

GUIDELINES FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL ATHLETICS

A. PURPOSE AND PHILOSOPHY

1. Purpose

- a) To encourage students involved in athletic activities to develop a wholesome and healthful lifestyle.
- b) To foster self-discipline.
- c) To communicate rules and regulations in a clear concise manner.
- d) To publish and distribute the rules and regulations so they are readily available to students, parents and staff.
- e) To provide coaches with guidelines so rule enforcement is done fairly and equally throughout the school district.

2. Philosophy

Interscholastic athletics are an integral part of the school system's educational programs and offers students a means to help develop self-discipline, accept responsibility, and make decisions to prepare for the adult world. Athletics will also help students to develop a social conscience as well as intellectual faculties. We believe learning is a never-ending process and athletic involvement helps to develop a positive set of values to guide young people through life.

B. RESPONSIBILITIES

Involvement and association with athletics is a privilege. This privilege is extended to all students, provided they are willing to assume certain responsibilities.

A student must be willing to make necessary sacrifices in order to be a credit to himself/herself. This can be done by

1. achieving academically by first being a good student;
2. exhibiting high standards of social behavior;
3. displaying positive sportsmanship;
4. respecting other athletes, cheerleaders, officials, spectators, and those in authority;
5. being cooperative;
6. maintaining a good appearance including cleanliness and good grooming;
7. using language which reflects well on self, family, and school;
8. being a positive leader by example, words, and/or actions; and
9. complying with the rules to be in good standing at the completion of the sport season (the last contest or the awards program, whichever comes later).

C. ELIGIBILITY

1. All students, as outlined by IHSAA, must have a completed school-approved physical examination form on file before practicing and must be in good standing with the school.
2. Students must have a signed form on file *indicating* their parents/guardians have read the material on concussions/cardiac arrest, insurance release form, guidelines agreement, and drug waiver which are provided to each student with an athletic

physical examination packet. Students are not allowed to participate in athletics until these forms are on file.

3. High school students must have earned passing grades in five (5) or more full-credit semester subjects during the previous grading period and must be currently enrolled in five (5) or more full credit subjects.
4. Middle school students must be passing six or more classes at grade check time.

D. GENERAL RULES

The principal shall enforce all rules and regulations as described in "Guidelines for Good School Order" and "School Rules for Student Conduct." The rules stated herein are in additions to the aforementioned rules.

All rules regarding behavior and/or training as outlined in IHSAA regulations apply.

The use of alcohol, tobacco, and certain other drugs are regarded as detrimental to good health and are illegal; therefore, all participants are expected to establish habits which would extend throughout the year (12 months), including in-season during school, out of season during school, and summer.

The following general rules for participants have been established:

1. A participant shall not violate local and state laws, IHSAA regulations, nor the Elkhart Community Schools' "Guidelines for Good School Order," "School Rules for Student Conduct," the "Guidelines for Secondary School Athletics," and the "Substance Abuse Testing Program for High School Student Athletic Participants and Student Drivers."
2. A participant must attend at least one-half day of school on the day in which they participate in competition, performance, or practice unless excused by the principal or designee.
3. A participant shall not engage in an act of hazing. Hazing will be considered to be any act of initiation into any organization, group, activity, or social entity which causes or creates a substantial risk of causing mental, emotional, or physical harm to any person. Permission, consent, or assumption of risk by an individual subjected to hazing will not diminish the inappropriateness of an act of hazing.
4. A participant shall not possess or use tobacco products.
5. A participant shall not consume or be in possession of alcoholic beverages (except at religious services and then only when no school-related activity follows later that day).
6. A participant shall not knowingly misuse or distribute any prescription drug or knowingly possess, use, distribute, or be under the influence of any Controlled Substance, including, but not limited to, any anabolic steroid, hallucinogenic, narcotic, depressant, stimulant, and any pure or adulterated form of marijuana, opium, or cocaine. Nor shall any participant possess, use, or distribute paraphernalia for use of such substances. Use of a substance as prescribed by a licensed practitioner shall not constitute a violation of this rule.
7. A participant shall not be present at a place where alcohol is being illegally consumed or possessed or where a Controlled Substance (see D-6) is being illegally possessed, used, misused, or distributed.

E. PROCEDURE FOR ALLEGED VIOLATIONS

Any alleged violation of the above general rules shall be reported first to the principal, designee, or athletic director, and then is to be followed by an investigation by the (in-season) coach, athletic director, and principal. If the student is found to be in violation of the rules, the following disciplines will result:

1. When information regarding an alleged violation of criminal law comes to the attention of the school, or following an arrest of any student participant, an investigation will be made by the coach, athletic director, and/or principal. A student may be excluded from participation pending the school's investigation. Discipline will be determined by the results of the school's investigation.
2. Any student participant who is convicted of a felony or is adjudicated for an equivalent offense shall be excluded from participation for one full year (12 months) following the date the offense was adjudicated or the date the school discipline associated with the violation was begun, whichever occurs first. Conviction/adjudication of a misdemeanor (other than a drug substance offense) or admission to any criminal act shall be subject to discipline by the coach, athletic director, and/or principal.
3. Participants in violation of other rules and regulations not governed by the Guidelines for Secondary School Athletics will be governed by decisions of their respective coach, athletic director and/or principal.
4. Other than situations covered in E-2, on the first offense in violation of Section D-4, 5, 6, 7, or 8, the student will be excluded from contest participation for a minimum of 1/3 of the contests (include one IHSAA tournament contest) for the present or next sport. If an exclusion period includes a fraction of an athletic contest and that fraction is .5 or higher, the athlete will not be allowed to participate in any part of that contest. If the fraction is lower than .5, then the athlete will be allowed to participate in the entire contest. If the violation occurs in the last 1/3 of the sport season, the athlete will not be considered in good standing and therefore will forfeit all awards for that sport season, which ends following the last contest or awards program, whichever comes later. If the violation occurs at a time other than during the last 1/3 of the season, and the athlete qualifies for any awards, the awards may be given subject to the approval of the head coach and the athletic director.

When a student self reports within one (1) school day of the violation, the athlete will be removed from practice for the first week of the exclusion period. Following the first week, practice for the athlete will be at the discretion of the head coach. When it is determined the student has been truthful about the violation from the beginning of the investigation, the one week practice exclusion will be waived and the penalty for exclusion from participation will be reduced by 50%.

A review of relevant factors, including an addictions assessment, may be held by the coach, athletic director, parent(s), and principal. Following the meeting a decision regarding return to participation will be made by school personnel.

5. Students using, misusing, and/or abusing drugs are encouraged to participate in an addictions assessment program and any follow-up therapy recommended. Voluntary participation in addictions assessment/drug treatment, not in connection with any known violation of these guidelines, will not be cause for exclusion from participation.

6. When there have been two or more offenses at the middle school or at the high school, in violation of Section D-4, 5, 6, 7, or 8, the athlete will be excluded from all athletic participation for one full year (12 months).

F. APPEAL PROCEDURE

Any excluded participant may appeal a decision of exclusion. Appeals will be reviewed by the superintendent or designee. Parent(s) of the student or the student must notify the superintendent, in writing, of the desire for a conference within five (5) school days of the decision to exclude.

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