



Tonawanda City School District Interscholastic Athletic Code of Conduct

At Tonawanda Middle and High Schools we afford all students in grades 7-12 the opportunity to participate in any of our interscholastic sports programs provided that they are physically fit, in good academic standing, and abide by the school's rules and regulations. It is the individual student's choice in selecting participation in an interscholastic athletic program, and with that choice comes the responsibility to abide by the rules established for that program.

The regulations, which are terms of this agreement, regarding the possession and/or use of illegal drugs and alcohol will apply to all students participating in the above noted school programs. These are stated below:

Any student involved in a competitive activity or athletic program shall not possess, use, transmit, or be under the influence of tobacco (including e-cigs and vaping), marijuana, alcohol, Palcohol, performance enhancing drugs, or controlled substances of any kind during a school year.

For enforcement purposes, all violations of these rules must be brought to the attention of the building administration by school personnel or by a member of the Tonawanda Police Department and will be addressed in a timely manner. Athletes are considered to be in training and therefore should not be in attendance at any function where underage drinking, open containers of alcohol, marijuana, and or drug possession use are occurring. The student athlete in attendance will be disciplined whether using or not. Should they choose to attend, they will be held accountable for that choice.

For the purposes of these regulations, the athletic school year is defined as the time period of a program beginning with the first official practice/try out for the fall season and ending with the last contest, including post-season play of the spring season.

Examples of Inappropriate Behavior

- *Possession and/or Use of Drugs-* The possession and/or use of illegal drugs and/or paraphernalia or the possession and/or use of drugs or medications without a prescription are strictly prohibited. Violations will be treated as a second violation for the first violation. However, if the student chooses to engage in documented anti-drug prevention coaching, the violation will return to a first violation.
- *Possession and/or Use of Alcohol and Tobacco Products-* The possession and/or use of alcohol and tobacco/ nicotine delivery devices (e-cigs and vaping) or products are strictly prohibited.
- *Possession and/or Use of Marijuana and Marijuana Products-* The possession and/or use of marijuana and marijuana products are strictly prohibited.
- *Hosting/Attending of Drinking/Drug Parties-* Student athletes are prohibited from hosting and/or attending a party that involves alcohol, drugs, marijuana, or illegal substances.
- *Tonawanda Student Code of Conduct Violations-* Any violation of the Tonawanda Student Code of Conduct, resulting in an out-of-school suspension, will result in progressive levels of discipline under this Code.
- *Hazing/Initiation Ceremony-* Tonawanda interscholastic coaches will not permit, nor will

Tonawanda student athletes stage, any type of "initiation ceremony" or hazing for athletes at any time or at any level. Hazing may result in immediate removal from the team and contact with the authorities and a Superintendent's hearing.

- *Poor Sportsmanship*- Student athletes, whether participants or spectators, will observe courteous behavior during all sporting events. Booing, whistling, name-calling, obscene gestures, fighting or arguing with the referee, etc. will not be tolerated.
- *Stealing*- Stealing of any kind, including athletic clothing belonging to Tonawanda or our opponents, will not be tolerated.
- *Vandalism or Property Destruction*- Vandalism or property destruction violations may result in internal or external suspension and appropriate penalties for violation of the athletic Code.
- *Verbal and/or physical abuse* directed at teachers, coaches, student opponents, officials, etc. will not be tolerated at any time.

Penalties

Penalties resulting from the violation of the Interscholastic Athletic Code will be imposed by the Director of Health, Physical Education, and Athletics or district designee. In determining appropriate penalties, the Director of Health, Physical Education, and Athletics or district designee shall be guided as follows:

ELIGIBILITY CHART

Scheduled Contest Penalty: FIRST VIOLATION	Scheduled Contest Penalty: SECOND VIOLATION
Athletes must sit out the next regular scheduled contest.	Athletes will sit out 50% of the remaining future schedule and potentially scheduled contests.

*It should be noted, notwithstanding the above chart of penalties, that the facts of an incident may warrant immediate removal from the team if the Director of Health, Physical Education, and Athletics and the administration believe that the violation committed by the athlete warrants such action.

Due Process

- Participation in interscholastic athletics is a privilege and discipline is not governed by Education Law §3214.
- Prior to the imposition of any penalty under the code, a meeting will be scheduled with the athlete, coach, and the Director of Health, Physical Education, and Athletics. Student athletes, parent(s)/caregivers and coaches will be notified immediately verbally the exact dates of the scheduled contests for which the athlete must be penalized.
- At the conclusion of the meeting, a letter will be sent to the student athlete, parent(s)/caregivers, and coaches as notification of the exact dates of the scheduled contests for which the athlete must be penalized and the tentative date that the athlete may resume participating in contests for that season. The letter will also highlight the probationary period the student athlete will serve according to the Interscholastic Athletic Code of Conduct guidelines.

First and Second Violations

- **Penalties:** Penalties, which cannot be served during the sports season in which they are imposed, will be carried over for completion in the next sports season in which the athlete participates and completes. It should be noted that the school year encompasses three sports seasons.
- **Practice:** The student athlete may continue to practice with the team, unless otherwise directed by

the coach or Director of Athletics, but will not be permitted to participate in the team's scheduled competitions according to the Eligibility Chart. Scrimmages are not considered contests.

