

## **Niagara Frontier League**

### *Code of Conduct for Parents, Spectators & Fans*

#### **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 during or immediately after the contest for safety reasons

#### **I Will Never**

Use profanity or physically attack a person, player, coach, or official

#### **I Will Do**

Everything in my power to negate trash talking! It's NOT a healthy part of interscholastic athletics

#### **I Recognize**

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

#### **I Will Encourage**

A safe and healthy environment for both teams

#### **I Will Remind Myself**

That the game is for the kids & not the adults

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

Sincerely hope that IF all the parents, spectators, and fans can follow & abide by these rules, the GAME will be much more enjoyable for all

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



## **Interscholastic Code of Conduct**

**KENMORE EAST HIGH SCHOOL  
BULLDOGS**

**KENMORE WEST HIGH SCHOOL  
BLUE DEVILS**

**BEN FRANKLIN MIDDLE SCHOOL  
FALCONS**

**HERBERT HOOVER MIDDLE SCHOOL  
DRAGONS**

**KENMORE MIDDLE SCHOOL  
JAGUARS**

Dear Parents & Student Athletes,

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

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

**Brett Banker**

Supervisor  
Health, Physical Education, Recreation & Athletics

**Heather Ratka**

Assistant Supervisor /CLS  
Health, Physical Education, Recreation & Athletics



**Philosophy of Interscholastic Athletic Participation**

The Kenmore-Town of Tonawanda community recognizes the importance of the interscholastic athletic experience in the total development of the student. We view the interscholastic program as co-curricular in nature and we feel that through these activities our students develop commendable traits. We support our interscholastic program, which provides a unique experience where students can develop and refine attributes such as, but not limited to:

Good Character	Sportsmanship	Goal Setting	Commitment
Fitness	Respect	Social Skills	Dedication
Teamwork	Self-Discipline	Self-Confidence	Responsibility

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

As a pre-requisite for participation, athletes and parents/guardians must sign a statement that commits the athlete to follow the established training rules and requires parents/guardians to do everything in their power to make sure their athlete abides by the established Athletic Code of Conduct and any additional rules set forth by a coach. A student cannot participate without agreeing to the terms of the contract.

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

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

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

Varsity (V)  
Junior Varsity (JV)

Modified (M)  
Extramural/Intramural (EI)

- Baseball (V, JV, M)
- Boys Basketball (V, JV, M, EI)
- Girls Basketball (V, JV, M, EI)
- Bowling (V, JV, EI)
- Cheerleading (V, JV)
- Cross Country (V, JV, M)
- Field Hockey (V, JV, EI)
- Football (V, JV, M)
- Golf (V, JV)
- Gymnastics (V, JV)
- Boys Ice Hockey (V)
- Girls Ice Hockey (V)
- Indoor Track (V, JV)
- Rifle (V, JV)
- Boys Soccer (V, JV, M, EI)
- Girls Soccer (V, JV, M, EI)
- Softball (V, JV, M, EI)
- Boys Swimming & Diving (V, JV, M, EI)
- Girls Swimming & Diving (V, JV, M, EI)
- Boys Tennis (V, JV, EI)
- Girls Tennis (V, JV, EI)
- Track & Field (V, JV, EI)
- Boys Volleyball (V, JV, M, EI)
- Girls Volleyball (V, JV, M, EI)
- Wrestling (V, JV, M)



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

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

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

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

The AHC will uphold standards set by individual coaches as well. Coaches have the authority to create additional team rules and regulations.

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

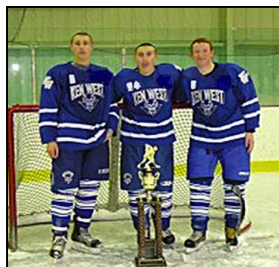
Unusually serious violations which constitute a misdemeanor or felony are subject to review by the Athletic Hearing Committee and will result in higher levels of penalty.

### ***Athletic Hearing Committee (AHC):***

The Athletic Hearing Committee (AHC) may be composed of Athletic Directors, School Administrators, Guidance Counselors and Coaches.

### ***Forfeiture of Awards:***

Rule violations may impact the athlete's individual awards such as earning a letter, all-league, Scholar-athlete honors, all-star games, etc...



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

Philip Sheridan Building

3200 Elmwood Ave.

Buffalo, NY 14217

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HRatka@kenton.k12.ny.us

LCanestaro@kenton.k12.ny.us

### **Ken-Ton Family Support Center**

(716) 874-8510

Green Acres Building (Door 7)

205 Yorkshire Road, Tonawanda, New York 14150

## **1. Before your son/daughter can be considered eligible for placement on an interscholastic team, they must fulfill the following:**

- The Niagara Frontier League (NFL) and New York State Public High School Athletic Association (NYSPHSAA) requires that a participating athlete must be a bona fide student at the school he/she intends to compete for and reside within that school's boundaries.

- Your son/daughter must have an athletic physical. Physicals are valid for a 12 consecutive-month period. This can be accomplished in one of two ways:



A. Physical conducted by private physician (must use the Athletic Physical Form).

B. Physical conducted by school district nurse practitioner.

*If the physical was given more than 30 days before the start of the sport season, the student-athlete & parent are required to fill out the Update Form prior to participation.*

- Permission to Treat Form from our Athletic Trainers. Must be on file, allows Athletic Trainers to treat.

