

It is hoped that each student/athlete will realize that it is a privilege to participate in interscholastic athletics for Fenton High School, and that it is their responsibility to be fully knowledgeable and observant of all rules relating to their athletic participation.

Fenton Area Public School's Athletic Program represents an important aspect of total student learning, where students are afforded an opportunity for physical, mental, emotional, and social growth, and where the District's mission of education excellence is enhanced.

As participants, we each have our defined roles in the athletic program.

As student athletes, our young people will participate in athletics as an extension of the classroom. They will challenge themselves mentally, physically and personally as they learn life sports, enhance physical fitness, and learn life skills. Outcomes for these students include an increase in their sense of commitment, in respect for self, team and coach, an improved work ethic, a sense of personal accomplishment, sportsmanship, competitive spirit and the perseverance needed to contribute one's personal best. In addition, their appreciation of team efforts through team leadership, responsibility, and following direction is enhanced.

Student athletes will look to their coaches, teachers, administration, board of education and support staff for the following attributes as they relate to athletics: They will serve as a guide to student athletes in establishing rules, giving structure, educating, and modeling the behavior expected in a district that supports athletes and athletics. In supporting our athletes, we will demonstrate sportsmanship, honesty, fair play, trust, pride, loyalty, discipline, and self-control.

Alumni, parents and fans are encouraged to support our student athletes through moral and financial support. Opportunities to reinforce the sense of tradition in athletics in Fenton Public Schools can surpass the "game" and enter the classroom as these role models share how athletics have contributed to their own "life skills".

The community also has a role in Fenton Area Public School Athletics. We will ask our community to support our student athletes' learning through moral and financial support, as well as being a voice of recognition for these young peoples' efforts.

Through these joint partnerships, Fenton Area Public Schools Athletics will foster a learning environment that provides opportunities to set goals, develop strategies, realize limits, and reinforce the values of respect, teamwork, leadership, self-discipline, sportsmanship, and competitive spirit, all while having fun through wholesome sport and recreation.

A student who is a member of an athletic team or squad also serves as a representative of Fenton High School. Given the membership on a team/squad, each student is expected to conduct himself/herself at all times, both in and out of school activities consistent with the provisions of this handbook, school district policies, procedures and practices, as well as all local, state and federal laws and ordinances.

Administration Right to Implement New Rules and Regulations: The administration of Fenton High School reserves the right to establish rules and regulations which are not stated in this handbook but which are necessary and proper for carrying out the educational programs of the school. When, in the judgment of the administration, a student's behavior adversely influences others or interferes with the educational process, the student will be subject to disciplinary action.

To increase the educational values of the interscholastic athletic program, the Fenton Area Public Schools Board of Education endorses the rules as follows:

A. Participation and School Absences

In order to be eligible, each student athlete must be in attendance at school **at least the last three hours of their scheduled day** (11:28 am – 2:28 PM) in order to participate in practice or games and his/her parent/guardian must call the school to excuse the partial absence. The parent is requested to direct the phone call to the coach, after calling the attendance office. This procedure must be followed only on school days. (This does not apply to a Saturday practice or contest.) Athletes that are truant on an athletic contest day may not participate in that event.

Any athlete that is suspended from school (out of school suspension) cannot practice or participate in a game during the period of suspension.

B. Academic Eligibility

Each student must pass at least 20 hours (six classes) from the beginning of the semester to date. Failure to pass six classes in a semester will cause an athlete to be ineligible for all of the following semester. Each student must pass at least 66% of a full credit load (six classes) from the beginning of the semester to date. Weekly, in-season athletic eligibility will be determined by the following procedures:

1. An Athletic Eligibility Report (AER) will be completed electronically with all Fenton High School faculty each week, by the Athletic Department. The AER will list each student-athlete's class, grade, and teacher. Each teacher must confirm the current grade for the athlete and return the AER electronically on the final two school days of the week. Completed AER are due in the Athletic Director's Office by 12:00 pm on the last day of the school week.
2. A student-athlete will not participate in interscholastic competition for one week (Monday – Sunday) following the receipt of a failing grade (red line) for academic work and/or behavior in the prior week.
3. Teachers are to report the student-athlete's grade on the AER as if the marking period grade were required at that moment.
4. A red line entered by a student-athlete's teacher on an AER will signify a failing grade
5. Teachers may also issue a red line for behavior problems which are judged unbecoming of a Fenton student-athlete.
6. Teachers may also give a warning if academic work is near failing or behavior needs improvement. A warning does not limit athletic participation.
7. If the student-athlete's failure occurs in the last week of the first semester, the consequence will result in the first week of the second semester.
8. A student athlete may receive a red line grade on his/her Student Resource Time (SRT) due to problems with attendance, behavior, or other inappropriate actions, in addition to a failing grade.

