

Students

## Athletic Policy

**1.1 Statement of Philosophy of Sporting Activities**

The Board of Education believes that all students benefit from participation in sporting activities. Therefore, the Board wants to encourage all students to participate in sporting activities to the best of their ability. Coaches are provided to help students develop a positive attitude about the experience. Within a safe environment, the coach will teach basic skills, emphasize fair play and fun, and will see that each student develops a sense of self-worth. The Board believes the best way to accomplish these goals is to allow each student the opportunity to develop the skills by as much direct participation as possible. Fans, parents, and the public support each coach and student in their respective efforts regardless of the won-lost records.

**1.2 The Fisher Community Unit School District #1 Beliefs for Young Athletes**

Opportunity to participate in sports

Opportunity to participate at a level commensurate with each student's maturity

Opportunity to have qualified leadership

Opportunity to play as a grade or high school student and not as an adult

Opportunity of students to share in the decision to participate in the sport

Opportunity to participate in a safe and healthy environment

Opportunity to proper preparation for participation in sports

Opportunity to strive for success

Right to be treated with dignity and respect

Opportunity to have fun in sports

**1.3 No Cut Policy**

Each student who signs up for a sport shall be a member of the team. Each student on team shall be provided a similar uniform.

The no cut policy and 15-person roster for Regional Tournament play are not inconsistent. When applicable, the coach will explain the roster limitation rule at the beginning of the season to the students.

The Board recognizes the no cut policy will in some instances create need for volunteer assistance for the coaches. The coaches for the sport will request administrative approval and then recommend the “practice assistants.” The following standards will be used to determine the individuals to be recommended:

1. The coaches will solicit the volunteers
2. Knowledge of the sport
3. Ability to attend the practices
4. Communication skills with children
5. Willingness to attend the rules meeting for the coaches
6. Participation in coaches’ orientation meeting
7. Ability to constructively discipline
8. Agreement to be directed and supervised by the head coach

### **1.3A Division of Teams**

The Board will generally support a divided team with a separate game schedule when there are enough student athletes to justify the creation of the team. The coaches of the teams shall make the recommendation to the athletic director. The athletic director and superintendent shall make a recommendation to the Board. The Board will determine if the recommendation is consistent with school finances, availability of coaches, scheduling, and the best interest of the student athletes. It is expected that the recommendation for dividing a team will apply to the creation of a freshman team.

### **1.3B Home Schooled Students**

Students who are being home schooled are not eligible for membership on an athletic team.

#### Practices

9. All athletes should be given quality practice time. Practice is a learning time and all students involved should be given an opportunity to learn the fundamentals of the sport. The coach(s) shall design instructional activities of drills that provide all athletes with an opportunity to improve their skills.
10. The establishment of a practice schedule should be considerate of the family time needs of students, academic (study) needs and the stamina the students would reasonably be expected to have.

3. Closed practices – parent/guardian conduct in practices.

- a. The coach will inform parents/guardians if some or all the practices are closed.
- b. The student’s parents/guardians cannot assist, interrupt, or otherwise direct the team or coach during team practices.

#### **1.4 Coach Orientation**

The district administration will provide orientation for coaches at least once a year to provide instruction in the athletic policy and philosophy of the district. Coaches who are hired after the orientation will be provided with this instruction before they start coaching. The district encourages coaches to attend coaching workshops or clinics. The district will pay for workshops and clinics that are approved by the administration pursuant to the written guidelines for approval. There is a limit of one per year.

#### **1.5 Parent Orientation**

Coaches are required to have a parent/guardian orientation meeting before practice starts. The purposes of the meetings are:

- To hand out game schedules and practice schedules
- To discuss equipment the parents/guardians need to provide
- To help the coach(s) understand the needs and concerns of the parents/guardians
- To enable parents/guardians to become acquainted with the coach(s)
- To educate parents/guardians about the goals of the coach(s) and the district
- To inform parents/guardians about the specifics of the program and what is expected of the students and parents/guardians

#### **1.6 The Fisher Community Unit School District #1 Contract for Sports Participation**

**(1.7P)** must be signed by the coach(s) and student, and should be signed by the parent/guardian before the student participates in a sport. This is required to only be signed one time per school year. It will be signed for the first sport the athlete participates in.

