

## **CODE OF CONDUCT**

### **Role of the Student Athlete**

Remember that you are representing your school, family and community.

- Accept and understand the seriousness of your responsibility and the privilege of representing your school and community;
- Live up to standards of sportsmanship established by the school administration and the coaching staff by refraining from taunting, trash talk, or making any kind of derogatory remarks to your opponents during the game, especially comments of ethnic, racial or sexual nature. Refrain from intimidating behavior;
- Learn the rules of the game thoroughly and discuss them with parents, fans, and fellow students. This will assist both them and you in the achievement of a better understanding and appreciation of the game.
- Display positive actions in public at all times.

### **Code of Conduct for Student Athletes**

The Fraser Public School District Code of Conduct for Student Athletes has been developed to provide a uniform set of rules and regulations to govern all district athletic participants for every team or school they represent. The Athletic Code of Conduct combines rules and regulations of the Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA), which have been adopted by the Fraser Public Schools with specific district rules governing athletic participation. The code of conduct for student athletes will be in effect during the entire school year and covers practice sessions, competitions and all other school related activities.

In addition, student athletes who incur school disciplinary action because of violations defined in the district Student Handbook are also subject to the disciplinary actions of this document. The participant may forfeit the opportunity to receive an athletic award if loss of participation in contest prevents him/her from meeting the requirement for earning the award as outlined in the written supplemental team rules and regulations developed by individual coaches distributed to each participant at the start of their respective sport season.

Rules which have been adopted by Fraser Public Schools and which are also covered by MHSAA rules are indicated by an asterisk (\*).

Students are subject to all MHSAA rules and regulations even though such rules may not be included specifically in this document.

## **Section I: Rules of Eligibility for Participation**

The following rules of eligibility must be observed in order to participate in the interscholastic athletic program:

### **A. Enrollment\***

The Student must be enrolled in the school not later than the fourth Friday after Labor Day (1st Semester) or fourth Friday of February (2nd Semester) to be eligible for interscholastic athletics. The student must reside in the school attendance area in which he/she attends school and must be enrolled in the school for which he/she competes.

### **B. Age\***

High School: A student in grades nine through twelve who participates in any interscholastic athletic contest 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 that school year.

Middle School: A seventh or eighth grade student must be under fourteen (14) and fifteen (15) years of age respectively. A student who reaches that age after September 1 is eligible for participation for the balance of that school year.

### **C. Participation/Guardian Consent and Student Application\***

The student must submit the signed parent/guardian consent form and the signed student application form to the coach or to the athletic director prior to participating in tryouts, practice sessions, or contests. Students and parents are to read the Code of Conduct for Student Athletes and the Student Handbook before signing the parent/guardian consent form and the student application form. The completed form will be kept on file in the building athletic director's/principal's office during subsequent sport seasons.

### **D. Participant Physical Exam\***

A student must have a physical examination completed by a physician (MD, DO, Physician's Assistant or nurse practitioner) 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 coach or to the athletic director prior to participating in conditioning, tryouts, practice sessions, or contests. The completed form will be kept on file in the building athletic director's/principal's office during subsequent sport seasons.

### **E. 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 four (4) seasons for a particular sport: football, soccer, tennis, etc.

**F. Semester of Eligibility\***

A student shall not be eligible to compete in any branch of athletics that has been enrolled in grades nine to twelve for more than eight semesters. The seventh and eighth 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. Students in grades seven and eight are not limited in the number of semesters in which they may be eligible.

**G. Academic Eligibility\***

A student athlete must meet the MHSAA minimum requirement of passing six (6) classes at all times. An athlete's eligibility will be monitored throughout the season. If the student athlete has subpar grades, the athlete may have to attend study sessions to remain eligible (please refer to the Grade Policy). Please note that when a student is academically ineligible to participate in contest and scrimmages, he/she may still practice with the team as long as he/she is not suspended from school as outlined in the Student Handbook.

**FAILURE TO COMPLY TO RULES WITHIN THIS SECTION**

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.

Students who fail to pass the required classes during the previous semester must sit out the entire current semester. Fraser Public Schools- Eligibility Policy

Fraser Public Schools adheres to the Michigan High School Athletic Association eligibility. In addition, the District has established the following eligibility procedures. DUE TO MHSAA REGULATIONS, IF YOU ARE A TRANSFER STUDENT YOU NEED TO SEE THE ATHLETIC DIRECTOR IMMEDIATELY.

