

East Troy Community Schools Athletic Code of Conduct

STATEMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

Participation on East Troy High School's athletic teams is an integral part of the East Troy High School experience, and is a privilege which should elicit great pride in both the student and his/her family. While our number one goal as a school district is to provide a sound academic foundation for all of our students, athletic activities provide unique opportunities for students to promote their mental, physical, social and emotional development. By providing a strong athletic program, East Troy High School extends the opportunity of enriching the mind and body to any student who meets district, Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association (WIAA), and other applicable governing body's requirements. Like anything of value, it comes at a price. That price is a commitment from you to follow established rules. Student-athletes who comply with this Code of Conduct demonstrate a commitment to dedicate themselves to self-improvement as well as to enhance the best interests of fellow teammates, advisors/coaches and their school. If accepted, this privilege carries certain responsibilities, and this code presents these responsibilities.

GOALS

Athletics are an integral part of our educational program. It provides opportunities for learning experiences difficult to duplicate in other school activities. East Troy High School athletic activities have the following goals:

1. To develop leadership skills and responsibility.
2. To show team spirit, encourage others and contribute to good morale.
3. To be fair and treat others as one wishes to be treated.
4. To provide activities through sports for learning self-discipline, loyalty, team play, personal pride, respect for the rights of others and the desire to compete to the best of one's ability.
5. To treat all persons respectfully regardless of individual differences; to show respect for legitimate authority (e.g., Coaches, Officials, Captains).
6. To accept responsibility and to set a good example for teammates, peers, younger students, fans and school community.
7. To understand the necessity of abstaining from the use of alcohol, tobacco, and other substances in order to achieve the positive benefits of interscholastic athletics and achieving personal best.
8. To help student-athletes realize that participation in interscholastic athletics is a privilege with accompanying responsibilities.

ELIGIBILITY

These Rules of Eligibility are established by the Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association (WIAA) and are supplemented with East Troy Community School District's rules. To be eligible, students must:

1. Be enrolled in the East Troy Community School District as a full-time student.
2. Have a current physical exam form or alternate year card to participate in athletic activities as determined by a licensed physician. The physical exam form must be completed every other year, with April 1st as the earliest day of the examination. The alternate year card with parent or guardian signature is used in the second year.
3. Complete an emergency medical form each year.
4. Attend a mandatory athletic Code of Conduct meeting with a parent/guardian prior to the start of the season.
5. Have a signed Parent-Athlete WIAA Rules of Eligibility Sign-off Form.
6. Sign the Athletic Code of Conduct contract, along with your parent, prior to the start of the practice season.
7. Pay the athletic user fee for the sports season.
8. Be cleared of any equipment responsibility incurred from participation in a previous sport.

WIAA RULES and REGULATIONS for Athletic Participation

1. An athlete must meet school and DPI requirements defining a full-time student.
2. An athlete must remain in good academic standing in order to compete in any sport.
3. An athlete must be an amateur in all recognized sports of the Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association in order to compete in any sport.
4. An athlete may not receive reimbursement for play in the form of salary, cash or merchandise.
5. An athlete may not accept merchandise awards such as jackets, sweaters, watches, rings, balls, etc.
6. An athlete may not permit the use of his/her name, picture, or personal appearance, as an athlete, in the promoting of any commercial endeavor.
7. An athlete may not play in a contest under a name other than his/her own.
8. An athlete may not play in a non-school contest at the same time that he/she is a member of a school team in that sport.
9. An athlete shall be suspended from interscholastic athletics (competition) for acts at any time (including summer) involving buying, selling, use and/or possession of alcohol, tobacco or other drugs.
10. An athlete may not compete if she/he becomes nineteen (19) before August 1 of any school year.

Note: A complete list of WIAA guidelines and procedures for review are available from the Athletic Director or online at <http://www.wiaawi.org/index.php?id=631>.

RESPONSIBILITIES

It is important to understand that participating in athletic activities is a privilege and not a right. You are also expected to share in the responsibility for such an opportunity that is provided, that shall include:

Responsibilities to You: The most important of these responsibilities is to broaden and develop strength of character. You owe it to yourself to derive the greatest benefit from your high school experiences, to live a healthy lifestyle, and to respect your health both physically and mentally at all times.

