



Kenowa Hills Public Schools  
**Education inspired.**

## **Athletic Code of Conduct**

**Kenowa Hills Athletic**

**Code of Conduct**

**(Revised April 24, 2019)**

Participation in extracurriculars is a privilege, not a right. As such, coaches will continuously review and evaluate student-athletes' academic performance in the classroom and behavior in and out of school with regard to the expectations found in the code of conduct. Therefore, coaches reserve the authority to determine participation and membership on any given extracurricular team.

Any member of a Kenowa Hills athletic team is responsible for knowing and adhering to the school and team rules. These school rules will be considered violations in and out of season and on or off school property. Compliance will begin when the student is given a high school or middle school handbook. Upon beginning high school as a ninth grader, athletic suspensions will continue until completed.

A student is considered an athlete once they participate in their first athletic practice at Kenowa Hills High school. They will continue to be classified as an athlete until the last spring sports season is complete of their senior year. If you do wish to be an athlete, a big part of this is following a simple set of training rules, which the department of athletics believes to be fair.

### **Policies/Guidelines**

1. **Elastic Clause:** The school reserves the right to set forth as part of the Athletic Code of Conduct those rules and regulations necessary and proper for carrying into execution the athletic program of the school, which are not specifically stated here, or as the need arises.
2. **Joining a Team:** All students are welcome to join/tryout for any team. If a student decides to inquire about joining a team after the official MHSAA practice dates have begun, they must meet with the Athletic Director and the coach, who will determine whether or not a student may join the team (the student cannot practice with the team prior to the meeting with the Athletic Director and the coach). No student can try out for a team after cuts are made. A student who enrolls at after the "cuts" date may be allowed to try out with the approval of the Athletic Director and the coach.

3. Equipment: School equipment and uniforms issued to an athlete during the season are his/her responsibility. He/she is expected to keep it clean and in good condition. Any student who has not returned or fulfilled their responsibilities due to loss or damaged equipment or uniform will not be allowed to participate in another sport until this debt has been cleared. Participation begins on the first day of the MHSAA and/or Kenowa Hills scheduled practice.
- 4 Attendance: An athlete should always consult his/her coach before missing practice and/or game. The individual coach will deal with missing practice or a game, without good reason, using consequences approved by the Athletic Director. In order to be eligible to participate in an athletic contest, the student-athlete must practice consistently for the number of days as specified by the coach.
  - a. Athletes are required to be in school the entire day to be eligible to participate in practices or games.
  - b. Exceptions must have prior approval from the Athletic Director/Principal.
  - c. Pre-arranged absences for a funeral, medical appointment, field trip or other school approved activity must be turned in to the Athletic Office prior to the absence.
  - d. Exceptions will be dealt with on an individual basis through the athletic department.
  - e. Athletes are expected to attend all practices, team meetings, and scheduled athletic contests.
  - f. Out of School Suspension may not practice, travel, or compete with their athletic team.
    - a. Friday school suspensions carry over to weekend athletic contests/activities. If a student is suspended on the day of a contest he/she may not participate in any athletic contest or practice on the day he/she is suspended, even if the suspension is scheduled to begin on the following day.
- 5 Physicals: According to the M.H.S.A.A. all students who participate in interscholastic athletics must have a physical form completed and on file in the athletic office. Physicals must be dated after April 15th of the previous year. In addition to the physical form, all students and their parents must have the Spectrum Consent to Treat Form as well as their participation fee paid in order to compete athletically at Kenowa Hills. These forms and fees must be taken care of prior to the first day of practice or the athlete will not be able to participate **NO EXCEPTIONS!!**

