

# **Tecumseh Local School District**

The Tecumseh Secondary Extracurricular Code is applicable to all those students who perform, to those trying out for an organization, to all student support personnel, student aides, and cheerleaders.

The extracurricular code has been approved by the Board of Education. The purpose of this document is to inform you and your parents of the rules that are appropriate while you represent Tecumseh. It is your responsibility as a Tecumseh student to read these rules and abide by them.



## **Extracurricular Code**

Revised May 2020

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## Introduction

The purpose of this handbook is to give students, athletes, cheerleaders, student aides and other interested persons a guide to the interscholastic athletic program of the Tecumseh Local School District

The student athletes, cheerleaders, and student aides are obligated to conform to the code of conduct as established by the Board of Education training rules and policies established by the Athletic Department, and the specific rules established by the coach of each sport.

A condition of participation in athletics is a commitment to follow the rules, regulations, policies, and procedures established by the district for the implementation of the athletic program. This booklet is to inform you and your parents of the rules that are appropriate while you represent Tecumseh. It is your responsibility as a Tecumseh student to read these rules and to abide by them. It must be understood that participants who violate these shall face disciplinary action.

## Philosophy of Athletics

The Tecumseh Local District believes that:

- Interscholastic athletics are an integral part of the school's education process.
- Participation in a sound athletic program contributes to the development of health, happiness, physical skills, emotional maturity, social competence, moral values and self-discipline of the individuals.
- Athletics teaches participants the value of cooperation and competition in achieving team goals.

**Our Purpose:** The athletic department through education-based athletics will provide a **selfless family** atmosphere where we are **committed** to developing student/athletes that show **integrity** and demonstrate **grit** through athletic success and failures to help student/athletes become dependable, trustworthy adults that will make their families, organizations, and communities better.

**Our Definition of Success:** Our athletic department will have been successful if our athletes enjoyed their time with their teammates and coaches. Lasting memories and relationships were built while participating in athletics. The athletes learned how to work together, problem solve, share and embrace differences, win with dignity and lose with grace. If any of these skills carry over to adulthood we will have been successful. These results may not show until years down the road.

## Objectives of Interscholastic Athletics

1. To provide an opportunity for participation to all students who have the interest and ability.
2. To prepare all participants to further their participation in sports to the fullest extent of their ability.
3. To develop and practice all rules of good sportsmanship.
4. To develop team morale and unity through cooperation and sacrifice.
5. To develop spirit, pride, and unity throughout the entire athletic program in both words and actions.
6. To make a positive contribution to school and community relationships.
7. To stress the importance of academics.
8. To furnish supervision, facilities, and equipment necessary to insure proficiency in all programs.
9. To maintain the highest possible standards and levels of athletic competition.
10. To promote the values of mental and physical fitness.

## Extracurricular Rules of Conduct

The Extracurricular Code of Conduct is enforceable year round, which includes all district holidays and vacations. (24 hours per day, 365 days per year). Once the Athletic Department has your signature on file the Extracurricular Code of Conduct is in effect for your entire athletic career in the Tecumseh Local School District. Your possession of these rules and the fact that you have signed an acknowledgement of and had these rules reviewed with you by a school staff member (coach/advisor/administrator) constitutes a first warning; no further warnings will be given to you. **It is your responsibility to familiarize yourself with these rules and consequences of violating them.**

## Student Responsibilities

Participation in extracurricular activities is a privilege, not a right. Students who participate in extracurricular activities are expected to accept the responsibilities that accompany the privilege of participation by maintaining a high standard of personal conduct in the areas of sportsmanship, citizenship, ethics, and integrity. A student may forfeit his/her privilege of participation if he/she cannot follow the rules and regulations set forth in the Extracurricular Code of Conduct, by the Tecumseh Local Board of Education.

## **Administration of Athletics**

The administrative head of each school (principal) shall be held responsible for all matters which concern interscholastic contests.

The athletic director represents all principals in matters concerning the athletic program.

The athletic director or principal must make all contacts with the Ohio High School Athletic Association in reference to questions concerning the school district.

## **Tecumseh Extracurricular Code of Conduct**

The Tecumseh Extracurricular Code is applicable to those students who participate in extracurricular activities.

