

Mesa Public Schools

Junior High Athletic Conference

Article I **Name**

The name of this organization shall be "Jr High Athletic Conference", hence known as the "JHAC".

Article II **Mission**

The mission of the athletic program of the JHAC is to provide an educationally sound program that emphasizes participation, cooperation, good sportsmanship and teamwork for seventh and eighth grade boys and girls.

The objectives of this program are to develop and maintain on the part of the participant:

1. Physical skills necessary in the sport or activity
2. An awareness of progressive skill requirements needed to continue to grow in the specific sport or activity
3. A sense of loyalty, team play, cooperation, and sportsmanship which will have "carry over" values in later life
4. Respect for efforts, abilities and rights of others (especially in regards to opponents and officials)
5. The awareness of leadership responsibilities in school, community and life contacts, as well as on the athletic field

Article III **Meetings**

Section 1 *Time and place*

The school Athletic Directors of JHAC shall meet prior to each season and at the conclusion of the final season.

Section 2 *Special Meetings*

Special Meetings may be as deemed necessary.

Article IV Responsibilities of School Personnel

Section 1 Team Leader/Athletic Directors

The Team Leader/Athletic Director of each junior high school has the definite responsibility for the over-all supervision and operation of the athletic program in his/her school and to insure that the JHAC's philosophy and policies are adhered to. The athletic director shall be responsible for the provision of the adequate supervision at all athletic events in which his/her school is the host school.

The Team Leader/Athletic Director is responsible for student registrations, collection of fees, managing rosters and verification of eligibility.

The athletic director of each member school is responsible to attend and assist in the supervision of any home athletic contest that their school is involved in.

Team Leaders/Athletic Directors are expected to make every reasonable attempt to attend every scheduled AD meeting.

Section 2 Coaches

All coaches shall be directly responsible for the supervision and conduct of their athletic teams at all athletic events and practices and while traveling to and from such athletic activities.

Coaches will ensure only registered students that are academically eligible participate in practices and athletic contests.

Coaches will be required to attend an officials/coaches meeting prior to the start of the season.

A coach ejected from any JHAC game/match will be suspended from the following game; this would also include tournament play. Additional game suspensions or consequences will be at the discretion of the individual school administration.

If a coach is suspended from an athletic contest/tournament, the team shall forfeit the contest if there is not an approved coach available.

Article V
Section 1

Eligibility / Participation of Athletes
Attendance Requirements / Participation Commitment

Students attending Mesa Academy for Advanced Studies may choose to participate at Fremont Junior High School or their home junior high school determined by their home address. For each academic school year, the student is eligible to participate for only one of these schools and may not switch school choice during the academic school year.

Home schooled student-athletes may participate with the school within the attendance boundary the student resides in. Official documentation must be provided showing that said athlete is registered with the county superintendent of schools and maintain passing grades. If a school does not offer a particular sport, a student may apply to any school within their district to be accepted for participation. It will be up to the receiving school and district administration to accept or deny the request. If a school accepts a student, an application to the East Valley Conference needs to be submitted before the season begins.

Students attending Charter Schools are excluded from JHAC participation.

Non MPS students are not eligible for fee assistance.

Each athletic season is approximately nine weeks in length. Selected participants are expected to make a full commitment to the established JHAC schedule of games for his/her sport. If an athlete is involved in Club/AAU or other extra-curricular activities, he/she must be available for ALL school games or tournament play during the specific sport season. Failure/inability to commit to this expectation may impact a students playing time.

Section 2

Age Requirement

Any 8th grade student who becomes fifteen (15) years of age on or before May 1st of the previous school year will be ineligible to compete. Likewise, any seventh (7th) grade student who becomes fourteen (14) years of age on or before May 1st of the previous school year cannot compete on the seventh (7th) grade level. This fourteen (14) year old seventh (7th) grade student is eligible to compete on the eight (8th) grade level.

Section 3

Exception to Age Requirements

Exceptions to age requirements must be submitted in writing to the JHAC and approved by a majority vote.

Section 4 Academic Eligibility Policy

It will be up to the each school to ensure that they adhere to the Mesa Public Schools JHAC “no pass, no play” policy.

Grades will be checked a minimum of one time each season at the progress report time.

Students that are failing a class at progress report time will be ineligible for a minimum of one athletic contest. A student that is failing at progress report time may become eligible again by providing proof of a passing grade to the coach and Athletic Director. If the student fails to raise the failing grade to a passing grade the student will remain ineligible for the remainder of the season.

Each Team Leader/Athletic Director will ensure that each athlete meets the adopted eligibility policy.

For MPS students to be eligible to attend practices and/or games on a particular day, the student-athlete must be present for a minimum of ½ of the school day.

Section 5 Financial Eligibility Policy

The participation fee for Junior High Athletics is \$75 per season. This fee is due prior to the first athletic contest of each season. Students that do not pay this fee prior to the first contest of the season will not be eligible to participate in any athletic event. These students are eligible to participate in practices.

Students that do not pay the athletic fee will have a fine placed on their account.

Students that have fines on their accounts will not be eligible to tryout or participate in any future Junior High Athletic seasons.

Fee assistance is available for all MPS students.

Section 6 Athletic Teams

Each junior high school will be represented by a 7th grade competitive team, an 8th grade competitive team.

The exception will be wrestling, cross-country, girls badminton and boys volleyball, which will be, combined 7th/8th grade teams.

7th grade students will participate on the 7th grade competitive teams.

8th grades students will participate on the 8th grade competitive teams.

