

UNIONVILLE-SEBEWAING AREA SCHOOLS

2007 - 2008

Signature for
Acceptance, Posting
of Pictures for the
School Web Site,
and
Permission to Care
for Injured Athlete

**The
Patriot
Athletic Code
and
Policy**



I, the undersigned parent/guardian, have read and understand the rules and regulations of The Patriot Athletic Code and Policy of the Unionville-Sebewaing Area Schools. I further understand that my child must comply with the rules in order to participate in the athletic program at USA. I also understand the requirements and standards set forth in The Patriot Athletic Code and Policy are in effect for one (1) year from the date of signing. *I further give my permission to allow Unionville-Sebewaing Schools to post pictures of my son/daughter/ward on the school web site.* In addition, I give my permission to care for my son/daughter/ward as an injured athlete as stated in the Regulations (Section L) on page 3 of this document.

Date: _____

Signature of Parent/Guardian

I, the undersigned athlete, have read and understand the rules and regulations of The Patriot Athletic Code and Policy of the Unionville-Sebewaing Area Schools. I further understand that I must comply with the rules in order to participate in athletics at USA. I also understand the requirements and standards set forth in The Patriot Athletic Code and Policy are in effect for one (1) year from the date of signing.

Date: _____

Signature of Athlete

Please sign and return this sheet to the Unionville-Sebewaing Area High School Athletic Department. **The mission of the Unionville-Sebewaing Area Schools' Athletic Department is to develop each student's athletic ability to excel physically, mentally, and socially as an individual and as part of a team.**

The Unionville-Sebewaing Area Schools, in its policies, program, and practice, does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, or ancestry, age, sex, disability, height, weight, or marital status, nor toward qualified handicapped individuals, in all activities and employment.

Signature for Acceptance 9

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The Patriot Athletic Code and Policy

■ MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Unionville-Sebewaing Area Schools' Athletic Department is to develop each student's athletic ability to excel physically, mentally, and socially as an individual and as part of a team.

■ ATHLETE'S CODE OF CONDUCT

Not everyone is fortunate enough to have the opportunity in their life to participate in athletics. Therefore, being an athlete carries with it a tremendous amount of responsibility. Since the conduct of athletes is closely observed in many areas of life, a very important responsibility of the student athlete is to act in a mature, respectful, and responsible manner **AT ALL TIMES**.

- A. **The student athlete is also expected to abide by all rules and regulations set forth in the Unionville-Sebewaing Area Schools' Student Handbook and by the Michigan High School Athletic Association.** A violation of the rules and regulations set forth in the Unionville-Sebewaing Area Schools' Student Handbook and/or the Michigan High School Athletic Association requirements will be considered as a violation of this Athletic Code and Policy.
- B. **On the field** of competition the athlete's behavior must always be beyond reproach: always showing respect for the opponent and the officials.
- C. **In the classroom** the good athlete is also a good student. Student athletes at Unionville-Sebewaing Area Schools are expected to put forth their best effort in the classroom as well as on the practice field. Classroom behavior and performance are important responsibilities for all students, including athletes.
- D. **In the community** and at school the way athletes look and act is of great importance. Athletes should be leaders and fellow students must be able to respect and follow them.
- E. The use of **vulgar or profane language** is unacceptable anywhere and at anytime.
- F. The athlete must also **demonstrate respect** and take pride in the equipment and facilities by helping to properly maintain and care for school property.

- G. **Stealing and/or other destruction** of Unionville-Sebewaing Area Schools' property or other property, misdemeanors, and violations of State law by an athlete is prohibited.

Finally, the athlete is expected to put forth **physically and intellectually his/her best effort to win**. In this endeavor to win however, the athlete must realize that it is honorable to lose and must learn from and accept defeat. The athlete must always adhere to the rules of the game; fair play should always supersede his/her desire to win. The student athlete must realize that he/she represents not only himself/herself but also the coaches, teachers, parents, community, and the school.

■ **REGULATIONS**

- A. **Physical Eligibility** -- A complete physical examination must be signed and dated after April 15th of the current school year (these will be offered by the school).
- B. **Attendance** -- On the day of an athletic contest or practice, and school is in session, the athlete must attend school at least 1/2 day and have an excused absence for the other 1/2 day to participate in that contest or practice. (Extenuating circumstances in absences of more than 1/2 day will be considered: attending a funeral, medical appointments, or legal appointments, etc., but must be done in advance.)
- C. **Academic Eligibility** - An athlete's academic progress will be checked every three (3) weeks, beginning with the third Friday of the school year and semester. In order for the athlete to be academically eligible, he/she must:

1. Be currently passing all classes.*

**Based on current block schedule of four (4, 5) academic classes. If more classes are offered, one (1) E is allowed before becoming ineligible.*