- Reinstatement to Sport: Upon completion of the scheduled contest penalty imposed, the student athlete, the Director of Health, Physical Education, and Athletics, and the head coach will attend a meeting as a follow-up to the letter given during the Due Process period. This meeting will release the athlete to fully participate in any remaining scheduled contests for that sport.
- Probation: The first violation begins a period of probation for the student athlete, which will take place from the date of the first infraction running through and completion of the school year.
- Finally, a student athlete found in violation of the code and penalized accordingly, may not be in uniform at a scheduled contest as part of the return until the approved date given by the Director of Health, Physical Education, and Athletics and the penalty violation is served in full.

Third Violation

If a third violation occurs, the student athlete will be removed from ALL Interscholastic Athletic Practices and Programs and must attend a meeting with their parent(s)/caregivers and the Director of Health, Physical Education, and Athletics. At the conclusion of the meeting the final consequence will be determined by the discretion of the Director of Health, Physical Education, and Athletics. A letter will be sent to the student athlete, parent(s)/caregivers and coaches as notification of the exact dates of participation for which the athlete must be penalized and the tentative date that the athlete may resume participation.

The Re-Admission Hearing

During the student athlete's probationary period and after serving a scheduled contest penalty according to the Eligibility Chart, the student athlete, parent(s)/caregivers, coach, and Director of Health, Physical Education, and Athletics must attend a mandatory meeting to discuss the athlete being readmitted to the Interscholastic Athletic Program.

Counseling Recommendation

The Tonawanda City School District recommends that all students committing Interscholastic Athletic Code of Conduct Violations consider seeking counseling and/or treatment. If an athlete chooses to complete such counseling/treatment prior to their full suspension period on a second violation the amount of games missed may be cut in half. They are required to bring proper documentation provided by the center as proof of acting in good faith to improve their conduct.

ELIGIBILITY POLICY

ACADEMICS

Students deemed academically ineligible as detailed below will be entered into our Tonawanda Academic Support Program (TASP). All of our rules are consistent with the New York State Public High School Athletic Association and the Erie County Interscholastic Conference (E.C.I.C.)

Section 1 - Student Participants for the Fall Season

- Student Athletes at Tonawanda High School will be required to complete a minimum of 4.5 credits, including physical education, at the end of each academic year (August)

- Section 1 does not apply to Middle School Students.

Section 2- Student athlete participants will be monitored throughout the year.

- At each ten (10) week marking period the student athlete must maintain a minimum academic average of 72.00%
- At each five (5) week progress report students must be passing all but one subject, as well as Physical Education, to remain academically eligible.
- To begin the winter and spring seasons, eligibility checks will be based on the last 10-week marking period followed by the 5 week progress reports during the season.

Tonawanda Academic Support Program

This is a proactive eligibility program for our students involved in athletics. Students placed in TASP must complete a student academic contract each week to determine their eligibility for the following week.

- Students deemed academically ineligible will be placed in TASP for a 5 week time period.
- During this time period the student athletes must seek remediation with the teacher of their failed courses and have proper motivation, proper work ethic/effort to be successful in all classes, and/or elevate their grade to a passing grade of 65 or higher.
- Each student athlete in TASP will be issued a Tonawanda Eligibility Evaluation form from the Director of Athletics that their teachers must sign-off on each time to verify that the student athlete has sought remediation, has proper motivation, and proper work ethic/effort to be successful in class, and/or elevate their grade to a passing grade of 65 or higher.
- Student athletes who do not meet the requirements of attending remediation, proper motivation, and proper work ethic/effort will be ineligible to participate in contests the following week.

The Coach will be responsible for encouraging any ineligible students to attend academic intervention services and monitoring the students' progress as he/she attempts to meet these academic eligibility requirements.

The Director of Health, Physical Education, and Athletics will verify this information with the school counseling office and the student's teacher(s) to ensure the student has met the eligibility requirements prior to allowing the student to return to participation.

Section 3- Students classified by the Committee for Special Education or who have a designated 504 plan will have their eligibility determined according to the parameters of their Individual Education Plan (IEP).

Attendance Requirements

School attendance is essential for a student to be academically successful. Student athletes must be in attendance for a full seven (7) of nine (9) periods to be eligible for practice and contests.

Students will not be allowed to participate in that day's practice or contest if they are:

1. Absent all day from school (exceptions will be considered for extenuating circumstances by the Athletic Director).
2. Leaves school due to an illness during the day.

If the student athlete is in school and does not participate in Physical Education class they are ineligible for that day's practice or contest. Extenuating circumstances must be approved in advance by the Athletic Director.

Any student that receives 3 unexcused tardies or 5 unexcused absences in a single sports season will be required to attend a meeting with the Athletic Director, Coach, and parent(s)/caregivers. At the conclusion of the meeting steps moving forward will be determined by the discretion of the Director of Health, Physical Education, and Athletics.

Warrior Academy/OSS

If a student is in Warrior Academy they are ineligible to participate or attend that day's practice or contest. If Warrior Academy is served on Friday they are ineligible until they are back in school (classes) a full day (ex: return Monday to classes).

If a student is suspended out of school they are ineligible to participate or attend at this time.