Perkins Local School District

Athletic Code of Conduct

The Perkins Local School District Board of Education has adopted the Athletic Code of Conduct for all interscholastic student-athletes. The entire athletic department is committed to enforcing the Code of Conduct. Student-athletes not only represent themselves and their team, but they also represent their parents/guardians, school, and community. Participation in athletic activities is a privilege subject to Board policies and regulations and extended to the student body by the Board of Education of the Perkins Local School District, and participation may be revoked.

Any student may be suspended from an athletic team practice and competition for a period of time, designated by the principal, for infractions of school rules and regulations or for any other unacceptable conduct in or out of school.

When a student in grades 7-12 voluntarily agrees to participate in interscholastic athletics he/she agrees to abide by the Perkins Local Schools Athletic Code of Conduct. This Code of Conduct will be subject to enforcement and/or disciplinary actions by the athletic department, district administration, and Board on a 24/7/365 basis, both at school and off school grounds as applicable. Any student who willfully performs an act, which materially interferes with or is detrimental to the orderly operation of a school's educational and co-curricular program, will be subject to athletic discipline, suspension, or expulsion. Applicable penalties will be applied when conduct is discovered. That is, the Perkins High School administration reserves the right to fully investigate conduct which potentially violates this Code of Conduct whenever evidence is provided. Acts of unacceptable conduct shall include, but not be limited to, those described below.

The following acts by a student on school premises or off school premises at any school-sponsored activity or with negative impact on the educational environment will be sufficient cause for athletic discipline, suspension, or expulsion: disruptive conduct; disobedience of reasonable instructions of school authorities; refusal to identify oneself; unauthorized absence from tournament or game; truancy or excessive absences from class/school; cheating; immoral conduct; vulgarity and profanity; destruction or defacing property; extortion; intimidation; harassment (racial/ethnic/sexual/religious) of another student or employee; assault; verbal abuse or offensive behavior; gambling; stealing; possession or use of any dangerous weapons or objects; commission of any criminal act defined by law; or other violations of the Student Code of Conduct.

The following acts off school premises will also constitute sufficient cause for athletic discipline, suspension, or expulsion: use, sale, possession, complicity to the involvement of tobacco (for the

purpose of this policy, electronic cigarettes and vapes are considered tobacco); sale, possession complicity to the involvement, of alcoholic beverages; use, sale possession, complicity to the involvement of drugs and/or related paraphernalia; or the commission of any criminal act defined by law.

Student-athletes are responsible for the information contained in written or electronic transmissions (including, but not limited to, email) and any information posted on any online public domain (including, but not limited to, internet, Facebook, YouTube, Instagram, Twitter). Inappropriate or embarrassing information or pictures should not be posted in any online public domain. Student-athletes are not precluded from participation in such online social network sites; however, student-athletes should be reminded that they serve as representatives of their team and the Perkins Local Schools. Any individual that is identified on a social networking site that depicts illegal or inappropriate behavior will be considered in violation of this Code of Conduct and will be subject to athletic discipline, suspension, or expulsion.

Examples of inappropriate and offensive behaviors concerning participation in online social networking may include depictions or presentations of the following:

- Photos, videos, or comments showing the personal use of alcohol, drugs, and tobacco.
- Photos, videos, and comments that are of a sexual nature.
- Pictures, videos, or comments that condone drug-related activity.
- Content online that is unsportsmanlike, derogatory, demeaning or threatening toward any other individual or entity (e.g. derogatory comments regarding Perkins student-athletes, coaches, and other institutions; taunting comments aimed at Perkins student-athletes, coaches or teams, and any other institution; derogatory comments based on race, gender, disability, etc.).
- No posts should depict or encourage unacceptable, violent, or illegal activities (e.g. hazing, sexual harassment/assault, gambling, discrimination, fighting, vandalism, academic dishonesty, underage drinking, illegal drug use).

