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INTRODUCTION

The Ferndale Public School Code of Conduct for Student Athletes has been developed to provide a set of rules and regulations to govern all district athletic participants regardless of which team 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 Ferndale Public Schools with specific rules governing athletic participation. The Code of Conduct for Student Athletes will be in effect during the entire year including the seasons of practice and competition as well as off-season and summer. 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 Ferndale Secondary Student Code of Conduct 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 may still practice with the team as long as he/she is not suspended from school as outlined in the Student Code of Conduct. 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 from 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 sports season.

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

FERNDALE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

All student-athletes are required to follow the rules and regulations set forth in the Ferndale Secondary Student Code of Conduct and the Code of Conduct for Student Athletes to maintain athletic eligibility.

HAZING - BOARD of EDUCATION POLICY #5516

The Ferndale Public Schools prohibits initiation activities or behaviors required for acceptance by the team, or expected to obtain peer acceptance, involving any student athlete, whether or not it takes place in any school facility, on school property, and at any district sponsored event.

Hazing is defined as any act or coercing of another, including the victim, to perform any act of initiation into any class, team, group or organization that causes or creates a risk of causing mental, emotional or physical harm. Permission, consent, or assumption of risk by an individual subject to hazing shall not lessen the activities prohibited.
**Student Athlete Code of Conduct**

Hazing involves, but is not limited to:

A. Illegal activity, such as drinking or drugs
B. Physical punishment or infliction of pain
C. Intentional humiliation or embarrassment
D. Dangerous activity
E. Activity likely to cause mental or psychological stress
F. Forced detention or kidnapping
G. Undressing or otherwise exposing body parts

*Athletes who engage in acts of hazing, as described above, may be subject to disciplinary action, and may forfeit their opportunity to participate in athletic activities.*

**ELIGIBILITY**

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

A. **ENROLLMENT**

The student must be properly enrolled in school by the Monday of the fourth week of the semester in 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 to the coach or the athletic office prior to participating in practice sessions or contests. Students and parents are to read the Code of Conduct for Student Athletes before signing the parent/guardian consent form. The completed form will be kept on file in the athletic 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.), 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 or athletic office before participating in try-outs, practice sessions or contests. The completed form will be kept on file in the athletic 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 the 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, basketball, etc. Student enrolled in grades seven or eight are not limited in the number of seasons of competition. Any athlete who quits a sport mid-season will not be eligible to participate in a next season’s sport until the first MHSAA official day of practice.

F. SEMESTER OF ELIGIBILITY
A student shall not be eligible to compete in any branch of athletics that 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 choose 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.

G. ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY

10th, 11th and 12th Grade Students
A student must have received passing grade (credit) in a minimum of five (5) out of six (6) classes during the previous semester and must maintain passing grades in a minimum of five (5) classes during the current semester 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.

9th Grade Students
9th grade students will not have a previous semester record until January. Prior to January (fall and winter sports), freshmen athletes must be passing a minimum of five out of six classes at all times, to remain eligible for athletic participation. January grades (semester 1) will determine second semester eligibility.
**Middle School Students**

Middle school students must have earned a grade point average of 1.8 the previous semester and must maintain a minimum grade point average of 1.8 during the current semester to be eligible to participate in athletics.

**Progress Reports**

June and January grades are not the sole basis for athletic eligibility. A student must always be passing a minimum of five classes to be eligible in High School and carrying a 1.8 grade point average in the Middle School. Weekly Progress Reports will be used to monitor each student’s academic progress. A student who is eligible by semester grades, but who drops below the five class (high school) or 1.8 grade point average (middle school) required minimum may be removed from athletic participation on a week to week basis. (First and third card marking report cards cannot make a student eligible, but they can make a student ineligible).

*Special transfer situations not addressed here will follow the procedures according to the MHSAA rulings.

**An exception may be made by the principal if the student has been participating in an intervention program and has shown satisfactory progress towards achieving the minimum academic requirements (providing the student meets the minimum standards set by the MHSAA for either high school or middle school athletics).

**AWARDS**

**A.** A student may not accept from any source, anything for participation in athletics other than an emblematic award. Emblematic awards include, but are not limited to, any medal, ribbon, badge, plaque, trophy, banner, picture or regular letter award.

**B.** No acceptable award shall exceed fifteen ($15) in value with the exception of the regular letter award of the school. The cost of engraving a medal or similar award need not be included in determining the value of the award.

**C.** 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.

**D.** Acceptance of such items as, but not limited to, cash, merchandise, memberships, privileges, services, sweaters, athletic equipment, wearing apparel, and watches are a violation.

