

Yorkville High School Athletic Department

I have received a copy of the YHS Athletic Handbook and I understand that I am responsible for the rules and regulations I am to follow at Yorkville High School that are explained in this handbook.

Print Students Name Here _____

Students Signature _____ Date _____

Parents Signature _____ Date _____

Enjoy your season!!

Yorkville High School

Athletic Handbook

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GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Provided by the Board of Education, the interscholastic program in Yorkville District #115 offers a wide range of voluntary athletic activities to both young men and women at the junior and senior high school levels. The athletic program is an integral and important part of Yorkville Community District #115.

The Athletic Department at Yorkville High School is guided by the philosophy that athletics are an important part of the total educational program at Yorkville High School. Athletics serve as a catalyst in the school program, providing a spirit that helps to bring all facets of the educational effort closer together: administration and faculty, faculty and student body, and school and community.

The successful athletic program at Yorkville High School helps generate an attitude of school pride on the part of the participants as well as the student body and faculty members. We recognize that success is measured in each athlete's moral and physical achievements. The athletic department will strive to teach life's lessons as well as sport skills. The participant's long range goals and achievements of those goals are of ultimate importance. Becoming productive citizens is the measurement of our success or failure.

The Athletic Department realizes the need and value of all co-curricular and related activities such as drama, speech, music, etc. A school that is successful in all areas--educational, athletic, cultural and co-curricular, reflects great balance and harmony. The Athletic Department cooperates with any group to attain and maintain the high educational standards established at Yorkville High School.

The objectives of the Athletic Department go beyond just learning playing skills for various sports. The students should gain a stronger competitive spirit, better self control, and desirable health habits. Leadership and good character traits are also gained through athletic participation. Loyalty, self discipline, dependability, cooperativeness and self awareness are important objectives of the program. The student athlete should also be allowed to enjoy and learn from his athletic experience.

Another objective of the athletic program is to give the student body and community something to be proud of. They can obtain many hours of enjoyment by watching and cheering during athletic events. Also, there is a healthier and more respectful environment created between schools and community through athletic competition.

The Athletic Department's main goal is to remember that school athletes should be amateur competitors in fact and spirit. The objective of playing to win is important, but winning should not overshadow educational objectives. We will not operate in any manner to the detriment of health or welfare to our players or school. The aim is to give maximum participation in a well balanced, interscholastic program, with emphasis upon safe, healthful standards of competition. This is the code of ethics the Athletic Department operates on.

INSURANCE

1. All athletes are required to have insurance before participating in any practice sessions.
2. The school obtains an arrangement with a suitable insurance company for athletic coverage. The cost of the insurance shall be made available to the parent before the season begins.
3. An athlete does not have to purchase school insurance, but must show that he/she does have insurance by filing with the athletic office an insurance waiver signed by their parents. Forms are available from the athletic office.

PHYSICAL EXAMINATIONS

1. The IHSA requires a physical examination every year for each person who participates in interscholastic athletics. Each physical is good for 395 days (13 months) from the date it is issued.
2. No athlete may participate in any way until evidence of the physical has been presented to the coach or the Athletic Department.
3. Incoming freshmen are required to have a physical and dental exam to satisfy school and state policy. This form will suffice for athletics as well.

ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION FEE

An \$80.00 FEE must be paid to the athletic office prior to the first scheduled contest of each sport. It shall be understood that payment of fees does not guarantee athletic participation. If an athlete drops or is removed from a program, such fees paid shall not be reimbursed.

ATHLETIC TRIPS

1. When possible, all trips will be made by bus.
2. Athletes are expected to travel to and from contests with the team on the bus. The parent can get permission for their student athlete to go home with them by turning in the parent release form that can be found in the athletic office or on the athletic website.
3. Athletes should dress appropriately as instructed by the coach.
4. Coaches should set a definite pattern of behavior for trips.
5. Athletes at a contest should stay together as a team. Also, the athletes should be reminded that they have a responsibility to act as ladies and gentlemen in representing Yorkville High School.

AWARDS

Athletic awards will be presented at the end of the varsity seasons. Varsity letters are presented to athletes that have met the coaches criteria for lettering. One varsity letter shall be presented per career. If the letter has been lost or damaged, the athletic director will have the discretion of giving additional letters. Each year after receiving letter in varsity competition, bars and pins will be given. The freshmen and sophomore participants will not receive letter awards.

Special awards shall be given upon approval of the athletic director.

