

Fowlerville High School



2017-2018

Student Athlete Handbook



Fowlerville High School Athletics

STUDENT ATHLETE HANDBOOK

Updated July 2017

The Fowlerville Community Schools Athletic Department is the educational department of the school system whose purpose is to provide and promote interscholastic athletics for the young men and women of our school district. The Athletic Department is responsible to the Fowlerville Board of Education and the Michigan High School Athletic Association.

The Fowlerville High School Athletic Department strives to provide interscholastic athletic competition as a valuable part of the student's total education. Athletics is a tool used to help our students grow and mature socially as well as physically. Every student is offered the opportunity to participate and mature through the athletic programs.

Participation on any athletic team is a privilege and not a right. Very serious misconduct or a training rule infraction which involves federal, state, or local ordinance, or any other act which brings disgrace or undue notoriety to Fowlerville Community Schools, the community, or individual, will result in an investigation by the coach, athletic director and school administrators.

Certain policies and procedures are established as standards of a well-disciplined interscholastic athletic program. Student athletes are required to exhibit good sportsmanship and proper conduct in school, in the community, and during competition. Proper conduct includes abstaining from the use of drugs, alcohol and tobacco as well as staying away from other people who may be using substances.

Coaches may have individual team rules that differ from the athletic department's minimal standards. Coaches' rules may be more demanding, but not less demanding than these minimal standards. Each coach will distribute in writing his or her team rules, approved by the athletic director, at the beginning of the season.

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Registration Guidelines

- a) A high school (9th-12th grade) student athlete will pay a one-time registration fee of \$100 for the entire school year to participate in the athletic program. This fee is due before the first official practice (after tryouts) of the sport they are participating in or by the date announced at the parent meeting. There is no family limit, if there are concerns please contact the High School Athletic Office 223-6061.
- b) The Junior High school (7th-8th grade) student athlete will no longer be required to pay to participate in a JHS sponsored sport. Please encourage your student to participate in as many sports as possible.

2) Registration Regulations and Limitations

- a) The registration fee does not guarantee a student athlete playing time. The fee is used solely to defray the expenses of the athletic program.
- b) A student athlete who cannot pay the fee, due to financial difficulties, can apply to the athletic director for scholarship consideration. Forms are available in the athletic office; however, qualification is based upon need. All inquiries will be confidential.
- c) Registration is due before the first official practice of the sport they are participating in. A student athlete who does not make a team due to the team selection guidelines will not have to pay the registration fee for that specific sport.
- d) If a student athlete moves from the district, quits a team, or is removed from a team for disciplinary reasons, the student athlete registration fee will not be refunded. Registration fees will also not be refunded for student athletes who are academically ineligible.
- e) Registration checks should be made out to Fowlerville Athletics and must be returned to the high school athletic office.

3) Team Selection Guidelines

- a) In accordance with our overall athletic philosophy and our desire to see as many student athletes as possible participate in the athletic program while at Fowlerville High School, we encourage our coaches to keep as many student athletes as they can without unbalancing the integrity of their sport. Obviously, time, space, facilities, personal preference and other factors will place limitations on the most effective squad size for any particular sport. However, when developing your individual sport policy in this area, please strive to maximize the opportunities for our student athletes without diluting the quality of your program.
- b) Limitation of Team Membership
 - (1) Minimum and maximum team membership limits will be determined by the coaches of respective sports and the athletic director. In cases when the team selection guidelines are utilized, the coach should keep the athletic director informed concerning the method and time of selections.
- c) Responsibility
 - (1) Selecting the members of any of our athletic teams is the sole responsibility of the





