



ATHLETIC CODE OF CONDUCT

Participation in interscholastic athletics is a privilege which provides many benefits. Copley-Fairlawn City Schools challenges its athletes with additional expectations and responsibilities. In their pursuit of success in athletics, the athletes of Copley-Fairlawn City Schools are expected to conduct themselves as young men and women who understand the value of healthy bodies and minds. To this end, the following rules and regulations have been developed to help guide our student athletes as they participate in athletics. These rules and regulations are to be read in conjunction with Board of Education Policy and the Student Code of Conduct.

1. The use, possession, or sale of alcohol or illegal/non-prescription/counterfeit drugs will not be tolerated. The consequences for violation of this rule are as follows:

First Offense: An athlete found in violation of the aforementioned alcohol/drug rule will be prohibited from athletic participation by the Superintendent, Principal, Athletic Administrator, and/or Assistant Principal for a minimum of 50% of the contests (including regular season and tournaments), based upon the number of scheduled events. If the athlete agrees to complete an approved substance abuse assessment and successfully follows the recommendations made, the prohibition will be reduced to a minimum denial of participation of 25% of the contests. Refusal or failure to successfully complete the approved assessment and/or to follow the recommendations made may result in a further prohibition, up to and including full denial of athletic participation. Student athletes will not be permitted to avoid the application of this rule by virtue of the timing of any infraction. If a violation occurs at or near the end of a sport season, or if the athlete is not in season at the time of the violation, then the penalty will be appropriately adjusted and/or applied to the next in-season sport in which the athlete is a regular participant, i.e., a sport in which the student athlete has participated in previously. Further, student athletes prohibited from participation under this rule may not avoid the consequences of a denial of participation by trying out for a new sport, i.e., one in which the student athlete is not a regular participant. In such cases, the prohibition would apply to the new sport and the next sport in which the student athlete is a regular participant.

Second offense: An athlete found in violation for a second time under this rule will be prohibited from participating in all athletics for a minimum of one calendar year from the date of the violation.

Third offense: An athlete found in violation of this rule will be denied participation in athletics indefinitely.

Additional conditions: Penalties for any violation of the alcohol/drug rule shall apply to conduct occurring on school property, at a school or school related function, or if otherwise admitted by the student athlete and/or confirmed by the police. Violations of the alcohol/drug rule may result, at the discretion of the administration, in a loss of any or all post-season recognition for the athlete, including but not limited to attendance at any awards function. Prohibitions from participation imposed for violation of the alcohol/drug rule apply to all levels of athletic competition.

Coach Referrals: Coaches are expected to make referrals to the C.A.R.E. Coordinator for any student athlete reasonably suspected to be engaged in substance abuse. If this referral results in a recommendation for further assessment, the parents of the student athlete will be so advised. A failure to submit to an assessment and/or follow the recommendations developed from that assessment may result in the denial of further athletic participation.



- 2.** The possession or use of any form of tobacco, E-cigarette, or vaping device and/or substance, will result in a minimum denial of participation in 25% of the contests of the current season and/or next season in which the athlete is a regular participant, depending upon the timing of the violation.
- 3.** The student athletes participating in the Copley-Fairlawn City Schools sports programs must not engage in acts such as assault, sexual misconduct, theft, vandalism, destruction of property or any other conduct which is of a criminal nature or results in prosecution. Violation of this rule may result in an immediate prohibition from athletic participation for the remainder of the present season and, at the discretion of the administration, may be adjusted and/or extended up to and including an indefinite prohibition depending upon the nature of the violation. This rule shall be applied to student athletes on the date they are determined by the administration to have engaged in or are otherwise found guilty of any of the aforementioned or related acts of misconduct.
- 4.** The athletes participating in Copley-Fairlawn City School sports must follow the specific academic eligibility guidelines adopted by the Ohio High School Athletic Association and the Copley-Fairlawn Board of Education (provided by AD/Coach).
- 5.** The athletes participating in Copley-Fairlawn City School sports must return all school issued equipment, such as uniforms and protective gear or make payment for lost items prior to being released to participate in a sport during the next sports season. The replacement cost of lost items is determined by the coach and athletic director.
- 6.** The athletes participating in Copley-Fairlawn City School sports must follow the Athletic Code of Conduct, the Student Code of Conduct, and the individual coach's Code of Conduct. Violation of rules contained in these codes of conduct will result in disciplinary action enacted by the coach of the sport in season. Each coach must prescribe rules and regulations for his/her sport. These must be made available to athletes and their parents. Parental and student signatures on the Coach's Code of Conduct indicate that both parents and athletes understand the rules. The following are rules that may be included, but not necessarily be limited to: Absence or tardiness to practice or game; attitude or behavior detrimental to the team; violation of athletic safety rules; curfew violation.
- 7.** If an athlete misses more than $\frac{1}{2}$ day of school (4 hours), then he/she is not eligible to participate in an athletic event that day or evening. Extenuating circumstances can be appealed to administration (e.g. funerals).



