
KINGSLEY ATHLETIC HANDBOOK

FOR STUDENTS AND PARENTS/GUARDIANS



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Introduction

A. To Parents/Guardians

This material is presented to you because your student wishes to participate in Kingsley interscholastic athletics and you have expressed your willingness to support them in their efforts. We believe that participation in sports provides a wealth of opportunities and experiences that assist students in developing personal traits and skills that lead to personal success in high school and beyond.

In order to provide students with the best situations for success available in interscholastic athletics, properly controlled and well-organized sports programs are needed. It is our commitment at Kingsley to foster programs that are sound in purpose and will further each student's educational maturity.

Likewise, we feel that you have committed yourselves to certain responsibilities and obligations as a parent/guardian of a student-athlete. We would like to take this opportunity to acquaint you with the key policies and rules that are necessary for a well-organized program of athletics.

B. To Student-Athletes

Being a member of a Kingsley athletic team is both an honor and a privilege. We hope you will enjoy your time as a Kingsley student-athlete and take the lessons you learn with you when you graduate from Kingsley. Athletic activities are an important part of the total school experience but are secondary to the academic program. Participation in athletic activities is a privilege, not a right.

As a student-athlete, you will be expected to understand and abide by the rules and policies in this handbook, all applicable Board of Education policies and guidelines, and Kingsley student handbooks.

As you have made a choice to represent Kingsley Schools as a student-athlete, you must recognize responsibilities you have taken upon yourself.

1. Responsibility to Yourself:

It is our goal to provide you with opportunities to develop a stronger sense of who you are as a person. You owe it to yourself to seize these opportunities to develop strong character and grow as an individual. Your academic studies and your participation in sports and other extracurricular activities will help to prepare you for your life as an adult.

2. Responsibilities to your School:

As a member of a Kingsley Stag athletic team, you assume a leadership role within your school. When you are on the court or field, the focus is on you. The student body, the community, and other communities we compete against judge our school by your conduct, both on and off the field. In assuming this responsibility, you have the power to have a positive impact on school spirit and pride within our community.

I. Kingsley Athletic Department Mission Statement

“The Kingsley Athletic Department will strive to provide educational opportunities for students through the realm of interscholastic sports. Athletic participation will provide a means of physical, emotional, social, and intellectual growth in our student-athletes. Pride in community, school, and self, as well as a legacy of honorable life lessons learned on the court or field of play are desired outcomes for all Kingsley student-athletes.”

II. Student-Athlete Opportunities Gained through Athletic Participation

A. Emotional Growth

1. Developing self-confidence, self-worth, and self-discipline
2. Learning to accept criticism
3. Learning to accept success graciously and persevere in times of failure

B. Intellectual Growth

1. Learning a sense of pride in achievement
2. Learning to commit to a goal and seeing it through
3. Learning time-management skills

C. Physical Growth

1. Learning good health habits
2. Learning to deal with stress
3. Valuing personal fitness

D. Social Growth

1. Developing interpersonal relationship skills
2. Developing loyalty to a team
3. Developing teamwork skills
4. Learning sportsmanship- fair, honest play
5. Learning respect for teammates, opponents, coaches, and officials
6. Being a positive representative of the school and community

III. Athletic Philosophy

Kingsley athletics is a valuable aspect of the overall educational process at Kingsley Area Schools. We strive to produce positive, meaningful opportunities for our student-athletes, while developing and maintaining competitive teams.

IV. Governance

A. The Kingsley Board of Education

The Board of Education is the governing body for Kingsley Area Schools and is responsible for interpreting the needs of the community. The Board of Education develops policies in accordance with federal and state laws and in accordance with the educational needs and wishes of the people of the Kingsley School District.

B. Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA)

Kingsley Area Schools is a member in good standing of the MHSAA, a private, voluntary association of Michigan secondary schools. The primary function of the MHSAA is to increase and promote the educational value of interscholastic athletic programs throughout the state. The MHSAA also sponsors annual tournaments and helps ensure that member schools follow guidelines set up by the MHSAA to promote fair, equitable competition.

C. Northwest Conference

Kingsley is a voluntary member of the Northwest Conference. The object of the Northwest Conference is to create among its member schools a spirit of wholesome rivalry, promote sportsmanship, and to award team and individual honors in sports that member schools participate in.

As a member of the MHSAA and Northwest Conference, Kingsley Area Schools will follow the regulations set forth for interscholastic athletics by these organizations.

V. Title IX Compliance

Kingsley Area Schools prohibits unlawful sex discrimination, including harassment and retaliation, in any of its educational programs or activities in accordance with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 and corresponding implementing regulations. If you or someone you know has been the victim of sex-based discrimination, harassment, or retaliation, you may file a report with any District employee. Formal Complaints of sexual harassment must be filed with the Title IX Coordinator:

Kristen Goethals, Kingsley Elementary Principal
311 Clark Street
Kingsley, MI 49649

A full copy of the District's Title IX sexual harassment policy is available at <https://meetings.boardbook.org/Public/Book/2354?docTypeId=223589&file=cff129f4-5301-4933-b7fc-7120163e5baf>.