#### **1.7P Contract for Sports Participation**

The parents/guardians agree to:

1. Recognize that youth sports are first and foremost a disciplined play activity.
2. Be supportive, but involve the child in decisions about participation and levels of

3. Recognize that the motivations generally rated as most important for sports involvement are improving skills, having fun, being with friends, and experiencing thrills and excitement, developing fitness, and achieving success.
4. Help their children understand that they are never losers if they give their maximum effort.
5. Separate parent wishes and needs from those of their children.
6. Realize that yelling instructions or criticisms at their children distracts the child and interferes with effective coaching.
7. Help the child be responsible but not treat the child as a miniature adult.
8. Help their children set realistic goals.
9. Be interested in feedback from the coach about their child's skill development.
10. Realize that one of the greatest contributions that sports can make to children is to build character.
11. Show the child self-control.
12. Accept the child's triumphs and disappointments.
13. Not make derogatory comments to players, coaches or parents of the opposing team and officials.
14. Not interfere with their children's coach.
15. Ensure that the sports experience contributes positively to the child's ability to identify more sensitively with others.
16. Pick up child promptly after practices.
17. Sign their athlete out after a road contest (coach permitting) and arrange for transportation home from the event.
18. Agrees to respect the coach in a professional manner. This means that if a conference is desired, the parent will telephone the school to arrange the meeting. All conferences will be attended by the parent, coach, athletic director, and administration. **THERE WILL BE NO MEETINGS HELD AFTER A CONTEST PLAYED THAT DAY.**

The coach agrees to:

19. Help athletes master new skills, enjoy competing with others and feel good about themselves.
20. Realize that his/her initial assessment of an athlete's competence may need to be revised continually as the season progresses.
21. Help each athlete understand that losing a game is not a sign of failure or a threat to their personal value.
22. Help young athletes understand that they are never losers if they give their maximum effort.
23. Recognize that the motivations generally rated as most important for involvement are improving skills, having fun, being with friends, and experiencing thrills and excitement, developing fitness, and achieving success.
24. Make clear the coaches' expectations regarding the student's attendance at practice and having the proper equipment.
25. Communicate the values of the program and his or her coaching philosophy.
26. Provide feedback to the student regarding the student's ability, skill development, and training needs, and share that information with the parents/guardians.

27. Be honest with the parents/guardians about the student.
28. Seek improved performance as the valued end of coaching a student.
29. Be well versed in the techniques and skills of their sport and to teach these skills to young people.
30. Not to treat young athletes as miniature adults.
31. Recognize that youth sports are first and foremost a disciplined play activity.
32. Realize that one of the greatest contributions that sports can make to young athletes is to build character.
33. Show the student self-control.
34. Admit their shortcomings.
35. Accept the student's triumphs and disappointments.
36. Determine how he or she will form pre-season or early season expectations for each athlete.
37. Design instructional activities or drills that provide all athletes with an opportunity to improve their skills.
38. Respond to skill errors in games or practice with corrective instruction and convey the attitude that all athletes can improve their skills performance.
39. Recognize that winning is an important goal but not the most important objective.
40. Maintain discipline at a level that enables each student to fully and enjoyably participate.
41. Maintain a practice environment that minimizes the possibility of injury to the athlete.
42. Agrees to evaluate any injury and inform the parent of when the athlete may resume practice and games.
43. Develop a uniform return procedure and explain this to the parent and player.
44. Explain all the criteria for winning a letter in the respective sport they coach.
45. Explain all discipline at the preseason meeting in regard to missing practices or games.
46. Explain travel arrangements to and from athletic contests, providing a sign out sheet if they allow parents to take the athlete home.

The student athlete agrees to:

47. Have fun.
48. Recognize that sports are first and foremost a disciplined play activity.
49. Understand that I am not a loser if I give my best effort.
50. Support, encourage, and help other members of the team.
51. Treat other players on my team with dignity and respect.
52. Remember that academic work comes first.
53. Follow all school rules of athletic conduct.
54. Set goals I think I can meet.
55. Be a student athlete, not a miniature adult.
56. Maintain self-control.
57. Not make derogatory comments or gestures to players, coaches, or officials.
58. Attend practices and have the proper equipment.
59. Follow the instructions of the coaches.
60. Do the best that I can.