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- coaches of those teams.
- (2) The student athlete's membership on any team is always subject to proper behavior and the following of specified team guidelines.
 - (3) Lower level coaches shall follow the policies as established by the head coach in that particular program when selecting team members.
 - (4) Prior to try-outs, the coach shall provide the following information to all candidates for the team:
 - (a) Extent of the try-out period
 - (b) Criteria used to select team
 - (c) Approximate number to be selected
 - (d) Practice commitment if they make the team
- d) Procedure
- (1) When team selection becomes necessary, the process should include these important elements:
 - (a) Have completed a minimum number of practices
 - (b) Be allowed, when possible, to compete in a scrimmage situation.
 - (c) Be informed by the coach of the selection and the reason for it in person.
 - (d) Selection lists should not be posted.
 - (2) Coaches should take the opportunity to discuss alternative possibilities for participation in the sport.
 - (3) If a coach foresees difficulties arising as a result of team selections, he/she should discuss the situation with the athletic director in advance.
- 4) Normal Level Participation
- a) Generally speaking, freshman teams are for freshmen, junior varsity teams are for sophomores, and varsity teams are for juniors and seniors. If an athlete is moved one or two levels, the following criteria should be adhered to:
 - (1) Coaches affected by the move should meet to discuss the following, with the outcome being positive for the student athlete:
 - (a) Academic Impact
 - (b) Emotional/Social Impact
 - (c) Student Athlete Safety
 - (d) Playing Time Standpoint
 - (2) Prior to contacting the parents; any movement of an athlete (up or down) will be discussed with the Athletic Director.
 - (3) Coaches involved in the move will contact the parents of the student athlete to:
 - (a) Discuss the pros and cons of the move
 - (b) Get input from the parent about the move
 - b) A final decision to move a student athlete will be made by the sport's varsity head coach and Athletic Director. This decision will be re-evaluated periodically during the season.





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5) Eligibility

- a) Every student athlete is eligible to compete in interscholastic athletics, provided the following requirements are fulfilled:
 - (1) Student athletes must follow the rules and regulations of Fowlerville High School and the Michigan High School Athletic Association.
 - (2) Previous Academic Credit Record – No student athlete shall compete in any athletic contest during any semester that does not pass 4 out of 6 classes of the last semester during which he or she shall have enrolled in grades nine to twelve, inclusive.
 - (3) Current Academic Credit Record – Weekly academic eligibility checks are required. If a student athlete is not passing 5 out of 6 classes when checked, that student is ineligible for competition until the next weekly check. If the student is passing 66% of his/her class load (4 of 6 classes) and becomes eligible prior to the next weekly check, the student can return to competition. An academic progress report must be completed by the student athlete and his/her teacher. Those failing three (3) or more classes are ineligible per MHSAA guidelines and are required to be held from competition until the next weekly check.
 - (4) The student athlete must pass and have on file in the athletic office a physical examination with parental signature of approval. Physicals performed after April 15th, are good the following athletic year.
 - (5) FHS athletes are expected to be in full attendance every day, practice or game day. Extenuating circumstances should be brought to the attention of the Athletic Director (orthodontist, doctor, funerals, etc.). Athletes are also expected to participate fully in each of their classes, **including physical education classes**.
 - (6) On the dates the student athlete has been scheduled to serve and chooses out-of-school suspension the student athlete is ineligible to participate and/or attend any athletic contest or practices. An athlete who is suspended in season will begin that suspension the day following the completion of the investigation.
 - (7) Based on the seriousness of the infraction, the athletic director in consultation with the principal and coach may suspend a student athlete from participating in practice or contests beginning immediately upon conclusion of the investigation.
 - (8) Student athletes who have not returned or paid for a previous season's uniform will not be allowed to participate in any other sport.

