

**FERNDALE HIGH SCHOOL
ATHLETIC CODE OF CONDUCT**

Participation in a public high school athletic program is a privilege. With this privilege come certain responsibilities since student athletes represent their school in the classroom, in the hallways, in the athletic arena, and in the community.

Interscholastic athletics are an integral part of a student athlete's total educational experience. A successful athletic program is based on the athletes' ability to balance their participation with their academic requirements. Academic achievement comes first. In athletics, our goal is to provide a safe, structured environment where student athletes can develop responsibility, work ethic, trust and loyalty, self-esteem and self-discipline.

An athletic code of conduct is supported by the school district to assist them in protecting the health, safety, and welfare of all students and community members. The strenuous nature of athletics and the rigors of competition demand that a high standard of behavior on the part of student athletes be maintained at all times. Furthermore, a code of conduct provides parents with support in dealing with potential problems with their student, and it provides incentive for the athlete to deal appropriately with negative peer pressure.

All student-athletes at Ferndale High School are expected to uphold high standards of conduct, both on and off playing courts and fields. By signing the Athletic Code of Conduct student athletes acknowledge:

1. Each athlete is expected to contact a coach before practice if he/she is going to be absent from a practice or a game. Failure to do so will result in an unexcused absence, which will be dealt with in reduced playing time (coaches' discretion) or removal from the team (coaches' discretion) depending on the situation.
2. Each athlete is expected to attend a full school day each day of the season of sport. Athletes who are absent from school on a day of practice or a game day, or on a Friday prior to a Saturday game, will not be allowed to practice or play. Exceptions will be made for athletes who bring a note from a doctor or dentist verifying an appointment, or for athletes with extenuating circumstances who have obtained permission to play from the Athletic Director and/or Principal.
3. Each athlete will be punctual to practice and games. Failure to do so will result in reduced playing time.
4. Student athletes may be tested for the presence of illegal drugs at the beginning of each sports season and shall be subject to random drug testing during the entire season. Students desiring to participate in a District athletic program shall first provide their parent/guardian's written consent for urinalysis testing. (Board Policy 5131.61)
5. Each athlete is expected to dress in appropriate attire while on team trips. Appropriate attire means clean and presentable clothing without holes.

6. Student athletes are committed to participation for an entire season of sport. Any athlete who chooses not to complete the season, or is removed from a team for any reason, will be denied athletic awards for that sport.
7. In all our activities we will strive to do our best, do what is right, and treat others, including coaches, teammates, opponents and officials, as we want to be treated.
8. Coaches may establish reasonable rules and regulations, subject to the approval of the athletic director, for behavior not otherwise specified in the Athletic Code of Conduct. Coaches may determine reasonable penalties for violation of team rules and regulations subject to the review of the athletic director.

9. Drug or Alcohol Use, Possession, or Distribution

Student athletes are not to (regardless of quantity) use, possess, sell, distribute, or produce any amount of alcohol, drugs, other controlled substances or drug paraphernalia or be under the influence of alcohol, drugs or other controlled substances.

10. Being in the Presence of Others Using, Possessing or Distributing Drugs or Alcohol

Student athletes who are found to be voluntarily associating with others who are illegally using, possessing, or distributing drugs, drug paraphernalia or alcohol, and who do not attempt to remove themselves (Constructive Possession) are in violation of the Athletic Code of Conduct.

Constructive possession shall not apply to circumstances where the student athlete is present at places where alcohol is being legally consumed.

11. Tobacco Use, Possession, or Distribution

Use, possession, or distribution of tobacco or tobacco products is prohibited. As outlined in the FHS Student Handbook the first violation will result in counseling and/or punishment at the discretion of the principal/designee. Also, a letter of warning concerning use, possession and/or distribution of tobacco shall be sent to the parent/guardian with a copy placed in the Student Behavior File and a copy sent to the student's counselor. Further violations will result in removal from the team.

12. Unlawful or Delinquent Behavior

An unlawful or delinquent act is a violation of any civil or criminal statute, ordinance, regulation or court order (except for minor traffic offenses) including but not limited to theft, vandalism, destruction of property, or other misdemeanors and felonies as defined by the California Criminal Code. An athlete, who pleads guilty, is found guilty, or found to have committed a delinquent act by any court of law, pleads no contest to or dispositions through a settlement and charged with an unlawful act is also subject to sanctions in accordance with the Athletic Code of Conduct. Notwithstanding the foregoing, school administration reserves the right to determine whether the athlete committed an unlawful or delinquent act rather than to be bound necessarily by the decisions of the courts or others. Incidents involving athletes either directly or as an accomplice will be subject to review by school administration. School administration will decide the appropriate penalty for the athlete taking into consideration the seriousness of the offense, any harm or injury to person or property, the remorse of the athlete and any other relevant factors.

Any athlete in violation of sections 9, 10, 11 or 12 in the code of conduct will be removed from the team. All employees of Ferndale Unified School District are responsible for reporting offenders. Violations of school rules may also result in removal from the team or reduced playing time, at the discretion of the coach and/or school officials.

Due Process and Appeal Process

Student athletes will be provided due process. The student athlete is entitled to be informed of the charges against him/her and an informal meeting where he/she has an opportunity to be heard before the athletic director. The athletic director shall render a written decision within one school day of the meeting. A student athlete and his/her parent(s) may appeal the athletic director's decision to suspend to the principal, in writing, within one school day of the athletic director's decision to suspend. The principal shall render his/her decision within four school days of the consideration of the appeal.

Athlete Signature _____ Date _____

Parent Signature _____ Date _____

