

Every child. Every opportunity. Every time.



**Code of Conduct  
for  
Student-Athletes**  
2024-2025

# Kalamazoo Public Schools

Every child. Every opportunity. Every time.

Dear Student-Athletes and Parents/Guardians:

We are pleased that you have chosen to participate in the Kalamazoo Public Schools' Interscholastic Athletic Program. This involvement can be an important part of your educational experience and can contribute to your social, physical, and intellectual development.

The Kalamazoo Public Schools and the Board of Education have adopted policy and procedures to ensure consistency within the administration of our programs at the secondary level. This document has been prepared so that everyone has a full understanding of the expectations for participation in all sports programs.

Participation in athletics is a privilege that comes with responsibilities. Most important of these responsibilities is that each student maintain the minimum grade point average for his or her educational level noted in this document. It is critical that students maintain good academic standing if they are to participate in interscholastic athletics. In addition, it is important that every student-athlete represent appropriately his or her school and the district.

We ask that you, as a family, read and review the *Code of Conduct for Student-Athletes*. The acknowledgement form at the back of the booklet must be returned to the athletic director before you can participate.

Good luck as you continue to broaden your educational pursuits.

Sincerely,



Craig McCane  
Director of Secondary Education

KPS Board of Education

**POLICY STATEMENT**

District athletic programs will foster and support student-athletes in their academic achievement and character development.

Policy 5.5 Student Athletics  
Adopted, January 2003

**TITLE IX Policy 3.2 Non-discrimination**

Kalamazoo Public Schools welcomes all students and staff of any religion, race, color, national origin, age, sex, pregnancy, gender identification, height, weight, familial status, marital status, sexual orientation, and disability.

The District will not tolerate or condone any act of bias or discrimination toward any person on the basis of religion, race, color, national origin, age, sex, pregnancy, gender identification, height, weight, familial status, marital status, sexual orientation, and disability in any of its activities, hiring practices, programs or services.

**PHILOSOPHY INTER-SCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS**

**District**

The athletic programs in the Kalamazoo Public Schools (KPS) will provide an enjoyable, physically challenging and rewarding experience for eligible student-athletes. KPS is committed to athletic programs that develop skills and traits essential for successful living. These traits include, but are not limited to, acceptance of responsibility, dedication to task, punctuality, self-discipline, leadership, respect for authority, respect for others and self, teamwork, effective communication, a healthy work ethic, physical fitness and the ability to deal with winning and losing. Encouraging participation of all student-athletes and giving individuals the opportunity to succeed at their own level of ability will help enable them to achieve these desirable characteristics. The competitive environments created will foster student-athletes to accomplish their best.

**Secondary Teams** will provide student-athletes equal opportunity to be selected as a member of a sports team based on the student-athlete's eligibility, skill level, motivation and attitude. The program emphasizes sports skills, character development, sportsmanship and enjoyment. Team members will be encouraged to apply their skills and excel in competitive situations.

**Middle School Teams** will build upon the basic skills and concepts introduced in the elementary physical education program, Physical fitness, conditioning, teamwork, fundamentals, and enjoyment will be emphasized. All interested and academically eligible student-athletes have a right to participate in competitive activities at a level commensurate with abilities as a member of an interscholastic team.

**Freshman Teams** will serve as developmental programs with emphasis on basic skills, introduction to varsity program philosophy and creation of school pride and enthusiasm.

**Junior Varsity Teams** will begin to understand the meaning of a winning team concept. They will promote further skill development, preparing the student-athletes physically, emotionally and mentally for every aspect of being a varsity participant.

**Varsity Teams** will maintain a major emphasis on the development of highly skilled, motivated, well-conditioned student-athletes who are mentally and emotionally prepared to play. These teams will always exhibit pride, sportsmanship, enthusiasm and team unity. Individual and team competitive success is a significant element of the varsity program.

### **Playing Time**

Student-athletes at all levels of the sport are not guaranteed playing time. The coach and assistants shall determine the playing time.

## **PARTICIPATION IN ATHLETICS**

- Student-athletes are free to make their own selection of the sports in which they wish to participate.
- Coaches select student-athletes in a manner consistent with all Board policies and procedures.
- Student-athletes may be dropped from a team because of lack of physical and mental fitness, inadequate application to work, insufficient cooperation with the team or coaches, and/or failure to observe training rules and regulations.
- Student-athletes are expected to remain a team member for the full season. When a student-athlete begins a season (dresses for the first contest in that sport), participation will not be allowed in the next sport until the completion of the original season unless cleared by the athletic director.

