



Mahoning Valley Athletic Conference

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Constitution

ARTICLE I

NAME

Article I

This organization shall be known as the **Mahoning Valley Athletic Conference**, (hereinafter referred to as **MVAC**).

The **MVAC** will comprise of eight (8) teams. **MVAC** will have competition in Varsity Boys and Girls Interscholastic Sports, Junior Varsity Interscholastic Sports both Girls and Boys, and junior high school interscholastic sports grades 7-12.

ARTICLE II

OBJECTIVE

- Section 1: The **MVAC** shall be affiliated with the Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA) and only members of the Association shall be eligible for membership in the **MVAC**. No variance with the rules of the OHSAA shall be legal or permitted.
- Section 2: The object of the **MVAC** shall be to foster and improve amateur athletics among members of the **MVAC**. The **MVAC** shall govern the schools of its membership to institute, regulate and award championships in such interscholastic sports as shall be determined by its determined governing body; to promote uniformity in arrangement and control of contests; and to protect the mutual interest of the membership of the League through the cultivation of the ideals of clean sportsmanship in their relation to the development of character.

ARTICLE III

MEMBERSHIP

- Section 1: The MVAC shall be comprised of eight (8) schools. The inaugural member schools of the MVAC are the following: Jackson-Milton, Lowellville, McDonald, Mineral Ridge, Sebring, Springfield, Waterloo, and Western Reserve.
- Section 2: In order to have a division championship within the League, in any sport, five (5) or more schools must have teams competing.
- Section 3: Any school may withdraw from the League of its own volition **two (2) years** from the end of the school year following written notice of its desire to withdraw. Official notification must be submitted to the League President by **October 1**. If a school decides to leave prior to the two (2) years from the end of the school year following written notice, then the school will be assessed a fine of approximately \$16,000 (the fine shall be split evenly between the seven (7) remaining teams and the league) Should a school be in the process of withdrawal from the League, said school shall lose voting privileges on any new League membership application.
- Section 4: Any school, by formal application in writing may apply to the Commissioner of the League. The school, a member in good standing of the OHSAA, shall be admitted by the concurring votes of three-fourths (3/4) or more of the **MVAC's Superintendents**.
- Section 5: If the League disbands, after all League debts are paid, the League will divide the remaining funds in the treasury equally among League members and mail checks to the Treasurer of the Board of Education in each school district made payable to the respective boards of education.
- Section 6: For a serious infraction of the OHSAA and/or League Constitution, By-Laws, or Regulations, a school may be

removed or suspended by the League with a three-fourths (3/4) vote of the **MVAC's Superintendents**.

- A. Appeal Procedure – The Appeal Board will be made up of the League Commissioner as voting chair and two **MVAC Superintendents** chosen by the **MVAC Superintendents**. Any school cited by the **MVAC** for disciplinary action may appeal to the Appeal Board in writing within ten (10) days. The League Commissioner shall set up a meeting at the earliest possible date, not to exceed ten (10) days after receipt of the letter. The decision of the Appeal Board will be by majority vote and will be final and binding.
- B. When a school has been removed, suspended, or placed on probation as a member of the League, the school is not eligible to compete for League/Division Championships.

ARTICLE IV

Official Duties of the MVAC Governance Board

Section 1: This Board is comprised of one vote per school for the explicit reason of MVAC Operating business/practices

Section 2: The Board will be operated by the MVAC Commissioner as a non-voting member unless there is a tie of voting schools. The MVAC, if and only if there is a tie will cast the deciding vote on the issue.

Additional responsibilities of the MVAC Commissioner are the following:

- A. Shall set agenda and preside over all meetings of the Governance Board.
- B. Shall direct an annual review of the League Treasury.
- C. Shall appoint members to temporary committees as needed.

- D. Shall schedule meetings as needed and if a majority of Superintendents of the league wish a meeting to be held on any particular item.

