

**TAYLOR SCHOOL DISTRICT
ADMINISTRATIVE GUIDELINES & REGULATIONS
HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETICS**

Athletic participation in the Taylor School is a **privilege**. When a student chooses to participate in athletics, he/she voluntarily elects a course of self control and self-discipline that is part of team membership. The school district provides facilities, coaching, transportation, training services and equipment. The school can accordingly, revoke or restrict the **privilege of participation** if a student fails to live up to expectations and standards as outlined below:

I SOCIAL RULES

Participation in the sports scene and the street scene is impossible; you must make a choice! Any student/athlete involved with smoking tobacco, chewing tobacco or snuff, alcohol, drugs, larceny, physical assault, or vandalism will be **suspended** immediately from the squad. An athlete may appeal a suspension through the **appeal process**. A decision on re-instatement will be made by the Athletic Director, the Building Principal, and the coach after all aspects and circumstances regarding the case have been considered.

A. In Season Violations (minimum penalties)

1. First Offense: a suspension of one (1) calendar playing date.
2. Second Offense: a suspension of one (1) calendar year from the date of violation.
3. Third Offense: an additional year of suspension from the date of the violation.

B. Out of Season Violations

1. First Offense: results in athletic **probation** of one (1) year from date of violation.
2. Second Offense: results in athletic suspension for one (1) calendar year.
3. Third Offense: results in an additional year of athletic suspension.

II ACADEMIC RULES

Students are responsible to know and meet the eligibility requirements of the Michigan High School Athletic Association, and the Taylor Board of Education.

A. M.H.S.A.A.

1. A student athlete must pass a minimum of twenty (20) semester hours of academic courses the semester prior to competition to be eligible. (This translates into passing four out of six classes).
2. The student/athlete must be currently passing twenty (20) semester hours (four out of six classes), of classes during his/her season of competition to remain eligible.

B. TAYLOR SCHOOL BOARD ADOPTED ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

Effective beginning with the graduating class of 2003 and all graduating classes thereafter, student athletes must have a minimum cumulative GPA of a 2.0 or a minimum of a 2.0 GPA in the marking period prior to the athletic sport (season) in which he/she selects to participate.

1. If a student does not meet the 2.0 GPA previous marking period requirement for participation in athletics, but has earned a cumulative GPS of 2.0 or above, the student athlete will be allowed to participate in athletics, but will **be required to attend the study table for the season in question**. In addition, this student athlete will be required to hand carry a grade report card to be filled out by his/her teachers on the first day of the fifth week of any marking period this student athlete is required to attend the study table. If this hand carried report is below a 2.0GPA, he/she is not in compliance with the athletic policy and must adhere to the Failure to Comply portion of this policy.

If the student meets the 2.0 GPA previous marking period requirement for participation in athletics, but has not earned a cumulative GPA of 2.0 or above, the student athlete will be allowed to participate in athletics, but will **be required to attend the study table for all seasons in which his/her cumulative GPA is below a 2.0** (cumulative GPA's are evaluated at the end of each semester). In addition, this student athlete will be required to hand carry a grade report card to be filled out by his/her teachers on the first day of the fifth week of any marking period in which the student athlete is required to attend the study table. If this hand carried grade report is below a 2.0 GPA he/she is not in compliance with the athletic policy and must adhere to the Failure to Comply portion of this policy.

- 1a. Any student athlete who has earned a 1.67 up to a 1.99 GPA in either his/her cumulative average, or in the mark period prior to his/her sport, will be eligible to continue athletic participation providing the following conditions have been met:
 1. The student will attend the study table during his/her entire athletic season or until his/her cumulative GPA is a 2.0 or above.
 2. The student **will HAND CARRY** a weekly grade report for the athletic season. The student athlete must maintain a minimum of a 2.0 weekly GPA in order to continue to participate in that weeks game.

If the student athlete fails to maintain the minimum 2.0GPA for two (2) consecutive weeks or three (3) weeks altogether during the season, the student athlete will be deemed **INELIGIBLE** and removed from the team.

2. Effective beginning with the graduation class of 2003 and all graduating classes thereafter, any student participating in athletics who has earned below a **2.3 previous marking period GPA must hand carry a grade report card** to be filled out by his/her teachers on the first day of the fifth week of any marking period in which he/she is participating in athletics. Any student athlete who does not maintain a 2.0 GPA on this hand carried grade report will not be in compliance with this athletic policy and must adhere to the Failure to Comply portion of this policy.

