



# **KENTON CITY SCHOOLS**

## **ATHLETIC HANDBOOK**

**Kenton City Schools  
222 W. Carrol St.  
Kenton, OH 43326**

# KENTON CITY SCHOOLS



## ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT

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# Section 1 - Mission Statement & Goals

## **Athletic Department Mission Statement**

The Kenton City Schools Athletic Department shall provide a program that encourages participation and promotes successful development of coaches and student athletes.

## **Scope of the Athletic Program**

The Kenton City Schools Athletic Department shall strive to create athletic programs that provide opportunities in response to student demand.

## **Purpose of the Athletic Program**

The purpose of the Kenton City Schools Athletic Department is to foster the continual development of coaches and student athletes in the areas of character, responsibility, teamwork, discipline, sportsmanship, leadership, school spirit, and respect within both a competitive and noncompetitive environment with the goal of successful individuals and teams.

## **Athletic Department Goals**

It is the focus of the Kenton Athletic Department to provide a comprehensive interscholastic athletic program as an integral part of the overall mission of the Kenton City Schools. The athletic program is based on the philosophy that interscholastic competition and individual athletic growth is an extension of a student's educational growth and development.

The athletic department seeks to provide a constructive learning experience for its student athletes by offering quality athletic programs with an emphasis on long term superior performance.

Being a student athlete will provide an environment which develops discipline, teamwork, character, leadership, and a sense of fair play, which we believe are important characteristics for success after graduation.

## **Administration of Athletics**

The High School Principal is ultimately responsible for all matters concerning the interscholastic athletic program. The Athletic Director is the Principal's designee in matters concerning the interscholastic athletic program. Any questions of policy interpretation should be directed to the Athletic Director prior to taking action. In addition, the Athletic Director should make any contact(s) with the Kenton City Schools Administration, OHSAA, WBL, or other such groups.



**Objectives for the interscholastic program are:**

1. To help encourage the student-athlete to recognize his/her responsibility to himself/herself, his/her team, coaches, fellow student athletes, and his/her school.
2. To help encourage the student-athlete to realize that winning is a team effort and team focus.
3. To help encourage the student-athlete to be aware of the value of training rules. A sound mind and body are needed for maximum performance.
4. To help encourage the student-athlete to realize that success comes only through self-sacrifice, hard work, and a commitment to excellence.
5. To make the coach consider the welfare of the student-athlete as his/her most important coaching responsibility.

\*Unless otherwise stated in the board policy, the regulations in this handbook will be in effect during the time in which the student athlete, and support personnel, including managers, cheerleaders, and statisticians, are in active participation in any interscholastic sport while a student at Kenton City Schools, both on school property and off.

Because participation in extracurricular athletic activities is a privilege and not a right, Kenton City Schools is authorized to set higher standards than it would for those students who choose not to participate in these activities. Therefore, this handbook extends beyond the Student Code of Conduct not only in types of behavior prohibited, but also in corresponding consequences and jurisdiction for imposing discipline.

**Educational Value of Athletics**

We believe in interscholastic athletics.

We believe there are substantial educational benefits from a soundly conceived and executed program for student-athletes, student body, the school in its entirety, and our community.

We believe the welfare of the individual student-athlete is always the primary concern. The game exists for the student-athlete - never the student-athlete for the game.

We believe the potential value to the student-athletes are genuine. Rigorous competition under prescribed regulations and policies provide young men and women an opportunity to develop ideas and habits of health, fair play, initiative, achievement, and emotional control.

We believe student-athletes can be taught to win or lose gracefully.

We believe that many students can find a purpose in their schoolwork and lives through the program of athletics.

We believe that athletics can provide tangible values for the student body. Athletics can make a substantial contribution to morale and provide an outlet for school pride.

# Section 2 – Sportsmanship

## A Word About Sportsmanship

We are pleased that your child is involved in the interscholastic athletic programs within the Kenton City School District. We hope that their experiences are positive and rewarding.

Many times, we see the results of unsportsmanlike behaviors displayed at college or professional games adversely affect the behavior of students and adults in our own community. It is up to us to provide direction and constant vigilance under which good sportsmanship can prosper and have a positive impact on our children. We feel the time is now to begin stressing the type of exemplary behavior that should be exhibited by ALL players and spectators at our events.

