



Oak Park School District Athletic Code of Conduct for Student Athletes



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Introduction

In accordance with the goals of education the Oak Park School District philosophy is to help young people develop mentally, physically, and intellectually. The Oak Park athletic program contributes to this goal by providing students with opportunities to participate as team members in interscholastic athletic competition. The expected outcomes are the development of physical skills, sportsmanship, teamwork, self-discipline, loyalty, tolerance and perseverance.

By participating in any sport offered by the Oak Park School District a student is voluntarily committing to abide by the rules, requirements, standards, and regulations listed here and in the Oak Park Student Code of Conduct, as well as any rules, requirements, standards, and regulations of the team. Participating in team sports is a privilege, not a right. Therefore, it is crucial for student athletes to understand the Athletic Department's expectations of them, and what they may expect from the athletic program. This document sets out the Eligibility Rules, Transportation Policy, Attendance Requirements, Academic Standards for Athletes, Conduct Expectations for Athletes, Uniform/Equipment Policy, and Social Media Use Policy. All athletes and their parents are expected to read and to be familiar with this document. Any questions should be directed to the coach or Athletic Director.

Oak Park School District's Expectations for Parents of Athletes

- Allow the officials to officiate whether you agree with a decision or not.
- Allow the coach to coach whether you agree with a decision or not.
- Encourage your child and ensure that their sports experience is a positive one.
- Attend games as often as you can in support of your child and the team.
- Ensure that your child attends practice and games.
- If a problem arises communicate effectively with the coach prior to speaking with the athletic director or other administrators.

Oak Park School District's Expectations for Athletes

- Follow all team rules, school rules and regulations and policies outlined in this Athletic Code of Conduct.
- Exhibit good sportsmanship towards the opponents, teammates, officials, and your coach.
- Make excelling in academics your top priority.
- Put team goals ahead of personal goals.
- Have pride in yourself, your team, your school and care for your facilities.
- Attend practices on time and be prepared.

Oak Park School District's Expectations for Coaches

- Teach players by precept and example, respect for school authorities and contest officials; providing support for them in cases of adverse decisions and refraining from critical comments in public or to the media.
 - Demonstrate to athletes that the goals of the team supersede individual goals.
 - Judge an athlete's talent and ability fairly and assign appropriate playing time and participation.
 - Communicate effectively with parents, athletes, and the Athletic Director.
 - Give the highest degree of attention to the athlete's physical well-being.
 - Develop, communicate, and model policies for athletes' conduct and language in the locker room, at practice, during travel, during competition, and any other appropriate times.
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1. Eligibility Rules as outlined by the Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA)

- a. **Age - High School** students become ineligible if they reach their nineteenth (19) birthday before September 1 of a current school year. Seventh grade students must be under fourteen years of age before September 1 of a current school year. Eighth grade students must be under fifteen years of age before September 1 of a current year. Those middle school students who will reach their fifteenth (15) birthday before September 1 of a current year may participate in the high school athletic program if approved on an MHSAA Eligibility Advancement Application. These students are limited to four years of high school eligibility, and all other regulations would apply as if that student were in high school.
Middle School students: A 7th grade student who competes in any interscholastic athletic contest limited to 7th graders must be under fourteen (14) years of age, except that a student whose 14th birthday occurs on or after September 1 of a current school year is eligible for the balance of that school year. An 8th grade student who competes in any interschool athletic contests limited to 8th graders must be under fifteen (15) years of age, except that a student whose (15th) birthday occurs on or after September 1 of a current school year is eligible for the balance of that school year.
- b. **Physical Examinations-** Students must have on file, in the Athletic Department Office, a physician's statement for the current school year (dated after April 15) certifying that he/she is physically able to compete in athletic practices and contests.
- c. **Enrollment-** Students must be enrolled in school prior to the fourth Friday after Labor Day (1st semester) or the fourth Friday of February (2nd semester). A student must be enrolled in the school for which she or he competes.
- d. **Semesters of Enrollment-** Students cannot be eligible in high school for more than eight semesters and the seventh and eighth semesters must be consecutive. Students are allowed four first semesters and four second semesters of competition and cannot compete if they have graduated from high school. (High School Only)