6) Violation of Student Athlete Code of Conduct

- a) When a student athlete voluntarily participates in a sport, he/she agrees to abide by the following training rules and regulations while in season. A season will be defined as the first mandatory day of practice until the final game.
- b) Alcohol and Drugs – Student athletes shall not knowingly possess, use, distribute, buy, sell, or be under the influence of any drug or alcoholic beverage. This definition also includes all





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prescription drugs obtained without authorization, and all prescribed and over-the-counter drugs being used in any way other than for medical purposes, in accordance with the directions for use provided in the prescription or by the manufacturer. This definition also includes any type of performance enhancing drugs. Student athletes may not host a 'party' where the student athlete has knowledge of underage drinking or illegal drug use. Any violation involving student athlete use, possession, or being under the influence of a controlled substance including alcohol, drugs, unauthorized mood-altering drugs, or "look alike chemicals" will result in the following:

- (1) First Offense
 - (a) Option 1: Suspension for one-half (1/2) of the season. (Half of the season scheduled events)
 - (b) Option 2: The student athlete and his/her parent(s) may have the option of bypassing the half-season suspension for 20% of the season suspension provided that they student athlete and his/her parent(s) agree that:
 1. A certified substance-abuse counselor approved by the school will evaluate the student athlete.
 2. The student athlete and his/her parent(s) shall follow the treatment program prescribed by said counselor.
 3. The parent shall provide proof of number one and two (above).
 4. The student athlete will attend a substance abuse class approved by the high school administration.
 5. The student athlete and parent(s) sign a "no-use" contract.
 6. If any of these steps are not followed, Option 1 will be enforced.
- (2) Second Offense
 - (a) A second violation of the student athlete handbook for the possession, use, or being under the influence of a controlled substance will result in a suspension for the remainder of the current school year.
- (3) Self-Referral
 - (a) Student athletes who feel that they have a substance use or abuse problem and seek support and assistance on their own will not jeopardize their participation in any athletic activity. The self-referral policy will only apply to student athletes who admit to a problem before a violation is determined by the school authorities.
- c) Tobacco/Chew – A student athlete shall not knowingly possess, use, transmit, or sell tobacco of any kind. Any violation involving student-athlete use or possession of tobacco shall result in the following (*Smoking, Use or Possession of Electronic/Vapor Cigarettes or Smoking Related Products/Paraphernalia "non-illicit or controlled substance" are also included in this category*):
 - (1) First Offense
 - (a) Option 1: Suspension for one-half (1/2) the season. (Half of season scheduled events)
 - (b) Option 2: The student athlete and his/her parent(s) may have the option of bypassing the half-season suspension for 20% of the season suspension provided





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that they student athlete and his/her parent(s) agree that:

1. The student athlete and his/her parent(s) shall follow a program recommended by the athletic director and high school administration.
2. The parent shall provide proof of number one.
3. The student athlete and parent(s) sign a “no-use” of tobacco contract.
4. If any of the above steps are not followed; option number one will be enforced.

(2) Second Offense

- (a) A second violation of the student athlete handbook for the possession or use of any kind of tobacco will result in suspension for the remainder of the current school year.

7) Hazing

- a) Soliciting, encouraging, aiding, or engaging in “hazing” on or in any school property at any time, or in connection with any activity supported or sponsored by the district, whether on or off school property, is strictly prohibited.
- b) “Hazing” means any intentional knowing or reckless act meant to induce physical pain, embarrassment, humiliation, deprivation of rights or that creates physical or mental discomfort, and is directed against a student for the purpose of being initiated into, affiliating with, holding office in, or maintaining membership in any organization, club or athletic team sponsored or supported by the district and whose membership is totally or predominately other students from the district.
- c) Student athletes engaging in any hazing or hazing-type behavior that is, in any way, connected to any activity sponsored or supported by the district, will be subject to one or more of the following disciplinary actions:
 - (1) Removal from participation in extra-curricular activities
 - (2) Conference with parent(s)/guardian(s)
 - (3) Suspension from school for up to 10 days
 - (4) Long-term suspension for the remainder of the school term
 - (5) Long-term suspension for the remainder of the school year (i.e., longer than one term or semester, but less than a full school year).
 - (6) Referral to an appropriate law enforcement agency
 - (7) Permanent expulsion from the school district

8) Misconduct

- a) Very serious misconduct or a training rule infraction which involves federal, state, or local ordinance, or any other act which brings disgrace or undue notoriety to the Fowlerville Community Schools, the community, or individual, will result in an investigation by the coach, athletic director and school administrators. This includes attending a party where the student athlete has knowledge of underage drinking or illegal drug use.