We desire to be a “first class” organization. A single negative action by a coach, student-athlete, or spectator at an event can influence how our school is perceived in our own community and the communities of those schools we meet on the field of play. We desire to raise our level of expectation in our own community, so we can continue to take pride in our athletic teams.

We are asking for your support in this effort by emphasizing and modeling to your son or daughter what is expected of our students at an athletic event. After all, such events are an extension of the school day, and we expect the same type of respectful behavior exhibited in the athletic arena as we do in the classroom. We urge you and your child to demonstrate self-control and self-discipline and to be aware of the disciplinary action which may be taken against those who do not follow the rules.

Finally, we ask you to set a good example when in attendance at an event. It is only through these efforts that we can clearly communicate what is acceptable behavior. Remember, as a spectator, you are in the public eye as much as any student-athlete. We hope that your positive example will help set the tone for those around you, so we may all enjoy the games our athletic teams are involved in.

When you purchase a ticket to an athletic event, you are given the privilege to view the action and voice your positive support for our student athletes and teams. It is critical that your support is positive so that the educational value of these events is completely developed and communicated to our students.

Kenton City Schools values the ideals of sportsmanship and promotes a safe and positive environment in which competition takes place. All spectators and competitors must abide by the following guidelines while attending a contest or event:

### **Behavior Expectations of the Student Athlete (Adopted From the OHSAA)**

- Accept and understand the seriousness of your responsibility and the privilege of representing the school and community.
- Learn the rules of the game thoroughly and discuss them with parents, fans, fellow students, and elementary students. This will assist both them and you in the achievement of a better understanding and appreciation of the game.
- Treat opponents the way you would like to be treated, as a guest or friend.
- Wish opponents good luck before the game and congratulate them in a sincere manner following either victory or defeat.
- Respect the integrity and judgment of game officials. Never argue or make non-verbal gestures, which indicate disagreement. This type of immature activity may incite undesirable behavior in the stands and by teammates.

### **Behavior Expectations of Other Student Groups (Pep Clubs, Band, Etc.)**

- Establish themselves as leaders in their conduct before, during, and after contests and events. Always provide positive support.
- Assist cheerleaders with yells, chants, etc. and be a working part of pep assemblies with preparation, organization, and involvement.
- Treat opposing players, coaches, spectators, and support groups with respect and enthusiasm.
- Conduct themselves in an exemplary manner. Remember that you represent your school both home and away.
- Respect the integrity and judgment of game officials. Do not question an official's call.
- Refrain from cheers which demean the opponent or which use profane or abusive language.
- Student sections are not permitted to direct cheers that go back and forth between student sections.

### **Behavior Expectations of Spectators**

- Remember that school athletics are learning experiences for students and that mistakes will be made. You would not jeer a student who makes a mistake in the classroom; why is an athlete an exception?
- A ticket is a privilege to observe the contest, not a license to verbally assault others and be generally obnoxious.
- Learn the rules of the game, so that you may understand and appreciate why certain situations take place.
- Show respect for the opposing players, coaches, spectators, and support groups. Treat them as you would treat a guest in your own home.
- Respect the integrity and judgment of game officials. Do not question an official's call.
- Recognize and show appreciation for an outstanding play by either team.
- Refrain from the use of any controlled substances (alcohol, drugs, etc.) before, during games and afterwards on or near the site of the event (i.e. tailgating).
- Refrain from cheers which demean the opponent or which use profane or abusive language.
- Students who attend athletic events as spectators will abide at all times by the Student Code of Conduct.

## **Spectator Consequences**

If spectators fail to abide by the aforementioned guidelines, they may be subject to disciplinary action which may include, but is not limited to:

- Verbal Warning
- Written Warning
- Suspension from attending contests/events
- Parental disbarment
- Sanctions in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct (Kenton City Schools Students Only)

## **Signs/Banners/Noisemakers/Etc. (WBL Policy)**

- In the spirit of sportsmanship, WBL athletic board policy prohibits the use of artificial noisemakers at indoor contests except home school approved bands. Home school signs that decorate the facilities may not be derogatory to the visiting schools.
- No megaphones and other means of increasing the volume of the voice may be used except by the cheerleaders at indoor contests.
- No objects such as spirit sticks may be brought to indoor athletic contests.
- Visiting teams may not bring in any signs, posters, or banners. However, visiting teams may bring their teams onto the football/soccer field using a flag; then the flag must be put away.  
**NO FLAGS ARE PERMITTED AT INDOOR CONTESTS.**
- Only school approved personnel such as mascots, players, and cheerleaders are permitted on the playing surface during the warm-up period, during the contest, or after the contest.





