

## **FREMONT MIDDLE SCHOOL ATHLETIC CODE OF CONDUCT AND ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY STANDARDS**

Athletics is an integral part of a middle school educational experience and is properly considered an extension of the classroom. The mission of the Fremont Middle School Athletic Department is to develop the character traits, leadership skills, and sportsmanship of our students. We expect to positively impact our athletes not only in the techniques and strategies of their sport, but also in the attainment of life-long skills and appreciation for physical fitness. We want our student-athletes to understand that successful athletes are those who set goals and strive toward the accomplishment of those goals. Successful athletes are honest and hard working people who endure personal sacrifice and persevere through the arduous journey of self and team improvement. In our thinking, those student-athletes who accept the challenges of participation and always give their best effort can only be classified as winners.

The total development of the student is the focus of a responsible athletic program. Successful programs provide for physical, mental, social and emotional growth.

We believe that:

- The middle school age student-athletes are at a unique stage of development.
- Development, being able to learn from experience, making choices about future sport involvement, and having a positive learning experience are important priorities.
- All team members receive participation in all contests.
- The program emphasis should be directed toward skill mastery, team concepts, cooperation with peers, and the fun of involvement and fair play.
- The physical development and skill levels vary as well as experience and commitment.

The Learning Outcomes We Seek For Our Student-Athletes:

- The development of confidence and poise
- Game concepts
- Learning from winning or losing
- Total efforts
- Friendships
- Positive behavior
- Sportsmanship

As a Fremont Middle School athlete you must realize that everything you do reflects not just upon yourself, but also upon your team, your school, and the Fremont Community. Participation in athletics is not a right, but a privilege dependent upon responsible behavior and academic effort. The Athletic Code of Conduct establishes penalties for those that deviate from expected standards of behavior. Student-athletes found in violation will be subject to disciplinary measures.

This Code of Conduct will apply to all students in 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade as they enter Fremont Middle School and begin sports participation. It will be in effect year around to include the summer months and when school is not in session. The school also reserves the right to investigate violations which occur on or off of school grounds. Student-athletes are additionally subject to all the rules and regulations

of the Michigan High School Athletic Association. Parents and players can expect adherence to due process procedures and an opportunity to appeal as provided for within this code.

The Fremont Middle School Athletic Department is extremely proud of the outstanding people who have worn our uniforms and have represented our community in a positive manner. Welcome to the rich tradition that is **PACKER ATHLETICS**.

## **PHILOSOPHICAL STATEMENT**

This Code of Conduct is written with an understanding that interscholastic athletics serves an educational mission. Penalties imposed for student-athlete's mistakes and poor decisions are intended to positively impact the learning process, as well as, to protect the tradition and reputation of Fremont Middle School. Discipline imposed may be in addition to and without regard for other disciplinary action taken in those instances where the student-athlete's conduct also violates general student code provisions.

No student code of conduct can list every offense which shall be detrimental to students or the athletic learning environment. Therefore, other offenses not listed but deemed inappropriate to the athletic/school environment are subject to discipline up to and including expulsion at the discretion of the Superintendent with approval of the Board.

## **Fremont Middle School Athletic Offerings:**

Fall Sports offerings:

- 1) 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade Cross Country
- 2) 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade Girls Basketball (20 team members per grade)
- 3) 8<sup>th</sup> grade Football

Winter Sports offerings:

- 1) 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade Boys Basketball (20 team members per grade)
- 2) 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade Swimming
- 3) 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade Wrestling
- 4) 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade Girls Volleyball (20 team members per grade)

Spring Sports offering:

- 1) 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade Track & Field

## **GENERAL PROCEDURES**

When the athletic director becomes informed of a suspected Code of Conduct violation, he/she will conduct an internal investigation of the matter and determine a) whether the code has been broken, b) the category of the violation and its nature, and c) recommend the form of discipline based upon a preponderance of the evidence and the guidelines established in this code. The list of violations within this Code does not represent a totally inclusive list of possible infractions and the athletic director shall have discretionary power to address those unlisted violations. In all situations, listed or unlisted, the Code of Conduct's stated sanctions represent guidelines only. The Fremont Public School District retains the right to modify or deviate from the Code when deemed in the best interest of the student-athlete or the school community. Efforts will be made by the athletic director to

inform the student-athlete's parents prior to any athletic suspension taking effect and to allow an opportunity for appeal.

**MHSAA Regulation V, Section 3 (D)**

When a student is disqualified during a contest for flagrant or unsportsmanlike conduct, that student shall be withheld by his/her school for at least the next day of competition for that team.

**Fremont Middle School Athletic Code-MHSAA Regulation III, Section 7 (A)**

Any student who is not passing three (3) classes at the completion of a semester will automatically be ineligible in the following semester. No reference of any six grade record shall be made for the current seventh grade athlete.

**CATEGORY 'A' VIOLATIONS**

Category 'A' violations are considered serious offenses which occur in school or at school functions, on or off school grounds, during the school year or during the off season. Category 'A' violations may include, but are not limited to the following actions unbecoming of a student-athlete:

- Possession, use, or transfer of illegal drugs or controlled substances, to include look alike substances and paraphernalia related to those substances.
- Possession, use, or transfer of tobacco or alcohol products, to include chewing tobacco, snuff, and malt beverages that contain alcohol regardless of the specific amount of alcohol content.
- Arson.
- Hosting a party or being present at a party that tolerates illegal drugs, tobacco, or alcohol use.

**DISCIPLINARY ACTION FOR CATEGORY 'A' VIOLATIONS**

**First Offense:** At a minimum, the student-athlete may be suspended from competition for the duration of the current season.

**Second Subsequent Offense:** At a minimum, the student-athlete may be suspended from competition for one (1) calendar year.

The minimums set forth herein are not to be considered as the only and even the "normal" discipline. In fact, the maximum discipline, even for a first offense, could include permanent suspension from all athletics.

**CATEGORY 'B' VIOLATIONS**

Category 'B' violations are of a less severe nature than category 'A' violations and they can relate to offenses that occur in school or at school functions, on or off school grounds, during the school year

or during the off season. Category 'B' violations may include, but are not limited to the following actions unbecoming of a student-athlete:

- Malicious or spiteful insubordination toward school personnel.
- Threatening, intimidating, and harassing other students or school personnel.
- Theft
- Vandalism
- Assault/Fighting
- Breaking and entering.

### **DISCIPLINARY ACTION FOR CATEGORY 'B' VIOLATIONS**

**First Offense:** At a minimum, the student-athlete may be suspended for one week of competition.

**Second Offense:** At a minimum, the student-athlete may be suspended for the duration of the current season.

The minimums set forth herein are not to be construed as the only or even the "normal" discipline. In fact, the maximum discipline, even for a first offense, could include permanent suspension from all athletics.

### **DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURE FOR CATEGORY 'A' AND CATEGORY 'B' VIOLATIONS**

1. The appropriate administrator (usually the athletic director) will meet with the student-athlete to discuss and explain the alleged charges of violation.
2. The student-athlete will be allowed to present any relevant information in defense of the charges and/or may admit guilt.
3. Citing a preponderance of the evidence, the athletic director will make a decision regarding guilt, the appropriate category and offense, and, if appropriate, a determination regarding appropriate discipline.
4. Prior to the suspension, telephonic or postal efforts will be made by the athletics director to inform the parents of the disciplinary action and/or the length of suspension.
5. Parents and student-athletes have the opportunity to appeal. Any loss of privilege of participation will continue during the appeal process.

## **TERM CLARIFICATIONS**

### **Definition of "season" and mid-season suspensions**

A season will consist of the number of games scheduled by the athletic department in the sport the athlete is participating in at the time of the offense, or if not then participating, in the next regularly scheduled major sport. When a suspension cannot be fulfilled in a single season, the remaining suspension will be prorated to the athlete's next season based on a percentage basis. Successful season completion and good standing status would be a requirement for the suspension percentage to be credited during that next athletic team membership.

### **Civil/Juvenile/Criminal court cases**

If a student-athlete is involved in a Code of Conduct violation that is also being decided in a court of law, the athletic director may withhold judgment on the stated violation until a decision is made by the court. At his/her discretion, the athletic director may also choose to immediately suspend the privilege of participation for that student-athlete until the court has made a final decision. In most instances when the student-athlete has been placed under arrest, that student-athlete will be immediately suspended and will remain under suspension until the court system has made a decision on guilt or innocence. Suspension time served while awaiting the final rulings of the court may be credited toward the student-athlete's Code of Conduct penalty.

### **Additional Information**

Student-athletes serving Code of Conduct suspensions are encouraged and expected to continue practicing with their team, however they are not allowed to travel to away contests. The student-athlete will not wear their uniforms or warm-ups during their suspension, or participate in any "special programs" in which their team may participate, and the student-athlete will not be recognized at any public function, unless permission is obtained from the athletic director.

## **APPEAL PROCESS**

Both student-athletes and their parents may appeal disciplinary decisions regarding the Code of Conduct. During the appeal process, any loss of privilege of participation will remain in effect. The following steps must be followed:

**Step 1 - Appeal to the Principal** Within three (3) school days of the decision, submit a written appeal to the middle school principal that explains your grievance. The middle school principal must render a written response within three (3) days of receipt of the appeal.

**Step 2 - Appeal to the Superintendent** Within five (5) school days of receipt of the principal's response, submit a written appeal to the Superintendent. The Superintendent must render a written response within five(5) school days of receipt of the appeal.

**Step 3 - Appeal to the Board of Education** Within fourteen (14) calendar days of receipt of the Superintendent's response, submit a written appeal to the Board of Education. The Board of Education must render a written and final decision within fourteen (14) calendar days upon receipt of the written appeal. The decision of the Board shall bear the signature of the Board President and his/her designee.

In the above procedure, an agreement may be reached at any step in the process to make further appeal unnecessary. If a violation is reported when school is not in session, weekdays (Monday through Friday) will substitute for school days. Appeals will be held in abeyance when administrators or all Board members are not available.

## **ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY AND CLASSROOM CITIZENSHIP**

### **Evaluation Criteria for Eligibility is Listed Below:**

#### **Academic**

Warning (W) - Student-athlete is in danger of failing the class.

Failure (F) - Student-athlete is failing the class and is ineligible for the next week of competition.

#### **Citizenship**

4 - Student-athlete is unsatisfactory in attitude, effort, behavior, etc.

5 - Student-athlete's is a serious discipline problem.

6 - Student-athlete has had an unexcused absence in class.

#### **Penalties**

W - Practice at the discretion of the coach.

F - Student-athlete is ineligible for the next week's contests\*

4 - Student-athlete is subject to such sanctions deemed appropriate by the coach.

5 - If two consecutive 5's are received in the same class, or two 5's during the same week, the student-athlete will be ineligible for the next week's contests.

6 - Student-athlete will be suspended for the first contest of the next week's dates of competition.

\* The next week's contests are events held Monday thru Saturday.

1. It is the responsibility of the student-athlete to check his/her eligibility each week.

2. A student-athlete having difficulty in a class or classes is expected to make every effort to communicate with the teacher to receive help in improving his/her performance.
3. A student-athlete who mistakenly competes in an event when ineligible will sit out the original number of contests (had there been no error) immediately following the discovery of the error.
4. Changes in eligibility marks will be made only at the discretion of the teacher; only in situations where errors in computation or interpretation are made; or a teacher has given prior permission for extenuating circumstances. The AD should be notified of those updates or changes prior to 8:00 a.m. on Monday of the following week.
5. The AD will notify parents by mailing a letter on Friday, if their son or daughter has received a failing grade or is ineligible to participate the following week.

2003 – 2004

***FREMONT MIDDLE SCHOOL***  
**ATHLETIC CODE OF CONDUCT**  
**AND**  
**ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY CONTRACT**

1. I understand that it is a privilege to participate in athletic activities.
2. I understand that my conduct and behavior is reflective not only of myself, but also my team, my school, and the Fremont Community.
3. I understand that I am subject to all the guidelines and disciplinary actions expressed in the Athletic Code of Conduct and the Academic Eligibility Standards.
4. I understand that all equipment and uniforms are the property of the school and are not to be worn except for approved events. Issued school clothing cannot be worn as personal wear items.
5. I understand that I am responsible for the care and cleaning of all issued equipment and uniforms and that I will be held financially responsible for any lost or damaged items.
6. I understand that no matter the precautions, there remains a risk of serious injury, including paralysis or death, in playing interscholastic athletics. I have been warned of that risk and hold Fremont Public Schools harmless in any such situation.
7. I understand that I am expected to ride with my team in school transportation to and from athletic contests. Exceptions for personal reason may be granted by the athletic director with the proper documentation.

I have read and understand the purpose and scope of the Athletic Code of Conduct and the Academic Eligibility Standards. I agree to abide by the Code of Conduct and the Academic Eligibility Standards, and acknowledge that I have received a copy thereof.

Name of Student-Athlete\_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Student-Athlete\_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Parent/Guardian\_\_\_\_\_

Date\_\_\_\_\_



