

KENTWOOD MIDDLE SCHOOL ATHLETIC CODE

Reference: Kentwood Board Policy IDFB

I. Purpose and Authority

The Kentwood Public Schools' Middle School Athletic Code is established under the authority of the Kentwood board. The purpose of the Athletic Code is to establish standards of academic performance and behavior for students involved in interscholastic athletic programs and the penalties for failure to meet the standards.

The interscholastic athletic programs are affiliated with the Michigan High School Athletic Association (M.H.S.A.A.). The standards of this code meet or exceed the standards of the M.H.S.A.A. Reference: "Handbook of the Michigan High School Athletic Association for Junior High/Middle Schools and Senior High Schools."

II. Athlete Defined

An athlete is defined as any student who is a member of an interscholastic team sponsored by the district. This includes team members, managers, student trainers, dance teams, cheerleaders, statisticians, etc.

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III. Scholastic Standards

A. Middle School Weekly Eligibility

1. The athlete may not receive two or more unsatisfactory marks (SF) for scholastics on the weekly eligibility form.
 - a. Teachers shall mark all athletes as if they were giving a grade for the marking period. No athlete shall be marked as failing if at the time of marking eligibility the athlete has a grade average of D-.
 - b. When marking the weekly eligibility sheets, teachers must scholastically warn (SW) the athlete the week prior to failing (SF) him/her.

Penalty: Any athlete who fails to meet the weekly standards will not participate in the following week's athletic contest(s) (Mon. - Sat.). He/she will be expected to practice and will be subject to all team rules and regulations unless otherwise directed by the coach and/or Athletic Director.

B. Middle School Semester Eligibility

1. No athlete shall represent the district who has failed 2 or more classes in the previous semester of a middle school program.

Penalty: Athletes who fail to meet the semester eligibility standards shall be ineligible for participation for one full semester.

IV. Weekly Behavior/Citizenship Standards

- A. The athlete may not receive two or more unsatisfactory marks (CF) in citizenship on the weekly eligibility form by two or more teachers.

1. When marking the weekly eligibility sheets, teachers must warn (CW) the athlete regarding his/her citizenship the week prior to failing (CF) the athlete.

Penalty: Athletes who fail to meet the weekly standards will not participate in following week's athletic contest(s) (Mon. - Sat.). He/she will be expected to practice and will be subject to all team rules and regulations unless otherwise directed by the coach and/or Athletic Director.

V. Building/Community Standards

All students are responsible for complying with the rules in the student handbook.

Penalty: If a student athlete is disciplined for a violation of the student handbook, the building administrator/athletic director will hold a conference with the student to determine if there exists an Athletic Code violation and any appropriate penalty. Note: Not all violations of the student handbook will result in discipline under the Athletic Code.

VI. General Information - Joining/Leaving a Team

- A. Transfer students may not join an athletic team after tryouts have been completed. If there are no tryouts for a given team, a transfer student may not join after 50 percent of the scheduled dates of competition for the sport in which he/she desires to participate have been completed.
- B. Managers, statisticians and non-participants may join an athletic team prior to 50 percent of the season being completed as long as

the mandatory paperwork has been completed and turned in to the athletic office.

VII. Specific Athletic Code Standards

- A. Illegal Actions - Use or possession of tobacco in any form; consumption, possession, or under the influence of alcoholic beverages; to steal or to be an accomplice to the act of stealing; to destroy, or deface school property; use, possession, or under the influence of a controlled substance (illegal, ersatz, or prescription drug other than prescribed by a physician).
First offense: 20% of the consecutively scheduled dates (days) of the season during which the violation occurred.
Second offense: 50% of the consecutively scheduled dates of the season during which the violation occurred.
Third offense: Suspension for one calendar year.
Note: All percentages will round up/down to closest full contest (.5 rounds up). If the athlete is not presently involved in a sport, the penalty will be applied during the next sport in which he/she is involved. If the penalty exceeds the number of contests remaining in that sport, the balance of the penalty will be pro-rated and applied during the next sport (using that sport's schedule) in which the athlete participates.
- B. Sale or Distribution of Substances - Illegal sale or distribution of a controlled substance (including prescription medications), ersatz drug, or alcoholic beverage.
First offense: 50% of the consecutively scheduled dates of the season during which the violation occurred.
Second offense: Suspension for one calendar year.
Note: All percentages will round up/down to the closest full contest (.5 rounds up).

In all cases where the athlete is in violation of the athletic code involving items VI A and B, he/she will automatically relinquish the privilege of being a team captain in that sport. If a second violation of the athletic code occurs, he/she will not be allowed to hold the position of team captain for the school year.

- C. Travel Regulations for Contests - All team members must travel to and return from away contests outside of Kentwood with the team. Team transportation for contests held within Kentwood Public Schools will be to the event only, and students must arrange with

parent/guardian for transportation home. Parent/guardian transportation privileges may be granted by the coach. The request for this privilege must be in writing and the parent/guardian must meet with the coach before the student will be allowed to leave a sporting event.

First offense: Suspension from the scheduled contest that day if the student misses the school transportation to the event without prior approval. Suspension from the next scheduled contest if the student misses the school transportation after the contest without prior approval.

