

# **Kenmore-Town of Tonawanda Union Free School District**



## **Interscholastic Standards of Behavior**

*Dear Parents & Student-Athletes,*

*Welcome to the Ken-Ton School District’s Interscholastic Athletics program. This document has been prepared to be used as a reference by our student-athletes and their parents/guardians in an effort to define responsibilities as they pertain to the rules and regulations, as well as the policies and procedures for participation in our interscholastic athletics program.*

*We welcome your interest in and support of Ken-Ton Athletics.*

Brett A. Banker, Director of Health, Physical Education and Athletics

Lindsay Bergman, Assistant Director of Health, Physical Education and Athletics



*Our Ken-Ton Standards of Behavior represent what we expect from those involved in our Interscholastic Program. These standards are specific actions that our Athletic Department expects of each participant in a variety of contexts. They are a set of agreements and expectations of what is acceptable and unacceptable. Our Standards help to guide and direct participants as to what is necessary to achieve our Vision and live by our Core Values.*

***Philosophy of Interscholastic Athletic Participation***

The Kenmore-Town of Tonawanda community recognizes the importance of the interscholastic athletic experience in the total development of the student. We view the interscholastic program as co-curricular in nature and we feel that through these activities our students develop commendable traits.

Perseverance	Resiliency	Ethical Standards
High Character	Personal Fitness	Being a member of a team
Commitment	Dedication	Responsibility
Self-Confidence	Self-Discipline	Sportsmanlike Qualities
Respect for self and others	Appropriate leadership traits	Goal Setting

The Ken-Ton community also supports the idea that student participation is a privilege and an honor, which carries with it inherent responsibilities. Students have every right to express an interest and try-out for our teams, however it is a privilege to be selected as a team member; a privilege that can be taken away at any time. When an athlete accepts the privilege, he/she must live up to our Standards of Behavior beyond that of the general student body, on and off school property and between sport seasons and academic years.

As a pre-requisite for participation, athletes and parents/guardians must sign a statement that commits the athlete to meet the established standards and requires parents/guardians to do everything in their power to make sure their athlete reaches the established Standards of Behavior and any additional rules set forth by a coach.

**A student cannot participate without agreeing to the terms noted here**

The Standards of Behavior is applicable during the athlete’s career beginning with modified sports and not ending until graduation. Any action deemed to be a serious breach of citizenship over the summer recess can be referred to the Athletic Hearing Committee for disciplinary action. Any penalty will be administered during the school year.

The purpose of the Standards of Behavior is to help our student athletes reach their optimal athletic and academic potential. By showing our athletes and families what the Kenmore - Town of Tonawanda UFSD sets as our standards we hope to produce better athletes, even better teams, all while developing a better Kenmore – Town of Tonawanda Community.

## 1. General Requirement:

- **Before your son/daughter can be considered eligible for placement on an interscholastic team, they must fulfill the following:**
- The Niagara Frontier League (NFL) and New York State Public High School Athletic Association (NYSPHSAA) requires that a participating athlete must be a bona fide student at the school he/she intends to compete for and must reside within that school's boundaries.
- Your son/daughter must have an athletic physical. Physicals are valid for a 12 consecutive-month period. This can be accomplished in one of two ways:
  - A. Physical conducted by private physician at the family's expense.
  - B. Physical conducted by our school district's nurse practitioner at no cost. However, dates are pre-determined.
- Permission to Treat Form from our Athletic Trainers.
- Health History Update Form must be on file before any student can participate in interscholastic athletics.
- Standards of Behavior Agreement Form must be on file before any student can participate in interscholastic athletics
- NY State Athletic Placement Process (APP) Middle School only. Middle school athletes may try out for high school level teams, provided they are referred to the program by a teacher or coach and pass the NYS APP Fitness Test. If a 7th or 8th grade athlete competes at the high school level, she or he may no longer compete in that same sport at the modified level. In addition, the candidate's physical maturity level (tanner) must also meet state guidelines. Many of our modified programs are conducted at the high school.
- In order to try-out for a team, the following academic requirements must be met:



- Fall Sports Season:** The student must have passed four units plus physical education during the preceding school year. Credits may be earned through summer school.
- Winter Sport Season:** The student must have earned four units plus physical education credit during the first 10-week marking period.
- Spring Sport Season:** The student must have earned four units plus physical education credit during the second marking period.

Once selected to a team the student-athlete's grades will be monitored every 5 weeks throughout the school year. If at any 5-week checkpoint a student-athlete fails to be in good standing (4 + PE) they may enter probation or be suspended from participation for a period to be determined by school administration.

