

Tipton Middle School Athletic Handbook



TIPTON
BLUE DEVILS

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Section I. General Program Information

Athletic Department Contacts:

Athletic Director: Alec Weddell aweddell@tcsc.k12.in.us
Tipton Middle School Office: (765) 675-7521
Athletics Website www.tiptonathletics.com

Statement of Objectives

In order to provide a positive image of the school athletics at Tipton Middle School, the athletic program will endeavor to provide opportunities for:

1. Physical, mental and emotional growth and development.
2. Acquisition and development of special skills.
3. Team play with the development of such commitments as loyalty, cooperation, self-sacrifice, fair play, and other positive social traits.
4. Directed leadership and supervision that stresses self-discipline, self-motivation, excellence, and the ideals of good sportsmanship that make for winning and losing graciously.
5. The development of lasting friendships with both teammates and opponents.
6. The development of habits of health, sanitation, and safety.
7. A focus on interest in the athletic program for the student body, faculty, and community that will generate a feeling of unity.
8. Provisions for worthy use of leisure time both for the present and the future, either as a participant or spectator.

Gender Equality Mission Statement

The Board of School Trustees is committed to provide a fair and equitable opportunity for all student-athletes. Athletic competition is an integral part of the educational experience. No students shall be denied participation on the basis of gender. Gender equity is more than being compliant with the law. It is a spirit, a personal ethic, a commitment to do what is right and fair for all. Gender equity means creating and maintaining an environment where all opportunities and resources are fairly distributed. (See Policy 2260: NONDISCRIMINATION AND ACCESS TO EQUAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY)

Athletic Programs Offered

Tipton Middle School presently offers athletic programs as listed below per grade level:

6th Grade	7th Grade	8th Grade
Cross Country	Cross Country	Cross Country
Cheerleading	Football	Football
Girls Basketball	Volleyball	Volleyball
Boys Basketball	Cheerleading	Cheerleading
Swimming and Diving	Girls Basketball	Girls Basketball
Track and Field	Boys Basketball	Boys Basketball
Co-ed Golf	Swimming and Diving	Swimming and Diving
Wrestling	Track and Field	Track and Field
	Co-ed Golf	Co-ed Golf
	Wrestling	Wrestling

Section II. Student Athlete Eligibility

Completion of Required Forms

TCSC is moving to FinalForms and will no longer utilize Blue Cards:

A student/athlete is not eligible unless they have completed registration appropriate documents in FinalForms. Parents and Guardians may utilize the video at this link to complete registration <https://bit.ly/FinalFormsSetUp> FinalForms allows parents/guardians to register once for the whole year, using their SMARTphone and sends alerts for missing info and non-compliance. Completed Proper and current IHSAA physical forms signed by a medical professional must be delivered to the school for verification. All other permissions and forms have an electronic sign-off in FinalForms. These forms include:

1. Emergency medical form
2. Handbook consent
3. Drug policy form
4. Concussion form
5. Cardiac arrest form

Why use FinalForms?

- Communication-Administrators send reminders to coaches, parents, and students about upcoming events and changes in scheduling.
- Correct and Up to Date Student Information-Student data is saved

- season-to-season
- Quick access to emergency medical information

The student/athlete is not allowed to practice until everything is approved and marked green in FinalForms. **All forms must be updated and signed each year in FinalForms. Forms do not carry over to next school year.**

Evidence of both, the Consent and Release Certificate and the Physical Form, shall be on file in the Athletic Director's office prior to the student/athlete's first practice. Such a certificate will suffice for the entire school year unless some unforeseen problem occurs which requires a new examination by the student/athlete's doctor.

If a student/athlete is properly certified and an unforeseen problem occurs which requires a student/athlete to be absent from school for five consecutive days due to illness or injury, or who are physically unable to practice for five consecutive days due to illness or injury, must present to their principal a statement from a physician that he/she is again physically fit to participate in interschool athletics.

Conduct Policy

A code of conduct form is required to be signed by athletes and parents. This form expresses a commitment to good sportsmanship and behavior. The principal and athletic director have the right to expel an athlete from participating in that sport for any period of time because of misconduct in school. Any athlete expelled from a sport for disciplinary reasons, besides losing all awards for the season and being held responsible for any damages or restitution, will be subject to the following:

**1st Offense - No further penalty

**2nd Offense - Ineligible for the next sport season (may carry over to high school)

**3rd Offense - Ineligible for one calendar year (may carry over to high school)

Participation

It is the philosophy of the athletic department to avoid cutting participants whenever possible. However, there is a limit to the realistic number of participants that can be safely and effectively coached. It will be determined by the middle school coaching staff and the athletic director to determine the maximum number of participants per sport. Athletes at Tipton Middle School may not participate in contests designated for grade nine through twelve.

Boys will not be allowed to participate in any girl Sports. Where similar programs are available for both boys and girls, such as basketball, girls may not participate on the boys' teams.

