5



3. Mission Statement of Ubly Community Schools

Ubly Community Schools, an innovative educational environment, in partnership with home and community, is committed to the highest quality education to better prepare students to be successful citizens and lifelong learners.

4. Mission Statement of the Ubly Athletic Department

Interscholastic athletics at Ubly Community Schools is to provide educational experiences in the framework of competitive athletics. By focusing on educational outcomes and student learning, athletics provides avenues for physical, emotional, social and intellectual growth, motivation, self-discipline, self-confidence and leadership.

5. Ubly Athletics Philosophy

At Ubly Community Schools, athletics are a vital part of education, but students come first. Participation is a privilege that strengthens character, reinforces learning, and prepares young people for life.

- Support the growth of participants, spectators, the school, and the community
- Reflect and reinforce Ubly's educational objectives and standards
- Student first, athlete second: academics and attendance take precedence over athletics
- Pursue excellence in learning, then in play, always with sportsmanship
- Win within the rules, but measure success by growth, character, and citizenship
- Develop the whole person: mind, body, teamwork, and leadership

5.1 Definition of Success

We are successful when Ubly student-athletes:

- Maintain strong academic standing and model positive behavior
- Compete with integrity, respect, and resilience
- Grow their talents to the fullest and become all they are capable of being

Banner line option: Students first. Athletes second. Building scholars, character, and champions at Ubly.

6. Athletic Code

Competition is an integral part of our democratic society. It creates allegiance, pride and spirit within the athlete, student body, and community. Athletic competition in our public-school system provides a means for the development of leadership and self-discipline for our students and is a unifying force for our community and district. Students who accept the privilege of



becoming a member of one of our teams do so with the realization that rules and regulations must be followed by athletes as a condition of their remaining on the team. There are standards of conduct that must be adhered to by every athlete who wears an Ubly uniform as may be established by the Board of Education, the district's administration, and the athletic director.

All behavioral expectations of athletes cannot be encompassed in a set of written rules because each athlete must have an inner sense of what is right and wrong to govern the athlete's conduct. Pride, respect, and attitudes are behavioral factors, which are considered important in the development of a student athlete.

To accept the role of athlete, the student places on themselves an additional set of behavioral expectations that are to be followed year-round.

7. Responsibilities: Student Athletes

7.1 Student Athletes

Being a member of an Ubly Community Schools athletic team is the fulfillment of an early ambition for many students. The attainment of this goal carries with it certain traditions and responsibilities that must be maintained. A great athletic tradition is not built overnight. It takes the hard work of many people over many years. As a member of an interscholastic squad of Ubly Community Schools, you have inherited a wonderful tradition, a tradition you are challenged to uphold.

Our tradition has been to compete with class. We desire to win, but only with honor to our athletes, our school, and our community. Such a tradition is worthy of the best efforts of all concerned. Over many years our teams have achieved more than their share of league and tournament championships. Many individuals have set records and won All-Conference and All-State honors.

It will not be easy to contribute to such a great athletic tradition. To compete for your school may mean that you will have to say "no" to influences an athlete cannot afford. When you wear the orange and black of Ubly, we assume that you not only understand our traditions, but also are willing to assume the responsibility that goes with them. The contributions you make should be a satisfying accomplishment to you and your family.

7.2 Specific Responsibilities of Student Athletes

Athletes are in school first for an education. Moreover, an interscholastic athletic program has a proper place in the Ubly Community Schools only when it is an educational experience.

The values of athletics, as far as the athletes are concerned, are many. However, in order to get the most out of their athletic competition, the athletes in turn must assume certain responsibilities, namely:



1. Abide by all rules established by the Board of Education, the Ubly Community School's Student Handbook and Athletic Handbook, and school staff.
2. The good name of our school is more important than any contest won by unfair play. Good sportsmanship must be displayed with any coach, parent, player, participant, official or any attendee.
3. Accept decisions of officials without being disrespectful. They are not responsible for your success; so do not blame them for your failure.
4. Be proud of our school's reputation and work hard to protect it.
5. Work to your potential academically and remember that you are a role model to those both inside and outside the classroom.
6. Treat yourself, team members, coaches, and officials with respect at all times.
7. Encourage others to achieve and feel part of the team effort.

7.3 Coach Selection Process

The Coaching Selection Process ensures fair and effective hiring to support the objectives of our teams and organization.

7.3.1 Posting and Selection

All coaching positions will be posted per the master agreement. A committee will be formed to assist with interviews and the selection process to ensure fairness and transparency.

7.3.2 Head Coach Role

The head coach (varsity level) will be selected first. Once appointed, the head coach will provide input and participate in the selection of coaches below the varsity level, working with the committee.

7.3.3 Oversight

The selection process will be managed and periodically reviewed to ensure ongoing alignment with organizational values and agreements.

