

# **GALION TIGERS ATHLETIC PARENTS & ATHLETES HANDBOOK**

## **2026 - 2027**



The purpose of this handbook is to define the athletic policies and procedures of Galion City Schools. The success of the athletic program depends upon the understanding, teamwork, and cooperation of administration, staff, athletes, and parents in carrying out the athletic policies. In addition to the local policies as defined in

this handbook, Galion City Schools' athletics are governed by the rules and regulations of the *Ohio High School Athletic Association*.

**ATHLETIC PHILOSOPHY:** Athletics are a part of the extra-curricular educational process of Galion City Schools, serving as an arena for learning. We strive to have each student-athlete enjoy a positive experience while developing competitive teams. Within this framework, the participation of all student-athletes is encouraged, without compromising that competitive nature. They will learn to appreciate teamwork and how to deal with coaches, referees, opponents, peers and themselves.

All students are encouraged to become involved in athletic endeavors. We offer twenty-three different types of athletic activities. To be an athlete at Galion High School is to accept the added responsibility of representing our school and community at the highest level of honor, integrity, effort and sportsmanship. Your participation in our athletic programs indicates and acceptance of this obligation. We have tremendous PRIDE in our teams and teammates. You must never do anything that would lessen or lower the great PRIDE we have for our school and community.

#### **ATHLETIC PROGRAM OFFERINGS**

Football	Varsity, JV, Freshman, 7 <sup>th</sup> grade & 8 <sup>th</sup> grade
Boys Cross Country	Varsity, JV & 7 <sup>th</sup> /8 <sup>th</sup> combined
Boys Golf	Varsity & JV
Boys Soccer	Varsity & JV
Girls Cross Country	Varsity, JV & 7 <sup>th</sup> /8 <sup>th</sup> combined
Girls Golf	Varsity & JV
Girls Soccer	Varsity & JV
Girls Tennis	Varsity & JV
Girls Volleyball	Varsity, JV, Freshman, 7 <sup>th</sup> grade & 8 <sup>th</sup> grade
Cheerleading	Varsity, JV, Freshman, 7 <sup>th</sup> grade & 8 <sup>th</sup> grade
Boys Basketball	Varsity, JV, Freshman, 7 <sup>th</sup> grade & 8 <sup>th</sup> grade
Boys Bowling	Varsity & JV
Boys Swimming	Varsity & JV
Wrestling	Varsity, JV & 7 <sup>th</sup> /8 <sup>th</sup> combined
Girls Basketball	Varsity, JV, Freshman, 7 <sup>th</sup> grade & 8 <sup>th</sup> grade
Girls Bowling	Varsity & JV
Girls Swimming	Varsity & JV
Cheerleading	Varsity, JV, Freshman, 7 <sup>th</sup> grade & 8 <sup>th</sup> grade
Baseball	Varsity, JV & Freshman
Boys Tennis	Varsity & JV
Boys Track and Field	Varsity, JV, Freshman & 7 <sup>th</sup> /8 <sup>th</sup> combined
Softball	Varsity, JV & Freshman
Girls Track and Field	Varsity, JV, Freshman & 7 <sup>th</sup> /8 <sup>th</sup> combined

**Program Totals                      23 Varsity   23 JV   10 Freshman   17 Middle School**

### **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

#### **IS TODAY’S GAME STILL ON?**

Every attempt will be made to play contests as scheduled. Often decisions are made at the last second concerning snow or rainouts. Refer to the **“Galion Tiger Athletics”** Facebook page for the latest schedule updates. Players and parents should also receive notifications from their coach through the district’s communications app (Rooms).

#### **SCHOOL HAS BEEN CANCELLED DUE TO WEATHER, ARE WE STILL PLAYING TONIGHT?**

- Youth & Middle School events are automatically postponed when school is canceled due to weather.
- High School games & practices are determined by 12pm.

#### **CAN I RIDE HOME FROM THE GAME WITH MY BOYFRIEND/GIRLFRIEND’S PARENTS?**

No. Athletes ride with the team to and from away games. If an athlete isn’t riding the bus, they must travel with their parent/guardian. *This can only be done in unusual circumstances and with a note from the parent. The note needs to be brought to the office and approved by the Principal or Athletic director. Once approved, the student is responsible for delivering it to the coach.*

#### **WILL SUMMER SCHOOL CLASSES MAKE ME ELIGIBLE?**

No. Eligibility is determined at the end of every grading period (**note:** semester final grades do NOT count towards eligibility).