However, since we do not offer a girls football team or girls wrestling, girls may participate in those sports after a meeting has been conducted with the participant, parent or guardian, and athletic director.

While it is the intent of each Athletic program to provide as much individual participation as possible, equal individual participation cannot be guaranteed. It will be left to the discretion of the coach(es) to determine playing positions and playing time in order to uphold athletic policies

and to maintain the competitiveness of the team. Parents wishing to discuss issues with coaches should do that at the end of practices or on an individual basis.

5th grade students interested in participating in a TMS athletic program will be allowed to do so on a case-by-case basis. The decision to allow this will be based on the coach's discretion, current program numbers, and only after a meeting with the TMS Athletic Director and the coach is held with the student and the student's parent/guardian to discuss program expectations and eligibility.

Athletic Insurance and Medical Expenses

Tipton Middle School does not provide athletic Insurance. All medical assistance and/or medical expenses will be assumed by the parent or Guardian. Athletes may obtain applications for supplemental insurance from the main office. However, Tipton Middle School is not an agent for any insurance company.

Change of Schools

An athlete must meet the eligibility requirements of Tipton Middle School. Upon enrollment at Tipton Middle School, a student-athlete may request to join a team, and the athletic director will review the request. Every effort will be made to ensure the student met eligibility requirements at their previous school. New enrollments may be required by coaches to participate in a "try out" period for sports that had to "cut" athletes at the beginning of the year.

Section III. Student Athlete Expectations

Attendance for Practice/School

An athlete must attend school for at least half of the day to be eligible for participation on any given day. If an athlete leaves school ill, they may not participate in a contest or practice that evening. This rule does not apply to those individuals who have a pre-arranged excuse from their parents or Guardian to leave school. Any exception to this rule must have prior approval from the athletic director or principal. Athletes are responsible for being present at all set meetings unless excused by the coach prior to the meeting. Any athlete who has more than two unexcused absences from practice may be dismissed from the team. A medical statement or excuse does not excuse an athlete from attending all meetings and/or practices if physically able. Athletes must have completed 10 separate days of organized practices before they are eligible to participate in an athletic contest.

Athletes MUST complete the first sports season before participating in any practices of the second sport. If there are at least five or more practices left of the second sport, the athlete must attend those five practices to be eligible to participate but may NOT participate in both sports in the same season. (i.e. Basketball season has ended, swimming has at least five or more practices left, the athlete must attend at least five swim practices before participating in a swimming contest) It is requested that parents refrain from attending all but the last 10 minutes of any practice.

TCSC Grade Policy regarding Athletic Eligibility

Students who do not meet the minimum academic requirements every three weeks will be placed on academic probation or academic watch.

A student will be placed on Academic Probation if they are failing 2 or more classes, and will remain on Academic Probation until a) they are passing all of their classes and b) are meeting a minimum GPA (6th Grade - 1.6 GPA, 7th Grade - 1.7 GPA, 8th Grade - 1.8 GPA). A student on Academic Probation will not be able to participate until they meet the above criteria.

A student will be placed on Academic Watch if they are failing one class. They will remain on Academic Watch until a) they are passing all of their classes and b) are meeting a minimum GPA (6th Grade - 1.6 GPA, 7th Grade - 1.7 GPA, 8th Grade - 1.8 GPA). Students will remain on Academic Watch for a 3-week period, at which point their status will be reevaluated. If the student, at this point, has failed to improve their academic standing, they will be placed on Academic Probation. On Academic Watch, a student may participate in an extra-curricular activity as long as they make academic progress on weekly grade checks.

Student athletes will begin the first nine weeks in good academic standing, with the exception of a student where their participation has been curtailed and this has been communicated with the student.

Unauthorized Possessions of School Equipment

No athlete should have in their possession any school owned equipment from this school or any other school, athletic department or otherwise, other than what is to be used for practice, games, or meets. The athlete will be on indefinite suspension until the equipment is returned in good condition or replaced if the equipment is lost, stolen, or damaged. This policy will carry over from Tipton Middle School to Tipton High School.

Sportsmanship

Good sportsmanship will be encouraged both in victory and defeat. There must be respect for constituted authority both on and off the field of play. Foul and/or abusive language and fighting will not be tolerated anytime. Coaches will be expected to address violations of sportsmanship within the guidelines for their teams. If an athlete, parent or guardian or uncooperative in this matter, the situation will be reviewed by the coach, athletic director and parent or Guardian to determine whether the athlete will continue to participate.

Athletic Facilities Usage

At no time is it permissible for individuals or groups to use athletic facilities without authorized supervision or permission, or while teams are having an official practice session. Athletes must maintain good hygiene, clean athletic equipment, and a clean locker room. All athletes are to be properly attired before leaving the locker room. Using profane language will not be tolerated at any time. Since our athletes represent our school and community, they should be neatly groomed and properly dressed at all times. They should endeavor to set a positive example of behavior both during and outside of school. Horseplay will not be tolerated at any time.

