

Tawas Area Schools



Athletic Code of Conduct

Tawas Area Athletic Department

Chain of Command for Communication

If you or your child has a concern relating to the following, please follow the chain of command below.

Concern with	Contact:
COACH	HEAD COACH OF PROGRAM
HEAD COACH	ATHLETIC DIRECTOR
OFFICIALS	ATHLETIC DIRECTOR
TRANSPORTATION	ATHLETIC DIRECTOR
OTHER SCHOOLS	ATHLETIC DIRECTOR
ATHLETIC DIRECTOR	BUILDING PRINCIPAL
BUILDING PRINCIPAL	SUPERINTENDENT
SUPERINTENDENT	BOARD of EDUCATION

24 HOUR RULE: No contact between parents and coaches concerning issues may be scheduled less than 24 hours after the most recent event (cool down period).

The athletic department will not entertain conversations concerning the following matters: playing time at varsity level, coaching strategy, play calling, and other students. Acceptable topics include: treatment of your child, ways to help your child improve, and concerns with your child's behavior.

ATHLETIC CODE OF CONDUCT

Student-athletes will be governed by the athletic code from their first day of involvement in interscholastic athletics through graduation from high school. It is important to emphasize that all athletes are covered by the "code" the entire "calendar year."

All athletes who represent the Tawas Area Schools at any grade level must adhere to the athletic code. For the purposes of the rules, athletes are defined as members of all interscholastic teams, managers, and other students who act as support personnel to any of the teams.

High school students are responsible for following board policy, the high school student handbook and the athletic code of conduct. Middle school students are responsible for adhering to board policy, the middle school student handbook and the athletic code of conduct portions referring to middle school students. Middle school student disciplinary actions will start over with the student's first day of high school competition, unless the Athletic Director determines the severity or repetitiveness of the middle school student's misbehavior warrants continuous implementation of disciplinary steps. In the event of any inconsistency between the Code of Conduct in the Student-Parent Handbook and this Athletic Code, the Student-Parent Handbook rules always take precedence.

1. Introduction

It is the purpose of the Tawas Area School District Athletic Department to provide and promote interscholastic athletics for the young men and women of the District. The Athletic Department is responsible to the Tawas Area Board of Education and the Michigan High School Athletic Association.

The Athletic Department offers a wide variety of activities for the students of the District through athletics, the young men and women will be provided an opportunity to grow and mature physically, mentally and socially.

In order to have an efficient program, certain policies and procedures are established. ***Any team rules that may differ from the general policy are to be presented to the prospective team members in writing at their first squad meeting. These rules may never be less demanding than the general policy and must be approved by the Athletic Director (or other administration).***

2. Responsibilities of the Athlete

There are responsibilities that the student-athlete must impose upon oneself in order for successful and competitive athletic traditions to become a reality. You alone will have to decide if you want to live up to the responsibilities and training rules to become a champion. In the simplest of terms, each and every student-athlete must make a commitment for a championship athletic program.

Responsibility to Yourself - The student-athlete must broaden and develop strength of character. Your studies, participation in other extra-curricular activities, as well as athletics, assist you in getting the greatest possible gain from your high school experiences, while at the same time preparing you for life.

Responsibility to Your School - Tawas Area Schools will maintain a position as an

outstanding school when you do your best in whatever you engage. By participating in athletics to the maximum of your ability, you are contributing to the reputation of your school and the School District.

You automatically assume a leadership role when you are on an athletic team. The student body and citizens of the community know you. The spotlight is on, and it is focused on you. Because of this leadership role, you can contribute greatly to our school spirit and community pride. Make your school proud of you, and your community proud of your school by your performance and devotion.

Responsibility to Your Home - When you know that you have lived up to all of the training rules, that you have practiced to the best of your ability, and that you have played the game "all out," you and your family can be justly proud.

Responsibility to Your Team - "A house divided cannot stand." The same is true with your team. It takes only one of the squad not willing to work to his/her fullest ability for the squad to weaken in spirit and actual performance.

3. MHSAA Regulations

(What follows are excerpts from the MHSAA Handbook. For further clarification please see your coach or the Athletic Director.)

Eligibility

To be eligible, a senior high school student must comply with the following rules.

