

**TROY**



**ATHLETICS  
POLICY MANUAL**



## **TROY CITY SCHOOLS INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS POLICY**

### **I. DEFINITION OF AN ATHLETE**

- A. For the purpose of these rules and regulations, "athlete" (aka "student athlete") shall be defined as any student who participates in district-sponsored, financed interscholastic athletics activities as an athlete or cheerleader in grades seven (7) through twelve (12) from the first day he/she begins to practice with an interscholastic team in school.

### **II. INTRODUCTION**

- A. The purpose of this Athletics Policy Manual is to give athletes, parents, and other interested persons a guide to the operation of the interscholastic athletics program of the Troy City School District.
- B. The athletes are obligated to conform to the policies and regulations established by the Ohio High School Athletic Association (aka "OHSAA"), the Student Code of Conduct and the Athletics Code of Conduct as established by the Board of Education, training rules and policies established by the Athletics Department, and the rules and regulations established by the coaches of each specific sport.
- C. This policy contains the rules and regulations that are appropriate for athletes representing the Troy City School District. It is the athlete's responsibility to read these rules and to abide by them. Participants who violate these rules, regulations, policies and procedures shall face disciplinary action.

### **III. MISSION STATEMENT**

- A. The mission of the Troy City Schools District Athletics Department is to encourage our students, grades seven (7) through twelve (12), to participate in athletics, and through this participation, experience lifelong learning opportunities through competition, dedication, discipline and teamwork. Athletes will be expected to accept responsibility and be accountable for their performances and actions as both a student and as an athlete.

### **IV. PHILOSOPHY**

- A. The Troy City School District considers interscholastic athletics to be an integral part of the total secondary school educational program which has its purpose to provide educational experiences not otherwise provided in the curriculum, which will develop learning outcomes in the areas of knowledge, skills, and emotional patterns and will contribute to the development of better citizens. Emphasis shall be upon teaching "through" activities in addition to teaching the "skills" of activities.
- B. The additional time and physical requirements of these activities demand that participants attain and maintain their best possible physical and mental condition.

When done correctly, athletics teach participants the value of cooperation and competition in achieving team goals. By promoting good sportsmanship at all levels, the athletics program instills pride, reinforces a sound value structure, and enhances the individual's self-image, as well as the image of the school, district and community.

- C. When participating in interscholastic athletics, athletes and represent themselves and their families, their team, their school, and their community, and they are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that will reflect positively on them all. Standards of behavior are established to enable athletes to meet their responsibilities, as well as to promote safety and assist participants in reaching their maximum potential. Participation in athletics is not a right, but a privilege that will be regulated. Athletes will adhere to all rules and regulations from the Code of Conduct pertaining to academics and to athletics throughout the calendar year. **The Athletics Code of Conduct is enforceable year around, which includes district holidays and vacations (24 hours per day, 365 days per year).**

## **V. INTERSCHOLASTIC SPORTS**

- A. The Troy City School District is a member of the OHSAA. The OHSAA establishes policies and regulations for each sport that it sanctions. Each head coach will have the responsibility to inform the athletes on his/her team of the rules pertaining to his/her sport during the season and out of the season. Athletes are required to abide by the OHSAA policies and regulations. Violations of the rules may make an athlete ineligible for participation. Copies of the OHSAA policies are available in the Athletics Department office or at the OHSAA website at [www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org).
- B. The Troy City School District sponsors competition in the following interscholastic sports:
  - 1. **Fall Season:** cheerleading, boys' and girls' cross country, football, boys' and girls' golf, boys' and girls' soccer, girls' tennis and girls' volleyball
  - 2. **Winter Season:** boys' and girls' basketball, boys' and girls' bowling, cheerleading, girls' gymnastics, ice hockey, boys' and girls' swimming and diving and wrestling
  - 3. **Spring Season:** baseball, fastpitch softball, boys' tennis and boys' and girls' track and field

## **VI. EXPECTATIONS OF STUDENT ATHLETES**

- A. All Troy student athletes shall:

- ❖ Maintain academic eligibility
- ❖ Maintain athletic eligibility
- ❖ Submit ALL paperwork required by the OHSAA, the Troy City School District and the team(s) for which the student athlete wishes to participate
- ❖ Display a high standard of social behavior
- ❖ Attend ALL required preseason parent meeting(s) and required team meetings
- ❖ Attend the end of season awards program
- ❖ Display proper sportsmanship in defeat, as well as victory at all sporting events, as a participant or as a spectator
- ❖ Respect authority – parents, officials, teachers, coaches, administrators, and others
- ❖ Exhibit a proper spirit of cooperation
- ❖ Demonstrate a dedication to hard work and training
- ❖ Display proper behavior both in and out of school
- ❖ Exemplify good citizenship and serve as positive role models
- ❖ Show respect for the integrity of the athletic awards system in which earned awards are non-transferable and may be revoked
- ❖ Accept responsibility for the uniform and equipment issued by the Troy Athletics Department
- ❖ Follow all rules adopted by the Transportation Department
- ❖ Be committed to the rules and regulations of the Code of Conduct as a student and as an athlete

## **VII. REGULATIONS FOR PARTICIPATION**

### **A. DISMISSAL FROM A TEAM:**

1. Any athlete who has been dismissed from a team for any violation during a sport season will not be eligible to participate on any other athletic team in any other sport during the same sport season.
2. If an athlete has not been selected for a team due to his/her ability, then the individual may try-out for another team in the same sport season if the time and opportunity permits the tryout to take place.
3. If an athlete quits a team, he/she must obtain a written release from the head coach in that sport before trying out for another sport in the same season.

