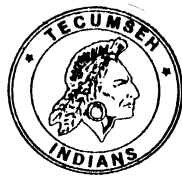


TECUMSEH PUBLIC SCHOOLS ATHLETIC CODE



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**TECUMSEH PUBLIC SCHOOLS
2011-2012 ATHLETIC CODE**

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Tecumseh Public Schools -- Athletic Code

Introduction

Athletes have the responsibility to become familiar with the Tecumseh Athletic Code, as well as the specific team rules for each sport. Upon review and approval by the Athletic Director, each team coach may implement additional team rules which are consistent with the Athletic Code and Board of Education policy. Prior to the start of each sport and no later than the date established by the Athletic Director, each coach shall review with the team the Athletic Code and team rules. **The rules, consequences and expectations are minimal requirements by the school and parents are encouraged to have even higher standards for their own children.**

Philosophy

Representing Tecumseh Public Schools in interscholastic athletics is a privilege, and not a right. Students who participate in interscholastic athletics are expected to represent the highest ideals of character by exemplifying good conduct, good sportsmanship, good citizenship, and good training, which includes abstaining from the use of tobacco, alcohol, and drugs. Separate and apart from a student's performance as an athlete, the student's conduct, sportsmanship, citizenship, and training, reflect at all times on the Student Athlete, our team, our school, and our community. Accordingly, this Athletic Code has been established for all students who aspire to participate in interscholastic athletics at Tecumseh High School.

Eligibility

Student athletic eligibility is governed by the MHSAA as well as the Tecumseh Public Schools' Athletic Code. A summary of the MHSAA Eligibility Rules is stated below. This list is not exhaustive. Students who have questions about athletic eligibility should promptly contact the Athletic Director.

A. Requirements for Participation

1. Student Athletes must be under 19 years of age at the time of any contest unless the 19th birthday occurs on or after September 1 of a current school year, in which case the Student Athlete is eligible for the balance of that school year in all sports.
2. No athlete shall participate in any phase of the athletic program that does not have on file in the athletic office a Physical Examination Form for the current school year. This form must be signed by the examiner (M.D., D.O., Physician's Assistant, or Nurse Practitioner) indicating that the student is physically able to compete in the athletic activity concerned. For the form to be valid, the physical examination must be given on or after April 15 of the previous school year. As a further condition of participation, an unemancipated minor's parent or guardian must also consent to the student's athletic participation. In cases of serious injury or extended illness, school officials reserve the right to require an athlete to be re-examined by a physician (M.D. or D.O.) before being allowed to participate in interscholastic athletics.
3. Prior to trying out for a sport, Student Athletes are required to turn in to the Athletic Office the following:
 - a. *Expectations in Educational Athletics/Assumption of Risk Form*
 - b. *Signed Letter of Acknowledgment Form*
 - c. *Statement of Athletic Eligibility Form*
 - d. *Participation Fee (Athletes that receive free lunch are exempt from participation fee; those that have reduced lunch pay only half the participation fee; families that have a hardship should contact the Athletic Director to make arrangements. This must be turned in prior to first practice or tryout. The fee is a one time fee per student-athlete currently of \$165.00 for High School participation and \$110.00 for middle school participation. This is subject to change or modification.*
 - e. *Request to Travel Via Private Vehicle Form. This must be turned in prior to riding home with a parent from an away competition.*

B. Transfers

A student who transfers from one high school to another high school is ineligible to participate in an interscholastic athletic contest for one full semester, unless the student qualifies under one or more of the MHSAA exceptions to the transfer ineligibility rule.

C. Limited Team Membership

During the season an athlete may not participate in the same sport competitively outside the school as he/she does for the school. (For example, church basketball during basketball season). Violation of this rule will render an athlete ineligible to play for the school.

D. Academic Eligibility Requirements

The MHSAA requirements are that an athlete must have passed at least 66% of a full credit load in the previous semester and must be currently passing the same on the transcript of the school they represent in competition.

