



Dearborn Public Schools

Athletic

Code of Conduct

STATEMENT OF POLICY

In compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, it is the policy of the Dearborn School District that no person shall, on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin or ancestry, gender, age, disability, height, weight, or marital status, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subject to discrimination during any program or activity or in employment. For information, contact Dr. Cheryl Kreger at (313) 730-3029.

INTRODUCTION - This policy provides a common set of rules for students participating in athletic activities in the Dearborn Public Schools. This document includes MHSAA (Michigan High School Athletic Association) policies, Dearborn Public Schools Code of Conduct, and specific district rules governing athletic participation. Students must comply with all aspects of the Athletic Code of Conduct if they desire to establish and continue eligibility on a Dearborn Public Schools Athletic Team. Students governed by these rules include athletes, managers, student trainers, and cheerleaders.

PHILOSOPHY – The voluntary athletic program is an integral part of the overall education of the student because athletics offer many opportunities for the total development of each individual. It is important that each athlete fully understand that it is a privilege to be on an athletic team and there are responsibilities inherent with membership on an athletic team. The athlete needs to uphold exemplary sportsmanship, leadership and citizenship standards. Leadership must be of the highest quality so as to exemplify to the participants the desired type of behavior to be developed from the athletic program. *Leadership success is not measured in terms of the tangible evidence of the victory and defeat record, but rather in the intangible character development factors that are an outgrowth of the major objectives of the athletic program.*

The Dearborn community and Dearborn Public Schools place a high priority on the following six core values as the most fundamental part of character education:

Honesty – To demonstrate honesty, we need to:

- Be truthful
- Keep our promises
- Treat all people fairly
- Know and do the right thing

Respect for Self and Others – To demonstrate respect for self and others, we need to:

- Make informed decisions
- Exhibit good behavior
- Be courteous and polite
- Demonstrate kindness towards others
- Acknowledge the rights of others

Responsibility – To demonstrate responsibility, we need to:

- Think before we act
- Be accountable for our actions
- Admit mistakes and plan corrections

Integrity – To exhibit integrity, we need to:

- Be trustworthy
- Keep our promises
- Do our own work
- Be reliable
- Make the right choice, even when that choice is not popular

Courtesy – To exhibit courtesy, we need to:

- Treat others as we wish to be treated

Citizenship – To exhibit good citizenship, we need to:

- Respect the principles in which our courtesy is founded
- Respect authority and obey the law
- Be an informed voter
- Volunteer within our community
- Be environmentally responsible
- Pursue lifelong learning

Any parent that has a student athlete is expected to adhere to the same standards and is subject to penalties if they display behavior that is unfitting to the Dearborn Public Schools Athletic Code. This Athletic Code outlines the responsibilities of the student athlete.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF A DEARBORN PUBLIC SCHOOL ATHLETE

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE STUDENT ATHLETE – Many Students have an early ambition of being a member of an athletic team and fulfill this ambition as a student athlete in school. As a result of many years of hard work by many people, an athletic tradition is established and you inherit the challenge of maintaining that tradition when you become a student athlete.

A good athletic tradition is worthy of the best efforts of all concerned. Over many years, school teams have won more than their share of league and tournament championships. Many individuals have set records and won All-City, All-State, and All-American honors.

It will not be easy to represent your school in interscholastic athletics and to uphold a great athletic tradition. However, the contributions you make should be a satisfying accomplishment to you and your family.

To become a good athlete, you must:

- Develop your skill to the best of your ability.
- Achieve a thorough knowledge of your sport.
- Strive for further excellence in your sport by maintaining proper training and conditioning habits.
- Establish good nutritional habits and a healthy lifestyle.
- Conduct yourself in an appropriate manner in the classroom, in the field of play, and in the community.
- Adopt good study habits so that you maintain an acceptable scholarship standard.
- Respect and protect school equipment.
- Accept sports participation as an opportunity to foster a better understanding of other persons' value systems.
- Accept sports participation as another opportunity to improve your educational opportunities.

RESPONSIBILITIES TO YOURSELF – The most important of these responsibilities is to broaden yourself and develop strength of character. You owe it to yourself to get the greatest possible good from your school experiences. Your studies, your participation in other extra-curricular activities, as well as in sports, prepare you for your life as an adult.

