

Athletic Code of Conduct

EAST CHINA SCHOOL DISTRICT ATHLETIC ACTIVITIES

The Athletic Code applies to all students who want to participate in athletics. Athletics includes competitive sports, extracurricular activities, cheerleading. This code applies in addition to other rules and regulations concerning student conduct and imposes additional requirements on student athletes and cheerleaders.

Participation in athletics is a privilege. Those who participate in athletics have a responsibility to favorably represent the school and community. Student athletes are expected to conduct themselves both in and out of school in a manner appropriate to their responsibilities as representatives of the school and district. If a student fails to comply with the terms of this code, the privilege to participate in athletics may be lost in accordance with the terms of this Athletic Code.

MHSAA

Eligibility for most athletics is also governed by the rules of the Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA) and, if applicable, these rules will apply in addition to this Athletic Code. In case of a conflict between MHSAA and this Athletic Code, the most stringent rule will be enforced.

RULES OF ELIGIBILITY FOR PARTICIPATION

The following rules of eligibility must be observed in order to participate in the co-curricular program.

A. ENROLLMENT

The student must be enrolled in the school by the Monday of the fourth week of the semester. The student must reside in the school service area in which he/she attends school.

B. AGE

A student in grades nine through twelve who participates in any extra-curricular activity 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.

C. PARENT/GUARDIAN CONSENT AND STUDENT APPLICATION

The student must submit the signed parent/guardian consent form prior to participating in tryouts, practice sessions or contests. Students and parents are to read the Code of Conduct for Students before signing the parent/guardian consent form. The completed form will be kept on file in the building office during the school year.

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 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 athletic director's office prior to participating in tryouts, practice sessions, or contests. The completed form will be kept on file in the building athletic director's office during subsequent sports seasons.

E. INSURANCE

A student and their parent/guardian are urged to make sure he/she has adequate protection, as the district will assume no liability for injuries. If a student is injured it is their responsibility to notify the insurance companies involved. The student must also notify the coach/sponsor.

F. PERFORMANCE ENHANCING DRUGS/COMPOUNDS

The Board of Education recognizes that the use of dietary supplements that contain performance-enhancing compounds and/or performance-enhancing drugs, poses a serious health risk to students. Use of a performance-enhancing substance, regardless of source, by a student, is a violation that will affect a student's athletic eligibility and extra-curricular participation, as determined by the Board of Education.

G. SEASONS OF COMPETITION

A student, while enrolled in grades nine through twelve, shall be eligible to compete in no more than four (4) seasons in either first or second semester athletics. For example, a student may not compete in more than (4) seasons of a particular sport: football, tennis, etc. A student shall be limited to participation in only one sport season when that sport leading to a state championship is sponsored twice during the school year.

H. SEMESTER OF ELIGIBILITY

A student shall not be eligible to compete in any branch of athletics that has been enrolled in grades nine through twelve for more than eight semesters. The seventh and eighth semesters must be consecutive. 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.

I. ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY

MHSAA Requirement

To retain initial athletic eligibility, an athlete must have passed 4 of 6 semester hours of academic course work in the semester preceding his or her athletic participation.

District Requirement

A student is expected to maintain passing grades in all classes in which enrolled. A student becomes ineligible until passing grades are attained. This is determined by a weekly eligibility list. The eligibility of a student is determined by the cumulative semester grade. He/she is still considered a member of the activity and must obey all rules during the period of ineligibility. A student will receive at least one week's warning before being ineligible.

A student is expected to exhibit good citizenship in all classes. Each teacher will have the opportunity to evaluate citizenship on the weekly eligibility. If a student receives two unsatisfactory marks from different teachers in citizenship he/she will be ineligible for the week.

Failure to comply: Any student who fails to meet any of the above regulations will not be allowed to participate until such time as he/she complies with the regulations in this section. The student is ineligible until deficiencies are corrected. A student who fails to pass the required classes during the previous semester must sit out the entire current semester.

AWARDS

1. A student may not accept from any source anything for participation in athletics other than an emblematic award. An emblematic award would include, but not be limited to, any medal, ribbon, plaque, cup, trophy, banner, picture, or regular letter award.
2. No acceptable emblematic award shall exceed \$25.00 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.
3. 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.
4. Acceptance of such items as cash, merchandise, memberships, privileges, services, sweaters, athletic equipment, wearing apparel, and watches would be a violation.

Failure to Comply: Any student violating any area of this section would 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.

MAINTAINING AMATEUR STATUS

A student participating or planning to participate in interscholastic athletics **May Not:** (1) accept any money or other valuable consideration for participating in athletics, sports, or games; (2) receive any money or other valuable consideration for officiating an interscholastic athletic contest; or (3) sign a contract with a professional team.