* Please note that a warning is not required prior to a redline.

C. Appeal Procedure

A student that has been penalized under the terms of this athletic policy may appeal if he/she believes the action unfair. An appeal by a student or a student's parent/guardian received at any administrative level may be passed to a higher level. A student, who is appealing, will continue to serve their suspension while the appeal process is continuing.

1. Student or student's parent/guardian initiates the appeal by contacting the Athletic Director;
2. Parent/guardian may appeal the Athletic Director's decision to the building Principal;
3. Parent/guardian may appeal the Principal's decision to the Superintendent;
4. Parent/guardian may appeal the Superintendent's decisions to the Board of Education.

D. Athletic Training Room

The Athletic Training Room (ATR) is for the use of our Certified Athletic Trainer (ATC) during the necessary treatment for basic first aid and other appropriate medical care needed by student-athletes during participation in high school extra-curricular athletics at Fenton High School. Students/Coaches/Parents/Staff should treat it as the medical facility that it is. Rules will be maintained by the ATC and in consultation with the Athletic Director.

E. Transportation

All athletes, when bus transportation is provided, must ride the bus. In the event that a student-athlete will not be riding the bus to or from an athletic event, a signed note from the student-athlete's parent/guardian must be given to the COACH or Athletic Director and shall state who will provide transportation for the student. (Note: Students are only permitted to be signed out to an adult.)

FAPS will only provide one-way transportation to athletic events for weekday trips that are 25 miles or less from FHS/AGS. When one-way transportation is provided, parents/guardians will be responsible for providing transportation home for their student-athlete. **STUDENTS WILL NOT BE PERMITTED TO DRIVE THEMSELVES NOR ANY OTHER STUDENT-ATHLETE TO A CONTEST WHERE TRANSPORTATION IS PROVIDED BY FAPS IN AT LEAST ONE DIRECTION.**

FAPS will not be responsible for transporting athletes to events for any weekend competitions, except when authorized by the Athletic Director.

F. Changing from one sport to another

If an athlete drops a sport voluntarily after the second week of practice, he/she cannot start practicing for the next sport season until the end of the season of the sport he/she dropped without the written consent of the Athletic Director, and all coaches involved in the two sports.

G. Conduct Suspension

Students/athletes are subject to suspension from their team or squad for committing any violation of the provisions in this handbook, school district policies, procedures and practices as well as all local, state and federal ordinances and laws (with the exception of minor traffic violations). Student/athletes are subject to discipline as provided in this section in the absence of a conviction or finding by a state or federal court upon a substantial showing (more likely than not) that the student engaged in the prohibited conduct. The amount of suspension/expulsion may be upheld, reduced, or increased. This may include possible expulsion by the Administration or the Board of Education.

H. Equipment and Uniforms

Each athlete must take the proper care of all equipment and uniforms issued to him/her, and are financially responsible for the loss of such equipment and/or uniforms. If payment of damaged, lost, or stolen equipment is not received before the end of the semester, the athlete's name will appear on the obligation list for the semester and/or final exams. Athletes who fail to return equipment, or fail to repay for damaged, lost, or stolen equipment, will not participate on another athletic team.

**Each student-athlete and/or parent/guardian is financially responsible for any equipment issued during the course of a season regardless of loss, theft or unnatural wear and tear.

I. **Injury/Illness Policy**

If an injury or illness/sickness occurs, which in the judgment of the athletic trainer or coach requires the athlete to see a doctor, the athlete must have a written statement signed by a doctor permitting the coach to reinstate the athlete to active participation with no restrictions.

It is the student/parent's responsibility to make the coach or athletic trainer aware of any injuries/illnesses to the student/athlete.