The Athletic Code of Conduct deals with specific violations that should be applied within every athletic program; however, this code is not intended to be all-inclusive. Because something is not explicitly mentioned in this code does not mean it's not prohibited. If no penalty is listed in the code for a violation, the head coach has the authority to determine the penalty (consistent with the philosophy of this code of conduct) with the consultation of the Athletic Director. Violations of any criminal act defined by law, including criminal charges, will be reviewed by Administration, including but not limited to the: Athletic Director, Principal, & Assistant Principal. The outcome of this review will determine the severity of consequences in accordance with the Athletic Code of Conduct. This may result in advancing past particular step of listed consequences.

1. Athletic Code Violations

Upon evidence of an Athletic Code of Conduct violation, the applicable coach, Principal, and the Athletic Director shall meet and determine the appropriate penalty according to the degree of the infraction. The student's privilege of participation in athletic contests and practices may be immediately suspended. The Athletic Director and head coach will have an informal conference with individuals about the violation. The student and his/her parents will be notified in writing of the violation and the subsequent action taken.

Penalties (subject to modification based on severity of infraction)

First Offense – The student athlete will be suspended from 40% of the contests (including OHSAA tournament competition) in his/her current season or the first scheduled sport in which the individual participates. Any fractions of games are rounded up to the nearest whole number. In cases where the suspension occurs near or at the end of a season, the balance (%) of the athletic suspension will be applied to the next sport in which the athlete participates. Competition suspensions not fulfilled during the school year in which the incident occurred may be carried over into the following school year.

- First offense violations ONLY: Students may complete an approved course, **provided by the school,** at the family's expense to reduce athlete suspension from 40% of contests to 20% of contests subject to availability as determined by the Athletic Director and/or Superintendent.

Second Offense- The student athlete will be denied participation in sports for one full season. If an offense occurs during the season, the suspension will carry over to the athlete's next season. Percentage rules above will apply. Student will be required to meet with a school Administrator and appropriate staff to determine a plan of action, such as outside courses, counseling, or other improvement plan steps, prior to being reinstated.

Third Offense – The student athlete will be denied participation in all sports in the Perkins Local School District for one full year from the date of offense. Students must follow all recommendations of the High School Administration prior to reinstatement.

Fourth Offense – Permanent suspension from all athletics for the duration of the student athlete's high school career may be considered.

Conviction of a crime (other than a minor traffic offense) or adjudication of delinquency for the commission of any act which would constitute a felony offense if committed by an adult will render a student eligible for participation in athletics at any level for a period of one (1) year (12 calendar months) following the student's release from incarceration. Conviction of adjudication of lesser offenses may result in ineligibility for participation in athletics at any level for such a lesser period of time as the Superintendent and/or Athletic Director may deem appropriate. Upon an arrest or charge, an athlete will be removed from his or her team until a final determination has been made as to guilt. If proceedings result in a conviction or adjudication of delinquency, further participation in athletics will be determined under this paragraph. If there is no determination of guilt on any charge, the student may resume participation, subject to all other provisions of this Code of Conduct and the Student Code of Conduct.

Additional Notes

- Incidents carry from season to season, and year to year.
- During periods of suspension, an athlete may **not** attend the student-athlete awards program. An athlete may not join a sport for the sole purpose of serving an athletic penalty/athletic suspension, and the athlete is expected to complete the season to

qualify having served an athletic suspension. If the athlete doesn't complete the season the suspension will NOT be considered fulfilled.

- A student entering Perkins High School who is serving an athletic penalty from his/her previous school will serve the remainder of that penalty at Perkins High School. This includes students entering the high school from Briar Middle School.
- Students entering the high school as freshmen will start at step 1 of violations.
- Suspensions must be served at the highest level of competition for the athlete as determined by the Athletic Director. The athlete may not compete at any level until the suspension is served. For example, a player who plays JV and Varsity must serve his/her athletic suspensions at the varsity level before regaining eligibility.
- At the discretion of the coach, the suspended athlete may be required to participate in additional team conditioning or community service upon return.
- If a student has a Code violation after the season but prior to the Awards Banquet, that offending student will not be permitted to attend the Banquet. Any earned awards would be distributed through the head coach. Note: The season will be defined as the first OHSAA practice date until the final competitive event.

Reinstatement Process

In order for a suspended athlete to be reinstated to an athletic team, the student must meet with the Athletic Director for a final reinstatement meeting.

