

# EAST JACKSON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

## ATHLETIC CODE OF CONDUCT



2024-2025

East Jackson Secondary School

Jeff Punches - Superintendent

517-769-8801

Joel Cook - 7-12 Principal

517-769-8951

Joe Niehaus - Athletic Director

517-764-1700

1566 North Sutton Road

# Jackson, MI 49202

## ATHLETIC CODE OF CONDUCT

Student-athletes will be governed by the athletic code from their first day of involvement in interscholastic athletics through graduation from high school. It is important to emphasize that all athletes are covered by the “code for the entire “calendar year.”

All athletes who represent East Jackson Community Schools at any grade must adhere to the athletic code. For the purposes of the rules, athletes are defined as members of all interscholastic teams, cheerleaders, managers, and other students who act as support personnel to any of the above teams.

Secondary school students are responsible for the following board policy, the secondary school handbook and the athletic code of conduct. Sixth through Eighth grade students are responsible for adhering to board policy, the secondary school handbook and the athletic code of conduct portions referring to middle school students. Middle school student disciplinary actions will start over with the student’s first day of high school competition, unless the Athletic Director determines the severity or repetitiveness of the middle school student’s misbehavior warrants continuous implementation of disciplinary steps. In the event of any inconsistency between the code of conduct in the student handbook and this athletic code, the student handbook rules always take precedence.

### 1. Introduction

It is the purpose of the East Jackson Community Schools Athletic Department to provide and promote interscholastic athletics for the men and women of the district. The Athletic Department is responsible to the East Jackson Board of Education and Michigan High School Athletic Association.

The Athletic Department offers a wide variety of activities for the students of the district through athletics, the young men and women will be provided an opportunity to grow and mature physically, mentally and socially.

In order to have an efficient program, certain policies and procedures are established. **Any team rules that may differ from the general policy are to be presented to the prospective team members in writing at their first squad meeting. These rules may never be less demanding than the general policy; and must be approved by the Athletic Director.**

### 2. Responsibilities of the Athlete

There are responsibilities that the student-athlete must impose upon oneself in order for successful and competitive athletic traditions to become a reality. You alone will have to decide if you want to live up to the responsibilities and training rules to become a champion. In the simplest of terms, each and every student-athlete must make a commitment for a championship athletic program.

**Responsibility to Yourself** – The student-athlete must broaden and develop strength of character. Your studies, participation in other extracurricular activities, as well as athletics, assist you in getting the greatest possible gain from your school experiences, while at the same time preparing for life.

**Responsibility to Your School** – East Jackson Secondary School will maintain a position as an outstanding school when you do your best in whatever you engage. By participating in athletics to the maximum of your ability, you are contributing to the reputation of your school and the school district.

You automatically assume a leadership role when you are on an athletic team. The student body and citizens of the community know you. The spotlight is on, and it is focused on you. Because of this leadership role, you can contribute greatly to our school spirit and community pride. Make your school

proud of you and your community proud of your school by your performance and devotion.

**Responsibility to Your Home** – When you know that you have lived up to all of the training rules, that you have practiced to the best of your ability, and that you have played the game “all out,” you and your family can be proud.

**Responsibility to Your Team** – “A house divided cannot stand.” The same is true with your team. It only takes one of the squad not willing to work to his/her fullest ability for the squad to weaken in spirit and actual performance.

### **3. MHSAA Regulations**

(What follows are excerpts from the MHSAA Handbook. For further clarification please see your coach or the Athletic Director.)

#### **Eligibility**

To be eligible, a senior high school student must comply with the following rules.

#### **1. Enrollment**

Must be enrolled in a high school no later than the fourth Friday after Labor Day (1st Semester) or the fourth Friday of February (2nd Semester). A student must be enrolled in the school for which he or she competes.

#### **Age**

Must be under nineteen (19) years of age, except that a student whose nineteenth (19th) birthday occurs on or after September 1st of a current school year is eligible for the balance of that school year.

#### **Physical Examination**

Have passed a current year physical examination. a Physical must be on file in the athletic office. Current year commences the first day after the school year closes in the spring for summer vacation. A physician’s statement for the current school year is interpreted as any physical examination given on or after April 15th of the previous school year.

#### **Semesters of Competition**

Have not more than twelve semesters of competition in a sport in a four-year high school.

#### **2. Semesters of Enrollment**

Not have been enrolled for more than twelve semesters in grades nine to twelve, inclusive. Three weeks enrollment or participation in one or more athletic contests constitutes a trimester of enrollment.

#### **3. Undergraduate Standing**

Not be a high school graduate.