VI. Anti-Harassment Policy

Kingsley Area Schools prohibits unlawful discrimination, including unlawful harassment. The District will investigate all allegations of unlawful harassment and will take appropriate action, including discipline, against any person who, following an investigation, is determined to have engaged in unlawful harassment.

“Unlawful harassment” is verbal, written, or physical conduct that denigrates or shows hostility or aversion toward a student because of the student’s race, color, religion, sex (including pregnancy, gender identity, or sexual orientation), national origin, disability, or any other legally protected class that has the purpose or effect of: (1) creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive environment; or (2) unreasonably interfering with the student’s ability to benefit from the District’s educational programs or activities.

VII. Kingsley Athletic Programs

A. Fall Sports and Teams

1. Cross Country (Boys)- Varsity, Middle School

2. Cross Country (Girls)- Varsity, Middle School

The boys and girls teams practice together and share the same schedule, but compete as separate teams. There is no limit regarding how many athletes can be kept on a given team. Practices begin in early August (1st Allowable MHSAA Date).. The Varsity team competes within the Northwest Conference.

The Middle School teams may begin practice on the 14th Monday before Thanksgiving (1st Allowable MHSAA practice date). Many of the 10 contest dates are run at the same time and place as the Varsity teams.

3. Football (Boys)- Varsity, Junior Varsity, 8th Grade, 7th Grade

Football is a sport in which cuts are not made. Practices start in early August. There are 9 games per season with the Varsity usually playing on Friday nights and the Junior Varsity playing Thursday nights.

8th and 7th grade teams may begin on the 14th Monday before Thanksgiving (1st Allowable MHSAA practice date). Middle School teams usually play on Wednesday nights.

4. Volleyball (Girls)- Varsity, Junior Varsity, 8th Grade, 7th Grade

Volleyball is typically a sport in which cuts are made. At the high school level, practice starts before school is in early August (1st Allowable MHSAA Date). The regular season consists of 18 days of competition, usually on Tuesdays and Saturdays.

5. Soccer (Boys) – Varsity.

Soccer is a sport in which cuts are not usually made. The season starts with practice in early August and ends in middle October. There are usually 18 scheduled contests plus the MHSAA tournament.

B. Winter Sports and Teams

1. Basketball (Boys)- Varsity, Junior Varsity, 8th Grade, 7th Grade

Basketball is a sport where typically cuts are made. Practice starts in mid-November. The Varsity and Junior Varsity teams play up to 22 games in the regular season.

The 8th and 7th grade teams play 12 games and try-outs usually start in mid-October. Middle school games are typically on Mondays and Wednesdays.

2. Basketball (Girls)- Varsity, Junior Varsity, 8th Grade, 7th Grade

Basketball is a sport where typically cuts are made. Practice starts in early November. The Varsity and Junior Varsity teams play up to 22 games in the regular season.

The 8th and 7th grade teams play 12 games. Tryouts usually start in early January. Middle school games are typically on Mondays and Wednesdays.

4. Wrestling (Co-Ed)- Varsity, Junior Varsity, Middle School

Cuts are not typically made in this sport. Practice starts in mid-November. Many of the 16 days of competition are Varsity only with an occasional JV match at times. Matches typically take place on Wednesdays or Saturdays. The Varsity team competes within the Mid-Michigan Wrestling Conference.

Practice for middle school wrestlers starts in early January. The middle school season runs through the middle of March. Matches are typically on Wednesdays and Saturdays.

5. Hockey: High School

Hockey is offered through the co-op: Bay Reps when numbers allow. All funding is raised independent of the Kingsley Athletic Department.

C. Spring Sports and Teams

1. Golf (Boys)- Varsity

Golf is a sport where cuts may be made. Practice starts in early March and matches start in early April. There are usually 15-16 matches in a regular season.

2. Baseball (Boys')- Varsity, Junior Varsity

Varsity and junior varsity baseball are typically cut sports. Practice starts in early March. Games days vary. Most contest dates are double-headers in which each team plays each other twice.

3. Softball (Girls)- Varsity, Junior Varsity

Varsity and junior varsity softball are typically cut sports. Practice starts in early March. Games days vary. Most contest dates are double-headers in which each team plays each other twice.

4. Track (Boys)- Varsity, Middle School

5. Track (Girls)- Varsity, Middle School

Track is not a cut sport. Practice starts in early March. Track is allowed no more than 18 meets in the season consisting of dual, relay, and invitational meets. Meets typically take place on Wednesdays and Saturdays.

