

VI. STUDENT CONDUCT

E. Athletic Code of Conduct

Athletic Expectations:

A student athlete who represents the Vigo County School Corporation must exhibit at all times the highest standards of personal behavior. Participation in athletics is a privilege requiring that a student makes a commitment to practice before or after school hours with perfect or near perfect attendance, to work hard to excel, to learn cooperation and team efforts, and to exemplify good behavior both at school and away from school. Athletes are representatives of the Vigo County School Corporation and their school and always serve as role models at school and in the community. Students who cannot accept this challenge and responsibility should not become involved with the athletic program. There is a legitimate school interest and an expectation by the coaching staff of the Vigo County School Corporation that students follow the Athletic Code of Conduct at all times (beginning with the students' attendance at their first official middle/high school sports practice and continuing for 365 days each year through completion of students' involvement in athletic events their eighth grade or senior year). Therefore, he/she should conscientiously fulfill all the rules established for the athletic program and the sports for which he/she is participating.

General Rules include, but are not limited to:

1. Use of tobacco in any form is prohibited (first offense will be "athletic suspension", and a second offense will cause "athletic exclusion").
2. Possession and/or use of any substance/device/object which is, or is represented to be alcohol/drugs as identified in Rule II or III of the Student Rights and Responsibilities policy of the School Corporation is prohibited (first offense will be "athletic suspension", additional offenses will cause "athletic exclusion").
3. Providing or transmitting any substance/device/object which is, or is represented to be alcohol/drugs as identified in Rule I or IV of the Student Rights and Responsibilities policy of the School Corporation will cause "athletic exclusion".
4. Being found guilty of violating city, state, or federal codes/laws will cause a warning, or "athletic suspension", or "athletic exclusion".
5. Reference Rule C-8-1 IHSAA By-Laws and Articles of Incorporation:
"Contestants' conduct, in and out of school, shall be such as (1) not to reflect discredit upon their school or association or (2) not to create a disruptive influence on the discipline, good order, moral or educational environment in the school." Note: "It is recognized that principals, by the administrative authority vested in them by their school corporation, may exclude such contestants from representing their school."
6. Additional rules may be established for each sport by the individual coach. Such rules must be approved by the athletic director and principal, provided in writing to the student-athlete, and discussed with the student-athlete.

Due Process to be Expected:

1. Athletic Suspension - The student-athlete cannot participate in twenty (20%) percent of the games/meets for the sport the student is currently, or will be, involved in until the penalty is completed (this may necessitate suspension in more than a single sport season or school year). The number of games/meets will be determined by 20% of the current or immediately next sport, whichever comes first.
2. Athletic Exclusion - The student-athlete will be ineligible to participate in any athletic program for 365 days from the date of infraction.

Parent/Legal Guardian appeals will occur through normal due process channels to the building principal.

Other Items:

1. School Suspension - Any athlete placed on out-of-school suspension is not eligible to practice nor participate until the student has returned to school. This ineligibility will begin at the time the student is notified of the suspension (either orally or in writing).
2. Dress Code - Student-athletes are expected to be neat, clean, and well-groomed for both away and home games.
3. Changing Sport in Mid-Season - From the time a student's name appears on the official eligibility list for an interscholastic sport, he or she may join another team, or compete in another interscholastic sport only with the approval of the athletic director and coaches involved. Mid-season change of teams may be permitted under the following conditions:
 - (1) If the student presents to both coaches involved a doctor's certificate recommending that he/she drop the first sport for reasons of health and permits participation in the second sport.
 - (2) If both coaches involved and the athletic director agree that a mid-season change of sports would be beneficial to the player without being unfair to the players of either team.
4. Any athlete in grades nine - twelve who is a member of a school team cannot tryout, practice, or play in a similar sports program sponsored by any other organization between the date of the first IHSAA authorized contest in that sport and the completion of that team's school season.

Each coach is responsible for the administration of this code for his/her activity.

----- *DETACH HERE AND RETURN* -----

ATHLETIC CODE OF CONDUCT

My signature below acknowledges that I have reviewed the Athletic Code of Conduct from the Vigo County School Corporation.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Signature - Printed Student Name

Student's Grade

File: 7966 approved by Secondary Athletic Council by unanimous vote May 22, 2001
approved by the Board of School Trustees by unanimous vote July 23, 2001