#### **HOW DO I GET A SEASON PASS FOR HOME GAMES?**

Season & Year-long passes are sold through the Athletic Tab on the Galion City Schools Web page.

<https://www.galionschools.org/o/ghs/page/event-tickets>

#### **DO SENIOR CITIZENS GET A DISCOUNT?**

Yes! Senior tickets are \$5 for any Home game. Any Senior Citizen who resides within the Galion City School District is eligible to receive a FREE, Lifetime Pass. Contact the Galion High School athletic secretary to receive a pass (419-468-6500 ext. 12007)

#### **WHAT DO I DO IF I WANT TO PLAY AT COLLEGE?**

Any Athlete with a desire to continue their athletic/academic career at College must meet with a High School Guidance Counselor. Course selection, grade point average, ACT score, etc. all matter to colleges. The Counselor will help fill out the proper paperwork.

### **IS THERE A COLLEGE SIGNING DAY FOR ATHLETES?**

Yes. The Galion Athletic Department does host a signing ceremony for Athletes committing to a college. Contact the Athletic Director for specifics.

**OHSAA PRE-SEASON MEETING:** Every student-athlete and parents must attend or view the OHSAA power point presentation. The general purpose of this meeting is to inform participants of their rights and obligations for participating in interscholastic athletics.

**SCHOOL WEBSITE ATHLETIC TAB:** The Athletic Website includes: Schedules (link to Dragonfly), OHSAA presentation, Required Athlete Papers (Link to Final Forms), Handbooks, Cautionary Statements & Ticket Prices.

### **ATHLETIC ADMISSION PRICES:**

#### Middle School/JV Events:

Adults: \$6.00

Students/Senior Citizens \$5.00

#### High School/Varsity Events:

Adults: \$8.00

Students/Senior Citizens \$5.00

### **Year-Long ALL-SPORT PASSES**

(home, regular-season events only)

Includes: Fall (Football, Volleyball, Soccer), Winter (Basketball, Swimming, Wrestling), & Spring (Track meets)

**Adult All-Sport Pass:** \$153 (\$350 estimated value)

**Student All-Sport Pass:** \$78 (\$250 estimated value)

**Family All-Sport Pass** (2 adults & 2 students): \$353 (\$1200 estimated value)

**CONFLICTS IN EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES:** The Galion Athletic Department recognizes that each student should have the opportunity for a broad range of experiences in the area of extracurricular activities and to this end will attempt to schedule events in a cooperative manner to minimize conflicts.

***The student has a responsibility to do everything they can to avoid continuous conflicts.***

This might include participating in only one athletic activity each sport season and being cautious about belonging to too many activities where conflict may occur. It also means notifying all advisors/coaches ***well in advance*** of any potential conflict in activities.

A performance (athletic event, contest, play, concert, etc.) normally has priority over any practice or rehearsal. Two events of equal value conflict, the student may participate in the event of his/her choice without fear of penalty or consequence. Should a conflict arise, the advisors/coaches will meet to work out a solution so conflict is minimal. If the parties are not able to create a solution, the athletic director and building principal will make the decision based upon:

- Relative importance of each event.
- Importance of each event to the student.
- Relative contribution the student can make.
- Parental input.

**COMMITMENT TO PARTICIPATE:** An athlete who quits a sport after the official start of the respective sports season (as defined by the OHSAA) or after “athletic cuts” or if removed from the team for rules violations will be unable to participate in any sports program until the sport he/she quit has completed its season, forfeit any awards for that sports, and return all issued equipment, uniforms, etc. Being unable to participate as a result of quitting or being removed from a team includes but is not limited to any conditioning, open gyms, practices, scrimmages, games, etc. that is in preparation for another athletic program and/or as a member of another in-season program. However, a variance of this rule may be granted given unusual circumstances and only with the agreement of all involved coaches and the Athletic Director.

**TWO-SPORT PARTICIPATION:** The demands on Varsity Athletes are very high. Athletes must be committed and dedicated to a sport in order to be successful. An athlete ***may*** have the opportunity to participate in two sports in the same season. The Athlete must have approval from the Athletic Director and ***BOTH*** head coaches of the sports of interest. The Athlete must also complete the two-sport participation agreement form. Athletes who are able to participate in two sports in the same season are the exception, not the norm.

**CUTTING POLICY:** All reasonable attempts will be made (particularly at the sub-varsity level) to forego the cutting of squad members. However, in certain sports, limitations related to facilities, equipment, and manageable numbers may make it necessary to limit the number of participants.