Middle School track starts practice after spring break with the first meet taking place near the end of April. Middle School track usually has 7-8 meets per season that are typically held on Mondays and Fridays.

6. Soccer (Girls) – Varsity.

Soccer is a sport in which cuts are not usually made. The season starts with practice in early March and ends in May/June. There are usually 18 scheduled contests plus the MHSAA tournament.

VIII. General Team Guidelines

A. Commitment to Team:

Each student-athlete that participates on a Kingsley athletic team must have a strong commitment to the team and overall athletic program in general. If a student has any doubts regarding their desire or ability to fulfill their obligation to a team, they should discuss this with the team's coach prior to the season getting underway or cuts being made. Quitting is not an acceptable practice unless unique circumstances are present.

B. Practices

1. Practices usually take place after school and end between 5:30-6:00. During the winter and early spring, practice times will vary due to demands on our indoor practice facilities. On days where school is canceled due to weather conditions practices at the middle school are canceled as well, but high school teams may hold optional practices if weather improves.

2. Practice is the arena in which instruction of important fundamentals and game strategies occurs. Student-athletes are expected to attend all team practices as part of their participation on the team. If a student-athlete must miss a practice, the coach of the athlete's team must be notified by the student-athlete in advance of the practice. Failure to attend practice or notify a coach of an absence may adversely affect the student-athlete's status on the team.

IX. Squad Selection

A. Philosophy

In accordance with our philosophy of athletics and our desire to give student-athletes opportunities to participate in interscholastic athletics, we encourage coaches to keep as many students as they can on the team without jeopardizing the competitive integrity of their sport. Facilities, time, equipment, player management, eligibility status, personal preference, and other factors will play a role in determining squad size for any sport. For varsity team membership, however, the goal is to field a team of student-athletes who have displayed the ability to compete at the varsity level in the respective sport. When consistent playing time at the varsity level is not likely for a 9th or 10th grade student-athlete, the junior varsity team may be the preferred team placement at the coach's discretion.

B. Team Selection

Each varsity head coach is responsible for establishing and implementing a fair selection process for choosing team members and must convey those procedures to the sub-varsity coaches in that sport. Team roster decisions are within the sole discretion of the coach.

C. Tryouts

1. Student-athletes must be passing their classes as defined below to try out. Fall and Winter Season tryout grades will be checked against previous 9-week grades. Spring Season tryout grades will be checked against current classroom grades. This rule will apply to 9-12 grade student-athletes only, except for 9th grade student-athletes or transfer students for the fall sports season.

2. The head coach of the respective team shall inform each prospective student-athlete the following as tryouts begin:

- a. The number of practices before cuts are made and the final team is established.
- b. Criteria that will be used to select team members.
- c. Practice, game, and other season commitments that will be expected of those who are selected and chose to be part of the squad.

3. Following the tryout period, the coach will talk to each individual who tried out for the team to inform them of their status. The coach will personally talk with each student-athlete who did not make the team and explain the reasons why. If appropriate, the coach will also discuss measures that the individual student-athlete can take to help improve their chances of making the squad in subsequent seasons.

4. If a student-athlete is cut from a sports team, the student-athlete may try out for another sport during the same season if the tryout period has not closed for the other sport.

X. Participation in Two Sports within the Same Season

Student-athletes may participate in two sports during the same season if the following requirements are met:

- A. Students have a 3.0 cumulative GPA to be eligible to participate in two sports.
- B. The student must inform the Athletic Director and the two coaches of the sports the student-athlete wishes to participate in and declare a primary sport and a secondary sport. The primary sport will take precedence for contests and competitions.. The student-athlete and coaches involved will coordinate attendance at practices, scrimmages, and contests.. The KAS Dual Sport Participation form will be completed (signed by athlete, parents, and coaches) and kept in the athletic office for reference.
- C.. Per MHSAA guidelines, no student-athlete may compete in more than one sport competition per day.

XI. Quitting a Team

- A. Once a student-athlete decides to participate in a sport, the student-athlete is bound from the first day of practice to honor the commitment to that team. The student-athlete cannot quit a sport to join another sport during the same sport season.
- B. A student-athlete may not join another sport during the same season if the student-athlete has been kicked off a team for disciplinary reasons.

XII. Athletic Banquets and Awards

- A. Attendance at any team athletic banquet is required, absent a valid excuse. If an athlete cannot attend, the coach must be notified in advance.
- B. Student-athletes should wear appropriate attire for athletic banquets. Dress pants, dress/skirt, collared shirt with tie and/or sweater are examples of appropriate attire. Blue jeans are not permitted.
- C. Academic Senior Athlete of the Year Criteria: Minimum of two-sport participation in the senior year, top boy and top girl with the highest GPA.
- D. Senior Athlete of the Year: Minimum two sport participation in the senior year; Voted on by Kingsley coaches and staff.
 - 1. Athletic Director compiles a list of all senior athletes who participated in at least 2 sports in their senior year.
 - 2. Coaches and staff then vote. Votes are recorded and tabulated by the AD via Google Form.
 - 3. All athletes recommended for this Award must be in good standing and not involved in an athletic code violation their senior year.
- E. Per MHSAA guidelines, student-athletes may accept an award, such as a trophy, medal, or plaque, valued \$40 or less for participation in athletics. Banquets, luncheons, dinners, trips, and fees are permitted. Awards for athletic participation in the form of cash, merchandise, certifications, or any other negotiable documents are not permitted.