- Health History Form must be on file before any student can participate in interscholastic athletics. It is a yellow form, good for 12 months.

- Code of Conduct Agreement Form must be on file before any student can participate in interscholastic athletics

- New York State Selection Classification Test (Middle School only). Middle school athletes may choose to try out for high school level teams, provided they pass the NYS Selection Classification Test. If a middle school athlete competes at the high school level, she or he may no longer compete in that same sport at the modified level.

- In order to play, the following academic requirements must be met:

***Fall Sports Season:*** The student must have earned four units plus physical education credit during the preceding school year. Credits may be earned through summer school.

***Winter Sport Season:*** The student must have earned four units plus physical education credit during the first marking period.

***Spring Sport Season:*** The student must have earned four units plus physical education credit during the second marking period. Students do have the ability to appeal at the close of the 3<sup>rd</sup> marking period.



- If the age of 19 is reached on or after July 1, the student may continue to participate during that school year in all sports. If a student turns 19 prior to July 1, they are ineligible to compete.

- Students are eligible to play a high school sport for 6 consecutive years upon entry into 7<sup>th</sup> grade, 4 consecutive years after entry into 9<sup>th</sup> grade.

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

***Coach's permission  
Administration permission***

***Family emergency  
Legal school absence***

It is the responsibility of the player to notify the coach in advance if he or she cannot attend practice, game, etc. Students who are suspended from school on a day of an athletic game or practice session are not eligible for participation. Students suspended on a Friday shall not be eligible for weekend contests. In order for students to participate in practice or contests, students must attend at least 5 class periods on the day of the activity. All student athletes must attend and participate in P.E. on the day of a practice or game if they are scheduled for P.E. that day. The principal and/or the athletic director may review unusual circumstances if necessary. Students with a medical release from Phys Ed cannot participate.

## 2. Student-Athlete Expectations

Athletes are expected to follow the rules and policies of the school district and athletic department. It is our expectation that all Ken-Ton student athletes will refrain from:



- Consumption or possession of alcoholic beverages
- Use or possession of tobacco or tobacco-related products
- Use or possession of illegal drugs
- Use or possession of prescription drugs for anything other than their intended use
- Being in the presence of illegal drugs or alcohol
- Vandalism
- Inappropriate use of mobile phones and other electronic devices; including cameras
- Stealing or being in possession of stolen property
- Sexual harassment; including “sexting”
- Inappropriate postings on social networks
- Hazing
- Violent/Aggressive behavior
- Unsportsmanlike behavior including taunting
- Acts of insubordination/endangering the safety of others
- Verbal or physical abuse



### Violation by Association

This pertains to both during a sport season and out-of season. Athletes must not attend any functions where alcohol is being openly 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 underage function at which alcohol and drugs are openly used could be considered a violation of the code.

### Hosting

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

### Student Reporting

It is the responsibility of the student athlete to report any Code of Conduct infraction 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.

### Transportation

Team members are required to travel to an away athletic contest on the school bus or other transportation provided by the school district. Each team member (managers included) must return on district transportation unless otherwise released by a parent/guardian. This release must be in the form of a signed note by a parent/guardian. Our coaches will only release athletes to their parents/guardians for the purpose of transporting them.



### 3. Process when a Training Violation is reported

Investigations of training rule violations will be made when reported by Kenmore - Town of Tonawanda School District Staff, Coaches, surrounding school district’s staff, students and if appropriate, Law Enforcement Officials. Athletes violating the code of conduct will be subject to the following:

- Contact with the Athletic Director, Building Principal or designee. An investigation will be conducted; witnesses will be interviewed. Parents will be notified.
- Schedule Parent/Guardian and Student meeting with appropriate school personnel (Administrator, Athletic Director, Counselor, Prevention Specialist, Coach)
- The findings will be given to the Athletic Hearing Committee (AHC) for deliberation.
- The family will receive written notification of the AHC’s decision.
- Any appeal may be heard by the Superintendent of Schools. Should a student or family disagree with any determination of the AHC, the parent may appeal in writing within five school days of notification of the AHC’s decision.
- Any violation involving illegal activities may be referred to the appropriate law enforcement agencies.



### 4. Rules & Regulations Violations

Any athlete found guilty of Code violations will be sanctioned accordingly. The AHC is not bound to the same standards of 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 Code of Conduct. Violations of the Code of Conduct will result in the following:

#### *Penalty for Violation (In or Out of Sport Season)*

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

- Will result in a suspension deemed appropriate by the Athletic Hearing Committee. Penalties may range from 1-2 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)
- Complete a health assessment inventory with the district’s Family Support Center (FSC). Depending on the result of the inventory and recommendations from the FSC staff, a diversion treatment plan may be required as well. Failure to participate may result in continued suspension until the requirement is met. The student-athlete has the option to complete a Diversion Program with an outside service provider at the discretion of the FSC and the Athletic Director. If an outside agency is used, it will be at the cost of the parent/guardian. A good faith timely commitment to the mandatory diversion program is a prerequisite to being reinstated to any team.
- 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.