- e. **Transfer Students-** A student in grades 9 through 12 who transfers to another high school is not eligible to participate in an interscholastic contest for one full semester unless the student qualifies for immediate eligibility under one or more of fifteen published exceptions.
- f. **Undue Influence-** The use of undue influence by any person directly or indirectly associated with a school to secure or encourage the attendance of a student for athletic purposes, shall cause the student to become ineligible for a minimum of one semester.
- g. **Awards and Amateurism-** Students cannot receive money or other valuable considerations for participating in MHSAA sponsored sports or officiating in interscholastic athletic contests, except as allowed by the MHSAA Handbook. Students may accept, for participating in MHSAA sponsored sports, a symbolic or merchandise award, which does not have a value over \$25. Banquets, luncheons, dinners, trips and admissions to camps or events, are permitted if accepted “in kind”. Awards in the form of cash, merchandise, certificates, or any other negotiable document are never allowed.

2. Transportation Policy

Any student traveling to an away athletic contest/practice as a member of a team on a school chartered vehicle, must return to the home school on the same vehicle after the contest/practice is over when the vehicle is scheduled as roundtrip transportation. The only exception being if a parent has made prior arrangements with the coach, then that student will be allowed to return home with the student’s parent or guardian.

3. Attendance Requirements

- a. Student-athletes are to attend school during the school day in order to participate in athletics during the same day or evening. Should there be a situation where a student cannot attend school (i.e. medical appointment) an excused absence note will be required to participate in the contest with approval from the principal and athletic director. Any student-athlete who has been suspended from school may not participate in any team activities, including practice, for the duration of the suspension.
- b. 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 where it is impossible for a participant to attend due to illness, injury and other required school or family commitments, the student will make prior arrangements with the coach for an excused absence.
- c. Participants will only be excused from team practice during regular school vacation periods when taking part in a school sponsored or parent approved trip. It is the expectation of the coach and athletic administration that the student will notify the coach prior to the excused absence.

- d. Student-athletes are expected to attend all contests barring any emergency circumstances. If a student will miss a contest prior written notice from a parent/guardian is necessary.

4. Academic Standards required by the Oak Park School District

It is the requirement of Oak Park High School that all student-athletes have and maintain a GPA of at least a **2.0**. Academic eligibility will be determined by the final GPA from the **previous semester**. Any student who does not have the required 2.0 GPA may not participate in any team activity including practice. If a student-athlete fails to maintain the 2.0 during the season they will be required to attend tutoring/study table. This academic standard is not flexible as it is the expectation of the Oak Park School District that every student chooses to make their education their first priority.

5. Conduct Expectations

Recognizing that participation in extra-curricular activities is a privilege not a right, the Oak Park School District requires that the conduct of student-athletes be exemplary at all times. Participants are representatives of the District and their school and must conduct themselves appropriately at all times both while in school and out of school, this includes being respectful to staff, coaches, officials, as well as members of the opposing team. Student-athletes who violate this policy are subject to suspension or dismissal from the team at the discretion of the Superintendent, the School administrators, Athletic director, or coach.

6. Uniform/Equipment Policy

It is the expectation of the Oak Park School District that all student-athletes are responsible for the care, security, and use of any uniforms/equipment issued to them while participating in school sponsored sports. Failure to return the uniform/equipment or returning items damaged will result in the student-athlete being held financially responsible. The student-athlete will not be allowed to participate in another sport, receive any awards, transcripts, etc. until the uniform is returned or the athletic department has been reimbursed. Theft of school equipment is larceny and Michigan law regards larceny as a felony.

7. Social Media Use: Student-Athletes are prohibited from the behavior listed below

- a. Posting derogatory language or remarks about teammates, coaches, other student-athletes, teachers, or administrators at this school or other schools.
- b. Posting demeaning statements, inflammatory language, or threats to any other person, school, or organization.
- c. Posting incriminating photos or statements depicting or insinuating violence, bullying hazing, sexual harassment, vandalism, stalking, underage drinking, or the selling, possessing or use of controlled substances.
- d. Creating a serious danger to the safety of another person or making a threat of serious physical or emotional injury to another person.
- e. Indicating knowledge of criminal activity including theft or damage to property.

