

ONTARIO ATHLETIC POLICY

PREFACE:

Those responsible for overseeing, planning and working the athletic programs view athletics as a privilege. Participants will abide by the training rules established by the Athletic Council and approved by the Administration and the Ontario Board of Education. Students entering the district from a non-chartered or home schooling program will not be admitted on a part-time basis for a curricular course or extracurricular activity.

RULES:

- I. In-Season curfew rules have been established as follows:
 - A. Athletes, unless escorted by a parent or guardian or with the coach's prior approval, shall be home according to legal curfew and/or sport-specific curfew.
 - B. Exceptions may be made for "special" school related activities with the coach's prior approval.
 - C. Penalties for violation of the above curfew rules are as follows:
 1. A first offense will result in the athlete being disciplined at the coach's discretion.
 2. A second offense will result in the athlete being suspended from the next contest.
 3. Further violations will be cause for consideration of suspension from all athletics for the season in progress.
- II. If an athlete commits acts such as lying, stealing, cheating, in-school or out-of-school misconduct, etc., discretion will be applied relative to the seriousness of the offense. Depending on the seriousness of the offense, the athlete may be suspended from all athletics for the period of one year.
- III. Coaches are responsible for the administration of the sports program to which they are assigned. In this capacity, they have the option to make judgments and decisions on items and procedures not specifically designated in the Athletic Policy which they believe are necessary to insure continued high ideals for the athletic program of the Ontario Schools.
- IV. An athlete quitting a sport after the first two weeks from the beginning date of the sports season as set by the O.H.S.A.A., will not be permitted to participate in any in-season sport for the duration of the season in progress. An athlete dismissed from a sport for disciplinary reasons will not be permitted to participate in any sport for the duration of the season in progress. Athletes that quit a sport after two weeks may be denied athletic participation (off-season programming & weight room) for the next consecutive sport season until the first official practice date as identified by the OHSAA unless excused by the Athletic Director with consent by the Varsity Head Coaches impacted. For spring athletes, the first Monday after Memorial Day shall be considered the re-entry date.
- V. An athlete is not permitted to participate in any sport 2 weeks after the 1st practice date set by OHSAA, Administration may make exceptions.
- VI. Athletes Pay to Participate fee will not be reimbursed for athletes quitting a sport after the first contest (scrimmage/game/contest).
- VII. Student-Athletes must meet the academic requirements as established by the OHSAA and the Ontario Local Schools Board of Education, i.e., Students must pass a minimum of five credits or their equivalent with a minimum GPA of 1.00 during the previous grading period. All incoming seventh graders to the middle school are eligible for the first grading period. Grades can be checked on Progress Book which is available online.
- VIII. For participation purposes, athletes must be in attendance for one-half of the school day (Friday for Saturday participation) unless previously excused by the administration.

IX. The awards program for each sport is considered to be an event similar to a scheduled practice, game, meet, or contest. Consequently, student athletes are required to attend the awards program. Failure to attend the awards program will result in the forfeiture of any material awards that he or she has earned over the course of the season. The lettering status of the athlete will remain intact. Exceptions to this policy would include, but not necessarily be limited to, illness, family emergency, religious activities, or other uncontrolled circumstances prohibiting their attendance. Excuses for absence must be written and endorsed by the athlete's parent(s) or guardian and submitted to the head coach prior to the awards program. The head coach will make the final decision of accepting any excuses not aforementioned. Recognition or mention of any accomplishments of an athlete who is absent will be at the sole discretion of the head coach. Coaches are encouraged to exercise good judgment, especially, if the athlete had not submitted a written excuse prior to the awards program.

X. Athletes shall be disciplined for the following:

- A. Unauthorized use or possession of illicit, over the counter or prescription drugs including paraphernalia, any substance used to induce intoxication as defined by the Ohio Revised Code, and including but not limited to parents giving prescribed medicine that is not prescribed for the athlete.
- B. Use or possession of any alcoholic beverage.
- C. Use or possession of tobacco, nicotine or nicotine "juice" products in any form. Including, but not limited to, electronic cigarettes and vapor pens.
- D. Athletes will not attend gatherings or parties with the presence of alcohol and/or drugs. The athlete must make a conscientious effort to leave the party immediately. Remaining at the gathering or party constitutes violation of this policy. Circumstances regarding this situation will be investigated by school officials.

XI. Participants in both Athletics and Cheerleading are subject to random drug testing.

SELF-REFERRAL POLICY:

If a student or his parent / guardian, without prior knowledge of the offense by an authority figure, seeks assistance dealing with drug, alcohol or tobacco use or possession by self-referral to their coach/advisor, the guidance department, school administrator, or the drug/alcohol program coordinator, there shall be NO prohibition from extra-curricular activities* and the self-referral will not be considered a violation. The student will follow the self-referral option. Upon refusal or failure to follow through with the self-referral options, a meeting of the drug/alcohol coordinator, guidance department and school administration will be held on the student's behalf. At this time, this committee will decide on whether self-referral is being completed or the violation is changed to First Offense. The self-referral option may be used one time only in the student's athletic career (grades 7-12).