8. Responsibilities: Coaches and Parents

8.1 Coaches

Coaching for the Ubly Community Schools and having the privilege to work with our student athletes should be considered an honor. All coaches will abide by and carry out all policies, rules and regulations established by the Ubly Community School Board and the Michigan High School Athletic Association. Coaches have the following responsibilities to enhance their professional and personal relationships with all those associated with Ubly Community Schools.



8.1.1 To The Athletes on the Team

The main reason for having athletic teams within the school is fully to help provide athletic opportunities for young men and women to develop their respective capabilities. Development of positive attitudes is an important means to accomplishing this aim. We must promote and teach vigorous and competitive fair play, while stressing good moral character and sportsmanship. The coach must be the leader and set the example for all student athletes.

The coach should be fair and unprejudiced with vigorous and competitive athletes, considering their individual differences, needs, interests, temperaments, aptitudes, and environments.

Athletes expect coaches to be knowledgeable of that which they propose to teach. The physical and emotional welfare of athletes should always be uppermost in the coaches' minds. The coach's primary responsibility is to the individual student athlete.

8.1.2 To The School District

Since a coach is a frequent topic of conversation at various community locations, including the home, the workplace and at the meetings of many civic organizations, their profession, as well as their reputation as a coach, is constantly under scrutiny. A coach's actions and statements should always reflect confidence in the athletic program and the school district.

8.1.3 To The School

A coach always owes his/her school their efforts and loyalty. He/She must strive for excellence in all areas of his/her school. To be effective, a coach must be respected. To be respected, good personal habits and neat appearance are important; but most important are the examples set by the coach. Being respected is much more important than being well liked. Treat the faculty, the players, and the student body with the same honor and respect that you desire to be shown you. Private, firm, fair and constant discipline must be maintained.

The work of the coach must be an integral part of the educational program of the school. The coach should show mastery of the principles of education and consequent improvement in teaching and coaching. The coach should give support to all endorsed activities of the school. At every opportunity, the coach should urge the student body to be polite, courteous, and fair to the visiting team.

8.1.4 To The Profession

A coach should continue professional growth in both the academic teaching area and the athletic coaching area. To best accomplish this, a coach is encouraged to belong to the various coaching associations open to the profession.

8.1.5 To Families

Coaches are responsible for proactive, timely communication with families. At a minimum, coaches will:

- Share season schedules, expectations, and team policies before the first contest



- Provide weekly updates on practices, games, travel, and any changes (posted and sent in advance)
- Notify families promptly about injuries, safety concerns, or disciplinary actions affecting participation
- Offer positive, constructive feedback on athlete progress and role when appropriate
- Maintain open office hours or a set process for parent questions and meetings
- Communicate in accessible formats and languages when needed, following district policies

Note: Coaches will not discuss other athletes' confidential information or playing-time decisions beyond team standards, effort, and growth criteria.

8.1.6 Students First, Athletes Second

Coaches will actively uphold a “student first, athlete second” culture.

They are responsible to:

- Reinforce that academics, attendance, and conduct take precedence over athletics.
- Monitor academic progress and coordinate supports (tutoring, study halls) before affecting play.
- Communicate expectations to families and students: classroom responsibilities come before team commitments.
- Model sportsmanship and prioritize health, safety, and character over winning.
- Make team decisions (practice, playing time, travel) aligned with academic standing and school behavior policies.
- Celebrate achievements in the classroom as much as performance in competition.

8.2 Coaching Expectation: Individual Feedback and Growth Meetings

8.2.1 Purpose

To ensure every student athlete — starters and nonstarters alike — receives clear, actionable feedback that promotes continuous improvement and aligns with our “Student First, Athlete Second” philosophy.

8.2.2 Expectation

One-to-One Meetings: Coaches will meet individually with each rostered student-athlete at least bi-weekly to discuss strengths, areas for growth, and next steps.

Communication Card: A standard “Feedback & Goals” card will be provided and used during each meeting to document:

- Current role and recent progress
- 2–3 specific skills or habits to improve
- Agreed-upon action steps and timelines
- Academic/attendance check-in and supports needed



Inclusion of All Athletes: Feedback meetings are required for all team members, including those with limited playing time, to ensure equitable coaching attention and development.

Follow-Up: Coaches will review progress in brief check-ins with the athlete.

8.2.3 Rationale

These meetings ensure coaches invest in every athlete, not only core contributors, by providing targeted guidance that accelerates skill development, confidence, and readiness to contribute.

8.2.4 Accountability

Athletic Director will spot-check completion each grading period (sample of cards) and include this expectation in coach evaluations.

Feedback Form — Coach will include:

Week of:	
Athlete:	
Academic check-in:	
Item to work on:	
Did you feel you improved?	YES / NO
Player comments:	

Note: Coaches respect student privacy and will not discuss another student’s records. All actions align with district policy and eligibility rules.