- In order to receive an award, student-athletes shall maintain team membership. In addition, the student-athlete shall return equipment, attend all team meetings, maintain the Kalamazoo Public Schools' *Code of Conduct for Student-Athletes* and must make every effort to attend the sports awards program.
- Student-athletes who are absent from a practice session must notify the coach prior to the practice time.

### **REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICIPATION**

Student-athletes are eligible to participate in any sport when the following procedures are completed and are on file in the Athletic Office:

- A physical examination
- All satisfied eligibility requirements
- All forms: emergency medical treatment card, permission to participate, proof of residency and the *Code of Conduct for Student-Athletes Acknowledgement Form*
- Fee for sports insurance paid in full
- Full day of attendance or a verified excuse for absence on all practice and game days consistent with the District's attendance policy.

### **ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY**

Participation in interscholastic athletics is a privilege and must be balanced with successful academic achievement. Kalamazoo Public Schools' student-athletes in grades 6-12 are required to maintain a minimum grade point average (GPA), established by the District, to be eligible to participate in inter-scholastic athletics. All references to grade point average refer to the GPA earned at the end of a marking period (Middle School) except in those instances where a trimester GPA may be used. Students who successfully complete summer school may present those grades to the athletic director for eligibility consideration.

### **MIDDLE SCHOOL**

- All middle school student-athletes will be subject to weekly grade reviews.
- All sixth grade student-athletes are eligible to participate in cross country, wrestling, and track and field.

## ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY

### MIDDLE SCHOOL

- All student-athletes must meet the minimum academic eligibility set forth by MHSAA.
- The middle school interscholastic athletic program will begin during the first marking period of the sixth grade year.
- Grade Point Averages (GPAs) will be examined at the end of each marking period to establish the academic eligibility status of middle school student-athletes to participate in the interscholastic athletic program. Student-athletes who are academically eligible will lose their eligibility if the GPA standard is not met at the end of the marking period. Students who are academically ineligible will regain their eligibility at the end of a marking period if the GPA standard for their class/trimester is met.
- All student-athletes must maintain a 2.5 GPA beginning with the second marking period of the sixth grade year to be eligible to fully participate in the interscholastic athletic program.
- All middle school student-athletes with a GPA of at least 1.5, but less than 2.0 in the current marking period may practice with a team, but may not participate in a contest until a 2.0 GPA has been achieved as indicated by the weekly grade check.
- Student-athletes whose GPA is 1.5 or greater, but less than 2.5 must attend the Academic Support Service Program for a minimum of 90 minutes per week during the entire sports season and actively work towards reaching a 2.5 GPA.
- Student-athletes who fail to attend mandatory Academic Support Service sessions become ineligible to participate the following week, until successful completion of the 90 minutes of academic support and a 2.5 GPA is obtained after a weekly grade check is done on the last day of the school week.
- **Student-athletes whose GPA falls below 1.5, shall be ineligible to participate in middle school sports.** Transfer student-athletes will be subject to the MHSAA standards for initial eligibility. Thereafter they will be subject to the appropriate standards for their grade level after completing a full six-week marking period in KPS.

## **ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY**

### **HIGH SCHOOL**

- All student-athletes must meet the minimum academic eligibility set forth by MHSAA.
- All 9th grade student-athletes will be eligible to participate in interscholastic athletic programs until the first grade review of the fall athletic season.
- All student-athletes must pass 4 out of 5 classes in their previous trimester.
- All student-athletes must also be passing 4 out of 5 classes in the current trimester.
- Credits earned during summer school can be applied to the previous trimester grades to help a student obtain eligibility.

### **ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY APPEAL PROCESS**

An appeals process for waiver of academic eligibility requirements is available to participants. Student-athletes have the opportunity to document extreme and/or extenuating circumstances that prevented them from meeting the eligibility standards of the District. The building principal's decision will be final.

