

MARYLAND DEMOLAY **ATHLETIC PROGRAM**

It has been said that if a Chapter wishes to be successful in retaining the interest of its members it must maintain a year-round athletic program. Good quality athletics teaches teamwork, cooperation and good sportsmanship which breeds comradeship. Athletics is not merely physical exercise, but a vehicle that teaches many valuable lessons.

The Maryland DeMolay Athletics Program recognizes the importance of athletics to a Chapter and is dedicated to several goals. First is to help provide a year-round program by coordinating competition between Chapters in the Jurisdiction of Maryland. This allows Chapters the chance to compete against each other. Another goal is to provide athletic competition which is safe and enjoyable to all DeMolay athletes. This will encourage participation by all members regardless of their athletic ability.

Chapter DeMolay Athletic Chairman

Each Chapter participating in the MSADC Athletic Program must delegate an Athletic Chairman to serve as a liaison between his chapter and the Athletic Department. He should be selected with great care as the position is most important. There is a direct correlation between the ability of the DeMolay Athletic Chairman and the success of the chapter in the program. He must be interested in sports, but above all, he must be the one who, when accepting responsibility, carries it through with a high degree of conscientiousness.

DeMolay Athletic Chairman should keep in contact with the Athletics Department and get to know its policies, rules, methods of publicity, and any other information which would be of assistance in the success of his chapter.

After have been delegated by his Chapter
as the DeMolay Athletic Chairman, he should:

1. Enter his team in the desired sports on or before the announced closing date for entries giving full names of all members if requested.
2. Keep fully informed on eligibility rules and abide by them.
3. Keep in close and frequent contact with the Athletics Department.
4. Notify all team members of the rules of the game, time and place of each game scheduled. Provide a scorer/time keeper. It is the responsibility of the team to keep in touch with the Athletic Department for information pertaining to the team's activities.

5. Represents his Chapter at all meetings, protest negotiation, etc. for which he is asked to be Present.
6. See that he notifies the State Athletic chairman a week in advance if his chapter has to forfeit.
7. Cooperate fully with the Athletics Department on all matters pertaining to the successful operations of the program.
8. Maintain high standards of sportsmanship for his Chapter. Remember that DeMolay Athletics are carried on for the general good of all members of Maryland DeMolay.

Chapter Athletics Advisor

The Athletics Advisor should be someone who enjoys sports, but does not need to be an expert, just coordinate and advise.

His job includes expanding and promoting sports programs and attempt to include all age levels and interests of the chapter members. He should:

1. Aid the chapter in selecting a sport program.
2. Advise the chapter athletic committee and its chairman, in organization.
3. Encourage all members to participate. (This is extremely important.)
4. Provide instruction where needed: either by himself or another who is proficient in the sport.
5. Assist the DeMolay Athletic Chairman in see that all members are aware of the rules, play eligibility and proper DeMolay conduct.

A well organized and carefully advised sports program can give chapter members an opportunity to learn many valuable lessons through competitions and team work.

Members confident in their ability will usually join in willingly, but members who do not have such confidence are the ones that should be encouraged the most to participate.

It is important to remember, that all eligible players present who want to play, get an opportunity to participate. Encourage those who may not be that good in sports to take part. This will give them confidence as well as experience. Reminded all DeMolays that they are a team and not individuals and that by trying, they all become winners.

Conduct - Player - Coach - Spectator

All participants and spectators are expected to observe proper DeMolay conduct. Any person guilty of un-DeMolay conduct will be ejected from the game and/or may be asked to leave the facility. No Alcoholic beverages or controlled substances are allowed. All rules governing DeMolay conduct, as set by DeMolay International, will be followed.

The use of profane language will not be tolerated. The first offense will result in a warning. The second offence will result in ejection.

Ejections

A person ejected from any game or sport for any reason will be suspended indefinitely from participating in any MSADC athletic activity. This suspension may be reduced once the ejected player, coach, or spectator presents an appeal to the State Athletic Chairman describing the incident and stating why reinstatement should be granted.