2. Athletes enrolled in the dual enrollment program must be passing all of their high school classes.
3. **Ineligible Athletes** -- Ineligible athletes will be placed on the following steps:

- a) **Step 1** -- If an athlete is failing any class during an eligibility check, that student will be placed on three (3) weeks probation. Mandatory study hall/tutoring will be administered before or after school by the coaching staff. This shall include parent, student organizations, and team member support. The athlete must continue to attend all practices and games while ineligible in order to remain on the team.*
- b) **Step 2** -- Three (3) week suspension of contest participation. Mandatory study hall/tutoring will be administered before or after school by the coaching staff. This shall include parent, student organizations, and team member support. The athlete must continue to attend all practices and games while ineligible in order to remain on the team.*

- c) **Step 3** -- Suspension of contest participation for remainder of current semester.*
**Steps are cumulative and do not have to be consecutive per semester.*
 - d) National Honor Society tutors may be available at the request of parent/guardian and/or athlete.
 - e) Non-participating athletes who receive a failing grade previous to his/her sport will begin that sport on **Step 1**.
 - f) If an athlete failed **any one (1) class** from the previous semester, that student will begin the next semester on **Step 2** for the sport in which they are currently participating or the next sport in which he/she participates.
 - g) If an athlete **failed more than one (1) class** from the previous semester, he/she will be ineligible for the next semester.
- D. **Athletic Handbook** -- The Patriot Athletic Code and Policy must be signed by both the parent/guardian and the student for the current school year. The requirements and standards set forth in The Patriot Athletic Code and Policy are in effect for one year from the date of signing and not only for the school or sport year (i.e. an athlete participating only in a winter or spring sport will remain under the jurisdiction of the Athletic Code and Policy until the following year winter or spring sport).
- E. **Personal Appearance** -- Exemplary personal appearance is considered important and is encouraged. A consistent uniform or dress policy may be established by individual coaches on game days.
- F. **Travel** -- Athletes must travel to and from an away contest on authorized, school approved transportation. Any exception to this regulation will require direct communication between the athlete's parent/guardian, the coach, and/or written approval from the Athletic Director or Principal.
- G. **Sportsmanship** -- The athlete must exhibit good sportsmanship both on and off the field. He/she is to show respect for all other people he/she may come in contact with, including teammates, coaches, teachers, officials, opponents, etc. The athlete will be expected to attend and participate in all practices and team meetings and carry out the directives of his/her coach.
- H. **Equipment** -- Equipment/uniforms issued by Unionville-Sebewaing Area Schools are only to be worn for practice and contests. It is the athlete's responsibility to properly maintain, clean, and

secure all equipment issued to him/her and return all issued equipment at the conclusion of the season or pay the replacement cost for items not returned.

- I. **Pre-Season Meeting** -- All coaches will conduct a pre-season parent meeting to review team rules, expectations, practice/game schedules, team requirements, and the athletic code.
- J. **Limited Team Membership** -- An athlete of Unionville-Sebewaing Area Schools may not participate in any outside competition in that sport during that season.
- K. **Sport Switching** -- During a season, sport switching is allowable if the parent/guardian and both coaches agree that all parties concerned will benefit by the switch.
- L. **Team Membership** -- Since team membership may vary from sport to sport, it may become necessary to reduce the number of athletes per team. This will be done at the discretion of the coaching staff.
- M. **Dual Sport Participation** -- Athletes may participate in more than one sport in a current sport season. In order to be a dual sport participant, however, the athlete must complete the following requirements:
 - 1. **The athlete must meet with both coaches before the season begins.**
 - 2. The athlete must declare a primary sport.
 - 3. Conflict of same day events will be resolved.
- N. **Injured Athletes** -- The head coach or his representative shall take whatever steps necessary to protect the care of an injured athlete. Parents/guardians are responsible for all expenses incurred for ambulance, doctor, hospital, etc. Under no circumstances will an athlete who has been seriously injured be allowed to return to practice without written permission from his or her parent/guardian and a medical release from a licensed physician.

■ **RESOLUTION OF PARENTAL CONCERNS**

If a parent has a problem or concern with a specific sport, the following is the expected channel of communication:

- A. Set up a **conference** with the coach.
- B. If resolution is not met, parent/guardian may **request a meeting** with the Athletic Director and/or Principal.

- C. If the Athletic Director and/or Principal deems necessary, a **meeting** with parent/guardian, coach, and Athletic Director **will be arranged**.
- D. If the parent/guardian is still not satisfied with the results, he/she should **request in writing** (within five (5) days of prior meeting) **a meeting with the Athletic Council**.

■ **DUE PROCESS AND DISCIPLINARY ACTION**

When a violation is reported, the coach and the Athletic Director and/or Principal will meet to investigate the report. The Athletic Director and the coach will inform the athlete of the charge or violation and the athlete will be given an opportunity to contact his or her parents/guardians before offering information or evidence in his or her defense. If the violation has occurred, a letter will be sent to the parent/guardian describing the violation and the action taken by the Athletic Director. The athlete will be notified verbally of the action taken.

