



Frankfort Junior-Senior High Athletic Code

Revised: Fall 2013

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The Purpose of the Frankfort Junior-Senior High Athletic Code is to serve as a guideline for athletic procedures, practices, and expectations of the Frankfort Junior-Senior High. It is designed to be used as a reference for athletes, parents, coaches, school personnel, and the community.

FRANKFORT JUNIOR-SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC CODE

I. Philosophy: Frankfort has a long tradition of athletic excellence. Students who elect to take part in the athletic program at Frankfort High School set themselves apart and are voluntarily making a choice of self-discipline and self-denial.

We know that you will agree that one of the finest lessons a student can learn in athletics is to care for himself/herself physically, to develop a strong body and clean mind, and to exhibit socially acceptable behavior.

It is hoped that athletic experiences shall also aid in the development of emotional maturity, social competence, moral values and a realization of personal and group goals. With this commitment to the athletic program the student agrees to abide by the athletic policy as herein presented *year-round*. Each student is eligible to participate in inter-scholastic athletics provided the following requirements are adhered to:

II. Eligibility: Requirements for athletic competition are determined by the Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA) and the Frankfort-Elberta Area Schools Board of Education.

- A. A student must be under the age of nineteen (19) on or after September 1 of the current school year.
- B. All students must have physical examination cards signed by their physician and parent or guardian, on file in the high school office *before practice or participation* in any sport shall be permitted.
- C. *Scholastic Eligibility:* Beginning with week three of the new semester, students will be checked for eligibility each Friday at 11:00am. Cumulative grades will be checked through the previous Wednesday (two day prior cut off). A student must be passing all classes (no E's) and be maintaining a 2.0 cumulative GPA to remain eligible. There will not be a probation period. Grades will be checked each Friday and the list will be forwarded to coaches. Students must be in school the entire day to participate unless administrative approval or an excuse for an appointment, etc. Advisors/coaches will pick up attendance at the end of the day. Eligibility will include all extra-curricular activities.
- D. *Insurance:* Student athletes *are not* covered by school-sponsored health insurance protection. Frankfort Junior-Senior High does not provide accident insurance for student athletes and does not assume the financial responsibility for medical, hospital, or ambulance expenses incurred because of athletic injuries to student athletes. Athletics is a voluntary program and students participate by choice. Frankfort-Elberta Area Schools cannot be held liable in case of injuries. MHSAA does have a \$25,000 - \$1,000,000 major catastrophic injury policy. Families may also purchase a student insurance plan if they choose.
- E. Eligibility situations not specifically covered in this code shall be governed by the Michigan High School Athletic Association regulations.

III. Dual Sport Participation: Student athletes may compete in dual sports during the same season. In order to be considered, the following conditions must be met:

- A. The student athlete will let the athletic director know of his/her intentions to participate in dual sports.
- B. Both coaches must agree to the dual participation.
- C. The student athlete must maintain a grade point of 2.5 or higher.

- D. A student must declare a sport. Any conflict would be previously decided and the student athlete would attend the declared sport.
- E. The student athlete would be expected to attend any and all practices that are possible.
- F. A mandatory meeting shall take place with the athletic director, coaches, parent(s)/guardian(s), and the athlete.
- G. An athlete may quit one sport and continue with the other.

IV. Athletic Training Rules:

- A. *Practice:* Students who wish to participate in a sport must attend practice sessions daily unless prior arrangements are made directly with the coaches, or the student is ill. Students who are absent for any part of the day *shall not* be allowed to practice or participate in an athletic event on that day. Exceptions to this rule shall be for doctor appointments, dental appointments, or special permission given by the administration (athletic director or principal).

No student shall participate in any athletic contest until he/she has completed the minimum amount of mandatory practice for his/her sport.

Practice schedules for fall and spring sports shall be arranged by the coach of the team and a copy given to the athletic director. Schedule for winter sports shall be arranged by the athletic director and copies given to the coaches. It shall be the responsibility of the coach to inform all team members of the practice schedule. An adult with *prior* approval of the athletic director may be assigned to conduct the practice session or the contest, but only on an emergency or temporary basis.

- B. *Equipment:* All athletes shall be responsible for equipment issued by the school. The cost of any lost or damaged item shall be charged to the student athlete. All equipment shall be returned or paid for before an athlete will be allowed to participate in another sport or graduate from high school.
- C. *Cell Phones:* Per Michigan State Law, no cell phones or cameras are allowed in the locker room. Possession of such devices will result in a police report being filed and may result in a suspension.
- D. The following are in direct conflict with the Frankfort Junior-Senior High athletic philosophy and are subject to disciplinary actions outlined in the Disciplinary Guidelines section:
 - i. Use, possession, or being under the influence of tobacco, alcohol, illegal drugs including but not limited to those substances defined as “controlled substances” pursuant to federal and or state statute, and misused prescription drugs.
 - ii. Sale or furnishing of any of the aforementioned items.
 - iii. Arrest, conviction, or admission to a crime of the following:
 - a. misdemeanor
 - b. felony
 - c. may include theft or stealing

IV. Disciplinary Guidelines: This section represents the minimum disciplinary actions. Individual teams may adhere to a stricter code of conduct.

