

Ann Arbor Public Schools Athletic Code of Conduct

The Athletic Code of Conduct applies to any student-athlete who:

- I. Is on Ann Arbor Public School property
- II. Who is at school or at any school sponsored activity or
- III. Whose conduct at any time or place has a direct and immediate effect on maintaining order and discipline in the schools or maintaining the safety and welfare of the students and staff.

Participation in athletic activities is a privilege extended to the student body by the Board of Education of the Ann Arbor Public Schools. Students participating in athletic activities act as representatives of the school district. All student-athletes are expected to conduct themselves in such a manner as to meet the highest standards of the Ann Arbor Public Schools.

The Athletic Code of Conduct is designed specifically to establish high expectations and standards for all participating student-athletes. These expectations embody a total lifestyle approach with emphasis on the following core values.

INTEGRITY - *We do what is ethical under all circumstances.*

EXCELLENCE - *We strive to be our best on and off the field.*

RESPECT - *We honor and value ourselves and others.*

TEAM - *Together as one we pursue common goals.*

COMMITMENT - *We give total effort and sacrifice to achieve our purpose.*

When a student voluntarily agrees to participate in interscholastic athletics he/she agrees to abide by the Ann Arbor Public Schools Athletic Code of Conduct. The Athletic Code of Conduct applies to all student-athletes from the time it is signed until the end of the calendar school year.

The Athletic Code of Conduct deals with specific violations that should be applied within **every** athletic program; however, this code is not intended to be all-inclusive. *If no penalty is listed in the code for a violation, the coach has the authority to determine the penalty (consistent with the philosophy of the code).*

Violations of the Athletic Code of Conduct

- I. Use, possession, concealment, distribution, sale or being under the influence of those substances listed in items a-f below will lead to consequences as outlined in the penalty section of the code. Contact must be made with the parent or guardian and a follow-up meeting with the parent or guardian, coach and the student should take place within one week of confirmation of the violation.
 - a. Tobacco or tobacco products in any form
 - b. Alcohol or alcoholic beverages in any form
 - c. Illegal drugs, including but not limited to those substances defined as "controlled substances" pursuant to federal and/or state statute
 - d. Steroids, human growth hormones or other performance-enhancing drugs
 - e. Substances purported to be illegal, abusive or performance enhancing (i.e. "look-alike" drugs)
 - f. Misused prescription drugs, non-prescription drug or inhalants
- II. Use, possession, concealment, distribution, manufacture or sale of devices designed for and/or associated with the use of controlled substances listed in items a-f above will result in consequences as outlined in the penalty section of the code.
- III. Violation of federal, state or local law/ordinance, including felony or misdemeanor acts other than minor traffic offenses. Upon conviction, the student is subject to the consequences listed in the penalty section of the code.

- IV. Cumulative or gross misconduct, including behavior which school officials consider conduct unbecoming to an athlete and a representative of the Ann Arbor Public Schools (including but not limited to: gambling, vandalism, unsportsmanlike conduct, theft, fighting, hazing, burglary, bullying, assault) is subject to the consequences listed in the penalty section of the code. Definitions for violations are published in the AAPS Rights and Responsibilities Handbook.

Penalties (applied to any of the above violations)

- I. First Violation – After confirmation of a violation (by the student, the parent or a school official), the student will not be allowed to participate in athletics for two (2) weeks of interscholastic athletic events. However, no student will be required to miss more than 20% of regular season contests. If the student is unable to complete the suspension within the current sport season, the suspension will be prorated into the next sport in which the athlete participates, even though it may carry over into the next school year. The suspension should occur as soon as possible following confirmation of the violation. The athlete will still be allowed to practice with the team during the Athletic Code of Conduct suspension provided that a school-imposed suspension does not prevent practicing. If the violation causes a student to miss practice, the coach will determine when the student is “fit for duty” and can safely return to competition.
- II. Second Violation – After confirmation of a second violation of any kind during the sport season, the student-athlete will be dismissed from the team and will be excluded from all athletic participation for the remainder of that sport season. If the second violation occurs within the last 2 weeks of the regular season or during state tournament play, the penalty will be served for the remainder of the current sport season *and* during the next sport season that the student was intending to participate in and was eligible to participate in, even though it may carry over into the next school year.
- III. Third Violation – After confirmation of a third violation of any kind in a subsequent sport season during the same school year, the student-athlete will be dismissed from that team and be excluded from all athletic participation for one calendar year.

Self-Disclosure – An athlete who by himself/herself or together with his/her parent or legal guardian, voluntarily discloses to a school employee, school official, coach or an administrator a need for assistance for alcohol or substance abuse prior to any reports, charges, or complaints under the Athletic Code will not be charged with a violation of the Athletic Code of Conduct. This self-disclosure exemption is available to an athlete only once during his/her high school career. If it is determined that the athlete has used this self-disclosure opportunity primarily to avoid a penalty under the Athletic Code, the student will be subject to the appropriate penalty listed in the Athletic Code. Information regarding treatment programs is available upon request from the school counseling office.

1. Satisfaction of the assessment/treatment requirements must be verified in writing by a licensed agency and must be submitted to the Athletic Director or designee on a weekly basis until completion of the program.
2. Any expenses incurred for the chemical assessment/treatment program will be the responsibility of the athlete and not the Ann Arbor Public Schools.

Student Transfer – A student who is not eligible for athletics at one school cannot be made immediately eligible by virtue of transfer from one school to another. The student will be subject to either the penalty listed in the Ann Arbor Public Schools Athletic Code of Conduct or the penalty imposed at his/her previous school, whichever is greater.

Appeal Process – An eligibility decision may be reviewed (if submitted in writing to the Athletic Department within 5 days of confirmation of the violation) by the Athletic Supervisor. If necessary, a further appeal can be made to the Athletic Director or building principal. During the appeal process, the penalty shall remain in effect until the final decision is made.

Referral: Athletic Department personnel reserve the right to refer an Athletic Code of Conduct violation to the appropriate building principal if some form of school discipline is warranted.

- **In the event that the Athletic Code of Conduct or other school policies or procedures do not cover situations that arise, the administration reserves the right to establish such rules, conditions, and penalties to respond effectively to unanticipated or unique circumstances. A single violation may be deemed severe enough by school administration as to warrant the enforcement of the single violation as if it were a second or third violation.**