The rule above applies to the following sports: Baseball, Basketball, Cross Country, Golf, Football, Swimming, Softball, Soccer, Tennis, Track, and Volleyball.

Failure to comply: A student violating this rule is ineligible and may not apply for reinstatement until the equivalent of one full school year has elapsed from the date of the last violation. After that date the student may request reinstatement.

OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL 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 of and not sponsored by the school. The exception to this rule is the individual sport athlete who may participate in a 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 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 minimum of one contest up to a maximum of one school year.

STUDENT ATTENDANCE REQUIRED

A student is to attend school each hour/all day in order to participate in extracurricular activities during the same day or evening. Special Situations: If arrangements are made with the Principal or Athletic Director in advance, exceptions will be made.

Failure to comply: A student violating rules in this section will be ineligible to participate for a minimum of one event up to a maximum of one school year, depending on the violation.

ATTENDANCE AT PRACTICE SESSIONS AND EVENTS

Coach/sponsor will establish and enforce reasonable training and practice rules. Coach/sponsor will determine team membership and player participation.

Failure to comply: Failure to attend regularly scheduled practice sessions or events without permission will lead to disciplinary action as outlined within the supplemental activity rules distributed by the coach/sponsor.

TRAVELING TO AND FROM AWAY EVENTS

Any student traveling to an away event on school owned or chartered transportation or other such approved vehicle shall return to the home school on the same vehicle after the event is over. The only exception is when prior arrangements are made and the coach grants permission for the student to leave the contest site with his/her parent/guardian.

Failure to comply: A student violating rules in this section will be ineligible to participate for a minimum of one event up to a maximum of one school year.

UNIFORMS AND EQUIPMENT

Participants are responsible for the care, security, and use of uniforms and equipment issued to them.

Failure to comply: Participants will be responsible to pay the replacement cost for the uniform or equipment items that are abused or not returned. Students will not be allowed to participate in activities succeeding seasons until this obligation is met.

Uniforms may be permitted as school attire at the direction of the coach, advisor, or building administration. School uniforms are not considered "street clothes" to be worn outside of school. In general, the purpose/use of a uniform or participation equipment is for use during a scheduled game/event.

CONDUCT UNBECOMING

It is a privilege to participate in extracurricular activities. Extra-curricular participants must meet the other eligibility requirements of the Michigan High School Athletic Association and/or specific eligibility expectations as determined by the East China School District as outlined in the Extra-curricular Code of Conduct.

No student shall:

1. Be involved in any activities or behaviors which are unbecoming, both in and out of school. Those activities and behaviors include, but are not limited to, the problem areas outlined in the Code of Student Conduct found in Appendix A of the Student Handbook.
2. Use or have in possession tobacco or tobacco products including smokeless tobacco or look-alike substance or smoking paraphernalia.
3. Use or have in possession a beverage containing alcohol.
4. Be in attendance where under-age drinking of alcohol or use of illegal drugs is occurring.
5. Use or consume, have in possession, buy, sell, or give away marijuana, or any controlled or look-alike substance including anabolic steroids or other performance-enhancing substance. It is not a

violation for a student to be in possession of a drug specifically prescribed for the student's own use by his/her doctor.

Student-athletes that accept responsibility for violation of the Athletic Code of Conduct by self-reporting an incident of violation will be eligible for the possible reduction of penalty as explained below. Student-athletes that knowingly violate the Athletic Code of Conduct and fail to self-report by immediately admitting responsibility during due process will not be eligible for the penalty reduction.

Failure to comply:

First Violation

A student will be ineligible for one game up to one-third of his/her regularly scheduled extra-curricular activity for the first offense.

Second Violation

A student will be ineligible to participate for one calendar year from the date of suspension, OR

1. If need be, the suspension will carry over into the following sports' season to complete the suspension. If the student will not be playing another sport until the following school year, the suspension will take effect at that time.
2. During the period of athletic suspension, the athlete is expected to attend and participate in all practices. Athletes are also expected to attend games dressed in their street clothes.
3. A student who is serving a suspension must *begin and finish* the activity of participation (athletic season) in order to complete the requirements of the penalty or penalty reduction.

Third Violation

A student will be ineligible to participate for the rest of their high school career. This can be appealed to administration after one calendar year following the board of appeal process.

SUMMER AND OFF-SEASON PROGRAMS

A variety of camps, schools, clinics, and training programs are offered to a student during the off-season and summer months by individual coaches, parks and recreation, and the district community education program. These programs provide opportunities for an aspiring athlete/student to improve their skills in a chosen activity. These summer and off-season programs are voluntary. A student shall not be required to enroll in these programs as a condition for membership.

Students who choose to participate in out-of-school programs (i.e. AAU or other ancillary programs), must understand that participation in such activities is secondary and will not interfere with school programs.