8.3 Parent Commitment to “Student First, Athlete Second”

Parents/guardians partner with the school to uphold academics and character before athletics. By participating, families agree to:

1. Prioritize attendance, homework, and classroom behavior over athletic activities
2. Monitor grades and communicate concerns; seek supports (tutoring, conferences) when needed
3. Encourage healthy routines—sleep, nutrition, time management—that protect learning
4. Respect coaches’ roles and team decisions; model sportsmanship at all events
5. Use appropriate channels and times to address questions; avoid game-time confrontations
6. Celebrate classroom achievements as much as athletic performance
7. Being a parent is the most important—and often most challenging—job we face. We encourage you to attend games and to model constructive support and guidance when your child experiences both success and setbacks. Most importantly, please help us reinforce the inherent values of interscholastic athletics.



Parents/guardians commit to:

1. Encourage your son/daughter to do the best they can.
2. Accept your son's/daughter's strengths and limitations.
3. Show good sportsmanship and set the example for others.
4. Teach your son/daughter by example to respect school authorities, contest officials, and all participants.
5. Support the efforts of the athletic program in providing positive experiences for the athletes.

Note: Eligibility, practice, and travel may be adjusted when academic or conduct expectations are not met. Families and staff work together to restore good standing.

Unacceptable behavior or a display of poor sportsmanship by a student athlete, parent or coach will be evaluated and acted upon by the administration. Actions for unacceptable behavior may range from a verbal warning to a suspension depending on the situation.

9. Procedures and Guidelines

9.1 Athletic Director-Principal-Coach Communication

Before each season, a mandatory meeting will be held for the administration to go over the handbook. Facility use: All games and practices can be found on Eventlink.

9.2 Preseason Athletic Meetings Policy

9.2.1 Purpose

To ensure clear communication, consistent expectations, and alignment with the Athletic Handbook before each season.

9.2.2 Meeting Structure

Each preseason athletic meeting has two parts:

9.2.3 Part 1: All-Program Session

Audience: Athletic Director, Principal, all coaches, parents, and student-athletes

Focus: Review of the Athletic Handbook, key policies, eligibility, safety procedures, communication norms, and the "Student First, Athlete Second" philosophy

9.2.4 Part 2: Sport-Specific Breakouts

Led by each head coach

Focus: Team policies, practice/competition schedules, equipment/travel, playing-time philosophy, sport-specific safety, and contact method.



9.2.5 Attendance Requirements

- Mandatory for administrators and coaches
- Mandatory for parents/guardians and student-athletes prior to the first contest
- If unable to attend, families must review materials and submit the acknowledgment form within 5 school days

9.2.6 Communication and Documentation

- Agenda and materials shared at least 72 hours in advance
- Slides/notes posted within 48 hours after the meeting
- Sign-in acknowledgment required; records kept by the athletic department

9.2.7 Conduct and Focus

- Participants model sportsmanship, respect, and constructive communication
- Discussion centers on program policies and the needs of the individual student; no comparisons to other athletes
- Questions follow the communication pathway: Coach → Athletic Director → Principal → Superintendent

9.2.8 Non-Compliance

Failure to complete the meeting requirement (attendance or acknowledgment) may delay participation until requirements are met, per district handbook guidelines.

9.3 Athlete-Parent-Coach Communication Process

Both parenting and coaching can be challenging. By establishing an understanding of each position, the parties are better able to accept the actions of the other and provide greater benefits to children. Parents are encouraged to understand what expectations are placed on student athletes. This begins with clear communication from the coach of your child's program. If a situation arises which requires a conference between the coach and the parent, this is encouraged. It is important that both parties involved have a clear understanding of the other's position.

Communication you should expect from the coach:

1. Philosophy of the coach.
2. Expectations the coach has for student athletes.
3. Locations and times of all practices and contests.
4. Requirements/recommendations, i.e., fees, special equipment, off-season conditioning, team, and individual camps.
5. Procedure should the athlete become injured during participation.
6. Discipline that results in the denial of your child's participation.

Communication Coaches expect from Athletes/Parents:

1. Notification of any schedule conflicts in advance.
2. Physical, mental, or emotional problems experienced by the student.



Student athletes involved in the Ubly Community Schools Athletic Program will experience many rewarding moments both in competition and after. It is important for them to understand that there may also be times when things do not go as they might desire. At these times, discussions with the coach are encouraged.

Appropriate concerns to discuss with coaches:

1. The treatment of your child, mentally and physically.
2. Ways to help your child improve.
3. Concerns about your child's behavior.
4. Academic support and college opportunities.

While there are certain things that can and should be discussed with your child's coach, there are some non-appropriate concerns, which must be left to the discretion of the coach.

Non-Appropriate concerns to discuss with coaches:

1. Playing Time
2. Strategy
3. Play calling
4. Other student-athletes

It is difficult to accept your child not playing as much as you may hope; however, coaches must make judgment decisions based on what they believe to be best for all concerned.

10. Athletic Concerns/Issues Resolution Process

If a student, parent, coach, a teacher, or an administrator has a concern, complaint or issue regarding an athletic situation, it is mandatory that the Ubly Community Schools Procedure for Conflict Resolution be used to resolve the problem.

