

Troy School District

Code of Conduct for Student Athletes

Revised December 2004

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction	1
Section I - Rules of Eligibility for Participation	2
A. Enrollment*	2
B. Age*	2
C. Parent/Guardian Consent and Student Application	2
D. Participant Physical Examination*	3
E. Seasons of Competition*	3
F. Semester of Eligibility*	3
G. Academic Eligibility-Troy School District Requirements	4
Section II - Awards*	5
Section III - Maintaining Amateur Status	6
Section IV - Outside of School Athletic Competition	7
Section V - Student Attendance Required for Athletics	8
Section VI - Attendance at Athletic Practice Sessions and Contests	9
Section VII - Traveling to and from Away Contests	10
Section VIII - Uniforms and Equipment	11
Section IX - Use or Possession of Tobacco, Alcohol and Other Drug Substances	12
Section X - Summer and Off-Season Programs	15
Section XI - Supplemental Rules and Regulations	16
Section XII - Appeal Procedures	17

INTRODUCTION

The Troy School District Code of Conduct for Student Athletes has been developed to provide a uniform set of rules and regulations to govern all district athletic participants, regardless which team or school they represent. The Athletic Code of Conduct combines rules and regulations of the Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA) which have been adopted by the Troy School District with specific district rules governing athletic participation. The Code of Conduct for Student Athletes will be in effect during the entire school year and the seasons of practice and competition. Student athletes are to comply with all aspects of the code if they desire to enjoy the privilege of continued eligibility for participation in athletics.

In addition, student athletes who incur school disciplinary action because of violations defined in the *Rights and Responsibilities Code of Student Conduct Handbook* are also subject to the disciplinary actions contained herein. Please note that when a student is academically ineligible to participate in contests and scrimmages, he/she still may practice with the team as long as he/she is not suspended from school, as outlined in the *Rights and Responsibilities Code of Student Conduct Handbook*. However, the participant may forfeit the opportunity to receive an athletic award if loss of participation in contests prevents him/her from meeting the requirements for earning the award **as outlined in the written supplemental team rules and regulations developed by the coach and distributed to each participant at the start of the sport season.**

Rules which have been adopted by the Troy School District and which are also covered by MHSAA rules are indicated by an asterisk (*).

Students are subject to all MHSAA rules and regulations, even though such rules may not be included specifically in this document.

SECTION I

Rules of Eligibility for Participation

The following rules of eligibility must be observed in order to participate in the interscholastic athletic program:

A. Enrollment*

The student must be enrolled in the school by the Monday of the fourth week of the semester in which he/she competes. The student must reside in the school service area in which he/she attends school and must be enrolled in the school for which he/she competes.

B. Age*

High School: A student in grades nine through twelve who participates in any interscholastic athletic contest must be under nineteen (19) years of age. When a student's nineteenth birthday occurs on or after September 1 of a current school year, he/she is eligible for participation for the balance of the school year.

Middle School: A seventh or eighth grade student must be under fourteen (14) and fifteen (15) years of age respectively. A student who reaches that age after September 1 is eligible for participation for the balance of that school year.

C. Parent/Guardian Consent and Student Application

The student must submit the signed parent/guardian consent form and the signed student application form to the coach (middle school) or to the athletic trainer (high school) prior to participating in tryouts, practice sessions or contests. Students and parents are to read the Code of Conduct for Student Athletes and the *Rights and Responsibilities Code of Student Conduct Handbook* before signing the parent/guardian consent form and the student application form. The completed form will be kept on file in the building athletic director's office during subsequent sports seasons.

D. Participant Physical Examination*

A student must have a physical examination completed by a physician (M.D. or D.O.), physician's assistant, or nurse practitioner certifying that the student is fully able to compete in interscholastic athletics. The physical must take place after April 15 of the previous school year to be used for the current school year. The student must submit the completed physical form to the coach (middle school) or to the athletic trainer (high school) prior to participating in tryouts, practice sessions or contests. The completed form will be kept on file in the building athletic director's office during subsequent sports seasons.

E. Seasons of Competition*

A student, while enrolled in grades nine through twelve, shall be eligible to compete in no more than four (4) seasons of a sport. A student is eligible for a maximum of four (4) first semesters and four (4) second semesters. For example, a student may not compete in more than four (4) seasons of a particular sport: football, soccer, tennis, etc. Students enrolled in grades seven or eight are not limited in the number of seasons of competition. A student shall be limited to participation in only one sport season when that sport leading to a state championship is sponsored twice during the school year.