**ANTI-HAZING:** Hazing can be described as any incident or activity that may or may not cause mental or physical harm to a student looking to join an organization. Informal and unofficial acts of initiation are strictly prohibited. Hazing is not about "earning your way in" or "building loyalty and teamwork." It is about exerting control over another human being. Hazing violates Galion School Board policy & Ohio State law. Coaches and student-athletes are reminded to prevent and/or report all incidents of potential hazing.

**PROCEDURES FOR INJURIES AND ILLNESS:** When an athlete experiences an illness or an injury, which requires professional medical attention, the athlete shall not be permitted to return to practice or participation until written permission from his/her doctor is received by the trainer/head coach.

**PARENT COMMUNICATION WITH YOUR CHILD:**

- Make sure your children know that win or lose, scared or heroic, you love them, appreciate their efforts and are not disappointed in them. This will allow them to do their best without fear of failure. Be the person in their life they can look to for constant positive reinforcement.
- Try your best to be completely honest about your child's athletic ability, competitive attitude, sportsmanship and actual skill level.
- Be helpful but don't coach them. It is difficult for a child to be flooded with advice and critical instruction.
- Teach them to enjoy the thrill of competition and the hard work it takes to improve their skills and attitudes.
- Try not to relive your athletic life through your child in a way that creates pressure.
- Children need their parents at all times, so do not withdraw when they are struggling. If they are comfortable with you win or lose, then they are on their way to maximum enjoyment.
- Don't compete with the coach. If children receive mixed messages from different authority figures, they may become disenchanted.
- Don't compare the skill, courage or attitude of your child with other team members.
- Get to know the coach. Then you can be assured that the philosophy, attitude, ethics and knowledge are such that you are happy to have your child under the coach's leadership.
- Remember that children tend to exaggerate, both when praised and criticized. Temper your reaction and investigate before overreacting.

**PARENT COMMUNICATION YOU SHOULD EXPECT FROM YOUR CHILD'S COACH:**

- Philosophy of the coach.
- Expectations of team members.

- Time and Location of all practices and contests.
- Team requirements. (fees, equipment, fundraisers, off-season conditioning)
- Procedures for injuries.
- Discipline that results in your child's denial to participate.

#### **COMMUNICATION COACHES EXPECT FROM PARENTS:**

- Notification of all schedule conflicts in advance.
- Issues in personal life that may affect the student.

#### **APPROPRIATE CONCERNS TO DISCUSS WITH COACHES:**

- The treatment of your child, mentally and physically
- Ways to help your child improve
- Concerns about your child's behavior

#### **ISSUES NOT APPROPRIATE TO DISCUSS WITH COACHES:**

- Playing time
- Team strategy & play calling
- Other student-athletes

#### **APPROPRIATE PROCEDURE FOR DISCUSSING CONCERNS WITH COACHES:**

- Call to set up an appointment with the coach.
- Do not confront a coach before or after a contest or practice.

#### **WHAT IF THE MEETING WITH THE COACH DID NOT PROVIDE A RESOLUTION?**

- Call to set up an appointment with the Athletic Director 419-468-6500 Ext 12003 and determine the appropriate next step.

**NOTE:** Anonymous social media posts, emails, letters, etc. will not receive a response. Please call and discuss any concerns.

#### **ATHLETIC CHAIN OF COMMAND:**

- 1) Appropriate Level Coach
- 2) Head Coach
- 3) Athletic Director
- 4) Principal
- 5) Superintendent
- 6) Board of Education

With any question or complaint, a parent should always start with the individual coach. If there is a problem, an explanation can be best handled at this basic level directly with the person who may have been involved or who has first-hand knowledge of the situation.

Going immediately to the top of the chain is ineffective. Chances are very good that any individual above the level of the misunderstanding, problem or complaint will not know anything about it. This means that this person would first have to speak with the individual below them on the chain to get the particulars in order to understand what had occurred.

### **PARENT/SPECTATOR CONDUCT EXPECTATIONS**

Parents and any other spectators are expected to behave appropriately while in attendance of athletic events. They are expected to allow the coaches to coach, the players to play, and the officials to officiate. Any comments should remain positive to all players, coaches, referees and fans of both teams in attendance. Please report any acts of inappropriate behavior to the athletic director or principal. Unacceptable fan behavior may result in the fan's immediate removal from the venue. If an ejected spectator refuses to leave the venue, law enforcement will be called immediately to escort the spectator off of school grounds.

