Dear Parent,

Welcome to Maine Maritime and the Mariners family! We are thrilled that your student will be competing on an athletic team. At our core, we value providing students with opportunities to compete and grow. Learning to manage time, having difficult conversations, becoming resilient and perfecting perseverance are all inherent growth opportunities competing in intercollegiate athletics provide.

We also entrust your athlete with the responsibility for themselves and all of the people they represent when they put on a Mariners uniform. That includes their family, their friends, their teammates and other athletes in this department, their coaching staff and other staff in this department, the staff across campus and our alumni. In short, they are ambassadors for the entire Maine Maritime Academy community. We remind them to remember who they represent.

We ask the same of you.

I tell our students at the start of every year that I pay one person to deal with officials, and that is the only voice that needs to be critical of officials. I remind our students that their play and their conduct will always say far better things about them and the people they represent than any words that denigrate their opponents. We strive to do things the right way in a world that seems less and less concerned with doing things the right way. We ask the same of you. Please support all of our athletes through LOUD, PROUD, and POSITIVE methods.

We recognize that you have invested a lot of time and treasure into the growth of your athlete and that you want to see them excel as collegiate athletes. We want the same thing. While it is difficult, it is time to let them grow on their own under the direction of our outstanding mentors.

To that end, we have created this guide to help you transition into the world of fandom for your collegiate athlete. While this does not cover every item that may crop up over your athlete’s time at the Academy, my door and the door of all of our coaches and staff, are always open to our students.

Thank you for your support of Mariners Athletics!

Sincerely,

Steve Peed
Director of Athletics
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: WHAT IS THE WEB SITE FOR MMA ATHLETICS?

A: MarinerSports.org is the athletics web site for Maine Maritime Academy. From there you can access live and archived web streams, shop for Mariners gear, and access our social media platforms.

Q: CAN I TRAVEL WITH THE TEAM?

A: While we love seeing you out on the road, for liability reasons, only Academy personnel and students can travel on Academy owned or rented transportation. The Academy is also not permitted to allow parents and families to join in on a team’s block for hotel reservations.

Q: THE MARINERS ARE PLAYING CLOSE TO HOME. CAN I BRING MY ATHLETE HOME WITH ME?

A: This is permissible, but not necessarily always possible. Many of our coaches try to preserve the integrity of the team as a unit from the time the bus departs campus until it returns. Your athlete should check with his or her coach in advance. If permission is granted, your athlete needs to sign a release form provided by his or her coach.

Q: WHERE SHOULD WE SIT DURING HOME GAMES?

A: There is plenty of spectator seating at Ritchie Field and inside of Smith Gym. The seats at Ritchie Field are contoured. The bleacher seating inside of Smith Gym is a straight, wood bench. Spectators may wish to bring a cushion for their athlete’s events.

Q: CAN I BRING OUR PET TO THE GAME?

A: You can bring your pets to campus, but only service animals are permitted inside of the perimeter fence surrounding Ritchie Field or inside of any buildings on campus. Most of our staff are pet owners, and while we do not like the rule, we do enforce it. For the benefit of your pet, we strongly encourage folks to leave their animals at home during football games. At the opening kick and following each touchdown, a cannon is fired. We hope to be firing the cannon a lot!

Q: CAN WE TAILGATE FOR ATHLETIC CONTESTS?

A: You can tailgate within designated areas. Please refer to the tailgating guidelines on MarinerSports.org. Scroll over Inside Athletics and click Tailgating Guidelines.

Q: CAN I TAKE PHOTOS DURING CONTESTS?

A: Only credentialed media will be permitted to shoot from the field area at Ritchie Field or the baselines and bench side in Smith Gymnasium. You may shoot from the stands at either venue. Please do not block the view of other spectators. We also ask that you turn your flash off inside of Smith Gymnasium.
Q: CAN I BRING A COWBELL, THUNDER STICKS, OR MY AIR HORN TO A GAME?