# Section 3 - Policies and Guidelines

## **PARENT/COACH RELATIONSHIP**

We are very pleased that your son/daughter has chosen to participate in the Kenton City Schools athletic program. It is our goal to do all we can to provide a positive experience for him/her. Possibly the most important ingredient to achieving this outcome is to ensure that lines of communication are developed to allow easy resolution to questions before they become conflicts. As a parent, you have the right to know what expectations are placed on your student athlete. This section is intended to spell out all levels of communication so that parents, coaches, and student athletes are aware of the steps they have available to resolve any concerns they feel may become an issue.

### **Communication You Should Expect From The Coach**

- Philosophy of the coach.
- Expectations the coach has for the student athlete.
- Locations and times of all practices and contests.
- Team requirements, such as off-season conditioning, shoes, special equipment, etc.
- Injury procedures.
- School and sport code of conduct, and chemical use policies.
- Requirements to earn a letter.
- Disposition of lost/damaged equipment at the end of the season.

### **Communication Coaches Expect From Parents**

- Concerns expressed directly by the student-athlete to the coach first.
- Notification of any schedule conflicts well in advance.
- Specific concern in regard to a coach's philosophy and/or expectations.

As your child becomes involved in the Kenton City Schools athletic program, he/she will hopefully have a rewarding experience. It is also important to remember that there may be times when things won't go the way you, or your child, wishes. It is important to discuss these times with the coach to clear up the issue and avoid a misunderstanding.

### **Appropriate Concerns to Discuss With The Coach**

- The treatment of your child, mentally and physically.
- Ways to help your child improve.
- Concerns about your child's behavior.

It is very difficult to accept the fact that your child is not playing as much as you want. Coaches are professionals and make decisions based on what is believed to be the best for the team and all student athletes involved. As you can see from the list above, certain things can and should be discussed with your child's coach. Other things, such as playing time and strategies, should be left to the discretion of the coach.

### **Issues Not Appropriate To Discuss With Coaches After A Game**

- Personnel decisions (playing time).
- Team strategy.
- Play calling.
- Matters concerning other student athletes.

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

### **If You Have A Concern With A Coach, Please Follow The Procedure Below:**

- Contact the coach to set up an appointment.
- If the coach cannot be reached after a reasonable period of time, or if your concern involves possible misconduct or unlawful behavior by the coach, contact the Athletic Director to arrange for an appointment.
- Please do not attempt to confront the coach before or after a game or practice. These tend to be emotional times for both the parent, and the coach. Research indicates that meetings of this nature do not promote resolution, and many times simply make the problem worse.

### **The Next Step - What A Parent Can Do If The Meeting With The Coach Did Not Provide A Satisfactory Resolution.**

- Call to make an appointment with the Athletic Director.
- Following this meeting the appropriate next step can be determined and explained to the parent.

Kenton City Schools follow the chain of command listed below. All parents are asked to observe it if you elect to pursue any concerns within the athletic program.

- Head Coach
- Athletic Director
- Building Principal
- Superintendent

## **TEAM MANAGEMENT AND PARTICIPATION**

### **Tryouts**

Tryout information (dates, times, etc.) will be communicated by the head coach to all interested students through the announcements and through bulletins posted outside the athletic office.

### **Team Selection**

Coaches are permitted to make team cuts when necessary. Cuts should be made within two weeks after the start of practice. The coach is responsible for communicating tryout and cutting procedures to the athletes no later than the first official practice date. When cuts are necessary, the coach will talk to the athlete being cut in person. If the student-athlete is cut due to his/her ability, then the student-athlete may try-out for a different team in the same season.