Drug Testing Policy

Tipton Middle School students are subject to Tipton's drug testing policy if they participate in extracurricular activities. Copies of the policy are available upon request. Athletes testing positive during their middle school career will be subject to the following:

- **1st Offense - ineligible for participation until the follow-up test is negative. If the present season concludes before the athlete is determined eligible, the athlete will lose all awards for the present sports season.
- **2nd Offense - Expelled for the present season.
- **3rd Offense - Ineligible for one calendar year. (may carry over to high school)

Violations Involving Tobacco, Alcohol, Drugs

Any athlete caught possessing, using, or transmitting any tobacco product while a student athlete will be subject to disciplinary consequences pursuant to the TMS Student Handbook.

Bus Procedures

All athletes are required to ride to and from an athletic contest on school approved transportation. Any exception must first be cleared with the coach in charge by a parent or guardian in person. School bus drivers and coaches must maintain the safety of all passengers at all times. The rules for student-athletes to ride the bus are the same rules that apply during regular school hours. Bus rules and procedures are listed on the school's website. The principal and athletic director have the right to expel an athlete from participating in an athletic event for any period of time if they do not comply with bus rules and procedures. Please ensure that all trash, athletic equipment, and other belongings are collected before exiting the bus.

Dropping a Sport

An athlete is to notify the coach immediately in person if he/she chooses to quit the sport in which he/she is participating. An athlete should be responsible enough to face the coach and explain the reason(s) for quitting. The athlete is to turn in all school equipment that has been issued and pay replacement cost of any lost, stolen, or damaged equipment. All awards that would have been earned had they completed the season will be forfeited. An athlete who quits a squad during the season will not be allowed to join another sport until the above responsibilities are fulfilled.

Section IV. Coach Expectations

Individual Athletic and Team Rules

Coaches are responsible for having specific written rules, guidelines, and procedures for their particular sport. These are to be cleared with the athletic director, and communicated with parents. These may include more strict expectations of their players.

Duties of Coaches

1. Make sure all participants have a white card before their first practice.
2. Operate their program within the philosophy of the school.
3. Maintain good public relations within the school, community, and other schools involved.
4. Provide leadership and set high standards for the athletes involved concerning training rules, school citizenship, academic achievement, and sportsmanship.

5. Establish written rules and guidelines with reasonable consequences for participation, dates and times for practice, a bus schedule, and a schedule of events. Information should be shared with athletes and parents during a scheduled parent meeting, and coaches should maintain and communicate updates as appropriate throughout the season.
6. Treat opponents as guests at home contests, and be courteous and respect the wishes of the host school when at away contests.
7. Be fully aware of legal responsibilities of your activities, taking precautions against negligence.
8. Be adequately prepared with knowledge of the sport.
9. Work cooperatively with the Middle School athletic director, the other coaches, and the administration
10. Work cooperatively with the varsity head coach.
11. If responsible for assistant coaches, assign each their specific duties, convey all information and materials to them, and be loyal to them.
12. If they are an assistant, work cooperatively with the head coach.
13. Make maximum use of practice time.
14. Properly supervise all athletes and managers before, during, and after practice or athletic events. Athletic teams are not to be unsupervised at any time.
15. Properly supervise all athletes and managers during bus trips.
16. Report injuries that require a doctor's treatment to the athletic director.
17. Administer game details from home and away contests.
18. Properly supervise the facilities that are being used, including locker rooms.
19. Properly supervise the care of issuing and collecting the equipment and uniforms.
20. Be aware of problems with equipment and facilities and make them known to the athletic director.
21. At the conclusion of the season, attend the sports award program to introduce participants and present Awards.
22. Any other duties as assigned by the administration that are related to the sport of which the coaches are responsible.

Injuries and Training Facilities

The coach is to know the health status of their athletes at all times. Athletes are to keep their coach immediately informed of any injuries that have occurred, treatment outside of school and any recurring injuries. Be sure that all injuries are given proper attention.

At school, first aid materials are to remain in the proper storage area or in the first aid kits under the direction of the trainer, student trainer, and / or coach. At no time is there to be first aid materials in an athlete's locker. All treatments and Rehabilitation procedures are to be designated by the athlete's doctor, Sports Medicine doctors, or Sports Medicine trainers.

Supervision

Athletes must be supervised at all times well under the jurisdiction of a coach. This includes while in the locker room, on the field of play and on the bus as it travels to and from contest

sites. When attending an away event, in the absence of the principal or athletic director, the coach is the acting Authority for the school system.

Athletic Awards

Upon the conclusion of an athletic season, a coach may or may not opt to have an event commemorating the end of the season. It is typical that students at these events may receive awards. To receive an award, an athlete must successfully complete the sport of participation in good standing. This includes turning into the coach all school issued equipment in good condition and/or paying replacement costs of any lost, stolen or damaged school property.