A doctor's note does not automatically reinstate a student athlete to full participation and contest status. If in the opinion of the Certified Athletic Trainer and/or the coach, the student needs to progress through a number of physical steps to prove they are ready to play, then they must do so prior to being given full clearance.

FHS uses baseline concussion testing software for all student athletes. Should a student athlete sustain a suspected concussion, they will be tested again and their results will be compared. Please note that this test may not be the sole determining factor for a concussion and that other evaluation methods, such as a doctor's visit, staff observations and evaluations, etc. may be used. When a concussion is confirmed, the student athlete must pass all MHSAA and FHS guidelines (or equivalent) in order to resume full activity in their sport.

J. **Insurance**

Participation in extra-curricular athletics at Fenton High School is **voluntary**. Fenton Area Public Schools and the MHSAA do **not** carry primary or secondary medical insurance policies for injuries/illness sustained during participation in extra-curricular/athletic events. Parents/guardians are ultimately responsible for all medical care costs incurred not covered by their family's health insurance or in absence of valid health insurance.

K. **Locks/Locker Rooms**

School locks must be used and purchased from the FHS athletic office. The student will be refunded the money when the lock is returned. Student-athletes may be assigned a locker in the respective team locker room. An adequate number of individual lockers are available in each locker room. To minimize loss of school/student property, all belongings should be locked in a locker (whether at FHS or on the road). The student/parent will be financially responsible for the cost of replacement of school property issued to the student that may be lost or stolen. Student-athletes are encouraged not to keep large amounts of cash, valuable jewelry, or personal property in their possession at any time, regardless of whether or not it is stored in a locked locker.

M. **Minor Infraction**

Discipline regarding: missing practice, athletic conduct on the field or sport related function, on the bus, in the locker room, horseplay, general attitude, etc. shall be left to the discretion of the individual coach.

N. **NCAA Eligibility**

Starting in August 1993, the NCAA established new rules dealing with incoming college freshmen who wish to participate in a sport at a Division I or Division II institution. A copy of the academic requirements necessary to play your freshman year at a NCAA Division I or Division II college is available on the Fenton Athletic webpage. Hopefully, by reviewing and knowing the requirements ahead of time, it will better enable your son/daughter to prepare for college if they have aspirations of participating in athletics while attending a Division I or II college. It should be noted that Division III, NAIA, and Junior Colleges do not have the same academic requirements. In some cases, they are actually higher and in others, the requirements are lower than those listed.

It is recommended that all athletes interested in pursuing collegiate athletics should make an appointment

with the Athletic Director to discuss eligibility requirements as early as their freshman year.

O. **Participation Fee**

FAPS has a policy of a participation fee for athletics. The participation fee for high school athletics is \$220. This fee must be paid by check or money order payable to Fenton High School. You may also pay on line through www.sendmoneytoschool.com. The participation fee will be collected by the Fenton High School Athletic Office.

Refunds will NOT be made for any reasons, including, but not limited to, dropping out, discharge from the team by the coach, academic ineligibility or transfer. If an athlete has played less than 50% of the season, a doctor's release stating that the athlete cannot finish the season will be needed for a refund.

Payment of the participation fee does not guarantee that the student athlete will participate in every athletic contest.

P **Physical Examination**

Before an athlete may participate he/she must have had a physical examination and have turned in the examination card signed by a physician (M.D. or D.O.), nurse practitioner, or physician's assistant. The forms will be available in the athletic office of the high school. A current physical is one performed after April 15th of the previous school year. A valid physical is one which is filed using the MHSAA physical form which states a student is physically able to compete in an athletic activity. A signed prescription note will not be accepted by the athletic office for participation.

Q. **Requirements for Varsity Letters**

It is accepted that the requirements for earning a varsity letter may vary to some degree, but in general the coach will base the decision on whether the athlete made a significant contribution to the team over the course of the season. The coach will certainly take into consideration the general attitude displayed all season, whether the athlete attended practice regularly, showed respect for equipment and supplies, and followed training rules. In the end, the coach solely makes the decision.