### **B. TRANSPORTATION/TRAVEL:**

1. All participating student athletes and other contest participants must travel to and from athletics events (which includes scrimmages, previews, regularly scheduled contests, and OHSAA tournament competition in an OHSAA recognized sport) in school authorized carriers. The OHSAA Catastrophe Accident Insurance Policy covers team and group travel directly to and from athletics events.
2. The Troy City School District Board of Education strongly discourages the use of private vehicles for the transportation of students to and from student activities. However, in limited circumstances, the incidental use of

private transportation may be permitted pursuant to parent/guardian request. A building administrator must approve all private transportation to and from student activities. To receive the necessary approval, a parent/guardian must complete a Transportation Release Form and turn it in to their schools athletic office at least 24 hours prior to the event. Forms are available in the athletic office.

3. In the event that such alternative arrangements are approved for special or extraordinary circumstances, student athletes must be transported by their parent(s)/guardian(s) or another adult designated by the parent(s)/guardian(s). Student athletes cannot be released to drive themselves to or from an event.

### **C. PERMISSION TO PARTICIPATE:**

1. Athletics participation forms (includes OHSAA Preparticipation Physical Evaluation form and authorization and eligibility forms) for participants in any of the grades 7 – 12 must be completed and signed by a medical examiner (includes Physician [M.D., D.O., or D.C], Advanced Nurse Practitioner or Physician’s Assistant), the participant and by a parent/guardian. These forms must be on file in the athletics office before any candidate for a team may participate in a practice. These forms shall require the medical examiner to certify the participant’s physical fitness no less than once each calendar year. If the preparticipation evaluation is conducted between May 1 and June 1, the preparticipation evaluation, signed by the medical examiner, is valid for one calendar year plus the remainder of the next school year.
2. In addition to the OHSAA Preparticipation Physical Evaluation form, all athletes must have the following forms on file in the athletics office:
  - I. Ohio Department of Health Concussion Acknowledgement
  - II. Sudden Cardiac Arrest (Lindsay’s Law) Acknowledgement
  - III. Student-Athlete Social Media Agreement
  - IV. Athletic Policy, Code of Conduct & Assumption of Risk Acknowledgement
  - V. Emergency Medical Authorization Form

### **D. APPEARANCE:**

1. Athletes are expected to have a well-groomed appearance. Hairstyle must be appropriate for each sport. Personal style is not to interfere with the individual’s performance nor present a situation which could cause an unsafe and/or hazardous condition for the athlete or for other athletes. Other appearance guidelines may be required by the head coach. Appearance expectations must be reasonable.

### **E. SPORTSMANSHIP:**

1. The Troy City School District places a high priority on good sportsmanship and integrity. Athletes and their parents play a fundamental role in

sportsmanship. We ask that you take this responsibility seriously and lead by example. Please attend our athletics activities with spirit and enthusiasm, but also with courtesy to officials, our opponents and their fans. Together, we can establish a positive image of the Troy City School District. Participation in athletics activities and being a spectator is not a right, but a privilege that will be regulated by basic rules of good sportsmanship, which include:

- ❖ Showing respect for opponents at all times
- ❖ Showing respect for officials and their decisions
- ❖ Knowing and following the rules of the contest
- ❖ Maintaining self-control at all times
- ❖ Recognizing and appreciating skilled performances regardless of affiliation

#### **F. SQUAD LIMITATIONS:**

1. Sometimes it is necessary to reduce the number of participants on a team down to a workable and manageable number. When “cutting” athletes is necessary, the coach will meet with the athletes to explain the criteria used to reduce the team. Tryouts will be at least three (3) days in length or three (3) separate tryout sessions from the start of official practice before reductions are made to ensure adequate time to evaluate candidates. Multiple members of the coaching staff may participate in the evaluation of each athlete in a given sport in a consistent and equitable manner. The head coach will be responsible for making the final decision with respect to his/her team.
2. Any student athlete cut from a team will be entitled to a conference with the coach for an explanation as to why he/she did not make the team and for the coach to suggest possible alternatives for improving skills, thereby enhancing the athlete’s opportunity for making the team in the future.

#### **G. VACATIONS:**

1. Vacations by athletics team members during a sport season are highly discouraged due to the valuable time that will be missed with the team concerning practice and game preparation. In the event that absence due to a vacation is unavoidable, the athlete must:
  - ❖ Be accompanied by his/her parent(s)/guardian(s) while on vacation
  - ❖ Contact the head coach prior to the vacation
  - ❖ Be willing to assume the consequences related to his/her status on that team as a starter, second team and so forth

#### **H. TWO SPORTS PARTICIPATION:**

1. No athlete may participate in two sports during a season without an agreement by both head coaches and signed permission of the parent(s)/guardian(s).
2. The athlete must specify which team is to be his/her first priority.
3. Academic eligibility concerns and/or athletic conduct violations will deter participation in both sports.