- A. i. Use, possession, or being under the influence of tobacco, alcohol, illegal drugs including but not limited to those substances defined as “controlled substances” pursuant to federal and or state statute, and misused prescription drugs.
 - First Offense in a calendar year.** Suspension for one-quarter (25%) of the scheduled games, ten (10) hours of community service, and a mandatory drug/alcohol assessment, which will be paid for by the student, unless court-ordered.
 - Second Offense in a calendar year.** Suspension for one (1) calendar year, ten (10) hours of community service, and a mandatory drug/alcohol assessment, which will be paid for by the student, unless court-ordered.

Third Offense in high school: The student athlete is ineligible to participate for the remainder of his/her high school career.

ii. Sale or furnishing of any of tobacco, alcohol, illegal drugs, and misused prescription drugs.

Any Offense: Suspension for one (1) calendar year. A second violation will be the same penalty. A third violation will result in the student athlete being ineligible to participate for the remainder of his/her high school career.

iii. Arrest, conviction, or admission to a crime of the following:

a. misdemeanor: Suspension for one-quarter (25%) of the season

b. felony: Suspension for one-third (33%) of the season

B. **Self Disclosure:** If a student athlete self-discloses and accepts responsibility for the Training Rule offense before the offense has been made aware to school administrators, the disciplinary action may be reduced by the athletic council.

C. Charges may be brought by any staff member, board of education member, law enforcement officer, registered official as well as any faculty member, coach or administrator of a competing school.

D. A student who displays any conduct unbecoming of an athlete at Frankfort Junior-Senior High School shall meet with the athletic board to determine the disciplinary action to be taken.

E. **Suspensions:**

i. shall be for offenses committed at any time beginning the day after the completion of eighth (8th) grade until the last contest of a student's senior year. Suspensions are continuous, and shall carry over from one sport to another, including spring to fall sports, commencing with the first practice of the school year.

ii. In cases where suspensions are mandated, they shall not commence: 1) until the first regularly scheduled game or event, 2) or in the event a student is physically unable or scholastically ineligible to play the suspension will not start until the student is physically able to play and/or scholastically eligible to play.

iii. Any suspension from school due to violation of the student code, where the suspension, whether in-school or out-of-school, falls on game dates, shall mean suspension from an athletic team for an equal amount of time. There will be no participation in any contest, but the athlete must attend practice.

iv. Any student who is under suspension, except where specifically noted, must practice daily with the team, be present on the team bench *in uniform* during home and away contests. Athletes shall not, however, be excused from any classes or miss any class time to meet the above commitments.

v. Where suspensions are necessary, they shall not commence prior to the first regularly scheduled contest or event.

vi. Fractions of a contest will be rounded up if .5 or above and rounded down if .49 or below when suspension is mandated for a violation of the athletic code.

F. Each student who violates the Athletic Code of Conduct shall be penalized as prescribed in the code by the coach who directly supervises the team the student is participating on, the principal or administration. If the student at the time of the violation is not currently a member of a team, the athletic director will notify the student of the penalty. Written statements detailing the action taken and the violation shall be given to the athletic director to be placed in the file for future use if needed.

G. The administration reserves the right to investigate alleged infractions, using social networking sites, such as but not limited to, Facebook, MySpace, and YouTube. This may or may not include pictures posted to the above sites.

H. **Junior High:**

i. Suspensions incurred during junior high shall not carry over to the high school.

ii. Junior high students will not travel to away contests when ineligible.

iii. High school status begins the day after the completion of eighth (8th) grade.

I. Varsity awards and letters presented to students shall remain the property of the school until the student graduates. Should the individual's discipline problems or conduct warrant such

action as determined by the athletic board, such letters and awards may be retrieved by the school.

- J. *Dropping out of a sport:* Quitting a team is a serious matter. No student athlete should quit any sport without consulting his/her coach and explaining his/her intentions. A student athlete will be permitted to participate in another sport (either as an athlete or manager) only upon agreement of both coaches and the athletic director until the season of the sport he/she dropped has been completed.

V. Appeal Board: Should the student athlete wish to appeal the decision, he or she shall have the right to appeal to the Athletic Appeal Board.

