

PHILOSOPHY OF ATHLETICS

The Milton Public Schools operate on the conviction that a dynamic program of student activities is vital to the educational development of the student. Athletics are a vital component of that program.

By definition, athletic programs are extracurricular. But they are activities without which many students could not realize their full potential for success. Athletics are fun, but they are more than fun. From participation in athletic programs, young people learn important lessons about self-control, sportsmanship, teamwork, leadership, and competition. They learn how to win gracefully, and how to lose gracefully. Athletics play an important role in helping the individual develop a sense of physical, mental, emotional, and social well-being. Finally, athletic competition can promote school pride and school spirit, both in participants and spectators.

For these reasons, it is the intention of the Milton Public Schools to provide its students with a well rounded athletic program. Such a well rounded program grows out of the physical education program, and includes both intramural and interscholastic sports. It also includes an appropriate mix of team sports and "life sports," within the constraints of budget, facilities, and student interest. Further, it is the intention of the Milton Public Schools to promote maximum participation in these activities: in terms of the number of students participating, and in terms of the number of sports played by a given student. Accordingly, the Milton Public Schools will make every effort to support its athletic program with the best possible facilities and equipment, and to find and hire the most qualified staff.

Coaches play a special role in the Milton Public Schools. They must teach the basic skills necessary for improvement in their respective sports, keep abreast of current best practices for coaching, including (without limitation) new rules, innovative strategies, and physical conditioning. The coaches must also serve as role models. They are expected to teach their student-athletes about discipline, good sportsmanship, teamwork, leadership, and ethical behavior. No exceptionally talented student-athlete should be shown undue favoritism at the expense of developing the skills of other members of a team. By the same token, all team members must understand that assignments are made in the interest of achieving success as a team. Coaches must build self-esteem by encouraging student-athletes to excel on and off the playing field. The coaches should at all times stress the goals of excellence, good sportsmanship, and the exhibition of a winning attitude -regardless of the opponent that Milton may be facing.

Participation in athletics in the Milton Public Schools is a privilege. It carries with it responsibilities to the team, the sport, the school, and the community. Coaches and student athletes in the Milton Public Schools' athletic programs are expected to accept their individual responsibilities, and act accordingly. Student-athletes deserve the full support of their parents as they set out to represent their family, their school, and their community.

LEGAL REFERENCES: M.G.L. 71:47; 71:54A 603 CMR 26.06

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