A coach refusing to divulge the name of an ejected player to the official will be ejected in addition to his player. Hassling an official at any time is grounds for ejection. An official has the jurisdiction over the players, coaches, and spectators in his game from the time he puts on the official's shirt till he takes it off.

Eligibility

Active DeMolays who have received both degrees, passed examinations on their obligations, and are members of a member Chapter in good standing of the M.S.A.D.C. are eligible to participate in Maryland DeMolay Athletic Program except as provided in the following rules:

1. A player who has been ejected from a Maryland DeMolay Athletic Program activity is ineligible to participate until reinstated by the State Athletics Chairman.
2. A DeMolay who does not reach his 21st birthday prior to the announced starting date of an activity will be eligible to complete the season.
3. To be eligible to play in a play-off game, a player must have participated in at least one regular season game. Participation is defined as having attended a game and had his name recorded on the team sign-in sheet.
4. A player must be a member of the chapter sponsoring the team. Prior to the first regularly scheduled league game, a roster listing the players on each team of the chapter will be forwarded to the State Athletic Chairman or his designate. This roster will be signed by the Chapter Advisor or Chairman of the Advisory Council for each respective chapter, certifying that all above requirements have been met. Players can

be added to the roster if they pass both obligations during the season and are eligible to play.

5. No participant may play on more than one team in the same sport. A member of a chapter with more than one team in a sport must limit himself to membership on only one of the teams throughout that sport's season. His first participation with a team in a sport limits his membership to that particular team throughout the season. A player having played on a second team in that season is considered ineligible and, therefore, cannot legally play for his original team or any other team. No participant may assume another person's name.

In order for a team to be eligible to play they must have the minimum number of players required, in addition, an advisor for their chapter must be present for the entire game. Failure to do so will result in a forfeit.

Equipment

The Maryland DeMolay Athletic Department provides equipment necessary to participate in most activities. It is the responsibility of each team to check the registration material for each activity to ascertain what equipment is provided and what they must bring with them.

Forfeits

Any individual or team failing to be ready to play at game time, forfeits to their opponents at the discretion of the game official(s). It is considered a forfeit if the game is terminated for disciplinary reasons attributed to one team (a double forfeit if both teams are at fault), furthermore, it is considered a forfeit if a team is discovered using an ineligible player. Any team forfeiting a match to an opponent may be fined a \$10.00 forfeiture fee at the discretion of the State Athletic Chairman.

How To Enter Maryland DeMolay Athletics

Individual Sports

DeMolays interested in participating in individual MSADC athletic activities may do so by submitting an entry blank.

Team Sports

Chapters interested in participating in a team sport may do so by organizing a team from their chapter and submitting an entry blank. Coaches of the DeMolay team(s) are expected to serve as referees by attending the respective sport's preseason clinics on rules and mechanics and officiating several contests per season. WARNING: entry deadlines are strictly adhered to. Late entries will be placed on a waiting list.

Teams who find they can no longer field a team should notify the Department of athletics immediately so that a waiting team (those that entered late) can be accommodated.

Chapters wanting to enter more than *one team* or enter a combined team may do so with the approval of the State Athletics Chairman.

Schedule

Schedules for team and individual sports will be made by the State Athletic Department. Once a schedule is made, it is virtually impossible to change. Advance planning is essential. Contact the State Athletic Chairman or his representative as early as possible if a schedule conflict arises. You should be prepared to play at the originally scheduled time if rescheduling arrangements cannot be worked out.

Inclement Weather Policy

Decisions concerning the postponement of games due to inclement weather are made by the State Athletics Chairman or his representative for the activity. Contact them to keep fully informed on the latest changes.

Injuries

The M.S.A.D.C. assumes no responsibility for injuries received during Maryland DeMolay Athletic activities. Any injuries must be documented on an M.S.A.D.C. accident report form and submitted to the State Athletic Chairman.

Insurance

All participants in Maryland DeMolay Athletic activities should confirm that they have full current medical/surgical insurance coverage. Those not covered by their parent's policies are strongly urged to take out a personal policy.