## Behavioral Violations

- It shall be a violation for a student/athlete to use, purchase, attempt to purchase, consume, or knowingly possess alcoholic beverages, drugs, steroids, narcotics or tobacco (including chewing tobacco, e-cigarettes, vaping and any e-cigarette paraphernalia).
- Theft, assault, vandalism and the reckless endangering of the person or property of others is prohibited.
- Any behavior or actions, whether they took place during or after school hours, not mentioned above that detracts from or brings embarrassment to the coach, team, school system or the community may cause the student-athlete to be suspended from the team.
- Any violation of the Student Code of Conduct that results in an out of school suspension.
- Any athlete charged with a felony offense will not be allowed to try out for or be a member of a team until the charges are dropped. Any student convicted of a felony will not be allowed to participate in Kenowa Hills Athletics.
- The Athletic Director shall determine if a training rule violation has occurred and will conduct an investigation when necessary, and determine a penalty within the guidelines as determined by the Board of Education.
- Penalties for a violation of the Athletic Code shall be as follows:
  1. First Offense:
    - The coach, parents, and the athlete shall be notified if a violation has occurred.
    - The athlete's name, the date, and nature of the incident shall be recorded and kept on file in the athletic office.
    - The penalty for a first offense shall be a suspension for up to 25% of the contests in the present sport. (If playing 2 sports you will sit out both for all suspensions). The suspension will begin immediately. The athlete will be on probation for the next 4 consecutive athletic seasons following the MHSAA calendar based on the last state competition to finish. If, during the probation, the athlete commits no further violations of the code all previous violations will be dropped from the record. While on suspension, the athlete must fulfill all other obligations of a team member: practices, meetings, etc., and complete the whole season in good standing.
    - If an athlete chooses to serve the suspension in another sport, she/he must complete the entire season in good standing in order for the suspension to be fulfilled. In order to join another team, they must have the permission of the coach of that sport.
    - If the violation is for alcohol or narcotics, the athlete must complete **an assessment** before he/she will be allowed to return from their suspension. The athlete will be assisted in finding an assessment center. All costs will be the parent's responsibility.
  2. Second Offense:
    - The coach, parents, and the athlete shall be notified of the violation.

- The athlete's name, the date, and nature of the incident shall be recorded and kept on file in the athletic office.
  - The penalty for the second offense shall be suspension from athletic contests for up to 50% of the season. The athlete will also be on probation for the next 2 calendar years. If during the probation, the athlete commits no further violations of the code then the athlete will return to the probationary period established in the first offense. While on suspension, the athlete must fulfill all other obligations of a team member: practices, meetings, etc. and complete the whole season in good standing.
3. Third Offense (and subsequent offenses):
- The coach, parents, and the athlete shall be notified of the violation.
  - The athlete's name, the date, and nature of the incident shall be recorded and kept on file in the athletic office.
  - The penalty for the third offense shall be suspension from all athletic contests 365 calendar days. The athlete will also be on probation for the remainder of their high school career. If during the probation, the athlete commits no further violations of the code, then the athlete will return to the probationary period established in the second offense.
4. Fourth Offense
- The coach, parents, and the athlete shall be notified of the violation.
  - The athlete's name, the date, and nature of the incident shall be recorded and kept on file in the athletic office.
  - The penalty for the fourth offense shall be an automatic suspension from all athletics for the rest of the student athlete's high school career.

### **Discipline Guidelines**

1. Scrimmages will not count as a scheduled contest date.
2. If suspension cannot be completed during a current sports season it will be pro-rated during the student-athletes next sports season. For example, if an athlete participates in both football and basketball and is suspended for 50% of the football games but only 1 game remains( 10% of the scheduled contests), he would miss 40% (8 games) of the boys' basketball season( 10% + 40% = 50 %)
3. The athletic suspension recommended in all cases should be considered as the minimum. If circumstances warrant, more severe disciplinary action may result.
4. A student may be disciplined for violations of the Student Code of Conduct and the Athletic Code arising from the same incident.
5. All percentages for missed contests round up to the nearest full contest(e.g. .5 rounds to the next number)