61. Be on time.
62. Learn as much as I can about the sport.
63. Be unselfish.
64. Be honest.
65. Attend all tryouts, practices, competitions, tournaments, weight lifting, and other activities associated with the sport they are participating.
66. To be responsible for the care and maintenance of all equipment, including uniforms. If these are lost or destroyed then the athlete must pay for replacement.

### **1.7 Gender Equity**

Fisher Community Unit School District #1 believes both girls and boys should have the opportunity to participate in a variety of team sports and competitions.

### **1.8 Policy for Evaluations of Coaches**

Each coach will be evaluated annually by principal and athletic director using the instrument titled 1.9P Fisher Community Unit School District #1 Coach Evaluation Instrument.

### **1.9 Fifth-Sixth Grade Intramural Athletic Program**

The 5th-6<sup>th</sup> grade athletic program shall be an instructional activity. The athletic director can schedule up to six games against other schools and one season-ending tournament, but the nearly equal playing time philosophy shall apply. One of the purposes of the limited schedule is to recognize the need for students to have the time to properly prepare for the academic requirements of the school. Another purpose is to reduce the emphasis on competition at this age level and to concentrate on learning the skills of the sport. 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade basketball teams will be divided into 2 teams if the total number for any one team reaches 16. Each team will have a separate schedule for games and practices.

### **1.10A Fifth, Sixth, and Seventh Grade Students Participating in Seventh and Eighth Grade Programs**

Although the first paragraph under 1.10 above is the preferred approach for the reasons stated therein for fifth and sixth grade participation in sports, this policy recognizes that occasionally Fisher Community Unit School District #1, because of the number of participants in the seventh and eighth grade programs, may find it necessary to modify that. In that case, the following procedure will be followed:

1. The coach may determine the minimum number of student athletes necessary to have a seventh or eighth grade athletic team. If there are not a sufficient number of students at a grade level to meet this minimum number, the coach shall petition the administration (as defined by the superintendent) to have students at the next lower grade level participate in the sport at the next higher level. If the petition is approved, items 2, 3, and 4 below shall apply. As has been the tradition at Fisher, sixth graders are eligible under circumstances to participate in the interscholastic track program.
2. All student athletes at the next lower grade level are eligible to move to the next higher level. The process of informing the students at the appropriate grade levels of this option shall involve the coaches at both levels, the students, and the parents at a meeting which will involve a thorough and considered discussion of the positives and the negatives of the participation at the higher level. One of the negatives may be reduced or no playing time in games. (See 5. below).
3. This policy also recognizes that as a result of the potential in the changes of the number of participants at the various grade levels that there may be a need for coaching changes also.
4. Upon the request of the parents/guardians of a particular student who is considering participating in a higher grade level the two coaches involved will agree to discuss in private with the parents/guardians the positives and negatives of the high level participation for that particular student.
5. Once a student agrees to participate at the higher level, that student is no longer eligible to participate at the lower level, unless they are temporarily playing at the higher level only because of a lack of the minimum number at the higher level because of illness, scholastic, or disciplinary ineligibility of the higher level student or students. Then the lower level students needed to meet the minimum and who are interested shall be chosen with the permission of the student's parents/guardians at the discretion of the higher grade level coach.

### **1.11 Academic and Conduct Requirements Policy for Athletic Participation by Students in Grades 5-12**

The following policies apply to all athletic participants during their enrollment in the Fisher schools, including the first day of fall sports through the last day of school. Participation in athletics is a privilege, not a right.

## 1.11A Academic Requirements

### Grades 9-12

- A. In order to be eligible to participate in interscholastic athletic contest, a student must be doing passing work in at least twenty (20) credit hours of high school work per week.
- B. Passing work is a work of such a grade that if on any given date a student would transfer to another school, passing grades for the course would immediately be certified on the student's transcript to the school to which the student transfers.
- C. Students must not only meet the requirements of (A) and (B) but also must be receiving a passing grade in ALL classes in which they are given academic credits. Students who have one or more failing grades will not be able to participate in interscholastic athletic contest until they are passing ALL classes again.
- D. One-for-one Warning: The only exception to the requirements of (A), (B), and (C) is, at the discretion of the high school administration, each student may instead of being ineligible receive a warning if they are failing only one course. This warning may only be used once for each student only once per academic semester and is to last for only one week.