10.1 Communication Flow Chart

Procedure to follow if you have a concern or complaint

When resolving a concern or a complaint, conduct the meeting in a calm, professional, understanding manner.

Be factual and try to resolve the issue at the first level.

1. Talk with the individual and try to resolve the issue.
2. Both parties take the issue to the supervisor.
3. All parties take the issue to the Superintendent.
4. All parties take the issue to the Board President & Vice President.
5. Board President and Vice President will take issue to the full Board.



10.2 24-Hour Rule for Athletic Concerns

Purpose: To promote respectful, solution-focused communication and protect the emotional well-being of athletes, families, and coaches.

Cooling-Off Period: Do not discuss playing time, game strategy, officiating, or emotionally charged concerns within 24 hours before or after a contest or practice.

How to Request a Meeting:

- Wait 24 hours.
- The student-athlete speaks with the coach first when appropriate.
- If needed, the parent/guardian emails or calls the head coach to schedule a meeting (no sideline or parking-lot conversations).

During the Meeting: Be specific about the concern, focus on the athlete's growth, and seek solutions. A support person (assistant coach/AD) may be present if requested.

Exceptions: Safety concerns, harassment, discrimination, or potential violations of law/policy should be reported immediately to the Athletic Director or school administration — do not wait 24 hours.

Consequences for Violations: If the 24-hour rule is not followed, staff may postpone the conversation and reschedule after the cooling-off period. Repeated violations may be referred to the Athletic Director.

Communication Flow: After the coach meeting, unresolved concerns follow the chain of communication: Head Coach → Athletic Director → Principal → Superintendent → Board of Education.

10.2.1 Player concern

1. Position/Head Coach
2. Program/Varsity Head Coach (if different)
3. Athletic Director
4. Principal
5. Superintendent
6. Board of Education

10.2.2 Parent concern

1. Encourage athlete-to-coach first (when appropriate)
2. Head Coach
3. Athletic Director
4. Principal
5. Superintendent
6. Board of Education



11. Athletic Team Selection

11.1 Team Selection-Coach's Responsibility

Choosing the members of athletic teams is the sole responsibility of the coach. Junior Varsity coaches must take into consideration the policies established by the head coach in each particular program when selecting team members.

Prior to trying out, the coach must provide the following information to all candidates for the team:

1. Extent of the tryout period.
2. Criteria used to select the team.
3. Practice commitment for those who make the team.
4. Game commitments.

11.2 Team Selection Procedure

Each candidate shall have a minimum of three practice sessions. Illness and injury to a student athlete during a tryout period may be a consideration, but the coach must make a fair judgment about time restrictions for tryouts. The coach will work in conjunction with the Athletic Director and the High School Principal prior to announcing his or her final team.

11.3 No-Cut Sport Philosophy and Expectations

Our no-cut sport philosophy ensures every student can participate on a team, regardless of skill or experience. We emphasize inclusion for all, and a supportive environment focused on growth, effort, and readiness.

11.3.1 Philosophy Statement

Inclusion: All students who wish to participate are on the team.

Growth: We value each athlete's improvement over the season.

Effort: Dedication, hard work, and willingness to learn are key.

Readiness: Playing time is earned by showing readiness—being able to participate safely and effectively—which may change as athletes develop.

11.3.2 Expectations

Everyone is a member of the team, but playing time is not guaranteed. Coaches determine playing time based on attendance, effort, skill development, and readiness to compete safely. As athletes grow, their role and playing time may change throughout the season.



11.3.3 Communication

Coaches will regularly communicate progress and expectations. We encourage athletes and parents to ask questions and share feedback to support our team's goals.

11.3.4 Conclusion

Our program welcomes all, focusing on inclusion, growth, effort, and readiness. All students are team members, and playing time is earned as each athlete develops.

12. Playing Time

12.1 Junior High

At this level, students become accustomed to interscholastic practice and play. For many, it is their first introduction to competitive sports, different from recreation in its demands and philosophy.

Gaining experience through training and play should be paramount, not the win/loss record. At this level of play, the focus is on learning athletic skills and game rules, fundamentals of team play, social-emotional growth, physiologically appropriate demands on the adolescent body, and healthy competition.

All players in good standing will receive playing time, but not all players will play equally.

12.2 Junior Varsity (JV) Program

12.2.1 Purpose

JV emphasizes team play, physical conditioning, and refinement of fundamental skills.

While success matters, winning is not the sole objective at the Freshman/JV levels.

12.2.2 Player Development and Readiness

Athletes are expected to demonstrate readiness to perform skills at game speed. Commitment, coachability, and a positive attitude are essential and will be developed and evaluated throughout the season.

12.2.3 Playing Time

Coaches will make a good-faith effort to involve as many participants as possible; however, playing time will not be equal.