### **Method of Reporting Violations**

- All violations must be reported.
- Any conduct considered unbecoming to an athlete will be brought before the Athletic Director for possible disciplinary action. Extenuating circumstances will be handled by an administrator.
- An administrator will notify parents or guardians by phone or letter of the violation and the subsequent penalty.
- An administrator will convene a meeting for a hearing if desired. A parent of the athlete may waive the hearing and accept the maximum consequence.
- Athletes are also subject to training rules established by their coach. Punishment for violation of team rules shall be consistent with that of the Board of Education policy.
- If a student/athlete is found in violation of a training rule the parents or guardians shall have a right to appeal and have a hearing before an Athletic Hearing Committee. An Athletic Hearing Committee will consist of administrators and three faculty members chosen by the Athletic Director. Except where the Athletic director is witness to the offense, at which point the Principal will appoint the members of the Athletic Hearing Committee. It is understood that the principal or a designee may suspend an athlete from athletics at any time when the athlete's conduct may have a detrimental effect on the Kenowa Hills Public School system.
- All appeals will follow regular channels and must be initiated within seven calendar days.

KENOWA HILLS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Title IX Statement and Grievance Procedure

1. **Title IX Statement**

Title IX prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex, including sexual harassment, in any program, service or activity, including but not limited to, educational programs or activities, such as, extracurricular activities, student services, academic counseling, discipline, classroom assignment, grading, athletics, and transportation, operated by Kenowa Hills Public Schools ("District"), including admission to these programs and activities. Title IX also prohibits sex discrimination in employment.

The District encourages anyone within the school community who believes a Title IX violation may have occurred to report their concerns to a District Title IX Coordinator who are identified below.

Mike Burde  
Assistant Superintendent  
2325 Four Mile Road NW  
Grand Rapids, MI 49544  
(616) 784-2511  
[ghopkins@khps.org](mailto:ghopkins@khps.org)

Dr. Cherie Horner  
Central Elementary Principal  
4252 3 Mile Rd NW  
Grand Rapids, MI 49534  
(616) 453-6351  
[chorner@khps.org](mailto:chorner@khps.org)

***Definitions***

"School community" means students, parents/legal guardians, administrators, professional and support staff, as well as Board of Education members, agents, volunteers, contractors or other persons subject to the control and supervision of the Board.

"Complainant" or "reporting party" refers to the person submitting a Title IX complaint.

"Respondent" or "responding party" means the person identified as violating Title IX.

"Third parties" include, but are not limited to, guests and/or visitors on District property (e.g., visiting speakers, participants on opposing athletic teams, parents), vendors doing business with or seeking to do business with the Board of Education ("Board") and other individuals who come into contact with members of the school community at school-related events/activities (whether on or off District property).

2. **Grievance Procedures**

***Reporting***

If students, their parents/guardians, or anyone else on their behalf believe that they have been subjected to sex discrimination, sexual harassment or sexual assault by school board members, staff, vendors, contractors, or other persons doing business with the District, then a complaint

should be immediately reported to the principal of the school where the student attends and/or to the Superintendent, Gerald Hopkins (Phone No. (616) 784-2511; Email [ghopkins@khps.org](mailto:ghopkins@khps.org)), who is the Title IX Coordinator responsible for Title IX complaints involving adults. Principals shall report any such Title IX complaints to the Superintendent, who is the Title IX Coordinator responsible for any Title IX complaint involving a staff member or third party.

If the Title IX complaint involves students as both the complainant/alleged victim and responding party, then the complaint should be immediately reported to the principal of the school where the student attends and/or to the Superintendent, Gerald Hopkins (Phone No. (616) 784-2511; Email [ghopkins@khps.org](mailto:ghopkins@khps.org)) or Central Elementary Principal, Dr. Cherie Horner (Phone No. (616) 453-6351; Email [chorner@khps.org](mailto:chorner@khps.org)), who are the Title IX Coordinators for complaints involving students. Principals shall report any such Title IX complaints to the Superintendent, who is the Title IX Coordinator responsible for any Title IX complaint involving students as both the complainant/alleged victim and responding party.

Each Title IX Coordinator is responsible for providing to the other Title IX Coordinator a copy of a Title IX complaint that was submitted to the incorrect Title IX Coordinator.

All District employees are expected to promptly report sexual harassment and sexual assault that they observe or hear about to the appropriate Title IX Coordinator.

Any complaints involving employment issues, involving employees and students or involving third parties (whether adult or non-student minors) should be reported to the Superintendent, Gerald Hopkins (Phone No. (616) 784-2511; Email [ghopkins@khps.org](mailto:ghopkins@khps.org)), who is the Title IX Coordinator responsible for Title IX complaints involving staff members and third parties.

Reports can be made both orally or in writing and should be as specific as possible. The person making the report should identify the alleged victim, perpetrator(s) and witness(es), and describe in detail what occurred, including date(s), time(s) and location(s). The District, however, will investigate and address all reports.

The complainant has the right to simultaneously file a criminal, administrative, or civil complaint. The complainant's decision to file criminal charges or another complaint does not diminish the District's obligation to investigate a complaint made by the complainant to the District.

Any incidents of sexual harassment and/or sexual assault that come to the District's attention through means other than a formal complaint will also be promptly reported to a Title IX Coordinator, promptly investigated and appropriately addressed.

### **3. Examples of Title IX Violations:**

Title IX protects students from harassment or discrimination on the basis of sex during educational or extracurricular programs and activities, whether they take place at school or elsewhere. Sex discrimination usually involves unequal treatment on the basis of sex and can be perpetrated by students, staff members or employees, volunteers, vendors, contractors or visitors to the school. Title IX protects employees from sex discrimination, sexual harassment or sexual assault.

Sexual harassment is unwelcome verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature that is sufficiently severe, persistent or pervasive that it denies or limits an individual's ability to participate in or benefit from the District's programs and activities. Sexual harassment may include, but is not limited to, the following:

- Unwelcome sexual advances;
- Unwelcome sexual verbal expressions, including graphic sexual commentaries about a person's body, dress, appearance, or sexual activities; unwelcome sexually degrading language, jokes or innuendoes; unwelcome sexually degrading language or innuendoes; unwelcome suggestive or insulting sounds or whistles; obscene telephone calls, text messages or email;
- Requests for sexual favors and other verbal, nonverbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature;
- Verbal harassment or abuse;
- Pressure to engage in sexual activity;
- Repeated remarks with sexual implications;
- Unwelcome touching; and/or
- Suggesting or demanding sexual involvement, accompanied by implied or explicit threats.

In the case of employees, sexual harassment includes any unwelcome verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature that is sufficiently severe, persistent, or pervasive that creates a hostile work environment or adversely affects the employee's working conditions.

Conduct is considered unwelcome if the person did not request or invite it and/or regards the conduct as undesirable or offensive.

Sexual violence refers to physical sexual activity perpetrated against a person's will or where a person is incapable of giving consent (e.g., due to the student's age or use of drugs or alcohol, or because an intellectual or other disability prevents the student from having the capacity to give consent). Sexual violence includes, but is not limited to, conduct that is criminal in nature, such as rape, sexual assault, dating violence and sexually motivated stalking.

Gender-based harassment is unwelcome conduct based on a person's actual or perceived sex or sexual orientation. It includes slurs, taunts, stereotypes or name-calling, as well as gender-motivated physical threats, attacks or other hateful conduct based on a person's sex or failure to conform to sex stereotypes.