#### 1. Examples

- a. Student A is taking 6 core classes at the end of the grade check for week 5 of the first semester grading period. Student A is passing all courses. Student A is eligible.
  - b. Same as C. 1. as above except the Student A is passing 4 core courses but is failing 1 of his/her 6 total courses. Student A is ineligible for the next week.
- A. At any time an ineligible student works to improve his/her academic standing to the point where all courses have passing grades, they may return to full eligibility status and may once again participate in interscholastic athletic contests.
  - B. Students taking more than twenty credit hours per semester must meet the requirements of B. above and must be passing all other additional courses except for one.
    1. Examples
      - a. Student A is taking 6 core classes at the end of the grade check for Week Five of the first semester grading period. Student A is passing all courses except for one. Student A is eligible.
      - b. Same as C.1.a above except the Student A is passing 4 core courses but is failing 2 of the 6 core courses. Student A is ineligible for the next week.

- c. Same as C.1.b above except the courses are failed for the second semester. Student A is ineligible for the first week, beginning on Sunday, there is a contest in the first fall sport the student participates in.

#### Grades 5-8

- A. In order to be eligible to participate in interscholastic or fifth and sixth grade school sponsored practice and intramural, and allowed non-intramural games, and athletic contests a student must be doing passing work in all school subjects.

This is an exception to B.2 on page 10 of 16.

- B. Passing work is a work of such a grade that if on any given date a student would transfer to another school, grades for the course would immediately be certified on the student's transcript to the school to which the student transfers.

1. Examples

- a. Student A at the time of the grade check for Week Five of the first semester grading period has a cumulative grade of F for a course for that 5-week period. The student is not eligible to participate in interscholastic athletic contests during the period beginning with the following Sunday through Saturday (a 7-day ineligibility period).
- b. Same as a. above except the course is failed for the second semester may practice with the team but cannot dress for games or events or ride the team bus or van to away games.

1. Ineligible students – practice participation. An ineligible student may practice with the team but cannot dress for games or events or ride the team bus or van to away games.

#### **1.11B Multi-Sport Participation – Grade 5-12**

A student may compete in more than one sport during a particular sport season. For example, Student A can participate in both spring track and spring softball. The school district encourages parents/guardians to consult with and assist the child in making the decision to participate in interscholastic athletic activities. The number of activities should be consistent with what is in the best interest of the child and considering his/her preparation needs for the classroom.

Other requirements 5-12 grades:

In 5<sup>th</sup> grade through 12<sup>th</sup> grade, any student who is academically ineligible for any three weeks during the time a sport is being provided by the school that student is no longer eligible to participate in any way in that sport. Eligibility begins with the date of the first game. Coaches and students are notified when practice begins, so they can make necessary improvements to the subjects who are being failed.

### **1.11C Athletic Code of Conduct**

Participation in athletics is a privilege, not a right.

1A. The lockers provided for student use are owned by the school district. Thus, school officials may conduct any search of these lockers when deemed appropriate.

#### **A. Discipline – Substances Abuse**

1. The use, possession, and/or delivery of alcoholic beverages, marijuana, or any other controlled substance (drugs, look-alikes, drug paraphernalia) are forbidden.
2. The use, possession, or delivery of cigarettes, cigars, or chewing tobacco is prohibited.
3. This policy will be in effect on a continuous basis throughout the calendar year, regardless of whether school is in session.
4. The sanctions for the substantiated offenses will progressively escalate during the school year.
5. Students who are unable to complete a sanction during a particular sport's season shall have the suspension carried into the next sport. However, in order for the suspension to be deemed completed the student must complete the entire season of that sport.
6. Students who are unable to complete a sanction during the course of the school year shall complete the sanction during the next school year; otherwise, each school year shall be regarded separately for purposes of progressive discipline. If the suspension carries into the next school year, in order for the suspension to be deemed completed the student must complete the entire sports season.
7. Definitions. To facilitate implementations of this policy, the following terms are defined:

- a. Under the influence: Any student who is under the influence of any alcoholic beverage, marijuana, any controlled substance other than as prescribed by a physician, or any other potentially intoxicating substance will be subject to disciplinary action. An authorized adult will make the determination for discipline, and the final decision to discipline will rest with the administration.
- b. Possession: Any student who has possession or control of any alcoholic beverage, marijuana, any controlled substance other than as prescribed by a physician for that individual, any other intoxicating substance, any “look-a-likes”, or any drug paraphernalia will be subject to disciplinary action. A substance or item need not be in a student’s immediate presence to be in his/her possession or control.
- c. Delivery: Any student who delivers, receives delivery of or attempts to deliver or receive delivery of any alcohol beverage, marijuana, any controlled substance, any other intoxicating substance, or any drug paraphernalia will be subject to disciplinary action. Delivery means a transfer of possession or control to another person whether or not the substance or item is in that person’s immediate presence. Delivery includes, but is not limited to, any gift, exchange, sale or other transfer with or without payment or other consideration.
- d. Look-alikes: A “look-alike substance” is a substance which by dosage unit appearance, including color, shape, size, container and/or packaging, markings or by representation make, would lead a reasonable person to believe that the substance is an alcoholic beverage, marijuana, or a controlled substance.
- e. Drug paraphernalia: “Drug paraphernalia” means all equipment, products and materials of any kind that are peculiar to, marketed for use in packaging, repackaging, storing, containing, concealing, injecting, ingesting, inhaling, or otherwise introducing into a human body, marijuana or any controlled substance other than as prescribed by a physician.
- f. Authorized personnel include:
  1. Administrators
  2. School faculty
  3. School support staff
  4. Police

1. Administrators may discipline when a preponderance of evidence indicates guilt.

A. Discipline – Violations of Local, State, or Federal Laws Other Than A. Above

1. A student/athlete may be disciplined for all actions that occur on any school's premises or property and that result in the violation of local, state, or federal law. A student may also be disciplined for any action that violates local, state, or federal law and which substantially affects the school district's interest, or the health and safety of its students. A student/athlete may also be disciplined for any action that involves the police (i.e. stealing, sneaking into bars, etc.). The principal will speak to the officers involved or ask if a police report on the particulars has been filed. Official reported incidents or police accounts would suffice. Convictions are not needed to implement sanctions.
2. A student athlete will be disciplined for any out of school suspension. Every out of school suspension (not days of suspension) received shall result in an escalation of sanctions. It does not have to be the same offense repeated. The appropriate sanction necessary can be met during the suspension. The principal does not look at a sports calendar when giving suspensions. For example: A school offense may result in a 5-day suspension. There could be 0-5 games that a student/athlete would have to miss during that span. If this suspension were a first offense Athletic Code of Conduct Suspension then the student/athlete would receive a minimum of a one game suspension. If this Athletic Code of Conduct sanction was not met during the suspension then the principal implements the sanction on the next game(s) played.

A. Investigation, Sanctions, and Review Process

1. The appropriate building principal will begin an immediate investigation of any alleged violation of A. or B. above. Evidence used to substantiate a violation can only be provided by certified or non-certified staff or coaches, others who may have information, school and law enforcement officials who were present at the time of the violation or are investigating law enforcement officials.
2. The principal will confer with the student and parents/guardians as part of the investigation of the alleged violation. The student accused of a violation will be informed of the charge and given the opportunity to respond.
3. If the evidence substantiates the claim that a violation of this policy has occurred, the appropriate penalties will be issued at that time. The principal will notify, in writing the student and the parents/guardians of the decision.

4. The review process begins with the student or parent requesting the superintendent's face-to-face review within five (5) days after receiving written notification of the suspension.
5. If the suspension is upheld in the superintendent's review, the student and/or parents/legal guardian have the right to a hearing with a Final Review Panel of 3 faculty members, one of whom has coaching responsibility in another sport.
6. The final review shall take place within six (6) days from the day of the superintendent's decision. Notice of the appeal must be given in writing to the superintendent within 48 hours of his/her decision.
7. The process described in C., 1-6, does not apply to a student convicted of a felony.