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- b) The discipline penalty shall be determined by the coach, athletic director, and principal, and may range from a one-contest suspension up to termination from all athletic participation.
- c) This policy shall be included in all student handbooks of the district and shall be disseminated to the public in a manner to be determined by the superintendent.

9) Disciplinary Process

- a) A notice of the violation of the athletic training code will be presented in writing to the student and his/her parent(s). This notice will state the violation and the penalties if any. A student athlete will be given an opportunity for an appeal with the building principal if his/her parent(s) indicate the desire for one. A hearing shall be held to allow the student athlete and his/her parent(s) to contest the facts, which may have led to the disciplinary action, or to contest the appropriateness of the sanction imposed. The student athlete shall remain suspended during all phases of the appeal process.
 - (1) Terms of Suspension
 - (a) The student athlete must continue to meet all academic and interscholastic regulations.
 - (b) The student athlete will continue to practice, travel with the team, sit on the bench (but not suit up for contest), and assist the team and coach. This requirement may be waived if deemed in the best interest of the student athlete or the team.
 - (c) If a suspension occurs late in the season and the number of the contests remaining in the season is less than the number of contests required by the suspension, the suspension will extend into the next competitive season. The student will remain a member in good standing for the remainder of that season.

10) Detentions

- a) Detentions must be served before attending practice or participating in a contest unless excused by the athletic director, and/or principal or assistant principal.

11) Reinstatement

- a) Student athletes are automatically reinstated after meeting all terms of suspension.

12) Awards

- a) Student athletes are recognized for their participation and contribution to their respective teams. Their individual team, coaches, and athletic director determine criteria for the winning of an award. In order to receive an award, the student athlete must be a team member in good academic standing and have met all team requirements.
 - (1) Certificate - Each student athlete who participates the entire season will receive a certificate, which denotes the achievement of the student.
 - (2) Letters - The student athlete who has met the qualifications for a varsity letter will receive a letter "F" and the numerals of the graduating year for a first varsity award.





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Succeeding varsity award winners will receive a pin.

- (3) Senior Varsity Award - A senior certificate will be awarded to any senior who participates their senior year.
 - (4) Four-Year Awards - The student athlete who has participated and completed each season in a particular sport for four (4) years will receive a special award.
 - (5) CAAC Student Athlete Award - The Capital Area Activities Conference principals and athletic directors honor student athletes for their academic achievement based on the following criteria:
 - (a) Must have earned two varsity letters in senior year.
 - (b) Cheerleading counts as one sport/per season.
 - (c) Manager letters do not count.
 - (d) Top 10 GPA determines qualifiers.
 - (6) Tri-Athlete Award - Each student athlete who participates in three (3) seasons for Fowlerville will receive recognition, which denotes the achievement of the student.

(a) Dual sport participation does not count.
 - (7) Ironman/Ironwoman - Each student athlete who participates in four (4) years of three(3) seasons for Fowlerville will receive recognition at Senior Athletic Awards Night.

(a) Dual sport participation does not count.
- 13) Medical Treatment & Training Room
- a) Student athletes are required to report all injuries to their coach.
 - b) If a student athlete is referred to a physician, a written medical progress report must be given to the coach before any further participation is to take place.
 - c) The student athlete is to inform the coach if he/she is taking any type of prescribed medicine or any other medical problems, such as diabetes, epilepsy, etc.
 - d) The student athlete must be under a coach's direction or supervision when using the training room/weight room facility.
- 14) Equipment
- a) Student athletes are financially responsible for all equipment and uniforms issued to them. All equipment must be turned in at the conclusion of the season or when the student athlete leaves the team, whichever comes first.
 - b) Each participant is required to check his/her equipment daily and report the need for any repairs to the coach.
 - c) **All equipment must be kept clean.** Practice gear should be washed at least once a week. Protective pads should also be kept clean.
 - d) Student athletes who have not returned or paid for a previous season's uniform will not be allowed to participate in any other sport, nor participate in commencement.