XIII. Eligibility

A. Pre-Season Requirements

Before a student-athlete may participate in any MHSAA athletic activity, athletes are required to register in [Final Forms](#) and complete the Kingsley Athletic Eligibility requirements including form submission of:

1. Health History & Medical Profile
2. Emergency Medical Authorization
3. Student Athlete Handbook
4. Anti-Hazing & Anti-Bullying Policies
5. Athletic Insurance Verification
6. Social Media Policy
7. Concussion Awareness
8. MHSAA Acknowledgement of Risk
9. MHSAA PPE Physical (for Physicians)

Student-athletes will not be allowed to participate in any athletic activity until all requirements in Final Forms are completed.

B. In-season Academic Requirements - move to 'interscholastic competition throughout'

The MHSAA requires all student-athletes to have passed at least 66% of a full credit load in the previous semester and must be currently passing at least 66% of a full credit load. A student-athlete entering the 9th grade for the first time may compete without reference to his or her record in the 8th grade. Any student-athlete who fails to pass 66% of a full credit load on a semester basis will be ineligible for the entire next semester.

In addition to all requirements of the MHSAA, the following rules and procedures shall apply to all student-athletes participating in interscholastic athletic competition at Kingsley Area School:

1. All student-athletes shall be passing all classes (D- or higher) in which they are enrolled to participate in interscholastic athletic competition.
2. Weekly eligibility: Starting on the 4th Monday of each marking period, academic eligibility will be conducted by the Athletic Department through Powerschool. Any student-athlete who is deemed academically ineligible will be ineligible from that Monday thru the following Sunday.
3. During the fourth Monday of a quarter a student-athlete may receive an incomplete/probationary week, should the teacher feel the student-athlete is making an effort to succeed in class. Teachers must have at least 6 separate grades that reflect a student-athlete's progress in a class in order to mark weekly eligibility. Eligibility will continue to be checked every week throughout the marking period. A student-athlete must be passing all classes, or the student-athlete will be ineligible for that week. The student-athlete will regain eligibility the following Monday if the student-athlete is passing all classes. This eligibility check will continue throughout the marking period, then the cycle will begin again for the next marking period. In the event unique circumstances present a lack of opportunities for the student-athlete to correct academic failure in a given class, the athletic director will follow up with the teacher of the class in question and jointly determine the student-athlete's weekly

eligibility based on the circumstances present. A student-athlete receiving an “incomplete” will be eligible if the athletic director, teacher and student-athlete have a conference and it is shown that the student-athlete is making sufficient strides to earn a passing grade. If not, the student-athlete will be declared ineligible.

4. If an athlete becomes ineligible the student-athlete will continue to practice with the team and may ride team buses with the coach's approval, but will not suit up for interscholastic competition until the student-athlete provides evidence that the student-athlete is passing all classes.

5. Regaining eligibility is the student-athlete's responsibility. Teachers are not required to check tests earlier than usual, or to calculate a grade at an inconvenient time, or to do anything outside of normal procedure in order to help a student-athlete regain eligibility.

6. Student-athletes who fail one or more classes for a 9-week marking period while enrolled at Kingsley will be declared ineligible for the week (7 days) following the issuance of the report card. Ineligibility begins on Sunday and continues through the following Saturday. If there is no interscholastic athletic competition scheduled during that week, then the week of ineligibility will carry over to the next week of interscholastic athletic competition.

7. If a student-athlete is not passing all classes at the end of a semester while enrolled at Kingsley, the student-athlete is ineligible for 20% of the current or next season in which the student-athlete participates in interscholastic athletic competition.

8. If a student-athlete retakes and passes a course/class failed during the school year through an approved alternate method, (e.g., summer school, online, or evening classes), the student-athlete will be eligible the following semester.

9. If a student-athlete is ineligible for 3 weeks in any class based on weekly eligibility checks of current grades, the student-athlete may resign from the team in order for the student-athlete to better address their academics and ensure they achieve passing grades. Coaches have discretion to set team guidelines that could allow team members to continue to participate on the team after 3 ineligible weeks so long as those guidelines are applied consistently within the team.