In partnership with  
**The Kalamazoo Public Schools'**  
***Student Code of Conduct***

The primary purpose of the school is teaching and learning. To protect each student-athlete's rights, rules and regulations governing student-athlete conduct and discipline have been developed. The *Code of Conduct for Student-Athletes* outlines those behavior standards; and if violated may result in some form of disciplinary action, up to and including expulsion from school.

Student-athletes suspended from school are not allowed to attend regular classes or participate in athletic events. Suspension is a loss of all social privileges, including being on school property at any time during the suspension. Whenever there is a violation of the *Student Code of Conduct* or this *Code*, the principal/designee shall be the key investigator and will determine the appropriate consequences. The following behaviors constitute a violation of the *Code* and subject the student to penalty as outlined in the "penalties" section and are *applicable to the calendar year (365 days)*. In addition to the *Student Code of Conduct*, consequences for student-athletes participating in interscholastic athletics have been developed for violations related to minors' illegal use of mood-altering substances such as alcohol and/or drugs, steroids to enhance physical performance as well as the use of tobacco products. ***These consequences are in effect 12 months / 7 days a week / 24 hours a day.***

**Alcohol, Steroid, and Substance Abuse**

The use, possession, concealment, distribution, sale or being under the influence of one or more of the following is considered alcohol, steroid or substance abuse:

- Tobacco or tobacco products in any form
- E-cigarettes or "vaping" in any form
- Alcohol or alcoholic beverages in any form
- Illegal drugs, including but not limited to, those substances defined as "controlled substances" pursuant to federal and/or state statute
- Steroids, human growth hormones, or other performance-enhancing drugs
- Substances purported to be illegal, abusive, or performance enhancing.



### **Prescription Medication**

Student-athletes in possession of a prescription or patent drug issued by a licensed physician, and has permission to use in school as outlined in Board policy, shall not be considered in violation. A student-athlete shall notify his/her coach if taking a prescription medicine that could alter the student-athlete's behavior or affect the student-athlete's ability to participate in the activity.

### **Confirmation of Rule Violation**

A rule violation shall be considered confirmed when:

- A participant admits that he/she has violated the *Code*.
- A participant's parent/guardian confirms to school authorities the violation of the *Code*.
- A student-athlete is caught violating the District's *Student Code of Conduct* by a teacher, administrator, counselor, coach, staff, parent or other responsible official.
- Any other situation verified by the principal/designee.

### **Penalties**

Penalties shall be cumulative from the freshman through senior year. This means that the penalties carry over from one sports season to the next. Any suspension that cannot be completed during the competitive season in which the violation occurs, shall be carried over into the next competitive season in which the student participates.

In addition to the penalties below (and on pages 8-9), any student-athlete found in violation of the *Code of Conduct for Student-Athletes* must seek counseling from a recognized community agency or professional person knowledgeable in the treatment of chemical or drug usage prior to being readmitted to athletic activities. Exception to the penalties below is not permitted for a student-athlete who is involved in a treatment program.

**First Violation:** The student-athlete shall **lose eligibility for 25%** of that sport's originally scheduled events. The exclusion shall be consecutive, starting with the next scheduled event. However, the student-athlete *may continue* to practice.

**Second Violation:** The student-athlete shall **lose eligibility 50%** of that sport's originally scheduled events. The exclusion shall be consecutive, starting with the next scheduled event. However, student-athlete *may continue* to practice.

## **PENALTIES** (*continued*)

**Third Violation:** Student-athletes shall **lose eligibility** for participation in all athletic arenas for **one calendar year** (365 days). In addition, the student-athlete cannot practice.

**Fourth Violation:** The student-athlete may **no longer participate in a sport**.

### **RESUMING ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION**

A mandatory meeting shall be held with the student-athlete, parent/guardian, principal or designee, and coach before being readmitted to activities following suspension. At the meeting, the student-athlete shall show evidence, in writing, to the principal or designee that he/she has received counseling from a recognized community agency or professional person knowledgeable in the treatment of chemical or drug usage.

### **ADDITIONAL REGULATIONS AND INFORMATION for Students Participating in Athletics**

#### **SUSPENSIONS FROM SCHOOL**

Any student-athlete who is suspended from school for violation of the *Student Code of Conduct* will be ineligible to participate in practices or competitions during the length of the suspension.