ATHLETIC ELIGIBILITY AND TRAINING POLICY

Representing Yorkville in interscholastic athletics is regarded as an honor and a privilege. All students who take part in interscholastic competition must fully understand that adherence to all parts of the athletic code is essential to participation.

The purpose of the athletic code is not to restrict freedom, but instead to encourage the athletes to practice and develop a greater application for the values associated with responsible behavior, healthful living and good citizenship.

The athletes are reminded that they are frequently before the public and their actions may either enhance or downgrade the public's general opinion of athletes and athletics. Athletes should strive for the type of behavior that will make them a credit to their team, coach, school and community. Yorkville has a great athletic tradition that should be remembered and upheld.

The following articles and standards of conduct apply to all Illinois High School Association sports sponsored by the Yorkville Community Unit District #115.

1. At the high school, athletes must be enrolled as a full time student while maintaining the following passing grades. **All YHS students will become ineligible upon failing more than one academic class.**
2. **Eligibility will be checked on a weekly basis.** Any athlete determined to be ineligible will be able to practice but will not dress or participate in any contest during one full week starting on Sunday to the following Saturday.
3. Athletes must be in attendance the last half of a school day in order to practice and/or compete that evening. Special dispensation can be given by the principal or athletic director for such things as family emergencies, college days, funerals, military obligations, etc.
4. Specific incidents of behavior or academic problems not covered in the athletic code are subject to the review and disciplinary action of the administration and/or coach.
5. Athletes must pass 5 courses at the semester, to be eligible for the next semester.

Training Rules

I. Coverage

- A. Student athletes will be governed by the athletic code from the first day of involvement in interscholastic athletics through graduation. This means during, as well as between, sport seasons.
- B. All athletes, managers, and cheerleaders must adhere to the principles of the athletic code.

II. Training code

- A. The athletic code will cover inclusively, but not exclusively, the following violations:
 - 1. Use of possession of tobacco products.
 - 2. Use of or possession of alcoholic beverages.
 - 3. Misuse or illegal possession of drugs.
 - 4. Theft or possession of athletic equipment not assigned to the person holding such equipment.
 - 5. Violations of school rules and regulations or the public display of behavior which could generally be regarded as being "unbecoming of an athlete" determined by the coach, athletic director, or other school officials.
 - 6. Arrest or indictment for any illegal act.
 - 7. Conviction of an illegal act will result in a suspension from further competition until review of the case by the athletic director and principal.
 - 8. Group possession of prohibitive chemical substances (alcohol, drugs, etc.) at parties, automobiles, etc.

III. Procedure

- A. All violations shall be reported to the administration. What constitutes an acceptable source in reporting will be left to the discretion of the administration.
- B. The athletic director shall arrange to hold a conference with the reported athlete and the coach if necessary.
- C. The athletic director is the administrator responsible for invoking all penalties.
- D. Due process procedures will be provided at all times.
- E. The athletic director shall notify the principal of the penalties involved. Parents or guardians will be contacted if necessary.

IV. Penalties

- A. The penalties will be issued based upon the collective judgment of the coaching staff and administration in the overall best interests of the athlete, the sport, and the school. All accusations or allegations of serious violations will be investigated as thoroughly as reasonably possible.
- B. Following are the levels of punishment. These are guidelines that are used by the administration to determine punitive actions. The level would be determined by the coach, principal, and athletic director.

FIRST OFFENSE

The Athletic Director will determine the suspension of the student/athlete based on the severity of the offense. The minimum suspension for a student/athlete is equivalent to 25% of a sport season.

SECOND OFFENSE

The Athletic Director will determine the suspension of the student/athlete based on the severity of the offense. The minimum suspension for a student/athlete is equivalent to 50% of a sport season.

THIRD OFFENSE

The student will be suspended the remainder of his/her High School Career.

PARTY ATTENDANCE - Attendance at a party where prohibitive chemical substances are present.

- A. The athlete will be placed on athletic probation for one calendar year, if it can be documented that they have been in attendance at a party. Parents will be notified of the probation.
- B. If the athlete attends a party during the probation period, it will be considered to be a Second offense. The athlete will be suspended as outlined in the Athletic Code.

SPORTS TEAM COMMITMENT POLICY

A student athlete who is a member of one athletic team may not join another athletic team until the prior season has been completed or if mutually agreed upon by both head coaches of the teams involved and the athletic director. Membership of a team is defined as being in attendance at one official practice or game.