**FAILURE TO COMPLY:** Any student violating any area of this section will be ineligible for interscholastic athletic competition for a period of at least one semester from the date of the violation. If the 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.
NCAA – FOR COLLEGE-BOUND SENIORS

If you are planning to enroll in college as a freshman and you wish to participate in Division I or Division II athletics, you must be certified by the NCAA INITIAL-ELIGIBILITY CLEARINGHOUSE. The Clearinghouse was established as a separate organization by the NCAA member institutions in January 1993. The Clearinghouse ensures consistent interpretation of NCAA initial-eligibility requirements for all prospective athletes at all member institutions. If you want to participate in Division I or Division II athletics, plan to start the certification process early. SEE YOUR COUNSELOR FOR DETAILS.

KNOW THE RULES:

Core Courses

- NCAA Division I requires 16 core courses as of August 1, 2008. This rule applies to any student first entering any Division I college or university on or after August 1, 2008. See the chart below for the breakdown of this 16 core-course requirement.
- NCAA Division II requires 14 core courses. See the breakdown of core-course requirements below. Please note, Division II will require 16 core courses beginning August 1, 2013.

Test Scores

- Division I has a sliding scale for test score and grade-point average. The sliding scale for those requirements is shown on page two of this sheet.
- Division II has a minimum SAT score requirement of 820 or an ACT sum score of 68.
- The SAT score used for NCAA purposes includes only the critical reading and math sections. The writing section of the SAT is not used.
- The ACT score used for NCAA purposes is a sum of the four sections on the ACT: English, mathematics, reading and science.
- All SAT and ACT scores must be reported directly to the NCAA Eligibility Center by the testing agency. Test scores that appear on transcripts will not be used. When registering for the SAT or ACT, use the Eligibility Center code of 9999 to make sure the score is reported to the Eligibility Center.

Grade-Point Average

- Only core courses are used in the calculation of the grade-point average.
- Be sure to look at your high school’s list of NCAA-approved core courses on the Eligibility Center’s Web site to make certain that courses being taken have been approved as core courses. The Web site is www.eligibilitycenter.org.
- Division I grade-point-average requirements are listed on page two of this sheet.
- The Division II grade-point-average requirement is a minimum of 2.000.

### DIVISION I 16 Core-Course Rule

- 4 years of English.
- 3 years of mathematics (Algebra I or higher).
- 2 years of natural/physical science (1 year of lab if offered by high school).
- 1 year of additional English, mathematics or natural/physical science.
- 2 years of social science.
- 4 years of additional courses (from any area above, foreign language or non-doctrinal religion/philosophy).

### DIVISION II 14 Core-Course Rule

- 3 years of English.
- 2 years of mathematics (Algebra I or higher).
- 2 years of natural/physical science (1 year of lab if offered by high school).
- 2 years of additional English, mathematics or natural/physical science.
- 2 years of social science.
- 3 years of additional courses (from any area above, foreign language or non-doctrinal religion/philosophy).

PLEASE NOTE: Beginning August 1, 2013, students planning to attend an NCAA Division II institution will be required to complete 16 core courses.
OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- Division II has no sliding scale. The minimum core grade-point average is 2.000. The minimum SAT score is 820 (verbal and math sections only) and the minimum ACT sum score is 68.
- 14 core courses are currently required for Division II. However, beginning 2013, students will be required to complete 16 core courses.
- 16 core courses are required for Division I.
- The SAT combined score is based on the verbal and math sections only. The writing section will not be used.
- SAT and ACT scores must be reported directly to the Eligibility Center from the testing agency. Scores on transcripts will not be used.
- Students enrolling at an NCAA Division I or II institution for the first time need to also complete the amateurism questionnaire through the Eligibility Center Web site. Students need to request final amateurism certification prior to enrollment.

For more information regarding the rules, please go to www.NCAA.org. Click on “Academics and Athletes” then “Eligibility and Recruiting.” Or visit the Eligibility Center Web site at www.eligibilitycenter.org.

Please call the NCAA Eligibility Center if you have questions:

Toll-free number: 877/262-1492.
MAINTAINING AMATEUR STATUS

Students participating or planning to participate in interscholastic athletics MAY NOT:

A. Accept any money or other valuable consideration for participating in athletics, sports or games.
B. Receive any money or other valuable consideration for officiating an interscholastic athletic contest.
C. Sign a contract with a professional team.

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

FAILURE TO COMPLY: Any student violating any area of this section will be ineligible for interscholastic athletic competition for a period of at least one semester from the date of the violation. If the 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.

OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL ATHLETIC COMPETITION

A student who has participated in any athletic contest as a member of a school team may not participate in the same sport in the same season in any athletic competition outside and not sponsored by the school. The exception to this rule is the individual sport athlete who may participate in the maximum of two (2) individual sports, meets, or contests during that sport season while not representing his/her school. A student may not compete in any “all-star” contests at any time in any sport NOT sponsored by the MHSAA during the school year.

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.

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 whereby a student cannot attend school and would normally receive an excused absence, the student will be allowed to participate in the contest with the approval of the 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.
**Student Athlete Code of Conduct**

**DRESS CODE**

The following expectations for student athlete dress when participating in an athletic event have been established to promote a positive image for Ferndale Public Schools:

A. Student-athletes will follow the guidelines set forth in the Student Code of Conduct.

B. School warm-ups, or other school clothing may be worn to and from home and away contests.

C. Appearance other than school clothing is expected to be appropriate for semiformal settings (Collared shirts, ties, sweaters, dresses and or pant suits are encouraged).

D. Coaches may institute a more formal requirement for their team.

**TRAVEL 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 school in the same vehicle after the contest is over. The only exception is when prior written arrangements are made and the athletic director or school administrator grants permission for the student to leave the contest site with his/her parent or guardian.

All rules and regulations set forth in the Secondary Student Code of Conduct and this Athletic Code of Conduct will apply at home and away contests. In addition, the following practices are stipulated when participating in away contests:

A. Student-athletes will dress in a manner that is neat in appearance, and appropriately represents a positive image for their school (no hats, no sagging pants, etc.).

B. Student-athletes are guests and will use opposing school's facilities accordingly (“leave it better than you found it” theory).

**FAILURE TO COMPLY:** Any participant not returning from any away contest with a team without permission of the coach or school administrator is ineligible to participate in the next scheduled contest. The participant must practice with the team. A second violation may result in dismissal from the team for the remainder of the season.

**UNIFORMS AND EQUIPMENT**

All student-athletes are responsible for the proper care and security of equipment issued to them. School furnished equipment is to be worn only for contests and practices. All equipment not returned in good condition at the end of the season will be subject to a financial penalty.
**Student Athlete Code of Conduct**

**USE OR POSSESSION OF TOBACCO, ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUG SUBSTANCES**

Smoking, chewing of tobacco, drinking of alcoholic beverages and drug abuse have been proven scientifically to be detrimental to athletic performance. Therefore, possession/use of any of these substances is prohibited among athletes at any time during their high school career. These rules apply regardless of age. If athletes break training rules on or off campus (the use of any substance) the discipline guidelines for suspension will be applied to participation in sports and also subject to discipline action as outlined in the Student Code of Conduct.

**FIRST OFFENSE:** The athlete will be suspended from the team for 30% of the total scheduled games for the season. The suspension from the team can include post-season games.

**SECOND OFFENSE:** The athlete will be dismissed from the team for the remainder of the current season. He/she must show proof of rehabilitation if alcohol or drug related. This could be an in-school group or professional counseling. The athlete must meet with the athletic director before reinstatement to the athletic program.

**THIRD OFFENSE:** The athlete will not be allowed to participate in any interscholastic program for one year from the time of the offense. This means three athletic seasons. He/she must show proof of professional counseling prior to appearing before the athletic director for reinstatement.

**REMINDER:** As an athlete, you are representing the Ferndale Public Schools. Your conduct and behavior is a direct reflection on your parents, team and school.

**SUMMER AND OFF-SEASON PROGRAMS**

A variety of sports camps, schools, clinics and training programs are offered during the off-season and summer months by individual coaches, parks and recreation and by the school district. 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.

**GUIDELINES FOR ATHLETICS ON DAYS SCHOOL IS CANCELLED**

A. All home and away contests will be cancelled, including transportation.
**Student Athlete Code of Conduct**

B. Any voluntary practices involving school district facilities must involve a game or contest within two days, except for extenuating circumstances.

C. All volunteer practices will occur after 2:30 pm with prior administrative approval. (Athletic Director, Deputy Superintendent, Superintendent)

D. Coaches having volunteer practices after 2:30 pm will tell their athletes that conditions must be safe for the students to arrive and leave the practice facility safely.

E. Any consequences or perceived consequences for players not attending volunteer practices may result in loss of this privilege and disciplinary action for the coach.