**Section I: Grade Policy**

Beginning in the fall of 2009, the MHSAA has changed their grade eligibility requirements; an athlete must pass 6 out of 8 classes (including seminar) to remain eligible. Therefore if an athlete is receiving 2 poor grades or more (a poor grade is defined as a D+ or worse) must attend 6 study sessions in a two week period. If the athlete fails to attend the 6 study sessions then that athlete will be ineligible for 10% of their season. If an athlete is receiving three F's, that athlete must attend study sessions and will be athletically ineligible for the first week and must be passing 6 classes after

that first week to be eligible for the second week. Improvement will be measured by the progress report that they take to their teachers (this is the student's responsibility). The study sessions are held from 6:45-7:25 in the morning (days to be announced).

### **Section II: Awards\***

- A. A student may not accept from any source anything for participation in athletics other than an emblematic award, which could include, but not be limited to, any medal, ribbon, badge, plaque, cup, trophy, banner, picture or regular letter award.
- B. No acceptable award shall exceed twenty-five (\$25.00) dollars 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.
- C. 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.
- D. Acceptance of such items as cash, merchandise, memberships, privileges, services, sweaters, athletic equipment, wearing apparel and watches would be in violation.
- E. Requirements for earning a letter have been established per sport. Athletes should be informed of these requirements by their coach prior to the season.

### **FAILURE TO COMPLY TO RULES WITHIN THIS SECTION**

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 violation. If violation occurs after the Friday of the fourth week of a semester, a student is ineligible for the balance of that semester and the succeeding semester.

### **Section III: Maintaining Amateur Status\***

- A. Students participating or planning to participate in interscholastic athletics may NOT:
  - 1. Accept any money or other valuable consideration for participating in athletic sports or games.
  - 2. Receive any money or other valuable consideration for officiating in interscholastic athletic contest. (Exception: MHSAA interpretation #128. – A 12th grader who is at least 17 years old may register with the MHSAA)

and officiate sub-varsity contests if he or she works with an official who has been included on the MHSAA "approved" list and has been authorized by the MHSAA as an acceptable mentor. The student may receive the normal compensation paid to officials by schools);

3. Sign a contract with a professional team.
- B. The rule in (A) above applies to all sports offered by Fraser Public Schools.
  - C. A student may be compensated for giving lessons as part of a youth camp or recreation program, but may not also be a camper or participant in the camp or program.

### **FAILURE TO COMPLY TO RULES WITHIN THIS SECTION**

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.

### **Section IV: Outside of School Athletic Competition\***

- A. A student who has participated in any athletic contest or scrimmage 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 or national high school championship at any time in any sport sponsored by the MHSAA during the school year.
- B. A member of a school's interscholastic team may not participate in either a school or non-school 3 on 3 (or more) competition in that sport during the MHSAA season for that sport without loss of eligibility under this regulation.

### **FAILURE TO COMPLY TO RULES WITHIN THIS SECTION**

A student violating rules in this section will be ineligible to participate in athletic contests and scrimmages for a period from a minimum of the next three contests up to a maximum of one school year depending on the violation.

## **Section V: Attendance at Athletic Practice Sessions and Contests**

Attendance at practice sessions is essential to prepare athletes physically and mentally for athletic contests. All team members are required to be at all athletic practice sessions and contests at the times designated by the coach. Should situations occur when it is impossible for a participant to attend due to illness, injury and other required school or family commitments; the student shall make prior arrangements with the coach for an excused absence.

### **FAILURE TO COMPLY TO RULES WITHIN THIS SECTION**

Failure to attend regularly scheduled practice sessions without an excused absence will lead to disciplinary action as outlined within the supplemental team rules distributed by the coach.

### **ATHLETIC ATTENDANCE POLICY**

- Three unexcused absences may result in removal from the team;
- Athlete not in attendance during the school day, except for school approved early dismissals should not practice;
- Athlete must be in attendance for the entire school day to practice or play in the games unless previously approved by the administration;
- Athletes having out-of-school suspensions are not allowed to practice or play in games until the suspension is over. Upon return, the coach and/or the Athletic Director will determine when the athlete plays;
- Athletes having an in-school suspension may practice or play in the games per the discretion of the coach and/or the Athletic Director.

## **Section VI: Traveling to and From Away Contests**

Please refer to the separate travel policy.

## **Section VII: Uniforms and Equipment**

Athletic participants are responsible for the care, security and use of uniforms and equipment issued to them. Due to skyrocketing costs of uniforms, these uniforms will not be loaned to friends to wear.

### **FAILURE TO COMPLY TO RULES WITHIN THIS SECTION**

Athletic participants will be responsible to pay the replacement cost for any uniform or equipment items that are abused or not returned. Athletes will not be allowed to

participate in succeeding sports season and report cards may be held until obligations are met. Athletes loaning school issued uniforms and equipment to friends will receive a warning for the first offense. If this habit continues, the student-athlete loaning the uniform and equipment may be suspended from playing.