In addition to the State Requirement, Tecumseh School District requires the following:

The Tecumseh Public School Board of Education has adopted the following guidelines with regard to academic eligibility for student athletes:

- A. High School Academic Eligibility**
During the previous semester, the athlete must have passed a minimum of 4 classes out of 6.
During the current marking period, the athlete must be passing 4 classes. Eligibility checks are at the 5 week progress report and the end of regular marking period.
- 1. Current Marking Period High School Eligibility:**
Athletes who are determined to be ineligible at one of the grade checks will be ineligible until the next grade check (5 week progress report or marking period).
 - 2. Previous Marking Period High School Eligibility:**
If an athlete fails to pass a minimum of 6 classes for the semester, he/she will be ineligible for the entire next semester.
- B. Middle School Academic Eligibility**
All Students must be passing six classes to participate in middle school athletics.
- 1. Fall Sport Eligibility:**
Athletes must be passing six classes after three weeks of the first semester to remain eligible. If academically ineligible, the student will remain ineligible until their grades are checked again in three weeks. If the student is not passing six classes at that time, the student is ineligible for the remainder of that season
 - 2. Winter and Spring Sport Eligibility:**
Athletes will have their grades checked before their season begins. If they are not passing six classes at that time, they are academically ineligible until their grades are checked again in three weeks. If they are not passing six classes at that time, they are ineligible for the remainder of that season.
- C.** Students will continue to practice with their teams during the ineligible time period, but they cannot participate in meets, games, or contests, during their ineligibility. Two grades of D are equal to an E for the purpose of determining eligibility.
- D.** Student Athletes that are in “special needs programs” will be monitored by their coordinating teacher and Athletic Director.

Training Rules and Conduct

Alcohol, drugs, and tobacco have proven to be injurious to one’s health and definitely not conducive to a person’s well being. Certainly from a health standpoint it is advisable to avoid their use. But most of all, it is **AGAINST THE LAW**. Violation of the Athletic Code, criminal, or civil law, or any behavior or action that detracts from or brings negative attention to the coach, team, school, or community may result in discipline, including athletic suspension. These training rules are in effect at all times throughout the Student Athlete’s high school career. Any misconduct occurring anytime during the entire calendar year may result in penalties. Also, any Student Athlete may be subject to penalty under the Athletic Code and to those penalties imposed upon the athlete as a student for violation of the student code of conduct. Athletes who are not currently participating in a sport “in season” but plan to participate in a sport at any time are under the same training rules as athletes who are “in season”.

Reports of violations will be investigated by the Athletic Director before any consequences are directed toward any Student Athlete. The administration will make every effort to contact parents as soon as possible to give them the facts surrounding the particular violation. *Signed and documented reports of violations will only be accepted from a law enforcement agency, coaches, team members, teachers, administrators, community members or admissions by a Student Athlete or a Student Athlete’s parent(s) or guardian(s) in question who witness the violation. Gossip/Rumors will not be accepted.*

A. Tecumseh Athletic Substance Abuse Policy

1. A Student Athlete shall not use, possess, buy, sell, or distribute a beverage containing alcohol, tobacco in any form, or any illegal drug or controlled substance. This rule applies at all times during the entire calendar year.
2. If a Student Athlete is present at a gathering and knows that alcohol and/or drugs are present and he/she does not immediately leave, that Student Athlete shall be penalized according to the Athletic Code. (Family gatherings where students are supervised by adults and the Student Athlete is not using any illegal substance are excluded, e.g., weddings, graduations.)
3. Penalties shall be cumulative beginning with and continuing throughout the Students Athlete’s participation in Tecumseh High School sports. (see “C” below).

B. Criminal/Civil Law

Violation of federal, state, or local law/ordinance, including felony or misdemeanor acts other than minor traffic offenses, shall be considered a violation of the Athletic Code and shall result in the athlete’s suspension from athletic competition. Conviction of said act is not necessary to establish a violation of the Athletic Code, but will be determined through an independent school investigation.