IN-SEASON AND OUT-OF-SEASON: SELF-REFERRAL

- 1. Education Sessions: Student must attend two hours. Written proof of private counseling is also acceptable. Parent / Guardian must meet with the drug / alcohol coordinator.
- 2. Student may choose one of the following:
 - a.) 15 hours of community service (see approved list), which must be completed within 60 days from the time of the suspension. Failure to do so will result in suspension until all hours are completed.
 - b.) Participation in positive peer programs.
 - c.) Create 6 total posters and/or public service announcements for the community.
- 3. Practice attendance required.
- 4. Assessment: Student will complete a drug / alcohol assessment.
- 5. * No game participation until items 1-4 are initiated.
- 6. Denial of athletic award and participation in future sports restricted until satisfactory completion of items 1-4.
- 7. Upon completion of all requirements, the student must appear before a sub-committee of the Ontario Athletic Council for a "reinstatement hearing". The student must: 1. State their offense; 2. Explain why they should be reinstated; 3. Answer any questions asked by the sub-committee members

IN-SEASON AND OUT-OF-SEASON: NO SELF-REFERRAL

FIRST OFFENSE:

CHOICE ONE:

1. Education Sessions: Student must attend four hours. Written proof of private counseling is also acceptable. Parent / Guardian must meet with the drug / alcohol coordinator.
2. Community Service (see approved list): Student must complete 30 hours, which must be completed within 60 days from the time of the suspension. Failure to do so will result in suspension until all hours are completed.
3. Assessment: Student will complete a drug/alcohol assessment.
4. One of the three required follow-up tests and prepayment for the three required tests.
5. Participation: Denial of the privilege of participation on the team for the next 30% of the total contests in which the team engages for the entire season, immediately following the suspension. Participation will be denied until all requirements are met. The athlete must finish the season in good standing for the suspension to apply.
6. Upon completion of all requirements, the student must appear before a sub-committee of the Ontario Athletic Council for a "reinstatement hearing". The student must: 1. State their offense. 2. Explain why they should be reinstated. 3. Answer any questions asked by the sub-committee members.
7. Practice attendance required.
8. Leadership: Loss of a varsity leadership position.

CHOICE TWO:

1. Participation: Student will not participate in athletics for one year. During this year, the athlete must abide by the School Athletic Policy. If this does not occur, further participation will be denied.
2. Mandatory drug testing prior to reinstatement

SECOND OFFENSE:

CHOICE ONE:

1. Education Sessions: Student must attend 8 hours. Written proof of private counseling is also acceptable. Parent / Guardian must meet with the drug / alcohol coordinator and attend at least 1 session.
2. Community Service (see approved list): Student must complete 60 hours, which must be completed within 120 days from the time of the suspension. Failure to do so will result in suspension until all hours are completed.
3. Assessment: Student will complete a drug/alcohol assessment
4. One of the three required follow-up tests, and prepayment for the three required tests.
5. Participation: Denial of the privilege of participation on the team for the next 60% of the total contests in which the team engages for the entire season, immediately following the suspension. Participation will be denied until all requirements are met. The athlete must finish the season in good standing for the suspension to apply.
6. Upon completion of all requirements, the student must appear before a sub-committee of the Ontario Athletic Council for a "reinstatement hearing". The student must: 1. State their offense. 2. Explain why they should be reinstated. 3. Answer any questions asked by the sub-committee members.
7. Practice attendance required.
8. Leadership: Loss of a varsity leadership position.

CHOICE TWO:

1. Participation: Student will not participate in athletics for one year. During this year, the athlete must abide by the School Athletic Policy. If this does not occur, further participation will be denied.
2. Mandatory drug testing prior to reinstatement

THIRD OFFENSE: Mandatory

1. Athletic participation denied for one year from date of infraction. During this 1 year suspension, the athlete must abide by the School / Athletic Policy and initiate the following steps. If this does not occur, further participation will be denied.
2. Drug/alcohol assessment, counseling and/or treatment recommendations.
3. Complete three follow-up drug tests and submit payment for the three follow-up tests.
4. Meeting: Parent meeting with school administration, guidance counselor and the drug/alcohol coordinator.
5. Upon completion of all requirements, the student must appear before a sub-committee of the Ontario Athletic Council for a "reinstatement hearing". The student must: 1. State their offense. 2. Explain why they should be reinstated. 3. Answer any questions asked by the sub-committee members.