1. All athletes will abide by all rules and regulations established by the Ohio High School Athletic Association and the Central Buckeye Conference
2. You must be in school a minimum of four (4) periods at the high school and a minimum of 3 periods at the middle school to participate in any activity. Exceptions to this rule are to be made by the principal/athletic director.
3. A student/athlete can participate in only one sport at a time with the exception of soccer and football where the soccer player kicks for the football team, provided the coaches can work out an agreement.
4. Before a student/athlete can participate in any initial contest, they must participate in eight (8) days of practice during a two week period of time. If a student/athlete misses more than ten (10) consecutive days of practice/participation then that student/athlete will be required to reaccumulate to that activity by participating in eight (8) days of practice unless released in writing by a physician. The principal/athletic director will rule on special situations at the high school and middle school.
5. All participants will be under the direct supervision of the coach/advisor/administrator to and from all activities. The only exception would be if a coach/advisor/administrator would release the participant directly to a parent/guardian of the student.
6. On any trip or activity, members will be informed by the coach/advisor as to the appropriate dress and conduct.
7. The athletic department will assist in training student aides. The athletic trainer will determine the method of training student aides.

8. A disagreement between a student/athlete and a coach/advisor that cannot be resolved by them should be brought to the immediate attention of the principal/athletic director. Any further disagreement(s) will then be subject to the due process format.
9. The length of a sports season shall be defined as the time span from the first day of organized practice and terminates when the coach/advisor releases the participant following the last activity. (per OHSAA Handbook)
10. Rules found in the current Code of Conduct apply to all students at all school sponsored activities. In addition, the coach/advisor, assistant principal/director of student activities or principal may set additional penalties for unbecoming behavior which may include a verbal or written reprimand or denial of participation, or removal from a team, or removal from the athletic department for one calendar year.

## **Athletic Eligibility**

In order to be eligible a student/athlete in grade 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 must be currently enrolled and must have been enrolled in school the immediately preceding grading period (nine weeks) and had received passing grades during that grading period in subjects that earn a minimum of five credits per year towards graduation.

A student enrolling in the seventh grade for the first time will be eligible for the first grading period regardless of previous academic achievement.

In addition to the eligibility requirements established by the Ohio High School Athletic Association, to be eligible for any interscholastic extracurricular activity, a student in grades 7-12 will be denied participation in extracurricular activities if they receive two failing grades in the previous grading period (9 weeks). Per TLS Board Policy 2431, the student will also be denied from participating in the activity if they have not maintained “at least a 1.50 grade-point average. A student may apply for a one-time, one-quarter forgiveness during their high school career.” This “forgiveness” can only be applied to a district requirement.

Grades 9-12 grade point average will be calculated on all academic courses as defined in the course catalog. Grades 7-8 grade point averages will be calculated on all courses attempted.

Summer school grades earned may not be used to substitute for failing grades from the last grading period of the regular school year. Tutoring or examinations to complete the preceding grading period requirements is permissible, provided that privilege is accorded to every student and the ability to complete required work on time is due to an illness or accident or accident verified in writing by a physician.

Grading period failures render the student ineligible for the succeeding grading period. Courses which a student audits and receives no credit do not count toward the 5.0 credit minimum. A grading period will begin and end as designed by the annual school calendar as approved by the Tecumseh Board of Education. The eligibility or ineligibility of a student/athlete, as determined by quarterly eligibility requirements, continues until the start of the fall sports season. The first grading period is considered to have started insofar as this bylaw is concerned.

## **OHSAA Standards**

Senior athletes must be passing all state and locally required courses for graduation.

A high school student will become ineligible the day they turn 20.

If a student, enrolled in grades 7 or 8, attains the age of 15 before August 1st, of a given school year, they shall be ineligible to participate in the middle school interscholastic program.

Only amateurs are eligible. Student athletes are ineligible if they receive money or other valuable consideration for competing in a sport recognized by the OHSAA.

Students must complete and turn in a valid physical examination form signed by a physician, by the participant, and by the parent or guardian. Students must also have the following on file; insurance statements, the inherent risks of injury associated with participation in the sport or activity form, emergency medical form, and a signed acknowledgment of the responsibilities of participating in extracurricular activities before participation in a practice or contest can take place.

Students must be enrolled in school not later than the fifteenth day after the beginning of each semester.