Responsibility to Your Academic Studies: Your academic studies and your participation in athletic activities prepare you for your life as an adult. Athletics, while very important to young people, is only a small part of life.

Responsibilities to Your School: Another responsibility you assume as a team member is to your school. East Troy Community Schools cannot maintain its position as having outstanding schools unless you do your best in the activity in which you are engaged and are a good role model. Other students and faculty are watching you. They know who you are and what you do. Make them proud. Be an example. Do not do anything to let them down.

Responsibility to Your Community: The community and school tax monies make this athletic activity experience possible. For that reason, we must remember that we hold a clear and paramount responsibility to our community. You assume a leadership role when you are involved with a sport. The student body and citizens of the community know you. You are very visible with the spotlight on you. The student body, the community and other communities judge our schools by your conduct and attitude, both on and off the field. Because of this leadership role, you can contribute significantly to school spirit and community pride. Our desire is that our students are *1st Class*, not for the fact that we win, rather that we are known as a program of character, excellence and pride whose individuals demonstrate Respect, Responsibility, Integrity and Courtesy. Make East Troy High School proud of you, your school and community, by your consistent demonstration of these ideals.

Responsibility to Others: As a team member you also bear a heavy responsibility to your home. If you never give your parents anything to be ashamed of, you will have only just begun to measure up. When you know in your heart that you have lived up to all of the training rules, that you have practiced to the best of your ability everyday and that you have participated in the activity "all out", you can keep your self-respect and your family can be justly proud of you, win or lose.

Responsibility to Younger Students: The younger students in East Troy are watching you. They know who you are and what you do. The older, upper-classmen athletes are role models for the underclassmen, siblings and other children in our community. Make them proud. Be an example. They will copy you in many ways. Set good examples for them.

CODE OF CONDUCT RULES, MISDEMEANORS AND VIOLATIONS

As an athlete, it must be understood that this Code of Conduct program is not designed to be a reactive punishment but a proactive deterrent to your involvement in risky and dangerous behaviors. It is also to ensure that you have the best opportunities to succeed in your sport and to learn the valuable lessons that athletics can teach. Your mental and physical well-being is essential to your safety and success and we want you to reach your full potential. Therefore, we are asking you to become an active part of the solution, not to be part of the problem.

CODE OF CONDUCT RULES

The following rules will apply to each athlete and will be in effect at all times during the 12-month period from the date of acceptance. Each coach also has the prerogative to establish and implement additional rules specific to his/her particular program. Coaches are expected to share these in writing with their student-athletes and parents/guardians on or before the first day of practice. A copy of these additional guidelines and expectations can be obtained from the Athletic Director.

Academic: In order to be eligible to compete/perform/participate in athletics, a student must meet school and DPI requirements defining a full time student and have received no more than one (1) failing grade at the following:

Trimester 1, 2 & 3	Ineligibility Period
Status Report	10 school days
Trimester Grade	15 school days

A senior who has acquired all necessary credits towards graduation is not exempt from this rule.

A student who becomes academically ineligible may regain eligibility on the 11th school day by meeting the above academic rule following the period of ineligibility. A student who is ineligible under the provisions listed above may return to competition by completing the following:

- a. On the 10th day – have all scheduled classroom teachers fill out the Academic Check for Athletic Participation Form and have no more than one (1) failing grade, AND
- b. Return completed form to Athletic Director or School Administrator by the end of school day – 3:00 p.m. or sooner.

A student may regain eligibility status related to the semester two grade – reporting period through summer school courses at East Troy High School or another school, provided:

- a. The student successfully completes not less than the same number of courses, which caused ineligibility.
- b. The student meets with his/her school counselor for approval of and registration for summer school courses.
- c. Proof of course completion, grade and credit obtained must be submitted to the school counselor.

A grade of incomplete at the end of a semester will be treated as an "F" until grade is completed

A student, who is enrolled in any State – Approved Special Education Program and receives no usual grades for such courses, may be eligible if he/she is making satisfactory progress in his/her total school program as indicated by his/her IEP.

