

JAMES A. GARFIELD LOCAL SCHOOLS ATHLETIC CODE OF CONDUCT

PHILOSOPHY

Participation in athletic activities is a privilege that will be regulated. The athletic program is an integral part of the James A. Garfield educational system. As such, our goal is to provide each participant the opportunity to grow mentally, morally, physically, emotionally, and to attain athletic excellence. The athletic code applies to all James A. Garfield student athletes in grades 7-12. It must be adhered to by the student athlete year round, both in season and out of season. **Consequences may extend beyond the school year into a new school year and from season to season.**

GOALS

Athletes in the district are:

1. to abide by the rules and policies of the school and coaches;
2. to strive to excel;
3. to exhibit good sportsmanship, good manners, and self-discipline;
4. to be honest, loyal, and respectful;
5. to maintain high academic standards; and
6. to keep physically fit.

DEFINITION

1. Athlete - Any student participating in an athletic sport as a contestant, manager, scorekeeper, statistician, trainer or cheerleader.
2. Sport Season - The season begins with the first day of organized practices and is terminated when that athlete is no longer eligible for State Tournament competition, as per the O.H.S.A.A. handbook.
3. Possession - The custody and control of property.
4. Self-Referral - Seeking help before a violation is detected.
5. Tobacco/Drug/Alcohol Rehabilitation Program - A recognized treatment program with a history of tangible positive results. (All costs for assessment, treatment, rehabilitation, or counseling shall be the responsibility of the athlete and his/her family.)
6. Penalty Carry Over - Consequences carried over into another sport season or school year.
7. Sport - Any athletic extracurricular
8. Attendance at Activity - Students must be in school the equivalent of ½ day to participate in **practice and/or contest**. For events during the school year but not on a school day, the student athlete must be in school for ½ day the day prior to the contest.

CONDITIONS AND PROCEDURES

1. All athletes will be good representatives of the Garfield School District 24 hours a day, exhibiting good citizenship in the school and in the community.
 - a. Athletes convicted of a crime or sentenced to the juvenile detention center will be removed from all Garfield athletic teams for a semester or a season, whichever is greater.
 - b. Athletes suspended out of school for any offense other than items covered in Items 2 and 3 below will be denied the privilege to participate in all practices and contests during the suspension. If no contests fall during the period of the suspension, athletes will be denied the privilege to participate in the first contest upon return to school. This means the athlete may not attend the contest as a player or a spectator.
2. All athletes will abstain from possession, use, sale, or distribution of alcohol, drugs, intoxicants or controlled substances of any kind, or possession of drug paraphernalia.

Violation of this section will result in:

1st Offense - Denied the privilege to participate in not less than 10% of the scheduled contests and mandatory participation in a professional counseling service. The athletic manager may consider cases of extreme hardship. An athlete refusing to attend a professional counseling service will be denied the privilege to participate in not less than 50% of the scheduled contests. An athlete caught lying during questioning about his/her use will be denied the privilege to participate in not less than 50% of the scheduled contests and will be required to attend professional counseling before returning to contest participation.

2nd Offense - Denied the privilege to participate in not less than 50% of the scheduled contests and no local post-season awards. The student will be required to undergo an assessment by a professional counselor (such as Townhall II or the Alcoholism Services of Portage County) and follow the recommendations of the assessment counselor before returning to contest participation.

3rd Offense - Denied the privilege to participate in the athletic program for one calendar year from the date of the infraction.

3. All athletes will abstain from possession, use or distribution of tobacco products of any kind (including smokeless tobacco).

Violation of this section will result in:

1st Offense - Denied the privilege to participate in not less than 10% of scheduled contests.

2nd Offense - Denied the privilege to participate in not less than 50% of scheduled contests.

3rd Offense - Denied the privilege to participate for a semester or season, whichever is greater.

NOTE: Consequences for Students violating Items 2 or 3 above between seasons will carry into the next season of participation.