R. Substance Abuse

The use, possession, and/or distribution of any alcohol, illegal substances, tobacco, or performance enhancing drug (as described in PA 215 of 2006 for the state of Michigan) by an athlete is unacceptable. Malt beverages labeled as “non-alcohol” (including but not limited to Sharp’s, O’Doul’s, Kingbury Malt Beverage, and Zing Malt Beverage) may contain alcohol. The use, possession, and/or distribution of malt beverages (regardless of their alcoholic content) is inappropriate conduct and will subject the student to disciplinary measures under the student code of conduct AND the athletic code of conduct. The following procedures will be followed if a violation of this policy occurs.

First Violation for any substance named above: (Committed while in season)

An athlete will be ineligible to participate in contests for two weeks (14 calendar days). Additionally, an athlete must enroll in, complete and provide proof of completion of a substance abuse counseling program in a timely fashion as determined by the administration. Fenton Area Public Schools are not responsible for providing for any form of payment or transportation for students attending any types of substance abuse counseling. Note: In order for a first offense suspension to be completed, the athlete must finish the season in good standing.

Failure to enroll in counseling will bar the athlete for a period of 45 days or the remainder of the season, whichever is longer. If less than two weeks of the season remains, then the equivalent remaining portion will be carried over to the next season.

(Committed while out of season)

Such a suspension does not start until the next sport in which the student would participate. The consequences would then be the same as a first offense committed in season.

Second Violation of any substance named above: (Committed in or out of season)

After a second violation, the athlete will be suspended from participation for one calendar year.

Third Violation of any substance named above: (Committed in or out of season)

After a third violation, the athlete will forfeit their right to participate in athletics for the remainder of their high school career.

This policy applies to all athletes who participate in an interscholastic sport at any level and at any time during the 12 month calendar year; and is in effect for all athletes throughout the 12 month calendar year. All athletes are held to this complete time frame. Furthermore, violations are cumulative throughout a student’s career at Fenton High School.

S. Training Rules

All training rules must be followed from the start of the season to the end of the season. (The end of the season is after the team banquet.) Each coach will stress proper training habits to make sure each athlete has been fully warned of the consequences of drinking and/or smoking.

T. Weight Room

The weight room is an important tool in the preparation for high school athletic participation and injury prevention. It is a facility shared jointly by the PE department and Athletic Department. Serious injury can result from improper use of the room or equipment in the room if used improperly. Students need to follow basic rules of safety when using the weight room. Rules, established by FHS, are to be followed at all times. Rules include, **but are not limited to,** (full rules to be posted in the weight room):

1. No horseplay at any time!
2. Students are to be supervised by FHS staff or coaches at all times, no exceptions!

3. Gym clothes/tennis shoes are to be worn when working out. (No "street" clothes.)
4. No food or drink (except water) is allowed in the weight room.
5. Return all weights to storage racks when finished.
6. Proper form and use of spotters are to be used at all times.

U. **Self medication (Self-Administration/Self-Possession)**

Student-Athletes who take any prescription and/or over the counter medications, must follow the terms set forth in the Student Handbook, under Student Self-Administration / Self-Possession.

Parents/guardians must fill out the proper paperwork in the high school office.

V. **MHSAA ATHLETIC CODE FOR ATHLETES**

1. Know and adhere to the athletic code of the school.
2. Exceed all attendance and academic requirements as practical evidence of loyalty to school and team and a proper philosophy of school-sponsored athletics.
3. Observe completely all policies regarding conduct, doing so as a duty to school, team and self.
4. Counsel with the Athletic Director over questions of eligibility.
5. Practice and play, giving complete effort in all circumstances and credit in victory to teammates and to opponents in defeat.
6. Accept favorable and unfavorable decisions, as well as victory and defeat, with equal grace.
7. Demonstrate respect for opponents and officials before, during, and after contests.

Participation in extracurricular competitive interscholastic athletics is a student's privilege, not a right, which can be removed at any time for failure to meet the standards and requirements of particular teams, school or school districts, leagues or conference, and regional statewide or national organizations to which the student's school belongs.

Amateur Practices – After once representing a MHSAA member school in competition in any sport, a student shall not be eligible to represent his or her school if that student: (1) receives money or other valuable consideration from any source for participating in athletics, sports or games, or has signed a professional athletic contract to participate in that sport.