#### **Consequences for unacceptable behavior may include but are not limited to:**

- Denial of admission to future contests commensurate with the infraction committed (may include current and/or future seasons)
- Attend and complete the NFHSC Sportsmanship Education program
- Meeting with school administrator(s) prior to being allowed to return to future events

<b>"Do's"</b>	<b>"Don'ts"</b>
● <b>Verbally praise good effort, technique, and sportsmanship</b>	● <b>Verbally question effort, technique, or integrity of players, coaches, or officials</b>
● <b>Cheer and clap for a good play for either team</b>	● <b>Confront an official, coach, or representative from the other team about a problem before, during, or after a game</b>
● <b>Conduct yourself as a positive role model and encourage other fans to follow suit</b>	● <b>Use inappropriate, vulgar, or combative language around children</b>



	or any other person who could be offended
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Respect the decisions made by officials and learn the rules of the game to better understand their decisions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Applaud an opponent's injury, errors, or penalties</li> </ul>

Any athletic official, including but not limited to, contest officials, athletic director, principal, assistant principals, game site supervisors and anyone else in an administrative role on the site, may uphold enforcement of an ejection.

While the Fan Code of Conduct encompasses behavior expectations and consequences for both student and adult fans, Galion City School administrators may apply further consequences to a student ejected from a contest due to the student violating the Student Handbook.

***[NOTE: Due to the nature/severity of the action, school administrators reserve the right to impose the most severe penalty with the first offense if they deem it warranted.]***

### **MOAC SPECTATOR POLICY**

(beginning winter season 24-25)

The MOAC, in order to provide a friendly, family environment at our games, is implementing an ejection policy similar to the one adopted by OHSAA. Anyone ejected from an event in which a MOAC school is participating, home or away, league or non-league will be suspended from all contests as follows:

- First ejection: 2-week suspension from any MOAC school game at any level and any location
- Second ejection: 90-day suspension from any MOAC school game at any level and any location
- Any physical contact with an official, player, coach or another fan: Lifetime ban from any MOAC school game at any level and any location.
- Items a) and b) include completion of the NFHS Sportsmanship Class (Online). The Certificate of Completion presented to the school administration.
- Failure to abide by the penalty of items a) or b) will result in additional suspension. Repeated violations will/may result in permanent exclusion.

### **SPECTATORS INAPPROPRIATE BEHAVIOR**

- Verbal/physical abuse of officials
- Berating the opposing players, coaches or spectators
- Chants, signs, or cheers berating participants and their supporters
- Interruption of the contest by:
  - Throwing objects on to the floor/field
  - Entering the playing area
  - Displaying disruptive behavior



In order to make contests as enjoyable as possible, please represent your school and community in a positive and respectful manner. That means follow the rules; speak and act responsibly, and show courtesy and respect for your fellow fans, the officials, and coaches, the administrators and authority figures and, of course, your team and opponents. Let's make contests great by remembering to **RESPECT THE GAME!**

The MOAC and the OHSAA are committed to showing good sportsmanship.

**SPECTATOR PHOTOGRAPHY & VIDEO TAPING:** Spectators taking photographs or videos may not interfere with the view of this contest by other spectators, nor may they take additional space in seats. In addition, all photographs and videos taken by spectators at this event are for personal use **ONLY**.

The use of photographs or videos for commercial sale must be approved by the School Board and a portion of all sales must be donated to the school. These photographers must submit a BCI/FBI background check to the school.

- Members of the press are excluded from this requirement as long as they present their press credentials.
- The Galion City Schools reserve the right to remove offenders, invoke additional penalties and to see maximum legal recourse against violators of these regulations.

**SPORTSMANSHIP AND SOCIAL MEDIA:** Sportsmanship extends to the social media environment as well. Students, coaches, and fans should not engage in derogatory exchanges over the Internet, text messages, or other avenues. Such actions are strictly prohibited and will be treated in the same way as unsportsmanlike behavior at an athletic contest.

**SENIOR NIGHTS:** The Athletic department formally recognizes our senior athletes, parents & coaches twice a year. Fall sports are usually recognized before the first home football game & Winter sports are recognized before a home varsity Basketball game. Due to scheduling demands and constraints, there is not always an official spring sport senior night. Teams may & should recognize their seniors/parents in ways unique to their sport. Coaches should communicate and assist parents with these celebrations. Senior athletic banners are the sole responsibility of the individual teams.

**OHSAA TOURNAMENT PARTICIPATION:** When athletes qualify for advanced tournament competition, the athletic department will cover admission for the contest & room expenses for the qualifier. The Athletic department will also cover room expenses for the coach. In addition, one teammate may also be excused to accompany the qualifier. Those teammates who did not qualify will be required to cover their own expenses. Students will be excused from school for practice and competition that is customary for the particular sport. The parent club will be responsible for all meal expenses.