Officials

The coaches are expected to serve as referees by attending the respective sports preseason clinics on rules and officiating mechanics and officiating several times during the season.

Penalties For Violations

Anyone found guilty of violating any of the eligibility regulations governing participants or any of that which is expected under general information sections of this handbook will be subject to suspension from further participation in A Maryland DeMolay Athletic program levied upon the individual(s), including the teams coach and/or captain, or team. The length of suspension will be determined by the Maryland DeMolay Athletic Staff. Appeals may be made to the State Athletic Chairman. Any contest played, in which an ineligible player has participated, is awarded to the opponent by forfeit.

Protest

The Maryland DeMolay Athletics Department realizes that on occasion errors occur, however, the privilege of lodging a protest must not be abused. The purpose of a protest is to insure an equal opportunity for victory and not to get a "freebie" win from an obvious losing situation. A protest can be avoided or resolved through intelligent and constructive conversation among the team captain(s), officials and Athletics personnel.

The following procedures should be complied with when filing a protest:

1. At the time of a call in question, calmly notify officials and the athletics' department representative of protest.
2. Your typed or written explanation of protest and a \$15.00 fee must be sent within (24) hours after the protested game.

Your protest should include:

- Date, time and place of a contest - Time left to play contest
 - Names of game officials

 - Rule & section of official rules under protest

 - Decision and conditions surrounding the making of the decision - All other essential facts involved
3. An explanation and protest fee will be mailed to the Protest Committee C/O The State Athletics Chairman.
 4. A hearing on the protest will be held as soon as possible with the Protest Committee consisting of The State Athletic Chairman and at least two (2) members of the athletic staff, which consists of the Sports Chairman of each active Chapter.
 5. The Protest Committee will rule on the protest. If the protest is found valid then the contest will be continued from the point of the incorrect decision with the decision corrected and the fee will be returned. If the protest is found invalid then the contest result will stand.

Protest concerning the judgment of officials will not be considered. Protest concerning an alleged misapplication of a rule by an official will be accepted for consideration only if it is first registered with the responsible officials at the time of the incident. The officials will attempt to resolve the protest before playing on. Protest involving player eligibility must accompany proof to support the protest. The Athletic Department will assist if requested to do so. Any conclusive evidence obtained by or brought to the attention of the Athletic Department will be used in the protest procedure.

Publicity

Maryland DeMolay Athletics Activity notice indicating entry dates and competition dates will be published annually by the State Master Councilor and the State Athletic Chairman at the M.S.A.D.C. Annual Conclave. Information will be published in the Maryland DeMolay Reflections.

Schedules for team sports are printed and distributed at Conclave, during the team rep's meeting, prior to each season. Entrants in individual sports must regularly check the schedules posted at the activity for their match times, opponents, and locations.

Safety

Maryland DeMolay Athletic Program participants are urged to take proper precaution to assure their safety. DeMolays intending to participate in vigorous sports or having a history of serious or chronic illness or injury are strongly advised to have a preseason evaluation or annual physical with their physician.

Cast, no matter how well padded, may not be worn during competitions. Participants wearing non-shatter proof glasses should wear a glass' guard. Racquetball/Handball/Squash player or anyone else who needs them should wear eye guards. Catchers in Softball are required to wear face masks. Players are encouraged to wear athletic supporters and cups.

Team Sign In

Prior to the start of all games the team must register each team member on a team sign in sheet. In order to have his name listed on the sign in sheet the player must be present. Names may be added to the list before and during the competition but must be done prior to the players' participation.

Uniforms

In Maryland DeMolay athletic competitions, players are strongly encouraged to play dressed in numbered shirts of uniform color. Numbered shirts are mandatory in basketball. Teams should draw from their chapter treasury, collect money for player's jerseys, conduct fund-raising projects, or simply dye their shirts and mark them with numbers. Making numbers with tape is prohibited. Note; officials wear black and white striped shirts, teams should avoid wearing similar colored shirts.