Perkins Local Schools makes every effort to work cooperatively with parents and team-associated students in the administration of the Athletic Code of Conduct. A student may appeal the accuracy of facts of his/her alleged violation to the Athletic Director. A written appeal shall be presented to the Athletic Director, in writing within three (3) school days of the athletic suspension notice. This written appeal should request a hearing with the Athletic Director and Principal. The Principal will determine the appropriateness of the consequences rendered by the Athletic Director. A written notice of the Principal's decision shall be made to the student, parents/guardians, and Athletic Director in three (3) school days following the appeal hearing. The athlete may not participate in athletic competition during the appeals process. A reduction of the athletic suspension may occur as a result of the appeals process.

2. TEAM RULES AND PENALTIES

In addition to the aforementioned rules (Code of Conduct), individual coaches set and publish team rules and penalties, which will be distributed in writing to athletes at the beginning of each season. These rules may include attendance at practices, curfew, dress, and general conduct of participation during practices, contests, trips, etc. Team rules must be written and approved by the Athletic Director before the activity begins. Team rules will be on file in the Athletic Office. Team rules are in effect when an athlete is in season and during any out-of-season athletic activity when an athlete is representing Perkins Local Schools.

Coaches may not suspend an athlete from a team for the season without the Athletic Director's approval. The decision to suspend an athlete for violation of team rules beyond two games / competitions must be approved by the Athletic Director. The coach is responsible for contacting the parents to inform them of the violation of team rules.

3. REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICIPATION

As an athlete, one is not eligible to participate until the following items have been completed (forms available in the athletic office).

1. Physical examination completed and on file for the current year.
   NOTE: A guardian/parent of a student-athlete is obligated to notify the Athletic Department of any changes in health or fitness, following the physical examination. In some cases, a medical release, signed by a doctor, may be required. A student may be denied participation based on certain health concerns.
2. Emergency Medical Authorization Form (signed FinalForms)
3. Academic eligibility requirements are met
4. Signed Code of Conduct on file (signed FinalForms)
5. Signed Parent Code of Conduct on file (signed FinalForms)
6. Activity fee paid
7. Concussion form (signed FinalForms)
8. Sudden Cardiac Arrest/Lindsay's Law Form (signed FinalForms)
9. Hudl Informed consent and Release (signed FinalForms)

4. AWARDS

Each season the dates, times, and the format of the student-athlete awards program(s) will be planned and announced by the head coach and may be subject to change. Attendance at the student-athlete awards program(s) is mandatory. ***Awards are only issued to those athletes who complete their season in good standing and attend the awards program.*** Athletes who are dropped from the team, or quit prior to the last contest, are not eligible for awards. Athletes who fail to return all school-issued equipment or uniforms are ineligible for awards. Athletes will not receive a letter or any Perkins Athletic Department awards if they do not complete the season in good standing.

5. ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY

Each athlete must satisfy scholastic eligibility requirements prior to participation. He/She must pass subjects that earn a minimum of five units of credit per year toward graduation during each nine-week grading period. Each athlete must earn a minimum 1.50 GPA on a four-point scale during the previous grading period. Failure to meet these requirements will result in the athlete being ineligible for the following grading period. Entering freshman athletes are eligible according to the OHSAA scholarship bylaw. Changes in eligibility will become effective at the start of the fifth school day after the end of the nine-week grading period.

6. SCHOOL ATTENDANCE POLICY

Student-athletes are required to be in attendance no later than 10:00 AM to participate in an athletic contest, practice, or any other athletic turnout scheduled for that day. Partial absences supported by a doctor's excuse or legal commitment may be accepted. The principal will determine eligibility in cases involving partial absences and the nature of the activity. Any student that is suspended or expelled from school is not eligible to participate in practice or competition during the suspension or expulsion. This applies to in school and out of school suspensions. Additional penalties may be enforced by the head coach as spelled out by team rules.

7. HAZING AND HARASSMENT

Hazing/harassment/bullying in any athletic/activity program or outside the program is unacceptable. Hazing is defined as "doing any act or coercing another, including the victim, to do any act of initiation into an organization that causes or creates a substantial risk of causing mental or physical harm. Student involvement in hazing/harassment/bullying may result in the student being suspended from athletic/activity contests/events or removed from the team. It is the policy of the Perkins Athletic Department that hazing activities of any type are inconsistent with the educational process and shall be prohibited at all times. Subjecting someone to acts that are humiliating, indecent, painful, or unsafe will not be tolerated. Athletes who engage in any of the above-mentioned behaviors will be subject to disciplinary actions, including potential suspension or dismissal from the team.