**I. TEAM RULES:**

1. Coaches may have team rules in addition to the Athletics Code of Conduct, provided they are submitted to the Director of Athletics for approval and are in print prior to the beginning of his/her sport season and are distributed to team members.

**J. LETTERING/AWARDS:**

1. Awards are presented to athletes to represent an accomplishment. Awards are earned, not just given away. Athletes must show respect for the integrity of the athletics awards system, in which earned awards are non-transferable and may be revoked. Athletes will be presented an award for their participation when and if they meet the following criteria:
  - ❖ Attend and participate in practice and competition to the satisfaction of the coach
  - ❖ Secure the recommendation of the coach
  - ❖ Meet all the requirements of the particular sports program
  - ❖ Participate at the coaches' discretion in the required number of quarters, halves, games, etc., or have earned a certain level of points
  - ❖ The coach has the authority to change letter requirements for individual athletes for disciplinary reasons with the knowledge and approval of the Director of Athletics
  - ❖ Special awards may also be presented based on the coach's criteria

**K. ATHLETICS EQUIPMENT:**

1. Athletes participating in interscholastic athletics in the Troy City School District have the following responsibilities concerning school issued uniform and equipment items:
  - ❖ Use equipment properly so that it provides the protection for which it was designed.
  - ❖ Periodically (at least weekly) examine equipment for damage.
  - ❖ Damaged equipment must be repaired BEFORE it is used since defective equipment does not adequately protect the athlete.
  - ❖ Athletes are to bring all equipment problems immediately to the attention of the coach for resolution.

- ❖ Equipment and uniforms are issued to a specific athlete and are not to be loaned to others.
- ❖ The athlete to whom equipment and uniforms are loaned is responsible for the proper care and security of these items.
- ❖ Athletes are to keep all items under lock.
- ❖ Equipment or uniform items that are lost or stolen are the financial responsibility of the athlete. Athletes will be placed on the student fine list and the final report card will be withheld until restitution is made with the Athletics Department.

**L. INJURED ATHLETE:**

1. Any athlete who has been denied participation by a physician will not be permitted to practice or compete in a game/event until the physician's release has been granted. The athletics trainer employed by the Board of Education and/or the athletics trainer employed by the contractual hospital/sports medicine group has the authority to deny participation to an injured athlete.
2. A coach, parent or athlete cannot override a physician's or the athletic trainer's denial of participation for injury.
3. Injured athletes should attend all practices, games and other team functions unless the injury absolutely prevents this.

**M. ATTENDANCE/PARTICIPATION:**

Competitive interscholastic athletics are an inherent part of the total educational program for students at the High School. Athletes shall be in attendance for instruction during the school day to participate in interscholastic activities. Athletes who do not attend instruction during the day will not be permitted to participate that day unless the absence is due to a school activity, or a valid excused absence approved by the Principal, Assistant Principal, or Director of Athletics (ie. death in the family, funeral, medical appointments, college visit, etc).

## **N. ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY:**

1. **Grades 7 & 8:** A student enrolling in the seventh grade for the first time will be eligible for the first grading period regardless of previous academic achievement. Thereafter, in order to be eligible, a student in grade 7 or 8 must have been enrolled in school the immediately preceding grading period and received passing grades during that grading period in a minimum of five of those subjects in which the student received grades. In addition, a student enrolled in the first grading period after advancement from eighth grade must have passed a minimum of five of all subjects carried the preceding grading period in which the student was enrolled.
2. **Grades 9 – 12:** In order to be eligible in grades 9 – 12, a student must be currently enrolled and must have been enrolled in school the immediately preceding grading period. During the preceding grading period, the student must have received passing grades in a minimum of five one-credit courses or the equivalent, each of which counts toward graduation. Please note that Physical Education I and Physical Education II classes and Physical Education online classes are not one credit equivalency courses.
3. Students electing to enroll in College Credit Plus, CCP, will need to adhere to the following academic procedures.
  - a. Meet with a Guidance Counselor at the interim grading period and at the end of the quarter grading period to provide grade(s).
  - b. Take enough course work at the post-secondary institution exclusively or between the post-secondary institution and the high school combined to be equivalent to at least five one credit courses
4. Failure to meet the OHSAA academic guidelines will result in the student athlete being declared academically ineligible for the next nine-week grading period.
5. Student athletes should not change a course schedule or drop a course without consulting a Guidance Counselor, Director of Athletics, Assistant Principal or the Principal. A schedule change may affect academic eligibility during a nine-week grading period.
6. Semester averages, final examinations, year averages, and summer school have no effect on academic eligibility.
7. In addition to the OHSAA academic guidelines, the Troy City School District has the following policies concerning academics:
  - a. Monitoring of grades will be conducted at the interim grading period of each quarter by the Athletics Office at the High School and Junior High

- b. Notification of student athlete grades will be sent to the sport specific head coach.
  - c. Parent(s)/guardian(s) of student athletes are strongly encouraged to monitor grades using the parent login access to Powerschool throughout the school year
8. Students who will pursue athletics at the collegiate level will need to fulfill the requirements of the sponsoring organization (NCAA, NAIA, etc.). The high school guidance office has information on the specific guidelines. Please call the guidance office at (937) 332-6087 to schedule an appointment.

