



# Utica Community Schools

## Code of Conduct for Student Athletics

2011-2012



### ROLE OF THE STUDENT ATHLETE

- I. Remember that you are representing your school, family and community.
  - accept and understand the seriousness of your responsibility, and the privilege of representing your school and community;
  - live up to standards of sportsmanship established by the school administration and the coaching staff;
  - learn the rules of the game thoroughly and discuss them with parents, fans, fellow students and elementary students. This will assist both them and you in the achievement of a better understanding and appreciation of the game.
- II. Respect your opponents. Who better than yourself understands the hard work that's put into sports and a team effort?
  - treat opponents the way you would like to be treated, as a guest or friend;
  - refrain from taunting, trash talk or making any kind of derogatory remarks to your opponents during the game, especially comments of ethnic, racial or sexual nature.  
Refrain from intimidating behavior;
  - wish opponents good luck before the game and congratulate them in a sincere manner that you would like to be greeted following either a victory or defeat;

- respect the integrity and judgment of game officials. The officials are doing their best to help promote you and your sport. Treating them with respect, even if you disagree with their judgment, will only make a positive impression of you and your team in the eyes of the officials and all people at the event. Win with humility; lose with grace. Do both with dignity. Avoid excessive celebrating after a play or end of a game.

III. Display positive actions in public at all times.

### ATTENDANCE AREA ADJUSTMENTS

The adjustment of attendance areas at our schools continues to be a possibility.

While a ninth grade student can compete on a variety of teams at a particular high school level this participation does not guarantee the student will be able to enroll in that high school as a tenth grader and *guardianship does not automatically give a student immediate athletic eligibility.*

If the Board of Education changes the high school attendance area before your child enters the tenth grade, your child will be expected to attend the newly designated high school. Students who are reassigned to another high school by Board action will have immediate athletic eligibility upon enrollment.

In addition, any ninth grade student who competes at the high school level in any sport is expected to participate at his/her "feeder" high school in his/her attendance area with prior approval of the District Athletic Director.

## CODE OF CONDUCT for STUDENT ATHLETES

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The Utica Community School District Code of Conduct for Student Athletes has been developed to provide a uniform set of rules and regulations to govern all district athletic participants for every team or school they represent. The Athletic Code of Conduct combines rules and regulations of the Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA) which have been adopted by the Utica Community Schools with specific district rules governing athletic participation. The code of conduct for student athletes will be in effect during the school year and also covers practice sessions, competitions and all other school related activities. Student athletes are to comply with all aspects of the code. It is designed so athletes can enjoy the privilege of continued eligibility for participation in athletics.

Remember, participation in student athletics is a privilege, not a matter of right. As an athlete you are a highly visible representative of your team, your school, the School District, and your community. You are expected to demonstrate high standards of conduct whether on the field or court, whether on-campus, and off-campus in the community at large. As a general rule, athletes are expected to maintain good conduct at all times and all locations, and not to engage in any conduct or behavior which brings discredit to themselves, their family, their team, school, or the School District. Athletes may be denied participation from athletics for failing to maintain good conduct at all times and all locations.

In addition, student athletes who incur school disciplinary action because of violations defined in the district Student Handbook are also subject to the disciplinary actions contained herein. Please note that when a student is academically ineligible to participate in contests and scrimmages, he/she may still practice with the team as long as he/she is not suspended from school as outlined in the Student Handbook. However, the participant may forfeit the opportunity to receive an athletic award if loss of participation in contests prevents him/her from meeting the requirement for earning the award as outlined in the written supplemental team rules and regulations developed by individual coaches and distributed to each participant at the start of their respective sport season. Rules which have been adopted by the Utica Community Schools and which are also covered by MHSAA rules are indicated by an asterisk (\*).

*Students are subject to all MHSAA rules and regulations even though such rules may not be included specifically in this document.*

## SECTION I: RULES OF ELIGIBILITY \* FOR PARTICIPATION

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The following rules of eligibility must be observed in order to participate in the interscholastic athletic program:

### A. \*ENROLLMENT

The student must be enrolled in the school not later than the fourth Friday after Labor Day (1st semester) or fourth Friday of February (2nd semester) to be eligible for interscholastic athletics. The student must reside in the school attendance area in which he/she attends school and must be enrolled (20 credit hours) in the school for which he/she competes.