8. TRAVEL

All athletes must travel to and from athletic contests when transportation is provided by the school district. Athletes will remain with the squad and under the supervision of a coach when attending away contests. All regular school bus rules will be followed regarding food, noise, seating, and care and respect for equipment and drivers. If there are extenuating circumstances and school-provided transportation to and/or from an athletic contest cannot be used by the student-athlete, then a completed alternative transportation form is required to be on file no less than 24 hours in advance of the athletic contest.

9. EQUIPMENT

All school-issued equipment checked out by student-athlete is his/her responsibility. The student-athlete is expected to keep the equipment clean and to provide proper care of the equipment. Loss of any equipment is the athlete's financial responsibility. Failure to return any issued equipment may result in the loss of awards and/or denial of future participation, as well as financial restitution.

10. ACTIVITY FEE

Each participating athlete is assessed a non-refundable activity fee approved by the Perkins Board of Education. The activity fee must be paid by the due date established for each athletic season by the Perkins Athletic Department. Failure to pay the activity fee will result in denial of participation until the fee is paid or until payment arrangements have been made with the Treasurer's office.

11. SCHOOL CANCELLATIONS

If school is canceled due to inclement weather or some other type of emergency, the Athletic Director will make a determination after consultation with the Superintendent regarding the status of practices and competitions. If the conditions have improved to the point where practices could be held, then a determination will be made when the practices will be scheduled for that day. Because of the fact that school has been canceled, a coach will not penalize an athlete if he/she can not attend the practice or if he/she is late to practice. Ultimately, it is the parent's decision whether or not they allow their child to attend practice on these days if held. These guidelines will apply to all junior high, freshman, junior varsity, and varsity practices and/or athletic events.

All lower-level team practices will be decided based upon the availability and condition of each school building/facility.

12. TEAM SELECTION

In accordance with our philosophy of athletics and the desire for maximum student participation in the athletic programs at Perkins High School, coaches are encouraged to keep as many team members as possible without compromising the integrity of their sport. It is the sole responsibility of each team's coaches to select student-athletes for a team. A coach should give each candidate at least one full practice/try-out session before deciding upon the final team roster. After this time, if requested by the student-athlete, those not selected should be told in person by the coaching staff the reasons he/she did not make the team.

13. CONFLICTS IN EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

The Athletic Department recognizes and encourages each student to participate in a broad range of extracurricular activities. Individuals who attempt to participate in too many extracurricular activities, however, will at some point encounter a conflict with different activities. Students must realize that they have a responsibility to do everything they can to avoid conflicts. Perkins High School athletic team functions take precedence over the activities of outside athletic clubs or organizations. Dual sports consideration will follow the adopted Board of Education policy. If a student is removed or quits a squad after the first official contest, that student will not be eligible for participation in any organized offseason activities with the exception of strength and conditioning for their next school-sponsored sport until the first official OHSAA coaching date for that sport unless given approval by the Athletic Director. If a student decides to quit a team, it is the responsibility of the student to inform the head coach personally of their decision. All equipment and uniforms must be returned promptly in order to be eligible for the next season.

14. RISK OF PARTICIPATION

Student-athletes and their parents must realize that there is an inherent risk in participating in interscholastic athletic competitions. All injuries are required to be reported to the Head Coach/Trainer immediately.

Please be sure to have the following completed prior to the first official practice:

- *Emergency Medical Authorization Form (signed Final Forms)*
- *Completed Physical Form on File*
- *Sudden Cardiac Arrest form (signed FinalForms)*
- *Code of Conduct Consent Form (signed FinalForms)*
- *Parent Code of Conduct Consent Form (signedFinal Forms)*
- *Academic eligibility requirements are met*
- *Activity fee paid*
- *Concussion form (signed FinalForms)*
- *Hudl Informed Consent and Release (signed FinalForms)*