Students are ineligible if they participate in OHSAA un-approved or un-sanctioned camps, clinics, independent teams, all-star teams, or regular practice sessions out of season.

These eligibility rules cover the most common areas. Obviously, the district will follow all rules and regulations of the school, conference, and the OHSAA.

# Athletic Training Rules and Regulations

The Tecumseh Local School District believes that the most important goal of the interscholastic athletic program is to provide every participant the opportunity to grow mentally, morally, physically, and emotionally. To assure that the program can provide these opportunities, a degree of self-discipline is required of each participant. Self-discipline involves compliance with rules and regulations concerning personal behavior. Rules promote order and safety and assists participants to reach maximum performance potential.

“Athletes” for the purpose of these rules and regulations shall be defined as those students who identify themselves as such as membership and participation in an interscholastic activity in the Tecumseh Local School System. While involved in such participation, the good name of the athlete and the school depend upon responsible action on the part of the student. We believe that the athlete has a strong influence in the community, the school, and among fellow students. We feel that good habits of health, behavior and scholarship are important to the school and it’s athletic program.

## **BEHAVIOR**

Consequences for violations of the rules and regulations may result in any or all of the following consequences:

- Verbal or written reprimand
- Probation
- Denial of participation
- Removal from a team
- Removal from the athletic department for one calendar year
- Criminal charges
- Restitution

Consequences may be carried over to another season, school year, from middle school to high school, not to exceed one calendar year. These consequences will be determined by the coach/advisor, athletic director/principal.

- A. All athletes are expected to behave in a manner which reflects positively on the school and their team. Due to the broad range of potential infractions, the following offenses are examples of punishable infractions without being an exhaustive list. Behavior which reflects negatively would include such offenses as:
- Repeated truancy from school or class
  - Illegal possession or destruction of school or athletic property or equipment

- Acts of vandalism or abuse of persons or property
  - Involvement in activities or behaviors which would constitute hazing
  - Repeated infractions of school rules, team rules or chronic incorrigible profanity
  - Abusive or disrespectful language, actions, gestures, or profanity
  - Behavior, attitude, or unsportsmanlike conduct at or during athletic contests, practice sessions, or school sponsored events
  - Sexual misconduct, harassment, or exhibitionist
- B. Athletes engaging in criminal activity or violations of civil law: recognizing the varying degrees of severity of violations (misdemeanors vs. felony) consequences for involvement may result in a minor reprimand to removal from the athletic department for one calendar year, depending upon the nature of the offense. An athlete does not have to be convicted in a court of law in order for consequences to be carried out. Remember, athletics are a privilege not a right. Consultation between the coach, athletic director and principal will be conducted before a consequence is issued.
- C. If an athlete participating in “sport A” either quits the team or is denied participation for a violation, he/she is not eligible to join or tryout for “sport B” until all the other members of “sport A” are also eligible. The athlete will also not be allowed to participate in out of season activities (open lifting and/or conditioning) of another sport until the members of “sport A” are finished with their season, or the coaches of sport A and sport B come to a mutual agreement. If an athlete is “cut” from the team before the regular season begins and not because of a violation, he/she will be eligible for “sport B”.
- D. Athletes, cheerleaders or other team members under suspension from school (in school/out of school) are not allowed to participate in practice or game competition during this period of time. A student athlete may resume participation immediately following the completion of this time.
- E. These rules and regulations are minimum standards. Individual coaches may have additional rules which must be approved by the athletic director prior to implementation.
- F. All forms issued by the athletic department for participation in a given activity must be signed and returned to the coach before participation can begin, this includes electronic signatures.

- G. All school issued equipment must be returned to the coach/athletic director prior to the awards program. If equipment is not returned, and all awards earned by the student will be withheld as will the student's report card, until such equipment is returned or restitution has been made. Students participating in athletics will be charged the replacement cost of any unreturned or damaged item.
- H. Commitment to high school and middle school teams - When participating in interscholastic athletics, we expect the student/athlete to attend all practices and contests during their season. Vacations are not encouraged during a sports season. The head coaches team rules will prevail in the event of such missed practices or contests.
- I. During the sports season your school team's activities shall take precedence over all select or non-school related athletic programs.