F. Semester of Eligibility*

A student shall not be eligible to compete in any branch of athletics who has been enrolled in grades nine to twelve for more than four first semesters and four second semesters. Enrollment in a school for a period of three weeks or more, or competing in one or more interscholastic athletic contests, shall be considered as enrollment for a semester under this rule. Eligible students who chose not to participate during a semester must still count that semester as one of the semesters of eligibility. Students in grades seven or eight are not limited in the number of semesters in which they may be eligible. The seventh and eighth semesters must be consecutive. Students in grades seven or eight are not limited in the number of semesters in which they may be eligible.

G. Academic Eligibility-Troy School District Requirements

A student must have received a passing grade (credit) in a minimum of five (5) classes during the previous semester (middle school - quarter) and must maintain passing grades in a minimum of five (5) classes (Niles - 4 classes) during the current semester (middle school - quarter) to be eligible to participate in athletics. The only exceptions to this district eligibility requirement are transfer students new to the district who have one semester to comply with the requirement. These students must meet the MHSAA minimum requirement of passing four (4) classes.

Failure to Comply: Any student who fails to meet any of the above regulations will not be allowed to participate until such time as he/she complies with the regulations in this section. The student is ineligible until deficiencies are corrected. Students who fail to pass the required classes during the previous semester must sit out the entire current semester.

SECTION II

Awards*

A student may accept, for participation in athletics, a symbolic or merchandise award which does not have a fair market value or cost in excess of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00). Banquets, luncheons, dinners, non-competitive trips, and fees or admissions to be a spectator at events (non Troy School District events, per MHSAA), if accepted in kind, are permitted under this regulation.

Awards for athletic participation in the form of cash, merchandise certificates, or any other type of negotiable documents are never allowed.

No one, such as a parent, friend, or other person, may accept an award on behalf of the athlete at any time prior to graduation from high school.

Acceptance of such items as cash, merchandise, memberships, privileges, services, sweaters, athletic equipment, wearing apparel, and watches would be a violation.

Failure to Comply: Any student violating any area of this section would be ineligible for interscholastic athletic competition for a period of at least one semester from the date of the violation. If violation occurs after the Monday of the fourth week of a semester, a student is ineligible for the balance of that semester and the succeeding semester.

SECTION III

Maintaining Amateur Status*

Students participating or planning to participate in interscholastic athletics MAY NOT: (1) accept any money or other valuable consideration for participating in athletics, sports, or games; (2) receive any money or other valuable consideration for officiating an interscholastic athletic contest; or (3) sign a contract with a professional team.

The rule above applies to the following sports: baseball, basketball, cross country, football, golf, gymnastics, soccer, softball, skiing, tennis, track, volleyball, wrestling, ice hockey, competitive cheer, swimming, and diving.

Failure to Comply: A student violating this rule is ineligible and may not apply for reinstatement until the equivalent of one full school year has elapsed from the date of last violation. After that date the student may request reinstatement.

SECTION IV

Outside of School Athletic Competition*

A student who, after practicing with or participating in an athletic contest or scrimmage as a member of a junior high/middle school or high school athletic team, participates in any athletic competition not sponsored by his or her school in the same sport during the same season, shall be ineligible for a minimum of the next two(2) days of competition for junior high/middle school and three (3) days of competition for high school up to the remainder of that season in that school year. The exception to this rule is the individual sport athlete who may participate in a maximum of two (2) individual sports meets or contest prior to the first participation in a contest or scrimmage, rather than practice. The specific sports in which these exceptions apply are: ice hockey, bowling, cross country, golf, gymnastics, alpine skiing, swimming and diving, tennis, track & field and wrestling. A student may not compete in any "all-star" contests at any time in any sport sponsored by the MHSAA during that school year. According to the MHSAA the tryout portion of a sport is considered practice.

* These rules reflect Section 13(A)-LIMITED TEAM MEMBERSHIP of the MHSAA handbook.

A student may participate in only one sport during a given sports season, unless league rules are to the contrary.

