

Fairfield Area School District



Athletic Code of Conduct

Dear Parents/Guardians:

This material is presented to you because your son or daughter has indicated a desire to participate in interscholastic athletics, and you have expressed your willingness to permit him/her to compete. We believe that participation in high school athletics provides a wealth of opportunities and experiences that assist students in personal growth as a member of society. Important social skills and team building lessons are obtained while competing in a school sport.

Our goal as an athletic department is consistent with our school district's mission statement, which is "Students First". It is our intent to conduct a program that is educationally sound in purpose and will enhance each student's personal growth. We will put our student-athletes "first" in our decision-making process, and make sure we put them in situations that will challenge them and allow them to be successful.

A student who elects to participate in athletics is voluntarily making a choice of self-discipline. These are the reasons we place such stress on good training habits. Failure to comply with the rules of training and conduct will result in removal from the program. This concept of self-discipline is tempered by our responsibility to recognize the rights of the individual with the objectives of the team. There is no place in athletics for students who will not discipline their minds and bodies for rigorous competition. We are striving for excellence first and foremost in the classroom, and then on the field in your respective sport(s). We want our athletes to strive to be the best academically and athletically. Before a student is permitted to begin practicing for a sport, the following regulations must be met:

- A.) A physical examination must have been passed
- B.) Parent or guardian permission must be granted
- C.) Proper insurance coverage must be indicated

When your son/daughter enlisted in one of our sports programs, he/she committed our staff to certain responsibilities and obligations which is:

- A.) to provide adequate equipment and facilities
- B.) to provide well trained coaches
- C.) to provide equalized contests with skilled officials

Likewise, we feel that you have committed yourselves to certain responsibilities and obligations. We would like to take this opportunity to acquaint you with specific policies that are necessary for all Fairfield School District athletes.

It is the role of this athletic department to make rules that govern the spirit of competition for the school. These rules need a broad basis of community support, which is achieved only through communication to the parent. It is our hope to accomplish this objective through this athletic publication for students and parents.

Sincerely,

Keith Bruck, Athletic Director

Dear Student-Athlete:

Being a member of a Fairfield Area School District athletic team is a fulfillment of an ambition for many students. It is an honor to wear our schools' colors in competition and being an athlete. A great athletic tradition is not built overnight; it takes the hard work and dedication of many people over many years. As a member of an interscholastic athletic squad of the Fairfield Area School District Middle/High School, you have inherited a wonderful tradition which you are challenged to uphold and maintain.

Our district's tradition has been to win with honor and integrity. We desire to win, but only with honor to our athletes, our school, and our community. Over many years, our teams have achieved many league and tournament championships. Several individuals have set records and achieved All-Conference and All-District, and All-State honors. Collectively as a district our high school athletic programs have received several sportsmanship accolades as well.

It will be a challenge to maintain the tradition that has been built before you, but you have shown your interest in contributing and helping maintain our rich tradition. When you wear the colors of your school, we assume that you not only understand our tradition, but are willing to assume the responsibilities that go with them. However, the contributions you make should be satisfying accomplishments to you and your family. These responsibilities include:

- A.) **Responsibilities to You:** The most important of these responsibilities is to broaden and develop strength of your character. Your academic studies should be your top priority during your time at Fairfield. Next, your participation in other extracurricular activities, as well as in sports, will prepare you with life and team building skills that you will take with you when you graduate from our district.
- B.) **Responsibilities to Your School:** Another responsibility you assume as a team member is to your school. Fairfield Area School District cannot maintain its position as having an outstanding school unless you do your best in everything that you do. By participating in athletics to the maxim of your ability, you are contributing to the reputation of your school.
- C.) **Responsibilities to Others:** You also carry a heavy responsibility to your family. You have an obligation to go out and participate and compete at the highest level each and every day, while during practice or a game. You not only representing yourself out on the playing field, but you are also representing your family and loved ones that has molded you into the person you are today. Go out each day and give it everything you got. Leave no doubt.

You assume a leadership role when you are a Fairfield Athlete. The student body and citizens of the community, and other communities, judge our school by your conduct and attitude, both on and off the field. Because of this leadership role, you can contribute significantly to school spirit and community pride. Make Fairfield Area School District proud of you, and your community proud of your school, by your consistent demonstration of these ideals.

Sincerely,

Keith Bruck, Athletic Director

ATHLETIC CODE OF CONDUCT AND DISCIPLINE

All student athletes are expected to be good citizens and abide by the rules of the FASD. Violations occurring on school property or during school sponsored activities will first be handled according to the disciplinary guidelines stated in the Student Handbook, second by the Athletic Code of Conduct, third, by the team rules established by the coaching staff.

Confirmed Violations—The conduct code will be enforced when an incident has been confirmed by a member of the coaching staff, teaching staff or by a law enforcement agent of the courts. The incident must be reported to the Athletic Director.