### **SUBSTANCE USE**

(Violations in this area are cumulative. Middle school students start over when they enter high school. However, if a consequence from an infraction at the middle school level has not been fully completed, the consequences will be carried over to the high school.)

- A. Tobacco Policy - The possession or use of tobacco products (also includes vaps, e-cigs, juuls, etc) is strictly prohibited 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

Consequences: An athlete involved with a tobacco violation will be immediately denied participation until a decision is made. The contests that may have been missed will count towards consequences.

### **1st Time Offense - Tobacco:**

An athlete found in violation of this code will be denied participation in 10% of the scheduled contests, or the next participating season. An athlete in violation of this code will need to enroll in a tobacco or substance awareness program approved by the school before participating again. Any cost incurred will be the responsibility of the athlete and/or parents/guardians. If the athlete is not enrolled in a tobacco or substance awareness program, after serving the 10% denial of participation consequence, the denial of participation will continue until the athlete is enrolled. If the athlete does not complete the program, the athlete will be denied participation immediately from all athletic programs until completion of the tobacco or substance

awareness program. The consequences are consecutive, not selective. Fractions will be rounded to the nearest whole number.

### **2nd Time Offense - Tobacco:**

An athlete found in violation of this code will be denied participation in 20% of the scheduled contests, or the next participating season. An athlete in violation of this code will need to enroll in a tobacco or substance awareness program approved by the school before participating again. Any cost incurred will be the responsibility of the athlete and/or parents/guardians. If the athlete is not enrolled in a tobacco or substance awareness program, after serving the 20% denial of participation consequence, the denial of participation will continue until the athlete is enrolled. If the athlete does not complete the program, the athlete will be denied participation immediately from all athletic programs until completion of the tobacco or substance awareness program. The consequences are consecutive, not selective. Fractions will be rounded to the nearest whole number.

### **3rd Offense and Subsequent Infractions - Tobacco:**

Any athlete violating the tobacco policy for the third time or subsequent times will be denied participation for one calendar year from the date of the violation for all activities sponsored by the athletic department.

B. Illegal Substance Policy - Possession, use misuse or sale of any prescription drug, or illegal drug such as but not limited to: narcotic drugs, hallucinogenic drug, amphetamine, steroids, barbiturate, marijuana, inhalant, alcoholic beverage, intoxicant or drug paraphernalia of any kind is strictly prohibited 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Athletes hosting a party where alcohol or other controlled substances are being unlawfully consumed, shall also be considered in violation.

C. Illegal Substance Policy - Look-Alike/Counterfeit Drugs - No athlete shall directly or indirectly represent any counterfeit controlled substance as an illegal, controlled, or prescription substance. In addition, no athlete shall possess, consume, make, sell, offer or deliver any substance known or not known to be a counterfeit drug at any time 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

Consequences: An athlete involved with a substance/alcohol violation will be immediately denied participation until a decision is made. The contests that may have been missed will count towards the consequences.

**1st Time Offense - Substance:**

An athlete found in violation of this code will be denied participation in 20% of the season's scheduled contests, or the next participating season. An athlete in violation of this code will need to have an assessment with follow through if needed, from an agency approved by the school before participating again. Any cost incurred will be the responsibility of the athlete and/or parents/guardians. If the athlete has not had an assessment after serving the 20% denial of participation consequence, the denial of participation will continue until the athlete has completed the requirements. The consequences are consecutive, not selective. Fractions will be rounded to the nearest whole number.

**2nd Offense - Substance:**

An athlete found in violation of this code will be denied participation in 50% of the season's scheduled contests, or the next participating season. An athlete in violation of this code will need to have an assessment with follow through if needed, from an agency approved by the school and provide a negative drug screen before participating again. Any cost incurred will be the responsibility of the athlete and/or parents/guardians. If the athlete has not had an assessment or negative drug screening after serving the 50% denial of participation consequence, the denial of participation will continue until the athlete has completed the requirements. The consequences are consecutive, not selective. Fractions will be rounded to the nearest whole number.

**3rd Offense and Subsequent Infractions - Substance:**

An athlete found in violation of this code will be denied participation for one calendar year from date of infraction. In order to be reinstated after the year the athlete must provide evidence an assessment has taken place and provide a negative drug screening. All costs are incurred by the athlete and/or parents/guardians.