**O. STUDENT ATHLETE CODE OF CONDUCT:**

- 1. As representatives of their schools, athletes should strive to develop and maintain a high set of standards in the classroom, in their respective sport and in the community.
- 2. The Troy City School District has set behavioral standards that every athlete is expected to follow. It is the responsibility of each coach to inform his/her athletes of the team rules and regulations that govern his/her sport as specified in this Athletics Policy and the coach's rules.
- 3. Infractions of the coach's rules, the Student Code of Conduct, as outlined in the student handbook, this Athletics Policy, the OHSAA's policies and regulations or the Ohio Revised Code shall be reported to the Principal and/or Director of Athletics so that appropriate action can be taken.

**OFFENSES:**

- 1. Due to the broad range of potential infractions, the following offenses are examples of punishable infractions without being an exhaustive list. The disciplinary consequences of violating these potential offenses will be at the discretion of the junior high and/or high school administration and may not follow a progressive type of discipline.
- 2. Examples of Punishable Infractions:
  - a. Destruction, damage, defacing or vandalizing property – This applies to property of the school district or property located on school district premises or at a school district sponsored or sanctioned event or activity regardless of its location or property of school district officials or employees. Includes the deletion of computer files and knowingly introducing viruses to computer systems.
  - b. Sexual harassment or imposition or any other offense, sexual or otherwise, against another person.
  - c. Hazing – Harassment. Attempting to threaten, embarrass, or chronically trouble another person, including bullying.

- d. Fighting – Including striking, assaulting or shoving another person or any action that might result in injury to, or menacing toward another person.
- e. Violation of athletics or team rules/regulations
- f. Violation of the Upper Valley Career Center Code of Conduct
- g. Inappropriate post, pictures or comments on any social media sites
- h. Any inappropriate behavior that reflects negatively upon the team, coaching staff, athletics department and/or the Troy City School District

**DISCIPLINARY CONSEQUENCES:**

1. Denial of participation for violating the policies and regulations established by the OHSAA, the Student and Athletics Codes of Conduct, training rules and policies established by the Athletics Department, and the rules and regulations established by the coaches of each specific sport is intended to alter inappropriate behavior thus increasing the athlete’s chances of future success. **Non-participation of contests must be consecutive, not selective.**
2. During the non-participation period, at the coach’s discretion after consultation with school administration, the athlete may be expected to practice and sit in the stands dressed in appropriate street clothes during contests unless prohibited by the nature of the offense. All rules, regulations and requirements of the sport will be followed during the non-participation period.
3. If applicable, the non-participation penalty will be applied to the next chosen sport; however, the athlete must complete the current season of participation or the penalty will be applied to the next chosen sport.
4. In the case of multiple violations that occur on different days, consequences will be imposed consecutively, not concurrently; i.e., the athlete cannot begin second penalty until the first penalty has been completed.
5. The Director of Athletics will immediately enforce consequences for confirmed violations. The Director of Athletics will notify the athlete and the parent(s)/guardian(s), the head coach, and the Principal of these actions.
6. **Twenty-Four Hour Dismissal Option** – A coach may deny an athlete participation from practice and/or a contest for a period of time no greater than twenty-four hours for a violation of training rules or for actions that are detrimental to the team or athletics program. This action may not be appealed through the athletics due process. If, as a result of the twenty-four hour dismissal, it is necessary to remove the player from school

property the coach will immediately call the parent(s)/guardian(s). A coach/player conference is required after the twenty-four hour dismissal.

7. Previous consequences at the junior high school that have been completed for drug, alcohol, tobacco and vaping policy violations will carry over to the high school.
8. After the promotion from the junior high school to the high school, consequences for drug, alcohol, tobacco and vaping policy violations must be completed prior to participating at the high school.
9. In all cases of denied participation, the number of contest that constitutes a percent of denial will be determined by the administration.
10. Denial of participation for offenses outside of the season will be applied to the next season in which the student athlete participates.

#### **ATHLETIC DRUG, ALCOHOL, TOBACCO AND VAPING POLICY:**

It is the intent of the Troy City School District to work together with students and parents/guardians to develop an atmosphere where the use of harmful or mood-altering chemicals is not accepted. Development of this atmosphere will include formulation of clear rules regarding these activities and education of coaches/advisors, parents/guardians and students as to the possible harmful effects of mood-altering chemicals. No student athlete shall use, have evidence of use, have on his/her person or possessions, locker, car, etc., be under the influence of, sell, intent to sell, transport, distribute or conceal any alcohol, drugs, drug paraphernalia, tobacco or vaping device.

The following terms and definitions are pertinent to the drug, alcohol, tobacco and vaping portion of the athletics policy:

1. **Alcohol** - any liquor, wine, beer, or beverages containing intoxicating substances.
2. **Drug** - any drug including illegal drugs, narcotics, hallucinogens, cocaine, amphetamines, steroids, barbiturates, marijuana, inhalants, controlled substances, prescriptions, look-a-like drugs, over-the-counter drugs used or possessed or distributed for unauthorized purposes, and counterfeit substances.
3. **Drug Paraphernalia** - equipment or apparatus designed for or used for the purpose of measuring, packaging, distributing or facilitating the use of drugs, including but not limited to pipes, roach clips, syringes, hypodermic needles, cocaine spoons or kits.
4. **Tobacco** - any product with tobacco as an ingredient that is smoked chewed, inhaled or placed against the gums.