### B. \*AGE

**HIGH SCHOOL:** A student in grades nine through twelve who participates in any interscholastic athletic contest must be under nineteen (19) years of age. When a student's nineteenth birthday occurs on or after September 1, of a current school year, he/she is eligible for participation for the balance of that school year.

**JUNIOR HIGH:** A seventh, eighth grade student must be under fourteen (14) and (15) years of age respectively. A student who reaches that age after September 1, is eligible for participation for the balance of that school year.

**NOTE:** Ninth graders of a designated junior high/middle school in a school district with multiple junior and senior high schools may be counted for athletic purposes and therefore, be eligible in the senior high school designated by residence. Ninth graders not housed in their designated high school in the Utica Community School District may participate in sports not offered at their junior high at their designated high school.

### C. \*PARENT/GUARDIAN CONSENT AND STUDENT APPLICATION

The student must submit the signed parent/guardian consent form and the signed student application form to the coach or to the athletic director prior to participating in tryouts, practice sessions or contests. Students and parents are to read the Code of Conduct for Student Athletes and the Student Handbook before signing the parent/guardian consent form and the student application form. The completed form will be kept on file in the building athletic director's office during subsequent sport seasons.

### D. \*PARTICIPANT PHYSICAL EXAMINATION

A student must have a physical examination completed by a physician (MD, DO, Physician's Assistant or nurse practitioner) certifying that the student is fully able to compete in athletics. The physical must take place after April 15 of the previous school year to be used for the current school year. The student must submit the completed physical form to the coach or to the athletic

director prior to participating in tryouts, practice sessions or contests. The completed form will be kept on file in the building athletic director's office during subsequent sports seasons.

#### E. \*SEASONS OF COMPETITION

A student, while enrolled in grades nine through twelve shall be eligible to compete in no more than four (4) seasons in either first or second semester athletics. For example, a student may not compete in more than four (4) seasons of a particular sport: football, soccer, tennis, etc.

#### F. \*SEMESTER OF ELIGIBILITY

A student shall not be eligible to compete in any branch of athletics who has been enrolled in grades nine to twelve for more than eight semesters. The seventh and eighth semesters must be consecutive. Enrollment in a school for a period of three weeks or more, or competing in one or more interscholastic athletic contests, shall be considered as enrollment for a semester under this rule. Students in grades seven, and eight are not limited in the number of semesters in which they may be eligible.

#### G. \*ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY

A student athlete must meet the MHSAA minimum requirement of passing four (4) classes at all times. Refer to the Utica Community Schools Student Handbook. An athlete's eligibility will be monitored on a five (5) week basis. Seventh or eighth grade students must be passing at least 50% of the total periods of work carried.

#### FAILURE TO COMPLY

Any student who fails to meet any of the above regulations will not be allowed to participate until such time as he/she complies with the regulations in this section. The student is ineligible until deficiencies are corrected. Students who fail to pass the required classes during the previous semester must sit out the entire current semester.

## UTICA COMMUNITY SCHOOLS - ELIGIBILITY POLICY

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Utica Community Schools adheres to the Michigan High School Athletic Association eligibility policy. In addition, the District has established the following eligibility procedures:

1. The high schools will conduct an eligibility check of its in-season athletes every five (5) weeks in conjunction with the Progress Reports and the ten (10) week Report Cards. This will ensure that all athletes will be treated fairly and that all athletes will be monitored more efficiently. A five (5) week monitoring period will provide the coach with a good indicator of any athletes who are experiencing academic difficulties.
2. Once the academically endangered athlete has been identified, the athletic director will notify the athlete's coach and the athlete. At that point, the athletic director and athlete or coach and athlete may establish

a plan to improve the athlete's grades. The plan may include but not be limited to such things as:

- improving the athlete's study habits;
- encouraging the student to devote greater time during the day to his/her studies;
- use of practice time for studies;
- carrying a daily progress report to class and returning it to the coach at practice time;
- suspension of game participation;
- notifying parents; removal from the team.