**BANQUETS/AWARDS:** All banquets and award ceremonies will be conducted by the Head Coach of each sport at a site approved by the Athletic Director. Each sport will be responsible for the cost of the banquet. Please check the school calendar and coordinate the banquet scheduling through the Athletic Director. The Athletic Department supplies participation certificates for all athletes and G-trophies/letter awards for Varsity Athletes only.

**\*\*Awards held for Athletes with outstanding uniforms and equipment.**

The Athletic department also supplies Team league championship patches & Individual State Qualifier pins. Individual Top 2 & Team top 4 State Finishes are celebrated with High School gym banners.

If an Individual Athlete earns **1<sup>st</sup> Team** MOAC the Athletic department will pay for their and 2 guests' meal at the MOAC Banquet. The Athletic Department also covers the Coach of the athlete to attend.

If an individual Athlete or Team earns All-Ohio Board honors, then they will be invited for recognition by the Galion City School Board.

**GALION HIGH SCHOOL ALL-OHIO BOARD CRITERIA:** We are very proud of and support all Athletic Teams & Clubs. Galion High School Varsity Teams are recognized on the All-Ohio Board. Many other clubs/groups award National & State honors, but they are not eligible for the Galion High School All-Ohio Board honors.

1. Team Sport athletes must earn **1<sup>st</sup> Team** All-Ohio to be recognized. All-Ohio honors are determined by the OHSAA voting process.
2. Individual Sport athletes must earn Top 8 All-Ohio podium honors. All-Ohio honors are determined by an OHSAA sponsored State Championship.
3. Athletes must compete for a Galion City School Board approved High School Varsity sport to Earn All-Ohio Board Honors.

***Galion High School Varsity Teams ELIGIBLE for All-Ohio honors:*** Football, Volleyball, Boys/Girls Basketball, Baseball, Softball, Boys/Girls Soccer, Boys/Girls Cross Country, Boys/Girls Tennis, Boys/Girls Track, Wrestling, Boys/Girls Swimming, Boys/Girls Bowling, Boys/Girls Golf.

***Examples of NON-qualifiers:*** Boys/Girls Cheerleading, Boys/Girls Dance, Freestyle/Greco Wrestling, Boys/Girls AAU Basketball, MOJO Volleyball, Boys/Girls Powerlifting, Fall/Summer Baseball, Fall/Summer Softball, Boys/Girls Ohio Junior Golf, Boys/Girls Special Olympics, Boys/Girls Equestrian, Boys/Girls Gymnastics, Boys/Girls Lacrosse, Boys/Girls Hockey, Boys/Girls Summer/Fall Swimming, Boys/Girls Indoor Track, Boys/Girls Indoor Soccer, Boys/Girls Spring Soccer.

**WALK OF FAME & POLICE ESCORT:** OHSAA State Qualifiers are celebrated by the school. Qualifying Athletes & coaches walk through the school as the student body congratulates them. The Galion Police and Fire Departments escorts the team to the city limits if they have personnel available.

**BUS TRANSPORTATION:** It is school policy for all athletes to ride the bus to and home from away games. However, from time-to-time students will ask to go home with their parents. ***This can only be done in unusual circumstances and with a note from the parent. The note needs to be brought to the office and approved by the Principal or Athletic director. Once approved, the student is responsible for delivering it to the coach. Athletes must leave with parents or a guardian.***

- No food or drink allowed on the bus.
- No spikes or cleats are to be worn on the bus.
- The driver will open and close all doors.
- Appreciate the bus drivers, teams can't compete without them.

### **Coaches Transporting Students**

#### **Taken from "Bus Transportation" section of Coach Handbook**

The coach is responsible for that student's safety. Coaches should not transport students in their personal vehicles. If something were to happen, the coach would be held responsible.

#### **Policy 3213 – Student Supervision and Welfare**

A classified staff member shall not transport students in a private vehicle without the approval of a building administrator.

In rare, unforeseen circumstances, a coach may transport students in his/her private vehicle. Circumstances may include but are not limited to:

- 1) Parent/guardian is unable to transport due to unforeseen emergency
- 2) Coach is also a parent/guardian and is already car-pooling for their child and has room for other teammates
- 3) Unforeseen weather emergency with limited/no shelter available

**APPROVAL PROCESS:**

- 1) If a coach is compelled to transport an athlete, he/she should call or message the parent for permission before transporting.
- 2) Coach must receive approval from parent/guardian before transport.
- 3) If the coach cannot get approval from parent (call or message not answered), use Final Form contact list to get permission from other authorized person.
- 4) Coaches should contact Athletic Director if a student is habitually in need of transportation because parent/guardian is not providing.