## **Regulations for Participation**

Any student-athlete that has been dismissed from a team for any violation during a sport season will not be eligible to participate on any other athletic team or conditioning program during the same sports season. If a student-athlete quits a team after the first scheduled contest as defined by the OHSAA, or the final cuts have been made, the student-athlete will not be eligible to participate on any other athletic team during that same sports season.

## **Practice During Holidays And Breaks**

During holidays and vacations, it is necessary to hold certain practices. There will be no practices held on the following days:

1. Sundays (exception - with administrative approval for Monday tournament games)
2. Christmas Day
3. Thanksgiving Day

\*Exception: It is school policy that if a game is to be played on Thanksgiving or the day after Thanksgiving, practice may be held but must be on a voluntary basis.

Practices on any of the following holidays are to be on a voluntary basis:

1. Religious Holidays
2. Labor Day
3. Memorial Day
4. Martin Luther King Jr. Day

## **School Breaks**

Practices should be held on a regularly scheduled basis during scheduled break times (Winter break, Spring break). The team policy for excused/unexcused absences during vacation times will be enforced the same as they are during school days.

## **Calamity Day Policy**

In the event of inclement weather or other calamities resulting in the Kenton City Schools being closed, the Superintendent of Schools will make a determination if extracurricular activities can be held. If authorized, practice can take place after 1:00 p.m. All such practices shall be voluntary for participants. Weather conditions will be assessed by 12:00 NOON to determine if it is appropriate for activities to commence. The Athletic Director and/or the Building Principal will be responsible for notifying the appropriate media of the decisions regarding athletic contests and events.

## **Lightning and Inclement Weather**

The Athletic Director and coaches will monitor weather through the use of available technology and will consult with each other as to the approach of dangerous weather. At the first sign of lightning or other threatening weather (thunder), as determined by the Athletic Director or coach, coaches are required to remove their team from outdoor playing areas. All athletes are required to leave the playing area and seek shelter immediately. Practice may not be resumed until 30 minutes after the last bolt of lightning or the last sound of thunder has been heard. If the lightning/thunder occurs during a contest, the contest official shall follow the inclement weather policy as established by the OHSAA.

## **Fundraising**

Teams are permitted to do fundraising for their sport using the following guidelines:

1. All BOE policies and guidelines must be followed.
2. Teams are restricted to one skill related fundraiser, and one additional fundraiser.
3. All fundraisers must be pre-approved by the Athletic Director and/or Building Principal.
4. All associated paperwork must be completed before fundraising begins.

\*Does not apply to 501c3 organizations not governed by the Board of Education.

## **Anti-Harassment and Nondiscrimination**

Harassment, intimidation, or bullying toward a student, whether by other students, staff, or third parties is strictly prohibited and will not be tolerated. This prohibition includes aggressive behavior, physical, verbal, and psychological abuse, and violence within a dating relationship. The Board will not tolerate any gestures, comments, threats, or actions which cause or threaten to cause bodily harm or personal degradation. This prohibition applies to all activities in the District, including activities on school property, on a school bus, or while enroute to or from school, and those occurring off school property if the student or employee is at any school-sponsored, school-approved or school-related activity or function, such as field trips or athletic events where students are under the school's control, in a school vehicle, or where an employee is engaged in school business.

The Board will vigorously enforce its prohibition against discriminatory harassment based on race, color, national origin, sex (including sexual orientation and transgender identity), disability, age (except as authorized by law), religion, ancestry, or genetic information, and encourages those within the School District community as well as third parties, who feel aggrieved to seek assistance to rectify such problems. The Board will investigate all allegations of unlawful harassment and in those cases where unlawful harassment is substantiated, the Board will take immediate steps to end the harassment, prevent its recurrence, and remedy its effects. Individuals who are found to have engaged in unlawful harassment will be subject to appropriate disciplinary action.

## **Hazing**

The Board of Education believes that hazing activities of any type are inconsistent with the educational process and prohibits all such activities at any time in school facilities, on school property, and at any school sponsored events. Hazing includes performing any act or coercing another, including the victim, to perform any act of initiation into any class, team, or organization that causes or creates a substantial risk of causing mental or physical harm. Permission, consent, or assumption of risk by an individual subjected to hazing shall not lessen these prohibitions.