5. **Distributing** – making available to or providing to another individual (even if not for profit) any alcohol, drug, or tobacco product.
6. **Vaping** – the act of inhaling and exhaling the aerosol, referred to as vapor, which is produced by an e-cigarette or similar device. The vaping device may or may not contain nicotine or other prohibited chemicals.

## **CONSEQUENCES FOR VIOLATING THE DRUG, ALCOHOL, TOBACCO AND VAPING POLICY:**

### **First Offense**

1. Self Referral - An athlete who requests assistance with a problem PRIOR to any violation being reported will be directed to an introductory intervention process at either the Troy Junior High School or Troy High School. If the intervention process is completed, he/she will not be suspended from competition. Any future violation will be treated as a second offense.
2. No Self Referral – An athlete who has violated the Drug, Alcohol, Tobacco and Vaping Policy the first time will be denied participation for 30% of the sports regular season contests **AND** will have to attend and complete an introductory intervention process assigned by Troy Junior High School or Troy High School or a court appointed intervention program. If there is not 30% of the contest left in that season, the denial of participation will continue into the next athletic season in which the student-athlete participates. The remaining percentage will be applied to the next sports season's regularly scheduled contests. The athlete must fulfill all of the obligations of the program in order to continue to participate in athletics. If an athlete is in need of any ongoing recommendations, he/she will be required to comply with these recommendations before being permitted to participate.

All costs for any rehabilitation programs or counseling for tobacco, vaping, alcohol, or drug use shall be the responsibility of the athlete and/or his/her parent(s)/guardian(s).

**Second Offense** – An athlete who has violated the Drug, Alcohol, Tobacco and Vaping Policy a second time will be denied participation for 100% of the sports regular season contests. If there is not 100% of the contest left in that season, the denial of participation will continue into the next athletic season in which the student-athlete participates. The remaining percentage will be applied to the next sports season's regularly scheduled contests.

**Third Offense** – An athlete who has violated the Drug, Alcohol, Tobacco and Vaping Policy for the third time will be denied 100% participation of scheduled OHSAA contests for one calendar year.

**Fourth Offense** – An athlete who has violated the Drug, Alcohol, Tobacco and Vaping Policy for the fourth time will be denied 100% participation from all sports for the remainder of his/her school career.

**INTERVENTION PROGRAM WITH THE ATHLETICS DEPARTMENT:**

An athlete who has violated the Drug, Alcohol, Tobacco and Vaping Policy of the Athletics Code of Conduct will be given a choice to attempt and complete the intervention program or accept the consequences for the refusal of this process. A student who participates with the intervention program will have to do the following:

1. Meet with the school Director of Athletics to discuss the intervention process.
2. Meet and fulfill the requirements of this process, and if there are any ongoing recommendations, then this process must be completed as well in order to remain involved with athletics. The ongoing recommendations will be communicated between the student and the Director of Athletics. When all requirements have been met, the intervention specialist/agency will inform the Director of Athletics in writing of the completion. The Director of Athletics and the student athlete will acknowledge this fulfilled requirement in order to participate in athletics once again.
3. An intervention program may be appointed by the court which will take the place of the school intervention program. The student must have the court appointed intervention specialist/agency submit in writing to the Director of Athletics that all requirements of the intervention program have been successfully met to complete the process.

**ATHLETICS DUE PROCESS:**

An athlete and or parent(s)/guardian(s) who may want to appeal any disciplinary action related to the Athletics Code of Conduct must follow this procedure:

1. If the disciplinary action is a team violation, then schedule a conference with the head coach to discuss the situation. With this conference, the Director of Athletics may also be present.
2. If the disciplinary action is an Athletics Code violation, schedule a conference with the Director of Athletics to discuss the situation.
3. If there is no satisfaction with the decision of the Head Coach/Director of Athletics, then a conference may be requested of the building Principal.

4. If there is no satisfaction with the decision of the building Principal, then a conference may be requested with the Superintendent of Schools. The Superintendent's decision shall be final.

## **VIII. COACH CODE OF CONDUCT**

### **INTRODUCTION**

When entering the coaching profession, a coach accepts certain obligations and responsibilities. Accordingly, the following expectations and responsibilities for coaches have been adopted by the Troy City School District.

### **PROFESSIONAL EXPECTATIONS AND PERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS**

- The coach will act in a manner that demonstrates that he/she understands the tremendous level of influence on their student athletes. Coaches will ensure that student athletes are better for having played for them.
- The coach will never place the value of winning above the value of instilling the highest ideals of character.
- The coach will give the highest degree of attention to their student athletes' well-being in the classroom, in all competitions and in their personal lives.
- The coach will uphold the honor and dignity of the profession. In all personal contact with students, parents, officials, athletic directors, school administrators, the OHSAA, the media, and the public, the coach will strive to set an example of the highest ethical and moral conduct.
- The coach will only use social media in a professional and positive manner. The coach will avoid the use of social media in a manner that would negatively affect the image of the Troy City School District and/or its athletic programs.
- The coach will present a clean and professional image in terms of personal appearance and provide a positive role model in terms of personal habits, language and conduct.
- The coach will take an active role in the prevention of drug, alcohol, tobacco and vaping use by their student athletes.
- The coach will avoid the use of alcohol, tobacco and vaping products when responsible for student athletes, when on school grounds and when at school sponsored events.
- The coach will work cooperatively with other coaches for the scheduling of off-season activities. Coaches must be aware that we must share students in order to have successful athletic and non-athletic programs.
- The coach will model and teach their student athletes to be modest in victory and gracious in defeat.
- The coach will develop rapport with teachers, other coaches, and administrators. The coach will not exert pressure on faculty members to give their student athletes special consideration.

