

**JACKSON LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
ATHLETIC CODE OF CONDUCT**

The Jackson Local Schools Board of Education recognizes that participation in athletics is a privilege, not a right, and that those students involved in athletic competition participate voluntarily under certain obligations and restrictions required of all team members. The Board of Education believes that due to their high visibility, student-athletes have a strong influence on members of the student body as well as the community. Student-athlete conduct while representing a team, traveling to or from an event, as well as in the community, is seen as a direct reflection upon the athletic program and the standards of Jackson High School.

To allow that each student-athlete reaches his or her potential, a degree of self-discipline is required of each participant. Self-discipline involves compliance with rules and regulations regarding personal behavior. Rules promote order and safety and assist participants to achieve maximum performance potential.

The nature of competitive athletics demands that each participant attain and maintain his or her best possible physical and mental condition. Student-athletes involved in the athletics programs shall not possess, use, sell, offer to sell, deliver, conceal, consume, or be under the influence of any drugs of abuse, including alcohol, tobacco, tobacco-related products, illegal drugs, controlled narcotics, intoxicants, steroids or other performance-enhancing drugs, or any substance that is directly or indirectly represented to be a drug of abuse (or look-alike). Use of drugs authorized by a medical prescription for the student-athlete from a licensed physician shall not be considered a violation of this policy.

Student-athletes should not attend or remain at activities where illegal consumption of alcohol or drugs is taking place. To do so puts the student-athlete at risk for being identified as one who may have been involved in the illegal consumption of alcohol and drugs.

In a case where the student-athlete possesses, uses, is under the influence of, sells or distributes drugs, alcohol, tobacco, or any chemical either on or off school property or at a school-related activity, the student-athlete may be, but is not limited to being, suspended or expelled from school, denied the privilege to participate in athletics, counseled in school, referred to an outside counseling agency and reported to the law enforcement authorities. The specific course of action will be determined after the consideration of all factors in the case.

All student-athletes who compete in interscholastic athletics, including student trainers, managers, and/or any other student involved in an athletic program in Grades 7-12 must meet the following regulations. Jackson Local Schools reserves the right to determine the status of transfer student-athletes entering the school system from other school districts who may have been involved in an athletic code of conduct violation at their previous school.

The athletic code of conduct shall be in effect 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Individual sport seasons governed by the Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSSA) are deemed to have commenced on the first day of practice in which the OHSAA permits coaching. The season is not deemed to have concluded until the final activity is completed. Typical culminating activities may include but are not limited to banquets, award recognition programs, or other functions that mark the official end of the season.

Violations that occur at Grades 7 and 8 shall not carry over to high school; however, the assessment/counseling component of that violation must be completed prior to any participation in a high school sport. Violations in Grades 9-12 shall be cumulative.

All student-athletes and their parents/guardians must attend a mandatory Drug and Alcohol meeting prior to the start of their sport's season and sign the JHS Athletic Code of Conduct by the first day of participation in their sport, or immediately after their decision to participate.

**DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES FOR THE ATHLETIC CODE OF CONDUCT**

It shall be noted that there is no difference in penalties for student-athletes who have an infraction In-Season or Out-of-Season. There is however a difference in penalties for those student-athletes that report their infraction.

**FIRST OFFENSE WITH SELF-REPORTING:**

A student-athlete and/or parent/guardian must notify a high school administrator and/or coach if he/she has a violation of the Athletic Code of Conduct. Student-athletes that self-report will be permitted to participate in their sport provided they obtain a professional assessment (at the student-athlete's expense) and attend the Insight program as scheduled by the school. It is the decision of the coach whether there may be any additional penalties pertaining to game participation or starting eligibility.

If a student-athlete is caught by law enforcement and a report is on file with authorities documenting a violation of the Athletic Code of Conduct, the student-athlete is required to notify a high school administrator and/or coach, but they will not be eligible for self-report consequences.

NOTE: The self-reporting policy is only available for first time offenders and cannot be used by a student athlete as a method to avoid consequences once the policy has been violated and a student has been identified as having violated such a policy.

**FIRST OFFENSE WITHOUT SELF-REPORTING:**

A student-athlete that **does not** report his/her violation of the Athletic Code of Conduct will have a loss of participation of twenty percent (20%) of interscholastic contests in the current/next sport season in which the student-athlete participates. (The student-athlete must complete the entire season or the penalty will be assessed on the next sport season in which the student-athlete participates.) Prior to any future participation, the student-athlete must complete a professional assessment (at the student's expense) and attend the Insight program as scheduled by the school.

Student-athletes who lose a percentage of participation for a specific sport season may receive permission to practice with the team, but may not dress during the athletic contests for which they have been denied participation.

An intervention intake meeting in preparation for enrollment in the Insight program will be held with school officials, the student-athlete, and parent/guardian.

## **SECOND OFFENSE:**

A second offense shall result in an immediate removal from athletic participation for one calendar year effective with the date of the offense, or the athlete may re-enter the athletic program if the following criteria are voluntarily accepted and successfully completed.

1. Removal from the sport in which the student-athlete is participating for the remainder of the current/next season, with a *minimum* participation loss of forty percent (40%) of that sport's regular season scheduled contests/points. If the full forty-percent loss of participation is not possible or that particular season, the total and/or remaining percentage will carry over to the student-athlete's next sport in which he/she becomes a team/individual participant. (The student-athlete must complete the entire season or the penalty will be assessed on the next sport season in which the student-athlete participates.) The student-athlete will also forfeit any school awards for the particular sport.
2. Complete the consequences of both the first and second offenses if a second offense occurs prior to the completion of first-offense consequences.
3. Obtain a professional assessment (at student-athlete's expense) and attend appropriate meetings intended to assist the student-athlete in rehabilitation, education, and decision-making in regards to drug, alcohol, and tobacco concerns.
4. Complete a baseline drug and alcohol screening at the school district's expense, and then participate and pass a minimum of three (3) random drug and/or alcohol tests over the period of one calendar year at the student-athlete's expense. The Athletic Director will inform the student-athlete of the date and time that the test will occur and the testing facility that will be used.
5. Student-athletes who lose a percentage of participation for a specific sport season may practice with the team, but may not dress during the athletic contests for which they have been denied participation.

The following will result in the student-athlete being denied athletic participation for one (1) calendar year, effective with the date of determination that the alternative choices were violated:

- Failure to complete the drug or alcohol tests in the required timeframe;
- A positive drug/alcohol test result;
- Failure to attend required meetings intended to assist the student-athlete in rehabilitation, education and decision-making.
- Determination that the student-athlete is using or in possession of or under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

## **THIRD OFFENSE:**

A third offense will result in denial of athletic participation for the duration of the student-athlete's school career, effective with the date of the offense. An athletic expulsion/termination hearing will be held with school officials, the student-athlete, and parent/guardians.

## **SALE AND DISTRIBUTION OF DRUGS/ALCOHOL/CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES:**

A student-athlete involved in the sale and/or distribution of any drug, alcohol, or chemical substance may be immediately removed from the particular sport and/or denied athletic participation for the duration of the student-athlete's school career, effective with the date of the offense. An athletic expulsion/termination hearing will be held with school officials, the student-athlete, and parent/guardians.

## **USE OR POSSESSION OF TOBACCO AND/OR TOBACCO-RELATED PRODUCTS:**

The athletic code of conduct shall be in effect 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Individual sport seasons governed by the Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSSA) are deemed to have commenced on the first day of practice in which the OHSSA permits coaching. The season is not deemed to have concluded until the final activity is completed. Typical culminating activities may include but are not limited to banquets, award recognition programs, or other functions that mark the official end of the season.

A student-athlete shall not use or possess any form of tobacco, tobacco-related products, or tobacco paraphernalia.

#### FIRST VIOLATION

The violation will result in a loss of participation of twenty percent (20%) of interscholastic contests during the sport season in which the student-athlete participates or the subsequent sport season, whichever applies. (The student-athlete must complete the entire season or the penalty will be assessed on the next sport season in which the student-athlete participates.)

#### SECOND VIOLATION

The second violation will result in a loss of participation of forty percent (40%) of interscholastic contests in the sport season in which the student-athlete participates or the subsequent sport season, whichever applies. (The student-athlete must complete the entire season or the penalty will be assessed on the next sport season in which the student-athlete participates.)

#### THIRD VIOLATION

A third violation will result in denial of athletic participation for the duration of the student-athlete's school career, effective with the date of the offense. An athletic expulsion/termination hearing will be held with school officials, the student-athlete, and parents/guardians.

#### **POLICY REGARDING OTHER VIOLATIONS:**

Student-athletes who are under the Athletic Code of Conduct are representatives of Jackson Local School District and are expected to behave as model students and citizens in and out of school. Student-athletes may be denied participation for display of behavior which reflects negatively on the student, team, or school. Denial will be determined by the high school administration and or coach according to the severity of the infraction. Acts of unacceptable behavior may be, but are not limited to, theft, vandalism, disrespect, profanity, repeated infractions of school rules, unsportsmanlike conduct at athletic contests or school-sponsored events, and violations that occur in the public domain and/or may have pending legal action.

Student-athletes who have been suspended from school under the Student Code of Conduct are denied participation from athletics during the duration of the suspension. A suspension that carries over a weekend will result in a denial of participation over the weekend. Suspended student-athletes may not practice or compete with their team until they return to regular classes.

#### **ATTENDANCE:**

A student-athlete must be present in school for at least one-half of the school day before the student-athlete can participate in the day's practice or contest. A 1/2 day is determined by being in attendance at school for a minimum of 3.5 hours.

A student-athlete who incurs an excused absence on the last day of a school week may participate in the following day's or days' competitions.

**The Jackson Local School District Athletic Code of Conduct is approved by the Board of Education as part of the Jackson High School Student Handbook and exists as guidelines. The Superintendent and/or designee has the discretion to amend and/or deviate from these guidelines as deemed appropriate.**