**NOTES:**

- Parents and/or guardians should NOT rely on coaches to transport their students and it should be avoided if at all possible.
- Parents should ensure transportation in a timely manner according to the scheduled end of practices and competitions.
- Coaches spend many hours training and coaching students and we want to minimize the time they spend waiting with student-athletes for rides after practices and competitions.

**EARLY RELEASE OF STUDENT ATHLETES:** The education of our students is always our top priority. It is the responsibility of each student to make-up work missed and talk to their teachers.

***College Credit Plus Student Athletes*** are responsible for communicating with their instructors any athletic conflicts with classes. It is critical that these students be proactive with meeting deadlines & making up work.

**SERVICE:** Galion athletic teams are serious about serving and giving back to the community. There are a number of ways that athletes can provide community service. Please make sure athletes log & report hours served (to be accumulated for graduation requirement).

**GAME FIELDS:** The Galion Football, Soccer, Baseball & Softball game fields are a great source of pride for our schools and community. The Galion Board of Education is committed to maintaining high quality fields for our kids and has contracted Front & Center turf to assist with this. The fields are treated year-round and any use of the game fields must be coordinated with the Athletic Director. Unauthorized use of the fields may put kids at risk with chemicals and/or put the field at risk of damage due to over use.

**BOOSTER CLUB:** Parents are encouraged to join the Booster Club and attend meetings, which are held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month at the high school. The Booster Club controls all concessions and potential fundraisers during athletic contests.

**UNIFORMS:** Galion is a NIKE school. All uniforms must be purchased through our NIKE representative. The Athletic Department & Booster Club partnered to help provide uniforms to teams. Each team is guaranteed uniforms once every 4 years.

*\*Individual Team Fundraisers & Parent Groups are responsible for any additional cost above the budgeted amount.*

**RANDOM DRUG TESTING:** All students wishing to participate in athletics, extra- and co-curricular activities, or drive/park on the Galion City School District property will be subject to urine testing for illicit or banned substances as specified in the Procedures for Random Urine Drug Testing of Galion City School District Students. This policy can be found on the Galion City Schools District Website, or a paper copy may be obtained by contacting the Galion High School Office.

**DEPARTMENT TRAINING RULES:** The Galion City School System recognizes the use and abuse of chemicals among students is a serious problem. The use of tobacco, drugs, and alcohol has harmful effects on students' mental, physical, and emotional health. Great demands are placed on our youngsters while influences and pressures are constantly present. Galion High School Student Athletes are expected to use good judgment and not attend activities where alcohol and other drugs are present.

The coaches and administration of the Galion City Schools believe certain standards of behavior are important in the development of a sound athletic program. Students who voluntarily participate on an athletic team are expected to accept the responsibilities that accompany this privilege. **Choosing to play is a commitment to obey the rules.**

**EXTRA- and CO-CURRICULAR CODE OF CONDUCT:** In addition to guidelines set down by individual coaches/advisors for particular sports/activities, the following are code of conduct rules for all Galion participants in effect 365 days a year: Administrators reserve the right to amend consequences due to extenuating circumstances.

A. **NO SELLING OR DISTRIBUTION** of any intoxicants, illegal drugs, or look-alike drugs.

**First Offense** – The student will be prohibited from participation in extra- and co-curricular activities for one calendar year from date of the offense.

**Second Offense** – The student will be prohibited from participation in extra- and co-curricular activities for the remainder of a student's academic career.

- B. **NO ATTENDANCE AT GATHERINGS OR PARTIES** with alcohol and/or drugs. Athletes will not attend gatherings or parties with the presence of alcohol and/or drugs. The athlete must make a conscientious effort to leave the party immediately. The intent is to keep our athletes away from underage consumption and/or other illegal activities. Athletes are not in violation unless underage consumption and/or other illegal activities take place.
- C. **NO POSSESSION, PURCHASE OR USE** of any intoxicants, tobacco, illegal drugs, or non-prescribed drugs. Athletes shall not possess, use, handle, transmit, or conceal alcohol beverages, or look-a-likes, tobacco or tobacco products, narcotics, or drugs, look-alike drugs, or substances which are thought to be drugs, or inferred to be drugs.