Limited Team Membership - A student shall become ineligible for a minimum of the next three contests and a maximum of the remainder of that season in that school year due to the following. Practicing with or participating in an athletic contest or scrimmage, as a member of a high school athletic team. Participating in any athletic competition not sponsored by his/her school in the same sport season.

W. **PARENT CODE:**

As parents of students at Fenton Area Public Schools, we understand that attending any school activity or athletic event (paid or unpaid) does not give us the right to be unsportsmanlike, abusive physically or verbally to advisors, officials, players, coaches or fans. We understand that attending a Fenton athletic event or extracurricular activity is a privilege and that school personnel may revoke the privilege temporarily or permanently for inappropriate conduct. Gate or pass fees **Will Not** be reimbursed for a person who is removed from a game.

TEN COMMANDMENTS FOR PARENTS:

1. Make sure your child has a positive sports experience.
2. Have your child at practices and games.
3. Practice with your child at home.

4. Come to the games as often as you can.
5. Cheer positively.
6. Allow the coach to coach.
7. Let the officials officiate.
8. Compliment your child.
9. Communicate with the coach.
10. Remember that this is your child's game.

X. **Dual-Sport Participation**

Please see the attached policy and permission form.

Dual-Sport Participation Policy

RATIONALE

Fenton High School seeks to provide quality co-curricular athletic opportunities for its students. Some students have talents and abilities which they desire to contribute to more than one team in a particular athletic season and both of these teams can benefit. Some activities may struggle with low numbers; this may boost participation in those sports.

STUDENTS PARTICIPATION IN DUAL-SPORT ACTIVITIES DURING THE SAME SEASON

1. Students are allowed to participate in two co-curricular sport activities during the same season. Students wishing to participate in two sports during the same season will need to obtain a request form from the athletic director and follow the guidelines set forth by the athletic department involving dual sport participation.
2. Student are not allowed to participate in “open gyms” as well as other non-school competition in another sport on the same day they are participating in a school-sponsored co-curricular sport activity without permission from the head coach of the sport in which they are currently participating and the athletic director.

RULES OF DUAL-SPORT PARTICIPATION

1. A student who wishes to participate in two sports during the same season must designate a primary sport before the beginning of the first appointed date of practice set by Fenton High School for the season of participation.
2. A primary sport is defined as the sport which takes precedence over another sport in the event there is a conflict of schedule or any other matter that could lead to a conflict. The student must adhere to the primary sport in the event of any and all conflicts of schedule. If one sport has a contest and the other has a practice, the contest will take precedence.
3. The student must practice in both sports but the amount of practice time must meet the agreed requirements of the head coaches of those sports involved.
4. Approval may be denied because of academic concerns at any time during the athletic season. The athlete then will participate solely in the primary sport.
5. The student and parent/legal guardian must sign a contract of dual-sport participation before the first practice session he or she attends.
6. In the event that a student is disciplined for any infraction in a specific sport, the consequence will also be applied to the second sport in the season of dual participation. For example – Student A is suspended for two weeks for drug use; that suspension is to be served for both the primary and secondary sport.
7. The Athletic Director or designee will serve in the capacity of advisor and final judge on matters concerning dual-sport participation.

REQUEST FOR DUAL-SPORT PARTICIPATION

It is the intention of the athlete named below to participate in two sports during the same season. In order for this to occur, the following stipulations must be met in accordance with Fenton High School policy.

1. The process must be initiated through a meeting scheduled with the Athletic Director.
2. The athlete must declare which sport is primary and which is secondary for participation purposes.
3. Approval may be denied because of academic concerns at any time during the athletic season. The athlete then will participate in the primary sport only.
4. Practice and Game/Meet requirements must be established prior to the athletic season. Contests take precedence over practice, and the primary sport contests take precedence over secondary sport contests. This should be detailed in writing below after a conference between the Athletic Director and the Coaches involved.

Name of Student-Athlete: _____ Date: _____

Primary Sport: _____ Secondary Sport: _____

Practice and Game/Meet Requirements (attach calendar):

Additional Stipulations:

Student-Athlete Signature Date

Parent/Guardian Signature Date

Primary Head Coach Signature Date

Secondary Head Coach Signature Date

Athletic Director Signature Date

Principal Signature Date