The ineligibility status described above will be adjusted as follows for students in Fall Sports in which the date of earliest allowed competition is before the first day students are in class. The minimum ineligibility period shall be the lesser of (1) 21 consecutive calendar days beginning with the date of earliest allowed competition in a sport or (2) one third of the maximum number of games/meets/contests allowed. During the time a student is ineligible they are expected to attend and participate in all scheduled practices and attend scheduled contests.

Students and parents should also note that many programs of assistance are available to help student(s). For academic help or access to these and other programs, see your school counselor, coach, teacher or other school personnel:

1. Learning Center
2. Tutoring
3. Before and After School Help from Classroom Teachers
4. Resource Period – (30 minutes daily)
5. Directed Study
6. ETAL Program

Dismissal / Quitting

An athlete who is dropped from one team for disciplinary reasons shall not be eligible in another sport during that same season. However, any athlete who is cut or quits may participate in another sport during the same season with mutual written consent of the head coaches and Athletic Director. A student who quits does not receive credit for serving a suspension and will serve that suspension on the next team on which he/she participates.

Attendance: A student athlete must be in attendance the full day in order to be eligible to compete. Exceptions to this rule would include: School-sponsored activity, family emergencies, doctor/dentist appointments and/or others at administration's discretion. Written documentation of excuse is required. Unexcused absences **WILL NOT** be tolerated. A student-athlete suspended or expelled from school shall be barred from participation in athletic competitions during that period of time.

Regular attendance at practice is required to remain as part of the team. It is the athlete's responsibility to notify the coach, in advance, of any circumstances which would prohibit attendance at practice(s) or contest(s) other than absence from school. Failure to comply may result in disciplinary action ranging from a verbal warning to dismissal from the team dependent upon the nature and/or frequency of the offense.

Dress: Every athlete is expected to maintain appropriate standards of dress and grooming while representing his/her school or team.

Cell Phone Privacy: It is the practice of East Troy Community School District to ensure the privacy of all individuals during the time they occupy locker room facilities at school and during school sponsored events. All cell phones are prohibited from being seen or used in any school locker room (Board policy 443.6). If a cell phone is found to be in use, the advisor/coach has the right to confiscate the phone. If compromising photos are found to be taken with the phone, immediate removal from athletic activities may result.

Transportation: Members of athletic teams are required to travel to and from out-of-town competitions in vehicles provided by the school district. A student-athlete may return home with their parent/guardian if this request has been made in advance of the contest and only if the parent/guardian personally picks the student up in the presence of the coach at the conclusion of the contest. While this practice is discouraged, there are times when it could be necessary. A student-athlete is not allowed to return from an athletic contest with anyone other than his or her parent/guardian.

Injury: Every student-athlete is required to report any injury, however slight, to the coach at the time it occurs. (School insurance may be invalid if this is not done). The coach will fill out an accident report form.

Equipment: Student-athletes are responsible for any uniforms and/or equipment issued to them. Each student-athlete is financially responsible for all lost, damaged (through negligence), or unreturned items issued by school officials in that student's name. Students will not be allowed to participate, practice, or compete in another sport until he/she has returned or paid for all uniforms and equipment that was issued to them in a previous season.

Honesty Clause:

1. The athlete shall be truthful.
2. The athlete shall be forthcoming with information.
3. The athlete shall not be deceptive or untruthful.
4. The athlete shall be cooperative.

If an East Troy Community School District administrator or athletic director has a reasonable suspicion that a specific athlete may have violated the district's Code of Conduct, he/she may question that student about a possible violation. In responding to any such questioning about his/her personal actions, **it is expected that the student shall answer truthfully.**

Also during the questioning process, a student may not attempt to mislead or misrepresent himself/herself, which may impede the investigation. If a student's answer is subsequently found to be untrue, disciplinary action/penalty will be doubled. (Example: a half season suspension will become a full season.)

CODE OF CONDUCT MISDEMEANORS

The following misdemeanors will apply to each student-athlete and will be in effect at all times during the season. These violations accumulate only during each school year. The following misdemeanors are unacceptable and the principal and/or athletic director reserves the right to impose a penalty as deemed appropriate by the severity of the infractions which may include suspension from practice and/or competition. Each coach also has the prerogative to establish and implement additional misdemeanors specific to his/her particular program.