1. Enrollment

Must be enrolled in a high school no later than the fourth Friday after Labor Day (*1st Semester*) or the fourth Friday of February (*2nd Semester*). A student must be enrolled in the school for which he or she competes.

Age

Must be under nineteen (19) years of age, except that a student whose nineteenth (19th) birthday occurs on or after September 1st of a current school year is eligible for the balance of that school year.

Physical Examination

Have passed a current year physical examination. Record must be on file in the athletic office. Current year commences the first day after the school year closes in the spring for summer vacation. A physician's statement for the current school year is interpreted as any physical examination given on or after April 15th of the previous school year.

Semester of Competition

Have not more than eight semesters of competition in a sport in a four-year high school.

2. Semesters of Enrollment

Not have been enrolled for more than eight semesters in grades nine to twelve, inclusive. Three weeks enrollment or participation in one or more athletic contests constitutes a semester of enrollment.

3. Transfer Students

Generally, have had an accompanying change of residence by the student's parent, guardian or other person with whom the athlete has been living during the period of his or her last high school enrollment, into the district or service area of the school, to be eligible during the first semester in attendance. Any/All transfer students should see the Athletic Director immediately after enrolling at Tawas Area High School. No transfer students may compete in an athletic contest without the written support of the Athletic Director. NO EXCEPTIONS.

4. Awards

A student may accept, for participation in athletics, a symbolic or merchandise award which does not have a fair market value or cost in excess of \$40.00.

Athletes accepting memberships, privileges, services, negotiable certificates or money are in violation. For amateur practices, an athlete may not have accepted money, merchandise, memberships, privileges, services or other valuable consideration for participating in any form of athletics, sports, or games, or for officiating interscholastic athletic contests, or have signed a professional athletic contract. (*Reinstatement will not be considered for one year.*)

5. Limited Team Membership

A student who, after practicing with or participating in an athletic contest or scrimmage as a member of a high school athletic team, participates in athletic competition not sponsored by his or her school in the same sport during the same season, shall become ineligible for a minimum of the next three (3) contests/days of competition and maximum of the remainder of that season in that school year. **There are exceptions to this MHSAA policy-please see your coach or Athletic Director for clarification.**

ACADEMIC ATHLETIC ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES

TAWAS AREA HIGH SCHOOL ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY POLICY

- Pass 7/7 Classes
- Eligibility: Athletic Eligibility will be determined by marking period or semester grades (**including dual enrolled, Early Middle College, and IRESA classes**). During the marking periods, students' progress will be monitored every 1/3 of each quarter. At the end of each semester, final semester grades will be used to determine eligibility. **A student who fails during the second semester may become eligible upon successful completion of the failed course in summer school.** Students will maintain eligibility if they are not failing any courses at the time of eligibility check. Eligibility check dates are scheduled by the administration. If a student is failing even one course, he/she will be ineligible to participate in athletics/extracurricular activities until the next eligibility check.
- Special Education: Students qualifying for special education services will follow these same guidelines unless otherwise specifically addressed in a particular

student's Individualized Educational Plan.

4.Awards

Awards are earned for being **a varsity member of a school sponsored sport**. Participation does not necessarily qualify a student-athlete for an award. In order to receive an award for any sport, you must be academically eligible and not be on suspension for athletic code or Tawas Area School code violations at the conclusion of the season. The season is concluded when the coach releases the athlete from the program either after competition or after the awards presentation (*whichever date is the latest*).

Each sport has certain criteria to be met. These criteria are to be discussed by the coach at the team meeting when the season begins.

1. Numerals - Any athlete who qualifies as a member of a Freshman Team receives numerals as an initial award. Any athlete who qualifies for Varsity and/or Junior Varsity (*JV*) awards and has not received numerals, also receives the numerals in addition to the qualifying award. **Numerals are awarded only once.**

2. VARSITY Letter - The initial Varsity award is the 8-inch Tawas "TA." The **varsity letter is presented only once.** After the initial Varsity letter is received, athletes will receive a sport specific patch for each varsity letter earned.

5.Equipment and Lockers

All equipment issued to the student for athletic participation is the property of the Tawas Area School District. The student is financially responsible for all that is issued.

Each athlete is required to check his/her equipment daily and report any problems to his/her coach. Failure to comply, may result in injury (*i.e., football equipment*).