A. **CLASSIFICATION A**

- 1. **Any athlete violating the team rules shall be subject to discipline under the discretion of the coach and in coordination with the Athletic Director.**
- 2. **Any athlete violating the “code of conduct” or “regulations” shall be subject to the following disciplinary action.** Any decision rendered may be appealed through the appeals process procedure.
 - a) **First Offense** -- The minimum action shall be determined by the discretion of the coach/Athletic Director. The maximum action shall be for fourteen (14) calendar days and up to four (4) contests.
 - b) **Second Offense** -- The minimum action shall be fourteen (14) calendar days. The maximum action shall be for one-half (1/2) of the current season's contests.
 - c) **Third Offense** -- Suspension for the remainder of the current season with loss of all awards.

B. **CLASSIFICATION B**

- 1. **Any athlete committing violations of this code which are serious in nature or are in violation of criminal laws will be subject to discipline from the Athletic Director and/or Athletic Council.**

2. **Being under the influence of, use of, possession of, or distribution of tobacco products, alcohol, controlled substances, performance enhancing or behavior altering drugs, steroids, or banned substances by an athlete is strictly prohibited. In addition, any athlete who, having become aware of a violation and remains "in the presence of" the violation shall be deemed to have committed a violation.**

Note: The intent of this rule is to restrict our athletes from gatherings, parties or situations where forbidden activity is occurring. (If an athlete is at a location and discovers the violation but leaves immediately, he/she is not in violation of the policy.) This policy does not apply to parental/guardian activity in the privacy of the athlete's home.

All members of athletic teams (players, student managers, and/or student trainers) are bound by the above-mentioned training rules.

C. **DISCIPLINE**

Any athlete violating the rules by being under the influence of, or using, possessing, distributing, or being "in the presence of" forbidden substances shall be subject to the following disciplinary action:

1. **First Offense** -- Minimum suspension will be one-third of season currently participating in or if between seasons, the next sport in which he/she participates.
2. **Second Offense** -- One calendar year exclusion from sports. The time will commence on day of decision through the same date of the next year.
3. **Third Offense** -- The maximum penalty is no participation in sports for the remainder of his/her high school career.

*Note: In the event of a drug or alcohol violation, the Athletic Council may waive up to one-half (1/2) of a suspension for an athlete who agrees to participate (and complete) in an acceptable substance abuse program or another "acceptable program" (i.e. community service). **Acceptable programs must be approved by the Athletic Council.** Only second (2nd) and third (3rd) offenses will be allowed to participate in substance abuse programs and be eligible for reduced sentences.*

D. **OFFENSES are not cumulative from one year to the next, for example:**

1. A **first offense** in one school year will not be carried beyond the last day of that same school year, resulting in a second level offense the next year, according to the policy.

2. If an athlete **fails to complete a suspension**, that suspension will be completed at the beginning of the next sport in which that athlete participates.

■ **APPEALS PROCESS PROCEDURE**

In instances where the appeal process is in order, the following procedures are to be used:

- A. A **letter** from the parent/guardian **must be sent to the Athletic Director** within five (5) school days for a review after a decision has been made on the first level.
- B. The **Athletic Director will respond** to the appeal within five (5) school days. If dissatisfied, the parent/guardian **must ask for a hearing with the Athletic Council** within five (5) school days following the decision of the Athletic Director. The request for a hearing must be submitted in writing.
- C. A **meeting of the Athletic Council** with the athlete and the parent/guardian will be scheduled within five (5) school days following the request for a hearing. A written summary of the decision of the Athletic Council will be forwarded to the athlete, the parent/guardian, and the Superintendent of Schools within five (5) school days following the meeting of the Athletic Council. **The decision of the Athletic Council is final.**

■ **THE ATHLETIC COUNCIL**

The Athletic Council shall consist of:

- A. The Athletic Director.
- B. The coach of the player affected.
- C. The Principal.
- D. One member of the coaching staff not involved with the dispute.
- E. One member of the Athletic Committee from the Board of Education.

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**SO YOU WANT TO BE AN ATHLETE AT UNIONVILLE-
SEBEWAING AREA SCHOOLS! DO YOU QUALIFY?
ARE YOU A.....**



P proud, peaceful, pleasant, physically ready

A agile, alert, attitude & academically ready

T trainable, a team player, tactful

R rigorous, reliable, ready, respectful

I ingenuous, intelligent, in shape

O on time, orderly, obedient, observant

T truthful, trustworthy, tough

UNIONVILLE-SEBEWAING AREA SCHOOLS

2007-2008



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*Adopted by
USA Board of Education
August 9, 2004*