

ATHLETICS CODE OF CONDUCT

All athletes and participants in athletics are expected to be chemical free. Participation in Varsity, JV or Junior High athletics and activities is a privilege not a right. The Towanda Area School District prohibits the use and/or possession and/or distribution and/or sale of any alcohol, controlled substance, drug paraphernalia or tobacco (including smokeless tobacco) and electronic cigarettes (other nicotine delivery devices).

ATHLETICS:

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| Softball | Baseball | Basketball |
| Golf | Wrestling | Volleyball |
| Tennis | Football | Soccer |
| Track & Field | Cross Country | Cheerleading |
| Swimming & Diving | Marching Band | K-Dettes |

Managers/statisticians/scorekeepers that are involved with above teams are subject to the same rules found in the Activities Code of Conduct.

CODE OF CONDUCT GENERAL INFORMATION

In order to participate in athletics, a student must either carry school insurance or present evidence to the athletic director showing that he/she is insured through his parents. All students participating in varsity sports are required to have a complete physical examination. All eligible players must be pronounced physically fit by a physician.

To be eligible for athletic contests or team practices, a pupil must be in attendance at school by 9:40 am (for the time of 5 ½ hours). If the pupil fails to meet this attendance requirement, he or she shall be ineligible to participate in any athletic contest or team practice on that day of absence. Unique situations will be handled on a case by case basis by Administration

Athletes and activities participants are prohibited from the possession, use, distribution or sale of the following:

1. Alcohol, stimulants, controlled substances and drug paraphernalia.
2. Performance enhancing substances (e.g., anabolic agents, diuretics, peptide hormones, analogues and any other substance identified as banned by the NCAA and/or the USOC).
3. Tobacco (in any form including chewing tobacco, smokeless tobacco, cloves and tobacco and nicotine delivery devices).

**THE CODE OF CONDUCT COVERS ALL ATHLETES
PLANNING TO PARTICIPATE IN A SPORT DURING THE ENTIRE SCHOOL YEAR.**

- **Annually, the policy will go into effect as of the earliest PIAA Fall sports season start date. (August 10, 2015)**
- **The Code of Conduct covers ALL athletes for the entire school year even if the athlete is not “in season”.**
- **The policy remains in effect through commencement or until all PIAA school sports seasons are finished for the school year, whichever comes later.**
 - **Example: A baseball player whose season ends May 18th is still covered by the Code of Conduct through the date of commencement.**
- **If an athlete is not in season or is at the end of their season, the punishment carries over to the next sports season they participate in.**
 - **Example: A basketball player, that does not play a spring sport, is caught violating the code during the spring season. He/she is still covered by the code, thus serves the punishment during the next season they participate in.**
- **The school reserves the right to invoke team discipline for violation of these expectations that occur both ON and OFF campus; both IN and OUT of season.**
- **Coaches and advisors are responsible for holding meetings with students and parents to specifically review the activities/athletics code.**
- **“Well groomed” (See Matrix #8) and “embarrassment” (See Matrix #6) is defined by coaches, advisors and administrators.**
- **Athletes will not receive a varsity letter in their sport if they quit the team, are removed from the team for disciplinary actions, and/or have a code of conduct violation. Code of conduct violations removes the athlete from being a captain and consideration for all post season and end of year awards along with all league sponsored all-star teams.**

CODE OF CONDUCT DISCIPLINE MATRIX

| CODE | CONSEQUENCES |
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| 1. Use or possession of any form of alcohol or illegal drugs is prohibited. | **SEE APPENDIX A** |
| 2. Use or possession of any form of tobacco products is prohibited. | <p>First Violation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The first violation of the tobacco policy will result in a 20% suspension of the of the regular season scheduled contests. • The coach may invoke an additional team penalty. <p>Second Violation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The second violation will result in the student being entered in the first phase of the drug and alcohol policy. |
| 3. Missing a game or practice without an excuse acceptable to the coach is prohibited. | Missing a game or practice will be subject to the coach's disciplinary action. Team rules will be explained in an evening "meet the parents night" scheduled in the season prior to the first practice. |
| 4. Students participating in athletics or extracurricular activities are subject to the disciplinary policies found in the Student Agenda. | See the following pages in the Student Agenda. |
| 5. Students are responsible for all equipment/supplies issued. All uniforms and equipment must be returned upon the coach's request. Any loss or damage beyond normal wear and tear is the responsibility of the student. | Students who do not live up to this responsibility risk the withholding of their report cards and letter award. They will also be billed for equipment damaged or not handed in. |
| 6. The conduct and language of the student will not cause embarrassment to Towanda Area School District, the team, the coaching staff, advisors, parents or guardians, and the community as a whole. | Students will be held to the team rules and the Towanda Area School District Disciplinary Code |
| 7. Student activities transportation will be furnished by the school to and from games/activities. A student may be released to a parent or acting guardian after an away event/activity if the coach allows. In order for a coach to release the student to their parents or guardians, a note must be presented to their coach by the parent/guardian. This may be done up until departure from the event. | Subject to the coaches disciplinary action. |
| 8. Proper grooming will be expected. | Subject to the coaches disciplinary action. |
| 9. Cooperation with any investigation relative to the Code of Conduct will be required. | Student will be held to the discipline code on this matter. |