10. Student-athletes who are suspended or expelled from school may not practice or compete while the suspension or expulsion is in effect and may be subject to other disciplinary action by the Athletic Department. Students who have been given one or more days of In-School Suspension (ISS) shall be deemed ineligible for practice on the day of suspension AND the next day of game competition.

XIV. **Attendance Requirements**

A. Student-athletes shall be in school for a majority of the day in order to participate in practices, scrimmages, contests, and other team activities. If an absence is pre-planned, or excused, and the pre-planned absence form is used to obtain homework from classes in advance, the student-athlete will be allowed to participate in that day's athletic activity. Exceptions may be made in unique circumstances.

XV. MHSAA Requirements

As a member school of the Michigan High School Athletic Association, Kingsley Area Schools follows the MHSAA's [Guidelines](#) for student athletics eligibility. All rules for participation in interscholastic athletics are set forth in the [MHSAA Handbook](#). The MHSAA allows exceptions to some eligibility requirements; please confer with the Athletic Director if you have a question regarding eligibility,

Please contact the athletic director or consult the MHSAA Handbook for more detailed information concerning these rules.

XVI. NCAA Initial Eligibility

The following information is for student-athletes who may have the ability and desire to compete at the collegiate level once they have graduated from Kingsley High School.

- A. The National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) is the organization that regulates standards for college athletes in regards to eligibility, recruiting, and financial aid. The NCAA has three divisions (I,II,III) that it governs. Member college institutions are placed in divisions based on the size of their athletic programs and the degree to which they provide athletic scholarships.
- B. Any prospective Division I or Division II athlete must be certified by the NCAA Initial-Eligibility Clearinghouse. The clearinghouse ensures that eligibility rules are upheld and applied to student-athletes consistently. More information regarding the NCAA Initial-Eligibility Clearinghouse can be found at www.ncaa.org or by contacting the guidance counselor or athletic director.
- C. If feasible, high school student-athletes should start the application process with the NCAA Initial-Eligibility Clearinghouse at the end of their junior year at the earliest. The application process consists of reporting of ACT or SAT scores, official transcript mailed by Kingsley High School, an application fee, and a completed and signed student release form.

XVII. Off/On Field Conduct

- A. Student-athletes are expected to behave in a manner which befits their position as representatives of Kingsley Area Schools. They will, among other things, keep their heads while playing the game, not overtly display their tempers, swear, or use illegal tactics, show respect for officials, teammates, and the opposing team, be gracious in defeat, and modest in victory. They will at all times show respect for their teachers and their classmates. A student-athlete who behaves in an unacceptable fashion, either in school or out, is subject to discipline as determined by the student-athlete's coach, the Athletic Director, or the Athletic Council.
- B. Student-athletes found guilty of a misdemeanor shall be ineligible for a minimum of 33%, but not more than 50%, of a season's competitions as decided by the Athletic Director. Ineligibility will begin on the date of the school's discovery of the infraction. Student-athletes found guilty of a felony shall be ineligible for 1 year from the date of the school's discovery of the infraction.
- C. Student-athletes must comply with the law, Board Policy, the Student Code of Conduct, this handbook, and all team rules. Failure to comply with this provision may result in the student-athlete's suspension or removal from a team.
- D. Social Responsibility: attendance at social events (parties, dances, etc.) is at the discretion of the student-athlete and the student-athlete's parents/guardians. For the purposes of this section, a "social event" shall not include a social event where alcohol is being legally consumed by adults (such as at a wedding reception or a family gathering) and where minor children are present under the reasonable supervision of adults.

Student-athletes are expected to abide by the following guidelines at social events:

1. At any time that an athlete knows or reasonably should know that the student-athlete is in the presence of drugs or alcohol, the student-athlete shall leave the party or gathering immediately (within 15 minutes of discovery).
2. Student-athletes are expected to be aware of the circumstances which surround them and to which they are exposed.
3. As long as the student-athlete leaves the offending social event or gathering, no athletic penalty will be imposed, provided the student-athlete has not consumed or partaken in any drugs or alcohol.

These rules are in effect twelve (12) months a year, grades seven through 12 (7-12).

- E. A student-athlete who self-reports a violation of the Athletic Handbook will aid in the final determination of the student-athlete's disciplinary consequence or other remedial action. The encouragement of honesty and truthfulness should not be viewed as a preemptive measure by a student-athlete to lessen impending disciplinary action, but leniency may be granted to student-athletes who self-report violations. Leniency may be granted one time in the student-athlete's career.
- F. Decisions regarding the eligibility of a student-athlete due to misconduct not specifically covered in this Athletic Handbook will be made by the Athletic Council following a hearing concerning those matters.