Administrators, faculty members, and other employees of the School District shall be particularly alert to possible situations, circumstances, or events, which might include hazing. If hazing or planned hazing is discovered, the students involved shall be informed by the discoverer of the prohibitions contained in the policy and hazing incidents shall be reported immediately to the Superintendent. Students, administrators, faculty members, and other employees who fail to abide by this policy may be subject to disciplinary action and may be held personally liable for civil and criminal penalties in accordance with law.

## **Transportation - Athletic Teams**

1. All athletic teams will travel in Board-owned vehicles, chartered commercial buses, or Athletic Department vehicles.
2. The coach will always drive any Board owned vehicles. Under no circumstances should an individual not employed by the Kenton City School System be permitted to drive any school vehicle.
3. The head coach and assistants will assume all responsibility for conduct and discipline. Dress must be appropriate. Any infractions will be subject to disciplinary review.
4. All passengers are required to wear seat belts when riding in the school vans. No student other than team members and support personnel (managers, score-keepers, etc.) are allowed to travel in school vehicles.
5. No food or drink is permitted in board owned vehicles. Coaches are responsible for the cleanliness of the buses and vans.
6. All vehicles for athletic transportation will be scheduled by the Athletic Director, and any requests for cancellation of this transportation will be made to the Athletic Director.
7. All team members are required to travel to and from athletic events and practices by school approved vehicles with their coaches and team unless prior arrangements have been made between the parent(s) and head coach. Student- athletes are not permitted to travel to and from athletic contests with other students or friends even with parental consent.
8. Student- athletes may travel home from athletic events with their own parent/guardian only if the parent/guardian provides a written note to the coach.
9. The head coach has the right to disapprove any parental request for a student- athlete to travel in a non-athletic vehicle when prior arrangements have not been made and the situation appears to be not in the best interest of the team or student athlete.
10. Student- athletes are not permitted to travel home from athletic contests with other students or friends even with parental consent.

## **Injury Prevention**

Strength, cardiovascular conditioning and flexibility are the main components of injury prevention. Athletes need to address each of these components in preparation for participation. Athletes should not participate in any activity without proper safety equipment. It is the coaches' responsibility to ensure that all athletic equipment is safe for repeated use and free from unusual wear.

## **Injury Referral**

### Emergency Plans

Before any activity begins the coach should ensure that access to phones or other methods are available to contact EMS. At away activities, the coach should ensure that an adequate emergency plan is in place at that location.

In the event an athlete must be transported via the emergency squad the following steps should be taken.

1. Call 911-give name, phone number, location of injured athlete, nature of emergency, stay on the line until EMS hangs up.
2. Provide First Aid and CPR as needed until EMS arrives.
3. Send someone to a location easily seen by squad to direct squad to injured athlete.
  - a. Roadside, exterior-door, etc.
4. Have a copy of the injured athlete's Emergency Medical Authorization form available when the EMS arrive.
  - a. Send the EMA-form with athlete.
5. Contact Parents.
  - a. Each number on the EMA-form should be tried at least 3 times until contact is made.
  - b. Leave a message at each number if unavailable.
  - c. Give nature of problem, time and actions being taken.
6. Send an assistant coach with athlete to hospital if available.
7. Contact Athletic Director and Athletic Trainer (ATC).
  - a. Advise as to the nature of the problem, if parents were contacted etc.
8. Follow up with Hospital, Parents, and Athlete at the earliest time.

### Transporting Injured Athletes

The emergency squad will be used in all life-threatening conditions and when necessary to avoid further injury. At no time will an injured athlete be transported in any student's vehicle.

## **Injury Management**

Coaches will follow the recommendation of an ATC, when available, in all injury situations. The coach will solicit the help of an ATC at all away events. In the absence of an ATC the coach will use their best judgment and have the athlete follow up with the ATC or Physician at the earliest convenience. If an athlete is injured and a coach or ATC has recommended that he/she see a physician, the athlete must receive clearance to return to play by a physician. The athlete may not return to participation until written permission is received from a physician. Whenever a physician restricts an athlete's participation, the athlete may not return to participation until written permission is received from a physician. When the physician clears the athlete, they will then be returned to play based on the ATC's protocol.

The athlete's return is based not only on that clearance but on strength, function and pain level. Any athlete who is restricted by a physician from normal school activities due to injury or illness will be restricted from participation and must provide written permission from the doctor before being allowed to return to athletic participation. All physicians' notes, slips, prescriptions etc. should be given to the Athletic Director and/or ATC.