Keep all your equipment clean. Wash your practice gear frequently. Protective pads should also be cleaned on a regular basis.

All equipment is to be used properly.

Keep your locker clean. This will help keep your equipment aired and also help reduce a major cause for theft—the *messy locker*. You are responsible for maintaining the condition of your locker.

6.Medical Procedures

All athletes are required to report any injury to the coach/athletic director.

The coach and athletic director are to know if the athlete is taking any type of medication.

The coach and athletic director need to know of any medical problems or concerns such as diabetes or epilepsy, etc.

When a student-athlete sees a doctor, a progress report as to practice capabilities is to be given to the coach/athletic director.

Tape and training room supplies are expensive. They are to be used properly and with the permission of a coach or athletic director.

Take care of your body; shower properly and report any skin infections to the athletic

director and your coach.

Put all refuse and used tape in trash containers.

7.Participation

Students may compete in only one sport at a time during the same athletic season. Exceptions may be granted with permission from parents, coaches and Athletic Director.

Dual-Sport Student-Athletes: Student-athletes who wish to participate in multiple sports within a season are required to designate a "primary" sport. By doing so, whenever a conflict occurs, the "primary" sport will dominate decision-making. The agreement of being a dual-athlete must be agreed upon by both coaches involved, the athletic director, the parents, and the student-athlete. The required forms (physical, medical emergency, participation form, and fee) are needed for each sport.

A student who quits one sport (PRIOR TO THE SEASON BEGINNING) may join another team in the same athletic season if the change is made prior to the first athletic contest. Also, coaches must recommend the change to the Athletic Director, who must then act on the transfer.

8.Travel

The standards of good conduct as established by the coach are expected at all times while on trips.

All rules and regulations pertaining to the District bus codes are to be adhered to on athletic trips.

Appropriate dress, which is established by the coach, is a must on all trips.

Any student traveling to an event or competition on school-owned vehicles should return to the home school in the same vehicle after the contest is over. In extenuating circumstances an exception may be made if a parent or guardian "signs out" his/her child upon completion of the student's event with the form given to the coach and provided by the athletic department. Students will only be released to their parents or guardians (or to an adult designated by the parent/guardian. This designation must be through a note by the parent/guardian that is approved by an administrator at least 24 hours prior to the event). For safety purposes, no student participant, regardless of age, is allowed to drive to or from an away school event.

If the school bus arrives to the school from the event after midnight, administration has the authority to excuse students involved in extra-curricular activities for periods of the school day following the event (up to 2 class hours).

The School District will provide transportation for conference/league competitions on Saturdays.

When the school district does NOT provide transportation, it is the parents' responsibility to get their student to and from the away contest.

9.Attendance

The athlete must be present at all games and practices as designated by the coach

unless absent from school due to personal illness or excused by the coach prior to the absence.

The athlete must be in classroom attendance all day in order to dress and participate in an athletic contest that day, unless excused by a prearranged special excuse. Under emergency circumstances, exceptions to this rule **may be granted** by the Athletic Director, Principal or Assistant Principal. The coach is to be notified of the granting of the waiver.

A student may not practice if any class hours are missed, unless excused by a prearranged special excuse.

- **Tardy/Absent Policy**

- A student missing more than 15 minutes of a class is considered absent from the class.
- If a student is absent for any part of the day without a doctor's note, it is the student's responsibility to inform the coach. If an administrator discovers a student is participating in practice the following consequences will be enforced.
 - Verbal Warning with parent phone call
 - One game suspension
 - Three game suspension
 - Possibility for a one-third of the season after a meeting with the coach and administration

10. General Training Rules

You are required to live by and abide by the standards set forth in the **Tawas Area Schools Student/Parent Handbook**. You may not participate in any athletic contests or practices until all school suspensions (*including in-school suspensions: ISS*) have been served for violation against the standards of conduct.

Student-athletes are representing the Tawas Area School District and must maintain a standard of exemplary conduct. You are required to exhibit good sportsmanship and citizenship at all times. Failure to do so may be cause for disciplinary action by the coach, or Athletic Director.

Take care of your body. Do not affect your opportunity to contribute to the Braves winning effort by being irresponsible in your health habits.