- The coach will develop, communicate and model policies for student athletes' conduct and language in the locker room, at practice, during travel, competition and at all other appropriate times. The coach will discipline athletes who display unacceptable behavior, regardless of the impact on competition.

### **COACHING PERFORMANCE AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

- The coach will submit all required paperwork, attend all required meetings and remain current on all OHSAA, League and Troy City School District athletic policies. The coach will share all necessary policies with the coaches in their program. The coach will not seek an advantage by circumvention of the spirit or letter of the policies.
- The coach will provide for the proper supervision of their student athletes.
- The coach will develop a well organized practice schedule which utilizes his/her staff and team to its maximum potential.
- The coach will exert his/her influence to enhance sportsmanship by spectators, both directly and by working closely with cheerleaders, booster clubs, and administrators.
- The coach will respect and support contest officials. The coach will not indulge in conduct which would incite players or spectators against the officials. Public criticism of officials or players is not acceptable.
- The coach will meet and exchange cordial greetings with the opposing coach to set the correct tone for the event before and after the contest.
- The coach will ensure that all medical forms and required participation forms of the OHSAA and the Troy City School District are completed and in order prior to allowing any student to participate in practice or a competition.
- The coach will ensure that every injured athlete is given immediate medical attention.
- The coach will monitor their student athletes' academic progress to ensure that every participant fulfills all the rules and regulations for academic and athletic eligibility.
- The coach will inspire their student athletes to achieve the highest academic success possible.
- The coach will advise participants as to the proper conduct in meetings with the media and how to conduct themselves in interviews, both for the athlete's protection and to avoid any embarrassment to the Troy City School District.
- The coach will conduct all financial transactions in accordance with the Troy City School District policy. The coach will use good accounting procedures and will act at all times on behalf of the team without taking personal advantage of his/her position.
- The head coach will take an active interest in the professional growth of the coaches in their program and complete an end of season evaluation for each coach. The head coach will work cooperatively with all of the coaches in their program.
- The coach will utilize innovative coaching techniques and ideas in addition to sound, proven, methods of coaching.

- The head coach will hold periodic meetings with all of the coaches in the program to share the fundamental philosophy, skills and techniques to be taught.
- The coach will develop a system to properly care for equipment, including issue, collection, inventory, and storage.

**IX. PARENT CODE OF CONDUCT:**

The Troy City School District believes that interscholastic competition involving member schools of the Ohio High School Athletic Association should be governed by the basic principles of good sportsmanship. We believe that participation is more important than winning. We believe that students should be coached to play to the best of their ability and to understand that to play well is to play honorably. The promotion of sportsmanship is the obligation of all school personnel (principals, athletic directors and coaches) and is directed to the behavior of spectators, coaches and players. As parents and fans, you can help us establish an outstanding reputation for good sportsmanship. We must all work hard in conducting ourselves in a commendable manner. A display of unsportsmanlike conduct can result in sanctions against the offending athlete, parent, and/or school. Parents and fans must always observe the following guidelines for good sportsmanship:

1. The good name of our school is more important than any contest won by unfair play.
2. Be supportive of all athletes, coaches, and officials before, during, and after all contests.
3. Accept decisions of officials without dispute. They are seldom responsible for your success; so do not blame them for your circumstances.
4. Recognize and show appreciation for the fine play of your opponent.
5. Be proud of our school's reputation and work hard to protect it.
6. Cheer for your team, not against the opponent.
7. Read, understand and follow the school's rules for coach/parent communications.
8. Don't allow others' negative sportsmanship to become an excuse to do the same.

**X. FAN EJECTION POLICY:**

**FIRST OFFENSE:** Fans who violate the Guidelines for Good Sportsmanship or are ejected from a contest by an athletic official or a school official are subject to removal from the contest and all school contests on the same day in all venues. Those removed or ejected will be required to complete an online sportsmanship class offered by the National Federation of State High School Associations. Adults will be required to take the "Positive Sports Parenting" class while students will be required to take the "Sportsmanship" class. Both classes are offered for free at [www.nfhsLearn.com](http://www.nfhsLearn.com). After completing the class,

they must schedule a conference with the Athletic Director and/or Principal to submit the Certificate of Completion and discuss their inappropriate behavior and discuss a plan to improve said behavior prior to being admitted to future athletic events.

**SECOND OFFENSE:** Any fan who violates the Guidelines for Good Sportsmanship and is ejected from a Troy Junior High or Troy High School athletic contest a 2nd time in a school year shall lose their privileges to attend any Troy Junior High or Troy High School athletics contest – home or away – for a period of ONE CALENDAR YEAR.

**SUBSEQUENT OFFENSES:** Any fan that refuses to comply with the stipulations previously mentioned may be barred from attending any/or all activities sponsored by the Troy City School District by the Superintendent.

## **XI. COACH/ATHLETE/PARENT COMMUNICATION:**

### **INTRODUCTION**

We are extremely pleased that your son/daughter has chosen to participate in the interscholastic athletics program of the Troy City Schools.