A student athlete eligible for athletics may be required to hand carry a grade report card to be filled out by his/her teachers at any time deemed necessary by the **school administration**. Should an eligible student athlete be required to hand carry a grade report card to be filled out by his/her teachers, the student athlete must maintain a 2.0GPA or above in order to remain eligible for participation. If the student athlete falls below the 2.0GPA he/she is not in compliance with the athletic policy and must adhere to the Failure to Comply portion of this policy.

3. The following marking periods will establish the athletic eligibility for the seasons listed below:

Fall Sports: 4th marking period of the previous year (grades achieved in public School district summer school programs may also be averaged with the 4th marking period grades from the previous year)

Winter Sports: 1st marking period of current year.
2nd marking period of the current year (if the sport continues past the end of the second marking period).

Spring Sports: 3rd marking period of current year.

4. Freshmen students who have not yet established a marking period GPA will be required to establish their eligibility to participate in fall sports. The first day of the fifth week of school freshmen without an established GPA will hand carry a grade report card to be filled out by their teachers. This grade report will establish a **temporary GPA** and determine their eligibility to continue in their athletic season.

Freshmen who have not earned a 2.0 temporary GPA during the fifth week of school are not in compliance with this athletic policy and must adhere to the Failure to Comply portion of this policy. **(2.3 GPA and below will hand carry a card).**

- 4.a Freshmen student athletes who earn less than a 2.0 academic average for the 1st marking period can still remain eligible for winter sports until the end of the 1st semester providing that:

1. The student attends the study table until the end of the 2nd marking period, at which time he/she will have an established cumulative GPA and will be governed by the full extent of the athletic eligibility requirements.
2. The student athlete has no more than one D and no E grades on his/her 1st marking period report card.
3. The student athlete **hand carries** a grade report during the 2nd marking period, which will be filled out weekly by each of his/her teachers. This hand carried weekly grade report must remain at a 2.0 academic average or above in order for the freshmen student athlete to remain eligible for participation. If the freshmen student athlete earns below a 2.0 academic average on this hand carried grade report, he/she is not in compliance with the athletic policy and must adhere to the Failure to Comply portion of this policy.

5. FAILURE TO COMPLY:

1. First non-compliance per sport season: An athlete may practice but may **not compete in or dress** for any game or scrimmage for a minimum of one (1) week. At that time he/she will hand carry a grade report to each of his/her instructors. The student/athlete will remain ineligible unless a 2.0 GPA is achieved. If he/she has attained the required academic level, they may return to eligible status.
2. Second non-compliance per sport season: An athlete **may not practice, dress or play with the team.** He/she may attend practice only in a non-participating supervised study session.
3. Third non-compliance per sport season: **Student is dismissed from the squad for the remainder of the season.**
4. A mandatory **study table** will be required of **all** athletes below a 2.0GPA beginning with the 2002-2003 school year. **All athletes below a 2.0GPA** will be required to attend a study table session before going to practice.
6. Over the course of any given year a special or unique circumstance could arise which might impact an athlete's academic performance. Special or unique circumstances and hardships which are completely beyond a student's ability to control and do result in a student being academically ineligible for athletics could be **appealed in writing** to the District Athletic Director. All appeals must document the specific hardship or special circumstance, which is beyond the student's ability to control. If the said appeal meets the district's criteria, a committee comprised of the District Athletic Director, Building Principal (or designee), and Assistant Superintendent will make the final determination as to the validity of the appeal. The committee may alter the district's athletic policy requirements but not the minimum M.H.S.A.A. state eligibility requirements. The decision of this appeal committee is final.

B. ATTENDANCE

Regular, punctual attendance in all classes is required to be eligible to attend and participate in a practice or to play in a contest, an athlete must attend **ALL** scheduled classes on that day. Any exceptions must be arranged with the coach and building administration in advance.

1. **The usual penalty for a first time violation** of this attendance policy is a suspension from the next contest, or day of competition, of the squad.
2. **The usual penalty for a second violation** of this attendance policy is a suspension from the next three contests, or days of competition, of the squad.
3. **The usual penalty for a third violation** is suspension for the remainder of the season.

III PHYSICAL EXAMINATION AND INSURANCE

No student will be eligible to participate on an athletic team without a proper physical examination and school health insurance, or evidence of other adequate coverage on file with the school.

IV EQUIPMENT

Athletes are **financially responsible for all school equipment issued them** (including losses due to theft). To help prevent thefts all athletes are required to purchase a high quality hardened steel padlock, for use in the locker room at practice, and for use when visiting another school.

V THEFT

A student/athlete in unauthorized possession of an item of school equipment, (our own or another school's) will be immediately suspended from athletics. An athlete may appeal the suspension through the appeal process.