### **Section VIII: Conduct Unbecoming a School Leader/Athlete**

As representatives of the Fraser Public Schools, athletes are expected to conduct themselves in an exemplary manner at all times. Athletes are considered leaders of the school. As such, athletes are subject to a code that governs their off-campus behavior relative to athletic eligibility like other leader groups at Fraser High School. The Fraser Board of Education supports this notion since it recognizes participation in athletics is a privilege—not a right. Therefore, athletes may forfeit this privilege in the form of suspension or dismissal from athletics due to misbehavior either related or unrelated to school activities. These activities include those that detract from the athletic program and discredit the team, the school, or the individual. The type of activities that could warrant suspension or exclusion from athletics include, but are not limited to: criminal acts, inappropriate online activities, the use of alcohol or other prohibited/controlled substances, and hazing.

**Criminal Acts:** Violation of federal, state, or local law/ordinance, including felony or misdemeanor acts other than minor traffic offenses. Conviction of said act is not necessary to establish a violation of the athletic code, but will be determined through an independent school investigation and may result in a penalty. Athletes charged with a criminal act that was allegedly committed either on or off of school premises will be considered in violation of the athletic training rules. This can include misdemeanors and/or felony offenses (e.g. but not limited to theft, battery, etc). Appropriate penalties will be imposed by the school district at that time.

**Conduct:** Cumulative or gross misconduct, including behavior which school officials consider conduct unbecoming to an athlete and a representative of the Fraser Public Schools (example: profanity, gross gestures, etc.), may result in a penalty a suspension.

### **Section IX: ATHLETIC TRAINING RULES**

#### **Use or Possession of Tobacco, Alcohol, or and Other Controlled Substances**

The following behaviors constitute a violation of the Fraser Public Schools Athletic Code and subject the athlete to discipline as outlined in the "Penalties" section of the Athletic Code: Sale, Use, Possession or Being Under the Influence of Alcoholic Beverages or of Illegal Drugs or Controlled Substances. (Students can use or possess a controlled substance only pursuant to a valid prescriptions.) Selling, using, possessing, or being under the influence of alcoholic beverages, illegal drugs, intoxicants, steroids, human growth hormones, performance enhancing drugs, and/or any drug that is listed on the

NCAA List of Banned Drugs and or controlled substances as defined by law are not allowed, including imitation (counterfeit) controlled substances. Sale and/or distribution of the same, directly or indirectly, shall result in permanent expulsion, absent special circumstances.

Every athlete/participant begins their high school experience with a clean record, for the purpose of compiling offenses regarding athletics. The training rules cited above will be enforced during their sport season. This will start with the first MHSAA practice date and run through the final athletic event for that sport. Once the training rules are signed, they remain in effect the entire athletic career of the athlete and are subject to change on an annual basis.

### **FAILURE TO COMPLY TO RULES WITHIN THIS SECTION**

- First Violation – Suspension of 20% of the current season's contests. If the violation occurs when less than 20% of the contests remaining, the suspension will be prorated into the next sport in which the athlete participates, even though it may carry over into next year. The athlete will be allowed to participate in practice for conditioning purposes during the suspension. The athlete may also be required to attend educational classes or counseling.
- Second Violation – Termination of participation for one full calendar year from all athletics. If a student voluntarily seeks an appropriate, approved program of substance abuse, tobacco cessation, or behavior modification and provides written proof of satisfactory completion of that agency's requirements, suspension will be reduced by 50%. The student will be allowed to compete in practice for conditioning purposes during the suspension. Any expenses incurred for the assessment and/or treatment program will be the responsibility of the student and not Fraser Public Schools. On a case by case basis, the suspension may be appealed. The athlete may also be required to attend educational classes or counseling.
- Third violation – Termination of participation in the Fraser High School interscholastic athletic program for 2 calendar years upon an Application for Reinstatement. The athlete may also be required to attend educational classes or counseling.

Self-Disclosure: An athlete who by himself/herself or together with his/her parent or legal guardian, voluntarily discloses to a school employee, school official, coach or an administrator a need for assistance for alcohol or substance abuse prior to any reports, charges or complaints under the Athletic Code shall be required to follow the chemical assessment/treatment. Under such circumstances, the athlete will not be charged with a violation of the Athletic Code of Conduct, unless it is determined that the athlete has used this self-disclosure opportunity primarily to avoid penalty under the Athletic Code. This self-disclosure exemption is available to an athlete only once during his/her high school career.



- Satisfaction of the assessment/treatment requirements must be verified in writing by the licensed agency.

### **Section X: Summer and Off-Season Programs**

A variety of sport camps, schools, clinics and training programs are offered to athletes during the off-season and summer months by individual coaches and parks and recreation departments. These programs provide opportunities

for aspiring athletes to improve their skills in a chosen sport. These summer and off-season programs are voluntary.