- If the age of 19 is reached on or after July 1, the student may continue to participate during that school year in all sports. If a student turns 19 prior to July 1, they are ineligible to compete.
- Students are eligible to play a high school sport for 6 consecutive years upon entry into 7<sup>th</sup> grade, 4 consecutive

- Attendance: Players are expected to attend all practices, games, and team affairs unless legally excused by the coach and/or school official. Excused absences include the following:

***Family Emergency, Administrative or Coach's Permission, Legal School Absence***

It is the responsibility of the player to notify the coach in advance if he or she cannot attend practice, a game, or other team function. Students who are suspended from school (including ISS) on a day of an athletic game or practice session are not eligible to participate after school. Students suspended from school on a Friday shall not be eligible for Saturday-Sunday contests. In order for students to participate in practice or contests, **students must attend at least 5 class periods on the day of the activity.** All student athletes must attend and participate in P.E. on the day of a practice or game if they are scheduled for P.E. that day. The principal and/or the athletic director may review unusual circumstances if necessary. Students with a medical release from PE cannot participate in athletics.

## **2. Standards of Behavior**

Athletes are expected to meet the standards of behavior of the school district and athletic department. It is our expectation that all Ken-Ton student athletes will reach and surpass our Standards of Behavior by refraining from:

- Consuming or possessing alcoholic beverages
- Using or possessing tobacco or tobacco-related products including any type of vapor cigarette
- Using or possessing illegal drugs
- Using or possessing prescription drugs for anything other than their intended use
- Being in the presence of illegal drugs or alcohol
- Vandalism
- Inappropriate use of mobile phones, cameras, and other electronic devices
- Stealing or being in possession of stolen property
- Inappropriate postings on any social networks
- Hazing
- Violent/Aggressive behavior including fighting
- Unsportsmanlike behavior including taunting
- Acts of insubordination against coaches, game management, officials
- Verbal or physical abuse, bullying



### Social Media

Specifically prohibited behaviors include but are not limited to:

- Sexually explicit, profane, lewd, indecent, illegal, or defamatory language/actions
- Derogatory language regarding school personnel including coaches or other students
- Comments designed to harass or bully students or school personnel
- Nude, sexually-oriented, or indecent photos, images or altered pictures

### Violation by Association

Violation by association pertains to both during a sport season and out of season. Athletes must not attend any functions where alcohol is being used by minors or where controlled substances are being used unlawfully by anyone. The athlete must make a reasonable attempt to leave the site immediately upon the knowledge that alcohol is on site or that there is unlawful use of controlled substances. Parents, by law, must not host or participate in any social functions where alcohol is used by minors, or where controlled substances are being used unlawfully. **Simply attending and remaining at a party or function at which alcohol and drugs are openly used will be considered a violation of the code even if the student-athlete in question does not partake.**

### Hosting

Student athletes and the families who host a function where violations occur will be considered '2<sup>nd</sup> Offenders' by the Athletic Hearing Committee.

### Self Reporting

It is the responsibility of the student athlete to report any Standards of Behavior infraction that they may have committed to his/her head coach. This act of honesty and taking responsibility for his/her actions will be discussed during the Athletic Hearing Committee's (AHC) deliberation and may result in a lessening of any discipline.



### **3. Process when our athletes fall short of our Standards of Behavior**

Investigations of violations to our Standards of Behavior will be made when an alleged incident is reported.

- Athletes that fall short of our standards will be interviewed by the Assistant Principal; witnesses will also be interviewed and parents will be notified.
- A meeting with Parent/Guardian and Student with appropriate school personnel (which may include Administrator, Athletic Director, Counselor, Prevention Specialist, Coach). A student-athlete who admits to the violation may waive or forego this formal meeting.
- The evidence will be presented to the Athletic Hearing Committee (AHC) for deliberation.
- The family will receive written notification of the AHC's decision.
- Any appeal must be heard by the Superintendent of Schools. Should a student or family disagree with any determination of the AHC, the parent must appeal in writing within five school days of notification of the AHC's decision. Students remain suspended during any appeal.
- Any violation involving potential unlawful activities will be referred to the appropriate law enforcement agencies.

### **4. Potential Sanctions**

Any athlete found guilty of not reaching our standards of behavior will be sanctioned accordingly. The AHC is not bound to the same standards or burden of proof as a court of law. For instance, if a law is broken a conviction is not necessary to be considered a violation of the Standards of Behavior.