A: The NCAA forbids the use of artificial noisemakers during intercollegiate athletic contests in all sports with the exception of soccer. Soccer fans are free to bring their vuvuzelas, but for all others, we ask that you leave your noisemaker in the car. Continued use of an artificial noisemaker may result in your removal from the competition site.

Q: CAN I TALK TO MY STUDENT DURING THE CONTEST?

A: While it is important your student knows that he or she is being supported during the contest, we want their focus on the task at hand from warm-ups to the moment the team breaks their postgame discussion. This will allow your student to perform at his or her best. Please allow your athlete to be with the team in the team space and be respectful of the team space. We want our athletes to hear instruction from their coaches.

Q: THE OFFICIATING IS TERRIBLE. WHAT DO I DO?

A: When an official is struggling with his or her performance, we see it too. Quite frankly, they know it as well. Please do what we ask of your student and remember that we pay someone to talk to the officials. Leave the rest to us. Each officiating board we work with utilizes a feedback instrument allowing coaches to rate their officials and upload specific instances of missed calls, incorrect calls, and other contest management issues. Additionally, both the coaches and athletic administration work closely with the assignors throughout the year.

Officials are human. Berating an official who is struggling only takes the game atmosphere downward, creating additional management issues for the official who is already struggling. Our coaches aim to stabilize a struggling official. It is far easier for them to accomplish that in a calm and civil environment.

We all have a role to play at Mariners athletic contests. Our players play. Our fans cheer. Our coaches coach and communicate with officials. Please play your role by being LOUD, PROUD and POSITIVE!

Q: THE GAME IS OVER, CAN I TALK TO MY ATHLETE NOW?

A: Once the team has broken and the coach has released the athletes, please greet your athletes. We aren’t in the business of giving parenting advice, but we will share a few thoughts. Your student puts in a lot of hours preparing for games through practice, film and scouting reports. They will get feedback and analysis from their coach following the game and breakdown of film. Let the coaches provide the constructive feedback. Your time is limited and we hear from our athletes all of the time that they just want to see you when they have the chance to see you.

Q: MY ATHLETE IS NOT GETTING ENOUGH PLAYING TIME. WHAT DO I DO?

A: Encourage your athlete to have a conversation with their coach and cheer for the Mariners on the field. Our coaches are highly competitive people who make a living evaluating talent and developing game plans in order to best position the team for success. To that end, they deploy their talent in the way that provides the optimal chance to achieve that result. Their bias is ability and ability to help the team grow. Missing practice, missing meetings, not being attentive, being tardy, and many other factors may hamper your students’ playing time. It is not likely they are going to share that information
with you. Encourage them to ask their coach what they can do to earn more playing time and to make good use of that feedback. The Director of Athletics unequivocally supports all player-personnel decisions made by coaches in the course of a contest.

**Q: WHAT HAPPENS IF YOU ARE ON THE ROAD AND MY ATHLETE HAS AN EXAM SCHEDULED?**

A: Our athletes are students first. We ask them to fill out a class conflict form for each section at the start of the semester and to work with their professors for a plan to make up any missed class work or assignments. Our coaches often proctor exams on the road through a process developed by our Student-Athlete Affairs Coordinator and Center for Academic Success. Teams on overnights generally build study periods into their itinerary. Our student-athletes perform at or above the same level as the rest of the student body semester after semester.

**Q: WHAT IS REQUIRED OF MY ATHLETE OUT OF SEASON?**

A: NCAA Division III allows for 16 practices in the non-traditional segment (NTS). For fall sports, the NTS occurs in the spring. For spring sports, the NTS occurs in the fall. The duration of the NTS is intentionally short in order to allow students the opportunity to be traditional college students. We encourage that. We also encourage your athlete to follow the workout plans provided to them by their coaches in conjunction with our Strength & Conditioning Coach. If your student is a multi-sport athlete, they should consult the student-athlete handbook regarding their rights to compete in both sports and the prescribed methods for deconflicting their schedules and ensuring they are getting their required day off each week.