Section 3: Treasurer/Assistant Commissioner

- A. Shall take charge in the absence or incapacitation of the MVAC Commissioner and in that situation shall carry out the duties of the Commissioner.
- B. Shall keep general minutes of the meetings.
- C. Is in charge along with Commissioner of the Treasury of the MVAC.

ARTICLE V

AMENDMENTS

Section 1: This constitution may be amended by the concurring votes of three-fourths (3/4) of the Governance Board. Robert's Rules of Order shall apply.

Section 2: An amendment may be proposed at any Governance Board Meeting as per Robert's Rules of Order. A quorum must exist at any meeting in which an amendment is motioned or subsequently passed.

Section 3: Any such amendment may be repealed by a meeting called by Superintendents. Only a 2/3 majority of Superintendent's votes at said special meeting may repeal any such amendment.

ARTICLE VI

EFFECTIVE DATE OF THE CONSTITUTION

Section 1: The Constitution shall be reviewed and signed every three (3) years and when the membership of the League changes.

Section 2: This Constitution shall become effective and binding upon the signature of the Executive Board member of each member school.

Section 3: The effective starting date for competition in the MVAC will begin in the fall of 2017-2018.

Section 4: Signatures:

<u>School</u>	<u>Executive Board member</u>	<u>Date</u>
Jackson Milton	_____	_____
Lowellville	_____	_____
McDonald	_____	_____
Mineral Ridge	_____	_____
Sebring	_____	_____
Springfield	_____	_____
Waterloo	_____	_____
Western Reserve	_____	_____

Mahoning Valley Athletic Conference By-Laws

I. Conference Meetings' Membership Fees:

- Conference dues will be set by the board of control and will remain at the set figure until changed by board of control action.
- Conference dues are to be paid in full by October 1.
- The board of control may impose special assessments on member schools should trophy costs or other expenses exceed the ability of the conference treasury to meet them.

II. Awards:

- The conference will provide a championship trophy to the school with the best won/lost record within the MVAC in each sport. In the case of ties, co-champions will be declared.
- In order to have a championship trophy awarded, at least five (5) schools must participate in that sport.
- The type of trophy awarded will be determined by the board of control.
- To qualify for a conference championship, a school team must:
 - Be a member in good standing of the MVAC at the conclusion of the scheduled conference contests for that sport.
 - Complete all conference contests in the sport.
- If a conference member cannot meet its commitment to play all scheduled conference contests in a sport:
 - It will not be eligible for championship consideration.
 - All scheduled or completed conference contests with the school not completing its schedule will be void and not considered in the determination of a conference championship in a sport.
- If extreme circumstances develop, the board of control will meet to determine the outcome and settle disputes.
- Weather or calamity-related cancellation:
 - An attempt will be made to reschedule all conference contests as soon as possible.
 - Member schools with weather or calamity-related cancellation policies have an obligation to make up contests with the other division schools on a priority basis. The commissioner will meet with both schools to determine next available date.

All-Stars

- A certificate will be awarded to all first-team All-Stars. This certificate will be signed by the conference commissioner and conference president.
- First-team All-Star selections will have their pictures taken by a (conference-approved) photographer for publication in the local media.
- A rotating all-sports plaque will be given to both divisions of schools that earn the most points based upon place finish in all conference-sanctioned sports.
- If a division does not have five (5) teams participating in a given sport, it does not count towards the all-sports plaque.

Service Award Policy:

- A service award is established to pay tribute to retiring personnel who have given generously of their time toward the achievement of objectives and goals as set forth by the conference.
- In order to be considered for a service award, the length of time in service to the conference must be at least fifteen (15) years. (Consideration will be given to individuals involved in the ICI, TCI, ITCL, PTC, EOAC and MVAC). Additional recognition shall be given for twenty-five (25) or more years of service.
- The awards are established as:
 - 15-year service award: a lifetime conference pass admitting two persons.