Second offense: Suspension from three consecutive athletic contests.

Third offense: Suspension from participation in athletic contests for six calendar months.

- D. Leaving a Team - An athlete desiring to drop from a team shall notify the coach to discuss obtaining a release or be subject to penalty. The coach is required to notify the parent and the athletic office prior to granting the release. An athlete who quits a team and does not notify the coach may be subject to penalty. Penalties shall be determined after a meeting with the athlete, coach and the athletic director to decide the validity of the release.

First offense: Suspension from 15% of contracted events in the next season of participation.

Second offense: Suspension from 25% of contracted events in the next season of participation.

Third offense: Suspension from participating in athletic contests for six calendar months.

Note: Coaches have the right to dismiss participants from the team roster for conduct considered detrimental to the team. Release can be done with or without penalty. If the coach requests a penalty, it shall be the same as set forth in Section D, Leaving a team. Coaches who invoke their right to suspend/penalize a team member for a violation of a team rule, which is not considered a violation of the athletic handbook, will notify the athletic director of the situation for approval before a penalty is invoked. The infraction will be recorded in the event it is affected by a previous infraction or may have an effect on a future infraction.

- E. School Attendance - An athlete shall be in attendance in every class during the day of contests, except as excused by the athletic director at least one day prior to the absence. In cases of extreme

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emergencies or unusual circumstances, this rule may be waived by the athletic director/designee.

Each offense: suspension from the scheduled athletic contest on that date.

- F. Gross misconduct - defined as cheating, fighting, violation of a civil or criminal law, or any socially unacceptable behavior that brings discredit to the athlete, parents, school, or team.

Each offense: Suspension from 20% to 50% of the scheduled dates of the season during which the violation occurred, possible suspension from the team for the remainder of the season or seasons, possible suspension from athletic participation for up to one calendar year. Punishment will be dependent upon the severity of the offense.

VIII. Reporting Violation/Procedure Timeline

- A. Written report to athletic director by an adult within five working days of the infraction via police report, court decisions or public information vehicles (papers, magazines, etc.).
- B. Athletic director shall notify the athlete of reported violation within five working days after receiving the report or learning of the violation.
- C. Written report of the charges and penalty to parents/guardians from athletic director within five working days.

Note: For a violation to be considered a second or third offense, it would have to occur in the same school year as the previous offense(s).

IX. Appeal Process

A student that has been penalized under the terms of the athletic code may appeal if he/she believes the action unfair.

- A. Appeal Channel for Scholastic/Citizenship Violations (III, IV)
 - 1. Student or student's parent/guardian initiates the appeal by notifying the building principal within five working days after receiving the athletic director's report. The principal will respond to the appeal within five working days.
 - 2. Parent/guardian may appeal the principal's decision to the
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superintendent within five working days after receiving the principal's report. The superintendent will respond to the appeal within five working days.

3. Parent/guardian may appeal the superintendent's decision to the board within five working days after receiving the superintendent's report.
4. The board shall review the appeal at the next regular meeting or no later than 20 working days from the date the appeal is received. A final decision will be made by the board within five working days from the date of review.

B. Appeal Channel for Specific Athletic Code Violations (V,VI)

1. Student or student's parent/guardian initiates the appeal by contacting the athletic director within five working days. The athletic director shall respond to the appeal within five working days.
2. Parent/guardian may appeal the athletic director's decision to the building principal within five working days after receiving written notification. The principal shall respond to the appeal within five working days.
3. Parent/guardian may appeal the principal's decision to the superintendent within five working days after receiving written notification from the principal. The superintendent shall respond to the appeal within five working days.
4. Parent/guardian may appeal the superintendent's decision to the board within five working days after receiving notification from the superintendent.
5. The board shall review the appeal at the next regular meeting or not later than 20 working days from the date the appeal is received. A final decision will be made by the board within five working days from the date of review.

X. Duration

The athlete is under the code effective the date it is signed and turned in to the proper administrative office. The code is in effect for 12 calendar months from the date of signature.

Valleywood Middle School
Kentwood Public Schools
1110 50th Street S.E.
Kentwood, Michigan 49508

Please sign and return this form to Athletic Director's Office after you have received a copy of the athletic code.

**ATHLETIC CODE AND
FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY FORM**

(to be completed by parent or guardian and athlete)

Athletic Code: I have read the Athletic Code and I agree to abide by The regulations stated there in. I have also discussed this with my parents (or guardian) and they attest to this by their co-signature.

Financial Responsibility: Each athlete is responsible for his/her athletic equipment issued to them by the athletic department. If this equipment is lost or stolen I will be held responsible for the replacement cost. I have also discussed this with my parents (or guardian) and they attest to this by their co-signature.

Athlete's Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

ATHLETE ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS
(TO BE COMPLETED BY PARENT OR GUARDIAN)

I certify that my son/daughter meets all the RESIDENCE AND ACADEMIC requirements (6 full time classes) to be eligible to compete in athletics for the Kentwood Public Schools

I also realize failure to fulfill the above requirements will result in my son/daughter being ineligible for the subsequent semester and may cause the team on which they are a member of to forfeit any games in which he/she has participated.

Signature of Parent or Guardian

Date