A goal of the athletics department is to create an environment in which our athletes' extracurricular experiences will be as rewarding as possible. Maintaining open lines of communication is essential in creating this type of environment.

It is inevitable in any organization that concerns or questions will occasionally arise. What is most important is not that they arise, but that they are appropriately addressed.

It is our belief that concerns or questions are best addressed as close to their origins as possible. Common courtesy dictates that the staff member directly involved in an issue should be given the opportunity to address it first. Most conflicts can be addressed appropriately in this manner.

If a complaint cannot be resolved in this manner, then administrative involvement may become necessary. The appropriate chain of command to follow in such cases is listed later in this guide.

The staff and administration will make a concerted effort to address questions, concerns, and complaints appropriately. Issues that reach the administrative level will be investigated fully and fairly. However, in fairness to staff members, anonymous complaints will not be addressed.

## **PARENT/GUARDIAN/COACH RELATIONSHIP**

Both parenting and coaching are extremely difficult vocations, but maintaining open lines of communication can make both jobs easier. Communication is a two-way street. By trying to understand the reasons for each other's actions, we can create a more positive environment for our athletes. As a parent of an athlete, you have the right to understand the expectations being placed on your child. This all starts with clear communication from the coach.

### **COMMUNICATION PARENT(S)/GUARDIAN(S) SHOULD EXPECT FROM THE COACH**

- Expectations the coach has for members of the team, including the locations, dates and times of practices and contests that athletes are expected to attend
- Team requirements – fees, special equipment, eligibility, attendance, off-season strength and conditioning
- Procedures to follow if your child is injured
- Athletics policy and any additional rules and regulations of the team
- Requirements to earn a varsity letter
- Discipline that results in the denial of your child's participation

It is our hope that all our athletes will experience some of the most rewarding times of their lives through their participation in our programs. It is important to understand that things may not always go as you or your child wish. At these times, discussion with the coach may be desirable to clarify questions and avoid any misunderstanding.

### **COMMUNICATION THE COACH EXPECTS FROM THE PARENT(S)/GUARDIAN(S)**

- Express concerns directly to the coach first and at the appropriate time
- Notify the coach of any schedule conflicts well in advance
- Notify the coach of any special needs of the athlete
- Express specific concerns in regard to a coach's expectations

### **APPROPRIATE CONCERNS TO DISCUSS WITH A COACH**

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

### **INAPPROPRIATE AREAS TO DISCUSS WITH THE COACH**

- Playing time
- Play calling
- Position assignment
- Team strategy
- Any matter concerning other athletes

## **PROCEDURE TO FOLLOW IF A PARENT HAS A CONCERN WITH A COACH**

- Contact the coach to set up an appointment
- If the coach cannot be reached after a reasonable number of attempts, contact the Director of Athletics
- DO NOT ATTEMPT TO CONFRONT A COACH BEFORE, DURING OR AFTER A CONTEST OR PRACTICE SESSION. THESE CAN BE EMOTIONAL TIMES FOR ALL PARTIES INVOLVED AND DO NOT PROMOTE RESOLUTION.

## **THE NEXT STEP**

What can a parent/guardian do if the meeting with the coach does not provide a satisfactory result? Although total agreement may never be reached, the parent may contact the Director of Athletics to discuss the situation. Then the appropriate next step will be determined. However, both parties may agree to disagree and there may not be a next step.

## **CHAIN OF COMMAND**

The Troy City Schools and the Athletics Department follow the chain of command listed below:

1. Assistant Coach (if applicable)
2. Head Coach
3. Director of Athletics
4. Building Principal
5. Superintendent

## **COMMUNICATING WITH YOUR STUDENT ATHLETE(S)**

- As the parent of an athlete, let them know that win or lose, scared or heroic, you love them, appreciate their efforts and are not disappointed in them. This will allow them to do their best without fear of failure. Be the person in their life they can look to for constant positive reinforcement.
- Try your best to be completely honest concerning your child's athletic ability, competitive attitude, sportsmanship and actual skill level.
- Be helpful, but do not coach them. It is tough not to; however, it is much tougher for the athlete to be flooded with advice and critical instruction from multiple sources, particularly when those sources are in conflict with one another.
- Teach them to enjoy the thrill of competition, of giving their best effort, and of working to improve their skills and attitudes. Help them develop the feeling for competing, for trying hard and for having fun.
- Try not to relive your athletics career through your child in a way that creates pressure. You were frightened, backed off at times, and were not always heroic. Do not pressure your child because of your pride. Athletes need the support of their parent(s)/guardian(s), so please do not withdraw. Remember, there is a thinking, feeling, sensitive, free spirit in that uniform; one who needs a lot of understanding, especially when things do not always go the right way. If they are comfortable with you win or lose, then they are on their way to maximum achievement and enjoyment.