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| 10. Involvement in any hazing defined by the THS hazing policy will not be tolerated. | Student will be held to the discipline code on this matter and law enforcement may be called to investigate. |

* The administration/school board reserves the right to make modifications to the Activities

-APPENDIX A-

Code of Conduct Drug and Alcohol Violation Procedure

1st violation:

- The student is suspended for 50% of the regular season scheduled contests.
- The athlete must do the 15 hours of community service at the school.
 - The athlete cannot do community service for the coach they are currently playing for.
 - Hours must be approved and tracked by department the athletic director and/or the high school principal.
- The student is required to go through a drug and alcohol evaluation (SAP or N. Tier Counseling – approved facility) and complete no less than 4 hours of additional drug/alcohol counseling at the parent/guardians expense.
- The athlete must follow all recommendations of SAP and/or Northern Tier Counseling.
- Student (if applicable) will be stripped of captainship.
- Student (if applicable) will lose all post season awards and recognition (letter, coach’s honors, league recognition, end of year awards etc.)
 - In the event of a carryover of the punishment, the forfeiture of letter and awards occurs in the season the incident occurred. The athlete would be eligible for a letter and awards in the ensuing season. The game suspension still carries to the ensuing season.
- If incident occurs in the spring of the school year, the suspension carries over to their next sports season.
- ALL COMMUNITY SERVICE AND COUNSELING MUST BE FINISHED IN ORDER TO BE REINSTATED. IF THE STUDENT ATHELTE DOES NOT COMPLETE ALL REQUIREMENTS PRIOR TO THEIR REINSTATEMENT DATE, THEY WILL BE DISMISSED FROM THE REHABILITATION PROGRAM AND SACRIFICE THE BALANCE OF THEIR SEASON.
- The athlete will not become eligible for the next season until all community service, SAP conference and drug and alcohol counseling is complete.
- Treatment:
 - Students will be excused from practice if needed to attend counseling sessions. Attempts must be made to not schedule sessions during regular school hours.

2nd violation:

- All of the rules and restrictions listed in the first violation apply along with the following additions. The second occurrence will result in:
 - The athlete will be suspended for one calendar year from ALL athletic activity.
 - The athlete must complete thirty (30) hours of community service at the school.
 - The student is required to go through a drug and alcohol evaluation (SAP or N. Tier Counseling – approved facility) and complete no less than 10 hours of additional drug/alcohol counseling at the parent/guardians expense.
- The student will be eligible to practice at the start of the season that they become eligible to play.
- ALL COMMUNITY SERVICE AND COUNSELING MUST BE FINISHED IN ORDER TO BE REINSTATED. IF THE STUDENT ATHELTE DOES NOT COMPLETE ALL REQUIREMENTS PRIOR TO THEIR REINSTATEMENT DATE, THEY WILL BE DISMISSED FROM THE REHABILITATION PROGRAM AND SACRIFICE THE BALANCE OF THEIR SEASON.

3rd violation:

- Student is barred from participating in extra-curricular activities in the Towanda School District for conclusion of the remainder of their high school career.

ATHLETES RECEIVING DETENTION

ATHLETES RECEIVING DETENTION: A fourth student behavioral referral which stipulates detention hours to be served will mean that the extracurricular participant will be suspended two games or events. The suspension will take place at the next two scheduled events. One game or event includes all performances for an entire 24-hour period. The second game or event would include another entire 24-hour period. Five or more student behavioral referrals which stipulate the serving of detention hours will automatically remove said student from all extra-curricular activities for the remainder of that sports season. The consequences outlined above are limited for each participant's sports season. The official P.I.A.A season start-dates will be used to determine behavioral eligibility. STUDENTS SUSPENDED ATHLETICALLY FOR DETENTION VIOLATIONS CAN PRACTICE, BUT MAY NOT DRESS FOR ANY EVENTS.

IN SCHOOL SUSPENSION

Students receiving In School Suspension will be suspended from all team activities for the duration of the suspension. The student may not practice or participate in games or scrimmages. The student will not be able to return to team activity until the day following the final day of their ISS assignment.

OUT OF SCHOOL SUSPENSION

First Suspension: Upon receiving their first suspension from school, any extra-curricular participant will be prohibited from participation for a minimum of two games or events. One game or event includes all performances for an entire 24-hour period. The second game or event would include another entire 24-hour period. Students serving suspensions may not practice or dress for an event during the suspension.

Second Suspension: The second suspension from school will cause the participant to forfeit their eligibility for the remainder of that sports season.

CODE OF CONDUCT INVESTIGATIONS

- Investigations will be directed by the high school administration in cooperation with the athletic director, coaches or advisors.
- A review committee, consisting of the assistant principal, athletic director, and two (2) faculty members or coaches will determine the merit of each individual case.

CODE OF CONDUCT APPEALS PROCESS

- The appeals process will only be used to ensure that the policy and procedure has been followed by all administrators.
- The consequences cannot be modified.
- Athlete and parents can give a statement.
- An appeal (by student or parent) can be made to the principal who will forward the appeal to the School Board Activities Committee which consists of (3) board members and the High School Principal. The committee will review the evidence and render its decision. (If appealed, the penalty is delayed and the student may participate in activities pending the outcome of appeal.)
- The board president will call an executive committee meeting to discuss policy and procedure.
 - * These procedures may be reviewed and modified per school board approval.*