- H. A student-athlete's appearance and actions always influence people's opinions of student-athletes, their team, and the school they play for. Upon committing yourself to be a member of a Kingsley athletic team, you have made a choice to uphold certain standards expected of Kingsley student-athletes, including:
1. A student-athlete's dress, hair style, make up, cleanliness, or personal appearance may not pose a threat to the safety, health, or welfare of students or others; violate any statute or Board Policy, or substantially disrupt the educational or athletic environment at all times, especially on away trips, at assemblies, and athletic banquets.
 2. Team Uniforms
 - a. Uniforms are not to be worn as personal clothing unless permitted by the coach on game day for spirit purposes.
 - b. During contests, uniforms should be worn in a neat and presentable way.
 - c. Uniforms shall be a unifying factor for a team. No alterations of the team uniform will be permitted without the prior approval of the Athletic Director.
- I. Game Ejections: A student-athlete is expected to maintain composure in the midst of competition. Failure to do so can mean possible ejection from the contest and suspension from the future contests. Any Kingsley student-athlete who is ejected or disqualified from a contest (including as a result of progressive penalties such as yellow cards in soccer, technical fouls in basketball or unsportsmanlike fouls in football) shall be:
1. Ineligible to continue participating in that day of competition..
 2. He/she will also be ineligible, at minimum, to participate in the next day of competition regardless the number of contests scheduled and,
 3. Will be ineligible to participate indefinitely until he/she completes the specified NFHS online sportsmanship course.

Please see MHSAA Contest Ejection and Next Day of Competition Protocol and Guide [HERE](#)

J. **Anti-Hazing Policy**

Kingsley Area Schools is committed to providing the best learning atmosphere for our students. Hazing activities are inconsistent with our educational mission and will not be tolerated. Hazing is "an intentional or reckless act directed against a student that endangers the student's physical or mental health or safety that is done for the purpose of pledging, being initiated into, affiliating with, participating in, holding office in, or maintaining membership in any organization, activity, team, or social group."

The Kingsley athletic department will not tolerate actions by student-athletes that recklessly or intentionally endanger the mental or physical health or safety of a student. Hazing includes, but is not limited to:

1. Physical brutality or punishment, such as whipping, beating, striking, branding, or placing of a harmful substance on a student's body;

2. Physical activity that subjects a student to an unreasonable risk of harm or that adversely affects a student's physical or mental health or safety, such as sleep deprivation, exposure to the elements, confinement in a small space, or undressing or exposing a student;
3. Consumption of a food, liquid, alcohol, drugs, or other substance that subjects a student to an unreasonable risk of harm or that adversely affects the student's physical or mental health or safety;
4. Activity that induces, causes, or requires a student to commit a crime or an act of hazing;
5. Intentional humiliation or embarrassment of a student;
6. Detention or seclusion of a student; and
7. Other activities that subject a student to an unreasonable risk of harm or that adversely affect a student's physical or mental health or safety.

K. Anti-Bullying Policy

All types of bullying, including cyberbullying, without regard to subject matter or motivating animus, are prohibited at school, on school-related vehicles, and at school-sponsored activities and events. Students who commit any acts of bullying may be subject to discipline in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct.

1. Bullying is any written, verbal, or physical act, or any electronic communication that is intended or that a reasonable person would know is likely to harm one or more students either directly or indirectly by doing any of the following:
 - a. Substantially interfering with a student's educational opportunities, benefits, or programs.
 - b. Adversely affecting the ability of a student to participate in or benefit from the District's educational programs or activities by placing a student in reasonable fear of physical harm or by causing substantial emotional distress.
 - c. Having an actual and substantial detrimental effect on a student's physical or mental health.
 - d. Causing substantial disruption in, or substantial interference with, the orderly operation of the school.

L. Social Media

Kingsley Area Schools and the athletic department recognizes and supports the student-athletes' right to freedom of speech, expression, and association, including the use of social networks.

In this context, however, each student-athlete must remember that playing and competing for Kingsley Area Schools is a privilege, not a right. As a student-athlete, you represent Kingsley Area Schools and you are expected to portray yourself, your team, and the school in a positive manner at all times.

Below are guidelines for social networking site usage:

1. Everything you post is public information. Any text or photo placed online is completely out of your control the moment it is posted – even if you limit access to your site. Information (including pictures, videos, and comments) may be accessible even after you removed it.
2. What you post may affect your future. Many employers and college admissions offices review social networking sites as part of their overall evaluation of an applicant. Carefully consider the information you post (including pictures, videos, comments, re-tweets/likes, and post).
3. Student-athletes may not engage in speech or expressive conduct online that would materially and substantially interfere with or disrupt school operations, including athletic activities, or which school officials can reasonably forecast a substantial and material disruption or interference with school operations. Such conduct may include:
 - a. Threats directed at other students, teachers, administration, coaches, teammates, officials, or student-athletes, coaches, or representatives of opposing teams.
 - b. Incriminating photos or statements depicting violence; hazing; bullying; harassment, including, but not limited to, sexual harassment; full or partial nudity; inappropriate gestures; vandalism; stalking; smoking/vaping/e-cigarettes; underage drinking; selling, knowingly possessing, or being in the presence of alcohol or illegal drugs; or any other inappropriate behaviors.
 - c. Creating a serious danger to the safety of another person or making a credible threat of serious physical or emotional injury to another person.
 - d. Indicating knowledge of an unreported school or team violation – regardless if the violation was intentional or unintentional.
4. Use caution when ‘liking’ or ‘re-tweeting’ posts that violate these guidelines as this may be seen as condoning or encouraging such behaviors.