3. The athlete will be monitored on a weekly basis on each Friday to determine if there has been improvement in those areas that have been identified.
4. If the athlete fails to show improvement in the identified areas, the athletic director will discuss the situation with the athlete and coach. Game privileges will be withheld on a week to week basis until the athlete shows improvement.

## SECTION II: \* AWARDS

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- A. A student may not accept from any source anything for participation in athletics other than an emblematic award, which could include, but not be limited to, any medal, ribbon, badge, plaque, cup, trophy, banner, picture or regular letter award.
- B. No acceptable award shall exceed twenty-five (\$25.00) dollars in value with the exception of the regular letter award of the school. The cost of engraving a medal or similar award need not be included in determining the value of the award.
- C. No one, such as a parent, friend or other person, may accept an award on behalf of the athlete at any time prior to graduation from high school.
- D. Acceptance of such items as cash, merchandise, memberships, privileges, services, sweaters, athletic equipment, wearing apparel and watches would be a violation.
- E. Requirements for earning a letter have been established. Athletes should be informed of these requirements prior to the season.

#### FAILURE TO COMPLY

Any student violating any area of this section would be ineligible for interscholastic athletic competition for a period of at least one semester from the date of the violation. If violation occurs after the Friday of the fourth week of a semester, a student is ineligible for the balance of that semester and the succeeding semester.

## SECTION III: \* MAINTAINING AMATEUR STATUS

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- A. Students participating or planning to participate in interscholastic athletics may NOT:
1. Accept any money or other valuable consideration for participating in athletic sports or games.
  2. Receive any money or other valuable consideration for officiating an interscholastic athletic contest. (Exception: MHSAA interpretation. - A 12th grader who is at least 17 years old may register with the MHAA and officiate sub-varsity contests if he or she works with an official who has been included on the MHSAA "approved" list and has been authorized by the MHSAA as an acceptable mentor. The student may receive the normal compensation paid to officials by schools);
  3. Sign a contract with a professional team.
- B. The rule in (A) above applies to all sports offered by Utica Community Schools.
- C. A student may be compensated for giving lessons as part of a youth camp or recreation program, but may not also be a camper or participant in the camp or program.

### FAILURE TO COMPLY

A student violating this rule is ineligible and may not apply for reinstatement until the equivalent of one full school year has elapsed from the date of the last violation. After that date the student may request reinstatement.

## SECTION IV: \* OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL ATHLETIC COMPETITION

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- A. A student who has participated (including practices & tryouts) in any athletic contest or scrimmage as a member of a school team, may not participate in the same sport in the same season in any athletic competition outside of and not sponsored by the school. The exception to this rule is the individual sport athlete who may participate in a maximum of two (2) individual sports meets or contests during that sport season while not representing his/her school.
- A student may not compete in any "all-star" contests or national high school championship at any time in any sport sponsored by the MHSAA during the school year.
- B. A member of a school's interscholastic team may not participate in either a school or non-school 3 on 3 (or more) competition in that sport during the MHSAA season for that sport without loss of eligibility under this regulation.

### FAILURE TO COMPLY

A student violating rules in this section will be ineligible to participate in athletic contests and scrimmages for a

period from a minimum of the next three contests up to a maximum of one school year depending on the violation.

## SECTION V: STUDENT ATTENDANCE REQUIRED FOR ATHLETICS

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- A. A student with an unexcused absence from school may not participate in the athletic contest or practice scheduled for that day.

## SECTION VI: ATTENDANCE AT ATHLETIC PRACTICE SESSIONS AND CONTESTS

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Attendance at practice sessions is essential to prepare athletes physically and mentally for athletic contests. All team members are required to be at all athletic practice sessions and contests at the times designated by the coach. Should situations occur when it is impossible for a participant to attend due to illness, injury and other required school or family commitments, the student shall make prior arrangements with the coach for an excused absence.

### FAILURE TO COMPLY

Failure to attend regularly scheduled practice sessions without an excused absence will lead to disciplinary action as outlined within the supplemental team rules distributed by the coach.