#### **4. Transfer Students**

Generally, have had an accompanying change of residence by the student’s parent, guardian or other person with whom the athlete has been living during the period of his or her last high school enrollment, into the district or service area of the school, to be eligible during the first semester in attendance. Any/All transfer students should see the Athletic Director immediately after enrolling at EJSS. No transfer students may compete in an athletic contest without the written support of the Athletic Director. NO EXCEPTIONS.

#### **5. Awards**

A student may accept, for participation in athletics, a symbolic or merchandise award which does not have a fair market value or cost in excess of \$25.00. Athletes accepting memberships, privileges, services, negotiable certificates or money are in violation. For amateur practices, may not have accepted money, merchandise, memberships, privileges, services or other valuable consideration for participating in any form of athletics, sports, or games, or for officiating inter-scholastic athletic contests, or have signed a professional athletic contract. (Reinstatement will not be considered for one year.)

#### **6. Limited Team Membership**

A student who, after practicing with or participating in an athletic contest or scrimmage as a member of a high school athletic team, participates in athletic competition not sponsored by his or her school in the same sport during the same season, shall become ineligible for a minimum of the next three (3) contests/days of competition and maximum of the remainder of that season in that school year. There are exceptions to this MHSAA policy-please see your coach or Athletic Director for clarification.

## **ACADEMIC ATHLETIC ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES**

### **MHSAA ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY POLICY**

These changes were approved by the MHSAA Representative Council on Dec. 5, 2008, after more than two years of discussion throughout the MHSAA's diverse constituency. MHSAA member schools may apply higher standards and longer periods of ineligibility than the MHSAA minimum standard.

#### **Previous Academic Credit Record**

No student shall compete in any athletic contest who does not have to his or her credit in the official records of the school to be represented, at least twenty (20) credit hours of work for the last semester/trimester during which he or she shall have been enrolled in grades 9 to 12, inclusive. A student entering the 9th grade for the first time, except those who had eligibility advanced under the MHSAA ruling, may compete without reference to his/her record in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

The minimum academic standard for athletic eligibility is "66 percent of credit load potential for a full-time student," and the period of ineligibility following a deficiency at the end of a term is "the next trimester".

For an East Jackson student, this means an athlete must pass 5 out of 7 classes. (Any student with career center in his/her schedule must pass 2 of their 3 classes.)

#### **Current Academic Credit Record**

**Academic eligibility checks of not more than 10 weeks are required. If a student is not passing at least twenty (20) credit hours (4 classes) when checked, that student is ineligible for competition until the next check but not less than for the next Monday through Sunday. If the next eligibility check reveals the student is still not passing at least twenty (20) credit hours (4 classes), that student is ineligible for competition for not less than the next Monday through Sunday, and so on until the student is passing twenty (20) credit hours (4 classes) from the start of the semester or trimester through the most recent eligibility check.**

### ***EAST JACKSON SECONDARY SCHOOL ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY POLICY***

- Pass 5/7 Classes (Any student with career- center in his/her schedule must pass 2/3 classes.)
- For the purpose of athletic eligibility, a student's grade must be considered his/her cumulative grade in the class from the first day of the term. The Athletic Director will monitor grades at each term, at progress report time, and periodically between these dates. If a student is eligible (at the end of the term) by MHSAA standards, but ineligible by EJSS regulations, such student athlete will be withheld from competition until three (3) weeks of the succeeding term. If eligible, student athletes

may begin competing. If still ineligible at the three-week check, student athletes will be re-evaluated weekly.

- Students ineligible by MHSAA standards at the term's end will be withheld from athletic competition for 60 school days to start the next term.

· If the student completes summer school, correspondence courses or online courses which the school accepts for credit, this restores eligibility because the student has now passed four classes in the previous trimester. The student will be eligible when the grades become part of the student's transcript.

### 1. Awards

Awards are earned. Participation does not necessarily qualify a student-athlete for an award. In order to receive an award for any sport, you must be academically eligible and not be on suspension for athletic code or EJSS code violations at the conclusion of the season. The season is concluded when the coach releases the athlete from the program either after competition or after the awards presentation (whichever date is the latest). Each sport has certain criteria to be met. These criteria are to be discussed by the coach at the team meeting when the season begins.

### 2. Equipment and Lockers

All equipment issued to the student for athletic participation is the property of the East Jackson Community Schools. The student is financially responsible for all that is issued. Each athlete is required to check his/her equipment daily and report any problems to their coach. Failure to comply, may result in injury (i.e., football equipment). Keep all your equipment clean. Wash your practice gear frequently. Protective pads should also be cleaned on a regular basis. All equipment is to be used properly. Keep your locker clean. This will help keep your equipment aired and also help reduce a major cause for theft—the messy locker. You are responsible for maintaining the condition of your locker.