F. Decisions of the administration to allow voluntary practice will be on an case-by-case basis.

**Supplemental Rules and Regulations**

Individual coaches, with the approval of the athletic director and or principal, shall develop supplemental team rules and regulations unique to a given sport. 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. These supplemental rules are in addition to the rules set forth in the Student Code of Conduct and the Student Athletic Code of Conduct.

**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 Secondary Student Code of Conduct 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.

**Parent-Coach Relationships and Communication**

Both parenting and coaching are extremely challenging vocations. By establishing an understanding of each position, we are better able to accept the actions of others and provide greater benefit to the student. As parents, when your children become involved in a school’s program, you have the right to understand what expectations are placed on your child. This begins with clear communications to the coach of your child’s program.
A. Communication you should expect from your child’s coach:
   1. Expectation the coach has for your child as well as the players on the team.
   2. Location and times of all practices and contests.
   3. Team requirements, i.e., fees, special equipment, off-season conditioning.
   4. Procedure should your child be injured while participating.
   5. Team rules and guidelines.

B. Communications coaches expect from athletes:
   1. Notification of any schedule conflicts in advance.
   2. Special concerns in regard to a coach’s philosophy and or expectations.
   3. Completion of weekly or bi-weekly progress reports.

As your children become involved in an athletic program, they will experience some of the most rewarding moments of their lives. It is important to understand that there also may be times when things do not go the way that your child wishes. At these times, discussion with the coach is encouraged.

C. Appropriate concerns to discuss with coaches:
   1. The treatment of your child—mentally and physically
   2. Ways to help your child improve
   3. Concerns about your child’s behavior

It is very difficult to accept your child not playing as much as you desire. Coaches are professionals. They make judgement decisions based on what they believe to be best for all students involved. As you see from the list above, certain things can be discussed with your child’s coach. Other things, such as the following must be left to the discretion of the coach.

D. Issues not appropriate to discuss with coaches:
   1. Playing time
   2. Team strategy
   3. Play calling
   4. Other student athletes

There are situations that may require a conference between the coach and the parent. These are to be encouraged. It is important that both parties involved have a clear understanding of the other’s position. When these conferences are necessary, the following procedure should be followed to help promote a resolution of the issue of concern.

E. If you have a concern to discuss with the coach, follow this procedure:
**Student Athlete Code of Conduct**

1. Call to set up an appointment (248-586-8740).
2. If the coach cannot be reached, call the athletic director. He will set up the appointment for you.
3. Please do not attempt to confront the coach before or after a contest or practice. These can be emotional times for the parent and coach. Meetings of this nature do not promote resolution.

F. What can a parent do if the meeting with the coach did not provide satisfactory resolution?
   1. Call and set up an appointment with the athletic director to discuss the situation (248-586/8740).
   2. At this meeting the next step can be discussed.

Since research indicates a student involved in co-curricular activities has a greater chance for success during adulthood, these programs have been established. Many of the character traits required to be a successful participant are exactly those that will promote a successful life after school. We hope the information provided here makes both your child’s and your experience with Ferndale Public School’s Athletic Program less stressful and more enjoyable.

**APPEAL PROCEDURES**

A participant found in violation of the Athletic Code of Conduct may appeal the outcome of the disciplinary action taken for noncompliance.

A. 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 athletic director within two (2) school days of the date the penalty was applied, signed by both student-athlete and parent/guardian.

B. Within two (2) school days of the date of filing, the athletic director 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 his/her parent or guardian.

C. Based on the review of the appeal, the athletic director shall communicate in writing his decision to adjust, revoke or sustain the disciplinary action within two (2) school days of the meeting.

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

E. In all cases of disciplinary action, students will be reminded of his/her appeal options.
IMPORTANT CONTACT NUMBERS
Ferndale Public Schools

District Athletic Director/
FHS Assistant Principal .................. Shaun Butler ................. 248-586-8632
Athletic Secretary ................................................................. 248-586-8740
FHS Principal ................................................................. Herbert Ivory ................. 248-586-8621
FHS Assistant Principal ..................... Roger Smith ................. 248-586-8626
FHS Assistant Principal ..................... Lisa Williams ................. 248-586-8629
UHS Principal ................................................................. George Tomey ................. 248-586-8845
UHS Assistant Principal ................. Fred Williamson ................. 248-586-8848
FMS Principal ................................................................. Dawn Warren ................. 248-586-8832
FMS Assistant Principal ...................... Robert Francis ................. 248-586-8838
FMS Athletic Coordinator .................. Tony Warkoczeski ................. 248-586-8830
Ferndale Schools Transportation ................. 248-586-8890

*To contact a coach, please call the athletic secretary*