

# **Canton Local School District**



## **Student Athletic Code of Conduct**

**Revised: May 2017**

# **CANTON LOCAL SCHOOLS**

## **Athletic Code of Conduct**

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## **INTERSCHOLASTIC SPORTS**

Baseball  
Basketball - Boys and Girls  
Bowling - Boys and Girls  
Cheerleading  
Cross Country - Boys and Girls  
Football  
Golf - Boys and Girls  
Soccer - Boys and Girls  
Softball  
Track - Boys and Girls  
Volleyball  
Wrestling

# **INTRODUCTION**

Student participation in the athletic program of Canton Local Schools is a privilege. Through the years, Canton South High School has developed a great tradition for athletes. This tradition has been the product of the hard work attributed to many people over many years. Our teams and individuals have earned recognition and distinction through conference and state play. Our tradition has been to participate in such a way that honor is acquired by our students, athletes, our school, and our community. Such a tradition is worthy of the best efforts regarding all concerned.

As a member of an interscholastic team, your child inherits distinct responsibilities. His/her role in contribution to such an athletic tradition may not be easy. However, any contribution he/she make undoubtedly will be a source of satisfaction not only to his/her school but to the athlete personally. Student-athletes are expected to conduct themselves in an exemplary manner as a member of a Canton South team. Team members will adhere to the athletic rules, regulations, and policies established by Canton Local Schools and the Ohio High School Athletic Association. Violation of any of these will result in disciplinary action. These rules, regulations, and policies govern all student-athletes electing to participate in athletics for the Canton Local School District.

## **ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF RISK**

Risk in sports is a topic which has received a substantial amount of publicity recently. All human activities, including sports, have a potential for causing injury to individuals. Sports injuries can range from simple cuts and bruises to serious conditions such as fractures and severe sprains possibly requiring surgery to catastrophic occurrences which include eye injuries, neck and back injuries with resulting paralysis, and, although rare, death. Proper conditioning, correct techniques, training, and properly fitted equipment can greatly reduce your child's risk of injury. The coaches of Canton Local Schools will properly prepare student-athletes to prevent, protect, and treat all sports related injuries.

We, the parent and student-athlete, acknowledge the risk of injuries detailed above is present in the sports offered in the Canton Local School system. We assume these risks with the understanding that the Canton South coaches will do everything within reason to reduce the injury potential to the student athlete. However, if any injury does occur, the student athlete is expected to report the injury immediately to his/her coach.

## **ATHLETIC RULES, REGULATIONS, AND POLICIES**

### **SUBSTANCE & CHEMICAL ABUSE POLICY**

Any confirmed violation of the following policies will result in disciplinary action. The policy will be in effect for students in grades 7-12 involved in any extracurricular/co-curricular activity. A student will be under the jurisdiction of this policy from the time they initially receive the policy through graduation. This policy will be in effect from the first practice until the last contest of all sports for the duration of the season. Penalties for violation of this policy will be cumulative throughout a high school student-athlete's career. Infractions occurring in the middle school will not be carried over to the high school.

Student-athletes choosing to participate in any sport will be required to submit to a random drug screen to be eligible for competition. The goal of this policy is not to “catch” students using illegal chemicals but to help students have additional compelling reasons not to use chemicals.

The drug screening will be administered one time during each athletic season: Fall, Winter and Spring. Should a student test positive to the presence of an illegal substance, the athletic code of conduct will be followed. Should legal guardians request an appeal, a second test can be administered at the guardian’s expense. The school district reserves the right to reject the results if the administration of the second test is not conducted by a school-approved provider. There will not, however, be an abeyance of consequences while waiting for the results of the second test. The consequences may be removed when the clean results of the second test are approved. Failure to provide a random sample will be considered as a positive result.

Canton Local Schools student-athletes shall not possess, sell, consume, purchase, or be under the influence of any drugs, alcohol, steroids/performance enhancing drugs, look-a-like drugs, or prescription drugs not prescribed to the student-athlete.

#### A. First Offense

1. First violation will result in a 20% loss of participation of the remaining scheduled contests, including tournaments, to be based on the number of regular season contests for the sport. If there are not enough contests remaining in the season to complete the 20% loss of participation, the denial of participation will carry over to the next season that the student-athlete participates. The student must complete the season in good standing, or the penalty will be assessed in the next sport season that the student-athlete participates in.
2. The student-athlete must obtain professional drug/alcohol assessment, at his/her own expense, in order to return to participation. Student-athletes may practice during his/her loss of participation; they may not participate in contests.
3. An intervention meeting will be held with the athletic director, student-athlete, and parent/guardian to review the assessment.