A student-athlete who violates these rules may be subject to disciplinary action ranging from:

1. Verbal Warning
 2. Written Warning
 3. Community Service
 4. Suspension
 5. Removal from a team
- *When social media violations are of an extreme nature, disciplinary action under section XIX B, C, D for first, second, and third offenses may be imposed.*

XVIII. **Drugs/Alcohol/Tobacco**

- A. Student-athletes shall NOT knowingly possess or use products that contain nicotine, tobacco products, e-cigarettes, vaping mechanisms, electronic nicotine delivery systems, and similar devices; alcohol; performance enhancing drugs (e.g., anabolic steroids) or other illegal or controlled substances, or look-alikes.

- B. The 1st violation will result in the student-athlete's immediate suspension of up to 25% of a season's competitions. However, student-athletes must continue to practice with the team during the period of the suspension, if the student-athlete wishes to regain eligibility before the end of the sport season.
- C. A student-athlete's 2nd violation will result in the student-athlete's second dismissal of up to 50% of a season's competitions. To regain eligibility, the student-athlete must also do the following:
 - 1. Perform up to 20 hours of community service. The community service is the responsibility of the student-athlete and parent/guardian to arrange. The community service must be approved by the Athletic Director and the student-athlete must present proof of the completed community service to the Athletic Director.
 - 2. The student-athlete must also enter a substance abuse program, such as the "Young Adult Insight Group" sponsored by Catholic Human Services or another program approved by the Athletic Director. The cost of the program shall be borne by the student-athlete and parent/guardian. The athlete must present proof of successful completion of the program to the Athletic Director.
- D. A student-athlete's 3rd violation will result in the student-athlete's dismissal from athletics for 365 days from the time of infraction. To regain eligibility, the student-athlete must do all of the following:
 - 1. Perform up to 50 hours of community service. The community service is the responsibility of the student-athlete parent/guardian to arrange. The community service must be approved by the Athletic Director and the student-athlete must present proof of completion of the community service to the Athletic Director.
 - 2. Receive a professional drug/alcohol assessment and then complete any recommended treatment plan or course of action. All costs associated with the assessment and any recommended course of action shall be at student-athlete or parent/guardian expense
 - 3. After completing the required community service and any substance abuse or other recommended program or course of action, the student-athlete must request in writing a meeting of the Athletic Council to request reinstatement. If the Athletic Council agrees that the student-athlete has taken corrective measures, he/she will be reinstated.
 - 4. A reinstated student-athlete may be subject to random drug testing during the student-athlete's remaining athletic career at Kingsley. This testing is also at the expense of the student-athlete and his/her family.
- E. An athlete's 4th violation of this rule will result in permanent loss of athletic eligibility at Kingsley.
- F. Violations of this section will be cumulative, regardless of the substance.
- G. Athletic Supplements: Kingsley Area Schools does not condone or recommend the use of training supplements by student-athletes. Remember, nothing can replace hard work, persistence, hustle, and desire on the field of play.

XIX. Investigation of Misconduct:

The following procedures will be used to investigate alleged violations of Athletic Handbook rules.

- A. The student-athlete will be informed of any substantive allegations brought against the student-athlete.
- B. A student-athlete will have the right to present any relevant information that will support their defense.
- C. If a possible violation has occurred, a conference will be held with the student-athlete, his/her parents/guardian, and the Athletic Director. Another Administrator may be asked to be present at this meeting as well.
- D. If a student-athlete is suspended, the student-athlete's parent/guardian will be notified by the Athletic Director and sent a letter stating the findings of the investigation and the resulting action being taken.
- E. A written record of the investigation will be maintained in the Athletic Office. This report will not become part of the student's academic record.

