

## INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC INFORMATION



The Federal League, and its member schools and communities, believes that sportsmanship should occur both on and off the field of play. To earn the title of having sportsmanship, one must always demonstrate honesty, responsibility, and respect for teammates, opponents and themselves. Respect for opponents is demonstrated by our actions and our words and under no circumstances may any kind of negative action be taken against others.

In a culture of sportsmanship, athletes, coaches, officials and fans are encouraged to:

- Shake hands after games
- Respect others and the spirit of competition
- Win with class and lose with dignity
- Value all sports (equity)
- Have self-control
- Demonstrate ethics, integrity, and character
- Promote a positive mental attitude and spirit
- Lead by example

### GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP

All students should uphold the traditions of high sportsmanship and fair play. Respect for one's teams, school, coaches, spectators, officials and opponents, their coaches and fans is expected of Jackson High students at all times. Vulgar language, profanity or harassment of officials, players or coaches is prohibited. Students who violate these rules may be required to leave the building or game site and be subjected to further disciplinary action. If severe, flagrant or repeated violations occur, students may be denied access to future athletic contests.

### FEDERAL LEAGUE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION SPORTSMANSHIP GUIDELINES

The administration of each school will enforce the following guidelines:

1. The Federal League condones and encourages positive cheers that build school spirit through good sportsmanship. Cheers that are vulgar or demeaning to opposing teams or their fans are prohibited.
2. There are to be no gestures or verbal expressions of an obscene, profane, taunting or vulgar connotation directed toward athletes, coaches, officials, or other fans.
3. Noisemakers of any kind are prohibited at all athletic contests.
4. All signs must be posted and convey positive messages regarding Jackson High School and its athletics.

5. Spectators are not permitted on the playing floor or field during the contest. Anyone who goes onto the field of play during the contest will be immediately removed from the event.
6. Only authorized personnel are permitted in the locker room and press box areas.
7. Recognized law enforcement officials will be present at all games which the administrators of the schools involved deem appropriate.
8. Behavior guidelines for the Federal League are printed in the game programs. If you have any questions, please consult your building principal.

## **BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS...**

### *OF THE STUDENT-ATHLETE*

- Accept and understand the seriousness of your responsibility and the privilege of representing the school and the community.
- Learn the rules of the game thoroughly and discuss them with parents, fans, fellow students and elementary students. This will assist both them and you in the achievement of a better understanding and appreciation of the game.
- Treat opponents the way you would like to be treated, as a guest or friend.
- Wish opponents good luck before the game and congratulate them in a sincere manner following either victory or defeat.
- Respect the integrity and judgment of game officials. Never argue or make non-verbal gestures which indicate disagreement. This type of immature activity may incite undesirable behavior in the stands and by teammates.

### *OF STUDENT GROUPS (PEP CLUBS, BAND, ETC.)*

- Establish yourselves as leaders in your conduct before, during and after contests and events. Always provide positive support.
- Assist cheerleaders with yells, chants, etc., and be a working part of pep assemblies with preparation, organization and involvement.
- Treat opposing players, coaches, spectators and support groups with respect and enthusiasm.
- Conduct yourselves in an exemplary manner. Remember, you represent your school both home and away.
- Respect the integrity and judgment of game officials, Do not question an official's call.
- Refrain from cheers which downplay the opponent or which use profane or abusive language.

### *OF SPECTATORS*

- Remember that school athletics are learning experiences for students and that mistakes will be made. You will not jeer a student who makes a mistake in the classroom; why is an athlete an exception?
- A ticket is a privilege to observe the contest, not a license to verbally assault others and be generally obnoxious.
- Learn the rules of the game so that you may understand and appreciate why certain situations take place.
- Show respect of the opposing players, coaches, spectators and support groups. Treat them as you would a guest in your own home.
- Respect the integrity and judgment of game officials. Do not question an official's call.
- Recognize and show appreciation for an outstanding play by either team.
- Refrain from the use of any controlled substances (alcohol, drugs, etc.) before and during games and afterwards on or near the site of the event (i.e., tailgating).
- Refrain from cheers which downplay the opponent or which use profane or abusive language.

## **INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC ELIGIBILITY**

A student's athletic eligibility is based on a nine-week grading period. The student must have received passing grades in the minimum of five one-credit courses or the equivalent, which can count toward graduation. A student enrolled in the first grading period after advancement from the eighth grade must have passed a minimum of five subjects carried the preceding grading period in which the student was enrolled. All students are required to be enrolled in at least five (5) academic/career and technical credits each semester. Physical Education, Reading/Resource (Wilson Reading), and Yearbook do not count toward a student's athletic eligibility. It is the student's responsibility to see that this requirement is met. The student's failure to meet the eligibility requirements will result in denial of athletic participation in the next nine-week grading period.

For eligibility purposes, summer school grades may not be used to substitute for failing grades received the final grading period of the regular school year or for the lack of enough subjects taken the preceding grading period. Students who are home-schooled are not eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics.

## **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. A student-athlete's 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 was 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 print and sign the Participation Packet which can be found under “Athletics” on the Jackson Local School District website. All forms must be properly signed and turned into the head coach prior to participating in the first practice.

## **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 may have a loss of participation of twenty percent (20%) of interscholastic contests in the 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 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 reenter 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 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 three (3) random drug and/or alcohol tests over the period of one calendar year at the student-athletes expense. The Athletic Director will inform the student-athlete of the date, time and location of the test. Failure to be tested on the date specified will be considered a failed test.
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 4 full class periods.

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 a part of the Jackson High School Student Handbook and exists as guidelines. The Superintendent and/or designee reserve the right to amend and/or deviate from these guidelines as they deem appropriate.**