

Fenton Area Public Schools

AGS Middle School Athletic Department Handbook

2015-2016

A diversified athletic program is an important part of a well-rounded educational program. Competition should provide a student/athlete the opportunity to develop moral and physical characteristics. The athletic experience affords student/athletes the opportunity to learn and experience many life long values and experiences. The desire to win and excel should be instilled in every athlete. However, stressing winning without regard to developing the qualities of moral standards, good sportsmanship, leadership, pride of achievement and the sharing of responsibility would be defeating the purpose of interscholastic athletics.

It is hoped that each student/athlete will realize that it is a privilege to participate in interscholastic athletics for Fenton Area Public 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 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 Area 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 Area Public Schools. 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 Area Public Schools 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 education 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 value of the interscholastic athletic program, the Fenton Area Public Schools Board of Education endorses the rules as follows:

1. ***Academic Eligibility***

Each student must be passing 6 out of 8 of his/her classes (passing is defined as a D- and above) for the previous school year final grade to be eligible for participation in a Fall Season AGS Middle School athletic activity.

Each student must be passing 6 out of 8 of his/her classes (passing is defined as a D- and above) for the first marking period of the current school year to be eligible for participation in an Early Winter AGS Middle School athletic activity.

Each student must be passing 6 out of 8 of his/her classes (passing is defined as a D- and above) for the first semester of the current school year to be eligible for participation in a Late Winter AGS Middle School athletic activity.

Each student must be passing 6 out of 8 of his/her classes (passing is defined as a D- and above) for the third marking period of the current school year to be eligible for participation in a Spring AGS Middle School athletic activity.

By MHSAA rules and regulations, sixth grade students may only participate on teams that are considered non-contact sports. Furthermore, sixth grade students may not compete against students in grades seven or eight at any time. Fenton Area Public Schools will allow the participation in practices of sixth grade students with the coach's approval in the sports of Cross Country, Swimming and Diving, Track and Field, and Wrestling (only against other sixth graders). Sixth Graders will also be required to maintain the same eligibility standards as stated above and will be responsible for paying the same participation fees.

2. ***Insurance***

Participation in extra-curricular athletics at Fenton Area Public Schools 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.

3. ***Physical Examinations***

The following is taken from the handbook of the Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA). "No student shall be eligible to represent a junior high school/middle school for whom there is not on file in the offices of

... the athletic director... a physician's statement for the current school year certifying that (1) the student has passed a physical examination and is physically able to compete in athletic tryouts, practices and contests and (2) there has been consent for disclosure to the MHSAA of information otherwise protected by FERPA and HIPAA for the purpose of determining eligibility for interscholastic athletics."

THIS MEANS THAT A MHSAA PHYSICAL CARD MUST BE ON FILE WITH THE ATHLETIC OFFICE BEFORE A STUDENT IS ABLE TO TRY OUT FOR A TEAM OR BEGIN PRACTICE WITH A TEAM. PHYSICAL EXAMINATION CARDS MAY BE OBTAINED IN THE OFFICE.

*A physical given after **April 15, 2015** is valid for the entire 2015-16 school year.*

4. Training Rules and Team Rules

When student athletes are chosen to be members of an Andrew G. Schmidt Middle School interscholastic team, it will be their responsibility to support that team fully by being present at all practices and contests.

All training rules must be followed from the start of the season (first practice) to the end of the season (final game or meet).

Each coach will set his or her own rules for player conduct.

Each athlete will be made aware of these rules at the start of the season. Serious discipline problems in school or activities related to school will be handled on an individual basis by the administration and could result in the suspension or dismissal from the team.

5. Appeals to Suspension or Dismissal from an Athletic Team

Appeals on Suspension or dismissal from an athletic team must follow these prescribed steps:

Step 1 - Appeal to the Athletic Director. The appeal must be made within one school day following the student's notification of the coach's appeal decision that he/she has been removed from the team. (All academic suspensions skip this step and go directly to Middle School administration.)

Step 2 - Appeal to Middle School administration. Coach may be present if desired by either party. The appeal must be made within one school day following the student's notification of the Athletic Director's appeal decision that he/she has been removed from the team.

Step 3 - Appeal to Superintendent of Schools. The appeal must be made within one school day following the student's notification of the administrator's decision.

Step 4 - Appeal to Fenton Board of Education. An appeal of the Superintendent's decision and a request for a Board of Education hearing must be made to the Superintendent by 4:00 p.m. on the school day following the student's notification of the Superintendent's decision.

6. **Athletics Substance Abuse Policy**

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 Andrew G. Schmidt Middle School.

7. *Bus 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.

8. *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. The coach's/advisor's decision may be appealed to the principal according to the appeal process described in #5 of this Athletic Policy.

9. ***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. Athletes who fail to return equipment will not participate on another athletic team.

10. ***Lost or Damaged Athletic Equipment***

A parent/guardian will be responsible for payment for all lost or damaged athletic equipment.

11. ***Injury/Illness Policy***

If an injury or illness/sickness occurs, which in the judgment of the 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 aware of any injuries/illnesses to the student/athlete.

12. ***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.

13. ***Suspension from School***

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

14. ***Attendance at School***

In order to participate in a practice or contest on a school day, a student must be in school for the last three hours of the day. For example, if school is released at 2:21 pm, then the student would need to be in attendance from 11:21 am – 2:21 pm. Scheduled doctor's appointments with proof as well as school sanctioned activities may be exempt from this clause, with administrative approval.

15. ***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. Parent/guardians must fill out the proper paperwork in the AGS office

16. 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.*

17. 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.

18. 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.

19. 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.*

20. 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.*