

CONSTANTINE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Code of Conduct for Men and Women Athletes
High School & Middle School
Revised August 25, 2009

Preamble

Participation in athletics at Constantine means more than representing yourself or your school's team in competition with another school. To the athlete, interscholastic competition promotes fair play, sportsmanship, and the understanding and appreciation of teamwork.

It is recognized that the athletic program at Constantine strives to develop a full measure of educational value by promoting good sportsmanship on the part of the student body, faculty, parents, and general public.

This Code of Conduct will become effective when a student first participates in interscholastic sports or cheerleading. The student/athlete will be required to sign a code of conduct each year that they participate. Enforcement of this code will be on a year round basis (365 days).

The conduct of an athlete is closely observed while he/she is attending school or functioning within the framework of the community. It is of the utmost importance that an athlete's behavior is above reproach at all times.

ARTICLE I: Behavior of an Athlete

Included in the following guidelines are items that have been developed by the Michigan High School Athletic Association and published in the MHSAA Handbook. It is expected that the athletes in the Constantine Public Schools will adhere to these demands

A. The contest demands:

- 1) Fair play at all times
- 2) A square deal to opponents by players and spectators
- 3) Playing for the joy of playing and for the success of the team
- 4) Playing hard to the end
- 5) Keeping one's head and playing the game, not talking it
- 6) Respect for officials and the expectation that they will enforce the rules
- 7) That an athlete should not quit, cheat, bet, or "grandstand"

B. The school demands:

- 1) Out-of-school and out-of-town conduct of the highest type
- 2) Faithful completion of school work as practical evidence of loyalty to school and team
- 3) Complete observance of training rules as duty to school, team and self
- 4) Exemplary behavior in classes and in and around the school
- 5) Fulfillment of school requirements and commitments as priorities over athletic commitments

C. Sportsmanship demands:

1. Good Citizenship, Golden Rule
2. Respect for yourself, your team, opponents, officials, coaches
3. Acknowledge good play
4. Playing by the rules
5. Conducting yourself as a lady or gentleman
6. Being courteous and mannerly
7. Positive support
8. Humble in victory, no excuses in defeat
9. Modesty/Kindness

D. Disciplinary action:

Athletes falling short of these expectations shall be subjected to disciplinary action as prescribed by their coach, the Athletic Council, and/or the school administration.

Athletic Council: Shall consist of all coaches employed by the Constantine Public School District, as paid under signed contracts and the Athletic Director. Voting shall include all of the above.

1. Disciplinary action by the council could result in suspension from participation and/or forfeiture of athletic awards
2. School administration shall take disciplinary action as deemed necessary

ARTICLE II: Training Rules and Regulations

A. Tobacco, Alcohol, Drugs

Medical research clearly substantiates the fact that the use of tobacco, alcoholic beverages, and abusive drugs produce harmful effects on the human body.

All athletes must adhere to the following standard training rules and regulations.

- 1) No use of any type or form of tobacco (including possession)
- 2) No drinking of alcoholic beverages (including possession)
- 3) No unauthorized use of drugs (including possession)

- 4) Performance enhancing agents which includes steroids, banned by MHSAA
- 5) If code violating activities are occurring you are expected to make every effort to leave the situation

B. Observance of village, township, county, state and national law

- 1) Additionally, all rules and regulations set forth by the Constantine Student Handbook.

C. Team Training Rules

It is recognized that each sport possesses certain aspects or characteristics that make it different or unique in respect to other sports. For this reason, it will be necessary for some coaches to establish additional training rules that are unique to his/her sport. Each head coach will submit a list of these training rules, including a rationale for each, to the athletic director for his approval. Final approved set of training rules will then be reviewed along with this Code of Conduct by each coach with all team members before each new season starts.

D. Violations of Training Rules and Regulations

Athletes who violate or allegedly violate any of the above training rules will be handled as follows:

1. During a season of interscholastic competition:

If during a season of interscholastic competition, it is reported to the athletic director or coach that an athlete has violated a training rule.

- He/she will be confronted by his/her coach and informed of the charges.
- The athlete will be informed that he/she is entitled to a hearing at which time he/she may present information or witnesses to refute the charges.
- If, in fact, a hearing is held, those present will include the coach, the accuser, the accused, and any appropriate witnesses for either the accusing or accused party.
- Upon the completion of the hearing or if the athlete chooses not to have a hearing, if in the judgment of the coach, the violation did occur, the athlete will be subjected to one or more of the penalties outlined in “Penalties for Violations of Training Rules”.
- Coaches will administer punishment to athletes found guilty of violating this code of conduct as prescribed under Article II section
- Any variance from these penalties must be made by the Athletic Council and not an individual coach or coaches.
- Further, the coach will inform the athletic director in writing of any code violations or violation of team training rules that could lead to suspensions.

- Violation of the code will be recorded by the athletic director.

2. During a time in which the athlete is not participating in any interscholastic competition:

- If a violation is reported under these circumstances, the athletic director will approach the athlete and inform him/her of the alleged violation and a hearing will be held in order to discuss the matter.
- The accused will be informed that he/she may present information or witnesses at the hearing.
- Those present at the hearing will include the members of the athletic council, the accuser, the accused, and any appropriate witnesses for either the accusing or accused party.
- Upon the completion of the hearing or if the athlete chooses not to have a hearing, if, in the judgment of the athletic council the violation did occur, the athlete will be subjected to one or more of the penalties outlined in “Penalties for Violations of Training Rules”.
- The exact punishment will be determined by the athletic council.

3. The following items will apply to both in-season and out-of-season athletic Code violations:

- a) Student has one (1) day from the time of being informed of the charges against him/her to request a hearing.
- b) Hearing will take place within three (3) days of the student’s being informed of the charges, unless deemed otherwise by the coach and athletic director.
- c) Athletic Director and coach have the right to determine if a suspension will be enforced until the hearing

Code violations can be reported to the Athletic Director verbally or in writing.

E. Penalties for Violation of Training Rules:

When a decision has been made that an athlete is guilty of violating an athletic code training rule, whether in season or out of season of competition, that athlete may be subjected to one or more of the following penalties:

1st Offense:

Suspension from the next 1/3 of interscholastic contests. This will be based on date of competition. Partial dates of competition will be left to the Athletic Director’s discretion. You will be expected to complete the season. Additional discipline could include any of the following:

- a. Forfeiture of his/her athletic award

- b. Completion of penalty could occur in the next season in which the student/athlete participates if not enough time was left in the current season
- c. Student/athlete will not be allowed to compete until penalty is served
- d. Dismissal from the team /squad
- e. Referral to a testing agency or rehabilitation program
- f. Required to do community service. Number of hours determined by Athletic Director/Athletic Council

2nd Offense:

In the event an athlete is found guilty of a second violation of the Code of Conduct and/or Training Rules, he/she will be subjected to one or more of the following options:

Option 1: Suspension from participation in all athletics for one calendar year.

Option 2: Suspension of a minimum of 2/3 of interscholastic contests as of the date of violation; completion of rehabilitation/counseling program, and minimum of 20 hours of community service.

In the case of a 2nd violation if it is determined that the athlete is to receive a penalty within the guidelines of Option 2, they will be expected to complete all parts of the Option 2 or Option 1 will be invoked.

3rd Offense:

In the case of a 3rd violation the athlete will be suspended from all athletics at Constantine Public Schools for the remainder of their career. An appeal for reinstatement can be made after one calendar year.

Middle School Note: If a 1st violation occurs during an athletes 7th or 8th grade years they will be on probation the entire next year. An example: 8th grade violation, 9th grade probation; if a 2nd violation occurs during the same year or during probation they will be subject to the 2nd violation penalties and no clean slate will be offered. If the probation period is completed without any violation or problems a clean slate can be offered to the young athlete.

F. Suspensions:

- 1. Should a suspension be administered at the end of a season in which it can not be fulfilled, it will be completed in the next participating season. A suspension will only be considered fulfilled if the athlete remains a member of the team for the entire season.
- 2. Should a student transfer to another school district, a copy of the code violations and suspensions shall be forwarded with the student's academic records.

3. The district shall request that any athletic code violations be part of the required academic records requested from the school (s) of transferring students.
4. Should a student transfer to another school district and then return to Constantine, the code suspension shall be completed in the next season of participation unless Constantine's discipline requirements have been met in another district.
5. Any other circumstances not addressed in the code will be considered on an individual basis by the coach and/or the athletic council.

G. Right of Appeal by the Athlete:

In any disciplinary matter, athletes are assured of due process. When an athlete is accused of a violation of the training rules, a hearing will be offered. Likewise, after the athletic council or coach renders a decision, the athlete is guaranteed the right of appeal. The initial appeal should be made to the athlete's building principal and superintendent within two (2) calendar days of the coach's/athletic council's decision. This appeal must appear in written form. If the athlete is still not satisfied, a final appeal can be made to the Board of Education. *A suspension by the coach or athletic council will remain in effect until a decision of appeal has been made by the principal/superintendent or Board of Education.*

ARTICLE III: Eligibility for Competition

A. Academic:

1. Current Trimester Record:

An athlete may participate in interscholastic competition if he/she has successfully received a passing grade from the beginning of the trimester to the end of the school day on the Friday before the first contest week, in four classes totaling at least twenty (20) hours per week in the high school and 27 hours per week in the middle school. This 20 hour standard will be interpreted to mean four (4) high school and (6) middle school classes. An athlete's academic progress is reported weekly on a cumulative basis during the semester/trimester. Those who fail to meet this academic standard will be ineligible for athletic competition during the following week, **Monday thru Sunday.**

2. Previous Trimester Record:

An athlete may participate in interscholastic competition if he/she has successfully received twenty (20) credit hours of work in the high school for the last trimester/semester and 27 credit hours of work in the middle school during which he/she has been enrolled in grades seven (7) through twelve (12). The 20 and 27 hour credit standard will be interpreted to mean four (4) high school and (6) middle school classes. At the conclusion of each trimester any student failing to meet this academic standard will be ineligible for

athletic competition for the equivalent **60** school days or if no more than 2 failures in the previous trimester, receiving no failures in the next trimester. **(This does not apply to semesters as they are longer than 60 days)**

A student who is academically ineligible shall not participate in athletic events but is required to attend practice. Coaches can determine how much ineligibility they will allow before removal from team. Guidelines in the middle school handbook must also be adhered to concerning athletic eligibility.

B. Physical Examination:

In order to be eligible for preliminary practice sessions and therefore interscholastic competition, a student must have on file a physician's statement for the current school year, which needs to be completed after April 15th of the previous school year; certifying that the student has passed an adequate physical examination, and that, in the opinion of the examining physician, the student is fully able to compete in practices and athletic contests.

C. Other Standards:

In order to be eligible for athletic competition, a student must conform with all additional regulations as outlined by the Michigan High School Athletic Association. (See M.H.S.A.A. Eligibility brochure) These regulations include specific enrollment, age, season of competition, number of semesters or enrollment, and transfer requirements. Sign Informed Consent Form and Code of Conduct Form (it is recommended that parents and athletes attend parent meetings and meet your team night.)

D. School Suspensions:

An athlete who has been suspended from school will be ineligible for practice and/or games until officially readmitted.

E. Attendance:

Athletes are expected to maintain regular attendance. In general, a student must be in school a full day in order to be eligible to participate in practice/athletic event that afternoon or evening. Exception would include an approved pre-excused absence, a family emergency, or a written Doctor Excuse from the Doctor.

F. Awards Banquet: You will be expected to attend the sports banquet unless excused by the coach and dress in appropriate attire.

G. Restrictions:

No ineligible athlete shall be in any Constantine athletic uniform for an athletic contest. The coach shall determine appropriate attire.

H. **Insurance:** At this time Constantine Public Schools does not have insurance coverage for athletic participation.

ARTICLE IV: Miscellaneous Subjects

A. School Equipment:

An athlete:

1. Is financially responsible for all of his/her equipment that is issued.
2. Should treat all equipment as though it were his/her personal property.
3. Should follow his/her coach's direction concerning uniform care.
4. Is not to participate in any sport until he/she has accounted for all of his/her equipment from preceding sports.
5. Upon completion of the athletic season the coach will turn into the athletic director a list of all athletes not accounting for their equipment.