#### B. Second Offense

1. The second violation will result in a loss of participation for 1 calendar year from the time the school is notified of the violation. The student-athlete may have this penalty reduced to 50% loss of participation, provided the student-athlete and his/her parent/guardian agrees to accept and successfully complete the following requirements;
  - a. The student-athlete must obtain a professional drug/alcohol assessment, at his/her own expense, and agree to participate and complete all recommendations made by the assessment agency.
  - b. The student-athlete will give a baseline drug test at the school district’s expense. The student-athlete must then submit to 3 random drug/alcohol tests over a 1 calendar year period. These tests are at the expense of the student-athlete and his/her parent/guardian. The student-athlete and his/her parent/guardian shall be notified by the athletic director as to the time and location/agency that has been selected by the school for each test year.
  - c. Failure of the student-athlete to complete any of the above requirements or any positive drug tests will result in a loss of participation for 1 calendar year.
  - d. If there is not enough contests remaining in the season to complete 50% loss of participation, the denial of participation will be carried over to the next sports season that the student-athlete participates. The student-athlete must complete the season in good standing or the penalty will be assessed in the next sport season that the student-athlete participates in.

2. An intervention meeting will be held with the athletic director, student-athlete, and parent/guardian to review the assessment.

#### C. Third Offense

1. A third violation will result in the denial of participation in athletics for the duration of the student-athlete's high school career. An athletic termination hearing will be held with the principal, athletic director, student-athlete, and parent/guardian.

D. These offenses will accumulate during their high school sports participation.

### **TOBACCO USE/POSSESSION**

Canton Local Schools student-athletes shall not use or possess any form of tobacco, tobacco related products, or tobacco paraphernalia, including electronic cigarettes. Any confirmed violation of this policy will result in immediate disciplinary action. Possession or use of a tobacco product during the season will result in the following:

#### A. First Offense

1. First violation will result in a 20% loss of participation of the remaining scheduled contests, including tournaments, to be based on the number of regular season contests for the sport. If there are not enough contests remaining in the season to complete the 20% loss of participation, the denial of participation will carry over to the next season that the student-athlete participates. The student must complete the season in good standing, or the penalty will be assessed in the next sport season that the student-athlete participates in

#### B. Second Offense

1. Second violation will result in a 50% loss of participation of the remaining scheduled contests, including tournaments, to be based on the number of regular season contests for the sport. If there are not enough contests remaining in the season to complete the 50% loss of participation, the denial of participation will carry over to the next season that the student-athlete participates. The student must complete the season in good standing, or the penalty will be assessed in the next sport season that the student-athlete participates in.

#### C. Third Offense

1. Third violation will result in the denial of participation in athletics for the duration of the student-athletes career. An athletic termination hearing will be held with the principal, athletic director, student-athlete, and parent/guardian.

E. These offenses will accumulate during their high school sports participation.

## **SALE & DISTRIBUTION OF DRUGS/ALCOHOL/CHEMICAL SUBSTANCE**

A student-athlete involved in the sale and/or distribution of any drugs, alcohol, or chemical substance will result in the denial of participation for 1 calendar year from violation.

## **SOCIAL MEDIA GUIDELINES**

In the past, inappropriate use of social media by Canton South High School Students participating in athletics and co-curricular activities has resulted in suspension from practice, contests, and other events. In an effort to foster good sportsmanship and to deter the need to enforce discipline, Canton Local Schools recommends the following guidelines as best practices for the use of social media by Canton South High School student-athletes. For the purposes of these guidelines, social media means any form of electronic communication through which users create online communities to share information, ideas, personal messages, and other content.

Student-athletes are not restricted from using any online social network sites or digital platforms. However, users must understand that any content they make public via on-line social networks or digital platforms is expected to follow acceptable social behaviors and also comply with federal government, state of Ohio, Canton Local School District, and Ohio High School Athletic Association rules and regulations. As a Canton South High School student-athlete you are held accountable to the Student Handbook regulations. Ignorance of these regulations does not excuse student-athletes from adhering to them.