C. Penalties For Violations of Substance Abuse Policy and/or Criminal/Civil Law

1. **First Violation:** After confirmation of the first violation, the Student Athlete shall lose eligibility for 50% of the total scheduled athletic playing matches for the sport season as determined by the Athletic Director. If there are fewer than 50% of the playing matches left, the penalty will carry over to the next sport in which the athlete participates. Any Student Athlete that voluntarily turns himself/herself in to the Athletic Director prior to the completion of the investigation, may appeal to the Athletic Director for a penalty reduction of 25% of the sport season.
2. **Second Violation:** After confirmation of the second violation, the Student Athlete shall lose eligibility for one calendar year from the date of the suspension.
3. **Third Violation:** After confirmation of the third violation, the Student Athlete shall lose eligibility for the remainder of his/her high school career. There is no appeal for a third violation.
4. Repeated violations of training rules will be considered as constituting a second or third violation even if the misconduct is not of the exact nature. The misconduct will be counted as a second or third violation regardless of when it occurs, even if it does not occur within the same year as the previous misconduct. These progressive penalties are not to be construed as precluding loss of eligibility to participate in athletics as a result of a single incident of misconduct, depending upon the seriousness of the misconduct, involved in any given offense.

D. Appeal Procedure in Training Rule Violation Cases

When a Student Athlete has been suspended for any cause, a memorandum shall be prepared by the Athletic Director and filed in the offices of the Athletic Director and Building Principal, with a copy to the athlete's parent(s). A Student Athlete has the right to appeal the suspension by the Athletic Director. The appeal shall be made to the Athletic Council by submitting a written request to the Athletic Director no later than five (5) school days after the receipt of the suspension. The Athletic Council shall consist of the Building Principal or Assistant Principal, and four (4) coaches. The Athletic Director shall serve in an advisory capacity. The Athletic Council shall not include the coach of any sport the student athlete currently participates in or anticipates they will participate in.

E. Conflicts of Responsibilities

There may be occasions when the Student Athlete will have a conflict of responsibilities. The Athletic Department believes that the following priority list places athletics in proper perspective:

1. Home and church responsibilities
2. Academic responsibilities
3. Tecumseh Public School athletic responsibilities

F. Code of Conduct

The Tecumseh High School Code of Conduct and Procedures shall cover the actions of any Student Athlete while he or she is part of a school athletic team, including practices, games, travel to and from contests, and any other times when acting as a member of the team or as a student.

G. Family Vacations

Although attendance at all practices or games is mandatory, pre-approved family vacations will be excused by the coach. A Student Athlete may also go on a vacation, with an adult other than his/her parent(s)/guardian(s) if the Student Athlete first receives approval from his/her parents and the Athletic Director. To avoid any confusion, a written notice from the athlete's parents setting forth the dates of a family vacation must be submitted in writing to the head coach before the absence. Any athlete missing practice must recondition before participation will be permitted. Any absence for family vacation which is not pre-approved will be considered unexcused. Unexcused absences will result in greater and more serious consequences than pre-approved absences. For each three (3) days of required practice missed during school scheduled Spring/Winter/Fall/Summer breaks, whether pre-approved or not, the athlete will not be allowed to participate in one (1) game.

H. Absences From School / Participation in Practice

Student Athletes must attend school for at least one-half day to participate in practice or a contest. This means attending either the morning classes (7:25 a.m. until 11:05 a.m.) or the afternoon classes (11:05 a.m. until 2:30 p.m.). Exceptions will be permitted in the case of doctor's appointment, funerals, and acts of God, subject to verification, and at the discretion of the Athletic Director. Student Athletes who compete on Saturday must be in school at least one-half day on the previous Friday, plus attend any scheduled practice. Student Athletes that go home from school ill will not be allowed to participate in either practice or competition that day. Student-athletes, when scheduled to leave for a contest during the school day, which will keep them from meeting the one half day requirement, must be in attendance in class for that entire time prior to leaving for the contest. (An example would be when a bus leaves at 9:00 am for a contest, that student-athlete needs to be in class at the start of the school day).

I. Sportsmanship

All Student Athletes are expected to maintain the highest standards of sportsmanship as contestants and spectators. By so doing, an athlete sets an example for others to follow. When a Student Athlete is disqualified during a contest for unsportsmanlike conduct, that Student Athlete shall be disqualified by his/her school for at least the next playing date for that sport.

Bus Transportation

If a bus is provided and stays with the team the entire day, all Student Athletes must ride the bus to away games and return home on the bus. Only in special circumstances will the Student Athlete be allowed to ride home with his/her own parent(s) or guardian(s). No exceptions will be allowed without a Request to Travel Form being completed and approved, unless a verifiable, parent documented emergency arises.

Request to Travel Form:

If the Request to Travel Form is approved, it is the athlete's responsibility to:

- A. Carry the form to the coach and review it with the coach.
- B. Notify the coach when he/she is ready to leave with his/her parent ONLY.
- C. Have the parent check in with the coach before he/she leaves the event.

The Athletic Program promotes a team concept; therefore, no Student Athlete will be allowed to leave until his/her team is completely finished with an event.

In emergency situations, the parents may call the Athletic Director to ask that a form be completed.

Expectations of Student Athletes on Trips

- A. Be ready at scheduled departure time.
- B. Have no food or drink on the bus (unless authorized).
- C. Dress appropriately and properly as determined by the coach and the Athletic Code.
- D. Conduct themselves as ladies and gentlemen.
- E. Keep the bus clean.
- F. Close all bus windows at the end of the trip.

Care of Equipment and Uniforms

The equipment issued to the Student Athlete represents a major capital investment. The proper care of this equipment is expected and is the Student Athlete's responsibility. It is issued for the Student Athlete's use only and is not to be used by anyone other than the Student Athlete. Using or borrowing equipment issued to others will not be tolerated. ATHLETES ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE COST OF LOST OR DAMAGED EQUIPMENT AND MUST MAKE THIS PAYMENT TO THE ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT PRIOR TO RECEIVING HIS/HER AWARD(S). ATHLETES ARE NOT ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE IN ANY FURTHER SPORTS UNTIL ALL FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS FROM OTHER SPORTS ARE MET.

A. Uniforms (Game and Practice)

Game and practice uniforms will be issued prior to the start of the season (or by contest) and are NOT TO BE WORN AT ANY TIME OTHER THAN AT AN ATHLETIC CONTEST OR PRACTICE unless approved by the coach. The rule for "lost equipment" applies to all game and practice uniforms.

Team Participation

A. Appearance of Student Athletes (grooming and dress code)

Applicable to both home and away events, athletes will be required to dress subject to the following minimum standards:

1. Males will wear dress pants and an appropriate shirt unless otherwise approved by the coach.
2. Females will wear a dress, dress pants, or skirt and an appropriate top unless otherwise approved by the coach.
3. Hair will be kept neat, well groomed, and not interfere with the athlete's ability to perform.
4. During an athletic event, all parts of the uniform issued must be worn. Any additional clothing worn during competition must be approved by the coach.

B. Selection of Captains

Methods by which captains are selected are determined by the head coach. Final selections are at the discretion of the head coach.

C. Cutting Athletes From Squad

If a student is cut from one sport, he/she is eligible to participate in another sport during that season. The Student Athlete faced with this situation is encouraged to go out for another sport unless he/she is cut because of disciplinary or eligibility reasons.

D. Quitting

Quitting a team is a serious matter. A Student Athlete may drop out of a sport only if he/she has personally contacted the coach. An individual will not be allowed to participate in another sport unless he/she has personally contacted the coach of the team that the athlete previously quit. A student will not be permitted to participate in another sport in the same season if he/she quits after the first contest has taken place in that sport which he/she desires to join unless both coaches agree and final permission is given by the Athletic Director.

E. Accidents and Injury

Each Student Athlete is responsible for notifying the coach and/or trainer of any accident or injury. It should be understood that the Tecumseh Public Schools assumes no liability for injuries incurred through a Student Athlete's participation in the Tecumseh Athletic Program.

Varsity Club

All varsity letter winners are eligible to be members of the Varsity Club. The purpose of the club is centered around the following areas:

- A. Support the efforts of the Athletic Director in providing consistent administration for all levels of competition.
- B. Increase a Student Athlete's awareness of other important facets of life besides athletics (e.g., organizing functions for the underprivileged, Christmas parties and visiting nursing homes).
- C. Promote increased standards of scholarship and sportsmanship.

