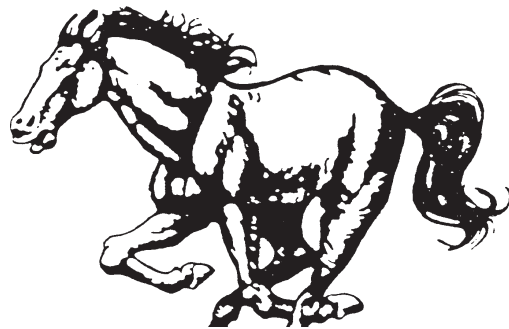


Coopersville
2016-2017
Athletic
Handbook



**Coopersville Area Public Schools
Athletic Code**

1.0 Definition of an Athlete

The term "Athlete" shall apply to any student currently enrolled in grades 7 through 12 of Coopersville Area Public Schools who has been or is a member or student manager of an interscholastic athletic, cheerleading or dance team.

2.0 Coopersville Area Public Schools Athletic Program

The district believes that athletics have definite advantages in fulfilling the board's goals and objectives. The greatest among these is the opportunity it affords for intense competition. The district believes, furthermore, that within the framework of the educational environment, individuals should direct their efforts towards making competition as keen as possible.

Accordingly, the district believes that every athlete should be:

- a. Physically fit,
- b. Mentally alert,
- c. Knowledgeable about his/her sport,
- d. Cooperative with fellow athletes and coaches,
- e. Self-disciplined,
- f. Willing to accept and follow rules,
- g. A good sportsperson, and
- h. A good representative of our school.

Coopersville Area Public Schools is a member of the Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA). This governing body determines the rules and regulations for all athletic contests. Coopersville Area Public Schools offers interscholastic sports to all students in grades 7-12.

3.0 Eligibility Regulations

1. Academic Standing – Athlete shall have passed seven (7) classes or equivalent the preceding semester (marking period in grades 7 & 8).
2. Current Academic Status – Athlete shall be currently taking and passing seven (7) classes or equivalent from the beginning of the semester (marking period in grades 7 & 8.)
3. Enrollment – Athlete shall have been enrolled by Monday of the fourth (4th) week of the present semester.
4. Age – Athlete must be under nineteen (19) years (15 for Middle School) of age at time of contest unless the 19th birthday occurs on or after September 1 of the current school year.
5. Physical Examination – Athlete must have passed and have on file at school a current physical examination (taken no earlier than April 15 prior to the start of school the year of competition).

7. In extreme cases, the principal may remove an athlete from a team or deny the opportunity to try out for a team if the principal deems such participation would adversely affect the school's educational environment or the district's image in the community.

4.5 Appeal

Any appeal from a disciplinary action levied by an administrator or Head Coach shall be made in accordance with procedures established by the Discipline Policy (PL 200). The athlete shall **not** participate in athletic events during the appeal process.

5.0 Inappropriate Use of the Internet

Images found on internet web sites of student-athletes behaving inappropriately will be considered a violation of the athletic code (Group I, number 7 violation). Such behaviors may include pictures of students holding alcoholic containers, tobacco products, illegal drugs or drug paraphernalia, or doing or simulating other inappropriate acts. Arguments such as "the container was empty", etc. will not be a case of defense.

6.0 Hazing

Athletes shall not participate in any induction ceremony, initiation, or other activity that involves risk of physical harm, coercion, intimidation, or other activity that involves risk of physical harm, coercion, intimidation or embarrassment to others. Hazing is a violation of State law, and school policy. Any athlete or parent of an athlete who feels the student has been a victim of such practices should contact any school administrator immediately.

7.0 Athletic Injuries and Insurance

Coopersville Area Public Schools does not assume financial responsibility for medical, hospital, or ambulance expenses incurred because of athletic injuries. Athletics is a voluntary program in which students participate if they so desire.

Documentation of insurance coverage for athletes must be on file in the Athletic Director's office before the first practice. Students who are not covered by other insurance must purchase insurance that is offered through the Athletic Office. Participation in the insurance plan offered through the Athletic Office is not to be construed as an acknowledgment by Coopersville Area Public Schools Board of Education, any individual school, or any member of an athletic staff, of liability for injuries incurred in athletics.

8.0 Limits of Athletic Code

Beyond this code, standards of conduct (such as matters pertaining to attendance, discipline, classroom behavior, etc.) shall be no different for the athlete than for the non-athlete.