Playing time is earned and based on:

- Effort and work ethic
- Skill development and improvement over time
- Ability to compete and execute at game speed



- Performance in practices and games
- Adherence to team standards and sportsmanship

12.2.4 Expectations

- Attend practices, arrive on time, and be prepared to contribute to the team.
- Maintain academic eligibility and represent the school with integrity.
- Accept coaching, support teammates, and demonstrate resilience in competitive situations.

12.2.5 Coach's Discretion

Final decisions regarding roles, rotations, and playing time rest with the coaching staff, using the criteria above to support team and player development.

12.3 Varsity Athletics

12.3.1 Purpose

Varsity competition represents the highest level of our athletic program.

12.3.2 Eligibility and Selection

Varsity rosters are typically composed of juniors and seniors.

Sophomores, and rarely freshmen, may be selected if they demonstrate advanced physical development, athletic skill, and appropriate social-emotional maturity.

Selection is based on the athlete's ability to contribute to the team at the varsity level.

12.3.3 Roster Size and Roles

Squad size is limited to ensure effective practices and competitive play.

Each athlete will have a defined role and will be informed of its importance to team goals.

Playing time is not guaranteed at the varsity level. Over a season, contest participation is desirable but determined by the coaching staff.

12.3.4 Expectations and Commitment

Varsity athletes must demonstrate a strong work ethic, team-first attitude, and advanced skill.

Participation requires full commitment, which may include practices or contests during vacation periods. While practices and contests are rarely scheduled on holidays or Sundays, athletes should expect to prioritize team responsibilities throughout the season.

12.3.5 Coach Responsibilities

Coaches will communicate selection criteria, team roles, and expectations clearly to athletes.

Coaches will make decisions about playing time and roles in the best interest of the team.



12.3.6 Acknowledgment

By joining a varsity team, student-athletes agree to the expectations above and commit to supporting team goals.

12.4 Procedure for Out of Level Play

This policy outlines the procedures for moving an athlete to play out of level. The policy ensures athletes are placed in a competitive environment suitable for their abilities while maintaining fairness and safety for all participants.

12.4.1 Initial Assessment

The coach or athletic director conducts an assessment of the athlete's skills and abilities to determine potential eligibility for out of level play.

12.4.2 Notification

The athlete and their parent(s)/guardian(s) are notified of the possibility of out of level play and must sign a consent form confirming understanding and approval.

12.4.3 Evaluation

A panel of coaches and/or athletic administrators conducts a comprehensive evaluation of the athlete. This includes reviewing performance in practice and competitions, as well as overall athletic ability.

12.4.4 Recommendation

The evaluation panel provides a recommendation to the athletic director regarding the athlete's eligibility for out of level play.

12.4.5 Approval

The athletic director reviews the recommendation and issues a final decision regarding the athlete's eligibility.

12.4.6 Placement

If approved, the athlete is placed in the appropriate out of level competition, with careful consideration for safety, fairness, and competitive balance.

12.4.7 Monitoring

The athlete's progress is monitored continuously to ensure ongoing appropriate and safe placement.

12.4.8 Eligibility Criteria

An athlete must meet all the following criteria to be eligible for out of level play:



- Demonstrate exceptional athletic ability and skills that surpass those of current competition peers.
- Maintain a strong academic record and display good sportsmanship and conduct.
- Obtain written consent from a parent or guardian.
- Satisfy all applicable eligibility requirements, including those related to age, grade, and residency.

12.4.9 Safety Considerations

The safety and well-being of all athletes are paramount. When considering out of level play, the following will be reviewed:

- Athlete's physical and emotional maturity.
- Level of competition and risk of injury.
- Athlete's ability to safely participate in higher level competition.

12.4.10 Appeals Process

If an athlete or their parent(s)/guardian(s) disagrees with the decision, they may appeal to the athletic director. The appeal will be reviewed based on the policy's eligibility criteria and safety considerations.

12.4.11 Revision History

This policy will be reviewed and updated as necessary to maintain fairness, safety, and effectiveness. Revisions will involve input from coaches, athletic administrators, and other stakeholders.

13. Conflicts in Extracurricular Activities

Ugly Community Schools supports students participating in a broad range of extracurricular activities. We strive to schedule events to minimize conflicts. When conflicts arise between practices, contests, and/or performances, the following apply:

Practice vs. Performance/Contest: If a conflict occurs between a practice and a performance or contest, the student should attend the performance or contest. There will be no penalty or reprisal.

Same-Day, Different Times: If the conflict occurs on the same day but at different times, the involved coaches/instructors will collaborate to create a plan that best supports the student.

Responsibilities: Conflicts will occur. It is the shared responsibility of administration, coaches, teachers, parents/guardians, and student-athletes to recommend, coordinate, and communicate the best plan for the student.



14. Grooming and Dress Expectations

As a student at our school, it is important to maintain a neat and clean appearance that supports a safe, respectful, and distraction-free learning environment. The following expectations will help ensure everyone can focus on learning.