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- 25-year service award: a lifetime, conference pass admitting two persons and an appropriate gift not to exceed \$50 in value.
- Consideration for an award may be initiated by any member of the board of control or executive board. The requesting member shall make a motion for the type of award sought. Members must approve the award by a majority in a roll call vote.
- Persons who may be considered for a service award are:
 - Coach of a sanctioned conference member school sport.
 - AD or administrator of a conference member school.
 - A commissioner or assistant commissioner of the conference.
 - Any combination of the above.

III. Ticket Prices/Conference Passes

- Ticket prices for varsity football, volleyball, basketball, and the conference track meet will be set by the board of control.
- Member schools may choose to offer season passes or individual presale for home games only, to members of their community at a locally determined price.
- Ticket prices for non-varsity contests will be set by the board of control with a majority vote.
- Each member school will be given 16 passes. The pass will admit the holder and a guest to all conference events.

IV. Sportsmanship

- Each school has the responsibility to instill upon its athletes, coaches, and spectators, the expectations of good sportsmanship.
- Although the host school is primarily responsible for on-site supervision, the visiting administrator or representative should share responsibility in dealing with the concerns involving the visiting fans. Spectators should be reminded that the contest should be between the teams engaged in the competition and not between their supporters. It is important that all spectators:
 - Know and demonstrate the fundamentals of sportsmanship.
 - Respect, cooperate, and respond enthusiastically to the cheerleaders, coaches, and athletes of all teams.
 - Censure fellow spectators whose behavior is unsportsmanlike.
 - Be positive toward players and coaches regardless of the outcome of the contest.
 - Respect the judgment and the professionalism of the officials and coaches.
 - Student sections will be established and enforced by the home member school.
- The following are not permitted at contests:
 - Noisemakers at indoor events
 - Signs demeaning to the opposing team/school/individuals or officials.
 - Throwing of objects on playing area.
 - Entering playing area.
 - Inappropriate chants or cheers.
- Suggested disciplinary actions:
 - PA announcement at contest.
 - Removal from contest.
 - Conference/hearing with school official.

V. Cheerleaders

- Cheerleaders serve as ambassadors of the school and promote good sportsmanship at all times.
- The use of mounts and/or pyramids will not be permitted at Conference contests and competitions.
- The number of cheerleaders will be determined by the policy of the individual school districts.
- Basketball cheerleaders will rotate use of the main floor for team cheers during time-outs.

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- Each school is permitted to have a mascot at conference events.

VI. Safety/Security

- The home school shall be responsible for the administrative supervision of the safety and security for buses, players, coaches, and fans, with the cooperation of the visiting school's administration.
- The home school shall provide parking space for the visiting team's buses.
- The home team's supervision shall extend until the visiting team leaves the school premises.
- Reasonable steps shall be taken to provide security at all games.
- Reasonable steps shall be taken to keep fans separated from the players, coaches, and officials at all times.
- A secure locker room will be provided for the visiting team.
- The home school shall reasonable section off student sections for the home and visiting schools.

VII. Officials

- The Conference will follow the Ohio High School Athletic Association guidelines for officials.

VIII. Scheduling

- The Conference commissioner will oversee scheduling contests to ensure the rotation of conference schedules from one year to the next.
- Football: one game versus each school in their respective division.
- Volleyball, golf, boys and girls basketball, softball, baseball, boys and girls tennis: two games/matches versus each school in their respective division.
- Track and cross country: one championship meet.
- Wrestling, Swimming/Diving; Multi-team events may be scheduled to determine championships.
- The proposed schedule for all contests will be brought to the board of control for approval at least two years prior to the date of the contests.
- Member schools may opt to reschedule a contest if there is mutual agreement to do so. If a school's board policy disallows activities on a day the school is closed (inclement weather, power failure, etc.) a scheduled contest will be rescheduled to a mutually agreed upon date. The commissioner must be notified as soon as possible of any schedule changes to insure the proper scheduling of officials.