RESPONSIBILITIES TO YOUR SCHOOL – Another responsibility you assume as a squad member is to your school. Dearborn cannot maintain its position as having outstanding schools unless you do your best in whatever activity you wish to engage. By participating in athletics to the maximum of your ability, you are contributing to the reputation of your school.

You assume a leadership role when you are on the athletic squad. The student body and citizens of the community know you. You are on stage with the spotlight on you. Your school is judged by your conduct and attitudes, both on and off the field. Because of this leadership role, you can contribute greatly to school spirit and community pride.

RESPONSIBILITIES TO OTHERS – As a squad member, you also bear heavy responsibility to your home. If you never give your parents anything to be ashamed of, you will have measured up to the ideal. When you know in your heart that you have lived up to all of the training rules, that you have practiced to the best of your ability every day and that you have played your best game, you keep your self-respect, and your family can justly be proud of you

SPORTSMANSHIP - good sportsmanship is intangible in many ways. The presence of sportsmanship in a school or at an athletic event is either very evident or it is conspicuous by its absence. Students and school personnel and coaches alike will have to keep in mind that they constitute the medium by which sportsmanship and citizenship are judged.

In order to be a part of any Dearborn Public Schools sporting event, the following is expected:

- Cheer Positively
- Accept the official's decision
- Acknowledge good play on both teams

EXPECTATIONS OF GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP FOR COACHES

Each COACH is expected to:

- A. Exemplify the highest moral character, behavior, and leadership, adhering to strong ethical and integrity standards. Practicing good citizenship is practicing good sportsmanship!
- B. Respect the integrity and personality of the individual athlete.
- C. Abide by and teach the rules of the game in letter and in spirit.
- D. Describe and define respectful and disrespectful behavior. Stress that disrespectful behavior, especially taunting, trash talking, and intimidation, will not be tolerated.
- E. Set a good example for players and spectators to follow.
- F. Refrain from arguments or use of intimidating or ridiculing remarks in front of players and spectators.
- G. Not use gestures which indicate an official or opposing coach does not know what s/he is doing or talking about.
- H. Not throw objects in disgust.
- I. Shake hands with the officials and the opposing coaches before and after the contest in full view of the public and demand the same of his/her players.
- J. Respect the integrity and judgment of game officials.

The officials are doing their best to help promote athletics and the student/athlete. Treating them with respect, even if you disagree with their judgment, will only make a positive impression of you and your team in the eyes of all people at the event.

- K. Display modesty in victory and graciousness in defeat in public and in meeting/talking with the media.
- L. Confine his/her remarks to game statistics and to the performance of his/her team.
- M. Instruct participants and spectators in proper sportsmanship responsibilities and demand that they make sportsmanship the No. 1 priority.
- N. Develop a program that rewards participants and spectators for displaying proper sportsmanship and enforces penalties on those who do not abide by sportsmanship standards.
- O. Be no party to the use of profanity or obscene language, or improper actions.
- P. Refrain from any form of recruiting or offering of gifts or incentives. This type of inappropriate contact or solicitation could jeopardize the student athletes' eligibility for high school athletics.

Any form of unacceptable behavior by any staff member is subject to discipline in accordance with the rules of the High School Athletic Association, District guidelines, or the terms of a negotiated agreement.

EXPECTATIONS OF GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP FOR STUDENTS/ATHLETES

Each STUDENT/ATHLETE is expected to:

- A. Accept and understand the seriousness of his/her responsibility, and the privilege of representing the school, District, and community.
- B. Live up to the standards of sportsmanship established by the school administration and the coaching staff.
- C. Learn the rules of the game thoroughly and discuss them with parents, fans, fellow students, and elementary students. This will assist the student and others to achieve a better understanding and appreciation of the game.
- D. Treat opponents the way the student would like to be treated, as a guest or friend. Who better than the participating athlete can understand all the hard work and team effort that is required of the sport?
- E. Refrain from any intimidating, ridiculing remarks to opponents during the game, especially comments of ethnic, racial, or sexual nature.
- F. Refrain from intimidating behavior.
- G. Wish opponents good luck before the game and congratulate them in a sincere manner following either victory or defeat.
- H. Respect the integrity and judgment of game officials.

The officials are doing their best to help promote athletes and the sport. Treating them with respect, even if the athlete disagrees with their judgment, will only make a positive impression of the athlete and the team in the eyes of the officials and all the people at the event.

- I. Win with humility; lose with grace. Do both with dignity. Avoid excessive celebrating after a play or end of a game.