Failure to Comply: A student violating rules in this section will be ineligible to participate in athletic contests and scrimmages for a period from a minimum of the next three contests up to a maximum of one school year, depending on the violation.

SECTION V

Student Attendance Required for Athletics

Students are to attend school during the total school day in order to participate in athletics during the same day or evening. Should there be a situation, other than illness, whereby a student cannot attend school who would normally receive an excused absence, the student will be allowed to participate in the contest with approval of the building principal or designee.

Failure to Comply: A student with an unexcused absence from school may not participate in the athletic contest or practice scheduled for that day.

SECTION VI

Attendance at Athletic Practice Sessions and Contests

Attendance at practice sessions is essential to prepare athletes physically and mentally for athletic contests. All team members are required to be at all athletic practice sessions and contests at the times designated by the coach. Should situations occur when it is impossible for a participant to attend due to illness, injury, or other required school or family commitments, the student shall make prior arrangements with the coach for an excused absence.

Participants shall be excused from team practice during regular school vacation periods when taking part in a school-sponsored or parent-approved trip. Participants would be required to attend those sessions. A participant going on a school-sponsored or parent-approved trip during a vacation period in season shall notify his or her coach of the trip prior to leaving.

Failure to Comply: Failure to attend regularly scheduled practice sessions or contests without an excused absence will lead to disciplinary action, as outlined within the supplemental team rules distributed by the coach.

SECTION VII

Traveling to and from Away Contests

Any student on a team traveling to an away athletic contest on school owned or chartered transportation or other such approved vehicle shall return to the home school on the same vehicle after the contest is over. The only exception is when prior arrangements are made and the coach grants permission for the student to leave the contest site with his/her parent, guardian or other adult family member.

Failure to Comply: Any participant not returning from any away contest with a team without permission of the coach is ineligible to participate in the next scheduled contest. The participant may practice with the team. A second violation may result in dismissal from the team for the remainder of the sport season.

SECTION VIII

Uniforms and Equipment

Athletic participants are responsible for the care, security, and use of uniforms and equipment issued to them.

Failure to Comply: Athletic participants will be responsible to pay the replacement cost for uniform or equipment items that are abused or not returned. Athletes will not be allowed to participate in athletics in succeeding seasons until this obligation is met.

SECTION IX

Use or Possession of Tobacco, Alcohol and Other Drug Substances

Students are to refrain from use of tobacco, alcoholic beverage, and any controlled substance, look-alike or mood altering chemicals at all times. Optimum physical and mental condition is necessary for high performance in athletics. It is vital to safeguard the personal health and safety of each participant. We recognize this and are aware of the negative impact that chemical use can have on our teams. Because this is so important and because we want to help any student athletes who may have a tobacco or chemical use problem, the following rule is in effect:

During the season of practice and competition, regardless of the quantity, a student athlete shall not: (1) use or have in possession tobacco or tobacco products including smokeless tobacco; (2) use or have in possession a beverage containing alcohol; (3) use or consume, have in possession, buy, sell or give away marijuana or any controlled or look-alike substance, including anabolic steroids. It is not a violation for a student to be in possession of a drug specifically prescribed for the student's own use by his/her doctor.

Failure to Comply:

Grades 7-8

Any and all violations will use the following procedure:

Seventh and eighth grade athletes who possess or use tobacco products, alcohol and/or other drug substances will be removed from the team. Reinstatement for future sports seasons will be considered by the principal or designee only after a meeting with the parent(s)/guardian(s) and the student.

Grades 9-12

All violations are cumulative from the beginning of the athlete's freshman year to the completion of the athlete's senior year and start the first practice of the first participating sport.

First Violation - Tobacco Products Only

After confirmation of a violation, the student athlete will not be allowed to participate in athletics for a minimum of the next interscholastic event or one week of a season, whichever is greater. However, no student will be required to miss more than 10% of the regular season contests. The student athlete cannot practice while suspended from school. An optional conference may be requested by either the coach or the building athletic director to include the student athlete and/or parent. It is recommended the student athlete participate in a workshop consortium based on tobacco usage. (The cost of the workshop is the responsibility of the family.)