## ATHLETIC ATTENDANCE POLICY

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- three unexcused absences may result in removal from the team;
- athlete not in attendance during the school day, except for school approved early dismissals should not practice;
- athlete must be in attendance for three (3) school hours to practice or play in the games;
- suspensions are unexcused absences and count toward the three unexcused absences;

## SECTION VII: TRAVELING TO AND FROM AWAY CONTESTS

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Any student on a team traveling to an away athletic contest on school owned or chartered transportation or other such approved vehicles shall return to the home school on the same vehicle after the contest is over. The only exception is when prior arrangements are made and the coach grants permission for the student to leave the contest site with his/her parent/guardian or other adult family member.

### FAILURE TO COMPLY

Any participant not returning from any away contest with a team without prior arrangements of the coach is subject to disciplinary action by the coach.

### 1 WAY TRANSPORTATION

Players will not be released to ride with anyone other than their parent, guardian or person stated on parent permission slip or if parent gives 18 yr. or older student permission.

## SECTION VIII: UNIFORMS AND EQUIPMENT

Athletic participants are responsible for the care, security and use of uniforms and equipment issued to them.

### FAILURE TO COMPLY

Athletic participants will be responsible to pay the replacement cost for any uniform or equipment items that are abused or not returned. Athletes will not be allowed to participate in succeeding sports seasons and report cards may be held until obligations are met.

## SECTION IX: GENERAL MISCONDUCT

Athletes are expected to maintain good conduct at all times and all locations, whether on or off-campus, and not to engage in any conduct or behavior which brings discredit to themselves, their family, their team, school, or the School District. A student athlete must not engage in or be an accomplice to any criminal acts including, but not limited to, acts of assault, theft, extortion, or vandalism. A student athlete must not engage in any acts of gross disrespect or insubordination. A student athlete must not engage in any behavior or conduct which makes the student athlete unworthy to represent the ideals, standards, or principles of the School District.

### FAILURE TO COMPLY

Student athletes violating this section may be denied participation in athletics for up to the equivalent of one full school year, depending upon the severity of the misconduct.

## SECTION X: USE OR POSSESSION OF TOBACCO

Students are to refrain from use of tobacco or tobacco products including smokeless tobacco.

### FAILURE TO COMPLY

Student athletes will be subject to discipline policies established by Utica School Administration as described in the Student Handbook.

## SECTION XI: USE OR POSSESSION OF ALCOHOL AND OTHER CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES

Student athletes are to refrain from use of any alcoholic beverage and any illegally used controlled substance, look-alike or mood altering chemical at all times, including anabolic steroids.

### FAILURE TO COMPLY

Breach of the above policy will present possible cause for immediate suspension from athletics, pending a parental conference and final disposition. Due to the serious consequences of these acts immediate suspension from athletics may be recommended on the first or second offense. Participation in an assessment program may also be recommended. Refer to Utica Community Schools Student Handbook governing student conduct.

Within the provisions of this Code of Conduct for Student Athletes and the written supplemental team rules and regulations, the coach may suspend or exclude a student from athletic participation. A team member who is suspended from a school as outlined in the Student Handbook may not participate in practice or contests because the suspension covers all school activities. However, a team member ruled academically ineligible to participate in contests and scrimmages may still be able to practice with the team. Any participant who is dismissed from the team for the remainder of a sports season will have forfeited the opportunity to earn an athletic award.

The Utica Community School District endorses the "1/9th" policy for athletics.

- a. If an athlete is disciplined for possession or use of alcohol and/or tobacco, the athlete will be forced to miss 1/9th of the season for the first offense. A second offense during that season will result in his/her removal from the team.

Examples:	Baseball	- 2 games	Soccer	- 2 games
	Basketball	- 2 games	Softball	- 2 games
	*Cheerleading/ *Dance	- 1 game	Swim	- 2 games
			Tennis	- 2 meets
	Cross Country	- 1 meet	Track	- 1 meet
	Football	- 1 game	Volleyball	-2 matches
	Golf	- 2 matches	Wrestling	-1 match
Club Sports:	Hockey	- 2 games	Bowling	- 2 matches
	Lacrosse	- 2 games		

*\* In club sports ice hockey, bowling, lacrosse, ect. The 1/9th policy will be enforced*

The 1/9th policy will be enforced when the violation has been witnessed by any district employee and does not have to occur on school grounds.