VI TRANSFERING SPORTS

Athletes may not transfer from one team to another after September 10th for Fall Sports, December 1st for Winter Sports, or April 1st for Spring Sports. This rule covers switching to a sport in the **same season** or to one preparing for the season ahead. In unusual circumstances, this rule may be set aside by mutual written consent of both head coaches involved.

VII OUTSIDE PARTICIPATION

A student/athlete cannot play on any outside team **in the same sport** during the high school season.

VIII TRANSPORTATION (This applies to interscholastic competition)

While traveling to and from an athletic contest, the athlete must travel in the transportation provided by the school. The only exceptions would be for prior arrangements made between the parents and the coach, in the case of injury, or in a coach's opinion an acceptable parental request.

IX PRACTICE ATTENDANCE

Attendance at all practice is required. Student/athletes are frequently involved in multiple activities. The athlete should notify the coach and director of the other activity as soon as possible if a conflict of schedules occurs which requires the student to be in two places at the same time. A resolution of the conflict can then be reached between the coach and the director.

It is recommended by the athletic department that any absences from practice totaling over 5 days, is subject to dismissal from the team at the discretion of the coach. Individual circumstances and unforeseen situations will be handled by the coach on a one to one basis. The coach will keep the student/athlete and parent informed on the amount of absences, and the possibility of being removed from the team if the absences are not deemed appropriate, excusable, or justified to miss a scheduled team practice.

X SPORTSMANSHIP

Athletes must demonstrate good sportsmanship at **all times**, including: accepting decisions of officials without question; refraining from abusive remarks directed toward opponents or officials; exercising self-control and fair play during a contest; following both the letter and the spirit of the rules; condemning acts of unsportsmanlike conduct on the part of teammates or spectators. An athlete who commits an act of flagrant unsportsmanlike conduct will be **suspended from further competition** until all aspects and circumstances regarding the incident have been considered. Removal from the squad permanently is possible. An athlete may appeal the suspension through the proper appeal process.

XI ATHLETIC SAFETY

The Taylor coaches, administrators, and medical support staff make every reasonable effort to insure the physical safety of our athletes; however, parents and students must recognize that an element of risk is inherent in interscholastic sports competition and that the possibility of injury cannot be entirely eliminated from the program.

XII ATHLETIC EMERGENCY FORM

All athletes must complete the Taylor School District Athletic Emergency Form before participating in any scheduled scrimmages or contests. These "Green Forms" are to be in the possession of coaches at all practices and games.

XIII APPEAL PROCESS

- A. If an athlete is suspended from the team for violations of the Taylor School District Athletic Policies the coach will:
 - 1. **Notify the parents of such action.**
 - 2. **Notify the school administration and Athletic Director**

- B. Should the student/athlete wish to appeal the disciplinary action taken, such an appeal must be made within five (5) school days to the Athletic Director.

- C. Solving differences to accomplish positive goals is part of the learning process. When working with almost forty teams, resolution at the student/athlete – coach level is always desirable.

Following is the direction that should assist the resolution process:

1. The student/athlete and the coach
2. The parent(s), athlete, and the coach
3. The building principal / building athletic director.
4. The athletic director
5. An appeals committee (1 assistant principal, 2 faculty members, 2 coaches).

The Athletic Director will convene the Appeals Committee within three (3) school days of receipt of a signed application for appeal. The coach’s decision will be in effect until the committee can convene.

The Athletic Director will notify the student and parents in writing of the committee’s decision.

SUSPENSION POLICY

A student on suspension MAY NOT participate in any practice, scrimmage, or game until the suspension has been completed. (This includes school suspension and athletic suspensions). The student/athlete is not allowed to be on school grounds during his/her suspension, and is not allowed to attend the games, even as a spectator. Failure to comply with this policy, will result in further disciplinary actions.

TAYLOR SCHOOLS FIGHTING RULES

“Players who are ejected from an athletic event for fighting will be disqualified from the next regularly scheduled contests.”

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PLEASE PRINT, DETACH, AND RETURN TO COACH
Parents / Guardians – Please save these policies for future reference.

We have received and read the Taylor School District Athletic Guidelines & Regulations

 Signature of parent / guardian _____
Date

 Address, City Zip code _____
Phone

Student Athlete: I have read the above policies, and I will abide by these rules.

 Athlete Signature _____
Date

Print, Detach, and return the signed portion of this general guideline information to the coach of your individual team. **MUST BE TURNED IN BEFORE 1ST GAME / CONTEST.**