### Concussions

Special considerations apply to any student who has been removed from practice or competition by a coach or referee because he/she has exhibited signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with having sustained a concussion or head injury. Students suspected of having such an injury will not be permitted to return to any practice or competition for which that coach or referee is responsible until both of the following occur:

1. The student's condition is assessed by a medical professional approved by the BOE in accordance with requirements set forth in Ohio Revised Code Section 3313.539 (E); and
2. The student receives written clearance that it is safe to return to practice or competition from a physician in accordance with requirements set forth in Ohio Revised Code Section 3313.539(E).

## **GUIDELINES FOR DUAL PARTICIPATION**

Student-athletes have the opportunity to participate in two sports in the same season. Student-athletes may participate in one primary sport and one secondary sport of their choosing. The student must identify to the coaches which sport is the primary and which sport is secondary. The student-athlete must be able to participate in at least 50% of the contests in each sport in the regular season. The student-athlete must be able to complete all OHSA requirements for participation in each particular sport. The student-athlete must communicate their intention of dual participation to the respective coaches by the following deadlines:

Fall Sports - August 1st

Winter Sports - November 1st

Spring Sports - March 1st

Any requests for dual sport participation after the established deadlines may be denied.

The advisors and coaches will cooperate and eliminate as many conflicts as possible. Communication and cooperation from the staff will aid the situation. Athletic contests will prevail over practice sessions. Every effort will be made in the scheduling process to eliminate gross conflict between different activities. In the event that students participating in multiple activities create a situation in which one or more of the activities cannot function without their participation, then the students must choose prior to the beginning of the season which activity they plan to be active in. When all efforts have failed to resolve the above conflicts, the matter shall be directed to the Athletic Director and/or Principal.

## **GUIDELINES FOR PERSONAL TRAINERS**

As it pertains to athletes' health and safety, Kenton City Schools Administrators, Coaches and Medical Staff value setting realistic time constraints on all student athletes. Giving each individual athlete sufficient time to rest and recover both physically and mentally between each practice, game and season is a priority. We realize failure to provide adequate recovery time increases the likelihood of injury, overtraining and psychological stress. Athletes participating in multiple physical activities should consult their in-season coach and the medical staff for assistance and guidance. Overtraining can lead to diminished ability in school and in sports, loss of strength, power, speed and endurance, excessive fatigue, depression and injury. Athletes and parents should be cautious when participating in more than one physical activity at a time. For purposes of these guidelines a "personal trainer" is any individual or business which contracts, verbally or in writing, with a Kenton High School athlete or the athlete's parent/guardian for the purpose of improving the athlete's individual athletic skills. Personal trainers should work in conjunction with the approved sport coaches to develop a training program that benefits the student-athlete but does not contradict the training regiments instituted by the coach.



## **ATHLETIC AWARDS/LETTERS - VARSITY "K"**

Earning a varsity letter is a significant achievement that symbolizes dedication, perseverance, and excellence in a sport. It reflects countless hours of practice, a commitment to teamwork, and the ability to balance academics with athletic responsibilities. Beyond the recognition, a varsity letter builds confidence, instills discipline, and fosters a strong sense of school pride. For many students, it marks a milestone of personal growth and sets the foundation for future success both on and off the field.

To receive an athletic award, including a varsity letter, a student-athlete must be in good standing with the team at the completion of the season. Below are the requirements for earning a varsity letter in the respective sport:

Football: *Play in at least 25 varsity quarters (2 consecutive plays counts as a quarter played)*

Volleyball: *Play in at least 50% of the varsity sets for the season*

Soccer: *Play at least 80 minutes of varsity time for the season*

Cross-Country: *Finish in the top 50% of a major invitational*

Golf: *Play on the varsity team (Positions 1-6) in at least 5 matches*

Cheerleading (Fall & Winter): *Member of the varsity squad*

Tennis: *Play in at least 5 varsity matches*

Basketball: *Play in an at least 22 varsity quarters*

Swimming: *Score in 75% of swim meets participated in or score in the WBL or Sectional meet*