\*Note - In case of denial with less than twenty percent (20%) or fifty percent (50%) of the season remaining, the athlete will have the denial carry over to the next sport they participate in.

*Denial of Involvement* - If any athlete denies their involvement in a tobacco, alcohol, substance, or behavior related situation and is later found to have been involved, they will lose their athletic eligibility for one calendar year, regardless of which offense this might be.

Exception to the Athletic Code of Conduct for Alcohol and Substance Abuse: This may be used only once in middle school career and once in high school career.

**Self-Referral** - A student or his or her parents may self refer himself or herself to their coach, athletic director, assistant principal, or principal prior to the schools representatives discovery of a violation of the substance policy. The coach, athletic director, and principal will decide if the case is a self referral.

Consequences for self-referral. A student/athlete using the self-referral option must complete an assessment and complete the recommendations of that assessment. If the assessment and recommendations are completed there will be no denial of participation. However, use of the self-referral option is considered a violation of the Tobacco and/or Substance Policy. This means if this is the athletes 1st violation that is what it will count as. If this is the athletes 2nd or 3rd violation that is what it will count as, without the consequences. However if another violation occurs, the violation will count as the next violation with the consequences to follow as laid out in the Code.

The administration of Tecumseh Local Schools reserves the right to review, assess, and revise these regulations listed above at any time.

## **Participation Information**

The Tecumseh Local School Board of Education assumes no legal or financial responsibility in providing student accident insurance. Students shall have proof of medical insurance coverage before being permitted to participate in athletics/activities.

## **Medical Release Forms**

Every student/athlete must have a medical release form (physical) on file with the athletic office or coach/advisor prior to participating in any extracurricular activity. All such forms are effective for one calendar year. It is the responsibility of the student/athlete and their parent/guardian to insure that such information is current and released to the school.

## **Ten Principles for Parenting an Athlete**

1. Be positive with your student/athlete. Let them know they are accomplishing positive simply by being part of a team.
2. Avoid offering excuses for the student/athlete if they are not playing or seeing only limited action. Encourage them to work hard, reach their potential and contribute to the team's effort.
3. Open criticism of the coach is detrimental to your child's experience. By openly criticizing the coaches, your student/athlete becomes trapped between the coach's authority and the parent's criticism. This situation merely erodes the athlete's effectiveness and affects their contributions to the team effort.
4. Encourage and support your student/athlete's efforts to follow the team rules and athletic code. This is a year-round responsibility and not limited to the athletic season.
5. Emphasize the importance of academics and understand the academic requirements necessary for participation in interscholastic athletic activities. With few exceptions, most student/athletes do not receive athletic scholarships. Their future as active, contributing citizen is determined by their academic abilities, not their high school athletic abilities.
6. Criticizing or showing envy in relation to the failures or successes of other student/athletes displays inappropriate behavior to others. Most are trying their hardest on any given day and they deserve respect for their efforts. Living your life vicariously through your student/athlete puts undo pressure on all concerned. Remember, a sport is a game and is supposed to be fun.
7. The coaches work with the athletes on a regular basis and they have had the opportunity to evaluate the athlete's strengths and weaknesses objectively. Focus your energy toward being a supporter of the team and do not waste it tearing the team down. Remember, every team is composed of three groups; athletes, coaches, parents. Be a positive part of the team.
8. Emphasize good sportsmanship with your student/athlete. Win or lose, they must show respect for their opponent and demonstrate the maturity necessary to show class. In addition, encourage your student/athlete to respect the authority of the officials. Remember, self-respect begins with self-control.
9. Emphasize that "team" must take precedence over the individual. Recognition of an individual's contributions happens at the end of the season. Recognition is directly affected by the success of the team and the individual's contributions to the team's success. Remember, there is no "I" in the word team.
10. The lessons learned through athletic competition are lessons for life. The skills learned are for leisure in the future. Keep sport in perspective.

# Tecumseh Local School District

## Acknowledgement of Extracurricular Code

I acknowledge having received a copy of the Extracurricular Code; having the Code reviewed with me by school personnel; being instructed to read and study the Code and; being told to share this with my parents for their review and general information.

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Student Name - Printed

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Student Signature

Date

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Parent/Guardian Signature

Date