Each MHSAA member school is required to designate a minimum of seven (7) consecutive calendar days during the summer when school is not in session and after the school's last participation in any MHSAA Tournament sport and prior to August 1 when open gyms and conditioning programs, including weight training, are not permitted to be conducted on school premises or sponsored by the school at other facilities. During the summer dead period, coaches may not provide coaching instruction to any students from the district in which they coach in any setting (including camps), except that non-school, organized baseball and softball practices or competitions regularly scheduled throughout the summer with schools' coaches and students from the same district may continue without interruption.

OTHER RULES AND REGULATIONS

- A. Sponsor/coach - Supplemental rules and regulations unique to a given activity shall be developed by individual sponsor/coach with the approval of the building principal. These rules will generally define expectations relating to participant attitude and cooperation and will include criteria for earning an award. These rules must be in writing, may not circumvent ECSD or MHSAA rule, and distributed to participants at the start of the season.
- B. A sponsor/coach may suspend or exclude a student from participation if cause is rendered within the provisions of this code or written rules and regulations specific to the team.
- C. When a student is suspended from school, as outlined in this *Student Handbook*, participation in practices and/or events is also to be excluded.
- D. When a student is assigned to in-school suspension that student will be able to participate in all after school activities.
- E. When a student is ruled academically ineligible to participate in a contest/event he/she will be allowed to practice provided he/she seeks academic help.
- F. When a student is dismissed from a team/event, he/she forfeits the opportunity to earn an award.
- G. A student may try out for one sport during a tryout period. Permission may be granted to do more than one sport. To be eligible to participate in more than one sport per season, the following criteria must be met:
 - 1. Athlete must maintain a 3.00 cumulative GPA.
 - 2. Consideration for dual sport status:
 - a. This permission must be granted by the principal/designee and both coaches/sponsors.
 - b. Application must be on file and signed by Athlete, Parents and both coaches one week prior to the start of the MHSAA official season.
 - c. If the application is approved, a meeting will be set up with both coaches, the athlete and the athletic director to work out an agreement.
 - d. Primary Sport must be chosen.
- H. A season (specific to student-athletes) is defined as the 1st Official MHSAA Start Date for a sport and the end of the season banquets/awards ceremony.
- I. The Athletic Code of Conduct applies to individuals participating in athletic programming 365 days a year, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. This includes school vacation times like Spring Break and Summer Vacation regardless of where a violation may occur, i.e. at home or out of the country.

INFRACTION REFERRALS

Referrals of infractions of the athletic policy may be made by communication with any of the following: principal, assistant principal, athletic director, coach, teacher, bus driver, administrator, board of education member, and any law enforcement agent.

DUE PROCESS PROCEDURES

When a student is accused of having committed an infraction of the rules, these steps will be followed:

- 1. A member of building administration will be notified of the infraction.
- 2. A building administrator will notify the student and the parent/guardian of the charges or infraction.
- 3. A meeting will be set up with a member of building administration and the student. Charges will be stated and recorded. Discipline, if warranted, will be administered immediately. Notification will be made to the coach/sponsor.

4. A student then has the right to have the decision reviewed by the Board of Appeals, where the charges are presented. A decision will be rendered by the board.

BOARD OF APPEAL MEETING PROCEDURES

1. Any coach, except the coach/sponsor of the participant, may be a member of the Board, along with the principal/assistant principal, and athletic director.
2. At least three coaches/sponsors, the principal, and an individual designated by the principal (an administrator other than the Assistant Principal/Athletic Director is acceptable or one additional coach/sponsor) will constitute a quorum.
3. The athletic director will serve as chairperson in a non-voting capacity.
4. The infraction will be stated by the chairperson. A student may make statements in his/her defense.
5. He/she may call witnesses to testify in their defense.
6. The infraction will be discussed by the board in closed session.
7. A decision will be reached and the student will be notified in writing of the Board's decision. The chairperson will sign the letter and send copies to the Superintendent, the student, and the parent/guardian if the student is a minor.
8. If the student is not satisfied with the decision by the Board of Appeals, he/she may appeal the decision within 10 school days, to the Superintendent of schools.

CONCUSSIONS AND HEAD INJURIES

A student who exhibits signs, symptoms or behaviors consistent with a concussion (i.e. loss of consciousness, headache, dizziness, confusion, or balance problems), shall be immediately removed from physical participation and shall not return to the activity until he/she is evaluated by an appropriate health professional and receives written clearance. Written medical clearance will then be maintained in the student's CA-60 file until he/she is 18 years of age.

State law requires all Michigan schools to provide educational materials on the signs/symptoms and consequences of concussions to each student participating in an athletic activity (extra-curricular sports and/or gym class) and their parents/guardians and to obtain a signed statement acknowledging receipt of the information to keep on record.