14.1 General Guidelines

Students are encouraged to express their personal style. However, any fashion whether clothing, accessories, or hairstyle that is disruptive to learning or presents a safety risk is not permitted. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Clothing or accessories that pose a tripping hazard
- Items that block vision or movement
- Excessively loose, baggy, or torn clothing
- Clothing or accessories displaying offensive or inappropriate words or images

14.2 Specific Expectations

- Hairstyles should not be overly distracting or block vision
- Accessories (including jewelry and hats) must not disrupt learning or create safety concerns
- Clothing should be in good repair and fit properly

14.3 Undergarment Policy

Undergarments must not be visible at any time, including bra straps, boxers, or any other type of undergarment.

14.4 Where to Find Full Guidelines

For a complete list of grooming and dress expectations, please see the Student Handbook. If you have questions or need clarification, contact a school administrator or counselor at any time.



15. Practices & Contests

Practices in general begin as soon as possible after school. Contact appropriate coaching staff for practice schedules. During the winter and early spring, the practice times vary as a result of the demand for the gymnasium. Athletic contests are usually scheduled a year in advance, and each sport usually has its own pattern on which days of the week they play their contests. Schedules are available at the HS/JRH office for fall, winter and spring.

15.1 Missed Practices and Games

We expect athletes to attend practices and games consistently for the benefit of the team. We understand that absences sometimes occur. The following expectations apply across all sports:

- Excused absences include family events and illness as well as Dual Sport.
- Athletes must communicate conflicts or absences to the coach in a timely manner.
- Good communication ensures there is no negative impact on team status or playing time for excused absences.
- Practices held when school is not in session (such as during holidays or breaks) are voluntary. Absences from these voluntary practices will not be penalized.

16. Athletic Practice Days Policy

This policy explains when you can have practices for school sports, especially on weekends, holidays, and days when there is no school. SEE EVENTLINK for Game and Practice Schedule.

16.1 When Are Practices Allowed?

- Practices usually happen on normal school days (Monday–Friday).
- You can have practices on weekends, holidays, vacation days, or no-school days, but only if the school administration says it is okay.
- Friday practices will conclude by 5 pm.

16.2 Weekend Practices

- Practices on Saturdays or Sundays are not automatic.
- Your coach must ask the school administration for permission at least 2 days before the planned practice.
- The practice cannot happen if it conflicts with other school events.

16.3 Holiday and Vacation Practices

- In general, there are no practices on holidays or during school vacations.
- If your coach has a special reason for a practice, they must get approval from the school administration at least 1 week in advance.



16.4 No-School Day Practices

- Practices on teacher workdays, snow days, or other days when school is canceled are only allowed with approval.

16.5 How Does Approval Work?

- Coaches must fill out a request and send it to the athletic director (the staff member in charge of sports).
- Every special practice must be approved by the school administration.

16.6 What Do Students Need to Do?

- Always make schoolwork your first priority! If you have practice on a non-school day, make sure you can still get your homework done.
- Arrange transportation and make sure you have adult supervision for any weekend, holiday, or no-school day practices.
- Jr. High Practices will never be conducted on a weather day.
- If a parent or student does not think it is safe to travel, their decision will always be accepted.

If you have questions, ask your coach or the athletic director.

Remember: These rules help you balance sports with school and life. Following them keeps practices fair, safe, and fun for everyone!

17. Dropping out of a Sport

Dropping out of a sport without a valid reason is of significant concern. If an athlete wants to quit any sport, he/she should notify the coach and return all equipment. If an athlete does quit a sport, he/she may or may not be permitted to try out or use school facilities to work out for another sport until the conclusion of that sport season unless the athlete receives approval of the head coaches of both sports and the athletic director. Athletes that quit a team without a reason deemed valid by the coach and the athletic director prior to the completion of the season shall not be eligible for any athletic recognition.

18. Club Sports

A club sport is a sport recognized by Ubly Community Schools but not funded by the district.

18.1 Current Club Sports

- Equestrian



18.2 Expectations

Students participating in club sports must follow all rules and regulations in this Student-Athlete Handbook, including eligibility, conduct, and academic standards. Club sports may have additional team-specific fees, schedules, or requirements set by the club's coach or sponsoring organization.

18.3 Notes

- Transportation, uniforms, and competition fees may be the responsibility of the athlete/family.
- Club sport coaches coordinate practices and competitions in alignment with school policies.

19. Dual Sports Participation Policy

19.1 Purpose

Uby Schools values and encourages the participation of student-athletes in multiple sports. To ensure the academic success and well-being of students engaged in two sports within the same season, the following policy outlines the required procedures and criteria for dual sports participation.

19.2 Approval Process

Students seeking to participate in two sports simultaneously within a single athletic season must obtain formal approval through these steps:

1. **Application Submission:** The student must submit a written application to the Athletic Director stating the intention to participate in two specific sports.
2. **Coach Consultations:** The student must meet individually with both sports' coaches to discuss expectations, requirements, and to confirm the coaches' willingness to support dual participation.
3. **Parental/Guardian Consent:** The student's parent(s) or guardian(s) must provide written consent acknowledging the increased demands and responsibilities involved.

Dual participation will only be permitted once all approvals have been granted.

19.3 Required Pre-Season Meeting

Prior to the beginning of the season, a meeting must be convened including the student, parent(s)/guardian(s), both coaches, and the Athletic Director. The goals of the meeting are to:

- Establish clear expectations and define the specific priorities for each sport.
- Review and plan for potential scheduling conflicts.
- Reinforce academic expectations and the importance of maintaining eligibility.



19.4 Priority Determination

If conflicts arise between sporting events or practices, priorities will be established based upon the following considerations:

- The sport in which the student serves as a starter or is a key contributor.
- The relative importance or critical nature of scheduled competitions.
- The student's academic record and ability to manage athletic and academic commitments.

Priority decisions will be made collaboratively and communicated to all parties.

19.5 Ongoing Evaluation of Practice and Academics

Throughout the season, the Athletic Director will coordinate with teachers and both coaches to periodically review:

- The student's attendance and participation in both sports.
- The student's academic performance and progress.
- Any concerns reported by staff about time management or declining performance.

Should dual participation negatively impact academic standing or team responsibilities, the Athletic Director reserves the right to reassess continued eligibility.

19.6 Academic Eligibility Requirement

All students engaged in dual sports must comply with Ubly Community Schools' academic eligibility policy. Failure to maintain eligibility standards may result in suspension or removal from one or both teams.

19.6.1 Commitment

Ubly Schools is dedicated to supporting student growth in both athletics and academics. By adhering to this policy, students can experience the rewards of dual sports participation while ensuring that their academic performance and overall well-being remain uncompromised.

20. Transportation Policy for Athletics (Ubly Community Schools)

Athletes must use school-provided or school-approved transportation to and from scheduled contests, returning to Ubly after the event.

Any exception must be approved by both the coach and the athletic director, preferably in writing.

Requests to travel by private vehicle can only be authorized by the coach. Use the official school form; approvals are granted per date/event and do not cover an entire season.

If an adult is requested to transport team members, they must:

- Be at least 18 years old



- Have graduated from high school
- Hold a valid driver's license
- Carry active auto insurance

Athletes must always follow Ubly Community Schools' bus behavior guidelines. No school transportation will be provided to tournaments that are not sponsored by the Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA).

21. Equipment & Uniforms

The athlete is responsible for use and safekeeping of all uniforms and equipment that the school provides. All uniforms and equipment must be cleaned and returned immediately following the end of the season.

Lost, stolen or damaged equipment (normal wear and tear expected) will be charged to the student for the cost of replacement.

22. Required Documentation on File with the Athletic Office/Business Office

1. MHSAA physical card given on or after April 15th of the previous school year.
2. Emergency information card (this will be with the coach during the season)

The Physical card must be on file prior to any practice, the Emergency Information card must be updated and with the coach during the season.

22.1 Handbook Acknowledgment and Signature (FinalForms)

All handbook acknowledgment and signature requirements are completed electronically through FinalForms. Both the student athlete and a parent/guardian must review the Ubly Community Schools Athletic Handbook in FinalForms and electronically sign the handbook acknowledgment before the student may participate in any practice or contest.

By signing, the student athlete and parent/guardian acknowledge that they have read and understand the handbook, including the Athletic Code, the Athletic Training Rules and Violations, the communication process under Athletic Concerns/Issues Resolution Process (including the 24-hour rule), and the risk of injury described under Insurance and Liability. All other required forms and consents are also completed and signed in FinalForms. The Athletic Office and coaches will verify that all forms are signed and on file prior to participation.

23. Athletic Training Rules and Violations

These training rules are to be observed throughout the entire calendar year and throughout the athlete's career at Ubly Community Schools. The penalties for violation of these rules are as follows:



23.1 Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco Use

23.1.1 First Violation

Suspension of athletic participation for 25% of the scheduled season. (Refer to chart) Unless under a suspension the student is expected to continue practice during this time.

23.1.2 Second Violation

Suspension of athletic participation for at least, but not limited to, that season.

23.1.3 Third Violation

Suspension of athletic participation for at least that school year.

Amendments may occur, dependent on the season and/or school year remaining.

23.2 Illegal Drug and Steroid Use

The use of illegal drugs by a member of an athletic team shall be dealt with through the code of conduct pertaining to all students and it will result in automatic suspension of athletic participation for at least, but not necessarily limited to, the remainder of the school year.

All forms of performance enhancing drugs, steroids and drugs of this nature banned by the MHSAA are to be considered an illegal drug.

23.3 Suspensions

An athlete who is suspended or expelled from school for any reason will not be permitted to participate in any athletic activities including practices, games, and meetings. The Athletic Director along with the Principal will determine if additional disciplinary action will be taken based on the severity of the offense.

23.4 Right of Student Appeal

The student athlete shall be guaranteed the right of appeal to a suspension decision rendered by any coach.

