

VAN BUREN ATHLETIC CODE OF CONDUCT

Students who participate in our school sponsored athletic program must conduct themselves in a way as to reflect favorably on themselves, their team, their school, and their community. It is expected that they will follow the instructions of the coaching staff. All school regulations apply for athletic events and practices. If found to be in violation of the code of conduct, the athlete's privilege to practice will rest solely on the discretion of the head coach of the sport(s) affected. Please find below a listing of the Van Buren Student Conduct Code of Athletics.

The Van Buren Athletic Code of Conduct will be in effect from the first day of the school year until dismissal on the last day of school with the following exceptions.

- A) The policy will commence for athletes in fall sports (football, golf, volleyball, soccer, cross-country, and fall cheerleading) as of their first day of practice according to the OHSAA official starting date.
- B) The policy will remain in effect for athletes in spring sports (track, baseball, and softball) until their team and all teammates are done competing for the season.

All school team summer and pre-season activities are subject to this policy. Students included are those in grades 7-12. Students are subject to this policy the day they join their first athletic team.

- 1. The use or possession of tobacco, in its various forms, shall be deemed an infraction
- 2. The consumption, use, or possession of alcoholic beverages (including non-alcoholic beer), steroids, drugs, drug look-alikes, counterfeits, or drug paraphernalia, by any participant shall be deemed an infraction.
- 3. A member of an athletic team or group will be denied the privilege to participate for violation of #1 or #2 above as determined by the head coach, athletic director, or principal.

The following measures will be taken against a student/athlete found in violation of #1 of the Athletic Code (Tobacco):

1st Offense:

- 20% denial of participation of scheduled games, meets or matches, EXCLUDING scrimmages, immediately following the denial hearing.
- If the offense occurs at the end of the season, the denial will carry over into the post season and/or the athlete's next sport's season.
- When the denial is concluded, the athlete must finish the current season for the 20% to be effective
- When a fraction results from the 20%, the number shall be rounded to the nearest whole number.

2nd Offense:

- Immediate dismissal from the athlete's current sport
- Denial of Participation for a time period of at least 90 days
- At the end of the 90 days a reinstatement hearing will be held with the principal, athletic director, and the in-season or upcoming coach.
- At the denial hearing, a date for the reinstatement hearing will be set. The date will be added to the denial papers sent home to the parents.

*All subsequent violations will result in recurring 2nd offense penalty.

The following measures will be taken against a student/athlete found in violation of #2 of the Athletic Code (alcohol/drugs):

1st Offense:

- Immediate dismissal from his/her current sport
- Denial of participation for a minimum of 60 days following the student/athlete's denial hearing & dismissal
- **The athlete will forfeit all awards earned from the current sport**
- Student/Athlete must enroll and complete a school approved assessment program, at the athlete's expense.
- At the end of the 60 days a reinstatement hearing will be held with the principal, athletic director, and the in-season or upcoming coach.
- Results of the assessment program must be presented to the athletic director / principal at that time.
- At the denial hearing, a date for the reinstatement hearing will be set. The date will be added to the denial papers sent home to the parents.
- A minimum 30% contest denial will occur in the upcoming season, EXCLUDING scrimmages if the denial hearing and 30% denial occurs during the student / athletes off season.

If the 30% denial occurs during part of the athlete's current season, and less than 30% of contests remain, the remaining portion of the 30% denial will be in effect during the post season and/or at the beginning of the next eligible season in which he/she participates.

- o Example – if only 10% of the current season is missed, a 20% contest denial of the athletes post season and/or upcoming season will be served.

*The 30% will be determined by the number of contests scheduled at the time of the first official contest. This will eliminate any changes in the percentage due to additions or cancellations.

2nd Offense:

- Immediate dismissal from his/her current sport
- Denial of participation for a minimum of one calendar year from the date of notification of the violation.
- Student/Athlete must enroll and complete a board approved assessment program, at the athlete's expense.
- **The Athlete will forfeit all awards earned from the current sport**
- At the end of denial of participation (one calendar year), a reinstatement hearing will be held with the principal, athletic director, and the upcoming coach (or coaches).
- Results of the assessment program must be presented to the athletic director / principal at that time.

3rd Offense:

- Immediate dismissal from his/her current sport
- **The Athlete will forfeit all awards earned from the current sport**
- The student/athlete will be permanently denied participation in school activities at Van Buren High School for the remainder of the high school career.