### 3. Training Room

All athletes are required to report any injury to the trainer/coach. The coach and trainer are to know if the athlete is taking any type of medication. The coach and trainer need to know of any medical problems or concerns such as diabetes or epilepsy, etc. When a student-athlete sees a doctor, a progress report as to practice capabilities is to be given to the coach/trainer. Tape and training room supplies are expensive. They are to be used properly and with the permission of a coach or trainer. Take care of your body; shower properly and report any skin infections to the trainer and your coach. Put all refuse and used tape in trash containers.

### 4. Participation

Students may compete in multiple sports during the same athletic season. Dual sport athletes must have a completed and signed "Multiple Sport Declaration Form" on file with the Athletic Director.

**A student who quits one sport (in good standing) may join another team in the same athletic season if the change is made prior to the first athletic contest. Also, coaches must recommend the change to the Athletic Director, who must then act on the transfer.**

**A STUDENT WHO QUILTS A SPORT MAY NOT PRACTICE FOR ANY OTHER SPORT WITHOUT PERMISSION FROM BOTH COACHES AND THE ATHLETIC DIRECTOR.**

5. Sports Offered

East Jackson High School

Fall	Winter	Spring
Cross Country Football Girls Golf Volleyball Sideline Cheer	Boys/Girls Basketball Boys/Girls Bowling Competitive Cheer Wrestling	Baseball Boys Golf Softball Boys/Girls Track and Field

East Jackson 6th/7th/8th Grade

Fall	Winter I (Oct.-Dec)	Winter II (Jan-March)	Spring
Football 7 <sup>th</sup> /8 <sup>th</sup> Cross Country 6 <sup>th</sup> /7 <sup>th</sup> /8 <sup>th</sup>	Boys Basketball 7 <sup>th</sup> /8 <sup>th</sup> Competitive Cheer 6 <sup>th</sup> /7 <sup>th</sup> /8 <sup>th</sup>	Girls Basketball 7 <sup>th</sup> /8 <sup>th</sup> Wrestling 6 <sup>th</sup> /7 <sup>th</sup> /8 <sup>th</sup>	Track 6 <sup>th</sup> /7 <sup>th</sup> /8 <sup>th</sup>

6. Travel

The standards of good conduct as established by the coach are expected at all times while on trips. All rules and regulations pertaining to the District bus codes are to be adhered to on athletic trips. Appropriate dress, which is established by the coach, is a must on all trips. When bus transportation is provided and a parent desires to take his/her son or daughter home with them after an athletic event, the parent must sign the student out with the coach. Any other exceptions must be cleared prior to the event.

7. Attendance

In order to participate in any Athletic Department PRACTICE OR CONTEST, the athlete must be in attendance the entire school day of the practice or contest. In order to participate in an Athletic Department practice or contest that takes place on a day when school is not in session, the athlete must be in attendance the entire day preceding the day school is not in session. **All absences must be excused by a phone call or a written note.**

- Tardy/Absent Policy
- A student missing more than 10 minutes of a class is considered absent from the class.
- If a student is absent without an approved excuse, yet plays in a competition or practices, he/she would be withheld from the next date of competition.

**8. General Training Rules**

You are required to live by and abide by the standards set forth in the East Jackson Secondary School Student/Parent Handbook. You may not participate in any athletic contests or practices until all school suspensions (including in-school suspensions: ISS) have been served for violation against the standards of conduct.

Student-athletes are representing East Jackson Community Schools and must maintain a standard of exemplary conduct. You are required to exhibit good sportsmanship and citizenship at all times. Failure to do so may be cause for disciplinary action by the coach, or Athletic Director.

Take care of your body. Do not affect your opportunity to contribute to the winning effort by being irresponsible in your health habits.

**9. Problem-Solving Procedure**

When an issue arises that is appropriate for discussion, the coach will welcome the chance to discuss it with you. However, the issue must first be brought to the coach’s attention by the athlete. This ensures that the problem-solving is initiated by the athlete. If after discussion the issue is still not resolved, the parent may contact the coach to set up a meeting. The athlete must also be present at this meeting.

Appropriate Issues:	Inappropriate Issues:
<p>The following issues are considered appropriate issues with coaches:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Expectations during practices and games</li> <li>● Strategies for the student-athlete to improve</li> <li>● Academic/family concerns or issues</li> </ul> <p><b>If student-initiated problem solving does not result in a satisfactory resolution, a meeting should be scheduled that includes parents, the student-athlete and coaches involved. Parents should use the 24-hour rule.</b></p>	<p>The following issues are inappropriate items to discuss with coaches.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Team and/or game strategy</li> <li>● Playing time</li> <li>● Play calling</li> <li>● Other student athletes</li> </ul>

- Steps that should be followed:

1. Start with the source.. Talk directly with the coach, in private, face to face, away from the practice site or game arena. A telephone call may be necessary to arrange an appointment.
2. If necessary, talk next with the head coach of the sport;
3. If necessary, talk next with the Athletic Director;

4. If necessary, talk next with the Principal;
5. If necessary, talk next with the Superintendent, or His/Her designee.

**10. Ejection from an Athletic Contest**

When a student is disqualified during a contest for flagrant or unsportsmanlike conduct, that student shall be withheld for the remainder of that day of competition and for at least the next day of competition for that team. The student must also complete the NFHS Sportsmanship learning course or other course designated by the MHSAA, any cost associated with this course will be the responsibility of the athlete.