Failure to comply with the first and second offenses will result in a meeting of the school guidance department, school administration, the drug/alcohol coordinator and parents to determine further disciplinary action.

FOURTH OFFENSE: Denial of participation in athletics for the remainder of school career.

OFFENSE RECORD DROP OFF: An offense will drop off one's record upon the violation's three-year anniversary date.

REFUSING A RANDOM DRUG TEST:

If a student refuses to take a random drug test, that is considered a *positive result* and the student will follow the guidelines outlined by the Athletic Policy if he/she wants to be reinstated. (see Policy for Random Urine Drug Testing of Ontario Local Schools Student Athletics below)

EDUCATION SESSIONS

The Education Sessions will be held for those who break Ontario Local Schools Drug /Alcohol Athletic Policy or may be referred for breaking the School drug/alcohol policy. These sessions will be held at an Ontario School with a comprehensive, classroom setting for written and discussion activities. These lessons may include any subject dealing with drugs, tobacco and alcohol. All students involved must participate or they will not receive credit for attending that session. Sessions will be offered according to time of offenses. The community drug/alcohol coordinator will conduct these sessions with assistance from local agencies, programs and people.

The breakdown for required sessions: Self-Referral – 2 hours. First Offense – 4 hours. Second offense – 8 hours

* A parent / guardian must meet with the drug /alcohol coordinator prior to these sessions.

COMMUNITY SERVICE LIST

Community Service may be performed according to this list or any other beneficial project agreed upon by the drug/alcohol program coordinator and the Ontario Athletic Department. Students must not be paid for their services and must have the supervising adult sign-off on all hours, as well as include their phone number. The supervising adult will be contacted to verify the hours were completed.

Assisting with any Ontario School functions: athletic events, concerts, health fairs, dances, lock-ins, tutoring, assisting staff, open houses, fundraisers, school & student awareness projects, etc.

Assisting with Community Activities: Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, Annual Christmas Show, recreational events or activities, area organizations, businesses and agencies, community awareness activities, church, neighborhood improvement, etc.

POSITIVE PEER PROGRAM LIST

(See Self-Referral)

Positive Peer Programs promote healthy choices and decisions among the students and their classmates. Any program proposed in addition to this list must be approved by the drug/alcohol program coordinator and the Ontario Athletic Department. Students must participate for a minimum of six weeks. The approved programs include, but are not limited to: "Against Drugs In Ontario Schools", "Alcoholics Anonymous", "Narcotics Anonymous", "AlaTeen", "Alanon", etc.

DEFINITIONS:

APPEAL: A student suspended from an athletic team because of a violation of rules may file an appeal with his/her building principal or designee.

AUTHORITY FIGURE: Law Enforcement Agencies, referral people, Hospitals, emergency rooms, School Staff, etc.

BEGINNING DATE: The Ohio High School Athletic Association sports calendar will determine the date a sports season begins.

COMMUNITY SERVICE: The volunteering of service hours to any nonprofit organization or other worthwhile projects to help or benefit others. (See approved list)

CONTEST: Any meet/match/game that qualifies for an Ontario athletic award or in the case of Junior High, any regularly scheduled meet/match/game outside of scrimmages constitutes a contest.

ENDING DATE: The sports banquet or awards program for a particular sport will conclude the season. Athletes will remain under the "In-season" rules until the banquet or program's conclusion. Athletes are required to attend the banquet to receive their award. Unless prior permission is received, awards will not be given after the banquet date.

IN-SEASON: From beginning date to ending date.

OUT-OF-SEASON: From ending date to beginning date, including summer vacation.

THIS ATHLETIC POLICY APPLIES TO ALL ATHLETES OF THE ONTARIO LOCAL SCHOOLS. A STUDENT IS CONSIDERED AN ATHLETE WHEN HE OR SHE ATTENDS THE FIRST PRACTICE OR BECOMES A MEMBER OF AN ATHLETIC TEAM. ALL ATHLETES WILL FOLLOW THESE RULES TWELVE MONTHS OF THE YEAR.

Revised: March 1981; Oct. 1981; June 1982; May 1988; May 1989; June 1992; Nov. 1994; June 1996; Nov. 1999; June 2002; Oct.26; May 2007; April 2018; July 2022

ONTARIO HIGH SCHOOL

ATHLETIC POLICY ATHLETE / PARENT CONFIRMATION FORM

Dear Parent / Guardian:

These training rules have been established by the Ontario High School Athletic Council and approved by the Ontario Board of Education. Each athlete and the athlete's parent / guardian will be asked to sign this document once for athletic participation for the school year.

Please read the rules, along with your son or daughter, and sign below if you understand the rules. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the athletic department.

Student's Name _____
(Print legibly)

Student's Signature _____

Date _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____

Date _____