Student athletes should understand fully that by joining a team, they are accepting the privileges and benefits of participating as well as the responsibility and commitment to that team. Expectations may vary from coach to coach or in different sports, but FASD has general expectations for all student athletes at all grade levels.

A. General Rules

1. Parent Consent:

- A student shall be eligible for practice or participation in each sport only when there is on file in the athletic office, a certificate of consent which is signed by his/her parent or guardian. (This is on the PIAA CIPPE Form)

2. Physical Examination:

- No student shall be eligible to represent Fairfield in any interscholastic athletic contests unless he/she has been examined by a licensed physician of medicine before his/her sport season. Fairfield Area School District will conduct physicals on 2-3 dates during the summer. If a student does not attend the physicals during the summer, he/she must have a physical examination by his/her own private physician before he/she can participate in a sport. There is an Athletic Fee of \$50 charged before each sport season.

3. Insurance:

- No individual shall be eligible to represent Fairfield in any interscholastic athletic contests unless he/she has on record the proper insurance information. Students must either purchase school insurance or show proof of insurance.

B. Academic Eligibility:

It shall be the policy of the Fairfield Area School District that students must meet the following criteria to participate in athletics:

1. To be eligible for athletics, students must be passing 4 full credit classes with a D or higher.
2. Students, who do not pass 4 full credit classes for the ending quarter, will be ineligible for the first 15 school days of the following quarter beginning on the day report cards are issued. Students who do not pass all required credits at the end of the school year, will be ineligible for the first 15 days of the following year starting on the first school day.
3. Academic eligibility will be determined on a weekly basis. The grades are accumulated within the marking period.
4. A student who is deemed ineligible a first time may practice with the team provided parent and coach agree that the student can participate but may not travel or compete with the team during the one week of ineligibility. (Monday through Saturday)
5. Any Student who becomes ineligible for a total of three weeks during the specific athletic season will be dismissed from the team/activity.
6. Notification will be given verbally to all students and coaches by the Athletic Director.

C. Use of Tobacco, Alcohol, and other Drugs:

The possession of tobacco in any form, alcohol, drugs, and look-alike drugs on school facilities or at school related functions is strictly prohibited. All prescription drugs and medicines must be registered with the school nurse and stored in the nurse's office for the protection of all students. The following rules will be strictly enforced.

1. A student found to be using tobacco, in any form, during the season, will be suspended for at least one scheduled event and be subject to discipline measures outlined in the student handbook. A repeat infraction will result in dismissal from the team.
2. A student found to be using drugs/alcohol, in any form, during the season, will be subject to discipline measures outlined in the student handbook and will be suspended from all extra-curricular activities for 90 school days.

D. Regulations Regarding Attendance and Practice:

1. All students must be present before 10:00 AM to participate in or attend any athletic events. If the student leaves during the day for a medical or dental appointment he/she must return to school with a doctor and parent note in order to participate in or attend any athletic events.
2. All students who leave school early due to illness are not permitted to participate in athletic events on the same day.
3. If an athlete is injured in a practice session or game and it is necessary for them to see a doctor the next day, the athlete may be permitted to attend practice if proof of doctor's appointment is shown, and the absence would be then approved by the FASD.
4. If an athlete plans on missing school, prior approval must be given by FASD to participate in athletic events.
5. Students who accumulate four unexcused absences, on any team, could face dismissal from that team.

6. Any student who receives any detention or any type of suspension will not be permitted to participate in or attend any athletic events on the day the detention or suspension is served. Any student that receives a second suspension will be dismissed from the team for the remainder of the season, or the marking period, whichever is greater. A suspended student will not be able to compete in at least one competitive event. (In cases, in which extenuating circumstances are exhibited, the athletic director, principal and coach will confer regarding these circumstances while keeping the fairness of the student and the athletic program in mind.)
7. If a student misses practice or is continuously late without the consent of the coach, the student may face disciplinary action. Excessive absences or lateness to practice may result in dismissal from the team.
8. Excused Absences (Preapproved): Students who have a valid reason for which they will need to miss practice should communicate this situation, a minimum of 24 hours prior to the absence, to the head coach. Students who receive pre-approved school absences to attend academic sanctioned events (field trips, etc.) will be given an exemption from practice. It is expected that if the student athlete returns from such events before practice begins, they will attend the designated practice.
9. Vacation Policy-Taking vacations by team members during a sport's season are discouraged. In the event of an absence, due to a vacation or trip that is unavoidable, an athlete must contact the head coach no later than two weeks before the scheduled trip or vacation. The athlete and the parents will understand and must be willing to assume the consequences related to their team status and lettering.
10. Holidays and Inclement Weather: No practice shall occur on Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day. Practice during any other holiday period when school is not in session, is at the discretion of the coach. If FASD closes for inclement weather, or has early dismissal due to inclement weather, all practices will be canceled. All games will be canceled.

E. Care of Property/Equipment:

1. Each team member is responsible for keeping the dressing room clean and will be disciplined for defacing or destroying any team or school property. (Home or Away)
2. It is the athlete's responsibility to maintain and take care of all athletic equipment issued to them. Equipment not returned at the end of the season could result in the athlete not receiving equipment in any other sport, withholding of awards or certificates, or the student being required to pay for the replacement cost of all items.
3. If a student is caught stealing equipment or personal possessions from any member of their team, they will be disciplined in accordance with the student handbook, and face removal from the team.
4. If a student owes any athletic equipment from a prior sport, that equipment must be handed in before any other equipment is issued for another sport.

F. Travel:

1. It is the student's responsibility to get any classroom assignments from the teacher. This work should be made up promptly; knowing that missed work could impact a student's eligibility.
2. Dress-Code: Students are expected to dress in accordance with the dress code as stated in the Student Handbook. The coach may have other "game day" dress requirements that will be honored.
3. Student behavior while traveling to or from an athletic contest should be consistent with that of the school transportation policy and the student handbook.
4. Team members are required to travel on school district vehicles to and from the athletic contest. Parents requesting their son or daughter do otherwise should do so only when it is necessary and that it be done by written notification co-signed by the Athletic Director. Lastly, direct and personal contact with the coach or assistant must be established prior to a student leaving the team.
5. Any student who leaves an away activity in violation of this policy will be subject to disciplinary action.

G. Certificates, Lettering, Awards:

1. Middle School athletes will receive a certificate of participation. (This includes all 9th grade students that participate in MS Basketball, Wrestling, Volleyball, and 9th grade Football)
2. Senior High athletes will receive either a certificate of participation, a letter, or both based on the level of involvement on the team and in competitive contest. Other criteria that can be used in a coach's decision to award letters:
 - (a) Some participation during a current season
 - (b) Number of years in athletic competition
 - (c) Dependability on and off the field
 - (d) Attitude toward practice and training rules
 - (e) Growth in team spirit
 - (f) Sportsmanship
 - (g) Injured players
3. An athlete will receive only one letter throughout their athletic careers. All other letter recipients will be honored by a patch.
4. Coaches and/or players will choose two end-of-season awards to be provided by the Athletic Department or other similar entity. Process for choosing recipients will be at the discretion of the head coach with approval of the Athletic Director and School Administrator (Principal). Additional awards may be provided at the discretion of the head coach, but the costs for any additional awards will be the responsibility of the head coach.

H. NCAA Clearinghouse:

Many college athletic programs are regulated by the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA), an organization founded in 1906 that has established rules on eligibility, recruiting, and financial aid. The NCAA has three membership divisions- Division I, Division II, and Division III. Institutions are members of one or another division according to the size and scope of their athletic program and whether they provide athletic scholarships.

If you are planning to enroll in college as freshmen and you wish to participate in Division I or Division II athletics, you must be certified by the NCAA Initial-Eligibility Clearinghouse. The Clearinghouse was established a separate organization by the NCAA member institutions in January 1993. The Clearinghouse ensures consistent interpretation of NCAA initial-eligibility requirements for all prospective student athletes at all member institutions. Applications for Clearinghouse can be found online at www.ncaaclearinghouse.net. You may register with the Clearinghouse as early as your freshmen year.

I. Miscellaneous:

1. Student athletes shall be allowed to participate in as many sport seasons as the athlete and their parent's desire without influence from any coach to specialize in one sport.
2. All coaches shall encourage participation in other sports.
3. Athletes may choose the sport in which they wish to participate.
4. No athlete who is dropped from one sport for disciplinary reasons shall be eligible to participate in another sport until that "sport" season has been completed in its entirety. (This includes open gym.)
5. Athletes who "quit" one sport shall not be eligible to participate in another sport until that sport's season has been completed in its entirety.
6. Athletes may not begin another sport (practice or play) until the previous sport has been completed in its entirety without the consent of each coach involved and the athletic director.
7. Out of season athletic workout programs are to be viewed as self-improvement and not deemed mandatory.

The administration of Fairfield Area School District reserves the right to change/modify the discipline consequences to cover all infractions and situations. Equity and equality will be used to protect the educational integrity of Fairfield Area School District.

I, _____, have read and reviewed this Athletic Code of Conduct with my parent or guardian. I understand being a Fairfield Student-Athlete is a privilege, and I agree to follow and adhere to all the rules and policies that are mentioned in the packet. Failure to do so will result in disciplinary action, and possibly removal of the team. I know that being a student-athlete is an honor and will represent the school in the best way possible.

Student Signature:

Parent/Guardian Signature:

DATE: