

## **East Kentwood Athletic Program**

Welcome from the East Kentwood Athletic Department! We are excited to have you join a program that exemplifies a great tradition of excellence. This excellence involves areas that extend far beyond winning and losing. Athletic success is the direct result of the combination of effort, teamwork, commitment, and sportsmanship. These traits have long been the building blocks of Kentwood's own special brand of athletic success. We are pleased you have joined the coaches, athletes, and parents in continuing this tradition of excellence.

### **Message to the Parents**

This material is presented to you because your son/daughter has indicated a desire to participate in interscholastic athletics and you have expressed your willingness to permit him/her to compete. We believe that participation in sports provides a wealth of opportunities and experiences that assist students in personal, athletic, and academic growth.

As a parent/guardian of a student-athlete, you also have committed yourselves to certain responsibilities and obligations, which are outlined in this Athletic Code. Your signature on the Athletic Code, along with the signature of your student-athlete, indicates that you understand and accept those responsibilities and obligations, and agree to cooperate with school personnel in enforcing the Athletic Code. Compliance with the Athletic Code is mandatory and essential to the success of the athletic program. Failure to comply with the Athletic Code may lead to discipline and possible expulsion from the team. In addition, student-athletes are also subject to discipline under the East Kentwood High School (EKHS) Code of Conduct.

The East Kentwood Athletic Department strives to provide:

1. Adequate equipment and facilities;
2. Educated and experienced coaches;
3. Appropriate competitions with certified officials;
4. Support to athletes, coaches and parents.

Good sportsmanship is encouraged and expected from our fans and spectators at all times during athletic events. Failure to exhibit good sportsmanship may result in removal from the event and/or future events. In addition to attending East Kentwood Athletics contests, you are invited and encouraged to join the Athletic Boosters and help promote the tradition of excellence associated with East Kentwood Athletics.

We believe athletics is an integral part of the high school educational experience, both as a competitor and spectator. We look forward to working with you and to supporting your son/daughter as they participate in their chosen sport.

### **Message to the Athlete**

East Kentwood has a long history and tradition of athletic excellence. This tradition was not built overnight. It took years of dedication, commitment, and hard work by a countless number of people. As an East Kentwood Athlete you must continue to strive to uphold this high standard of excellence.

Once you have become a member of a team, you have made a choice to uphold certain standards expected of athletes in this community:

1. The use of vulgar or profane language is unacceptable anywhere and at any time.
2. A member of an athletic team is to be well groomed.
3. The coach shall set the standard for dress as it pertains to his/her sport.
4. The athletic department shall set the standards for hair and facial hair as it pertains to the specific sport.
5. Clothing worn at competitions must be worn in a neat and mannerly fashion (i.e., shirts tucked in and buttoned, etc.).
6. Exhibit appropriate behavior at all times.

Your participation in athletics is a privilege and should be treated as such. Any time you wear the red and black, you are representing yourself, your family, your school and all those that have worn these colors before you. Your behavior should be above reproach in all areas. Students, staff, parents, and the community will closely observe your conduct.

The rules outlined in this handbook are designed and intended as a guide to successful participation. Failure to follow the rules is addressed in this handbook. As a student-athlete, you will be expected to understand and abide by these rules and your team's rules. It is your responsibility to follow them to their fullest.

1. **RESPONSIBILITIES TO YOURSELF:** The most important of these responsibilities is to develop strength of character and positive values and behaviors. You owe it to yourself to get the greatest possible benefit from your high school experiences. Your academic studies and your participation in other extracurricular activities, as well as in sports, help to prepare you for your life as an adult.
2. **RESPONSIBILITIES TO YOUR SCHOOL:** Another responsibility you assume as a team member is to your school. You assume a leadership role when you are on an athletic team. The student body and citizens of the community know you. The student body, the community and other communities judge our school by your conduct and attitudes, both on and off the field. Because of this leadership role, you can make positive contribute to school spirit and community pride. In addition, you are a role model for younger student athletes. These students look up to you and dream of being as successful as we hope you to be. Be sure the example you set is a positive one. East Kentwood High School cannot maintain its reputation as an outstanding school unless you do your best in whatever activity you wish to engage.
3. **RESPONSIBILITIES TO OTHERS:** As a team member you also bear a heavy responsibility to your family. When you know that you have lived up to all of your commitments that you have practiced with great enthusiasm and that you have played the game to the best of your ability, you can keep your self-respect and your family can be justly proud of you.

## **Mission/Belief Statement**

The purpose of East Kentwood High School Athletics is to provide opportunities for all participating students to learn life-long values in a safe environment.

These values include: Cooperation, Sportsmanship, Pride, Respect and Leadership Skills.

The athletes, coaches and parents of the East Kentwood Athletic Department believe:

1. That student-athletes will have opportunities to develop leadership characteristics through athletic competition that carry into the classroom and the future.
2. That student-athletes serve as role models within the school community and are expected to act in a manner that reinforces that role.
3. That self-discipline and sportsmanship are essential to a sound athletic foundation.
4. That pride builds respect, of self and others which help create strong and lasting friendships through athletic competition.
5. That participation in athletics is not a right but a privilege; with that privilege, comes responsibility.
6. That a strong commitment is an important ingredient to the success of East Kentwood Athletics.
7. That athletics should be fun as well as providing learning experiences.

## **Sportsmanship**

As an athlete and as parents, you can help us establish an outstanding reputation for good sportsmanship. We must all work hard in conducting ourselves in a commendable manner. A display of unsportsmanlike conduct can result in sanctions against the offending athlete, parent, and/or school. Always observe the following guidelines for good sportsmanship:

1. The good name of our school is more important than any contest won by unfair play.
2. Be supportive of all athletes, coaches, and officials before, during, and after all contests.
3. Accept decisions of officials without dispute. They are seldom responsible for your success or failure, so do not blame them for your circumstances.
4. Recognize and show appreciation for the fine play of your opponent.
5. Be proud of our school's reputation and work hard to protect it.
6. Cheer for your team, not against the opponent.
7. Don't allow others negative sportsmanship to become an excuse to do the same.

## **Parent/Coach Relations**

Both parenting and coaching are extremely difficult vocations. By establishing an understanding of each position, we are better able to accept the actions of the others and provide greater benefit to the student. As parents, when your son or daughter becomes involved in our programs, you have a right to understand what expectations are placed on your student-

athletes. This begins with clear communication from the coach of your student-athlete's program.

Communication You Should Expect from your Son/Daughter's Coach:

1. Expectations the coach has for your son/daughter and the team.
2. Locations and times of all practices and contests.
3. Team requirements, i.e. fees, special equipment, off-season conditioning, team/individual camps.
4. Medical procedures, should your student-athlete become injured during participation.
5. Team rules, guidelines, and requirements for earning awards.

Communication Coaches Expect from Student-Athletes:

1. Notification of any schedule conflicts in advance.
2. Special concerns in regards to a coach's philosophy and/or expectations.
3. Injury or circumstances that may endanger the athlete when participating.

As your son/daughter becomes involved in the athletic programs at East Kentwood High School, they will experience some of the most rewarding moments of their lives. It is important to understand that there also may be times when things do not go the way you or your student-athlete wishes. At these times, discussion with the coach is encouraged.

Appropriate Concerns to Discuss with Coaches:

1. The treatment of your student-athlete, mentally and physically.
2. Ways to help your son/daughter to improve.
3. Concerns about your student-athlete's behavior.

It is very difficult to accept your son/daughter's not playing as much as you may hope. Coaches are professionals. They make judgment decisions based on what they believe to be the best for all students involved. As you have seen from the list above, certain things can and should be discussed with your student-athlete's coach. Other things, such as the following, must be left to the discretion of the coach.

Issues Not Appropriate To Discuss With Coaches:

1. Playing time.
2. Team strategy.
3. Play calling.
4. Other student-athletes.

There are situations that may require a conference between the coach and the parent. These are to be encouraged. It is important that both parties involved have a clear understanding of the other's position. When these conferences are necessary, the following procedure should be followed to help promote a resolution to the issue of concern.

If you have a concern, you may want to discuss the issue with your son/daughter first. You may find through this communication an answer, resolution, or understanding of the situation before contacting others.

If You Have A Concern To Discuss With A Coach, the Procedure You Should Follow:

1. Call the coach to set up an appointment.

2. If the coach cannot be reached, call the Athletic Director, and the meeting will be set up for you.
3. Please give yourself time to understand your concern before approaching a coach. Attempting to confront a coach before or after a contest or practice is not an ideal time. These can be emotional times for both the parent and the coach. Meetings of this nature do not promote resolution.

**What Can A Parent Do If The Meeting With The Coach Did Not Provide A Satisfactory Resolution?**

1. If the concern is not satisfactorily resolved after meeting with the coach, the athlete and/or parent(s) should discuss the situation with the Athletic Director informally in an attempt to resolve the situation.
2. If the athlete and/or parent(s) wish to make a formal complaint to the Athletic Director about the coach, it should be put in writing, with a copy provided to the coach.
3. The Athletic Director will investigate the complaint, and discuss the concern with the coach and the Head Varsity Coach. The investigation may include observation of practice sessions by the Athletic Director, if necessary. The Athletic Director will document the results of the investigation and subsequent action(s) to be taken to resolve the complaint in writing.
4. If the formal complaint is not satisfactorily resolved by the Athletic Director, the athlete and/or parent(s) may appeal in writing to the Principal. The Principal will meet with the parties involved in a further attempt to resolve the situation.
5. If the complaint is not satisfactorily resolved at this level, the athlete and/or parent(s) may appeal to the Superintendent or his/her designee, in writing.

\*A conference that is set up with a coach and a parent shall not result in negative consequences against the student-athlete because of this meeting.

**SECTION ONE:**

**General Information**

**Varsity Sports at East Kentwood High School:**

<u>Fall</u>	<u>Winter</u>	<u>Spring</u>
Girls: Cross Country Golf Sideline Cheer* Swimming and Diving Volleyball	Girls: Basketball Bowling Competitive Cheer Dance* Gymnastics Sideline Cheer*	Girls: Soccer Softball Tennis Track and Field Water Polo*
Boys: Cross Country Football Soccer Tennis Water Polo*	Boys: Basketball Bowling Hockey Swimming and Diving Wrestling	Boys: Baseball Golf Track and Field

\*Not MHSAA Sponsored

## I. JOINING/LEAVING TEAM

- A. Current EKHS students must join the respective team at the beginning of the practice/tryouts season. Conflicts with sports finishing a previous season must be communicated to the coach of the new sport PRIOR to the beginning of the season.
- B. Transfer students may not join an athletic team after 30% of the scheduled dates of competition for the sport in which they desire to participate have been completed
- C. Managers, statisticians and non-participants may join an athletic team prior to 50% of the season being completed, as long as the mandatory forms have been completed and turned in to the athletic office.
- D. An athlete desiring to drop from a team or leaving/being dismissed is covered in Section Two, G. Leaving a Team.
- E. Students who wish to participate in dual sports in the same season must apply to the Athletic Director as described in Section One, Part X.

## II. REQUIRED FORMS MUST BE TURN INTO THE ATHLETIC OFFICE

As an athlete you ARE NOT eligible to participate in any sport UNTIL the following items have been completed & turned in:

- Signed Acknowledgement of commitment to abide by the Athletic Code.
- Physical Examination card filled out and signed by registered physician after April 15 of the previous school year. This exam is good for the following school year.
- Injury Consent Waiver, Eligibility Requirements, Athletic Code and Financial Responsibility Forms signed.
- Pay to participate fee has been paid.

## III. POTENTIAL DANGERS IN ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION

Parents and student-athletes should fully understand and appreciate the risk of serious personal injury associated with participation in the sports program provided by Kentwood Public Schools. Participation in school athletics involves flying objects, swift movement of bodies, and unavoidable collisions.

Athletic activities are hazardous and could include serious injuries such as paralysis, head injuries, or possible death. (Additional information regarding head injuries/concussion can be found at <http://www.cdc.gov/headsup/youthsports/parents.html> and [http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mdch/Parentandathleteinfosheet\\_415328\\_7.pdf](http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mdch/Parentandathleteinfosheet_415328_7.pdf)) Taking part in such activities is calculated risk-taking on the part of the student- athlete and parents. Reducing injuries to a minimum is a continuous goal of our coaching and administrative staff.

## IV. INJURIES & INSURANCE OR WAIVER

Kentwood Public Schools DOES NOT assume, financial responsibility for medical, hospital or ambulance expenses incurred because of athletic injuries. Athletics is a VOLUNTARY program in which students participate if they so desire. They do this at their own risk.

### INSURANCE COVERAGE

Each athlete has Catastrophic Insurance from \$25,000 up to \$500,000 medical for any injury through athletic participation through the Michigan High School Athletic Association. The MHSAA is also providing to pay accidental medical expense benefits resulting from a concussion. For more information, go to the MHSAA website, [www.mhsaa.com](http://www.mhsaa.com)

To help eliminate any CONFUSION or MISUNDERSTANDING concerning the insurance program we ask you to please follow this procedure:

- Please have your son/daughter notify their coach and/or trainer of all injuries.
- Contact the Athletic Office for the appropriate forms if you wish to purchase insurance.

V. AGE

A student shall not be eligible to participate in the athletic program if he/she has reached his/her 19th birthday before September 1<sup>st</sup> of the current school year.

VI. AMATEUR PRACTICE

A student shall not be eligible if he/she accepts any money and/or merchandise for participation in athletics. If you have any questions about the impact of any award on eligibility, please contact the Director of Athletics.

VII. RESTRICTIONS ON TEAM MEMBERSHIP

After practicing with or participating with high school teams, students cannot participate in any athletic competition not sponsored by his or her school in the same sport during the same season. Students in individual sports may participate in a maximum of two non-school individual meets or contests during the school season while not representing their school.

VIII. COLLEGE RECRUITMENT POLICY

In the event you should be contacted personally by a college recruiter, you have an obligation to work through your coach and the athletic department. Inform your coach of such a contact as soon as possible.

IX. NCAA CLEARINGHOUSE

The requirements for the NCAA Clearinghouse are not the same as the graduation requirements from East Kentwood High School. EKHS is not responsible for ensuring an athlete's compliance with NCAA rules. For information, please refer to the NCAA Clearinghouse pamphlet or the NCAA website at [www.NCAA.com](http://www.NCAA.com). If you have any questions, please ask someone in the Athletic Department or the guidance office, for directions on how to contact the NCAA.

X. DUAL SPORTS

Students are normally not permitted to participate in dual sports during the same sports season (fall, winter, spring). Students who desire to participate in dual sports shall, two (2) weeks before the season begins, must apply and receive permission from the Athletic Director on a form provided by the Athletic Department. The Athletic Director will consider input from parents, student, coaches and EKHS faculty. The Athletic Director's decision is final.

XI. CONFLICTS IN CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Despite all scheduling efforts by the administration, conflicts will occur between athletic and non-athletic activities and events. The following guidelines shall apply to students who experience conflicts between EKHS school-related activities:

- A. When a conflict occurs between two scheduled activities the student's first duty is to notify both coach/sponsors as early as possible. The coach/sponsors will attempt to resolve the conflict to best allow the student to participate in as many activities as possible. The student will then be advised of the recommended solution to the conflict. It is expected that the student will follow the recommendation OR propose an equally acceptable alternative.
- B. When a conflict occurs between a competition/performance and a scheduled practice, students will be expected to attend the competition/performance (without loss of group membership or standing in the other activity).
- C. When a conflict occurs between scheduled practices, the students will be expected to participate in one (without loss of group membership in the other activity). Frequently missing practice sessions may jeopardize a student's standing within his/her group or team. Frequent conflicts will be balanced to the extent possible so that the student attends both activities equally.
- D. When a conflict occurs between competitions/performances, students may participate in one activity without loss of group membership or standing in the other activity.
- E. There may be times when students may simultaneously participate in multiple EKHS activities/events by prior arrangement with the sponsors/coaches.

It is strongly recommended that any athlete participating on an interscholastic team shall refrain from participating on any recreation or non-school sponsored team in another sport while the interscholastic sport is in season. The first obligation and responsibility of the athlete is to East Kentwood High School's academic and athletic programs.

#### XII. SCHOOL EQUIPMENT

Students are responsible for all school equipment issued to them. Athletic uniforms, both practice and game, are supplied for the sole purpose of athletic participation. This equipment is is not to be used for any other purpose. When the season is completed all school equipment is to be returned to the school. There are no exceptions to this policy. The theft of school equipment is larceny and Michigan law regards larceny as a felony. Students who violate this policy are subject to school rules, the Athletic Code, and may be referred to law enforcement.

Students, who wish to wear a uniform for pictures, need a coach's approval first. Any such pictures are to be taken in good taste and with pride. Remember, any time you wear the red and black, you are representing yourself, your family, your school and all those that have worn these colors before you.

#### XIII. VARSITY ATHLETIC PROGRAM

The Athletic Boosters Club sponsors one awards program (at the conclusion of the spring season). Those eligible to attend the program are varsity letter winners.

#### XIV. LOCKER ROOM PRIVACY POLICY

Using devices of any kind to capture or transmit images is strictly prohibited in locker rooms, dressing areas, training rooms, weigh-in rooms, showers, restrooms, or other areas where there is an expectation of privacy.



XV. NOTICE OF NONDISCRIMINATION

Kentwood Public Schools does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, age, disability, religion, height, weight, or martial status in its programs and activities. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policies.

Director of Student Services  
5820 Eastern Avenue SE  
Kentwood, MI 49508  
616-455-4400

XVI DISCRIMINATION GRIEVANCE PRODECURE

A. **Grievance Definition**

A grievance shall be any complaint of alleged discrimination practices on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender or handicap. The person may file a grievance with the office of the Executive Director of Human Resources, 5820 Eastern Avenue, SE, Kentwood, MI 49508, phone 455-4400.

B. **Procedure Steps**

Step 1

The person shall discuss the grievance informally with the Executive Director of Human Resources within five working days.

Step 2

If the aggrieved person is not satisfied, a written statement of the grievance shall be submitted to the Executive Director of Human Resources within five working days of receipt of the informal grievance reply. The Executive Director of Human Resources shall reply in writing to the aggrieved within 10 working days.

Step 3

If the aggrieved person is not satisfied, an appeal may be made to the Superintendent of Schools within five working days after the receipt of the Executive Director of Human Resources response. The Superintendent of Schools shall respond in writing to the aggrieved within 10 working days.

Step 4

If the aggrieved person remains unsatisfied, a written appeal may be made to the Board of Education within 10 working days of receipt of the Superintendent's response in Step 3. The Board of Education shall respond in writing within 30 working days of the above meeting.

Step 5

If the grievance has not been satisfactorily settled, an appeal may be made to the Department of Education, Office of Civil Rights, Washington, D.C. 20202.

**SECTION TWO:**

**The East Kentwood High School Athletic Code**

I. PURPOSE AND AUTHORITY

The Kentwood Public Schools Athletic Code is established under the authority of the Kentwood Board of Education. The purpose of the Athletic Code is to establish standards

for the athlete in the area of academic performance and personal behavior for those individuals who voluntarily become involved in the interscholastic athletic program.

A student who voluntarily participates in a sport sponsored by Kentwood Public Schools agrees to abide by the EKHS Athletic Code of Conduct throughout the year in which the student participates in the sport. The year is a calendar year - 365 days. Compliance with the Athletic Code is not limited to school sponsored sports activities or school premises.

The Code is not a complete list of undesirable conduct by athletes. East Kentwood athletes are considered to be examples and role models and expected to act accordingly during their high school career. Any student-athlete whose conduct is found to be a discredit or to cause unfavorable notoriety to the athlete, the team, or EKHS during their high school career, shall be subject to disciplinary action as determined by the coach, Athletic Director, or principal, whether or not the conduct is specifically described in the Athletic Code of Conduct.

The Kentwood Public Schools interscholastic athletic program is a member of and governed by the Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA). The MHSAA standards are found in the "Handbook of the Michigan High School Athletic Association for Junior High/Middle Schools and Senior High Schools."

## II. "ATHLETE" DEFINED

An athlete is defined as any Kentwood Public Schools student who is a member of an interscholastic team sponsored by Kentwood Public Schools. This includes team members, managers, student trainers, dance teams, cheerleaders, statisticians, etc.

## III. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

### A. Academic Standards

#### 1. Trimester/Semester Eligibility

No student-athlete shall represent Kentwood Public Schools who has failed two (2) or more classes in the previous trimester and/or semester. Approved summer school course work that is successfully completed can be applied to this requirement provided the coursework occurs at the end of the current school year. The athlete must carry a full time class schedule or equivalent as determined by the principal and recommended to the Superintendent, i.e. college classes.

#### Consequences

Athletes who fail to meet the trimester/semester eligibility standards shall be ineligible for participation for **90** school days. Athletes who are ineligible for the trimester/semester may become immediately eligible provided on the 60<sup>th</sup> school day of the trimester/semester they are passing **all** of their current trimester/semester classes.

#### 2. Weekly Eligibility

a. The athlete must carry a full class schedule or equivalent as determined by the principal and recommended to the Superintendent, i.e. college classes.

- b. The athlete is expected to do passing work in all classes. Should, the athlete be failing more than one (1) class than he/she would not be meeting the weekly eligibility standard.
- c. Weekly eligibility is to be accumulative throughout the trimester/semester.

Consequences

An athlete who fails to meet the weekly standards will not participate in the following week's athletic contest(s) (Mon-Sun). He/she will be expected to practice and will be subject to all team rules and regulations unless otherwise directed by the coach and/or Director of Athletics.

Note: Students will receive a warning one week before a scholastic fail (SF) which will be recorded.

B. Behavior And Citizenship Standards

The athlete may not receive two (2) or more unsatisfactory marks in citizenship (CF) by two or more teachers on the weekly eligibility form.

Consequences

An athlete who fails to meet the weekly standards will not participate in the following week's athletic contest(s) (Mon-Sun). He/she will be expected to practice and will be subject to all team rules and regulations unless otherwise directed by the coach and/or Director of Athletics.

Note: Students will receive a warning one week before a citizenship fail (CF) which will be recorded.

C. Building/Community Standards

All EKHS student athletes are also responsible for complying with the rules in the EKHS Student Handbook. Depending upon the situation, an athlete may face consequences under both the Athletic Code and the EKHS Code of Conduct.

Consequences

If a student athlete is disciplined for a violation of the EKHS Student Handbook, the Director of Athletics will be notified in writing. A conference between the Director of Athletics and student will be conducted to determine:

1. Athletic Code violations
2. The appropriate consequence

Any questions about Eligibility Requirements should be directed to Athletic Department Administration. Disputes about eligibility shall be resolved by the High School Principal, whose decision is final.

IV. SPECIFIC ATHLETIC CODE STANDARDS & CONSEQUENCES

The following rules are not an exhaustive list of conduct that subjects an athlete to discipline. At all times, student-athletes are expected to follow the EKHS Student Code of Conduct and to behave in a manner consistent with the special privilege of being an EKHS athlete. The consequences described below outline the range of possible discipline that may be imposed for the listed violations. However, the Athletic Director

has complete discretion to depart from the listed range of discipline if the circumstances of a particular case justify a departure. Please note violations of the Athletic Code may be required to be disclosed and may reflect negatively on applications to universities, colleges, and military academies. The District reserves the right to disclose violations in its sole discretion.

Violations will be cumulative during a student's high school athletic career. Cumulation will begin the first day an athlete begins trying out for any team and will continue throughout his/her entire high school career. The first violation of any of the following codes will be considered the first offense when determining the consequence. When a second violation of **any** of the following codes occurs, then the second offense consequence will be imposed. Upon a third offense of any of the following codes, then the third offense consequence will be applied.

As stated earlier, these rules apply 365 days, on or off school premises, and are not limited to school sponsored activities or sports.

A. ALCOHOL, DRUGS & TOBACCO ARE STRICTLY PROHIBITED. The possession, use, consumption, distribution, purchase, sale or manufacture of, or any other improper or unlawful involvement of any kind or description with illegal drugs, controlled substances, alcohol or alcoholic beverages, anabolic or androgenic steroids, tobacco, tobacco products, E-Cigarettes, Vapor Pens, or facsimiles, "look-alike" drugs, drug paraphernalia, or substances or products that mask or tamper with any of these, is strictly prohibited. Also prohibited is the distribution, abuse or misuse of over the counter medications or prescription drugs, or other chemicals or substances.

1. Testing

The District believes that they have the responsibility to detect, deter and prevent drug, alcohol and tobacco use. The District reserves the right to adopt a random testing program for District athletes.

2. Search

Students who voluntarily participate in the athletic program also agree to submit to random searches of their personal effects, and to searches, including but not limited to breathalyzer testing, based on individualized suspicion for violation of these rules.

Consequences

Because student-athletes bear additional responsibilities as examples and role models within the school and the community, the District and the Athletic Department reserve the right to impose consequences above and beyond those listed below when appropriate. Whenever conduct may constitute a crime, a referral to law enforcement is also possible, and may be required by law.

Possession or Use of Prohibited Substances as Defined Above:

First Offense: Suspension from 20-50% of scheduled sanctioned competitive events; referral to appropriate substance abuse counseling program; possible random testing for rest of

- year or high school career at option of Athletic Director; loss of privilege of being a team captain during the season of suspension.
- Second Offense: Suspension from 50% of scheduled, sanctioned competitive events; referral to appropriate substance abuse counseling program; possible random testing for rest of year or high school career at option of Athletic Director; loss of athletic awards and privilege of being a team captain during the season of suspension.
- Third Offense: Exclusion from athletic events for rest of high school career; loss of all athletic awards.

Sale or Distribution Of Prohibited Substances as Defined Above:

- First Offense: Exclusion from athletic events for rest of high school career

B. Hazing

HAZING IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED. Because hazing is unsafe, and can discourage participation as well as negatively affect a student's enjoyment in athletic participation, all forms of hazing are strictly prohibited.

