

## **TUNKHANNOCK AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT**

### **General Athletic/Extra-Curricular Rules and Regulations**

When a student participates in an interscholastic sport, club or other extra-curricular activity in the Tunkhannock Area School District, he/she must obey all of the rules and regulations governing athletic programs/extra-curricular activities in the district. These rules and regulations have been established by the Tunkhannock Area School District (TASD) administration and, to the extent they relate to interscholastic athletics, the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association (PIAA). Athletic programs/extra-curricular activities refers to any activity that is not graded and includes, but is not limited to, all school athletic programs and teams, cheerleading, clubs, plays, and all other school organizations such as the Student Council and the National Honor Society.

The rules and regulations are as follows (as indicated below, certain rules and regulations are applicable only to student-athletes):

1. No student shall be eligible to represent his/her school in any athletic contest unless he/she has been carefully examined by the school or family physician and his/her parent/guardian's consent and a signed copy of this document shall be filed in the office of the Athletic Director.
2. A student shall be ineligible for interscholastic athletic competition upon attaining the age of 19 years, with the following exception: If the age of 19 is attained on or after July 1, the student shall be eligible, age-wise, to compete through that school year.
3. If a student has been absent from school twenty (20) days in a semester, he/she immediately becomes ineligible for interscholastic athletic participation, extra-curricular participation until he/she has attended school for a total of forty five (45) days after the date of the last absence. Extended illnesses may be an exception with a doctor's excuse.
4. A student-athlete must meet the requirements of the PIAA regarding eligibility to participate in any practice and/or event. The student-athlete must be passing at least four full-credit subjects, or the equivalent (a student-athlete who has passed subjects which total at least four credits). Eligibility will be reported on a weekly basis and will be cumulative from the beginning of a grading period. If the student-athletes grades do not meet the PIAA requirements as of any Friday, that student-athlete will be ineligible from the immediately following Sunday through Saturday. If a student-athlete does not meet the eligibility requirements of the PIAA at the end of a grading period, that student-athlete will become ineligible for 15 school days of the next grading period, beginning on the first day report cards are issued.

5. A student shall not represent their school in interscholastic athletics if they have been in attendance more than eight semesters beyond the eighth grade and/or played six seasons beyond the sixth grade or completed the work in grades nine, ten, eleven and twelve inclusive.

6. Students who are assigned to internal suspension cannot participate in any practice, meeting, event, activity, or in a game on the day(s) of their suspension.

7. If a student is assigned external suspension, the same rules set forth in paragraph 6 above apply. If the external suspension is on a Friday, the student also will be ineligible to participate on the following Saturday or Sunday.

8. Students must attend a full day of school or they will not be permitted to participate in that day's practice, meeting, event, activity or game. Students who are late to school (prior to 10:30 a.m.) must have a legitimate and legal excuse (see student handbook for list of legal excuses). Students arriving after 10:33 a.m. will not be eligible for participation unless substantive proof is submitted to administration regarding a doctor's appointment or other emergency condition, which must then be approved by the school administration.

9. Students will have two weeks from the date detention is assigned to make up detention hours. If the student fails to comply with this requirement, the student will not be permitted to participate in any practices, meetings, activities, events or games until the hours are made up.

10. Student behavior before, during or after practices, meetings, events, activities or games must be exemplary. Profanity, obscene language, obscene gestures or other forms of inappropriate behaviors are not acceptable. Any of these acts may result in disciplinary action or removal from the game, practice, meeting, activity, event, club, organization, and/or team.

**Athletic Ejections:**

1. If an athlete is ejected in the last game of the season, pending the officials report, the athletic committee has the authority to revoke the student athlete's varsity, junior varsity or junior high letter for that particular season.
2. If an athlete is ejected in multiple sporting events, the athletic committee has the authority to place the student athlete on athletic probation.

**Athletic Probation:**

Athletic probation is designed to help promote good sportsmanship for all levels of athletics. When an athlete is placed on probation they are still permitted to participate in athletics but additional ejections will lead to further disciplinary actions.

11. All equipment assigned, given to, or used by a student is the responsibility of that student and must be cared for by the student. Equipment must be returned in good repair and condition (reasonable wear and tear excepted) within one (1) week after the conclusion of the season or activity. Students who fail to turn in equipment on time or

pay for lost/unreasonably damaged equipment will not be permitted to participate in any athletic program extracurricular activities until this obligation is met.

12. The use, possession, or distribution of alcohol, drugs and tobacco or tobacco products is prohibited. A violation of this regulation will be covered by the school's alcohol, drug and tobacco policies 222,227,227.1 and 227.2.

13. Any Level III offense, which results in an expulsion of more than ten (10) days will cause the student to miss the remainder of that sports season or extra-curricular activity. If the expulsion runs into another athletic season or extra-curricular activity, the student may not begin practice or become involved in such other activity until the expulsion is served. In the absence of a defined season or time period, the student will again be eligible to participate ninety (90) calendar days after the last day of the suspension or expulsion.

14. Pennsylvania Act 1989-93 prohibits the use of anabolic steroids, except for a valid medical purpose, by any student involved in school-related athletics. The Act also requires the School Board to prescribe the following minimum penalties for any student found in violation of the rules and regulations adopted by the School Board.

a. For a first violation, suspension from school activity for twenty (20) days, or the remainder of the season, or the remainder of the semester (in the absence of a defined season), whichever is greater.

b. For a second violation, suspension from any/all school activities for a period of one (1) calendar year from the time of the violation.

c. For a third violation, permanent suspension from all school extracurricular activities.

15. Hazing will not be tolerated. Hazing is defined in TASD Policy #247 as any activity that recklessly or intentionally endangers the mental health, physical health or safety of a student for the purpose of initiation or membership in or affiliation with any organization recognized by the Board.

16. Any rules and regulations provided to student athletes must be reviewed by the Athletic Director prior to being distributed to the student. Once approved by the Athletic Director, the written rules may be distributed. Coaches' rules may not supersede the PIAA rules and regulations or school district policy. Any rules and regulations provided to a student in connection with any extracurricular activity must be reviewed and approved by the Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent or Principal before it may be distributed to the student.

These rules and regulations are meant to work in conjunction with PIAA rules and regulations and school district policies. They shall not supersede nor limit the school district's policies, rules or regulations.

This is to certify that I have received a copy of the Tunkhannock Area School District General Athletic/Extra-Curricular Rules and Regulations for the 2023-24 school year. I understand that I am expected to read it, to understand the policies and to abide by the rules and regulations set forth herein. Both the student the parent must sign this document before the student may participate in any school athletic/extra-curricular program.

Student's Signature\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Signature\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_

Student's Printed name:\_\_\_\_\_ Sport:\_\_\_\_\_

*Revised 7/18/23*