
Name

ALL Participating Sports

ATHLETIC/EXTRA-CURRICULAR CODE OF CONDUCT

The Athletic/Extra-Curricular Code of Conduct applies to any student or student who:

- Is on Cuyahoga Falls City Schools property
- Is at school or any school sponsored activity
- Displays conduct at any time or place that has a direct and immediate effect on maintaining order and discipline in the schools or maintaining the safety and welfare of the students and staff
- Participation in athletics/activities is a privilege extended to the student body by the Board of Education of the Cuyahoga Falls City Schools. Students participating in athletics/activities act as representatives of the school district. All students and student athletes are expected to conduct themselves in such a manner as to meet the highest standards of the Cuyahoga Falls School District.
- The Athletic/Extra-curricular Code of Conduct is designed specifically to establish high expectations and standards for all participating students and student athletes. These expectations embody a total lifestyle approach with emphasis on the following core values:

INTEGRITY – *We do what is ethical under all circumstances.*

EXCELLENCE – *We strive to be our best on and off the field.*

RESPECT- *We honor and value ourselves and others.*

TEAM- *Together as one we pursue common goals.*

COMMITMENT- *We give total effort and sacrifice to achieve our purpose.*

- The Cuyahoga Falls Schools Athletic Code will be enforced from the date of signing, for a period of 12 consecutive months. For students who participate in at least one sport each school year, the code applies during their entire high school experience.
- The Athletic/Extra-Curricular Code of conduct deals with specific violations that should be applied within every athletic/extra-curricular program; however, this code is not intended to be all inclusive. *If no penalty is listed in the code of a violation, the coach has the authority to determine the penalty (consistent with the philosophy of the code).*
- A student who has an unexcused absence the day of an extracurricular event shall not participate in the scheduled activity.

ATHLETIC/EXTRA-CURRICULAR EXPECTATIONS/CODE

VIOLATIONS:

The following can result in a code of conduct violation with appropriate consequences

If a coach or advisor desires to implement additional rules and regulations for his/her squad, then these additional policies must be given to the student and parents for them to sign and return to the coach/advisor. This signed copy verifies the athlete and parents are aware of any additional rules and regulations. These additional rules and regulations must be on file in the Athletic Office and accepted by the Athletic Department before they are enforced, as well as the Principal's office for non-athletic activities.

1. A student shall not engage in a fight or physical altercation which causes or threatens to cause harm to another person at any time.
2. A student shall not engage in stealing, cheating, hazing or any other act of poor conduct on or off school grounds at any time.
3. A student shall not engage in profanity or disrespectful language on the playing field toward or at an event toward another student, coach, advisor, fan or official. To do so would violate the spirit of good sportsmanship promoted by the Cuyahoga Falls City Schools District.
4. Misbehavior on or off the playing field, or at any event will be followed with disciplinary action.
5. Drugs, Alcohol, and Tobacco
 - Purchase, possession, or use of alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs.
 - Purchase, possession, or use of look-alike drugs on school property or at school sponsored events. This includes e-cigarettes and other electronic devices.
 - Purchase, possession, or use of tobacco.
 - **THE CUYAHOGA FALLS SCHOOL DISTRICT STRONGLY DISCOURAGES THE USE OF ANY DRUG, MEDICATION OR FOOD SUPPLEMENT SOLELY FOR PERFORMANCE-ENHANCING PURPOSES.**
6. Violation of Ohio Statutes, County and Municipal Ordinances. This includes but is not limited to:
 - Illegal gambling
 - Presence (without a parent) in an establishment that sells alcohol

NOTE: DNR, motor vehicle, and traffic violations which are not criminal offenses and not alcohol or drug related will not be considered code violations (Example: speeding).

REPORTING AND ADMINISTRATION PROCEDURES FOR CODE VIOLATIONS

- Athletic code violations may be observed or reported by administration, faculty, parents, students, or community members. When appropriate, as determined by the athletic director, the anonymity of the informant will be maintained.
- The athlete and his/her parent(s)/guardian(s) will be notified of the alleged violation within two school days of receipt of the report by the athletic director. The athletic director shall interview the athlete and/or his/her parent(s)/guardian(s) not later than two school days after the preceding notice.
- Upon conclusion of the interview and after such other and further investigation and inquiry as the athletic director deems appropriate, the athletic director shall issue his/her decision whether the athlete violated a code provision. The athletic director and principal shall determine and impose the appropriate consequence if a violation is found to have occurred. The athletic director shall be the sole finder of fact. Revised 5/05/2014

CONSEQUENCES

Participation in interscholastic athletics is considered extra-curricular. Failure to abide by the established rules will result in withdrawal of the privilege to participate. Violations of the code of conduct will be dealt with in the procedures that follow:

Honesty Option Reduction

Student-athletes who admit to violations voluntarily when questioned for the first time during the first interview will receive a lesser consequence compared to those who do not cooperate or attempt to deceive school officials during the first interview. Additionally, student-athletes who report their violations to the athletic director of their own volition, could, at the discretion of the athletic director, have their suspension reduced by another contest. **The honest option reduction is available on the first offense only!**

First Offense

- Suspension from **20%** of the interscholastic season.
- A student athlete who uses the honesty option will have the suspension reduced by 50%.

If the violation is for a drug or alcohol offense, the student athlete will be required to attend a Saturday Family Workshop class through Restorative Justice. A window of opportunity to complete this session will be developed by the athletic director.

Second Offense

- Suspension from **1/2** of the interscholastic season.

Third Offense

- Suspension from interscholastic athletics for **12 consecutive months** from the date of the offense.
- The student athlete will meet with the administration and school counselors to determine appropriate procedures for re-admittance to the athletic program.

Fourth Offense

- No athletic participation for the remainder of their athletic career.

Increased consequences for serious violations

1. If a student commits an act in violation of the athletic code which would be classified under Ohio state law or federal law as a felony or Class A misdemeanor, or which in the sole discretion of the athletic director is so serious that additional (increased) consequences are warranted, the athletic director may impose additional (increased) consequences including, but not limited to additional and increased suspension periods. These consequences are solely within the discretion of the athletic director and other district and building administration.

2. The consequences imposed pursuant to this section shall supersede all other consequences and shall not be subject to the "Honesty Option Reduction" and "Two Year Forgiveness" as outlined below.

3. The consequences imposed pursuant to this section are subject to the appeal procedure set forth by the Athletic Council.

Suspensions- Suspensions will be rounded to the nearest whole number of contests. Any suspension not completed in one sport will carry over to the next sport. A student athlete must complete a sport in good standing in order to satisfy the requirement of a suspension. Consequences for violations that occur while an athlete is already serving a suspension will result in the additional suspension being imposed after the current suspension is completed.

Team Captains - Any athlete who has a recorded violation of the athletic code cannot be a captain of a team.

Two Year Forgiveness - Athletic code offenses are cumulative. However, if a two-year time period has elapsed since the calendar date of the first offense, the student athlete will then have a clean slate. This does NOT apply to any athlete receiving their second violation.

Athletic and Extra-Curricular Removal Procedures

Any student who is the subject of a removal has the right to notice of that removal and the opportunity to be heard with regard to that removal.

The student's coach or advisor may present the charges to the student, with the student having the opportunity to respond to the charges as a matter of athletic courtesy.

Before being removed, the Athletic Director, Principal, Associate Principal or Superintendent considering the removal shall provide the student with the following:

- ❖ Written notice of the intended removal, the length of the intended removal and the reasons for the intended removal; and
- ❖ An opportunity to appear at an informal hearing before the Athletic Director, Principal or Assistant Principal to challenge the reason for the removal, or to otherwise explain the student's actions.

If a removal is imposed, the student will receive written notice of the removal, including the reasons for the removal, and the beginning and end dates of the removal. The decision of the Athletic Director, Principal, or Superintendent shall be final.

The Athletic Department believes that by following the above rules and procedures, our athletes will create a positive self-image, gain peer acceptance, learn self-control and self-discipline and establish a positive set of values for future involvement in society.

Appeals Process

After the coach holds a due process hearing and provides the proper forms, (The Intent to Suspend Form and The Removal From Team form) are issued, the athlete is told to take copies of the forms back to his/her parents. The coach should also call the parents to assure that they are aware of the removal. At this time, the parents should be aware of their right to appeal the suspension or discipline.

1. An appeal can be made by both the athlete and parent to the Principal and Athletic Director. The appeal should be done no later than five days after the removal forms were received, and the hearing scheduled within three days of the request.
2. As soon as it is made, a time to hear the appeal will be set by the Principal or Athletic Director.
3. Administration will notify the parties of their time options and schedule of the appeal.
4. The Administration will select two head coaches who are not in season (preferably) to sit on the appeal board.
5. The Principal will preside over this meeting and will explain the appeals process. The meeting is not confrontational, but a fact finding and information sharing session that allows the hearing panel to hear both sides concerning the suspected violation and to ask questions of all those involved. Likewise the parents and athlete may ask questions and plead their case.
6. Upon completion of the hearing, the two coaches, the Athletic Director and Principal remain, to further discuss all of the information and to vote on the following options:
 - 1) Uphold the removal;
 - 2) Overturn the removal;
 - 3) Modification of the discipline
7. Immediately after the decision, the Administration will notify the parents and athlete of their decision and a letter outlining the decision that was made will be sent. This meeting is confidential. The voting results shall not be discussed.

Note: The Principal will ensure that due process is followed.

We have read the Cuyahoga Falls City Schools Athletic Code of Conduct in its entirety and agree to abide by all rules. We also understand that the Student Handbook, which includes this Code of Conduct may be found on the school website.

Parent/Guardian

Athlete

Date