

Stratford Public Schools
Student-Athlete Code of Conduct
(Revised 02/10/14)

The Board of Education recognizes the value to students of their participation in athletic activities. The interaction with others to achieve a common goal, in a sportsmanlike manner, is an important lifelong skill that students can acquire through such activities.

Being a member of a team is a privilege which has responsibilities and rewards. Student-athletes are role models and are expected to conduct themselves in a respectful manner that brings credit to their sport, team, themselves and their school at all times.

Therefore players shall pledge to:

- Be accountable for their behavior and its outcomes.
- Honor their obligations and promises.
- Respect the authority of coaches and officials.
- Respect their teammates and opponents.
- Learn and adhere to the rules of the game both in letter and spirit.

Student-athletes will be held accountable for their behavior during school time, during school activities, outside of the school, and in the community at all times. The following behavioral standards shall be in effect for student-athletes from the moment a student begins Secondary School at Wooster, Flood, Bunnell or Stratford High.

Suspension (in-school or out-of-school) –

A student-athlete who receives a **suspension** (in-school or out-of-school) shall be declared ineligible to play in ten percent of the contests during the sport season in which he/she is participating. (This percentage is based on the total number of contests scheduled for the regular season.) This also includes post-season play. If the suspension occurs out of the student-athlete's season-of-play, the period of ineligibility shall be served during the next sport in which the student is scheduled to participate. Periods of ineligibility carry over to the next school year. Student-athlete's may not practice or attend school activities while serving suspensions. If the period of ineligibility occurs after the completion of the suspension, a coach may elect not to allow a student-athlete to practice during the period of ineligibility. A coach, in consultation with the athletic director and principal, may choose to dismiss a student-athlete from a team if he/she feels the cause of the suspension warrants such dismissal. If a student-athlete misses ten percent of his/her contests during the suspension that shall count as the period of ineligibility.

A student-athlete who receives a **second suspension** (in-school or out-of-school) shall be declared ineligible to play in twenty percent of contests during the sport season in which he/she is participating. This also includes post-season play. If the suspension occurs out of the student-athlete's season-of-play, the period of ineligibility shall be served during the next sport in which the student is scheduled to participate. Periods of ineligibility carry over to the next school year. No student-athlete may practice or attend school activities while serving suspension. A coach may elect not to allow a student-athlete to practice during the period of ineligibility. A coach, in consultation with the athletic director and principal, may dismiss a student-athlete from a team if he/she believes the infraction that caused the suspension warrants dismissal. If a student-athlete

misses twenty percent of his/her contests during the suspension that shall count as the period of ineligibility.

A student-athlete who receives a **third (cumulative) suspension** (in-school or out-of-school) during the season of play shall be declared ineligible for the remainder of the season. If the third suspension occurs outside the student-athlete's season-of-play, he/she shall be declared ineligible to participate for the next sport the student-athlete is scheduled to play. Periods of ineligibility will be served the next school year if that is when the student-athlete is next scheduled to play a sport.

When a student receives one or more in-school or out-of school suspensions, the consequences for the suspension(s) as stated in the Student-Athlete Code of Conduct shall not be enforced (and the student's athletic disciplinary slate wiped clean) if the student completes or has completed two or more consecutive sports seasons (fall, winter, spring) without any further disciplinary problems and maintains good academic and disciplinary standing in school. Note: for student-athlete code of conduct purposes, a sports season ends and the next sports season begins the day after the student-athlete has completed his/her current season. (Example: a freshmen basketball player's season ends with his/her last game on February 20. The next season (spring) begins February 21. A spring sports athlete's season ends May 22, the next (fall) season begins May 23).

Expulsion from School

A student-athlete expelled from school is ineligible to practice or play during the period of expulsion and shall be ineligible to practice or play for the remainder of the school year (even if the student returns to school prior to the end of the school year). When a student returns to school the year after an expulsion occurred, the expulsion shall be treated the same as a suspension and any consequences may be carried over to the next school year.

A coach, in consultation with the athletic director and principal, may elect to disallow a student-athlete returning from an expulsion to be a member or his/her team if he/she believes that allowing such a student to be a member of the team is not in the best interest of the team and the other student-athletes on the team.

Student-athletes shall not engage in behavior in school, during a school sponsored event, or in the community that harms the reputation of the school, brings shame to the school, embarrasses the school, discredits the school, dishonors the school, is in conflict with the school's mission or philosophy, is in conflict with the school's mission regarding character education or violates established Stratford Board of Education policy. This standard of behavior shall be in effect at all times, including non-school hours, holidays and vacations. Failure to conform to this standard of behavior may result in loss of eligibility while the coach, athletic director, and principal investigate and review the case. After reviewing the case, the coach, athletic director, and principal shall determine if the student-athlete shall be ineligible for an additional period of time or is dismissed from the team.

Q & A (Actions and consequences for violations of the Code of Conduct)

Action: A member of the track team receives a three-day ISS during the season of play.

Consequence: The student is ineligible to participate in ten percent (1 meet) of regular season meets.

Action: A member of the baseball team receives two school suspensions after the conclusion of the baseball season (one in June and the other the following fall).

Baseball is the only sport the student plays.

Consequence: The student is ineligible to play in thirty percent (6 games) of the next season's baseball games that the student would normally be eligible for.

Action: A member of the softball team serving a six game suspension for receiving two school suspensions receives a third school suspension during the current season of play.

Consequence: The student is ineligible to participate in softball for the remainder of the season. After the softball season is concluded, the disciplinary slate is wiped clean for the next sport the student wishes to try out for.

Action: A member of the football team receives a one day ISS during the student's freshman football season and is declared ineligible for one game. The student then maintains a clean record until his junior year when he receives an ISS.

Consequence: If the student maintained a clean disciplinary and academic record for two consecutive sports seasons after the initial ISS, the penalty in this case would be a one game (ten percent) suspension.

Action: A student receives three in-school or out-of-school suspensions during his or her freshman year. The student does not play any sport. The student then decides to try out for a sport for the first time during his or her junior year. The student has completed two consecutive sports seasons prior to the season of the sport he or she wishes to try out for in good standing without any further disciplinary or academic troubles.

Consequence: The student would be eligible to try out for a sport provided he or she is eligible otherwise.

Action: A member of the basketball team receives an ISS towards the end of the basketball season and sits out two games (ten percent). The student then picks up another ISS during the next basketball season.

Consequence: If the student completed two consecutive seasons (spring and fall) without any disciplinary action, the slate would have been wiped clean and the consequence in this case would be a two game suspension (ten percent).

Action: A student (who does not play any sport) receives two school suspensions during the spring of his sophomore year. The student then receives a third school suspension during the winter (sports season) of his junior year. The student wants to try out (the first time) for wrestling during his senior year.

Consequence: The student will be eligible to try out for wrestling (winter sport) if he completed two consecutive sports season (spring season of his junior year and fall season of his senior year) with no disciplinary action and maintains good academic standing immediately prior to the winter sports season and is eligible otherwise.

Action: Same scenario as above but the student wants to try out for a fall sport.

Consequence: The student is not eligible for a fall sport because the student has three (cumulative) suspensions and he will not have completed two (or more) consecutive seasons without any disciplinary issues prior to the season he/she wishes to try out for.