Bowling: *Bowl on the varsity team (Positions 1-5) in at least 6 matches*

Baseball: *Play in at least 5 varsity games*

Softball: *Play in at least 5 varsity games*

Track & Field: *Finish in the top 2 of an event for more than 50% of the season OR score in at least two invites OR score in the varsity WBL meet*

*\*\*\*Head Coaches have discretion to award a varsity letter to student-athletes for particular contributions to the team/program\*\*\**



# Section 4 – Eligibility Information

## **Academic Eligibility**

The eligibility rules of the Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA) are to be followed. They can be found in Section 4 of the OHSAA Bylaws. Students and parents are encouraged to read the OHSAA eligibility bulletin, which is available in the athletic office or at **[www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org)**. Parents and athletes are encouraged to read this bulletin in its entirety.

At **[www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org)**, click the Eligibility tab for details and a check-list for any questions please contact the athletic office.

## **Additional Eligibility Policies**

### **Minimum GPA**

All athletes must receive passing grades in a minimum of five one-credit courses, or the equivalent, and maintain a minimum GPA of 1.0 in the preceding grading period.

### **Athlete – Attendance Day of Contest**

To participate in practice or a game, an athlete must be in school by 11:15am (Unless absence is approved by the Athletic Director and/or Principal). It is the responsibility of the coaches to see that students comply with this rule. If an athlete is absent from school on Friday, however, he/she may participate on Saturday. Students on suspension or expulsion may not practice or engage in any athletic activity.

### **Physical Education Classes**

All athletes who are enrolled in physical education classes are to dress and participate, as do all other students.

# Section 5 – Code of Conduct

## Interscholastic Athletics

Kenton City Schools makes interscholastic athletics available as an extension of the regular school program, with this important difference: participation in the regular curriculum is a right afforded to each student, while participation in the interscholastic athletic program is a privilege that carries additional expectations for acceptable conduct. This privilege can be taken away if a student violates this Athletic Handbook or the Student Code of Conduct.

Students engaging in the Kenton City Schools interscholastic athletic program represent not only themselves, but also other students, the school district and community. For this reason, their behavior must be exemplary and reflect the finest attributes of the total Kenton City Schools student body at all times and places.

This Handbook applies at all times to participating students in-season, whether on or off school property, and is encouraged to be followed year-round. Important goals of the interscholastic athletic program are to give students direction in developing self-discipline, responsibility, pride, loyalty, leadership, teamwork, respect for authority, and healthy living habits.

## Personal Conduct Expectations

Kenton City Schools expects all students to conduct themselves with self-discipline, self-control, and respect for authority at all times. The Personal Conduct Expectations for students participating in interscholastic athletics include all school rules and procedures, including but not limited to, this handbook, the Student Code of Conduct, and any rules adopted by the coach or advisor of an individual activity. Students shall be held accountable for their actions both during school and outside of school.

## Prohibited Conduct Involving Drugs/Alcohol/Tobacco/Nicotine

Except as otherwise noted, Kenton City Schools count violations separately during the middle school years and high school years; therefore, all students start their high school years with no violations. All violations are cumulative from season to season.

Kenton City Schools students who participate in interscholastic athletics are prohibited from:

- Selling or distributing drugs/alcohol;
- Using or possessing materials or devices for smoking, vaporizing, and/or ingesting both tobacco/non-tobacco, and/or tobacco substitutes in any form;
- Using or possessing alcoholic beverages;
- Using or possessing drugs and/or any other mind altering and/or body enhancing substances that are not prescribed by a physician;
- Attending or remaining at any activity where illegal alcohol consumption is occurring;

- Attending or remaining at any activity where prescription or non-prescription drugs are being misused, or where other mood-altering substances are being used.
- For the purposes of this Code of Conduct, “drugs” has the same meaning as used in Board Policy 5530.
- For the purposes of this Code of Conduct, “tobacco” has the same meaning as used in Board Policy 5512 and includes e-cigarettes and other electronic smoking devices (e.g. “Vapes”)

## **Drug Testing**

Random drug testing of student-athletes will take place pursuant to the policies and procedures adopted by the Kenton City Schools Board of Education (Appendix A). Student-athletes who test positive for prohibited substances shall be sanctioned in accordance with the Board of Education’s Drug Testing policies and procedures and this handbook.