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15) Travel and Transportation

- a) Good conduct is expected at all times while on trips.
- b) All rules and regulations pertaining to Fowlerville bus travel are to be strictly adhered to on athletic trips.
- c) Appropriate dress is a must on all trips. (Coaches will determine the appropriate dress needed for their respective teams.)
- d) All athletic trips are to be made in school busses and/or vehicles as arranged by the athletic director.
- e) Under special circumstances, parents may pick up their son/daughter at the site of an athletic contest for the purpose of taking them home or to another destination provided (1) arrangements have been made with the coach or the athletic department, in advance, and (2) the parent(s) identifies himself/herself in person to the coach to take custody of the student for this purpose after the contest. Student athletes will never be released for this purpose to anyone except their parent(s) or legal guardian. Student athletes are expected to travel with the team unless this criteria is met.

16) Vacation Policy

- a) Vacations during a student athlete's season are discouraged. A vacation is defined as planned time away from a team's practice/game schedule. If a vacation is unavoidable:
 - (1) Two weeks prior to the vacation student athlete will contact the head coach.
 - (2) The student must be willing to assume all consequences related to his/her playing time.

17) Dual Participation

- a) Student athletes should indicate interest to coaches involved well before the season affected.
- b) In-season coaches will inform the athletic director of the student athlete's intentions and to confirm with both head coaches and assistant coaches as well, that everyone is in agreement.
- c) If in agreement, a meeting with the student athlete, coaches, parents and athletic director should be held before pre-season practices begin. At this meeting the following agenda must be completed:
 - (1) The student athlete must declare a primary sport
 - (2) A schedule must be presented that will layout a complete practice schedule as well as what contest the student athlete will be present. The schedule must be agreed upon by the parents, student athlete and coaches.
 - (3) If there is a conflict, the primary sport has precedence and the student athlete will go to that game or contest.
- d) The student athlete must have a proven solid academic record, as time management becomes a big factor in a decision like this. Regular eligibility rules will apply for the athlete.
- e) It must be understood that any time during the agreement, the athletic director and/or parents may dissolve the agreement and the student athlete goes back to the primary sport with no repercussions.





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18) Conflicts in School Sponsored Extracurricular Activities

- a) Individuals, who attempt to participate in numerous extracurricular activities, may be in a position to have a conflict of obligations. Student athletes are responsible for looking ahead at practice and game schedules to locate possible conflicts.
- b) When conflicts do arise, the coach and sponsor of the activity will get together and try to work out a solution. If a conflict cannot be resolved, the principal will make the decision.

19) Conflicts in Non-School Sponsored Activities

- a) Student athletes participating in non-school-sponsored activities (employment and clubs) along with school sports are expected to treat the school sport as the primary activity. In the event that conflicts arise, the student athlete must be willing to assume any possible consequences related to his/her playing time.

20) Risk of Participation

- a) All student athletes and parents must realize the risk of serious injury, which may be the result of athletic participation. Fowlerville Community Schools will use the following safeguards to make every effort to eliminate injury:
 - (1) An athletic trainer will be on-site at home contests whenever possible.
 - (2) Coaches will instruct all student athletes about the possible dangers of participation in a particular sport.

21) Insurance

- a) Fowlerville Community Schools does not carry hospitalization and medical insurance on student athletes. All injuries and transportation expenses incurred by the student athlete are the primary responsibility of the parent or guardian.
- b) Michigan High School Athletic Association does offer Catastrophic Accident Insurance and coverage for head injuries/concussions. For more details, please visit:
 - i) <https://www.mhsaa.com/portals/0/documents/health%20safety/NewInsBenefit.pdf>