First Violation - Alcohol and Other Drug Substances/Second Violation - Tobacco Products

After confirmation of the first violation, the student athlete will not be allowed to participate in athletics for a minimum of the next two (2) consecutive interscholastic athletic events or two(2) weeks of a season, whichever is greater. However, no student will be required to miss more than 20% of the regular season contests. *If the violation occurs at the conclusion of a season whereas the students' non-participation requirement has not been met, the remainder of the game(s) exclusion will be completed in the next participating sport.* In order to be reinstated for contests, the student must:

1. Participate in a follow-up conference with parent, coach, building athletic director and principal.
2. Participate in the mandatory drug workshop consortium if violation is for alcohol or other chemical abuse. (The cost of the workshop is the responsibility of the family.)

**Second Violation - Alcohol and Other Drug Substances/
Third Violation - Tobacco Products**

After confirmation of a violation, the student athlete will be dismissed from the team and will be excluded from all athletic interscholastic participation for the remainder of that sport season. *If there is less than 50% of the season remaining when the violation occurs, the student will not be eligible to participate in the first half (50%) of the next participating sports game days/contests.* In the case of alcohol or other chemical use, in order for the student to be allowed to participate in interscholastic athletics in future sport seasons during the current school year, the parent and student must show evidence that the student has undergone professional assessment for chemical dependency at a Michigan State Department of Substance Abuse Services approved agency. (The cost of the program is the responsibility of the family.) These conditions would be clarified in a required conference with student, parent, coach, building athletic director, and principal.

Third Violation - Alcohol and Other Drug Substance/Fourth Violation-Tobacco Products

After confirmation of a violation in a subsequent sport season, the student athlete will be dismissed from the team and excluded from all athletic interscholastic participation for *three hundred and sixty-five (365) days, effective the date of the third violation.* In the case of alcohol or other chemical use, in order for the student to be allowed to participate in athletics in future school years, the conditions outlined in the second violation above must be met.

Fourth Violation - Alcohol and Other Drug Substance/Fifth Violation - Tobacco Products

Student will forfeit any remaining eligibility in the Troy School District.

SECTION X

Summer and Off-Season Programs

A variety of sports camps, schools, clinics and training programs are offered to athletes during the off-season and summer months. These programs provide opportunities for aspiring athletes to improve their skills in a chosen sport. These summer and off-season programs are voluntary. Athletes shall not be required to enroll in these programs as a condition for membership or placement on an athletic team the succeeding season.

SECTION XI

Supplemental Rules and Regulations

Supplemental team rules and regulations unique to a given sport shall be developed by individual coaches and must be approved by the building principal or designee. These rules will generally define expectations relating to participant attitude and cooperation and will include criteria for earning a varsity letter award. These rules must be in writing and distributed to participants at the start of the season.

Failure to Comply: Failure to abide by the supplemental rules and regulations distributed by the coach will lead to disciplinary action as outlined therein.

Within the provisions of this Code of Conduct for Student Athletes, and the written supplemental team rules and regulations, the coach may suspend or exclude a student from athletic participation. A team member who is suspended from school as outlined in the *Rights and Responsibilities Code of Student Conduct Handbook* may not participate in practices or contests because the suspension covers all school activities. However, a team member ruled academically ineligible to participate in contests and scrimmages may still be able to practice with the team. Any participant who is dismissed from the team for the remainder of a sports season will have forfeited the opportunity to earn an athletic award.

SECTION XII

Appeal Procedures

A participant found in violation of Sections V, VI, VII, VIII, IX, X, and XI may appeal the outcome of the disciplinary action taken for non compliance.

An appeal of a decision to impose a disciplinary action may be initiated by filling out the information requested on a student appeal form and submitting it to the building principal within two (2) school days of the date the penalty was applied.

Within two (2) school days of the date of filing, the principal shall call a meeting of the coach and student in order to resolve the matter as quickly as possible. The student may be accompanied by the ombudsman and/or his/her parents at this meeting.

Based on the review of the appeal, the building principal shall communicate in writing his/her decision to adjust, revoke, or sustain the disciplinary action with two (2) school days of the meeting.

In cases where dissatisfaction exists with the results of a review hearing by the principal, an appeal in writing may be made within two (2) school days of the principal's response to the Deputy Superintendent. The decision of the Deputy Superintendent shall be final.

In all cases of disciplinary actions, students will be reminded of the appeal options and procedures to be followed.

I have read the Code of Conduct and Agree.

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