A. Penalties for Violations of Athletic Code of Conduct Rules

1. Conviction of a Felony

If a student is convicted of a felony, then the final review panel, the superintendent, and the appropriate building principal shall determine the penalty but it shall not be less than the maximum penalty for the first offense as defined below. If the student/athlete has already been assessed for this action when it was first reported then the review panel should determine whether the appropriate level of sanction has been met.

2. Violation of Other Athletic Code of Conduct Rules

First offense: Suspension for one-third (1/3) of the current or upcoming season but is not to last longer than thirty (30) calendar days within the season during which the suspension takes place. The 1/3 (or 30 days) will be counted from the day of the next athletic contest. If the suspension is not completed when the season ends, the suspension will resume at the first contest of the next activity the student participates in.

Second offense: Suspension for one full athletic season. If the suspension begins after a season has already begun, the suspension shall last for a total of ninety (90) calendar days. If the suspension is not completed when the season ends, the suspension will resume at the first contest of the next activity the student participates in.

Third offense: Suspension for not less than one full calendar year (365 days).

Fourth offense: Suspension from all athletic and club activities for the remainder of the student's high school career.

A. Student's Attendance at School Required for Participation in Interscholastic Athletic Activities

1. In order for a student to participate in a scheduled interscholastic practice or activity on a school morning, afternoon, or night, he/she must be in attendance at school that entire day. Exceptions from this requirement will be by administrative approval, a joint decision of the building principal (or designee) and the athletic director (or his or her designee). The athletic director cannot make the decision if he or she is coaching the sport.
2. However, if a student misses any part of the school day due to illness he/she will not be permitted to participate in any afternoon or evening activity.
3. Parents/guardians should notify the building principal prior to the day when the student will be absent if the parent/guardian believes the absence will qualify for an exception. For example, previously scheduled doctor or dentist appointment, funeral, or a serious family illness requiring the presence of the student. Student/athlete are required to bring the doctor's note to the office when returning, or a parents note for funerals, or serious family illness.
4. If a student is not in attendance for all or part of a Friday school day, participation in a Saturday activity is left to the discretion of the parents/guardians, who should act in the best interest of the child.

A. Appeal process: Athlete and/or parents have the right to appeal any decision, which adversely affects the student. This appeal process follows the steps listed below:

1. Athletic Director (unless coach of sport involved)
2. Principal
3. Superintendent
4. Board of Education

The cheerleaders will follow the above athletic policy with the expectation of the no cut policy.

AMDENDED: July 18, 2002

AMENDED: July 18, 2011

I have read and agree to abide by the contents of the Athletic Policy 7.31 of Fisher Community Unit School District #1. I understand my child may not participate until this form is signed and proof of a completed physical and insurance are provided to Fisher Community Unit School District #1.

Date \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student

\_\_\_\_\_  
Coach

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian

## SPORTSMANSHIP CODE OF CONDUCT

Fisher Community Unit School District #1 believes that their student athletes, coaches and fans are among the best in our state. Acknowledging this belief, inappropriate includes, but is not limited to yelling, cursing, and use of alcoholic or drugs. The school district, Board of Education, and administration have established this high code of ethics for the fans, players, and coaches.

Spectators are expected to behave in a respectful manner at all contests. A respectful manner includes respect for the players, coaches, referees, and fellow fans. Should a spectator not behave in this manner, they will face the possible disciplinary acts listed below. Each act of behavior, not becoming a Fisher Fan, could result in any of the following sanctions. Each situation will be handled separately of any previous situation and dealt with accordingly.

### Disciplinary Actions:

1. Minor conference with school official to remind them of proper behavior.
2. Spectator asked to leave that game.
3. Spectator banned for 1-5 games (board approval)
4. Spectator banned for entire season.

These are not listed in the order of discipline sequence. Any act could result in the spectator being banned for the entire season.

Appeal process: The spectator has the right to appeal any decision. The appeal process follows the steps listed below:

1. Athletic Director (unless coach of sport involved)
2. Principal
3. Superintendent
4. Board of Education