1. The appeal must be in writing within two school days from the student to the athletic director.
2. The appeal shall be reviewed by a committee comprised of the athletic director, principal, two head coaches and one senior student athlete appointed by the athletic director and the principal. The committee will decide on the appeal within three school days.
3. The committee will render a recommendation and refer the case to the Superintendent for a ruling. The Superintendent may, in his or her discretion, refer the appeal to the Board of Education for disposition.



4. During the pendency of the appeal, the athlete may, upon written permission of the Superintendent, be permitted to participate in athletic activities. This determination shall not be appealable to the Board.

24. Ubly Community Schools Athletic Eligibility and Attendance

1. Academics: To compete, a student must have passed at least 66% of a full-time student's class load in the previous semester. (4 of 6 or 5 of 7 classes)
2. Attendance on game day: Students must attend at least 3 class periods that day, unless the principal (or designee) approves an exception.
3. Illness: If a student-athlete goes home sick after lunch and doesn't return that afternoon, they may not practice or compete that day.

24.1 Early Warning System and Required Tutoring

1. Early Warning System: Ubly uses an early warning system to help students stay eligible.
2. Identification: Students are reviewed each Monday and followed up on Wednesday at noon. If flagged at risk of ineligibility (letter grade of "F"), they are notified.
 - Parents will be notified through the Final Forms app via email.
 - Weekly eligibility will be based on the current quarterly grade. Each quarter will begin with a 2-week grace period allowing student athletes to establish their athletic grade.
3. Required Tutoring: Flagged students must attend morning tutoring on Tuesday and Thursday at 7:00 a.m. to be eligible to attend practice that week.
4. Game Day Eligibility: As long as the student has everything complete and grades meet the criteria, a student will be eligible on game day.

24.2 Semester Eligibility

If any student athlete or participant in extra-curricular activities does not pass 66% of their classes at the end of any semester, the student will become ineligible for the entire next semester (MHSAA).

24.3 MHSAA Athletic Eligibility

Ubly Community Schools, being a member of the Michigan High School Athletic Association ("MHSAA"), will abide by all regulations and requirements set forth by the MHSAA in regard to eligibility. These regulations apply to both high school students and junior high school students. Any questions concerning these guidelines can be directed to the athletic director.

All MHSAA rules apply to Ubly Community Schools; however, within the school additional rules may exist and take precedence over MHSAA rules.



25. Insurance and Liability

Ubly Community Schools does not assume financial responsibility for medical, hospital, or ambulance expenses because of athletic injuries. Athletics is a voluntary program in which students participate at their own risk. If the Ubly Community Schools does carry a student accident insurance policy, it would be as a secondary coverage plan only.

If an athlete is injured:

1. The athlete must notify the coach the day of the injury or as soon thereafter as possible.
2. The coach must turn in an accident report to the athletic office.
3. Upon receiving an accident report, a claim is filed with the school's student insurance company, if applicable. The insurance company will assign a claim number.
4. The school's insurance company will need a copy of an Explanation of Benefits from the primary insurance carrier to complete the claim.

While minor injuries can happen and do occasionally occur in sports activities, if your son or daughter seeks medical attention you should notify the coach of the student's medical condition.

25.1 Potential Dangers in Athletic Participation

Parents and athletes should fully understand and appreciate that, while the district and its staff seek to provide a safe environment, there is a risk of serious injury associated with participation in sports programs provided by the Ubly Community Schools. Athletic activities can be hazardous and taking part in such activities could lead to serious injury and, in rare cases, death. While reducing injuries to a minimum is a goal of our coaching staff, administration and the MHSAA, the possible dangers must not be overlooked. By signing this Agreement parents and students voluntarily assume all risks associated with the student-athlete's participation in athletics.



Appendix A: **Request to Transport in Private Auto**

My child _____ has my permission to be transported home by a private vehicle on

(Date, year) _____

Location of school activity:

Driver's License # _____

The parent/guardian driving the vehicle is:

Signature of parent/guardian making request: _____ date: _____

Note: If this request is not presented in person by the parent/guardian, the signature must be verified by a telephone call from the parent to the principal or athletic director prior to the requested date of the event.

Verifications: _____

Coach

Date / Time

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Request to Transport in Private Auto

My child _____ has my permission to be transported home by a private vehicle on

(Date, year) _____

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Verifications: _____

Coach

Date / Time



Appendix B: Alcohol and Tobacco Use Suspension Reference Table

Sport	Contests / Dates per Season	25% Suspension
FALL		
Football	9 Games	2.25 Games
Cross Country	15 Dates	3 Dates
Volleyball	18 Dates	4 Dates
WINTER		
Basketball	20 Games	5 Games
Wrestling	14 Dates	3 Dates
SPRING		
Baseball	38 Games	9 Games
Softball	38 Games	9 Games
Golf	16 Dates	4 Dates
Track	18 Dates	4 Dates