#### ***Corrective Action for Not Meeting our Standards of Behavior (In or Out of Sport Season)***

1<sup>st</sup> Offense: May include each/any of the following

- A. Incident Reflection Form is completed
- B. Will result in a suspension deemed appropriate by the Athletic Hearing Committee. Penalties may range from 1 day suspensions to full season suspensions. Punishments may carry over from season to season and violations will be tracked for the entire athletic career of the student-athlete. (Modified level through Varsity).
- C. Complete a health assessment inventory with the district's Family Support Center (FSC). Depending on the result of the inventory and recommendations from the FSC staff, a diversion treatment plan may be required as well. Failure to participate may result in continued suspension until the requirement is met. The student-athlete has the option to complete a Diversion Program with an outside service provider at the discretion of the FSC and the Athletic Director. If an outside agency is used, it will be at the cost of the parent/guardian. A good faith timely commitment to the mandatory diversion program is a prerequisite to being reinstated to any team.
- D. Formulate a Community Volunteer Project Plan with the Assistant Principal and Athletic Director during the season of suspension and work in good faith to complete the project prior to returning to the team. The project will include a written report.

Drug and/or Alcohol violations may require the student athlete to pass a drug/alcohol screening at a district approved site at the parent or guardians expense prior to the conclusion of the suspension.

#### ***Subsequent Offense(s)***

The Athletic Board will convene to determine conditions by which an athlete may return to his/her team, if any exist. Minimally, multiple offenses may include, but are not limited to, lengthier suspensions, counseling, a community volunteer project plan, and/or anything else the AHC feels necessary. Incidents carry over not only from sport season to sport season, but year to year as well. The Athletic Hearing Committee will take into account any previous incidents of record in a student's athletic career; grades 7- 12. (Example: first offense could be at the modified level – next offense is the second offense, regardless of year.)



### ***Serious Violations:***

Unusually serious violations which constitute a misdemeanor or felony are subject to review by the Athletic Hearing Committee and will result in higher levels of penalty.

### ***Violations of Team Rules as Set by Coaches:***

The Athletic Department will uphold standards set by individual coaches as well. Coaches have the authority to create additional and sometimes more stringent team rules and regulations.

### ***Forfeiture of Awards and Privileges***

Rule violations may impact the athlete's individual awards such as earning a letter, all-league, Scholar-athlete honors, all-star games, etc. The loss of privileges may include suspension from participating in any team activity, **including trips-even after the student-athlete and his/her family have participated in fundraising.**

## **5. Other**

### ***Transportation***

Participants are required to travel to an away athletic contest on the school bus or other transportation provided by the school district. Each team member (managers included) must return on district transportation unless otherwise released to a parent/guardian. This release must be in the form of a signed note by a parent/guardian. Our coaches will only release athletes to their parents/guardians for the purpose of transporting them. In some rare, unavoidable, extenuating circumstances students will be allowed to be transported to events by a parent on a case by case basis. Team members must remain at the competition site until released by the coach.

### ***Equipment and Uniforms***

Athletes have the responsibility to return all district issued equipment and uniforms to their coaches. Once the season concludes students will be billed for anything that has not been returned. Should the athlete fail to return the equipment or uniform or pay the bill within two weeks of receiving notice, additional discipline may be enacted. Penalties may include denied access to prom, graduation ceremonies and an inability to register for classes.

### ***Injuries to our student-athletes***

Some injuries will occur to our students regardless of the conditioning or training they receive. However, working year-round to be physically fit will reduce the chance of many types of injuries. Fortunately, our district is committed to treating your athlete with top professionals. Each high school is staffed with at least one nurse, access to a full-time, district-wide nurse practitioner and a certified athletic trainer.

General Injuries will be evaluated in a timely manner based on severity. Return to the sport will be based on an evaluation and medical clearance from a physician and/or athletic trainer. Students will need to perform sport specific, game-like functions to be able to return in a safe and timely manner.

### ***Concussions***

A concussion is a type of brain injury which can alter the functioning of the brain. A concussion can occur with any bump, blow, or jolt to the head or body that causes the brain to quickly move back and forth. Concussions can occur in all facets of life; a fall, car accident, fall from a bicycle, accident on the playground and during athletic practices or competitions. It is imperative that our students report any symptoms to their coach ASAP.

Our professional medical staff will proceed with the utmost caution when a concussion is a possibility. Parents can assist as well by monitoring their child for headache, nausea, dizziness, blurred vision, sensitivity to light or noise, inability to recall events or loss of consciousness.

When a concussion is diagnosed and confirmed, the child will enter our district-approved Concussion Protocol which will include several Return to Play phases.



Ken-Ton UFSD holds Diversity, Equity and Inclusion as core values in our athletic programs. The standards outlined in this document are critical to that mission and we expect student athletes to know them and meet them at all times. We expect our athletes to stand for these values at school and reflect on them in their behavior, on social media sites at all times, including during breaks from a sport and over the summer.

