

Sports Done Right Compact – School Officials’ and School Board

Honoring the Core Principals and Core Practices of Sports Done Right

This compact is based on the Core Principals and Core Practices of *Sports Done Right: A Call to Action on Behalf of Maine’s Student-Athletes*. We agree upon the following Core Practices to support a positive sports learning process and environment in our schools and community.

We recognize that school sports can contribute greatly to the values and ethics of each student-athlete. Positive sports experiences teach important life skills, encourage teamwork, help shape character and citizenship, encourage an active lifestyle and often contribute to success in academics.

We know that a beneficial interscholastic sports program is a joint venture of the school and the community, requiring positive input from both. We are dedicated to making healthy and positive sports programming accessible to every eligible student in our school community. Sports experiences for students in our school community are intended to complement, to support and to add to the learning they experience in their academic programs.

Participation in sports helps to shape our young people. We pledge at all levels – from the student-athletes to the coaches, from the school and the school district to the entire community – to provide opportunities for young people to experience the very best of interscholastic athletics in a setting where sports are “done right.”

- Our student-athletes represent this community at home and away, and conduct themselves respectfully and compassionately on and off the court/field.
- Our coaches, through their conduct, provide enriching sports experiences that build good habits and self-confidence in each student-athlete.
- Our school board and administrative team provide quality athletic programs.
- Our parents and community members, through their conduct, contribute to a positive experience for everyone at our sports events – whether at home or away.
- Our school community appreciates the value of competition-without-conflict, which means handling success with grace and failure with dignity, replacing a “win-at-all-costs” attitude with the spirit of excellence.

We actively and positively contribute to what our student-athletes know and the character of who they are – helping to fulfill the vision of graduating capable students who are good people.

Sports Done Right Resolution

Interscholastic Athletics Guided by Sports Done Right

The MSAD 71 School Board recognizes the value of athletics as an integral part of the educational program. Learning and personal growth form the foundation for interscholastic and intramural sports. The intrinsic qualities of sports create a strong learning dynamic that complements the academic program. On the playing field, student-athletes learn skills, strategies, leadership and responsibility. They also learn the importance of setting goals – for oneself and for the team – and how to make plans for achieving those goals. Young people who play sports make a voluntary – and often passionate – commitment to their activity, enhancing their learning opportunities. Sports provide a performance-based, real-life experience, not an abstract concept. Sports also provide students with an opportunity to shine in a different setting, and to increase their engagement with school. Authentic events improve the learning potential and offer opportunities for the personal growth of the individual athlete.

Athletic participation must be healthful, positive and safe for everyone involved, conducted in an environment that teaches values and ethics, strengthens the community, promotes competition without conflict and enriches the lives of the athletes. At their best, school sports provide an opportunity to teach good sportsmanship and other values.

The Board embraces the tenets of *Sports Done Right* – the Core Principles, Core Practices and Out of Bounds – committing to work toward these standards on a journey of continuous improvement. As a public activity with clear rules, immediate accountability and a real outcome, *Sports Done Right* creates an environment in which to instill core values such as discipline, respect, responsibility, fairness, trustworthiness and good citizenship. Positive competition and a spirit of excellence are defining values promoted through sports. Given their entrenched popularity and capacity for shaping character, effectively implemented sports programs are a positive social force in Maine's culture. The Board pledges to support at all levels – from the student-athlete to the coach, from the school and the school district to the entire community – opportunities for young people to experience the very best of interscholastic athletics in a setting where sports are “done right.”

We support a learning environment where:

- Our student-athletes represent their school at home and away, and conduct themselves respectfully and compassionately on and off the court/field.
- Our coaches, through their conduct, provide enriching sports experiences that build good habits and self-confidence in each student-athlete.
- Our school board and administrative team provide quality athletic programs.
- Our parents and community members, through their conduct, contribute to a positive experience for everyone at our sports events – whether at home or away.
- Our school community appreciates the value of competition-without-conflict, which means handling success with grace and failure with dignity, replacing a “win-at-all-costs” attitude with the spirit of excellence.

As a school community, we will ensure the following:

- student-athlete involvement in developing, implementing and sustaining *Sports Done Right*;
- adoption by the school board of policy articulating a philosophy of interscholastic sports and differentiating among the developmental levels of students;
- commitment each sports season to the *Sports Done Right* compact by student-athletes, parents, coaches and the athletic administrator;
- communication and coordination between school and community sports programs;
- program evaluation consistent with the Core Principles and Core Practices of *Sports Done Right*.

With approval of this resolution, the Board formally adopts *Sports Done Right* as a guiding document for the oversight of middle level and high school interscholastic athletics.