

FAIRVIEW AREA SCHOOLS ATHLETIC CODE 2020-2021

The personnel of Fairview Area Schools wishes to encourage participation in extracurricular activities as a means to aid students in developing into well-rounded individuals. At this time Fairview Area Schools offer basketball, baseball, softball, volleyball, cross country, soccer, track, wrestling, golf, drama and plays (except speech class plays), music festivals, cheerleading, Knowledge Bowl and school honors programs. Additional extra-curricular activities may be added. However, such participation is a privilege, secondary to acquiring a solid education. For this reason, the following has been established.

I. GOALS OF INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS

Interscholastic athletics provide opportunities for learning experiences difficult to duplicate in other school activities. Athletics allows students to excel individually within a team setting. It promotes the following objectives:

- To provide opportunities for interscholastic competition
- To provide activities that promote a positive school and community environment
- To assist athletes to develop positive health habits, hygiene, nutrition and safety
- To encourage friendships between teammates and opponents
- To develop positive attitudes regarding teamwork, discipline, cooperation and having fun
- To help athletes realize that participation in interscholastic athletics is a privilege with accompanying responsibilities.
- To provide activities through sports that will build self-discipline, strong character, school pride, loyalty, team play, personal pride, respect for others and the desire to perform to one's maximum ability

II. EXPECTATIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES FOR STUDENT ATHLETES

- Participation in interscholastic athletics is a privilege and not a right. It is extended to all students who are willing to assume certain responsibilities. **All provisions of this athletic code govern those student athletes who participate in interscholastic athletics twenty four hours a day and twelve months of the year.** Student athletes must comply with rules for their own welfare and because they represent the school on and off the athletic field. It is considered a privilege to participate in extracurricular programs at Fairview.
- A student athlete is defined as a student enrolled in Fairview Middle or High School on the first day of practice and signs the Athletic Code for any sport sponsored by the district.

- Responsibilities of a student athlete:
 1. Meets all *MHSAA and Fairview Schools* eligibility requirements
 2. Displays appropriate decision-making skills by not using alcohol, drugs, tobacco, electronic cigarettes (including vaping), inhalants, and other illegal substances
 3. Demonstrates good sportsmanship
 4. Shows respect/empathy for others
 5. Dressed and groomed appropriately
 6. Is responsible for school issued equipment and will replace lost, damaged or stolen equipment or the replacement cost.
 7. Uses socially accepted language and exhibits socially accepted behavior
 8. Abides by *all school rules* and regulations regardless of age or legal status
 9. Accepts the consequences/discipline from poor choices that are in conflict with these responsibilities
 10. *Will be in attendance the full day of a contest and the full day after a contest.*

III. REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL STUDENT ATHLETES

- Every student athlete must pass a physical examination and have the examination form and emergency form on file in the AD's office before that student can participate in any practice, scrimmage or contest.
- All athletes must have an Athletic Liability and Insurance form completed and signed before participation in the sport. All forms should be given to you at a parent meeting before the season begins.
- Student athletes must be passing all classes in order to participate in games.
- Student athletes must pay a "pay-to-participate" fee before they are eligible to compete in contests. Middle school athletes will pay \$20 per sport and high school athletes will pay \$40 per sport. The maximum fee per high school student per year is \$100.
- **Transportation**—all student athletes are expected to ride to and from contests on the bus when it is provided. Prearranged permission may be given to allow athletes to ride home with an adult other than a parent. A permission form must be filled out and approved by administration before the bus leaves for the event. Athletes may not drive themselves to and from games.
- Athletes are expected to remain as participating members of the team for the full season. Changing or quitting a sport two weeks or more into the season may be done only with the consent of the athletic director. If an athlete does not complete a full season, they may be ineligible to participate in a sport the following athletic season.
- The coach may establish additional rules. Athletes should know what is expected of them and dedicate themselves, as athletes, to contribute their best to the team effort.
- Student athletes may wear, take or use athletic equipment during practice, competition or with permission of a school authority. Other use of this equipment may result in disciplinary action up to and including permanent suspension.

The intent of eligibility is to encourage and promote effort throughout the school year resulting in academic and social success.

IV. ELIGIBILITY

Academic eligibility

- Students are immediately academically eligible if they have successfully passed all courses the previous year.
- Athletes must be passing all of their classes during the previous marking period or semester in order to participate in a new marking period. High school students receiving an E on their report card will be deemed ineligible. Ineligible students will be reassessed after four weeks and their eligibility will be re-determined at that time. Students with an incomplete may be ineligible to participate until all work has been made up and they have a passing grade. Middle school students receiving an E on their report card will be deemed ineligible for one week and required to complete a behavior report form for the first two weeks of the new nine weeks. Eligibility will be assessed at the end of the two weeks.
- *Weekly eligibility checks will be done through PowerSchool for every team.* Student athletes passing all of their classes will be eligible for the following week. Students failing one or more classes will be placed on probation for the next week. Probationary athletes will have one week to improve their grade(s). Athletes that fail to improve their grade during the probationary week will be ineligible for the next week and will remain ineligible until they are passing all classes. *One week will be from Monday through Saturday.*
- The MHSAA states that all student athletes' must pass at least 66% of their classes. If a student athlete fails three or more classes at the semester or marking period, they will be ineligible for the next 60 school days.
- At times accommodations will supersede the eligibility requirements. These accommodations will be determined in an IEP for the student.