Behavior and Conduct: Respect, courtesy, manners and good sportsmanship are basic to good citizenship and shall form the basis for all behavior. Since athletes represent the school in public, their behavior frequently determines the opinion outsiders have of the school and community. It is expected that the conduct of student- athletes will be exemplary at all times. Below is a list of examples that are considered behavior unbecoming of an athlete, but is not an exhaustive list:

- Unexcused absences
- Academic dishonesty
- Bullying/Harassment/Hazing/Cyber bullying
- Vandalism or Property Destruction
- Poor sportsmanship including name calling, obscene gestures, and/or fighting.
- School suspensions
- Hazing/Initiation Ceremony: East Troy will not permit, nor will any athlete stage, any type of "initiation ceremony" or hazing for athletes at any time and on any level. This prohibition includes locker/shower pranks, etc.
- Engaging in or being an accomplice to any other immoral or unacceptable conduct contrary to the philosophy of the Athletic Code, the regulations within WIAA, or the ideals, principles and standards of the East Troy Community School District.

CODE OF CONDUCT VIOLATIONS

Code of Conduct Violations will apply to each student-athlete on a year-round (12 month) basis in all locations, including non-school activities. Violation of the Code will result in penalties, which are consistent with those identified within the code as determined by school board and athletic director. All Code of Conduct Violations will be cumulative beginning with a student's initial participation on a freshman, junior varsity, or varsity team.

Criminal Behavior: An athlete who participates in activities resulting in his/her arrest or formal charges being filed in a court of law. If the school district has adequate and competent evidence that the student participated in the offense for which he or she is charged, a penalty may be imposed pursuant to this Code prior to completion of the criminal

proceeding. **If the school district does not have such evidence and the student is convicted of a crime (misdemeanor, felony or municipal ordinance violation), the penalty pursuant to this code will be imposed upon conviction.** In the latter case, the athlete may continue to participate in his/her sport until resolution of the matter by the judicial system.

Chemical Health Violation: A chemical health violation includes Possession, Use, Buying, Selling and/or Being Under the Influence of Any Drugs and Drug Paraphernalia: (Note: drugs are defined as tobacco, electronic smoking devices and materials, alcohol, illegal drugs, marijuana, synthetic drugs, performance enhancing drugs, or medications without a prescription or use not in accordance to prescription directions.)

Presence in a bar or tavern: Being present or loitering in a bar or tavern without a student's parent/guardian.

Presence at a party or gathering where alcohol or drugs are being illegally consumed: If a student-athlete attends a party where alcohol or drugs are being illegally dispensed, the student-athlete must **LEAVE IMMEDIATELY** (the athlete should not pose for or be in pictures). To remain in the presence of this illegal activity shall constitute a violation of the Code of Conduct.

Note: Athletes should encourage as many classmates as possible to leave with them.

*The intent of the "presence at a party" is not to deny participation with adult family members in gatherings such as weddings, anniversaries or other family events.

Hosts of Parties Lose the Most: There may be a **greater consequence** for an athlete who is involved in the organization, facilitation, promotion, or hosting of any gathering or social event where alcohol or drugs were known to be available or used.

Cyber Image Policy: Any identifiable image, photo or video which implicates an athlete to have been in possession or presence of alcohol and/or drugs or portrays actual use, or out of character behavior or crime, shall be confirmation of a violation of the Code. Since there is no way to establish a timeframe for when or location of where the image was taken, it shall be a responsibility that the athlete must assume. It must also be noted that there may be persons, who would attempt to implicate an athlete, by taking such images, to place them in a situation where they might be in violation of this code standard. This is our rationale for demanding that our athletes not place themselves in such environments in the first place.

PENALTIES FOR CODE OF CONDUCT VIOLATIONS

- Any penalty will be imposed immediately following substantiation of the violation.
- If an athlete chooses to serve a suspension in a new sport, the athlete must fully participate in that sport season beginning from the first day of practice through the end of the season.
- When calculating the number of contests to be forfeited, any amount that results in a decimal remainder of .5 or greater will round up to the next whole number.