DENIAL OF PARTICIPATION AND DUE PROCESS

1. The infraction(s) will be verified by the following: a school employee, chaperone, or a member of any law enforcement agency, an adult or the parents of the athlete in violation. An infraction may also be verified by a statement of admission by the athlete.
2. In the event of an infraction of these rules and/or training rules established by the athletic department, the following procedure will take place.
 - a. The athletic manager will conduct an informal hearing to notify the athlete (verbally) of the infraction(s) and what discipline might take place. The athlete will have the opportunity to explain his/her actions in regard to the infraction(s).
 - b. If the athletic manager denies the student the opportunity to participate, he shall inform the student and his/her parents/guardians, both verbally and in writing of the infraction and the punishment to be levied. They may appeal in writing within three school days of the athletic manager's written notice.
 - c. If appealed, the principal will meet with the student(s), his/her parents and the athletic manager to hear the issue. The student may have a representative of his/her choosing at the appeal.
 - d. The principal's decision may be appealed to the superintendent and Board of Education with conformity with the current acceptable practice.

ATHLETIC ELIGIBILITY

1. All student athletes must adhere to the OHSAA eligibility standards.
 - a. High School Athletes must pass a minimum of five (5) one-credit classes, or the equivalent (P.E. does not count), in the immediately preceding grading period.
 - b. Middle School Athletes must pass at least 75% of subjects in which enrolled the immediately preceding grading period. All students enrolled in 7th grade for the first time will be eligible to participate in athletics during the first grading period.
 - c. All student athletes must also adhere to the James A. Garfield Board of Education eligibility policy and maintain a minimum GPA of 1.0 in the immediately preceding grading period.
 - d. Athletes may not fail more than one (1) class in the immediately preceding grading period.
 - e. All athletes will maintain academic eligibility as set forth by the Ohio High School Athletic Association and the Board of Education Policy No. 2431.
2. All athletes will be responsible for the proper maintenance of athletic equipment and uniforms.
3. Game uniforms are to be worn only at games, not as regular clothing, for practices, or for P.E. classes. (Exception may be made for team shirt day and for articles purchased by the athletes.)

4. Athletes who lose, damage equipment, or have financial obligations with the Athletic Department, will not be permitted to participate in another sport until the loss, damage, or financial obligation has been remedied. Athletes required to purchase uniforms, equipment, etc. ordered by a school district employee must have parental consent.
5. All athletes shall be provided the following authorization forms, which must be returned prior to their first practice:
 - a. physical form completed by a licensed physician
 - b. insurance waiver form
 - c. emergency medical form (athletic department copy)
 - d. athletic eligibility form
 - e. athletic code of conduct signature page
 - f. if provided, coach's specific rules and regulations if provided

Athletes without proper authorization forms are ineligible for inter-scholastic contests and can not participate in practices.

6. All athletes shall follow rules, procedures, and regulations set down by the coach and/or athletic manager. Athletes failing to comply with the rules, procedures, and regulations may be subject, but not limited to, the following:
 - a. assigned extra duties to perform
 - b. prohibited from practicing
 - c. prohibited from participating in part or all of one or more contests
 - d. removed from the athletic team.
7. If an athlete participating in "Sport A" either quits the team or is denied participation for a violation, he/she is not eligible to join other organized sports within that same season. If an athlete is "cut" from the team, before the regular season begins, not because of a violation, he/she will be eligible for "Sport B". Athletes unable to complete during a season due to extreme hardship or medical reason may be eligible for other organized sports in the same season.
8. It is the intent of this school district to provide the opportunity to excel and become successful in the endeavor a student may choose. An opportunity shall be given to the student to change sports once started. A student may elect to change sports not later than two calendar weeks from the beginning of the first scheduled practice. Once that grace period has expired a student may not change programs.

ATHLETIC CODE OF CONDUCT AGREEMENT PAGE

I HAVE READ, UNDERSTAND, AND AGREE TO ABIDE BY THE ATHLETIC CODE OF CONDUCT ESTABLISHED BY THE JAMES A. GARFIELD LOCAL SCHOOLS.

ATHLETE'S SIGNATURE

DATE

PARENT/GUARDIAN'S SIGNATURE

DATE

HEAD COACH OR ADVISOR

DATE

COMMENTS/QUESTIONS:
