

# **School District of Tigerton**



## **Athletic Code**

## INTRODUCTION – T/M

All student-athletes must comply with all current rules as established by the following groups:

- Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association (WIAA)
- The Central Wisconsin Conference
- Tigerton or Marion School District rules at the school of attendance
- Coach of the team

Parents/Student-athletes may access the entire WIAA Handbook on their website at [www.wiaawi.org](http://www.wiaawi.org).

Conference rules pertain mainly to schedules and regulations of sports governed by the conference. Special areas such as sportsmanship may also have rules that are generated by the controlling body (principals and athletic directors) in the Conference.

Coaches are responsible for establishing rules and procedures for teams under their jurisdiction. While rules and safety procedures may be reiterated orally on a regular basis, information that is needed by student-athletes on an ongoing basis will be distributed in writing to all student-athletes.

## ACADEMIC STANDARDS – T/M

In order to be academically eligible for athletics, a student-athlete must have received **no** failing grades in the most recent quarter grading period, have no incompletes, and must be identified as a full-time student-athlete, defined by the WIAA as a student-athlete for whom the school has programmed 100% of the student-athlete's school day.

A student-athlete who receives **ONE F** in the most recent quarter grading period will become ineligible for a period of fifteen (15) school days. At the end of fifteen school days, the student-athlete can regain eligibility if all teachers verify that the student-athlete is currently passing all courses.

If a student-athlete is academically ineligible at the end of the quarter as a result of **ONE F**, whether one letter grade or one incomplete, s/he will be eligible to practice, but may not participate in any type of competition, including an inter-school scrimmage.

After fifteen (15) school days of ineligibility, the Athletic Director will assess the current grades of the student-athlete. If the current grades, at that time, meet the eligibility standard, the student-athlete will regain full eligibility on the **school day following** the completion of the ineligibility period. If the grades do not meet the criteria, the student-athlete will be declared academically ineligible for the remainder of the current mark period, and will not be allowed to participate in any form of practice or competition in interscholastic athletics until the current grade reporting period ends.

If a student-athlete is academically ineligible at the end of the quarter as a result of **TWO OR MORE F's**, whether incompletes or letter grades, s/he will become ineligible to practice or compete during the following quarter grading period and may not regain eligibility until the next quarter grades are released unless the ineligibility is due **solely as a result of incompletes** and all incompletes are made up within fourteen (14) calendar days.

Any incomplete work will be considered an F for purposes of determining athletic eligibility at the end of the quarter and will render the athlete immediately ineligible for athletics. However, a student-athlete can regain eligibility immediately if **all** incompletes are made up within two weeks (14 calendar days) after the end of the grading period, **and there are no letter grades rendering the student-athlete ineligible.**

Quarter grades will be used at the semester to determine eligibility for interscholastic athletics.

Summer school grades may be used to determine eligibility for fall sports if a student-athlete successfully completes summer school course(s) that are substantially the same as the last quarter course(s) failed, and provided prior approval is obtained from the Principal. When grades from the summer school course(s) are submitted to the school, all normal eligibility requirements will be applied, and the summer school grade(s) will be substituted for the failed course grade, in conjunction with other fourth quarter grades, to determine eligibility for the beginning of fall sports.

A student-athlete who is enrolled in any state-approved EEN program and who receives no usual grades for such courses may be eligible if s/he is making satisfactory progress in his/her total school program as indicated by his/her I.E.P.

The appeal process does not apply to academic ineligibility.

#### **ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY FOR FALL SPORTS – PROCEDURE TO REGAIN – T/M**

The WIAA provides that academic ineligibility status determined at the end of the spring semester can be adjusted for student-athletes in falls sports in which the date of earliest allowed competition is **before** the first day that student-athletes are in class.

The minimum eligibility period shall be the lesser of (1) 21 consecutive calendar days beginning with the date of earliest allowed competition in a sport **OR** (2) one-third of the maximum number of games/meets allowed in a sport (rounded up if one-third results in a fraction). The Athletic Director will post the dates for regaining eligibility for all fall sports in his/her office prior to the Summer Break.

#### **ATHLETIC CODE – T/M**

**Students participating in interscholastic athletics are required to:**

1. Refrain from being present in a bar, tavern or any other place, including a private residence, where alcoholic beverages are sold or consumed and the sole purpose is to consume or purchase alcoholic beverages.
2. Refrain from the use, possession, or transfer of alcoholic beverages, controlled substances, inhalants or performance-enhancing substances (non-prescribed use), prescription medication (non-prescribed use), tobacco products, or any other substance specifically listed by the WIAA on the banned substances list.
3. Refrain from hosting, sponsoring, organizing, or otherwise arranging a party/gathering at which prohibited substances are being transferred or used.
4. Refrain from committing, being arrested, or being charged for any illegal behavior defined as such in the Wisconsin Statutes.
5. Refrain from posting disparaging or disrespectful comments, or any pictures or video which would show individuals committing violations of the Athletic Code, with respect to any coaches, teachers, school administrators, Tigerton/Marion students, game officials, or students or staff at opposing schools, on electronic media available to the general public on any Internet sites such as "My Space," "Facebook," or "Takkle," or through text messages or e-mails sent via electronic media.
6. Refrain from committing serious and/or continued violations of school regulations.
7. Refrain from lying, being disrespectful, exhibiting any insubordinate behavior, or from engaging in any form of conduct unbecoming a student representing Tigerton or Marion High School in any sport.
8. Refrain from violating any other rules established by the Central Wisconsin Conference, the school, or the WIAA.

**Special Conditions:**

1. The courts have ruled that participation in athletics is a privilege, and not a right; therefore, students involved in interscholastic athletics are often held to a higher standard than other students by virtue of the fact that they are highly visible representatives of Tigerton/Marion High School whose negative behavior could adversely impact the image of the school.
2. The Athletic Director shall have primary responsibility for investigating, and, if necessary, assigning penalties, for alleged violations of the Athletic Code.
3. The Athletic Code is in effect for twelve months of the calendar year and governs the behavior of students whether school is in session or not, and at both in-school events and events not sponsored by the school, except where otherwise stated in the Athletic Code.
4. Student-Athletes are expected to adhere to the Athletic Code during the entire calendar year of their entire high school career including all breaks and vacations once they have been declared as participants in any sport on any level.
5. Violations of the Athletic Code are cumulative throughout the student's school career in grades nine (9) through twelve (12).
6. All athletes are advised and encouraged to stay away from those places where it would be easy to violate or be accused of being in violation of the rules regarding smoking, drinking alcoholic beverages, or use/abuse of

drugs or controlled substances. Any athlete who attempts to avoid possible prosecution by fleeing the scene of any criminal or illegal activity will be considered in violation of the code. Witness testimony or physical evidence and/or flight will be considered evidence of violation. The parent/guardian/adult owning the residence where a peer party is being held, and any substances or items prohibited by the Athletic Code are being used by minors, does not exempt the child of the owner from violating this rule. Failure to comply with these provisions will be considered a violation of the Athletic Code.

7. **HOSTING A PARTY:** Any student who has a party/gathering at his/her home or on his/her property where the use, possession, transfer or sale of any prohibited substances takes place will be assessed a penalty at the **NEXT HIGHEST LEVEL** of application of a penalty for a violation of the Athletic Code.
8. **HAZING:** Any student who knowingly is a participant of, or who participates in the planning of any hazing ritual or incident, will be considered in violation of the hazing policy and will be assessed a penalty at the **NEXT HIGHEST LEVEL** of application of a penalty for a violation of the Athletic Code.
9. Penalties will carry over to the student's next season. If the next season is not the season of a sport in which the student is normally involved, the carry-over of the penalty and successful completion of the penalty will count only if the student remains in good standing during the entire season. If not, the penalty carry-over initially in effect will remain in effect and must be served in a successive sports season.
10. All fractions created by the determination of a percentage of the season will be rounded up to the next highest number of contests.
11. All penalties assessed for violations of the Athletic Code will be considered completed only if that athlete serves the total penalty as assessed.
12. When assessing penalties for violations of the Athletic Code, a contest/game shall be defined as one game or match or, in the event of a tournament, a single day's activities regardless of the number of matches/games involved.
13. Violations of the Athletic Code could lead to additional penalties being assessed by the WIAA, the school, or law enforcement personnel.

### **ATHLETIC CODE VIOLATIONS – T/M**

Consequences for violations of the Athletic Code will apply to all sports in which the student-athlete is involved. Falsification of information given during an investigation, or falsification of any records under investigation, or used to obtain eligibility, **will subject the student-athlete to a double penalty.**

#### **First Offense**

1. For a first offense, the student-athlete shall lose eligibility to participate in that sport for twenty percent (20%) of the number of contests scheduled by the school. If the number of events remaining in that sport is less than 20%, the loss of eligibility will continue into the next sports season in which the student-athlete participates. During the period of ineligibility, the student-

athlete is required to participate in all practices and games unless the academic eligibility provisions apply prohibiting a student from all participation, must sit on the bench during the games, but may not suit up for the contest.

2. A written notification will be sent to the parents/guardians and student-athlete detailing the offense, the consequences, any special conditions, and the effective dates of the suspension from athletics.

### **Second Offense**

1. For a second offense, the student-athlete shall lose eligibility to participate in that sport for fifty percent (50%) of the number of contests scheduled by the school. If the number of events remaining in that sport is less than 50%, the loss of eligibility will continue into the next sports season in which the student-athlete participates. During the period of ineligibility, the student-athlete is required to participate in all practices and games unless the academic eligibility provisions apply prohibiting a student from all participation, must sit on the bench during the games, but may not suit up for the contest.
2. If the offense involves a violation of items one through three in the Code, reduction to 40% of the season as defined above, **but only if** the student undergoes an Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse assessment conducted by a state certified AODA counselor/facility, the assessment and treatment is obtained at the parents'/guardians' expense, the student can establish via written documentation from the professional that s/he has successfully complied with the AODA recommendations and treatment.
3. If the offense involves a violation of items four through eight, a reduction to 40% of the season as defined above, **but only if** the student undergoes a behavioral assessment and any required treatment by a non-school professional at the parents'/guardians' expense, and the student can establish via written documentation from the professional that s/he has successfully completed the treatment program.
4. A written notification will be sent to the parents/guardians and student-athlete detailing the offense, the consequences, any special conditions, and the effective dates of the suspension from athletics.

### **Third Offense**

1. For a third offense, the student-athlete shall lose eligibility to participate in that sport for seventy-five percent (75%) of the number of contests scheduled by the school. If the number of events remaining in that sport is less than 75%, the loss of eligibility will continue into the next sports season in which the student-athlete participates. During the period of ineligibility, the student-athlete is required to participate in all practices and games unless the academic eligibility provisions apply prohibiting a student from all participation, must sit on the bench during the games, but may not suit up for the contest.
2. A written notification will be sent to the parents/guardians and student-athlete detailing the offense, the consequences, any special conditions, and the effective dates of the suspension from athletics.

#### **Fourth Offense**

1. For a fourth offense, the student-athlete will be suspended from all further involvement in any interscholastic athletic activity beginning with the date of the offense.

#### **APPEAL PROCESS – T/M**

Decisions regarding **disciplinary action** taken against any student-athlete by the Athletic Director **for a breach of the Athletic Code** may be appealed by a parent/guardian to the Appeal Board. The Appeal Board is comprised of one (1) high school administrator who shall chair the Appeal Hearing, two (2) out-of-season head or assistant coaches, one (1) non-coach teacher, and one (1) member of the School Board. All individuals sitting on the Appeal Board must not have been involved in the investigation in any way, nor can there be a conflict of interest on the part of any Appeal Board member. The following procedures must be used for the appeal:

If the parents/guardians or the student-athlete believe that an alleged offense did not occur, that there are extenuating circumstances regarding the violation, or that the sanction imposed by school authorities is unjust, the parents/guardians may appeal in writing to the Principal, within five (5) calendar days of their receipt of the suspension letter, sent by the Athletic Director with “delivery confirmation” affirmed by the US Postal Service. The letter of appeal must detail all of the facts pertaining to the incident, a list of witnesses, signed witness statements, an explanation of any extenuating circumstances surrounding the violation, and the specific remedy requested through the appeal. The student-athlete will remain ineligible throughout the entire appeal process.

Within three (3) calendar days of receipt of the hearing request, the Principal will contact the administrator chairing the Appeal Board and the parents/guardians to establish a mutually agreeable hearing date for the appeal. The appeal must be held within ten (10) calendar days of the receipt of the written appeal by the Principal.

In addition to the members of the Appeal Board, the following individuals shall be present at the hearing: the student-athlete, his/her parent(s)/guardians(s), legal or other representative (if the appellant so desires), the Athletic Director, and legal counsel for the school (if desired). No other individuals will be present at the hearing, and all matters discussed at the hearing will remain confidential.

During the hearing, the student-athlete and his/her parent(s)/guardian(s) will have an opportunity to speak and to present any evidence on his/her behalf. Witnesses may be called, but they must remain outside the Hearing Room until they are called and must leave immediately upon giving testimony. The Athletic Director will present pertinent verbal and written statements gathered as a result of his/her investigation leading to the suspension, and may also call witnesses, if necessary.

Upon conclusion of the hearing, the Appeal Board will go into closed session to deliberate regarding whether to sustain, reverse, or decrease the length of the

suspension. All votes of the Appeal Board will be taken as confidential, written votes, and will not be disclosed to the appealing parties. The Chair of the Appeal Board will render the Board's decision in writing to the appealing parties, but the Chair of the Appeal Board may also verbally relay the results to the appealing parties after the conclusion of the closed session at the request of the Appellants.

If the parents/guardians feel that the appeal **process** has not been followed, a request for a review of the **process** may be made to the Superintendent. However, the Superintendent will not review the facts or merits of the decision. Such a review must be requested in writing within seven (7) calendar days of the date on which the Appeals Board decision was rendered, and must identify the specific actions or failures to act that are the basis for the appeal.

The Superintendent will review the process and render a decision in writing within seven (7) calendar days. The decision of the Superintendent is final.

### **ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS – T/M**

Student-athletes must be present the entire school day on the day of a contest, banquet, awards ceremony, or any other school-sponsored event associated with the sport **or be legally excused** in order to participate in that day's scheduled event. If a student-athlete is ill, s/he must be present at least 50% of the school day in order to be eligible to practice or compete in that day's events. If a student-athlete is ill on the day preceding a weekend event, s/he must be present 50% of the school day preceding the weekend event in order to be eligible for the weekend event.

If a student-athlete is marked truant from any class period, s/he will be ineligible for practice or competition on the day of the truancy, and if a contest is not scheduled on the day of the truancy, s/he will be required to miss the next scheduled contest as well as being ineligible for practice on the day of the truancy.

Student-athletes are also expected to be in attendance in school on the day **FOLLOWING** a contest, or be legally excused in order to be eligible to practice or compete in that day's events. Student-athletes who are not in school on the day following an event and who are not legally excused will be ineligible for the next scheduled contest or event.

Regular attendance is expected of all athletes. Any unexcused absence will be considered a truancy, and more than four (4) class periods of truancy in a quarter grading period will subject the student-athlete to suspension from the next scheduled contest following the fourth occurrence of truancy. Any subsequent truancy will result in the student-athlete being ineligible for the next scheduled contest. If a student-athlete has more than six (6) class periods of truancy in a quarter grading period, that student-athlete will become immediately ineligible for any further contests for the remainder of that grading period. A student-athlete with more than ten (10) class periods of truancy during a sports season will be suspended from all participation in athletics for the remainder of the sports season.



## **DRESS CODE – T/M**

Garments worn by student-athlete during practice and grooming standards must ensure that the individual will remain safe during practices and events. If it is determined by coaches or other school officials that the safety, proficiency of performance, or cleanliness of the student-athlete could be inhibiting his/her performance, the student-athlete will be asked to modify his/her dress or grooming to ensure maximum performance and safety. Coaches will advise student-athletes in writing at the beginning of the season regarding appropriate apparel for practices, contests, and travel.

Appropriate attire to away contests will be determined by the coaches. Deviations from expected attire could lead to penalties for a violation of the Athletic Code.

## **EQUIPMENT AND UNIFORMS – T/M**

Student-athletes are responsible for the safe-keeping and maintenance of all school-issued uniforms and equipment, and must return all uniforms and equipment, with only signs of reasonable wear, to the school at the conclusion of the season.

When student-athletes are issued a specific uniform and/or piece of equipment belonging to the school, there is no substitution of equipment allowed; neither may student-athlete exchange uniforms. Wearing of school athletic uniforms is reserved for games only unless “special days” on which athletes are allowed to wear game jerseys to school are determined by school administration

Failure to return school-issued uniforms and equipment at the end of the season **will render the student-athlete immediately ineligible** until the missing items are returned, or the school is reimbursed the actual replacement cost of the item(s). The replacement cost of uniforms generally runs between \$150.00 and \$300.00. Actual reimbursement costs can be obtained from the Athletic Director.

While the securing of personal valuables is the responsibility of the student-athlete-athlete, nevertheless, theft of athletic uniforms, equipment, or of personal items from student-athlete lockers will be treated as a serious breach of the Athletic Code, and could result in suspension or expulsion. Law enforcement personnel may also be involved.

## **FLAGRANT FOULS – T/M**

A student-athlete disqualified from any contest by an official for a flagrant foul or by a coach or an official for unsportsmanlike conduct will be suspended for at least the next scheduled contest and must meet with the Athletic Director.

## **FRAUDULANTLY COMPLETED FORMS – T/M**

A student-athlete who submits a physical exam, a waiver, or any other document used in the athletic program that has been fraudulently completed, or signed by parties other than their parents/guardians, shall be suspended from all activities immediately for one year from the date of discovery.

## **HAZING – T/M**

Hazing occurs when an act is committed against a student-athlete, or a student-athlete is coerced into committing an act that creates a substantial risk of harm to the student-athlete, or to any third party, in order for the student-athlete to be initiated into, or affiliated with, any school group, club, athletic team, grade level, activity or organization. Hazing is strictly prohibited at Tigerton/Marion High Schools and will subject the violator to the disciplinary action explained below.

### **Wisconsin Anti-Hazing Law 948.51**

“No person may intentionally or recklessly engage in acts which endanger the physical health or safety of a student-athlete for the purpose of initiation or admission into or affiliation with any organization operating in connection with a school, college or university. Under those circumstances, prohibited acts may include any brutality of a physical nature, such as whipping, beating, branding, forced consumption of any food, liquor, drug or other substance, forced confinement or any other forced activity which endangers the physical health or safety of the student-athlete. In this section "forced activity" means any activity which is a condition of initiation or admission into or affiliation with an organization, regardless of a student-athlete's willingness to participate in the activity.”

Tigerton/Marion High School also includes the following activities when used as a condition of initiation or admission into or affiliation with any organization in its definition of hazing for purposes of determining a violation of the anti-hazing policy:

- Any activity involving actions of a sexual nature or the simulation of actions of a sexual nature;
- Any activity that subjects a student-athlete to an unreasonable level of embarrassment, shame, or humiliation, or which creates a hostile, abusive, and intimidating environment for the student-athlete;
- Any activity involving any violation of federal, state or local law, or any violation of school district policies and regulations.

Any student-athlete who knowingly is a participant of, or who participates in the planning of any hazing ritual or incident will be considered in violation of the hazing policy. In addition, the violation will be disciplined at the next highest level of **offense violation** of the Athletic Code, e.g., a first offense will become a second offense, a second offense will become a third offense, etc.

## **REPORTING ATHLETIC CODE VIOLATIONS – T/M**

If an adult reports an alleged violation of the Athletic Code, s/he must be willing to submit a signed statement fully explaining what s/he believes is the violation of the Athletic Code, including as much information as possible detailing the alleged violation which was actually observed by the person making the report. Unsigned, anonymous reports will generally be filed for future reference should additional information become available from alternate sources.

If a student-athlete reports an alleged violation of the Athletic Code, the student-athlete's identity will be kept confidential; however, s/he must be willing to submit a signed statement fully explaining what s/he believes is the violation of the Athletic Code, including as much information as possible detailing the alleged violation which was actually observed by the person making the report.

In cases where a report is received from a student-athlete, additional evidence will also be secured during any further investigation. The student report will be used during the investigation, but the name of the student making the report will be kept confidential, and redacted from any statements used as evidence.

The Athletic Director has the primary responsibility of investigating alleged violations of the Athletic Code and for assessing penalties.

### **SUSPENSION FROM SCHOOL – EFFECT ON ATHLETIC ELIGIBILITY – T/M**

Student-athletes currently suspended from Tigerton/Marion High School may not be on school property or at a school activity while on suspension from school. Student-athletes are ineligible for any participation in interscholastic athletics during the period of suspension.

### **TRANSFER STUDENTS – T/M**

During the first quarter of the freshman year at Tigerton/Marion High School, or a transfer student's first quarter at either school, s/he will automatically be placed on academic probation and will be granted probationary eligibility for participation in practices and meets until mid-term or semester grades, whichever apply first, are issued.

If a student-athlete comes to Tigerton/Marion High School with **outstanding debts** at a previous school and it is impossible for the Athletic Director to determine grades for the last period attended at the prior school, the transfer student-athlete will be ineligible until the outstanding debts have been paid to the prior school and Tigerton/Marion High School has received the necessary academic records.

If a student-athlete comes to Tigerton/Marion High School with the status of ineligibility for athletics due to **disciplinary actions** that were taken at the prior school, the resultant penalty must be served prior to a student-athlete being declared eligible at Tigerton/Marion High School.