XX. Athletic Council and Appeals

- A. The purpose of the Athletic Council is to assist with the control and regulation of Kingsley athletics by recommending uniform policies consistent with District aims and objectives and the policies of the Board; assisting in the direction of the athletic program according to the rules and regulations of the Michigan High School Athletic Association; assisting in the evaluation of the interscholastic athletic program; and serving as a hearing board in eligibility matters. The Athletic Council shall be composed of the Athletic Director (presenter of case with no vote on outcome), the High School Principal, two members of the Board of Education, and two Kingsley coaches. The five (5) voting members of the Athletic Council (should a vote be needed) shall be the HS principal, two board members, and two Kingsley coaches. A simple majority shall reflect the decision of the Athletic Council, and in cases of ties, the student-athlete will remain eligible.
- B. A student-athlete declared ineligible because of a violation of the Athletic Code shall be advised of the student-athlete's ineligibility in writing by the Athletic Director. This documentation will contain the length of ineligibility and conditions for reinstatement, if any.
- C. A student-athlete may appeal an athletic suspension to the Athletic Council. The appeal shall be in writing and shall be made within three school days of the student-athlete's receipt of the decision.
- D. All meetings of the Athletic Council shall be called by the Athletic Director. A majority of the voting members of the Athletic Council must be present to conduct a meeting.
- E. Student-athletes appearing before the Athletic Council shall have the right to be accompanied by their parents/guardians or another person of the student-athlete's choosing.
- F. The student-athlete shall have the right to refrain from testifying during the Athletic Council hearing.

- G. The Athletic Council shall meet within three school days of receipt of the appeal to consider the appeal and shall announce its decision in writing within two school days following the meeting.
- H. If the student-athlete is unhappy with the decision of the Athletic Council, the student-athlete may appeal that decision to the Superintendent of Schools.
- I. The decision of the Superintendent of Schools shall be final.

XXI. Expectations of Spectators

- A. Spectators are expected to acknowledge and heed all signs posted in and around the athletic facility.
- B. A spectator's role at an athletic contest is to support their team and to enjoy the skill and competition; not to intimidate or ridicule the other team or its fans.
- C. Remember that school athletics are learning experiences for students and that mistakes are sometimes made. Praise student-athletes in their attempt to improve themselves as students, as athletes, and as people as you would praise a student working in the classroom.
- D. Remember that a ticket to a school athletic event is a privilege to observe the contest, not a license to verbally assault others.
- E. Show respect for the opposing players, coaches, cheerleaders, and spectators.
- F. Refrain from taunting or making any kind of derogatory remarks to opponents during the game.
- G. Respect the integrity and judgment of game officials.
- H. Recognize and show appreciation for an outstanding play by either team.
- I. Refrain from the use of any controlled substances during games.
- J. Use only those cheers that support and uplift the teams involved.
- K. Recognize and reinforce the efforts of school administrators in emphasizing the benefits of educational athletics and the role of good sportsmanship.
- L. Be a positive role model through your own actions.
- M. Unacceptable behavior by spectators may result in removal from the event, denial of admission to school athletic events for a season or school year, as well as referral to local authorities.

XXII. Emergency Evacuation Procedures

A. can be found by accessing the [Kingsley Emergency Action Plan](#)

XXIII. Event Cancellation Policy

When school is canceled due to inclement weather, scheduled high school athletic events and practices may occur if travel to the contest or practice is deemed to be safe or if special circumstances are present. All middle school (or other non-school affiliated groups) practices or contests will be canceled.

Inclement Weather: At the discretion of the Athletic Director and with the Superintendent's approval, a high school team may be allowed to host or travel to a contest (or practice) on a day when school is canceled due to snow or other inclement weather..

XXIV. General Information

I. Ticket Prices

- A. High School admission: \$5
- B. Middle School admission: \$5
- C. Season Passes are priced as follows: Annual Family Pass - \$150, Individual Adult Pass - \$80, Individual Student Pass - \$50

Family passes are available at all High School Events: 2 adults and three or more children for \$20.00. This is a sporting-event specific fee and not a pass. Members are to include immediate family members only.

Annual Senior Citizen Pass = Free Passes are available at the Athletic Office at the high school

- D. MHSAA Tournament admission varies by event. The MHSAA requires that tickets be bought digitally through GoFan (www.gofan.co). Admission prices vary depending on level. No annual school or conference passes are valid for any MHSAA sponsored event.

II. Northwest Conference Information

A. Mission Statement

The purpose of the Northwest Conference shall be to promote good sportsmanship, to assist in proper administration of the athletic programs, and to facilitate the scheduling of the athletic contests and other inter-school activities among the member schools.

B. Member School Information – Updated August, 2023

School	Nickname	Athletic Director	H.S. Principal
Benzie Central	Huskies	Eli Harris	Kyle Taylor
Buckley	Bears	Todd Frazee	Todd Kulawiak
Frankfort	Panthers	Joe Hollenbeck	Matt Stapleton
Glen Lake	Lakers	Rachel Stein	Jaime Smith
Leland	Comets	Ryan Knudsen	Kile Charnes
Kingsley	Stags	Mitch Miggenburg	Chris Rapes
Onekama	Portagers	Nate Bradford	Charlie Schwarz
Suttons Bay	Norsemen	Jamie Hawkins	Charlie Richards

Kingsley Area Schools Athletic Handbook Acknowledgment - now Signed in Final Forms