These guidelines are intended to provide a framework for student-athletes to conduct themselves safely and responsibly in an on-line environment. As a student-athlete at Canton South High School you should avoid posting:

- A. Derogatory language or remarks about teammates or coaches; other Canton South High School students, athletes, teachers, or coaches; students, athletes, administrators or representatives of other schools.
- B. Demeaning statements about or threats to any third party.
- C. Incriminating photos or statements depicting violence, bullying, hazing, sexual harassment, vandalism, stalking, underage drinking; selling, possessing, or using controlled substances; or any other inappropriate behaviors.
- D. Creating a serious danger to the safety of another person or making a credible threat of serious physical or emotional injury to another person.
- E. Indicating knowledge of an unreported crime.
- F. Indicating knowledge of an unreported school or team violation, regardless if the violation was unintentional or intentional.

Incidents and infractions will be handled on a case by case basis. Discipline will be as follows, depending on the severity of the infraction:

- Single or multiple game suspensions
- Dismissal from team
- Possible consequences from the Canton Local Administration

Maximum of three accumulated offenses of the social media policy during the season will result in removal from the team for the remainder of the season.

## SCHOLARSHIP AND ELIGIBILITY

In accordance with the Canton Local Board of Education policy, in order to be eligible to participate in any interscholastic extracurricular activities, students must meet the following requirements:

### A. Students Enrolled in Grades 9-12

1. In the immediately preceding grading period, a student must receive a passing grade in a minimum of five (5) one credit courses or the equivalent, which count toward graduation.
2. Those grades referenced in (A,1) must, when combined, be a total grade point average of at least 1.5 on a four-point (4.0) scale. (See Item C3)
3. A student enrolled in the first grading period after advancement from the eighth grade must have passed 5 classes of those subjects carried the preceding grading period in which the student is enrolled.
4. Those grades must, when combined, be a total grade point average of at least 1.5 on a four-point (4.0) scale. (See Item C3)

### B. Students Enrolled in Grades 7-8

1. A student enrolling in the seventh grade for the first time will be eligible for the first grading period regardless of previous academic achievement. Thereafter, in order to be eligible, a student in grade 7 or 8 must have received passing grades in **five classes** carried the preceding grading period in which the student was enrolled.
2. Those grades referenced in (B,1) must, when combined, be a total grade point average of at least 1.5 on a 4.0 scale. (See Item C3)

### C. Intervention for Grades 7-12

1. A student who has a grade point average below 1.5 but maintains state eligibility standards may continue to compete if he/she participates in a provided study table or intense tutoring, as determined by the Athletic Department, until they acquire an official 1.5 grade point average. (This grade point average will be in compliance to (A,1) above.) This will be mandatory. Any unexcused absence from the study table will result in suspension from the athlete's next scheduled contest. The study table will also be available to any student upon the request of the parents and approval of the principal.

### D. Pass/Fail Policy

1. Any student who received a failing grade for any class or course of study for the previous grading period may be eligible to participate in interscholastic extracurricular activities provided he/she meets all of the requirements of (A) or (B) above.

### E. All other eligibility requirements of the Board and, in the case of interscholastic athletics, the Ohio High School Athletic Association, must be met in addition to those declared above.

## **INELIGIBILITY**

- A. If a student is declared academically ineligible for participation, the following will occur:
1. Adhere to all rules established by the OHSAA.
  2. The coach can permit a student-athlete to practice during the ineligibility period; student-athletes are not permitted to dress for or compete in a contest.
  3. The coach can permit a student-athlete to travel with team during the ineligibility period.

## **PHYSICAL EDUCATION WAIVER**

Canton Local Board of Education has adopted a policy to excuse the high school physical education requirement for each student who, during high school, has participated in interscholastic athletics, marching band, or cheerleading for at least two full seasons. Once the student completes two full season activities a PE Waiver for .50 credit will be granted to the student. Waivers will not be issued for .25 (one season activity). If a student only completes one full season activity during high school then the student is required to still complete two semesters of P.E. If a student does not complete the season due to an injury, he/she **will not** receive a P. E. Waiver.

## **TRAINING AND TEAM EXPECTATIONS**

- A. Each head coach will file copies of their team training and expectations with the principal and athletic director.
- B. Each head coach will properly publicize to the athletes a set of training regulations for their specific sport.
- C. An athlete may be subject to denial of participation or dismissal from the school sponsored sport team for violations of any of the specified training regulations or for violations of the Canton Local School Board regulations.