4. Unsportsmanlike conduct, profanity, foul language, or vulgar remarks with lack of respect towards coaches, opponents, teammates, officials, fans, and school personnel, shall be deemed an infraction.
5. The following measures will be taken against a student/athlete found in violation of #4 of the Athletic Code (unsportsmanlike conduct, profanity, etc.):

1st Offense: Student may be denied the privilege to participate for the next three (3) practices and at least the next contest or event. If the violation occurs during the last contest of that sport season, the denial will carry into the post season and/or the athlete's next sport season.

2nd Offense: The athlete will be denied participation for 20% of the scheduled events for that season. IF the offense occurs at the end of the season, the denial will carry into the post season and/or to the athlete's next sports season.

3rd Offense: The athlete may be denied the privilege to participate on the team for the remainder of the season. If the third offense occurs at the end of a sport season, the athlete may be denied the privilege to participate in the athlete's next sports season.

6. An unexcused absence from school or practice may result in ineligibility for the next contest; a second offense shall carry a penalty of ineligibility for the next two contests. Further infractions of this rule may result in the athlete being removed from the team for the remainder of the season.
7. A student must be in school one-half day (five (5) complete periods) to participate in an athletic event or practice unless special permission is granted by the high school principal. The measure of one-half day will be five (5) class periods. An athlete may participate on a non-school day following an absence as long as that absence is an excused absence.
8. Curfew will be at the discretion of each coach. All coaches are expected to enforce a curfew.
9. Anytime a student is suspended from school, he/she is to be denied the privilege of participating in any event or practice for the duration of the suspension from school.
10. Each participant is responsible for his/her own personal equipment as well as school owned equipment issued to his/her. School owned equipment must be returned on call to the coach in charge of the sport and be in a condition satisfactory to the coach.
11. A student's attendance at awards banquets is expected if he/she is to receive his/her award for the season. The sports season is considered completed at the conclusion of all related events, such as awards recognition banquets, all-star games, etc.
12. Students participating in extracurricular programs shall be required to meet certain academic standards to be eligible to participate in contests or performances. This includes all athletic teams and performing groups as well as other groups as determined by the building principal.
 - A. Eligibility will be checked at each interim report. Ineligible athletes will be ineligible the fifth school day following the interim date until the end of the grading period.
 - B. Eligibility or ineligibility for an entire grading period will begin on the fifth school day of the next grading period.

- C. Scholastically ineligible students may participate in practice. Scholastically ineligible students will not be allowed to dress or participate in any contest or event. They may travel with the team if the coach or advisor so requests.
 - D. A student (grades 9-12) would be declared ineligible for an entire nine-week grading period if he/she is not passing the equivalent of 5 credits per semester and accumulating a 1.25 GPA on a 4.0 scale at the end of the grading period.
 - E. A student (grades 7-8) must be passing a minimum of 5 courses being taken plus a 1.25 GPA on a 4.0 scale.
13. The head coach of each sport, with the principal's approval, shall have the right to write and enforce additional rules and regulations that are necessary to maintain a well-balanced climate for the health and welfare of his/her particular sport. A copy of these rules and regulations is to be issued to each participant. Training rules will not conflict with the Van Buren Athletic Code.
 14. Even though athletic participation is a privilege, a participant will be afforded due process by the coach or advisor if denial of participation is considered as a means of correction. Immediate removal of a participant may be necessary for the safety and/or welfare of the participant or others. In such a case, the coach may deny participation on an emergency basis without due process.
 15. Students are required to ride to and from events in school provided transportation. (Permission to ride with relatives must be approved by the coach and athletic director using the appropriate transportation request form.)
 16. Students are required to carry medical insurance. If a student is not covered under a policy at home, students may sign up for the insurance offered at school each fall.
 17. All infractions and punitive measures may, if requested by the athlete, be reviewed initially by the athletic director and/or building principal.
 18. Any athlete quitting or dismissed from a team after the first contest of that team or does not finish the season for any other reason except for injuries will:
 - a. Forfeit all awards, recognition, and functions of that team
 - b. Not be permitted to participate in any other sport until the season he/she dropped is completed
 19. A member of an athletic team or group may also be denied the privilege to participate for any other just cause not otherwise defined by code or the coaches' rules and regulations.