***Violations of B or C result in the following:***

**First Offense –**

1. A student who is in violation will be prohibited from participation in extra- and co-curricular activities for one (1) calendar year from the date of the violation.
2. If the student who is in violation completes a chemical dependency education course, through a licensed professional not funded by the Galion City Schools, the penalty will be reduced to twenty percent (20%) of that season's contests or next occurring extra- and co-curricular athletic activity or season as determined by the principal or athletic director. For example, if the violation occurs the last week of a season or activity, the penalty will continue throughout the existing season and into the next season or activity. The student may participate in practice, but not compete/perform with the team during the denial of participation. The student will not be allowed to dress, be on the bench, or travel with the team during this time.
3. If the student agrees to complete a chemical dependency education course, he/she must submit to the principal or athletic director evidence of successful completion and an ongoing commitment of non-drug/alcohol use.
4. A student who is in violation will not be allowed to serve in any leadership positions for the current or next occurring extra- and co-curricular activity or

season as determined by the principal or athletic director. He/she may/may not be permitted to attend an awards banquet/ceremony at the discretion of the principal.

5. In case of a self-referral the banquet, recognition and/or award consequence will be waived if the student has attended or shows evidence of plans to attend the course.

### **Second Offense –**

1. A student who is in violation on a second occasion or in combination for a second time will be prohibited from participation in extra- and co-curricular athletic activities for one (1) calendar year from the date of the violation.
2. If the student agrees to attend a drug/alcohol evaluation and treatment program, through a licensed professional not funded by the Galion City Schools, the penalty will be reduced to a forty percent (40%) of the current or next occurring extra- and co-curricular athletic activity or season. The student may participate in practice, but not compete/perform with the team during the denial of participation. The student will not be allowed to dress, be on the bench, or travel with the team during this time.
3. The student must meet with the principal or athletic director, providing evidence of successful completion (or continued participation) in a licensed professional drug/alcohol rehabilitation or counseling program. Student must re-affirm an ongoing commitment of non-drug/alcohol use.
4. The principal or athletic director will approve or disapprove the petition. The principal or athletic director may condition approval based on further requirements.
5. A student who is in violation will not be allowed to serve in any leadership positions for one year. He/she will not be permitted to attend an awards banquet/ceremony, nor will the student receive any awards, letters or recognition for his/her participation in the current season or next season if not currently participating in an extra- and co-curricular athletic activity.
6. The banquet, recognition and and/or award consequence will be waived if the student has attended or shows evidence of plans to attend the assistance program.

### **Third Offense –**



A third violation will result in a permanent denial of participation in extra- and co-curricular athletic activities for the remainder of a student's academic career.

**D. SPECIAL NOTES**

1. During denial of participation, students may be prohibited from school related activities such as dances, proms, bonfires, etc.
2. This code will be in effect for 365 days a year. Therefore, students who are out-of-season are still subject to random drug testing and the consequences of a positive test.
3. Students are under jurisdiction of the general Student Conduct Code as well as the code or regulations of the activity in which they are participating.
4. Denial of participation must be fulfilled during current season; if not, denial will be carried over to ensuing season. This ensuing season must be completed in good standing in order to participate in the next season.
5. Specifics for **athletics**:
  - a. The Athletic Code of Conduct and applicable OHSA guidelines are in effect for all Galion athletes 365 days a year for their entire athletic career.
  - b. An athlete is under the jurisdiction of both the Athletic Code of Conduct and the general Student Conduct Code. For example, if an athlete were found smoking in the restroom during the school day, he/she would be removed from the athletic team (per Athletic Code) and he/she would receive Thursday School(s) or Out of School Suspension (per Student Conduct Code). If the athlete were found smoking on Saturday afternoon only the Athletic Code would apply unless the violation occurred during a school sponsored event.
  - c. If an athlete is at an activity that is not in his/her best interest or the best interest of the team, Galion City Schools expects that athlete to leave that activity immediately or as quickly and safely as possible. Examples include but are not limited to attending parties where alcohol is served or present, being present when a crime is being committed, etc.
6. Specifics for **marching/pep band**:
  - a. A marching/pep band member is under the jurisdiction of the Extra/co-curricular Code and the General Student Code. Specifics for marching/pep band are the same as for athletics.
  - b. The marching/pep band season begins with the first rehearsal and ends with last performance.