Repeat offenses will be handled at the discretion of the Athletic Director and High School Principal.

**11. Violations and Athletic Suspensions**

Athletic Code of Conduct violations may result in dismissal from the team for the duration of the season or permanent removal from athletics.

<b>Tier 1 Violation</b>	<b>Tier 2 Violation</b>	<b>Tier 3 Violation</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Insubordination</li> <li>• Travel and attendance infractions</li> <li>• Team rule infractions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hazing/Harassment</li> <li>• Fighting</li> <li>• Stealing</li> <li>• Gross Misconduct</li> <li>• Destruction/Vandalism</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use or possession of Alcohol, illegal drugs, tobacco, chewing tobacco, vape products in any form</li> <li>• Actions that would be deemed as misdemeanors or felonies under the criminal justice system</li> <li>• Weapons violations</li> </ul>

<b>Tier 1 Violation Punishment</b>	<b>Tier 2 Violation Punishment</b>	<b>Tier 3 Violation Punishment</b>
<p>-1st Offense UP to 1 week or 10 % of the season, whichever comes first</p> <p>-2nd Offense Up to 3 weeks or 25% of the season, whichever comes first</p> <p>-3rd Offense Up to 50% of the season</p>	<p>-1st Offense Up to 3 weeks or 25% of the season, whichever comes first</p> <p>-2nd Offense Up to 50% of the season</p> <p>-3rd Offense Suspension from athletics for 1 calendar year.</p>	<p>-1st Offense Up to 50% of the season</p> <p>-2nd Offense Suspension from athletics for 1 calendar year.</p> <p>-3rd Offense Loss of athletic eligibility for the remainder of their high school career at East Jackson</p>



-4th Offense Suspension from athletics for 1 calendar year.	-4th Offense Loss of athletic eligibility for the remainder of their high school career at East Jackson	
--	--	--

**The above violations are not considered to be a complete list. Any conduct deemed detrimental to East Jackson Community Schools or its athletic program is grounds for disciplinary action as determined by the administrator responsible. Disciplinary action may be taken whether or not legal proceedings or action are pursued outside of school district authority.**

**Understanding the tier system:**

**Tier 1**

A tier one violation can be classified as a tier two or tier three violation by the administrative team depending upon the severity of the violation. (ex., theft over \$100 compared to food theft from cafeteria) All tier one consequences will be determined by the coach and administrative team.

Consequences for additional tier one violations will remain in the tier one category.

**Tier 2 and 3**

If an athlete gets a first offense violation in tier 2 and then gets a second offense violation in tier 3, the student-athlete would serve the penalty for tier 3 (365 days). If an athlete gets a first offense in tier 3 and then receives a second offense in tier 2, the student-athlete would serve the penalty in tier 3 (50% of season). Upon completion of the above requirements, the athlete will become fully eligible for athletic competition.

**In all cases, the East Jackson Secondary School Student Handbook supersedes the Athletic Code of Conduct.**

**Self-Reporting Policy**

We encourage students to self-report violations therefore taking responsibility for their actions. Student-athletes “self-reporting” guidelines are as follows:

- a. Self-reporting only applies on the first offense.
- b. If the student self-reports, the athletic days of suspension will be reduced to 7-days for tobacco offenses and 15-days for alcohol and other drug offenses for both high school and middle school students.
- c. Self-reporting must be made to a coach, Athletic Director, or other high school administrator.
- d. The act of self-reporting must occur before the investigation into an alleged rule violation(s) begins.

**4. Investigation of Training Rules Violations**

If a student-athlete is reported in violation of these rules, one or more of the following will investigate the case: the coach, the Athletic Director, the Assistant Principal, or those hired or appointed by the same. If the circumstances of the investigation do not substantiate the accusations, the source of the accusation will be notified and the case will be dropped.

If the circumstances of the investigation substantiate the accusations, the following process will take place:

- The student-athlete/parents will be notified of the accusation.
- The student-athlete/parents may present information or evidence regarding the accusations.
- The student-athlete/parents and the coach will be notified of the decision and any disciplinary action.
- The student-athlete/parents may appeal. The appeal is made to the building Principal, and then to the

Superintendent of schools. Final appeal is to the Board of Education.