Starting times of contests:

- Varsity football: 7:00 pm
- Volleyball: 5:30 pm, or mutually agreed upon time.
- Boys basketball: 5:30 pm
- Girls basketball: 5:30 pm
- Softball/Baseball: 5:00 pm
- All other sports: mutually agreed times starting times for girls-boys double headers will be set by the mutual agreement of the schools involved.
- Games postponed/interrupted due to inclement weather will be rescheduled by mutual agreement of schools and officials involved.

IX: Title IX

The board of control and the Conference subscribe to the principles of Title IX and the member schools provide equal opportunity to all students.

X. Commissioner of Conference

- Selection/appointment of commissioner:

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- The executive board shall establish criteria for selecting and appointing the conference commissioner who shall be administratively responsible to the board of control. The following shall be major factors:
 - Background in playing, coaching, and/or officiating.
 - Demonstrated responsibility and integrity.
 - The commissioner shall be recommended by 75% vote of the Executive board for consideration.
 - The initial contract shall be for two consecutive years.
- Duties:
 - Renewal contracts shall be mutually agreed to by the board of control and the commissioners and recommended to the executive board for approval. The commissioner may terminate appointment by submitting written notice to the board of control by March 1. Upon termination, the commissioner shall relinquish all conference records and files to the board of control through the current conference president.
 - The commissioner shall be responsible for handling all circumstances relative to conference sponsored athletic contests and function. To this end, the commissioner shall:
 - Work with member schools to develop a master schedule for the following conference sports: football, volleyball, boys and girls basketball.
 - Maintain a format for the effective evaluation for school to school and school to official relationships.
 - Attend scheduled board of control and athletic director meetings.
 - Administer the distribution, collection, compilation, and announcement of All-Star balloting.
 - Oversee the logistics regarding media exposures and advertisements of All-Stars.
 - The commissioner must observe at least one conference game per week during football and basketball.
 - Act as liaison between coaches, athletic directors, and the board of control to make recommendations for desired changes.
 - The commissioner will oversee responsibilities assigned to the assistant commissioner if one exists.
 - The commissioner shall communicate directly with the principal of a member school regarding specific instances, actions, and activities directly affecting that school.
 - Relations with officials:
 - The commissioner shall compile a list of active, eligible officials for each of the conference's four core sports (football, volleyball, boys and girls basketball) and distribute the list to each member school.
 - The commissioner shall attempt to assign recommended officials to any contest involving that school
 - An official may be excluded from that conference by a majority vote of the board of control at any regular meeting.
 - The commissioner shall develop a form to evaluate officials who work all varsity contests.
 - The commissioner shall assign game officials for each required conference varsity sport and notify each school 4-6 months prior to the beginning of that season for conference games so that contracts can be issued by the home school
 - JV basketball officials' assignments shall be the responsibility of the commissioner.
 - The commissioner shall prepare the contract for each official assigned to a conference sport and give it to the athletic director.

- The commissioner shall act on behalf of the conference to report for reprimand, any official determined to have violated a contractual obligation.
- The commissioner shall develop a procedure for notifying and rescheduling officials for contests postponed and rescheduled.
- Track and Field Responsibilities:
 - The commissioner shall have complete charge of the conference track meet and shall have the authority and responsibility to:
 - Hire the meet manager and work with the meet manager to employ all other necessary officials.
 - Order necessary meet supplies.
 - Prepare and distribute all necessary publicity information.
 - Organize and oversee the Parade of Athletes.
 - Present with the presiding school principal, awards and trophies at the conclusion of the meet.
- Compensation:
 - The board of control and commissioner shall negotiate an agreeable salary.
 - The salary shall not include out-of-pocket expenses such as long distance calling and postage. The commissioner shall be reimbursed a fixed amount of expenses.
 - Limits regarding specific expenses and the dollar amounts shall be determined at the regular June board of control meeting. Based on previous year's expenses, the commissioner shall submit anticipated expenses for approval.
 - If state mandated meetings must be attended in accordance with OHSAA regulations and said meeting necessitate overnight lodging, the expenditure can be considered out-of-pocket only if approved in advance. Any attended meeting/activity or any unusual requests not given prior approval by the board of control shall be considered personal and not subject to reimbursement.
 - Frequency and method of payment shall be agreed to by the board of control and the commissioner.