- The student will be ineligible for all contests during the period of suspension and prior to a reinstatement request.
- During the period of the suspension, the student is required to attend team meetings, practices and contests and must participate in every team/group activity, but may not compete.
- For sporting activities in which the number of contests forfeited is greater than the number that remains in the season, the remainder will be carried over to the next sporting season in which the athlete participates. Number of performances may vary yearly. The actual penalty will be determined using the actual schedule for the current school year. The number of contests forfeited will be recalculated when the forfeiture involves two different sports, allowing a prorated penalty to take effect.
- A student-athlete who has a code of conduct violation will not be eligible for either a nomination or be the recipient of any conference award at the conclusion of the season in which the violation was served. The athlete will also not be eligible for any team or coach's award such as Most Valuable Player, Most Improved, etc. An athlete may receive a team award based on a statistical award such as Most Rebounds or best batting average, etc. The athlete will be allowed to receive any WIAA Tournament series award.
- Any student-athlete who has a code of conduct violation will not be allowed to serve as Team Captain for any team for one calendar year (365 days) beginning on the date the violation was substantiated by the Athletic Director.

First Violation: Automatic suspension for 25% of that competitive season's scheduled contests*. If a student-athlete receives a violation due to alcohol or drug related issues, the student-athlete will be required to meet for assessment and education with the District Alcohol and Drug Coordinator for a minimum of three sessions. If outside treatment is recommended, it will become the parent/guardian responsibility, at parent expense, to see that outside treatment is obtained.

No. of Scheduled Contests	First Violation 25%	Second Violation 50%
8	2	4
9	2	5
10	3	5
11	3	6
12	3	6
13	3	7
14	4	7
15	4	8

16	4	8
17	4	9
18	5	9
19	5	10
20+	5+	10+

Second Violation: Automatic suspension for 50% of that competitive season’s scheduled contests. The studentathlete and parent/guardian will be required, at parent expense, to obtain and complete alcohol and drug treatment with a licensed therapist and provide documentation from the treating professional to the District that all recommended treatment has been successfully completed. Information about resources and referrals to therapists can be obtained by contacting the District Alcohol and Drug Coordinator.

Third Violation: Automatic suspension from all athletic activities for the rest of high school career. The Athletic Director reserves the right to exercise discretion on behalf of individual students in, extenuating circumstances, to request a waiver from this suspension upon Board of Education approval.

*The definition of a “contest” for the purposes of this athletic code is: any match(es), meet(s) or game(s) which is(are) played, occurs on one calendar day and in which score is kept and/or awards are given.

CODE OF CONDUCT VIOLATIONS REINSTATEMENT

All students must seek reinstatement after any code of conduct violation to regain eligibility.

1. The student must attend all practices/meetings and be present at all competitions while under suspension.
2. A written request for reinstatement must be submitted by the student to the Athletic Director. Letter should include the understanding of why suspended, plan of how to remain in good standing and the benefits for the student to return to competitive performance.
3. Must make a verbal apology to team and coach and resign the code of conduct contract.

CODE OF CONDUCT VIOLATIONS REPORTING PROCEDURE

A violation of the athletic Code of Conduct must be reported to an administrator in the district (including the Athletic Director). The report should indicate the nature, date and time (if appropriate) of the violation. The name of the reporting witnesses will be kept confidential if possible.

CODE OF CONDUCT VIOLATIONS SUSPENSION PROCEDURE

When an alleged violation of the code is reported to the administration, the administrator or his/her designee shall meet with the student. The student will continue to participate in athletic activities until this meeting is held.

1. In the event that the student admits to the allegation of a violation at this meeting, the administrator or athletic director shall impose the appropriate penalty for the violation as specified, effective immediately. The student and his/her parent/guardian shall be given written notice of the violation and the discipline imposed.
2. In the event that the student denies the alleged violation, the administrator or his/her designee shall determine whether there is sufficient evidence to warrant further action. If there is sufficient evidence that the student has committed the alleged violation, the administrator or his/her designee shall impose the penalty for the violation as specified, which begins immediately. The student and his/her parent/guardians shall be given written notice of the violation and the discipline imposed and shall be informed of the opportunity for appeal to the Athletic Council.