***Our core values and standards to participate are:***

**A. Diversity, Inclusion, Equity**

1. We expect student athletes to lead and set an example for inclusion. We expect teams to be positive and welcoming environments for everyone. Discrimination, prejudice, stereotypes, bigotry, biased or harassing behavior has no place in our schools or on our teams.
2. We expect students to be “upstanders” and not engage in bullying, taunting opposing team members or demeaning other students.
3. Student athletes may not use any racialized language, demeaning nicknames or name calling, including profanity, vulgar, racist, sexist, or homophobic language, obscene gestures, offensive remarks, or other actions that demean individuals or the sport in person, to the media or on any private or public social media site. The use of hate speech or hate symbols is completely unacceptable.
4. Student athletes may never engage in any type of hazing, as defined by the imposition of strenuous, dangerous and or humiliating tasks as part of a program and/or initiation.





## **Sports Offered in the Ken-Ton School District**

**V Varsity**

**JV Junior Varsity**

**M Modified**

**U Unified**

### **Fall**

Cheerleading (V, JV)  
B+G Cross Country (V, JV, M)  
Field Hockey (V, JV) Combined Team-KE, KW and City Honors  
Football (V, JV, M)  
Golf (V, JV)  
Girls Gymnastics (V, JV) Combined Team-KE, KW and Sweet Home  
Boys Soccer (V, JV, M)  
Girls Soccer (V, JV, M)  
Girls Swimming & Diving (V, JV, M) Combined-KE and KW  
Girls Tennis (V, JV)  
Boys Volleyball (V, JV, M)  
Girls Volleyball (V, JV, M)

### **Winter**

Boys Basketball (V, JV, M)  
Girls Basketball (V, JV, M)  
Bowling (V, JV)  
Cheerleading (V, JV)  
Boys Ice Hockey (V)  
Girls Ice Hockey (V) Combined Team-KE, KW, Grand Island and Lockport  
B+G Indoor Track (V, JV)  
Rifle (V, JV)  
Boys Swimming & Diving (V, JV, M) Combined Team-KE and KW  
Wrestling (V, JV, M) Combined Team-KE and KW  
Unified Bowling (U)

### **Spring**

Baseball (V, JV, M)  
Boys Lacrosse (V, JV) Combined Team-KE and KW  
Girls Lacrosse (V) Combined Team-KE and KW  
Softball (V, JV, M)  
Boys Tennis (V, JV)  
Boys Track & Field (V, JV)  
Girls Track & Field (V, JV)  
Unified Basketball (U)

### **Ken-Ton Athletic Office**

1500 Colvin Boulevard ~ Buffalo, NY 14223~Phone: (716)-871-3082  
Physical location: the former Kenmore Middle School at 155 Delaware Road, 14217

Brett Banker, Director of Health, Physical Education and Athletics  
Lindsay Bergman, Asst. Director of Health, Physical Education and Athletics

Leah Canestaro, Senior Clerk Typist

Deana Dymond, Account Clerk

Marie Whitney, Clerk Typist, Encore Dept.

Nathan Bourke, Athletic Coordinator, Kenmore East

Ronald Amici, Faculty Manager, Kenmore East

Kenneth Belote, Athletic Coordinator, Kenmore West

James Rowe, Faculty Manager, Kenmore West



Niagara Frontier League

*Code of Conduct for Spectators*

*I Will Always*

Respect the decision of the officials

*I Will Be*

Supportive and keep my comments positive

*I Will Never*

Do anything to deter the players' love of the game

*I Will Refrain*

From entering the field of play before, during or immediately after the contest

*I Will Never*

Use profanity or physically attack another fan, player, coach, or official

*I Will Do*

Everything in my power to negate trash talking,

*I Recognize*

The emotional & physical well-being of the players comes first, before my desire to win

*I Will Encourage*

A safe and healthy environment for everyone

*I Will Remind Myself*

That the game is for the athletes & not the adults

*We, the Student-Athletes of the Niagara Frontier League,*

Know that IF all parents, spectators, and fans follow & abide by these rules,

the GAME will be much more enjoyable for all

Our league's Student Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC), made up of athletes from our membership crafted these expectations.

Honor our athletes by following these simple rules.



**MY PARENTS EMBARRASS ME AT GAMES WHEN THEY:**

*Actual comments from NFL Athletes*

Coach from the sidelines

Engage in fighting

Argue and yell inappropriate comments

Use aggressive language

Attend practices

Approach the bench

Argue with referees/officials

Complain about coaching

Try to coach

When they think they understand something they don't

Show up on the field

Yell to opposing players

Approach my coach

Argue about playing time

Cheer for me at the wrong time

Get too involved with coaches

Approach our Athletic Director or Principal