Any form of unacceptable behavior by any student is subject to discipline which may include removal from the event, suspension of participation in all athletic events for a season or school year, suspension from school, and/or referral to the local authorities.

EXPECTATIONS OF GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP FOR CHEERLEADERS

Each CHEERLEADER is expected to:

- A. Understand the seriousness and responsibility of his/her role, and the privilege of representing the school, District, and community.
- B. Treat opposing cheerleaders the way the student would like to be treated, as a guest or friend.

Who better than the cheerleader can understand all the training and team effort that goes into a cheerleading squad?
- C. Wish opposing cheerleaders good luck before the game and congratulate them in a sincere manner following either victory or defeat.
- D. Establish standards of desirable behavior for the squad and attempt, in a cheerful manner, to transfer that to the schools' spectators.
- E. Select positive cheers which praise the school's team without antagonizing the opponents.
- F. Encourage a positive crowd alternative when booing or an inappropriate chant begins by starting a popular cheer.
- G. Use discretion in selecting the times to cheer. Give the opposing school the same amount of time the school's squad would want in performing cheers, and treat opposing players like the school's team is treated.
- H. Give encouragement to injured players and recognition to outstanding performances for both teams.

EXPECTATIONS OF GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP FOR CHEERLEADERS (Cont.)

- I. Respect the integrity and judgment of game officials.

Treating them with respect, even if the cheerleader disagrees with their judgment, will only make a positive impression of the team, the squad, and community in the eyes of the officials and all at the event.

Any form of unacceptable behavior by any student is subject to discipline which may include removal from the event, suspension of participation in all athletic events for a season or school year, suspension from school, and/or referral to the local authorities.

EXPECTATIONS OF GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP FOR SPECTATORS AND BOOSTER CLUB MEMBERS

Each SPECTATOR is expected to:

- A. Remember that s/he is at a contest to support and cheer for your own team and to enjoy the skill and competition; not to intimidate or ridicule the other team and its fans.
- B. Remember that school athletics are learning experiences for students and that sometimes mistakes are made. Praise student-athletes in their attempt to improve themselves as students, as athletes, and as people as you would praise a student working in the classroom.
- C. Remember that a ticket to a school athletic event is a privilege to observe the contest, not a license to verbally assault others and be generally obnoxious.
- D. Learn the rules of the game, so that s/he may understand and appreciate why certain situations take place.
- E. Show respect for the opposing players, coaches, spectators, and support groups. Treat them as one would treat a guest in his/her own home.
- F. Refrain from any intimidating, ridiculing or derogatory remarks to the opponents during the game, especially comments of ethnic, racial, or sexual nature.
- G. Respect the integrity and judgment of game officials. Understand that they are doing their best to help promote the student-athlete, and admire their willingness to participate in full view of the public.
- H. Recognize and show appreciation for an outstanding play by either team.
- I. Refrain from the use of any controlled substances (alcohol, drugs, etc.) before and during games, and afterwards on or near the site of the event (i.e. tailgating).
- J. Use only those cheers that support and uplift the teams involved.
- K. Recognize and compliment the efforts of school and league administrators in emphasizing the benefits of educational athletics and the role of good sportsmanship to that end.
- L. Be a positive behavior role model through his/her own actions and by censuring those close by whose behavior is unbecoming.
- M. Refrain from any form of recruiting or offering of gifts or incentives. This type of inappropriate contract or solicitation could jeopardize the student athlete's eligibility for high school athletics.

Any form of unacceptable behavior by any student is subject to discipline which may include removal from the event, suspension of participation in all athletic events for a season or school year, suspension from school, and/or referral to the police. Unacceptable behavior by non-student spectators may result in removal from the event, denial of admission to school athletic events for a season or school year, or referral to local authorities.

EXPECTATIONS OF GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP FOR ANNOUNCERS

The PUBLIC ADDRESS ANNOUNCER is expected to:

- A. Be impartial. Announce the contest with no show of favoritism.
- B. Use proper language at all times.
- C. Be enthusiastic but calm.
- D. Not “talk over the crowd.”
- E. Not anticipate or second guess calls by the officials or criticize official’s decisions, directly or indirectly.
- F. Be aware of the entire venue so that calm directions can be given in an emergency.

Serious situations can be avoided if the announcer will caution the crowd against coming onto the playing surface, throwing things, and the like.

