



KEN-TON ATHLETICS

STANDARDS OF BEHAVIOR



Dear Parents & Student-Athletes,

Welcome to the Kenmore-Town of Tonawanda Union Free School District's Interscholastic Athletics program. This document serves as a comprehensive guide for student-athletes and their parents/guardians, outlining the rules, responsibilities, and expectations for participation, ensuring everyone understands and adheres to the standards that help our athletes reach their full potential both on and off the playing surface.

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

Lindsay Bergman
Director of Health, Physical Education, and Athletics

Ken-Ton Interscholastic Athletics Standards of Behavior

Our Standards of Behavior outline our expectations for everyone involved in our Interscholastic Athletics program. These standards detail the specific actions we require from each participant across various situations, setting clear agreements on what is acceptable and unacceptable. They serve as a guide to help participants fulfill our Vision and uphold our Core Values.

Philosophy of Interscholastic Athletic Participation

The Ken-Ton 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 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	Appropriate Leadership
Self-Confidence	Self-Discipline	Sportsmanlike Qualities
Goal Setting	Responsibility	Respect for self and others

The community believes that student participation in athletics is both a privilege and an honor, accompanied by inherent responsibilities. While all students have the right to express interest and try out for our teams, being selected as a team member is a privilege that can be revoked at any time. **Athletes must adhere to our Standards of Behavior, which apply both on and off school property and throughout the entire academic year.**

Before participating, athletes and their parents/guardians must sign a statement committing to these standards. Parents/guardians are expected to support their athlete in meeting these Standards of Behavior and any additional rules set by the coach.

Students cannot participate without agreeing to these terms. The Standards of Behavior apply from the start of an athlete's involvement in modified sports through to graduation. Any serious breach of conduct during the summer recess may be referred to the Athletic Hearing Committee for disciplinary action, with penalties enforced during the school year.

The goal of the Standards of Behavior is to help our student-athletes achieve their highest athletic and academic potential. By clearly defining our expectations, we aim to develop better athletes, stronger teams, and a more vibrant Ken-Ton community.

1. General Requirements

Pre-Participation Requirements

The Niagara Frontier League (NFL) and New York State Public High School Athletic Association (NYSPHSAA) require 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.

- A contestant must be a bona fide student of the high school represented and must be taking at least four subjects including Physical Education. A foreign exchange student may be considered a bona fide student if all of these eligibility rules are satisfied. A student in an education program in two schools may represent only the home school.
- 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. Exceptions may be made for Unified athletes.
- Students are eligible to play a high school sport for 6 consecutive years upon entry into 7th grade, 4 consecutive years upon entry into 9th grade.

Create an account on FinalForms and register for the respective sport. The following forms will be completed and signed by the student-athlete and parent/guardian:

- Contact Information
- Health History & Interval Forms
- Emergency Medical Authorization
- Permission to Treat Form
- Standards of Behavior
- Duty to Warn
- NYSPHSAA PPE Physical (for Physicians)
 - A student-athlete must have an athletic physical. Physicals are valid for a 12 consecutive-month period. This can be accomplished in one of two ways:
 - Physical conducted by a private physician at the family's expense.
 - Physical conducted by our school district's nurse practitioner. However, dates are pre-determined.
- Off-Season/Summer Athletics Waiver
- Residency & Data Release
- Commitment to Sportsmanship
- Equipment Use Policy
- Concussion Acknowledgement

Middle school athletes may try out for high school level teams, provided they are referred to the program by a teacher or coach and approved through the Athletic Placement Process (APP). 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.

Academic requirements for try-out, practice, & contest participation

Grade-level credit requirements:

- Entering 10th grade: Must have earned 4.5 credits
- Entering 11th grade: Must have earned 9 credits
- Entering 12th grade: Must have earned 13.5 credits

Seasonal requirements:

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

Once selected for 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 is not in good standing (passing four 1-credit courses plus Physical Education), they may enter Phase 1 or Phase 2 for a period determined by school administration.

Phase I and Phase II Information:

1. Student-athletes who are passing four courses plus physical education (4 + PE) at the grade check noted above are eligible without restrictions.
2. Student-athletes who are **not** passing four courses and physical education at the time of the grade check noted above will be placed in **Phase #1**.
3. Phase #1 will run Monday-Thursday from **2:30-3:05pm**.
4. **Student-athletes in Phase #1 may practice and compete.**
5. Student-athletes in Phase #1 must attend Study Table every day until the next grade check, regardless of if/when they earn passing marks in 4 + PE.
 - A. Student-athletes may meet with a teacher; however, they must check-in at Study Table first
6. Daily Attendance will be taken. The Study Table monitor will email a coach when a student is absent. Absences #1 & #2 will be handled at the discretion of the coach. ***However, a third unexcused absence will result in the student-athlete's suspension from the next scheduled contest. After the suspension, the absences will reset and result in additional contest suspensions for each third absence.***
7. The Assistant Principal's office will run a report at the next grade check mark as to the status of each student-athlete. Any student-athlete who was lacking 4 + PE at the check will be notified by the Assistant Principal of their status for athletics.
8. If a student-athlete who was placed in Phase #1 is still lacking the 4 + PE at the time of the check, he/she will enter **Phase #2**.
9. A student-athlete who was eligible initially, but then falls below the 4 + PE at the check, will enter Phase #1. Phase #1 for these student-athletes will last until the next grade check in approximately 5 weeks.
10. **Student-athletes in Phase #2 may practice but not compete.**
11. Student-athletes in Phase #2 must attend Study Table every day. These student-athletes should collect the Academic Eligibility Form from the Assistant Principal's office. Student-athletes should complete the form and return it to the Assistant Principal for Athletics office by the date determined.
12. If a student-athlete placed in Phase #2 returns the Academic Eligibility Form and is deemed academically eligible, he/she will return to Phase #1 until the next grade check. The student-athlete must attend Study Table Monday-Thursday and may now practice and compete.

Beginning with the 2024-2025 school year, all 7th grade student-athletes are expected to maintain passing grades in their core classes, which include:

- English
- Math
- Social Studies
- Science
- World Language
- Physical Education

Every five weeks, the school will review the academic progress of all student-athletes. Those not meeting expectations in core classes and physical education will enter a seven-school-day probation period, during which they must complete a grade check form showing they are passing all required courses. If their grades improve by the end of the period, they may fully rejoin their sport. If they continue to fall short, the student-athlete will be removed from the team for the remainder of the season.

In addition to academic eligibility, if selected for a team, a student-athlete is considered eligible if they fulfill the following:

Attendance

- Players are expected to attend all practices, games, and team affairs. In order for students to participate in practice or contests, students must attend at least ***5 class periods on the day of the activity***.
 - 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.
- All student-athletes must attend and participate in Physical Education (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 P.E. cannot participate in athletics.
- Students who are suspended from school, including in-school suspension (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. This does not include ISS.

2. Standards of Behavior

Athletes are expected to meet the standards of behavior of the school district and athletic department, on and off school property and between sport seasons and academic years. 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 prescribed 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
- Unsportsmanlike behavior
- Acts of insubordination
- 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 other students and coaches.
- Comments designed to harass or bully students or school personnel
- Nude, sexually-oriented, or indecent photos, images or altered pictures

Hosting

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

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.**

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 for Standards of Behavior Infractions

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 will 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)

First Offense – May include any/each of the following:

- Incident Reflection completed
- 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).
- Completion of an NFHS Learn or comparable course related to the infraction.
- Attendance and participation with the district's Family Support Center (FSC). Failure to participate may result in continued suspension until the requirement is met. The student-athlete has the option to

complete this requirement 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.

- 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.
- Any other actions deemed appropriate by the district

Subsequent Offense(s)

The Athletic Hearing Committee 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 consider 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 that 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, including dismissal from the team. These team-specific rules will be submitted to the Athletic Office for approval prior to the season.

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

Chain of Command for Athletes, Parents, and Coaches

The Ken-Ton Athletics Department follows a prescribed chain of command when addressing player and/or parent concerns regarding our interscholastic programs. The Chain of Command form is used to ensure that the expected procedure is followed and that information regarding concerns is consistently shared forward in an appropriate manner. The Chain of Command form is available through your student-athlete's coach.

Concussions

- A concussion is a type of brain injury that 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, a car accident, a fall from a bicycle, an accident on the playground, and during athletic practices or competitions. It is imperative that our students report any symptoms to their coach and/or the athletic trainer as soon as possible.
- 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.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Ken-Ton 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 standards to participate are:**
 - 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, and biased or harassing behavior have no place in our schools or on our teams.
 - We expect students to be “upstanders” and not engage in bullying, taunting opposing team members or demeaning other students.
 - Student-athletes may not use any racialized language, demeaning nicknames/ 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.
 - 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.

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. Our district is committed to treating athletes with trained 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.

Lettering Guidelines

The opportunity to earn a Varsity letter for participation in athletics is a special privilege that carries great meaning to our athletic community. The Head Coach of each program determines the criteria and who is eligible to receive a varsity letter at the end of a sport season.

Transportation

Participants are required to travel to an away athletic contest on district provided transportation. 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. **Student-athletes will only be released to their own parent/legal 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.



Ken-Ton Interscholastic Athletics Offerings

Fall

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

Winter

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

Spring

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



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