## **DENIAL OF PARTICIPATION POLICY AND PROCEDURES**

An athlete who is subject to denial of participation or dismissal from a school sponsored sports team will undergo a formal hearing procedure in the presence of the principal/assistant principal and athletic director/coach after which a recommendation for discipline will be made. Benching is always the right of the coach and is not subject to the formal hearing procedure.



## **QUITTING A TEAM**

Any athlete who decides to quit a team must inform the head coach and return all equipment issued to him/her. In the event a student-athlete quits a team he/she is not permitted to begin practicing or playing with another Canton South team during the same sports season.

## **INSURANCE - WAIVER - PARENT CONSENT**

Insurance for athletes is available for parents/guardians to purchase. Enrollment is usually the first two or three weeks of each school year. The athlete must either purchase the school insurance or be insured by the parents/guardian's insurance. Those parents/guardians electing not to purchase the school insurance for their son/daughter will be accepting the responsibility of their own insurance.

## **REQUIRED FORMS**

### A. Emergency Medical Form

1. Each athlete is responsible to complete an emergency medical form and return it to the head coach prior to participation.
2. No athlete will be permitted to begin practice or competition without this form signed by the parent/guardian and filed with the head coach.

### B. Physical Exams

1. Ohio Athletic Association requires a physical exam each year of competition.
2. No athlete will be permitted to begin practice or competition without a physical exam form completed by a physician and signed by the parent/guardian and on file with the athletic director.
3. Expense of the physical examination is the responsibility of the parent/guardian.
4. Signed acknowledgement of reading & understanding the Canton Local Athletic Code of Conduct.
5. Signed acknowledgement of OHSAA/Canton South Parent Video.
6. Signed Consent form for Quest Drug Screening.
7. Signed Concussion Information Sheet.
8. Any Additional forms requested by individual coaches

## **AWARDS PROGRAM**

### **VARSIITY:**

1st Year Varsity:	Certificate, Varsity Letter, and Sports Emblem
2nd Year Varsity:	Certificate and Bar
3rd Year Varsity:	Certificate and Bar
4th Year Varsity:	Plaque

**RESERVE:** Certificate

**FRESHMEN:** Certificate

## **REQUIREMENTS FOR AWARDS**

A. To obtain a Varsity Award, an athlete must participate in:

1. Minimum of one half (1/2) the quarters in:
  - a. Football (participate in two consecutive plays)
  - b. Basketball, (boys and girls)
  - c. Soccer
  - d. Senior who completes season from start to finish.
2. Involved in at least one half (1/2) the matches in:
  - a. Golf
  - b. Baseball
  - c. Softball
  - d. Wrestling
  - e. Volleyball
  - f. Bowling
  - g. Varsity Cheerleading (one sport season)
  - h. Senior who completes season from start to finish
3. Earn points toward team total:
  - a. Cross Country, (boys and girls) - Five boys and five girls who accumulate the highest total points toward team total during the season.
  - b. Track, (boys and girls) - Contributes an average of 1 1/2 points toward the team total in number of duels the team participates.
  - c. Senior who completes season from start to finish.
4. If a student athlete sustains an injury that keeps him/her from meeting the requirements, the head coach may in his/her judgment present the varsity award to that athlete.
5. To obtain a Participation Award a participant must complete the season.
6. To obtain a Canton South/NBC Scholar Award a participant must maintain 5 credits as a Canton South High School Student.
7. Canton South will recognize athletes that have lettered at other schools, after contact has been made with previous school.

## **RESIDENCE (Bylaw 4 Section 6)**

A student is eligible at the school located in the OHIO school district where the parent or legal guardian resides when all other eligibility standards are met. If your parent/legal guardian lives outside of Ohio, you are not eligible unless you meet one of the (10) exceptions to the residency bylaws. When there has been a change of custody, the student must reside in the same school district with the legal custodial parent/guardian.

## **CHANGING SCHOOLS-TRANSFERS (Bylaws 4 Section 7)**

Rules seem to change every year in this Bylaw, but the following has been consistent. Every student athlete establishes residency at the beginning of the 9th Grade, which includes:

- A. Participation in some form of contest, (scrimmage, preview, or regular season).
- B. Attending the first day of school.
- C. Grades 10, 11 or 12 only if home schooled and only if you reside in the Canton Local School District.