#### **4. Informal Resolution Process**

If appropriate as determined by the Title IX Coordinator, the complaining party and the respondent may voluntarily agree to participate in an informal resolution process that does not involve a full investigation and determination. Prior to the informal resolution process commencing, both parties will receive written notice of the charges and allegations and will be advised of their option to engage in a formal resolution process. The complainant will not be required to resolve the problem directly with the respondent, and either party has the right to end the informal process at any time and begin the formal process for investigating the complaint. The District reserves the right to prohibit the informal resolution process for



complaints involving an employee and a student. The informal process should be completed on or before thirty (30) days after the complaint is filed.

## **5. Formal Resolution Process**

If the parties choose not to engage in the informal resolution process, or choose to stop the informal resolution process at any time, the District will conduct a prompt and full investigation into any Title IX complaint. An investigation will afford both the complaining party and the respondent a full and fair opportunity to be heard, submit documentation and evidence supporting or rebutting the allegation(s), and identify witnesses. All parties involved in the investigation will be provided with a copy of this Title IX Statement and Grievance Procedures.

Investigations may be conducted by the appropriate Title IX Coordinator or designee, such as a building administrator or other administrator, who has been trained in Title IX procedures. The District reserves the right to obtain or consult with a third party investigator or resource at any time during the complaint, investigation, or determination process.

Prior to and during the investigation process, the Title IX Coordinator or designee will meet independently with the complaining party and with the respondent and discuss, where appropriate, any interim and/or remedial measures imposed during the investigation.

### ***Confidentiality***

- All complaints, interviews and investigations will be treated with confidentiality as allowed under the law. Only those employees or students whose participation in the investigation is required, or those individuals with a legitimate reason to know, will be informed. During the course of the investigation, the Title IX Coordinator or designee will instruct all interviewees about the importance of maintaining confidentiality. Interviewees will be directed not to disclose any information that the interviewee learns or provides during the course of the investigation to third parties. At times, the complainant or, where applicable, the complainant's parent may request that the complainant's name or the alleged victim's name not be disclosed to the alleged perpetrator or that no investigation or disciplinary action be pursued. The Title IX Coordinator or designee will endeavor to balance the privacy request with the District's obligation to provide a safe and non-discriminatory environment and the Respondent's due process rights. If appropriate, the Title IX Coordinator or designee will advise that honoring a confidentiality request may limit the District's ability to fully respond to the complaint, including pursuing disciplinary action against the alleged perpetrator.

### ***Retaliation Prohibited***

- At the beginning of the investigation, the Title IX Coordinator or designee will explain that Title IX includes protections against retaliation and that the school will take steps to prevent retaliation and that the District will strongly react to any retaliatory actions, including any acts of retaliatory harassment, should they occur. No student, parent/guardian, employee, or member of the public shall be retaliated against for filing a complaint of discrimination or participating in the investigation of the complaint.

- Any person can report a claim of retaliation verbally or in writing to a Title IX Coordinator or school building principal (who in turn will report the complaint of retaliation to the Title IX Coordinator). Should the District receive a retaliation complaint, the District will promptly investigate and take all necessary steps within its control to stop any confirmed retaliatory acts/behavior.

### ***Investigation Procedure***

- Investigations must begin promptly, proceed impartially, and treat all parties equitably. This includes providing both parties an opportunity to present witnesses and other evidence. The investigation will be concluded within thirty (30) calendar days but no more than sixty (60) days after a complaint is filed, unless there is good cause to continue the investigation beyond sixty (60) days.
- For complaints involving an alleged hostile environment based on sex, in determining whether the alleged conduct constitutes sexual harassment, the totality of the circumstances, the nature of the harassment, and the context in which the alleged incident(s) occurred will be investigated.
- All documentation regarding the complaint and the investigation will be stored in a separate confidential file maintained by the Title IX Coordinator.
- A prompt and thorough investigation of the complaint shall be conducted as follows:
  - Obtain complainant's and respondent's statements (clear, concise, with as much detail as possible).
  - Notify complainant, victim (if other than complainant), respondent, and the parent/guardian of each, if minor students, that they have the right to provide witnesses and other evidence.
  - Question any witnesses who are involved in or have knowledge of the incident, and document accordingly.
  - Review the student records/files applicable to the complaint.
  - Keep complainant, or victim (if other than complainant), and any minor student's parent/guardian apprised in writing of the progress of the investigation if it cannot be concluded within ten (10) business days and provide an estimated timeline for the investigation.
  - The Title IX Coordinator who is the Superintendent will lead the investigation if a staff member or a third party, such as contractor assigned to work at the school, is a party to the complaint.