8. Substance Abuse

All student-athletes are required to refrain from smoking, using chewing tobacco, the use/possession/distribution of drugs, steroids and/or alcoholic beverages. Refer to the Oak Park School District's policy as well as the Student Code of Conduct for consequences that will result due to the violation of these rules.

Additional Considerations

- Individual athletes' goals are secondary to the success of the team as a whole. Not all athletes will receive an equal amount of playing time, be understanding of this fact recognizing that participation is a privilege.
- The coach, Athletic Director, and school administration reserve the right to suspend/dismiss an athlete who violates this code of conduct, the school code of conduct, or whose attitude and or/behavior are unbecoming of an Oak Park student-athlete.
- All parents are expected to adhere to the 24 hour "cooling off period" in order to allow yourself to communicate effectively and respectfully with the coaches. All complaints must be heard at the lowest level possible before intervention by a higher authority can occur.

WARNING

Participation in supervised interscholastic athletics does include a risk of injury which may range in severity. Although serious injuries are not common in supervised athletic programs, it is impossible to eliminate all risks. Participants can and have the responsibility to help reduce the chance of injury. Athletes must obey safety rules, report physical problems to their coaches, follow a proper condition program, and inspect their equipment regularly.

Athletic Code of Conduct Acknowledgement Form for Parents and Student-Athletes

Student Name _____ Grade _____ D.O.B. _____

I HEREBY GIVE MY CONSENT FOR THE STUDENT NAMED ABOVE TO ENGAGE IN INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS AND UNDERSTAND THE POSSIBILITY THAT SERIOUS INJURY MAY RESULT FROM PARTICIPATING IN ATHLETIC ACTIVITIES. I FURTHER UNDERSTAND THAT THE ABOVE STUDENT WILL BE EXPECTED TO ADHERE FIRMLY TO ALL ESTABLISHED ATHLETIC POLICIES OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT AND THE MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION. I RECOGNIZE THAT AS A RESULT OF ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION, MEDICAL TREATMENT ON AN EMERGENCY BASIS MAY BE NECESSARY AND FURTHER RECOGNIZE THAT SCHOOL PERSONNEL MAY BE UNABLE TO CONTACT ME FOR MY CONSENT FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE. I DO HEREBY CONSENT IN ADVANCE TO SUCH EMERGENCY CARE, INCLUDING HOSPITAL CARE, AS MAY BE DEEMED NECESSARY UNDER THE THEN EXISTING CIRCUMSTANCES AND TO ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE EXPENSES OF SUCH CARE. I AUTHORIZE OAK PARK SCHOOL DISTRICT TO USE A PHOTOGRAPH OR VIDEO RECORDING OF MY CHILD FOR DISTRICT NEWS OR WEB PAGE PUBLICATIONS. MY SIGNATURE ACKNOWLEDGES THAT I HAVE READ THIS ENTIRE DOCUMENT AND I AGREE ON BEHALF OF THE ABOVE NAMED STUDENT AND MYSELF TO ABIDE BY ALL OF ITS PROVISIONS.

Signature of Parent/Guardian _____ Date: _____

AS AN ATHLETE, I UNDERSTAND THAT I AM EXPECTED TO ADHERE FIRMLY TO ALL ESTABLISHED ATHLETIC POLICIES OF THE OAK PARK SCHOOL DISTRICT AND THE MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION SUCH AS THOSE STATED IN THIS DOCUMENT. MY SIGNATURE ACKNOWLEDGES THAT I HAVE READ THE ENTIRE ATHLETIC CODE OF CONDUCT, UNDERSTAND THAT IT IS IN EFFECT 365 DAYS A YEAR, ALL DAY, EVERYDAY, AND EVERYWHERE, AND I AGREE TO ABIDE BY ALL OF THE STATED POLICIES, PROCEDURES, AND CODES OF THE ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT. I ALSO UNDERSTAND THAT THERE ARE ADDITIONAL POLICIES I MUST ADHERE TO WHICH ARE NOT CONTAINED IN THIS DOCUMENT.

Signature of Student-Athlete _____ Date: _____