- b. If an athlete has been found to have either possessed or used an illegal substance (i.e. marijuana, cocaine, pills, steroids, etc.), he/she will be removed from the team.

## **Performance-Enhancing Substances**

Students may not use any performance-enhancing substances including, but not limited to: those banned by 31.2.3 of the bylaws of the National Collegiate Athletic Association; and, those that may be listed by the Michigan Department of Community Health. Students who violate this policy (5114.00 – Student Conduct and Policies on Suspension and Expulsion) may have conditions imposed for their continuing education in the Utica Community Schools. Discipline could range from warnings, detentions, and suspensions up to and including expulsion.

## **Participation Fees**

Effective August, 2007, UCS student athletes are responsible for participation fees in all sports offered by the district. Exceptions are club sports (i.e. dance, sideline cheer, ice hockey, bowling and lacrosse).

Participation fees not received by the established due date will result in loss of participation privileges until fee obligation has been addressed.

## SECTION XII: SUMMER AND OFF-SEASON PROGRAMS

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A variety of sports camps, schools, clinics and training programs are offered to athletes during the off-season and summer months by individual coaches, parks and recreation and the District Community Education program. These programs provide opportunities for aspiring athletes to improve their skills in a chosen sport. These summer and off-season programs are voluntary. Athletes shall not be required to enroll in these programs as a condition for membership or placement on an athletic team the succeeding season. If the student athlete participates in a school related activity during the summer or vacations (i.e. camps, clinics, etc.) that student would be governed by the UCS Code of Conduct for Student Athletes.

## SECTION XIII: SUPPLEMENTAL RULES AND REGULATIONS

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Supplemental team rules and regulations unique to a given sport shall be developed by individual coaches with the approval of the building athletic director or principal. These rules will generally define expectations relating to participant attitude and cooperation and will include criteria for earning awards. These rules must be printed and reviewed with participants at the start of the season.

## SECTION XIV: APPEAL PROCEDURES

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A participant found in violation of Sections V, VI, VII, VIII, IX, X, XI, XII and XIII may appeal the outcome of the disciplinary action taken for noncompliance. Procedures for due process followed by the athletic department will be consistent with procedures outlined in the Utica Community Schools Student Handbook.

## NCAA Eligibility Center

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### (CLEARINGHOUSE)

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If you want to participate in Division I or Division II sports, you should start the certification process early, usually by the end of your junior year. See your school counselor for information. To be certified by the Eligibility Center, you must:

### DIVISION I (Effective Fall, 2008)

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Division I enrollment with sport participation will require 16 core courses. The increase will be in an additional year of Math and an additional year of a core course.

- I. You should apply for certification before graduation. If you appear to meet NCAA requirements, the Eligibility Center will issue a preliminary certification report. After you graduate, the Eligibility Center will review your final transcript to make a final certification decision.

The standards issued by the Eligibility Center are slightly different for Division I and Division II but are based on the same four principles:

1. You must graduate from high school.
2. You must successfully complete all core courses.
3. You must have a minimum 2.000 GPA in core courses.
4. You must have a minimum qualifying score on the ACT or SAT.

### II. Division I Core Requirements

- 4 years of English;
- 3 years of math: (Algebra 1 or higher)
- 2 years of social science;
- 2 years of natural or physical science (including at least one laboratory class, if offered by the high school you attended);
- 1 year of additional courses in English, math or natural or physical science; and
- 4 years of additional academic core courses in any of the above areas, or foreign language, or nondoctrinal religion/philosophy.

Note: Division 1 has a sliding scale for test score and GPA.

