

ATHLETIC CODE OF CONDUCT

While a student has a legal right to attend school, the courts have held that the same right does not extend to participating in athletics. As a result, when a student elects to participate in a co-curricular activity, he/she is agreeing to abide by the standards of conduct established for that activity. Therefore, it is vitally important for both the student and the student's parents to carefully review the expected standards of conduct established in an athletic code or any special rules established by the athletic department/coach for that given activity. And, if for whatever reason the student feels that he/she cannot abide by such, then the student should not elect to engage in the activity.

Above all else, it is important to remember that when a student-athlete chooses to violate the Athletic Code of Conduct, it is the athlete who has violated his/her own oath of participation.

Administrative Points of Emphasis:

Because infractions are taken seriously, the coach involved, the athletic coordinator and the principal/designee shall meet and determine the penalty according to the degree of the infraction. The student-athlete and his/her parent should be notified before the penalty is determined and provided the opportunity to present their position on the incident. An Athletic Discipline Report form will be completed for each violation and maintained by the building administrator in charge of athletics. These reports will be forwarded to the District Athletic Director's office.

These rules and regulations are in effect twelve months of the year.

All penalties for violation of this Code of Conduct shall be cumulative beginning with the student's participation in the Middle School (grades 7-8) and again in High School (grades 9-12). Suspensions may carry over from one year to the next.

Administration of Athletic Suspensions:

After confirmation of the violation, determination of Level I, II or III and determination of first, second or third violation, the penalty is assigned by the Assistant Principal. If the penalty is not fully administered using regular and post season contests, the remainder of the penalty will be applied to the next interscholastic sport season in which the athlete participates.

- If the suspension occurs during a season, the student must participate fully and complete the season in good standing, in order to complete the suspension.
- If a student-athlete chooses to go out for a sport in which they have not participated in previously as their "next interscholastic sport season", the coach of sport in which the student usually would participate in as the next season and the coach of the new sport must agree in this participation. The student-athlete and the coaches must agree that the student must begin and complete a full season in good standing after the student-athlete serves his/her suspension.
- If the second season has a different number of "competitive dates" then the season in which the violation occurred, the number of suspended event may be adjusted by the building administrator.

Violations of the Athletic Code of Conduct

Level I Violations:

- Violation of Level I in the Student Code of Conduct:
- Suspension from an Athletic Event: When a student/athlete is disqualified (suspended) during a contest for flagrant or unsportsmanlike conduct, that student shall be withheld by his/her school for at least the next day of competition.

Level I Penalty Enforcement:

First Violation Penalty:

After confirmation of the first violation, the student will be suspended immediately, **not to exceed 10%** of the regular season contests.

Second Violation Penalty:

After confirmation of the second violation, the student will be suspended immediately from contest **not to exceed 20%** of the regularly season contests in the sport in which the student is a participant.

Third Violation Penalty:

After confirmation of the third violation, the student will be suspended immediately from contests **not to exceed 50%** of the scheduled contests in the sport in which the student is a participant. .

Level II Violations: (On or Off School Grounds)

- Hazing: Intentionally creating peer pressure upon another person or inducting a person into membership in a group by exacting unnecessary or disagreeable acts from the person, by harassing or by use of abusive or humiliating tricks.
- Fighting: See "Student Code of Conduct."
- Smoking, use and/or Possession of a Tobacco Product: See "Student Code of Conduct."
- Found to be in violation of Level II Student Code of Conduct.
- Conviction of a misdemeanor, or in some cases, being charged with a misdemeanor.

Level II Penalty Enforcement:

First Violation Penalty:

After confirmation of the first violation, the student will be suspended immediately from a **minimum of 25%** of the regular season contests in the sport in which the student is a participant

Second Violation Penalty:

After confirmation of the second violation, the student will be suspended immediately from a **minimum of 50%** of the regular season contests in the sport in which the student is a participant.

Third Violation Penalty:

After confirmation of the third violation, the student will be suspended from athletics immediately for **twelve (12) months** from the date of the infraction.

**Level III Violations:
(On or Off School Grounds)**

- Use/possession of Alcohol, Steroids or Drugs/Paraphernalia: See “Student Code of Conduct.”
- Sale/distribution of any substance for illicit purposes: See “Student Code of Conduct.”
- Found to be in violation of Level III Student Code of Conduct.
- Conviction of a felony, or in some cases, being charged with a felony.

Performance/Enhanced Drugs/Compounds:

The Board of Education recognizes that the use of dietary supplements that contain performance-enhancing compounds and/or performance-enhancing drugs poses a serious health risk to students.