#### **BULLYING**

Bullying is defined within MCL §380.1310b. Bullying is any written, verbal, or physical act, or any electronic communication, that is intended, or that a reasonable person would know is likely to harm, one or more students either directly or indirectly by doing any of the following:

- 1) Substantially interfering with education opportunities, benefits, or programs of one or more students.
- 2) Adversely affecting the ability of a student to participate in or benefit from the school district's or public school's educational programs or activities by placing the student in reasonable fear of physical harm or by causing substantial emotional distress.
- 3) Having an actual and substantial detrimental effect on a student's physical or mental health.
- 4) Causing substantial disruption in, or substantial interference with, the orderly operation of the school.

## **HAZING**

Hazing means an intentional, knowing, or reckless act by a person that is directed against an individual and that the person knew, or should have known, endangers the physical health or safety of the individual, and that is done for the purpose of pledging, being initiated into, participating in, or maintaining membership in any organization.

Student-athletes who are bullied or experience hazing should report the incident directly to his/her coach, assistant coach, or any building administrator with whom a comfortable relationship has been established. All reported allegations will be investigated and, when necessary, appropriate remedial action given. A substantiated charge will result in disciplinary action up to and including suspension or expulsion from an athletic event and/or school. Filing of a complaint or reporting hazing behavior will not reflect upon the individual's current or future participation status.

## **OTHER BEHAVIORS**

Student-athletes found in violation of any of the following behaviors may not practice or participate in any school sponsored event for 365 days from the day of the action:

- Striking a coach
- Convicted of a felony during the calendar year

## **APPEAL PROCEDURE**

The athletic director/designated school official may appeal any suspension for violation of this *Code* within five (5) school days from notification of the penalty.

- The appeal committee shall be composed of the director of student services, principal, athletic director, coach or designees.
- All appeals must be presented in writing and based on questions of fact and/or due process.
- The committee will render a written decision to the student-athlete and the parents/guardians within five (5) school days following receipt of the appeal.

### **CONFLICTS IN ACTIVITIES**

Student-athletes who attempt to participate in too many activities may be in a position of conflicting obligations. Student-athletes have a responsibility to do everything possible to avoid continuous conflicts; avoid participating in too many activities where conflicts are bound to happen, and be responsible for immediately notifying the coach when conflicts arise. Activities required as part of the curriculum take precedence, without consequence for the student-athlete, over athletic events.

### **PROCEDURE FOR DISCUSSING CONCERNS**

**First Step:** A meeting with the coach regarding concerns, questions and/or complaints from student-athletes and/or their parents.

**Second Step:** If there is not a satisfactory resolution at the meeting with the coach, the issues are then to be directed to the athletic director.

**Third Step:** If all involved parties have not reached an agreement, the issues are then directed to the assistant principal, principal, the director of secondary education, the assistant superintendent of student services; and finally, the superintendent of schools, in that order.

### **END-OF-SEASON OBLIGATIONS**

- Return all equipment, locks, practice gear and uniforms issued during the season to the coach.
- Make every effort to attend the season sports award program to receive appropriate awards.
- Fulfill all requirements associated with receiving special awards or recognitions such as photo sessions for all-conference and all-state awards.
- Meet all financial obligations to the school accrued while in the sport.
- Meet any other requirements/obligations as requested by the coach.

**INDIVIDUAL COACHES AND TEAMS WITHIN A SCHOOL  
MAY HAVE ADDITIONAL RULES NOT EXPLICITLY  
STATED IN THIS DOCUMENT.**

## **ATHLETIC INSURANCE PROCEDURES**

The Kalamazoo Public Schools requires the purchase of accidental insurance coverage for all middle school and high school athletes. Outlined below is information regarding this coverage. It is intended as a brief description for reference only, and is not the insurance policy.

The Kalamazoo Public Schools' insurance program is based on all players being covered with payment of claims **ONLY IN EXCESS OF ANY FAMILY OR EMPLOYER GROUP INSURANCE PLAN, AND AFTER THE FAMILY'S CONTRIBUTION HAS BEEN PAID IN FULL**. The accident program is supplemental coverage that will cover eligible claims not covered by the primary insurance carrier of the family. If there is no other insurance, it will cover eligible claims up to one year from the date of the accident or injury to a maximum of \$25,000 per claim.