Once eligibility has been established and you choose to transfer somewhere else, before you transfer or have a change of address, make sure you are aware of all the Bylaws included in the change schools transfer. Always check with your school principal, guidance counselor, or athletic administrator before you change schools to determine whether it will affect your eligibility.

## **STUDENT PARTICIPATION CONDUCT PENALTY**

Any student ejected for unsportsmanlike conduct or flagrant foul shall be ineligible for contests for the remainder of that day as well as for all contests in that sport until two regular season/tournament contests are played at the same level as the ejection, (one contest in football). If the ejection occurs in the last contest of the season, the student shall be ineligible for the same period of time as stated above in the next sport in which the student participates. A student under suspension may not sit on the team bench, enter the locker room or be affiliated with the team in any way traveling to, during, or traveling after, the contest(s). A student who is ejected a second time shall be suspended for the remainder of the season in that sport. A student who has been ejected for unsportsmanlike conduct for the second time in the season during the last contest shall be ineligible for a period of time/number of contests subject to the discretion of the commissioner. The period of ineligibility shall commence during the next sport in which the student participates.

It is the responsibility of the local school authorities to ensure this regulation is enforced. When an ineligible student is allowed to participate, forfeiture of the contest is mandatory. This regulation shall apply to all regular season and tournament contests and shall in no way limit the discretionary authority of the commissioner as specified in the OHSAA Tournament Regulations. In accordance with Bylaw 8-3-1, the decisions of contest officials are final.

## **ABSENCE OF ATHLETE FROM SCHOOL**

- A. If a student-athlete is going to be absent for any period of time during the season, he/she must obtain administrative approval, high school level only. Failure to secure this approval will prohibit the student-athlete's participation for the day. Each student-athlete must be in attendance ½ day and remain unless prior arrangements have been made. In the event of a Saturday contest, the student-athlete must be in attendance ½ day Friday unless he/she has athletic department approval.
- B. When school is closed due to inclement weather, attendance at athletic practice is the judgment of the Head Coach/Administration.

- C. Athletes who are under suspension or expulsion from school may not participate for the duration of suspension or expulsion. This applies to practices, games, or any other team activity
- D. Athletes who are under suspension or expulsion from school may not participate for the duration of suspension or expulsion. This applies to practices, games or any other team activity.
- E. If a student-athlete is going to be absent for any period of time during the season, he/she must have administrative approval at the building level. Failure to secure this approval will disallow the students participation for that day. Always have approval before and not after the fact. This includes dental appointments, doctor's visits, family situations, ect.

### **FAN EJECTION POLICY**

- A. Any fan who is ejected from any school-sponsored inter-scholastic contest for unsporting conduct shall be denied admittance to the contest for the remainder of the day. In-addition, the fan shall be denied admittance to any school-sponsored activity until he/she attends an informal hearing with the Athletic Director and Principal. Following that meeting a suspension shall be determined according to the seriousness of the infraction. The minimum suspension is the denial of the next two regular season/tournament home contests in the same sport at the same level. This would include all contests at other levels that are played in conjunction of the level of ejection.
- B. Any fan who is ejected from a varsity basketball contest may not be in attendance at the next two junior varsity and varsity contests. If the ejection occurs in the last contest of the season, the fan will be denied admittance for the first two contests the following season.
- C. Any fan who is ejected from any football contest may not be in attendance for the next scheduled home contest at that level.
- D. Should there be any subsequent ejections at any interscholastic contest, the fan would be denied to all contests for the remainder of the season, pending the decision following an informal hearing held with the principal and athletic director.

## **- THE ROLE OF PARENTS -** **INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS** **- Communicating with Coach -**

### **Appropriate Concern To Discuss With Coaches**

- A. The treatment of your child, mentally and physically
- B. Ways to help your child improve
- C. Concerns about your child's behavior

### **Issues Not Appropriate To Discuss With Coaches**

- A. Playing time
- B. Team strategy
- C. Play calling
- D. Other student athletes

### **Appropriate Procedure For Discussing Concerns With Coaches**

- A. Call to set up an appointment with the coach, (contact the athletic administrator to set up a meeting if unable to reach the coach).
- B. Do not confront a coach before or after a contest or practice. These can be emotional times for all parties involved and does not promote a resolution.

### **What if the Meeting With The Coach Did Not Provide A Satisfactory Resolution**

- A. Call to set up an appointment with the athletic administrator.
- B. Determine the appropriate next step at this meeting.