## DIVISION II

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- Graduate from high school;
- Have a GPA of 2.00 in 14 core academic courses.
- Must achieve a 68 on the ACT or an 820 on the SAT;
- At least 3 years English;
- At least 2 years math; (Algebra I or higher)
- At least 2 years social science;
- At least 2 years natural or physical science (including 1 lab course, if offered by any high school you attended);
- At least 2 years additional courses in English, math or natural or physical science; and
- 3 additional academic courses in any of the above areas, or foreign language, or nondoctrinal religion/philosophy.

For additional Eligibility Center information (or information on a partial qualifier or nonqualifier) ask your school counselor.

It is your responsibility to make sure the Eligibility Center has the documents it needs to certify you. These documents are:

- your completed and signed Student Release form and fee;
- your official high school transcript;
- your ACT or SAT scores.

## MHSAA MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL \* ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

### SECTION 9 (A): TRANSFERS

A student enrolled in grades 9 through 12 who transfers from one high school or junior high/middle school to another high school is ineligible to participate in an interscholastic athletic contest for one full semester in the school to which the student transfers (see Section 9[B]), UNLESS the student qualifies under one or more of the following exceptions:

1. A student moves into (changes his or her residence to) a new public school district with the persons with whom he or she was living during his or her most recent school enrollment. (1987)
2. A student who has not been living with a parent or parents and moves into (changes his or her residence to) a new public school district to reside with his or her parents, the single parent if divorced, or only living parent who already reside in that district or attendance area of a multi-high school district. (1989)
3. A student is a ward of the court or state and is required to reside in a district or school service area by court order. Guardianship does not fulfill this requirement.
4. A foreign exchange student is placed with a host family in a district or school service area for a minimum of 1 semester by a CSIET exchange program (as determined by the MHSAA).
5. A student marries and establishes a new residence in a new district or new attendance area of a multi-high school district.
6. A student transfers to another school because his or her school ceases to operate.
7. A student in attendance at a school designated by the governing body of that school as the result of reorganization, consolidation or annexation, or at the public school in the district where he or she resides.
8. A student of parents who are divorced, moves from one district into a new school district (changes his or her residence) with or to one of those parents, and the principal of each of the two schools involved signs the Educational Transfer Form which certifies the reason for the move as it relates to the divorce. The transfer is permitted under this exception one time and must be approved by the Executive Director before the student competes in interscholastic athletic competition. (1981)
9. A student is transferred within a school system, for other than athletic or disciplinary purposes, as a result of the initiative and order of the board of education or the governing body of a private or parochial school system.
10. A student enters in the ninth grade of a four year high school and has not been previously enrolled in the ninth grade. (See section 9(A) exception 10 pg. 35)
11. A student completes the last grade available in the school system previously attended. (1971)
12. A student eighteen (18) years or older moves out of the school district or attendance area of the multi-high school district he or she previously attended and into a new district or attendance area (changes his or her residence), without being accompanied by a parent or parents, and both principals sign the Educational Transfer form certifying the transfer is in the best educational interest of the student. The transfer is permitted under this exception one time and must be approved by the Executive Director before the student competes in interscholastic athletic competition. (1983)
13. A student becomes a bona fide boarding student of a boarding school, as defined in the school code, and the principal of each of the two schools involved sign the Educational Transfer form. The transfer is permitted one time and must be approved by the Executive Director before the student competes in interscholastic athletic competition. (1982)
14. A student returns to the school from which he/she was expelled by the board of education/governing body after successfully completing the expelling board of education's/governing body's documented pre-existing criteria. Athletic eligibility would require (a) the student passed at least 20 credit hours of course work during each semester of attendance at another school, (b) that student did not participate for any school in any sport under MHSAA jurisdiction during the expulsion, and (c) the student is eligible in all other ways. The transfer is permitted one time. (1996)
15. A student enrolls on the first day of the first grading period of a high school which is being established and opened for the first time and has not represented another school in interscholastic scrimmages or contests in any sport that school year. (1996)

# UCS PLAYER CONTRACT/PARENTAL CONSENT FORM

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## I. Player Conduct:

- a. The use of alcohol, illegal drugs, tobacco, steroids, etc. will not be tolerated. Every responsibly reported incident will be investigated, the athlete confronted, and ruled on individually by the coaching staff. If the offense occurs on school property or at a school sponsored event, or witnessed by a district employee, that athlete will follow the assigned action indicated by school administration and will not be allowed to practice or play during a school suspension. If the offense involves possession or usage of illegal drugs or steroids, the athlete will be removed from the team. A second offense involving tobacco and/or alcohol will be cause of an immediate dismissal from the team.
- b. Athletes are expected to attend classes and maintain good academic standards. Athletes displaying poor grades and/or poor citizenship in the classroom may be subject to disciplinary action. Any player with a failing grade or poor citizenship in any subject will be monitored on a weekly basis. Playing privileges may be removed if the athlete fails to show improvement.
- c. Sportsmanship toward teammates, opponents, officials, coaches and spectators must be displayed at all times. Unsportsmanlike conduct will not be tolerated and will be subject to disciplinary action.
- d. Players are expected to sit on the bench or in the designated area and be attentive to the game when not actually participating.
- e. Players are to respect all teammates and school equipment. Players will be responsible for the replacement of any damaged or lost game or practice uniforms or equipment assigned to him/her.
- f. Player conduct and transportation rules must be followed when being transported to any contest. This includes keeping the bus floor free of litter (no throwing of food, paper, or any other objects).
- g. Players are expected to keep the practice, game and locker- room facilities as clean as possible.

## 2. Attendance:

- a. Players are expected to attend all practices and all games. If a player is injured and unable to play, he/she is still expected to attend the game.
- b. If a player must miss a practice, the coach is to be notified prior to the practice.
- c. Unexcused absences from practice, games or other team functions will not be tolerated.

## d. Excused absences include:

- doctor or dentist appointment;
- absence from school (must be in attendance at least half of the school day on game day to play);
- death in family;
- other factors at the discretion of the coach.

## e. Penalties:

- a maximum of three (3) unexcused practices may result in removal from the team;
- too many excused practices may jeopardize a player's participation in the games;
- a player missing practice (excused) the day before a game may jeopardize starting in that game. A player missing practice (unexcused) the day before a game may not start in that game.

## 3. Physical Exam:

- a. A player must have a current physical examination and emergency medical card on file with the school before the player is allowed to participate.
- b. During the season, a player who has written instructions from a doctor not to participate in practices/games because of illness or injury must have a written release from that doctor to resume participation.

## 4. Transportation:

- a. A player must ride the team bus to the contests.
- b. Exceptions to this rule may only be made with prior permission granted from the coach and athletic director. Players will not be released to ride with anyone other than their own parent(s) / guardian or person stated on parent permission slip.

## 5. Hazing:

Policies prohibiting hazing by students of the Utica Community Schools were adopted by the Board of Education. Hazing activities are inherently hazardous and may place victims at risk of physical and/or emotional damage. Consequently, hazing is absolutely prohibited. Appropriate discipline actions will be taken against students who participate in hazing, up to removal from the team.

Hazing is defined as any act which endangers the physical safety of a student, produces mental or physical discomfort, causes embarrassment or ridicule, or degrades the student, regardless of the willingness on the part of the student to participate in any such activities.

Please sign and return Pledge to your coach before the season begins.

## PLEDGE

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I have read the Student Athlete's Code of Conduct booklet and the Player's Contract and I understand its contents. I pledge to NOT violate either the rules of the Code of Conduct or the Players Contract. A copy of this contract must be on file with my coach. I understand the consequences of violating the terms of this contract.

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*Athlete's Signature*

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*Parental Signature*

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*Date*

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*Print Name*

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*Sport*

Remember: Participation in extracurricular competitive interscholastic athletics is a student's privilege, not a right, that can be removed at anytime for failure to meet the standards and requirements of particular teams, school or school district to which the student belongs.

Informed Consent: By its nature, participation in interscholastic athletics includes risk of injury which may range in severity. Although serious injuries are not common in supervised school athletic programs, it is impossible to eliminate the risk.

Participants have the responsibility to help reduce the chance of injury. Players must obey all rules, report all physical problems to their coaches, follow a proper conditioning program, and inspect their own equipment daily.