Athletic Awards

The following requirements must be met before a letter or similar award can be given to any Student Athlete:

Varsity Awards

- A. **Baseball:** Participation in at least one-third of the total innings of varsity competition, finish the season, and/or be recommended by the coach for the award.
- B. **Basketball:** Participation in at least one-third of the total quarters of varsity competition, finish the season, and/or be recommended by the coach for the award.
- C. **Bowling:** Participation in at least one-half the scheduled varsity competitive matches, finish the season, and/or be recommended by the coach for the award.
- D. **Competitive Cheerleading:** Participation in at least one-half of the varsity athletic contests, finish the season, and/or be recommended by the coach for the award.
- E. **Cross Country:** Participation in at least one-third of the varsity competitive meets, finish the season, and/or be recommended by the coach for the award.
- F. **Football:** Participation in at least one-third of the total quarters of varsity competition, finish the season, and/or recommendation by the coach for the award.
- G. **Golf:** Participation in at least one-half of the varsity matches, finish the season, and/or be recommended by the coach for the award.
- H. **Gymnastics:** Participate in at least one-half of the varsity meets, finish the season, and/or be recommended by the coach for the award.
- I. **Lacrosse:** Participation in at least one-half of the scheduled varsity competitive matches, finish the season, and/or be recommended by the coach for the award.
- J. **Sideline Cheer:** Participation in at least one-half of the scheduled varsity football contests, finish the season, and or be recommended by the coach for the award.
- K. **Soccer:** Participation in at least one-third of the total varsity contests, finish the season, and/or be recommended by the coach for the award.
- L. **Softball:** Participation in at least one-third of the total innings of varsity competition, finish the season, and/or be recommended by the coach for the award.
- M. **Swimming:** Participation in at least one-third of the total varsity meets, finish the season, and/or be recommended by the coach for the award.
- N. **Track:** Participation in at least one-third of the varsity competitive meets, finish the season, and/or be recommended by the coach for the award.
- O. **Volleyball:** Participation in at least one-third of the total varsity meets, finish the season and/or be recommended by the coach for the award.
- P. **Wrestling:** Participation in at least one-half the scheduled varsity competitive matches, finish the season, and/or be recommended by the coach for the award.
- Q. **Manager:** Manager in two varsity sports, complete the season in each and be recommended by the coach in each sport. A coach may recommend a person for an award at the completion of a single sport if he/she feels the person has merited the award on the basis of the amount of service he/she has performed.

Non-Varsity Awards:

- A. **Junior Varsity & Freshmen:** Awards are given on the basis of having completed the season and being recommended for the award by the coach. Recommendations are made on the basis of the previously mentioned varsity requirements for each sport.
- B. Recommendations for awards by any coach should be based on citizenship, sportsmanship, attitude, practice, attendance, and general behavior. The first time an athlete is awarded a varsity letter in any sport, it will be the official letter. Subsequent awards shall consist of chevrons or medals. The chevrons indicate years of service in varsity sports. Only one chevron per year per Student Athlete is allowed. Medals may be given to a Student Athlete for each sport in which he/she lettered.

Club Sports:

- A. **Equestrian:** Participation in at least one-half the scheduled varsity competitive matches, finish the season, and/or be recommended by the coach for the award.

Other General Rules:

- A. Staff supervision is necessary for any student activity.
- B. Any shoes which have been used outside the gym area are not acceptable footwear for activities on the gym floor.
- C. Student Athletes will provide their own towel.
- D. All Student Athletes must display proper locker room conduct, including, but not restricted to, the elimination of horseplay and degrading, abusive language, and behavior.
- E. All athletes will be expected to attend post-season banquets in order to receive his/her award(s).
- F. This Athletic Code will be reviewed every three (3) years by the Athletic Director and a representative committee of coaches, parents, students, and staff unless the Board of Education directs otherwise.

SOURCE:

Tecumseh Public Schools

Dates:

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