Accordingly, no staff member, volunteer, or contractor shall knowingly sell, market, distribute, or promote the use of a dietary supplement that contains a performance-enhancing compound or a performance-enhancing drug (e.g., anabolic steroids) to a student with whom the staff member, volunteer, or contractor has contact as a part of his/her duties. Furthermore, the staff member, volunteer, or contractor shall not endorse or suggest the ingestion, intranasal application, or inhalation of a dietary supplement that contains a performance-enhancing compound or a performance-enhancing drug by a student with who he/she has contact as part of his/her duties.

Level III Penalty Enforcement:

First Violation Penalty:

After confirmation of the first violation, the student will be suspended immediately from a **minimum of 50%** of the regular season contests in the sport in which the student is a participant.

Second Violation Penalty:

After confirmation of the second violation, the student will be suspended from athletics immediately for **twelve (12) months** from the date of the infraction...

Third Violation Penalty:

The student-athlete found in a third violation shall be denied athletic participation for the **remainder of their high school (middle school) athletic career**. After one calendar year from determination, an appeal can be made to the Athletic Discipline Review Committee for reinstatement contingent upon substantiated rehabilitation.

*See Appendix K-Athletic Department Incident Report.

Individual Coaches Rules & Regulations:

Coaches may establish additional rules and regulation with the prior approval of the building administration/athletic administrator. These additional rules for a particular sport must be stipulated in writing to all team members and parents and explained fully at the start of the season. Copies of all additional team rules by coaches are on file in the building administration office. Additional penalties imposed by the coach may not exceed those imposed by the district Code of Conduct

Self-Referral by Student-Athlete:

Student-athletes may take advantage of a self-referral procedure to seek information, guidance, counseling and assessment in regard to student-athlete use of tobacco, alcohol and other drugs. Voluntary referrals do not carry punitive consequences.

- a. Referral is allowed one time in a student's four-year high school career (two-year middle high school)
- b. Referral must be only by the athlete or a member of the immediate family.
- c. Referral must be before the first violation.
- d. Referral cannot be used by athletes as a method to avoid consequences once a code of conduct rule is violated and a student has been identified as having violated one of the code of conduct rules.
- e. Referral must be made to a coach, athletic administrator, teacher, building administrator, guidance counselor or the district drug and alcohol education coordinator.

Appeal Procedure:

The student-athlete may appeal the decision of the building committee (coach, athletic coordinator, principal/designee) to the Athletic Discipline Review Committee (District Athletic Director, two head coaches, etc). The appeal will require the following:

- a. The written appeal must be presented to the District Athletic Director with five school days of the initial ruling.
- b. The student shall have the privilege of representation even though it is not a legal process.
- c. The Athletic Discipline Review Committee shall render a decision within five days, in writing, to the student and his/her parents or guardian.

The student is not allowed to participate in any events during the appeal process.

High School Athletic Eligibility:

High School students must pass four (4) out of five (5) classes to be eligible each trimester. A student who fails two (2) classes at the end of a trimester shall be ineligible for 90 school days unless the deficiencies are made up during a subsequent trimester, summer school session, night school, by correspondence, online or by tutoring. Eligibility may be reinstated during the next trimester when the school accepts the credit. If a student is ineligible at progress report, the student will not complete for a minimum of one (1) full week. Students will become eligible after confirmation they are passing four (4) of five (5) classes.

Middle School Athletic Eligibility:

A seventh grade student who competes in any athletic contest must be under fourteen (14) years of age, except a student whose birthday occurs on or after September 1 of the current school year is eligible for the balance of the school year.

An eighth grade student who competes in any athletic contest must be under fifteen (15) years of age, except that a student whose birthday occurs on or after September 1 of the current school year is eligible for the balance of the school year.

A middle school student must be passing four (4) of six (6) classes to be eligible to participate in an athletic contest. If a student is ineligible at progress report, the student will not complete for a minimum of one (1) full week. Students will become eligible after confirmation they are passing four (4) of six (6) classes.

Performance Enhancing Supplements:

The National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) has re-emphasized its original 1998 position against improper use of supplements that are unregulated by the Food and Drug Administration and which contain harmful ingredients such as creatine, ephedrine or excessive amounts of caffeine. The 1998 position statement on this matter was and continues to be:

“All student-athletes and their parents/guardians should consult with their physicians before taking any supplements product. In addition, coaches and school staff should not recommend or supply any supplement product to student-athletes”.

In addition, Michigan Public Law 187 prohibits any public school employee/volunteer from promoting or supplying dietary supplements, which carry claims of enhanced athletic performance. The law covers adrostenedoine, creatine and any compound labeled as performance enhancing.