B. Dropping from the team:

1. An athlete who wishes to drop from a team before interscholastic competition starts must:
 - a) Turn in all equipment and uniforms issued at the beginning of the season; this includes reimbursing the athletic department for unreturned equipment. Failure to comply will prohibit the athlete from participating in another sport until these requirements are fulfilled.
 - b) Not be allowed to participate in a second sport during the time in which the sport he/she dropped from is competing or practicing unless an agreement is reached between involved coaches.
2. An athlete who wishes to drop from a team after inter-scholastic competition has started must contact his/her coach and discuss the reasons for wanting to quit.

THEN:

If both parties (athlete and coach) agree that it is in the best interest of the team and the athlete to quit, the athlete will do so within the guidelines outlined in "Dropping from the Team" 1a and 1b.

C. Practice Regulations:

1. An athlete should attend all practice sessions unless:
 - a) Illness prevails – must communicate with coach on problems.

- b) Excused from practice by the coach
 - c) A family emergency arises
2. Missing practices or an interscholastic contest without a valid reason may result in:
- a) Suspension from a specific number of interscholastic contests by the coach.
 - b) Forfeiture of the athlete's award if the athlete does not complete the season.
 - c) Dismissal from the team

D. Locker Room Procedure:

- 1. An athlete is responsible for his/her valuables. Athlete should have a lock for his/her locker and locker must be locked.
- 2. Conduct in the locker room should reflect the mature judgment of young athletes. Horseplay will not be tolerated.
- 3. When an athlete leaves the shower room, showers must be turned completely off, home or away
- 4. Team managers should be treated with respect at all times.
- 5. No phones/cameras, camera phones or similar technology should be used in the locker room areas.

E. School Spirit:

- 1. An athlete should think of the Constantine School system above his/her own interest.
- 2. Each athlete is encouraged to support other sports in which he/she is not participating.

F. Appearance:

All athletes will be expected to be neatly and appropriately dressed and groomed when traveling to and from athletic contests during competition. No part or aspect of an athlete's appearance should in any way impede or impair his/her ability to compete nor endanger his/her safety. Prior to the season, each head coach will submit to the athletic director a set of regulations and rationale that will assure the prevention of these things for his/her sport. After the athletic director's approval, this set of regulations will be reviewed along with this Code of Conduct by each coach with his/her team members before the season starts.

G. Travel:

All athletes will travel to and from athletic contests with the team. Any other travel plans to a contest must be cleared with the coach and athletic director. A signed note of explanation from the parents and the other party involved needs to be in the athletic office prior to the event. Parents and only parents can sign out their student/athlete after an away contest. Alternate transportation from an away contest must be approved by the athletic director prior to the contest. Documentation from all parties involved would need

to be presented to the athletic director. **NO STUDENT DRIVERS** will be involved with the transportation.

H. Potential Dangers In Athletic Participation:

Parents and student athletes should fully understand and appreciate the risk of serious personal injury associated with participation in the educational sports program provided by the Constantine Public Schools.

ARTICLE V: Signing the Code:

In order for a student to participate in the Constantine Athletic program, it will be necessary for him/her and his/her parents to sign, on a yearly basis, this athletic code of conduct.

ARTICLE VI: Amendments:

This code of conduct may be amended by the administration and coaching staff with the approval of the Board of Education.

**Constantine Public Schools
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SIGNATURE PAGE

Having read and understood the Constantine Public Schools Code of Conduct for Athletes, I hereby agree to its rules and regulations to the best of my ability.

Signature of Athlete

Grade

Date

Having read and understood the Constantine Public School Code of Conduct for Athletes, I/we agree to cooperate with the school in guiding our son/daughter towards living up to the code's rules and regulations.

Signature (s) of Parent/Guardian

Date

To the Athlete:
Please return this form to your coach or the athletic office.