6. Seasons of Competition – Athlete must not have more than four (4) first and four (4) second semester seasons of competition in a sport in four (4) years of high school.
7. Semesters of Enrollment – Athlete must not have been enrolled for more than eight (8) semesters in grades nine through twelve (9-12), inclusive. Three weeks enrollment or participation in one (1) or more athletic contests constitutes a semester of enrollment.
8. Undergraduate Standing – Athlete must not be a high school graduate.
9. Awards – Athlete must not have accepted any award for athletic performance except for medals or trophy awards.
10. Amateur Practices – Athlete must not accept money, merchandise, memberships, privileges, services, or other valuable considerations for participation in any form of athletics, sports or games, or for officiating interscholastic athletic contests, or have signed a professional athletic contract.
11. Limited Team Membership – Athlete must not have participated in any outside competition in a sport during the season after they have represented their school in that sport. Athlete shall not have participated in exhibition football or basketball games during the school year.
12. College Recruitment Policy – In the event an athlete is contacted personally by a college recruiter, they have an obligation to work through their coach and the Athletic Department. They must inform their coach of any such contact as soon as possible. Athletes anticipating participation in college sports must contact the NCAA Clearinghouse early in their junior year.
13. As a member of the Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA), Coopersville Area Public Schools adhere to MHSAA regulations. Questions regarding these rules should be directed to the Athletic Director.

4.0 Athletic Code Training Rules, Violations and Appeals

Coopersville Area Public Schools has high expectations for their student athletes. Participation in interscholastic athletics is a **privilege** that brings with it certain expectations and responsibilities.

Violations must be reported to the Athletic Director, but anonymous allegations will not be considered. The Athletic Director will determine the validity of the allegations and, if necessary, administer any penalty. The athlete, athlete's parents/guardian, coach, principal and the superintendent will be advised of the disposition of the case within five working days.

4.1 Violations

Group I Violations

1. Use or possession of tobacco or tobacco products
2. Use or possession of alcohol or alcoholic products
3. Use or possession of other illegal substances or look-a-like substances

4. Use of any drug, medication or food supplement in a way not prescribed by the manufacturer or a physician
5. Use of any drug, medication, or food supplement solely for performance-enhancing purposes
6. Actions which would be deemed misdemeanors under the criminal code
7. Conduct or action that is considered to be detrimental to the positive image of the Cooperstown Area Public Schools athletic program

Group II Violations

1. Furnishing or assisting other students in obtaining or using any prohibited substances
2. Actions which would be deemed felonies under the criminal code

4.2 Penalties for Violations

Group I Penalties

1. First offense is suspension for 1/3 of regular season.
2. Second offense is suspension for 2/3 of regular season.
3. Third offense is suspension for 12-months (all sports).

Group II Penalties

1. Penalties for Group II violations will be determined on a case-by-case basis, but will normally range between a full sport season suspension and a 12-month suspension from all sports.

Other Penalty Provisions

1. A penalty not fully served in Junior High is carried over to High School for completion.
2. "Possession" by an athlete is defined as the student athlete becoming part of a situation where alcohol or drugs are illegally present or being used. If a student-athlete recognizes they are present in this type of environment, they are expected to make arrangements to leave the situation immediately, or face the consequences of their actions.
3. In cases of infractions that also violate city, state, or federal statutes or codes, the district's investigation and determination of violations of the Athletic Code are independent of any legal proceedings involving the athlete.
4. If a student is formally charged with infractions of city, state, or federal statutes or codes which would also be violations of the Athletic Code, the student will be suspended from all athletic participation until the case is resolved. The district will then impose appropriate penalties or reinstate the athlete depending on the disposition of the case and penalties outlined in the Athletic Code. However, in cases where the district has conducted its investigation as per the

provisions of the Athletic Code and has determined that the student violated the Athletic Code, then the district may impose the penalties prescribed by the Athletic Code without waiting for the court's disposition of the case.

5. If the district is unable to determine whether or not an athlete has violated the Athletic Code because the athlete refuses to participate fully in the district's investigation, then the athlete shall be suspended from all athletic participation until such time as the district is able to complete its investigation, with or without the athlete's cooperation.
6. Self-reporting clause: In an attempt to encourage honesty, any student-athlete who self-reports an athletic code violation and is helpful with any follow-up to that incident, will have their first offense penalty reduced to 20% of the regularly scheduled games or contest dates of that sport. This self-reporting must be made prior to any investigation and may be made to any high school administrator.
7. The Athletic Director is granted discretionary authority to be exercised when circumstances indicate that the normal disposition may not be appropriate.

4.3 Other Rules

Each Head Coach has the authority and responsibility, with the approval of the Athletic Director, to make and enforce reasonable rules governing his/her sport. These rules must be in writing and clearly communicated to all team members and their parents. Coaches have the right to dismiss participants for conduct considered detrimental to the team. To assure that such decisions by individual coaches are reasonably just and fair, any decision can be appealed.

4.4 General Provisions

1. An athlete shall not play in a contest or practice with the team while suspended from school.
2. An athlete who is placed in in-house suspension for any part of the day may not play in a contest that day, but may practice with the team.
3. All provisions of the Athletic Code are in effect 24 hours per day, seven days per week and 52 weeks per year regardless of whether an athlete is "in season".
4. It is expected that an athlete will be in school the day of a contest in order to participate. The Athletic Director may grant exceptions to this.
5. Failure to complete the season in good standing will result in forfeiture of any claim to athletic awards for that season.
6. Upon completion of any penalties prescribed in this code, other conditions may be required as condition of reinstatement. These may include counseling, restitution, and/or the imposition of a probationary period.