Attendance

- Athletes must be in attendance the full day on the day of a practice or contest. At times prearranged permission (by administration) will be given so a student athlete may be absent from school and still participate in the practice or game at night.
- Student athletes must be on time and in attendance the day after a contest. Students who fail to attend **all classes on the following day**, unless they have a prearranged absence or a doctor's excuse, forfeit the opportunity to participate in the next scheduled contest.
- Athletes serving an OSS or full day ISS will not be permitted to participate in a contest or practice the same day as the OSS/ISS.
- Student athletes accumulating discipline slips may lose the privilege to attend extracurricular activities at the administration's discretion.

V. ATHLETIC TRAINING RULE VIOLATIONS

- The use of alcohol, tobacco products in any form, and non-prescribed drugs is especially unacceptable for members of the student body. The student who indulges in these unacceptable activities in any form or frequency is subject to discipline per section VI of this handbook. Coaches are required to consult with the athletic director and the high school principal prior to taking major disciplinary action involving athletes. The Athletic Board reserves the right to review any and all suspensions and to nullify the disciplinary action of a coach. . *The Athletic Board consists of the high school principal, the athletic director, and one varsity coach appointed by the superintendent.*
- As a representative of his or her school, a Fairview athlete is expected to maintain proper citizenship in and out of school. Actions detrimental to the school are subject to review by the Athletic Board and may result in suspension from the squad.
- A student athlete reported for violating training rules will have his/her parents/guardians notified. A meeting may be scheduled with the student, their parent, coach and athletic director. The meeting will notify the student of the infraction and allow him/her to explain the story. The student may ask supportive witnesses to attend the meeting. At the conclusion of the meeting the athlete and parents will be notified of the consequences of the infraction and the appeal process.
- All police reports, tickets and direct reports from the administration, staff and consenting adults shall be conclusive evidence of a violation resulting in appropriate disciplinary action. The procedure for filing an athletic training rule violation is as follows:
 1. The person filing the report must be an adult that does not attend school.
 2. The person filing the complaint must sign a statement in the athletic director's office within 10 calendar days of the infraction. The statement will include date, time place, and the nature of the infraction. Supporting evidence may be requested at this time and added to the statement.
 3. The athletic director will determine the consequences for the infraction based on the information in the statement. The student athlete will be informed as to who has signed the statement and will have a chance to read the statement.
 4. The student may ask for a Due Process Hearing to appeal the consequence. The Due Process Hearing may agree with the consequence, disagree with the consequence or reduce the consequence. The opinion of the Due Process Hearing may be appealed to the school board at the next regularly scheduled meeting.

5. The student may choose not to appeal the consequence and the decision of the athletic director shall be final.

- Additional training rules--- It is understood that:
 1. The athletic season is from the first day of practice through the completion of post season tournaments.
 2. Multi-school meets or tournaments count as one day of competition.
 3. Disciplinary action will carry over from one sports season to the next.
 4. Coaches reserve the right to establish additional rules and regulations deemed appropriate by the athletic director.
 5. The school reserves the right to test for drugs and or alcohol.
 6. Student athletes and parents will sign a form signifying that they understand and will comply with the athletic training rules and regulations. Failure to sign the form will result in the student athlete being ineligible for participation in athletics.

- Training rules—student athletes must at all times refrain from any conduct that would reflect unfavorably on himself/herself, team, school or community. Conduct which would reflect unfavorably on an athlete would include the following:
 1. Violations of state law, local ordinances, school policies or procedures.
 2. Vandalism
 3. Theft
 4. Physical violence
 5. Harassment/coercion
 6. Profanity (verbal or gesture)
 7. Insubordination
 8. Illegal use, possession, distribution, sale of any controlled substance. Controlled substances are defined as, but not limited to: alcohol, steroids, tobacco, prescription drugs, electronic cigarettes, inhalants, narcotics and drug paraphernalia.
 9. The principal will report to the athletic director and coach of any violation.

oVI. Athletic Handbook consequences for controlled substances

- **First violation**

1. The student athlete will forfeit 25% of the contests for the season. This would be the next games, be it league, non-league or post season contests. If 25% of the season is not left, the remainder will carry over to the next season of participation.

2. The student athlete may continue practicing with the team with the permission of the athletic director and coach.

3. During the suspension the athlete may go to the scheduled games at the discretion of the coach. He/she may not dress in uniform for the contest.

4. The student athlete will not leave school early for any scheduled games during the suspension.

- **Second violation**

The student athlete is suspended for the rest of the season and is suspended from athletics for 12 months.

- **Third violation results in forfeiting the remainder of the student's high school athletics.**

VII. Due Process Hearing—all student athletes are entitled to a due process hearing to allow him/her to appeal any disciplinary action. Two coaches, athletic director, principal and superintendent will comprise the due process panel. The coach of the sport that the student athlete is participating in is not part of the due process panel. The due process hearing must be requested within three days of the consequence being handed out. The appeal decision will be final, pending an appeal to the Board of Education.

VIII. Self-disclosure—a student athlete may voluntarily disclose to a coach, teacher or other staff member their personal problem with a controlled substance. The student must enroll in a drug awareness program at their expense and the student athlete will still be eligible to participate in athletics. Student athlete may use self-disclosure one time during his/her high school career. An additional violation will be a second violation and the student athlete will have a 12 month suspension.