Athletes shall not be required to enroll in these programs as a condition for membership of placement on an athletic team the succeeding season. If the student athlete participates in a school related activity during the summer or vacations (i.e. camps, clinics, etc.) that student would be governed by the Fraser Public Schools Code of Conduct for Student Athletes.

**\*\*NOTE:** Violations will be cumulative during a student's high school athletic career.

Accumulation will begin on the date the student began practicing with an athletic team and will continue throughout their entire high school career.

### **Section XI: Supplemental Rules and Regulations**

Supplemental team rules and regulations unique to a given sport shall be developed by individual coaches with the approval of the athletic director or principal. These rules will generally define expectations relating to participant attitude and cooperation and will include criteria for earning awards. These rules must be printed and reviewed with participants at the start of the season.

### **Section XII: Appeal Procedures**

A participant found in violation of Sections V, VI, VII, VIII, IX, X, XI may appeal the outcome of the disciplinary action taken for noncompliance. Procedures for due process followed by the athletic department will be consistent with procedures outlined in the Fraser Public Schools Student Handbook.

### **NCAA Clearinghouse**

Please note: due to the NCAA requirements, it is important that all athletes be aware of Clearinghouse requirements. The process needs to begin in the athlete's freshman year. Please see the athletic department for more information on NCAA Clearinghouse.

## **Release of Records**

Please note: I hereby authorize the release of the transcripts to varsity coaches. The coaches are authorized to use this information for submitting recognition for All-State Academic Teams.

## **Fraser Public Schools Player Contract / Parental Form**

### **1. Player Conduct:**

- a. The use of alcohol, illegal drugs, tobacco, steroids, etc. by an in-season athlete will warrant a team suspension. Every responsibly reported incident will be investigated, the athlete confronted, and ruled on individually by the athletic director or other school administrators. If the offense occurs on school property or at a school sponsored event, or witnessed by a district employee, that athlete will follow the assigned action indicated by school administration and will not be allowed to practice or play during a school suspension. See Section IX for more information.
- b. Athletes displaying poor effort and/or poor citizenship in the classroom may be subject to disciplinary action. Playing privileges may be affected if the athlete fails to show improvement.
- c. Sportsmanship toward teammates, opponents, officials, coaches and spectators must be displayed at all times. Unsportsmanlike conduct will not be tolerated and will be subject to disciplinary action.
- d. Players are expected to sit on the bench or in the designated area and be attentive to the game when not actually participating.
- e. Players are to respect all teammates and school equipment. Players will be responsible for the replacement of any damaged or lost game or practice uniforms or equipment assigned to him/her.
- f. Player conduct and transportation rules must be followed when being transported to any contest. This includes keeping the bus floor free of litter (no throwing of food, paper, or any other objects).
- g. Players are expected to keep the practice, game and locker room facilities as clean as possible.

### **2. Attendance:**

- a. Players are expected to attend all practices and all games. If a player is injured and unable to play, he/she is still expected to attend the game.
- b. If a player must miss a practice, the coach is to be notified prior to the practice.
- c. If an athlete is serving an Athletic Suspension, the athlete is expected to attend the contest and sit with the team, but must in wearing street clothes.
- d. Unexcused absences from practice, games or other team functions will not be tolerated. The individual team rules will apply.
- e. Excused absences include:
  - i. Doctor or dentist appointments;

- ii. Absence from school (must be in school the full school day to practice or play in the game day);
  - iii. Death in the family;
  - iv. Other factors at the discretion of the coach. (Note: the coach should be informed of any excused absence prior to missing a practice or a game. If notice could not be given to the coach prior to the absence, the coach must be informed of said absence that same day)
- 3. Physical Exam:
  - a. A player must have a current physical examination, an emergency medical card, and an ATC Consent Form on file with the school before the player is allowed to participate.
  - b. During the season, a player who has written instructions from a doctor not to participate in practices/games because of illness or injury must have a written release from that doctor to resume participation.
- 4. Transportation:
  - a. A player must ride the team bus to all away contests.
  - b. Exceptions to this rule may only be made with prior permission granted from the coach and athletic director.
- 5. Hazing:

Policies prohibiting hazing by students have been adopted by the State Legislators of Michigan and the Fraser School District's Board of Education. Hazing activities are inherently hazardous and may place victims at risk of physical and/or emotional damage. Consequently, hazing is absolutely prohibited. Appropriate discipline actions will be taken against students who participate in hazing, up to removal from the team.

Hazing is defined as any act which endangers the physical safety of a student, produces mental or physical discomfort, causes embarrassment or ridicule, or degrades the student, regardless of the willingness on the part of the student to participate in any such activities.