- G. Permit no one to use the microphone (especially coaches during the game), except those in charge of the event and/or by design of those in charge of the event.
- H. Be responsible for whatever is said over the p.a. system.
- I. Announce convenient routes for spectators to leave the venue and caution the crowd to drive safely on their way home.
- J. Be aware that good sportsmanship is a very important part of interscholastic activities; reading a sportsmanship statement prior to the beginning of an event, and at key times during breaks in the action contributes to a positive, educational atmosphere.

SCHOOL ELIGIBILITY – (For a more detailed explanation of the rules, see MHSAA Handbook, Section 1-A)

Student athletes must be enrolled in a school by Friday of the fourth week of the first semester to be eligible for an athletic team.

Student athletes must be under nineteen (fifteen for middle school) years of age at the time of any contest unless the nineteenth (fifteenth for middle school) birthday occurs on or after September 1 of a current school year in all sports.

Student athletes must have passed a current year physical examination certifying that the student is physically able to compete in the athletic program. Any physical given after April 15 of the previous school year is acceptable. A student may not participate in any practice session until a temporary Permission to Practice Waiver Form of the physical form has been given to the athlete’s coach. The physical examination form must be on file in the athletic office.

Student athletes are required to submit to the coach a Dearborn Public Schools Athletic Responsibility and Consent Form signed by the parent/guardian and athlete after final cuts are made and prior to the first scrimmage or contest.

Students must be in attendance at school for at least 3 hours (1/2 day) in order to compete in athletic events on that day. Exceptions include but are not limited family emergencies and religious observations. Failure to attend school due to illness will preclude student athletes from participating in athletic events. Principals will have the prerogative to determine exceptions based upon these guidelines. Questions should be forwarded to the office of Secondary Education.

N.C.A.A. RULE 14.3 (Formerly Proposition 48) College Freshman Eligibility Clearinghouse Requirements

All students and parents/guardians should be aware that student athletes that hope to compete at the collegiate level (Division I or II) must complete forms and pass criteria set forth by the NCAA Clearinghouse in order to have collegiate athletic eligibility. Graduating from high school or maintaining good grades does not constitute automatic collegiate athletic eligibility. Students are urged to consult with their high school counselor as early in their prep career as possible to explore their NCAA Clearinghouse standing.

Your inquiries should be addressed to: NCAA Clearinghouse
301 ACT Drive
P.O. Box 4043
Iowa City, IA 52243-4043
1-877-262-1492
www.ncaa.clearinghouse.net/ncaa/NCAA/common

TRAINING AND RULES REGULATIONS – It is the overwhelming opinion of health educators that athletes perform best when they follow intelligent training rules which includes abstinence from tobacco, alcoholic beverages and drugs. Medical research clearly substantiates that use of tobacco, alcohol and other types of substances produces harmful effects on the human organism.

A student transferring from one high school to another high school is ineligible to participate in athletics for one full semester except in those circumstances permitted by MHSAA.\

A student moving from middle school to high school, whether under normal “next school provisions,” school of choice or boundary line exception, will have immediate eligibility.

A student who, after practicing with or participating in an athletic contest or scrimmage as a member of a high/middle school athletic team, participates in any athletic competition not sponsored by his or her school in the same sport during the same season, shall become ineligible for a minimum of the next three contest/days of competition and maximum of the remainder of that season in that school year. An individual may participate in a maximum of two **individual** sport meets, or contests in that sport, while not representing his or her school.

A student shall not compete in grades 9-12 for more than eight semesters. The 7th and 8th semesters must be consecutive.

An athlete, who quits a squad or is dropped by a coach for disciplinary reasons after final cuts, will not be permitted to participate in any sport until the following season. However, under circumstances agreeable to coaches, the Athletic Director, and the principal, an athlete could change sports within that athletic season.