### ***Interim protective measures***

- During the course of its investigation, upon request of a party, or on its own initiative, the District may implement interim measures prior to or during the investigation of a complaint. A party can submit requests for interim measures, either verbally or in writing, to the investigator and/or to the Title IX Coordinator. (The investigator will notify the Title IX Coordinator of any request for interim measures.) Interim measures are individualized services offered as appropriate to either the complainant or responding

party. Interim measures include, but are not limited to, counseling, extensions of time, modifications of work or class schedules, appropriate emotional and/or academic support, restrictions on contact between the parties, leaves of absences, and increased monitoring and support. In fairly assessing the need for either party to receive interim measures, the District will not rely on fixed rules or any assumptions that favor one party over another. Interim measures will be made available to both parties, as appropriate. In imposing interim measures, the Title IX Coordinator or designee will make every effort to avoid depriving any student of his/her education. The District will take steps to ensure that any interim measure minimizes the burden on the parties, and that the Title IX Coordinator or designee will communicate with the parties throughout the investigation to ensure any interim measures are necessary and effective based on the parties' needs.

### ***Resolution of Investigation***

On or before sixty (60) days after the complaint is filed:

- A. If the investigation reveals that the complaint **has merit by a preponderance of the evidence**, the following action should be taken:
  1. For cases **involving only students**, the investigator will confer with the Superintendent and if appropriate with the building administrator to determine what action is necessary to resolve the complaint and prevent recurrence.
  2. For cases **involving staff member or a third party, such as a contractor assigned to work within the District**, the investigator will confer with the Superintendent.
  3. The District shall take reasonable, timely, age-appropriate and effective corrective action based upon the situation and nature of the complaint. Appropriate corrective action may include classroom reassignment, increased staff supervision, counseling, academic support services, additional training for students and staff, and reporting procedures, safety plan, behavioral support plan and/or disciplinary action under the Student Code of Conduct or under the District's policies and procedures.
  4. In employee cases involving an employment discrimination claim or a claim of sexual harassment, the District shall take appropriate corrective actions, including but not limited to, make-whole remedies, reassignment or transfers, no-contact order, counseling, safety plans and/or disciplinary action against the perpetrator.
  5. The Title IX Coordinator's findings will be documented in a final report and summarized in writing to the complainant, victim (if other than complainant), respondent and minor students' parents/guardians, and any other necessary parties.
  6. If a student, appropriate discipline for students will be imposed according to the Student Code of Conduct, depending upon the evidence presented and the severity of the incident.

7. If a student findings and corrective actions will be documented in the student or employee record of the accused.
  8. After each investigation, the Title IX Coordinator will reiterate to all individuals involved in the investigation the Board's policy regarding sex discrimination, sexual harassment and prohibition against retaliation.
  9. The principal or his/her designee will periodically check in with the complainant, or victim (if other than complainant), and, as appropriate, parents/guardians to ensure that no further acts of discrimination are occurring.
- B. If the investigation shows that the complaint **is without merit**, the following action will be taken:
1. The Title IX Coordinator's findings will be documented in a final report and summarized in writing to the complainant, victim (if other than complainant), respondent, minor students' parents/guardians, and any other necessary parties.
  2. After each investigation, the Title IX Coordinator will reiterate to all individuals involved in the investigation the Board's policy regarding sex discrimination, sexual harassment and prohibition against retaliation.
  3. The investigation file will be closed.