All remaining students will participate on skills camps.

Eligibility for both boys and girls to participate on athletic teams shall be limited to the respective sport for their gender with the exception of wrestling and flag football. Girls shall be eligible to participate in both wrestling and flag football.

Section 7 Number of Participants

The maximum number of athletes that may dress for each contest is as follows:

Sport	Min	Max
Flag Football	15	
Basketball	12	
Volleyball	12	
Softball	15	
Baseball	15	
Soccer	18	
Wrestling	10 (18*)	Unlimited
Badminton	6	Unlimited
Cross – Country	10 (18*)	Unlimited

* Number needed for a second coach.

Section 8 Suspension of Athletes

Any student ejected from a JHAC game/match will be suspended for the following game. Further consequences will be at the discretion of each schools administration; this also applies to tournament play.

Section 9 Additions to Teams

Cut off for registrations will be prior to the 2nd athletic contest for the athletic season. Fees are due at the time of registration.

Competitive rosters will be set prior to the 2nd athletic contest for the season.

Section 10 Tryouts

- A. Tryouts will be closed.
- B. Tryouts will be a minimum of three days.
- C. Coaches will provide feedback for students who did not make the competitive teams.

Article VI Related Policies

Section 1 Scheduling

Athletic schedules will be created and published prior to the start of the academic year.

Tournament locations, dates and times will be determined by the number of athletes/teams competing and site and personnel availability.

Tournament games/contests may be scheduled on week nights and weekends.

Double headers will be utilized when needed.

Section 2 Admission Charges

Schools will not charge admission for regular season contest/games.

Tournaments may charge admission. The amount will be published on the tournament website and with all tournament information provided to the schools.

Section 3 Uniforms

Uniforms will be provided by each school.

Section 4 First Aid Equipment

First aid equipment and emergency transportation for injured players shall be provided by the host school.

Section 5 Protests – Regular Season/Tournaments

Protests may be made on situations that are detrimental to the safety of participants or rule enforcement, but NOT on the judgment calls of officials. The following steps are needed when a protest arises.

- A. Protesting coach needs to notify the opposing coach and/or officials upon becoming aware of the alleged infraction at the event.
- B. If protests cannot be resolved, the coach will notify the AD the

following day.

- C. An official verbal protest must be made to the Conference President within 24 hours by the AD of the protesting coach.
- D. A written protest will be sent to the Conference President within 24 hours after the verbal protest if the conflict cannot be resolved.

The JHAC Team Leaders/Athletic Directors will review the protest and their decisions will be final. The decision will be determined by a simple majority of those members who respond within a timely manner.

Warm – up time will be 10 minutes from the time of arrival at the playing court or field. The home AD will notify the officials of the time limit.

Games are expected to start on time as scheduled. Every effort should be made to notify your opponent if you will be late. Failure to begin a game within thirty (30) minutes of scheduled start time, without prior notice may constitute a forfeit, with notice may constitute a no decision. Where either school finds it impossible to meet a scheduled contest, it must notify the other school. Any postponement or cancellation of a contest must be by mutual consent. The host school may cancel games if inclement weather is occurring at their site.

Section 6 Teams Arriving Late to Tournaments

Teams arriving late will have a maximum of ten (10) minutes to warm up.

Article VII Officiating

Section 1 Officials

The JHAC Coordinator will schedule officials.

Section 2 Coaches as Officials

Coaches of a particular sport should not be involved in the officiating of that sport except through mutual consent of the schools involved.

Section 3 Conduct/Performance of Officials

An official shall be expected to perform in accordance with recognized standards and manuals developed for officiating. Included therein is knowledge and interpretation of the rules, mechanics, personal appearance, and physical conditioning.

Officials must uphold honor and dignity in all personal conduct and relations with the student athletes, coaches, AD's, school administrators, colleagues, and the public.

Article VIII Game Rules

The rules for boys and girls sports shall be the same rules as those governing the National Federation of State High Schools UNLESS OTHERWISE DESIGNATED BY THE JHAC.

Article IX Seasons of Sports

Section 1 Conference Schedules

A schedule of the MPS Junior High Athletic Conference will be made for the following sports: Boys and Girls Basketball, Boys and Girls Soccer, Cross Country, Girls Volleyball, Girls Softball, Wrestling, Baseball, Girls Badminton, and Flag Football.

Practice for each sport may begin on the 1st day of the quarter in which the season is played.

Section 2 1st Season Sports (August - October)

Boys Basketball	Conference Schedule, Conference Tournament
Girls Soccer	Conference Schedule, Conference Tournament
Wrestling	Conference Schedule, Conference Tournament

Section 3 2nd Season Sports (October -December)

Girls Softball	Conference Schedule, Conference Tournament
Boys Baseball	Conference Schedule, Conference Tournament
Girls Badminton	Conference Schedule, Conference Tournament
Boys Volleyball	Conference Schedule, Conference Tournament

Section 4 3rd Season Sports (January - March)

Flag Football	Conference Schedule, Conference Tournament
Girls Volleyball	Conference Schedule, Conference Tournament
Cross Country	Conference Schedule, Conference Meet

Section 5 4th Season Sports (March – May)

Girls Basketball	Conference Schedule, Conference Tournament
Boys Soccer	Conference Schedule, Conference Tournament

Article X Tournaments

- A. All attempts will be made to seed competitive teams in the tournament following the final match/game of the season.
- B. The Tournament Director will determine the home team.
- C. Trophies will be awarded for tournament champions only.