Only **ACCIDENTS** that occur in school-sponsored and supervised interscholastic sports are covered. Definition of Accident: An unexpected, sudden and definable event which is the direct cause of a bodily injury, independent of any illness, prior injury, or congenital predisposition. Conditions that result from participating in any activity do not necessarily constitute accidents. For example, illnesses, diseases, degeneration, conditions caused by continued stress to a particular area of the body, and existing conditions aggravated by an accident are not covered.

The accident coverage will not cover expenses that are payable under a Health Maintenance Organization or Preferred Provider Organization type plan. It will cover eligible expenses not included in the HMO or PPO plan provided the authorized HMO or PPO medical providers are used.

This plan is excess only. It will not duplicate benefits paid or payable by an other insurance or plan including HMO's and PPO's.

Accidents must be reported to the school within 20 days.

Prior to the first practice for any sport, student-athletes must pay insurance costs in full.

The parent must first submit the claim to their primary insurance carrier.

**Claim Procedures**

- The parent/guardian completes a First Agency Accident Claim Form (available from the Athletic Director).
- The completed form is returned to the athletic office for signature and submission to First Agency for costs not covered by the primary insurance.
- The claim form must be received by First Agency within 90 days of injury.
- Medical treatment for a covered accident must begin within 60 days of that accident. Only expenses incurred within 52 weeks are considered.

**First Agency, Inc.  
5071 West "H" Ave.,  
Kalamazoo, Michigan 49009**

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**Acknowledgment Form**

***Code of Conduct for Student-Athletes***

COPY FOR YOUR RECORDS ONLY

**Kalamazoo Public Schools**

Student's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Class of \_\_\_\_\_

**Statement To Be Signed By The Student-Athlete**

I have received and read the *Code of Conduct for Student-Athletes* for Kalamazoo Public Schools. I understand the *Code* and accept my personal responsibility for following it in its entirety.

Student-Athlete's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**Statement To Be Signed By The Parent/Guardian**

I acknowledge receiving the *Code of Conduct for Student-Athletes* for Kalamazoo Public Schools and accept my responsibility for assisting my son/daughter to live up to its standards. I have also read and understand the spectators Code of Conduct.

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

**Coach will distribute forms to be signed and placed on file in the appropriate administrative/designee office prior to participation in ANY athletic events sponsored by the Kalamazoo Public Schools.**



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## Spectators Code of Conduct

All spectators in the Kalamazoo Public Schools are expected to exhibit the following behaviors:

- Treat each athletic event as a learning experience for the athlete.
- Respect the decisions of the coach, officials, and administration.
- Set a good example of sportsmanship.
- Emphasize teamwork with your student-athlete.
- Praise all participants in a contest.



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## **Kalamazoo Central High School ~ Maroon Giants**

Valerie Boggan, Principal  
Greg Straka, Athletic Director  
2432 N. Drake Rd.  
Kalamazoo, MI 49006  
269.337.0300  
maroongiants.com

## **Loy Norrix High School ~ Knights**

Christopher Aguinaga, Principal  
Andrew Laboe, Athletic Director  
606 E. Kilgore Rd.  
Kalamazoo, MI 49001  
269.337.0200  
Twitter @Insports  
Facebook Loy Norrix Athletics

## **Phoenix High School ~ Fury**

Ajamian Gardner, Principal  
Talisha Bridges, Athletic Director  
1411 Oakland Dr.  
Kalamazoo, MI 49008  
269.337.0760

## **Hillside Middle School ~ Eagles**

Atiba McKissack, Principal  
James Simon, Athletic Director  
1941 Alamo Ave.  
Kalamazoo, MI 49006  
269.337.0570

## **Linden Grove Middle School ~ Wildcats**

Michael Hughes, Principal  
Scott O'Day, Athletic Director  
4241 Arboretum Pkwy.  
Kalamazoo, MI 49006  
269.337.1740

## **Maple Street Magnet School ~ Falcons**

Dr. Jeffery Boggan, Principal  
Thomas Unangst, Athletic Director  
922 W. Maple St.  
Kalamazoo, MI 49008  
269.337.0730

## **Milwood Magnet School ~ Lancers**

William Hawkins, Principal  
Dudley Ollie, Athletic Director  
2916 Konkle St.  
Kalamazoo, MI 49001  
269.337.0670