- Do not compete with the coach. If your child is receiving mixed messages from two different authority figures, he or she will likely become disenchanted. Criticism of the coach to your child puts the student/athlete in a terrible "NO WIN" situation.
- Do not compare the skill, courage or attitude of your child with other members of the team.
- Always remember that children have a tendency to exaggerate both when praised and when criticized. Temper your reaction and investigate before overreacting. Many times athletes will define all coach criticism as being "yelled at".
- Make a point of understanding courage and the fact that it is relative. Some people will climb mountains and are afraid to fly. Most people are frightened in certain areas. Explain that courage is not the absence of fear, but a means of doing something in spite of fear and discomfort.
- Remember that while it is difficult to watch your child struggle, the fact is that we all learn more from trials and tribulations than from absolute success. Athletics can be invaluable in teaching this lesson in life. Be careful not to "rescue" your child from all disappointments. Provide support through tough times and give guidance on how to deal with frustrations, but allow him/her to work through his/her own solutions.

## **XII. FAIR PLAY CODE**

### **A. ATHLETES:**

- I will participate because I want to, not just because my parents or coaches want me to.
- I will play by the rules and in the spirit of the game.
- I will control my temper, since fighting and disrespect can spoil the activity for everyone.
- I will respect my opponents.
- I will do my best to try to be a true team player.
- I will remember that winning is not everything. Having fun, improving my skills, making friends and doing my best are also important.
- I will acknowledge all good plays or performances by both my teammates and my opponents.
- I will remember that coaches and officials are there to help me. I will accept their decisions, show them respect and understand they have given their time to be with me.

### **B. COACHES:**

- I will be reasonable when scheduling games and practices, remembering that young people have other interests and obligations.
- I will teach my athletes to play fairly and to respect the rules, officials and opponents.
- I will ensure that all athletes receive instruction, support and opportunities.
- I will not ridicule my athletes for making mistakes or performing poorly. I will remember that young people play to have fun and must be encouraged to have confidence in themselves.
- I will remember that young people need a coach they can respect. I will praise my athletes for a job well done and set a good example.

- I will make sure that equipment and facilities are safe and match the athlete's ages and abilities.
- I will obtain proper training and continue to upgrade my coaching skills.

**C. FANS:**

- I will remember that young people play sports for their enjoyment, not to entertain me.
- I will not have unrealistic expectations and will understand that doing one's best is as important as winning. I understand that ridiculing an athlete for making a mistake is not acceptable behavior.
- I will respect the official's decisions and will encourage all participants to do the same.
- I will respect and show appreciation for the coaches and understand that they have given their time to provide sport activities for our young people.
- I will encourage athletes and coaches to play by the rules and to resolve conflicts without resorting to hostility or violence.
- I will show respect for my team's opponents, because I realize there would be no game without them.
- I will not use bad language and will not harass athletes, coaches, officials or other spectators.
- I will always show good sportsmanship since young people learn best by example.

We hope that the information provided in this guide has been helpful. Thank you for your support of Troy Trojan Athletics.

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# ATHLETIC POLICY & CODE OF CONDUCT

## Signature Page

Please retain your copy of the Troy Athletic Policy Manual in the previous pages. Please read, sign and return the following pages to the Troy Athletics Office.

**FAILURE TO RETURN THIS SIGNATURE PAGE MAY RESULT IN DENIAL OF PARTICIPATION AS THE UTMOST IMPORTANCE IS PLACED ON THIS POLICY.**

We, the undersigned, acknowledge receipt of the Troy Athletics Policy Manual. We have read and understand the contents of this policy. We also understand that participation in athletics is a privilege, a commitment and an agreement to follow the terms of this policy, **along with any additional team rules provided by the Head Coach.** We also acknowledge and accept the responsibility that violations of this policy can result in denial of athletic participation as specified in this policy.

We do hereby acknowledge that we have been cautioned that participation in any sport or activity involves an injury-risk factor. We understand that each athlete is susceptible to injuries of varying seriousness and frequency. With full knowledge of the inherent risks in practices and/or contests, it is still our desire that the student listed below participates in any extracurricular activity, including, but not limited to, Football, Soccer, Volleyball, Bowling, Cross Country, Cheerleading, Golf, Basketball, Swimming, Wrestling, Baseball, Softball, Track, Tennis,

Other\_\_\_\_\_.

I, (printed student name) \_\_\_\_\_, have read the Troy Athletic Policy Manual and the Code of Conduct and will abide by its rules and regulations.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

I, (printed parent/guardian name) \_\_\_\_\_, have read the Troy Athletic Policy Manual, Code of Conduct and the Parental Code of Conduct and will abide by its rules and regulations.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



## STUDENT-ATHLETE SOCIAL MEDIA AGREEMENT

Social media can be a useful tool to communicate with teammates, fans, friends, coaches and others. Social media can also be dangerous if you are not careful. Every picture, link, quote, tweet, status, or post that you or your friends put online is forever part of your digital footprint. YOU never know when that will come back to hurt or help your reputation during the recruiting process, a new job or other important areas of your life.

Recognizing the above:

- I take responsibility for my online profile, including my posts and any photos, videos or other recordings posted by others in which I appear.
- I will not degrade my opponents before, during or after a game.
- I will post only positive things about my teammates, coaches, opponents and officials.
- I will use social media to purposefully promote abilities, team, community and social values.
- I will consider "Is this the me I want your to see?" before I post anything online.
- I will ignore any negative comments about me and will not retaliate.
- If I see a teammate post something potentially negative online, I will have a conversation with that teammate. If I do not feel comfortable doing so, I will talk to my coach.
- I am aware that I represent my sport(s), school, team, family and community at all times, and will do so in a positive manner.

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Student-Athlete Signature

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Date