- A. The Athletic Appeal Board shall consist of a minimum of five (5) persons, including coaches who have been involved in athletics with the student athlete, the athletic director, and the principal. Should other coaches be needed to meet the minimum number of five (5), they shall be appointed by the athletic director for each particular hearing.
- B. The coach who originally penalized the student athlete must attend the appeal hearing, but shall be excluded from sitting on the appeal board. The athletic director shall be chairman of the appeal board unless he/she is the penalizing coach, in which case the principal shall assume the duties of the athletic director.
- C. All members of the appeal board shall have equal votes when decisions are made. The following procedures shall be followed:
 - i. Written notice of the student athlete's appeal must be presented to the athletic director within two (2) school days of the coach's decision.
 - ii. An appeal date shall be scheduled within twenty-four (24) hours (excepting weekends and holidays) of the receipt of the written notice and the student athlete shall be informed of the meeting at least two (2) days prior to the meeting.
 - iii. During the appeal meeting, student athletes shall have the right to cross-examine witnesses.
 - iv. The Student athlete may be represented at the appeal hearing by an adult of his/her choice.
 - v. A written statement of the decision of the appeal board shall be presented to the student athlete within twenty-four (24) hours (excepting weekends and holidays) of the meeting.
 - vi. Should the student athlete wish to appeal the decision of the appeal board to the superintendent, this must be done within three (3) days (excluding weekends and holidays) after receipt of the decision of the appeal board.
 - vi. The decision of the superintendent may be appealed to the board of education. This must be done within five (5) days after receipt of the decision of the superintendent.

VI. Transportation:

Athletes shall be transported to inter-scholastic contests in school vehicles and returned by the same vehicles to the school unless other arrangements have been made with the administration prior to the trip. Any student traveling to a contest in an unauthorized vehicle shall not be permitted to participate in that day's events, and may be suspended from the next competition(s) for not returning to Frankfort Junior-Senior High School on school transportation unless prior written permission of the athletic director or principal has been obtained or the head coach (or his/her designee) has the written permission of the parent/guardian delivered in person to him or her by the parent/guardian. Students will only be given permission to ride a vehicle with an adult over the age of twenty-five (25). Students may be denied permission to ride with their parents by a coach, unless prior written arrangements have been made with the coach or administration.

VII. Game Day Appearance:

Students must follow individual sports dress code on game day or they may be suspended from competition.

VIII. Coaches:

- A. A coach may enforce additional team rules (along with the athletic policy). Coaches are asked to:
 - i. A written copy of the rules is supplied to the athletic director.
 - ii. A written copy of the rules is supplied to the athletes.
 - iii. No rules violate existing school rules, board policy, or state or federal laws.
- B. Frankfort Junior-Senior High uses a 24-Hour Rule. Parents and community members may communicate with coaches by appointment, but the coach may ask for a 24-hour wait period.

IX. Transfers:

Frankfort Junior-Senior High may uphold and enforce any disciplinary actions placed on a student athlete by a previous school even if the infraction or disciplinary action is not congruent with this policy. Transfers of student athletes will be governed by the Michigan High School Athletic Association regulations.

Frankfort Junior-Senior High School Athletic Code

The student named becomes responsible for knowing the contents of this policy and has the responsibility of adhering to them. *This form must be signed and returned prior to competition in the first contest the student athlete is eligible for.* This policy still exists even without a returned signed form.

I (we) _____, parent(s)/guardian(s) of _____ have read and fully understand this booklet for parents and athletes. I will give the coaches, the athletic department, and the school my full cooperation concerning the athletic code.

(Parent / Guardian's Signature)

(Student Athlete's Signature)

(Parent / Guardian's Signature)

(Date)

Frankfort Junior-Senior High School Athletic Waiver

We are aware that participation or practicing an athletic sport will be dangerous activity involving many risks of injury.

We understand the dangers and risks of playing on a team or practicing a sport include, but are not limited to, death, serious neck and spinal injuries, brain damage, serious injury to internal organs, serious injury to virtually all bones, ligaments, muscles, tendons, and other aspects of the skeletal system.

We understand that participating or practicing in an athletic sport may result in serious injury which may impair the participant's future abilities to earn a living, engage in other business, social or recreational activities and generally enjoy life. All students and parents are required to sign a Concession Awareness form each school year. This is in accordance to state law PA 342 and 343 adopted in 2012.

Because of these dangers, we recognize the importance of allowing coach's instructions regarding playing techniques, training, and other team rules, etc. and to obey such instruction.

In consideration for the Frankfort-Elberta Area Schools allowing me to participate or practice an athletic sport, we agree to assume all risks associated with the sport and agree to hold the Frankfort-Elberta Area Schools, its employees, agents, representatives, coaches and volunteers harmless from any actions, cause for actions, debts, claims or demands of any kind and nature whatsoever which may arise by or in connection with participating or practicing in any sport.

We have read the above warning and release and do understand its terms and agree to abide by the same. We hereby give our permission for _____ to participate and/or practice in athletics at Frankfort Junior-Senior High School.

(Parent / Guardian's Signature)

I have read the above warning and release and do hereby agree to its terms.

I agree to abide by the above conditions and wish to participate and/or practice in athletics at Frankfort Junior-Senior High School.

(Student Athlete's Signature)