To be **academically eligible** to participate in *High School* interscholastic athletics, four classes of course work must have been successfully completed (and full credit given) during the previous semester. Students participating in interscholastic athletics are required to have a 2.0 G.P.A. or better for the semester immediately prior to such participation and must maintain a 2.0 G.P.A. or better during the period of such participation. Deficiencies, including incompletes and failures from a previous semester, may be made up during the subsequent semester, summer school, or night school if the student is eligible. During the current semester, student athletes must be passing four classes to be eligible to participate. Students with a 2.0 cumulative G.P.A. over their career but fall below a 2.0 G.P.A. at the end of one semester will regain eligibility following the next card marking provided they have at least a 2.0 G.P.A. on that report card. If the student fails to achieve at least a 2.0 at that time, she/he will be ineligible for the entire semester. Students with less than a 2.0 cumulative G.P.A. over their career who fall below a 2.0 at the end of one semester will be ineligible for the entire semester. They must achieve at least a 2.0 at the end of the subsequent semester in order to regain eligibility. Students entering the ninth grade from the eighth grade will not need a 2.0 G.P.A. from the previous semester to be eligible. Grades will be checked at a minimum of every 10 weeks according to MHSAA regulations.

To be **academically eligible** for interscholastic athletics in *Middle School*, student athletes must pass 2/3 of their classes and maintain a 2.0 G.P.A. in the previous card marking. During the current semester, student athletes must also present passing grades in 2/3 of their classes and maintain a 2.0 G.P.A. or better during the period of such participation. Grades will be checked at each marking period.

Student Athletes with G.P.A.’s that fall below a 2.0 will be declared ineligible and be required to participate in a study hall/tutorial for 2 hours per week (outside of the regular school day) until the 2.0 G.P.A. is achieved and verified. *Student athletes that are required to participate in this study hall/tutorial may practice with their team but they would be ineligible to compete.* Students that are entering the seventh grade from the sixth grade will not need a 2.0 G.P.A. from the previous semester to be eligible.

To maintain amateur status for athletics:

1. Athletes may accept only emblematic awards.
2. Awards shall not exceed \$25.00 in value.
3. Parents, etc., may not accept awards for athletes.
4. Athletes may not accept money for playing.
5. T-shirts awarded to team members are not considered violations.

TRAINING RULES – Season beginning and ending: Specific dates are determined by the MHSAA. As defined by the Dearborn Public Schools, an athletic season begins with the first practice date published by the MHSAA and ends with the banquet, should one be scheduled, or the tournament for that sport if no banquet is scheduled.

Each coach must have **supplemental rules** unique to that sport and approved by the Athletic Director and principal. A copy of the rules will be on file with the principal and the Athletic Director. These rules will generally relate to attitude, cooperation, attendance at practice, rules for awards, etc. These rules will be in writing and shall be discussed with student athletes prior to the season. Such rules shall be consistent with Board of Education Policies and MHSAA rules.

A student athlete may be suspended from athletics for an infraction of the Student Code of Conduct which occurs at any time, in or out of school.

Any athlete on **in-school or out-of-school suspension** is automatically suspended from all practice and competition during that period of time.

In order to receive awards, athletes must finish the season in good standing and have returned all equipment.

Disqualification from a Contest (MHSAA regulation)

1. When a student is disqualified during a contest for unsportsmanlike conduct, that student shall be withheld from at least the next contest.
2. Disqualification from a contest from one season shall carry over to the next season if no games remain.

PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS OF TRAINING RULES AND RIGHTS (for drugs, performance enhancing drugs, smoking, alcohol, citizenship, etc.)

The student athlete may forfeit eligibility for violation of the Student Code of Conduct, the Athletic Department, or supplemental team rules.

Reports of violations will be investigated by the student office before any consequences are directed toward any student athlete. Reports of violations will only be accepted from coaches, team captains, teachers, administrators, police reports, or admissions by the student athlete or the student athlete's parents/guardians.

After confirmation of a second major same-season violation (major being interpreted as, but not limited to, a violation that mandates out-of-school suspension by administration, the student-athlete will lose athletic eligibility for a minimum of two full weeks (and a minimum of two contests). An athlete in with a second major same-season violation will lose all post-season accorded honors (MVP, Letter, etc.).

After confirmation of a third major violation at any time during the school year, the student-athlete shall be placed on indefinite suspension from all sports for the remainder of the school year. At a later date (minimum 6 weeks), the School Administration and the Athletic Director may review for possible reinstatement.

APPEAL PROCEDURE FOR TRAINING RULE VIOLATION – Appeals for training rule violations should be addressed to the School Administration, the Athletic Director, and the coach of the sport concerned.

REINSTATEMENT PROCEDURES – The athlete who wishes to be reinstated must do the following:

1. Forward a written reinstatement request to the Athletic Director.
2. Request and attend a meeting with School Administration, the Athletic Director, and a parent/guardian of the athlete.

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