## **PENALTIES**

### **Personal Conduct Violations:**

Violation of the personal conduct expectations outlined in this handbook, including violations of the Student Code of Conduct and/or rules developed by an activity’s coach or advisor, may result in denial of participation as well as disciplinary action consistent with the Student Code of Conduct and/or team rules.

A student who violates the Student Code of Conduct may incur consequences under the Student Code of Conduct and this handbook for the same violation (For example, a student who is suspended or expelled from school shall not participate in or attend any extracurricular activities for the duration of the suspension or expulsion). A student participating in interscholastic athletics may be subject to discipline, as described in this Section, for violations of this handbook, even if the misconduct does not also violate the Student Code of Conduct.

Students may lose the privilege of participation if convicted of, or pled no contest or guilty to, a criminal offense, or if adjudicated as a delinquent for a comparable juvenile offense at any time during the previous twelve (12) months.

### **Selling or Distributing Drugs or Alcohol:**

Any student selling or distributing drugs or alcohol may be denied participation in interscholastic athletics for a minimum of one calendar year and a maximum of the rest of their high school and if applicable, middle school, career.

### **Using or Possessing Drugs, Alcohol, Tobacco, and/or Nicotine:**

If the Athletic Director or Principal determines a student has violated the applicable provisions of this policy, the student will be sanctioned as follows:

1. **First Violation** – The student shall be denied participation in their next occurring competitive extracurricular contest. The student must fully participate and cooperate with all school issued consequences. The student will be included in the next 3 random drug/nicotine screenings. A positive result in any of these 3 screenings will subject the student-athlete to the subsequent consequences of the KCS Drug Testing Policy.

2. **Second Violation** – A denial of participation shall be immediately imposed for no less than 25% of the student's current and/or next occurring interscholastic athletic season. Attendance at practice will still be required. The student must fully participate and cooperate with all school issued consequences. The student will be included in the next 3 random drug/nicotine screenings. A positive result in any of these 3 screenings will subject the student-athlete to the subsequent consequences of the KCS Drug Testing Policy.
3. **Third Violation** – The student will be denied participation indefinitely from participating in athletics, competitive extracurricular activities, or purchasing a parking permit for the remainder of his/her career. The student will be able to earn eligibility back by having no positive test results or handbook violations for one (1) year from the date of the third violation. As part of the process to earn eligibility back, the student will be subjected to all future random drug test(s). If the student earns his/her eligibility back after one (1) year, and then has another positive test result or handbook violation, he/she will be denied participation indefinitely from competitive extracurricular activities.

### **Procedure for Implementation of Penalties:**

In the event of violation of this athletic handbook and/or team rules established by the coach, the following procedure will be followed:

- a. If the violation involves only team rules, the coach and student-athlete will meet. The student will be informed of the infraction. The student will be allowed an opportunity to explain his/her actions. The coach will investigate the alleged violation as necessary. If the coach determines a violation occurred, the coach will notify the student and implement appropriate discipline consistent with team rules, this handbook, and Board of Education policy. The coach will inform the administration of the discipline to be implemented.
- b. If the violation involves infractions covered by this athletic handbook, the meeting with the coach and student-athlete will include the Athletic Director, or designee. The student will be allowed to explain his/her actions. The Athletic Director, or designee, will investigate the alleged violation as necessary. If the Athletic Director or designee determines a violation occurred, the Athletic Director, or designee, will notify the student and implement appropriate discipline consistent with this handbook and Board of Education policy.
- c. In cases where the Athletic Director, or designee, determines the student will be denied the privilege of participating as a result of the misconduct, the Athletic Director, or designee shall inform the student-athlete and his/her parents in writing and will include the following:
  1. Time and duration of denial of participation
  2. Reasons for denial of participation
  3. Conditions of the denial of participation
  4. Right of appeal

- d. The student-athlete and/or parents then have the right to appeal the denial of participation decision of the Athletic Director, or designee, to the Building Principal.
- e. During the investigation of the violation and any subsequent appeal to the Building Principal, the student-athlete may be denied participation. The denial of participation may be enforced until this process has been completed by the administration.

The Building Principal has the final authority in all matters relating to the denial of participation from interscholastic athletic activities.