11. Violations and Athletic Suspensions

Athletic Code of Conduct violations **may result in up to** dismissal from the team for the duration of the season or permanent removal from athletics. These violations include:

- Buying or selling alcohol or drugs
- Weapons violation
- Theft/stealing
- Destruction of property

- Violations of the law
- Violations of the ***Student/Parent Handbook***
- Insubordination
- Vandalism
- Falsifying excuses or records **or password protected devices and sites**
- Conduct injurious to the proper discipline and general welfare of the District, its students, property, and staff
- Conduct injurious to the proper operation and conduct of the schools
- Travel and attendance infractions
- Team rule infractions

Disciplinary action will be based on the severity of the infraction as determined by the administrator responsible.

The above violations are not considered to be a complete list. Any conduct deemed detrimental to the Tawas Area Schools or its athletic program is grounds for disciplinary action. Disciplinary action may be taken whether or not legal proceedings or action are pursued outside of school district authority.

12. Tobacco, Vaping, Alcohol, and drugs

Students must follow/adhere to the eligibility/training code. This eligibility/training code is in effect all calendar year, whether or not school is in session.

- A. No use or possession of tobacco/nicotine/vaporizer juice (or similar substance/paraphernalia) in any form.
- B. No use or possession of alcoholic beverages.
- C. No use or possession of any illegal drugs or substances.
- D. No use or possession of performance enhancing substances regardless of source.

Any student who has been reprimanded with any of the above violations may not join any sport part way through the season as a means of satisfying the suspension.

The student being reprimanded must also complete the season(s) in which the suspension is being served in order to fulfill their obligation.

Reinstatement will follow if that student conforms to the code during their suspension.

A first offense violating the eligibility/training code will result in the student/athlete being immediately suspended from sports and/or the extra-curricular activity for one-third (1/3) of the current season.

Self-Disclosure: The penalty for a violation of the athletic or extracurricular activities code will be reduced to 25% if the student discloses the violation in writing to his/her principal or athletic director. This must be done prior to

administration or staff receiving a report of the incident, charges of the violation, or complaint regarding the violation.

A second offense violating the eligibility/training code will result in a period of suspension from athletics and/or extra curricular activities for a period of not less than one year.

A third offense violating the eligibility/training code will result in immediate suspension with a recommendation to the school board for suspension of athletics/extra-curricular activities for the remainder of career.

Violations of the eligibility/training code are considered cumulative throughout the career of a student.

Violation of the eligibility/training code will result in the student being immediately suspended from the extra-curricular activity.

***Clarification of athletic suspension/ineligibility:**

- a. Days of athletic suspension are defined as calendar days and one third of the season shall be calculated according to the number of competition days scheduled across the full season.
- b. Days will only count if the student-athlete completes the athletic season as determined by the coach and athletic director.
- c. If the full number of days is not completed in the current season, the athletic suspension will continue into the next season of athletics in which the student-athlete fully participates.
- d. The student-athlete must attend and participate in all practices throughout his/her athletic suspension.
- e. The student-athlete may attend the contest on game days but MUST be dressed in street clothes and may not participate in any manner.

In all cases, the Tawas Area Schools Code of Conduct supersedes the Athletic Code of Conduct.

Self-Reporting Policy

We encourage students to self-report violations therefore taking responsibility for their actions. Student-athletes "self-reporting" guidelines are as follows:

Self-reporting only applies on the first offense. The penalty for a violation of the athletic or extracurricular activities code will be reduced to 25% if the student discloses the violation in writing to his/her principal or athletic director. This must be done prior to administration or staff receiving a report of the incident, charges of the violation, or complaint regarding the violation.

13. Investigation of Training Rules Violations

If a student-athlete is reported in violation of these rules, one or more of the following will investigate the case: the coach, the Athletic Director, the Assistant Principal, or those hired or appointed by the same. If the circumstances of the investigation do not substantiate the accusations, the source of the accusation will be notified and the case will be dropped.

If the circumstances of the investigation substantiate the accusations, the following process will take place:

- The student-athlete/parents will be notified of the accusation.
- The student-athlete/parents may present information or evidence regarding the accusations.
- The student-athlete/parents and the coach will be notified of the decision and any disciplinary action.
- The student-athlete/parents may appeal. The appeal is made to the building Principal. Final appeal is to the Superintendent of Tawas Area Schools.