XI: Athletic Event Cancellations: Labor Disputes

- Scheduled athletic contests in any sport, with a school on strike, will not be played or rescheduled. Exception: when a school misses two contests in all sports except football.
- If a school on strike has to cancel an athletic contest(s) due to the situation created by the strike, the school on strike then becomes ineligible for a conference championship if they cancel one football game. In all other sports, the school on strike then becomes ineligible if they cancel three or more games.
- All prior contests played with the striking school involving the Conference members will not be counted toward the conference championships. Those contests will be treated as non-conference contests, having no effect on the conference championships.
- There will be no obligation placed upon a member of the conference to honor any conference scheduled contest with a school while it is on strike.
- During a strike year where away games are cancelled:
 - Competing schools will negotiate compensation for missed revenue.
 - If unresolved, the matter shall be brought to the executive board for final disposition.

XII. All-Star Selection:

- An All-Star team shall be selected in each division in each conference sport sponsored by the Conference recognized for a championship. Conference athletes shall be recognized as All-Stars for their personal accomplishments in accordance with the following guidelines:

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- Each school involved in a conference sport shall be entitled to nominate players from their school for an All-Star position.
- The number of players eligible to be nominated shall be dictated by the allowable All-Star positions within that sport and/or as specifically listed as a condition for that sport. No player shall be eligible for more than one (1) All-Star position in any sport except where specifically outlined in a particular sport.
- The Conference commissioner shall be responsible for:
 - Setting the date, time, and location of the meeting.
 - Distribution of standard nomination form.
 - The distribution and collection of ballots.
 - Publishing an All-Star list for each sport, for each member school.
 - Determining the logistics, time, and site for pictures of first team All-Stars.
 - All-Star selection shall be done in accordance with a format approved by the board of control.
- At every All-Star selection meeting, voting shall be done with the 'verbal voting procedure'
- Voting is done on a private ballot with the school's name indicated on the ballot.
- Ballots shall be collected and read aloud by the commissioner indicating each school's vote.
- Regardless of the sport, coaches shall not vote for their own players and are bound to vote for All-Stars in each category according to the number specified. If not specified in the particular sport, coaches shall vote for the number of positions available for All-Stars.
- Football selection procedure:
 - Athletes nominated as football All-Stars will be eligible in one (1) of three (3) categories:
 - Offensive team
 - Defensive team
 - Specialist(s): kicker, punter, and/or returner
 - A player shall not be named as a football All-Star for more than one (1) position.
 - Football All-Stars will consist of a first team and a second team consisting of:
 - Offensive Positions:
 - 27 - First Team
 - 21 - Second Team
 - 16 - Honorable Mention
 - 4 -Specials
 - The order of vote/selection shall be: First team *offense*, first team defense, specialists, second team *offense*, second team defense and specialists.
 - All ties in voting stay and both individuals are All-Stars.
 - Any school having no All-Stars selected shall be allotted two (2) honorable mention placements; all other schools shall be allotted one (1) honorable mention placement. The school representative shall make the honorable mention selections.
- Basketball selection procedure:
 - A first team and a second team shall be selected with eight (8) All-Stars on each team.
 - A school representative must vote for eight (8) All -Stars for each of the first and second teams. No Ties.