**ATHLETIC ELIGIBILITY:** Galion High School adheres to the eligibility policy established by the Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA). In order to be eligible in grades 7-12, a student must be currently enrolled and must have been enrolled in school the immediately preceding grading period. In grades 9-12, during the preceding grading period, the student must have received passing grades in a minimum of five full-credit courses (**physical education courses are NOT full-credit**) or the equivalent that count toward graduation. For incoming 9<sup>th</sup> graders' fall sport eligibility, and for all season eligibility for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders, students must have received passing grades in a minimum of four courses.

The eligibility or ineligibility of a student continues until the start of the fifth school day of the next grading period, at which time the grades from the immediately preceding grading period become effective. EXCEPTION: Eligibility or ineligibility for the first grading period commences with the start of the fall sports season.

**NOTE:** An athlete who is ineligible may practice with their team with coach and administration permission, as long as they maintain eligible grades during their period of ineligibility.

Questions regarding eligibility or ineligibility should be directed to the Athletic Director.

**ATHLETIC REQUIREMENTS:** In order to participate in athletics (practice/contests) you must have the following on file in the Principal's Office (Final Forms):

Completed and up-to date OHSAA Physical, Signed Athletic Code of Conduct, Insurance/Insurance Waiver Form & Caution Statement, Athletic Eligibility Pamphlet (OHSAA) & Athletic State Meeting Form (OHSAA), Signed Concussion Information Sheet, Signed Sudden Cardiac Arrest Information Sheet, Emergency Medical Authorization, Signed & paid Random Drug Test Form, & Signed Spectator Code of Conduct.

***PARTICIPATION IN EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES IS A PRIVILEGE NOT A RIGHT.***

## **5610.05 - PROHIBITION FROM EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

Participation in extra-curricular activities, including interscholastic sports, is a privilege and not a right. Therefore, the Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent, principals, and assistant principals to prohibit a student from participating in any particular or all extra-curricular activities of the District for offenses or violations of the Student Code of Conduct/Student Discipline Code for a period not to exceed the remainder of the school year in which the offense or violation of the Student Code of Conduct/ Student Discipline Code took place. In addition, student athletes are further subject to the Athletic Code of Conduct and may be prohibited from participating in all or part of any interscholastic sport for violations therein. Students prohibited from participation in all or part of any extra-curricular activity are not entitled to further notice, hearing, or appeal rights

**DISCIPLINARY ACTION IN SCHOOL:** All athletes involved in disciplinary action in the classroom or school related activities during current sports season where out of school suspension results will be subject to denial of participation for an equal length of time. If coach's additional supplemental rules are violated, the specified penalty will be followed.

**SUPPLEMENTAL TRAINING RULES:** Supplemental training rules are those rules that a head coach may implement for his/her program. These rules are above and beyond those set by the athletic department. These rules may be more strict than those set by the athletic department. Supplemental rules will vary from team to team and only apply to the program of the coach that implements them during the specified season.

**SOCIAL MEDIA:** Student-athletes' rights to freedom of speech, expression, and association, including the use of online social networks are recognized and supported. However, each student-athlete must remember that playing and competing for Galion High School/Middle School is a privilege, not a right. As a student-athlete you represent Galion City Schools and you are expected to portray yourself, your team, and the school in a positive manner at all times. Violations will be reviewed by Galion City School Administration and consequences will range from a simple warning to removal from the sport.

**CAUTIONARY STATEMENTS:** Recommendations have been designed specifically for each Galion City Schools Athletic Program. Because of the intense demands and conditioning required, athletes and parents are asked to read and understand certain cautions and responsibilities designed to improve the safety and enjoyment of each sport.

### **"TIGER PRIDE 12+" AWARD OF EXCELLENCE**

To be an athlete at Galion High School is to accept the added responsibility of representing our school and community at the highest level of honor, integrity, effort, service and sportsmanship.

The Galion High School **"TIGER PRIDE 12+"** award of excellence is earned by individuals who model an outstanding commitment to Galion Athletics by completing 12 or more High School sport seasons in good standing.

Individuals who earn this award join an elite group of athletes who exemplify sports participation.

#### ***Membership Criteria:***

- 1) 12 or more sport seasons refers to any of our 23 recognized Varsity Sports.
- 2) Credit earned for seasons completed as a "Galion Tiger".
- 3) Athletic code violations or quit seasons remove a student from consideration.

#### ***Recognition:***

- 1) Announced during the senior breakfast celebration.
- 2) Members listed in the Athletic programs & on a plaque in the cafetorium.

3) Members receive 1- lifetime Athletic pass.

Athletic Director may remove a member for actions that would reflect negatively on the "TIGER PRIDE 12+" award of excellence.