ALCOHOL

A student shall not possess, use, transmit, sell/buy, offer to sell, conceal, consume, or display evidence of consumption of alcohol or similar intoxicants. Possession, use, sharing, giving with others of alcohol or related intoxicants is prohibited. Any type of alcohol paraphernalia is prohibited. Any student found supplying, selling, or distributing alcohol as defined in Section 2925.01 (P) of the O.R.C. may face the same consequences

DRUGS

A student shall not possess, use, transmit, sell/buy, offer to sell, conceal, consume, or display evidence of consumption of illegal substances, narcotics, inhalants, prescription drugs or intoxicants. Possession, use, sharing, giving with others of over-the-counter drugs is prohibited. Any type of drug paraphernalia is prohibited. Any student found supplying, selling, or distributing a controlled chemical or counterfeit drug as defined in Section 2925.01 (O) of the O.R.C. may face consequences.

HARASSMENT/HAZING/BULLYING

Any type of aggressive behavior which occurs while a student is in route to or from school, in addition to behavior that occurs at school or school events is strictly prohibited.

- **Verbal:** Written or oral innuendoes, comments, jokes, insults, threats or disparaging remarks including a person's gender, national origin, religious beliefs, appearance, personal traits, socioeconomic status, family, class rank, etc. toward a fellow student, staff member, or any other person associated with the district is strictly prohibited. Conducting a "campaign of silence" is considered a form of harassment.
- **Nonverbal:** Placing objects, pictures, or graphic commentaries in the school environment or making insulting or threatening gestures toward a fellow student, staff member, or other person associated with the district is strictly prohibited. "Cyber bullying" by computer, cell phone or other technology to support deliberate, repeated and hostile behavior by an individual or group that is intended to harm others is prohibited.
- **Physical:** Any intimidating or disparaging action such as hitting, shoving, hissing, or spitting on a fellow student, staff member, or other person associated with the district is strictly prohibited.

Any student who believes that he/she is a victim of any of the above actions, or who has observed such actions taken by another student, staff member, or other person associated with the school district should report the incident to a building principal. The student may make contact by a written report, telephone, or personal visit. During this contact the reporting student should provide the name of the person(s) whom he/she believes to be responsible for the harassment and the nature of the harassing incident(s). A written summary of each report is to be prepared promptly and forwarded to Pupil Services. Each report received by a designated person shall be investigated in a timely and confidential manner. While a charge is under investigation, no information is to be released to anyone who is not involved with the investigation, except as may be required by law or in the context of a legal or administrative proceeding. No one involved is to discuss the subject outside of the investigation.



TOBACCO

A student shall not possess, use, transmit, sell/buy, offer to sell/buy, conceal, consume, or display evidence of use/consumption of tobacco on school grounds before, during or after school hours, or at any school activity, home or away. This violation includes holding or passing a cigarette, cigar, pipe, chewing tobacco or any other tobacco paraphernalia in or on any vehicle on school grounds, buildings, or school owned vehicles. Smoking material does not have to be lit for student to be in violation of this rule.

E-Cigarettes/Vaping

A student shall not possess, use, transmit, sell/buy, offer to sell/buy, conceal, consume, or display evidence of use/consumption of e-cigarettes/vaping on school grounds before, during or after school hours, or at any school activity, home or away. This violation includes holding or passing a e-cigarette, e-cigarette oil, or any other e-cigarette/vaping paraphernalia in or on any vehicle on school grounds, buildings, or school owned vehicles. Smoking material does not have to be lit for student to be in violation of this rule. *E-Cigarettes, e-cigarette oil, and related paraphernalia is turned over to the police department for further testing. If prohibited substances are subsequently identified, further consequences may be administered according to the alcohol and/or drug rules in this handbook.*

Eligibility

To be eligible (in grades 9-12) a student must be currently enrolled and must have been enrolled in school in the immediately preceding grading period. During the preceding grading period the student must have received a minimum of a 1.0 GPA and passed a minimum of five (5) one credit courses (or the equivalent). Students will be required to participate in Academic Study Tables if their GPA is below a 2.0 during an athletic season. These rules apply to any extracurricular activity at Copley High School, although individual advisors may have more strict requirements. In addition to grade/credit requirements, students who participate in extra-curricular activities are also required to abide by specific non-use policies that prohibit the use of drugs, alcohol and tobacco (see code of conduct). Students disciplined for violating substance policies as stated in the code of conduct may be eliminated from participation in extra-curricular activities. Students who are participating in or attending any extra-curricular activities/athletics must be in class for at least 4.0 hours on the day of the activity. Students who are absent from school on Friday are still permitted to attend/participate in Saturday events.

COVID-19 Compliance

To be eligible for athletic participation, all students, staff, spectators, and anyone else involved with Copley-Fairlawn City Schools athletic program, agree to fully comply with all COVID-19 mitigation and prevention requirements. This includes but is not limited to, wearing a facial covering, maintaining six feet of social distance, practicing good hand hygiene, avoiding mass gatherings, performing a daily self-health assessment, staying home when showing symptoms, immediately reporting to the athletic director any exposure to COVID-19 positive, and any other COVID-19 prevention requirements, guidelines and protocols. Additionally, compliance with all Ohio Department of Health, Summit County Public Health, CDC, and OHSAA guidelines, requirements, and protocols. Failure to comply with any of these items will result in suspension from the team, denial of the right to attend events, and or removal from the team and/or event.