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- The procedure shall be: the school representative shall vote for the eight (8) members and (NO Ties) of the first team and then vote for eight (8) members and (NO Ties) of the second team.
- Any school having neither a first nor second team All-Star selection shall be allotted two (2) honorable mention placements. All other schools shall be allotted one (1) honorable mention placement. The school representative shall make the honorable mention selections.
- Volleyball selection procedure:
 - Volleyball shall have an All-Star first team and second team, each consisting of six (6) players and 1 libero.
 - Each school representative must vote for six (6) All-Stars and 1 libero for each of the first and second teams.
 - The procedure shall be: school representative must vote for (6) members (and ties) and 1 libero of the first team and then vote for the six (6) members (and ties) and 1 libero of the second team.
 - Any school having neither a first nor second team All-Star selection shall be allotted two (2) Honorable Mention placements. All other schools will be allotted one (1) honorable mention placement. The school representative shall select players eligible for honorable mention.
- Baseball and softball selection procedure:
 - Baseball and softball shall have an All-Star first and second team consisting of ten (10) players and ties on each team.
 - Players shall be nominated by their school representative.
 - A player shall not be named as a baseball/softball All-Star in more than one (1) position.
 - Based on the greatest number of votes, players shall be named in the following manner:
 - Baseball and Softball nominations
 - Pitcher three (3)
 - Catcher one (1)
 - Infielders four (4)
 - Outfielders three (3)
 - Any school that is not represented on the first or second All-Star team shall be allotted two (2) honorable mention placements. All other schools shall be allotted one (1) honorable mention placement. The school representative shall select players eligible for honorable mention.
- Golf selection procedure:
 - Golf All-Stars will receive awards based on their finish in an eighteen-hole divisional golf tournament. The top five (5) finishers will be first team and the next five (5) finishers will be second team All-Stars. All ties will remain as ties for All-Star purposes.
 - Any school not represented on the All-Star team shall be allotted two (2) placements as honorable mention. All other schools shall be allotted one (1) placement.
- Track selection procedure:
 - Track winners will receive awards according to place finish at the conference Track Meet. First place finishers will be awarded first team and the second place finisher will be second team MVAC. All ties will remain ties for All-Star selection.
 - An Conference High Point Medal' will be awarded to the male and female athlete who score the highest point totals at the conference track meet.

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- The schools whose male and female teams score the highest team point totals at the Conference track meet will be awarded a conference Championship trophy.
- Any school not represented on the All-Star team shall be allotted two (2) placements as honorable mention. All other schools shall be allotted one (1) placement.
- Cross Country procedure:
 - The conference will conduct a cross-country championship meet.
 - Cross country will have a first and second All-Star team each consisting of seven (7) individuals.
 - The first seven(7) finishers in the cross-country meet shall be awarded first team and the second seven (7) finishers shall be awarded the second team.
 - Any school not represented on the All-Star team shall be allotted two (2) placements as honorable mention. All other schools shall be allotted one (1) placement
- All other sports:
 - No Sports shall have All-Star team selection until at least five (5) schools sponsors interscholastic teams.

XIII. Conference All-Academic Team

- At the end of the third grading period, each member school shall submit a list of those varsity letter winners who have a yearly grade point average of 3.5 or above. These students will be recognized as conference All-Academic Team selections and will receive a conference certificate and recognition in all area newspapers.

XIV. Special Conference Membership Voting Procedures During Transition Periods

- In the event where a member school is granted permission to leave the conference, that school will have voting rights on issues that pertain to the school while they are still members in the conference. In the event a question arises as to whether or not the departing member school should vote on an issue that may affect the conference after their departure, their eligibility to vote will be determined by the other conference schools attending the meeting when the vote takes place.
- In the event where a new school is granted permission to enter the conference, that school will have voting rights on issues that pertain to the school when such issues will impact the school when they begin participating in conference schedules and championships. In the event a question arises as to whether or not the new admitting school should vote on an issue prior to their official entry into the conference, their eligibility to vote will be determined by the other conference schools attending the meeting when the vote takes place.

XV. Broadcast Fees

- Broadcast / Telecast fees obtained for all contests shall be submitted to the conference.
- Signed conference broadcast contract and payment are to be submitted to the Commissioner

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