Hazing includes, but is not limited to:

- Any gesture or written, verbal or physical act that a reasonable person under the circumstances should know will have the effect of harming a student or placing a student in reasonable fear of harm to his or her person, or damage to his or her property;
- any type of physical force, harm or injury inflicted by athletes on their team members such as whipping, beating, striking, branding, electronic shocking, or placing an unwanted substance on the student's body;
- any type of coerced or involuntary sexual or physical activity, such as sleep deprivation, exposure to weather, confinement in a restricted area, calisthenics, or other coerced or unwelcome confinement, restriction or other forced activity by athletes on their fellow team members;
- any coerced or involuntary activity by athletes on their team members that subject the athletes to an unreasonable risk of harm or that adversely affects their mental or physical health, safety, or welfare; or
- any coerced or involuntary activity inflicted, encouraged or mandated by athletes on their team members, such as the consumption of alcoholic beverages, illegal, unauthorized, or foreign substances of any type whatsoever, tobacco or tobacco products, over the counter medication or prescription drugs, or any other unreasonable risk of harm or activity that adversely affects an athlete's mental or physical health, safety, welfare or interest in the sport.

For purposes of this rule, a team member's voluntary participation in hazing is not necessarily a defense to a claimed violation of this rule. Athletes who organize or initiate hazing activities, but do not directly participate in them, are equally subject to possible discipline as students who directly participate in acts of hazing.

In addition, student-athletes are expected and required to report suspected violations of this rule. Athletes may be disciplined for failure to report known hazing violations or for falsely denying knowledge of known hazing activities.

Consequences

Because student-athletes bear additional responsibilities as examples and role models within the school and the community, the District and the Athletic Department reserve the right to impose consequences above and beyond those listed below when deemed appropriate. Whenever conduct may constitute a crime, a referral to law enforcement is also possible, and may be required by law.

First Offense:	Suspension from 20-50% of scheduled sanctioned competitive events; possible loss of athletic awards and/or leadership role; possible referral to counseling.
Second Offense:	Suspension from 50% of scheduled, sanctioned competitive events; referral to counseling, possible loss of athletic awards and/or leadership role.
Third Offense:	Exclusion from participating in athletic events for rest of high school career; loss of all athletic awards.

- C. Stealing, Property Destruction. To steal or be an accomplice to the act of stealing community property, school property, or the property of athletes, team managers or coaches; to destroy or deface school property or the property of others.

Consequences

First Offense:	Suspension from 20-50% of scheduled, sanctioned competitive events; restitution; possible loss of athletic awards, and/or leadership role; possible referral to counseling.
Second Offense:	Suspension from 50% of scheduled, sanctioned competitive events; possible exclusion from team for a season; possible restitution; loss of athletic awards and/or loss of leadership role; referral to counseling.
Third Offense:	Exclusion from athletic events for balance of high school career; restitution; loss of athletic awards and/or loss of leadership role.

- D. Gross Misconduct  
Gross misconduct is defined as cheating, fighting, or unfavorable notoriety, violation of a civil or criminal law, or any socially unacceptable behavior that brings discredit to the athlete, parents, school or team. This includes any behavior on social media.

### Consequences

Consequence will be dependent upon the severity of the offense. Range of consequences include suspension at the Athletic Director's discretion, from 20% up to one year of the scheduled dates of the season during which the violation occurred; possible removal of the privilege of being a team captain; possible suspension from the team for the remainder of the season or seasons; possible suspension from athletic participation for up to one calendar year.

### E. Travel Regulations

1. To Contests: All team members must travel and return from away contests with the team except with prior approval of the coach. If a request to ride home with the parent is granted, the coach must meet with the parent before allowing the student to leave and receive signed documentation.

### Consequences

- First Offense: Suspension from the scheduled contest(s) that date. (When the violation involves missing school transportation after a contest or practice, the consequence will involve the next scheduled date.)
- Second Offense: Suspension from three consecutive athletic dates
- Third Offense: Suspension from participation in athletic contests for six calendar months.

2. To Practices: The District may provide transportation to practice sites away from EKHS. Student-athletes are responsible for being at practice whether or not the District provides transportation. Any athlete who has attained an East Kentwood High School driving permit shall be allowed to drive to and from a practice site which is not at the high school. The District is not responsible or liable in any way for transportation it does not provide. Student athletes who drive themselves or others to and from practice sites agree that the District has no liability for any damages or injuries whatsoever arising directly or indirectly out of the student-provided transportation.

### Consequences

The loss of driving privileges to practices and other consequences at the discretion of the Athletic Director.

Note: If an athlete misses the school transportation under no circumstances shall they transport themselves to a contest. He/she must ride with their parent/guardian. THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS TO THIS RULE.

### F. School Attendance.

An athlete shall be in attendance in every class during the day of the contests, except as excused by the Director of Athletics/designee at least one (1) day prior to the absence. The Director of Athletics/designee may waive this rule in cases of unusual circumstances.

### Consequences

Each Offense: Suspension from the scheduled athletic contest(s) on that date; other consequences at the discretion of the Athletic Director.

G. Leaving a Team.

1. An athlete desiring to drop from a team within the first two weeks of practice shall notify the coach immediately to obtain a release without consequence. The coach is required to notify the athletic office of said release within three working days.
2. An athlete desiring to drop from the team after the first two weeks of practice, or after team selection has been made, may be subject to a consequence at the discretion of the Athletic Department Administration. A meeting between the athlete, coach and Director of Athletics will be held to decide the validity of a release or consequence, which could include exclusion from athletics for the next sport or season. The decision of the Administration is final.

Note: Coaches have the right to recommend to the Athletic Department Administration the dismissal of participants from the team roster for conduct considered detrimental to the team. Release can be done with or without consequence. The decision of the Administration is final.

H. Miscellaneous.

1. Not all violations of the Student Code of Conduct will result in discipline under the Athletic Code, but if the student is suspended out of school they shall not practice or participate on the day/days of their suspension.
2. Consequences do not include scrimmage dates, only scheduled, officially recognized or sanctioned competitive events.
3. During an athletic code suspension the athlete shall participate in practice sessions and attend all team functions unless specifically excused by the coach.
4. If the athlete is not presently involved in a sport, the consequence will be applied during the next sport in which he/she is involved. If the consequence exceeds the number of contests remaining in that sport, the balance of the consequence will be pro-rated and applied during the next sport (using that sport's schedule) in which the athlete participates.
5. All percentages in determining consequences will round up/down to closest full contest. (.5 rounds up).

V. COACHES' RULES

- A. It is expected that daily attendance in practice sessions is a requirement of team membership. Coaches will establish, and publish, any team rules and expectations, which can be an addition to this Code.
- B. Coaches who invoke their right to suspend/penalize a team member for a violation of a team rule, which is not considered a violation of The Athletic Code, will notify the Director of Athletics of the situation before a consequence is invoked. The purpose of notification is to record the infraction in the event it is affected by a previous infraction or may have an effect on a future infraction.
- C. Membership on a team does not dictate any level of participation in contests. Only the coach of each team maintains the discretion of assigning "playing time."



VI. REPORTING CODE VIOLATIONS

- A. Written report to Director of Athletics of the infraction or warning of an infraction via police report, court decisions or public information vehicles (papers, magazines, etc.), or source considered reliable by the Athletic Director.
- B. The Director of Athletics shall notify the athlete of reported violation within a reasonable time after receiving the report or learning of the violation.
- C. Written report of the charges and penalty to parents/guardian from the Director of Athletics within five school days of the Athletic Director's decision.

VII. APPEAL PROCEDURE

Except where stated otherwise, a student, or the student's parent or guardian, may appeal a consequence imposed by the Athletic Department Administration if the action is believed to be arbitrary or capricious, or a violation of this Code as written.

VIII. APPEAL CHANNEL FOR SPECIFIC ATHLETIC CODE VIOLATIONS

- A. Student or student's parent/guardian initiates the appeal by contacting the building principal within three (3) school days of the Athletic Director's decision. The Principal shall respond to the appeal within three (3) school days.
- B. The Principal's decision may be appealed to the Executive Director of Human Resources within three (3) school days after receiving the principal's decision. The Executive Director of Human Resources shall respond to the appeal within three (3) school days. The decision of the Executive Director of Human Resources shall be final and binding.
- C. While the appeal period is pending, the consequences shall normally be served.

IX. DURATION

As stated, the athlete is under the Athletic Code effective the date it is signed and turned in to the proper administration office. The code is in effect for 12 calendar months from the date of signature, including during the summer months.

REVISED AUGUST 1990

REVISED JUNE 1992

REVISED JULY 1994

REVISED JULY 1997

REVISED JULY 1998

REVISED MAY 2000

REVISED MAY 2001

REVISED APRIL 2002

REVISED JANUARY 2003

REVISED MARCH 2003

REVISED MAY 2004

REVISED MAY 2006

REVISED MAY 2013

REVISED SEPTEMBER 2014

REVISED JUNE 2016

