Athletic participation in the Taylor School District is a privilege. When a student chooses to participate in athletics, he/she voluntarily elects a course of self-control and self-discipline that is part of team membership. The school district provides facilities, coaching, transportation, training services and equipment. The school can accordingly, revoke or restrict the privilege of participation if a student fails to live up to expectations and standards as outlined below:

I. SOCIAL RULES

Participation in the sports scene and the street scene is impossible; you must make a choice! Any student/athlete involved with smoking tobacco, chewing tobacco or snuff, alcohol, drugs, larceny, physical assault, or vandalism will be suspended immediately from his/her squad. Depending on the time of year that an incident takes place, School Administration, District Athletic Director, Building Athletic Director, or a Coach may place a student athlete on suspension from their team. An athlete may appeal a suspension through the appeal process. A decision on reinstatement will be made by the Athletic Director, the Building Principal, and the coach after all aspects and circumstances regarding the case have been considered.

A. In Season Violations
   1. First Offense: a suspension of one (1) calendar playing date.
   2. Second Offense: a suspension of one (1) calendar year from the date of the violation.
   3. Third Offense: an additional year of suspension from the date of the violation.

B. Out of Season Violation
   1. First Offense: results in the athletic probation of one (1) year from date of violation.
   2. Second Offense: results in athletic suspension for one (1) calendar year.
   3. Third Offense: results in an additional year of athletic suspension.

II. ACADEMIC RULES

- Athletes must not have failed more than one class in the previous trimester. Athletes who fail to meet the trimester eligibility standard will be ineligible for participation for the next trimester.
- Athletes must be currently passing all classes with a 60% or higher class grade, to be calculated weekly. The trimester average grade will be determined by averaging all current trimester grades. An athlete who fails to meet the weekly standards will not participate in the following week’s athletic contest(s) (Mon. – Sun.). He/she will be expected to practice and will be subject to all team rules and regulations.
- Athletes must follow the Taylor School District Code of Conduct while within the school and at school functions. An athlete who fails to meet the Student Code of Conduct will not participate in the following week’s athletic contest(s) (Mon. – Sun.). He/she will be expected to practice and will be subject to all team rules and regulations.

III. TAYLOR SCHOOL BOARD ADOPTED ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

Effective beginning with the graduation class of 2003 and all graduating classes thereafter, student athletes must have a minimum GPA of a 2.0 in the marking period prior to the athletic sport (season) in which he/she selects to participate.

A. If a student does not meet the 2.0 GPA, the previous marking period requirement for participation in athletics, but has earned a cumulative GPA of a 2.0 or above, the student athlete will be allowed to participate in athletics, but will be required to attend the study table for the season in question. In addition, this student athlete will be required to hand carry a grade report card to be filled out by his/her teachers on the first day of the progress report week of any marking period. This student athlete is also required to attend the study table. If this hand carried report is below a 2.0 GPA, he/she is not in compliance with the athletic policy and must adhere to the Failure to Comply portion of this policy.

   If the student meets the 2.0 GPA previous marking period requirement for participation in athletics, but has not earned a cumulative GPA of 2.0 or above, the student athlete will be allowed to participate in athletics, but will be required to attend the study table for all seasons in which his/her cumulative GPA is below a 2.0 (cumulative GPA’s are evaluated at the end of each trimester). In addition, this student athlete will be required to hand carry a grade report card to be filled out by his/her teachers on the first day of the progress report week of any marking period. This student athlete is also required
to attend the study table. If this hand carried report is below a 2.0 GPA, he/she is not in compliance with the athletic policy and must adhere to the Failure to Comply portion of this policy.

B. Any student athlete who has earned a 1.67 up to a 1.99 GPA in either his/her cumulative average, or in the marking period prior to his/her sport, will be eligible to continue athletic participation providing the following conditions have been met:

1. The student will attend the study table during his entire athletic season or until his/her cumulative GPA is a 2.0 or above.

2. The student will HAND CARRY a weekly grade report for the athletic season. The student athlete must maintain a minimum of a 2.0 weekly GPA in order to continue to participate in that week’s game.

If the student athlete fails to maintain the minimum 2.0 GPA for two (2) consecutive weeks or three (3) weeks altogether during the season, the student athlete will be deemed ineligible and removed from the team.

C. The following marking periods will establish the athletic eligibility for sophomores, juniors and seniors.

Fall Sports: 3rd trimester marking period of the previous year’s grades achieved in public school district summer school programs may also be averaged with the 3rd trimester marking period grades from the previous year.

Winter Sports: 1st trimester of the current year.

2nd trimester of the current year (if the sport continues past the end of the second marking period).

Spring Sports: 3rd trimester of the current year.

D. The following will establish the athletic eligibility for freshmen.

Freshmen students who have not yet established a marking period GPA will be required to establish their eligibility to participate in fall sports. The first day of the progress report week of school, freshmen without an established GPA will hand carry a grade report to be filled out by their teachers. These grade reports will establish a temporary GPA and determine their eligibility to continue in their athletic season.

Freshmen who have not earned a 2.0 temporary GPA during the progress report week of school are not in compliance with the athletic policy and must adhere to the Failure to Comply portion of this policy (2.3 GPA and below will hand carry a card).

Freshmen student athletes who earn less than a 2.0 academic average for the 1st trimester can still remain eligible for winter sports until the end of the 1st trimester providing that:

1. The student attends the study table until the end of the 2nd trimester, at which time he/she will have an established cumulative GPA and will be governed by the full extent of the athletic eligibility requirements.

2. The student athlete has no more than one D and no E grades on his/her 1st trimester report card.

IV. FAILURE TO COMPLY (ACADEMICS):

A. Standard Procedures

1. First non-compliance per sport season: An athlete may practice but may not compete in or dress for any game or scrimmage for a minimum of one (1) week. At that time, he/she will hand carry a grade report to each of his/her instructors. The
student/athlete will remain ineligible unless a 2.0 GPA is achieved. If he/she has attained the required academic level, they may return to eligible status.

2. Second non-compliance per sport season: An athlete may not practice, dress or play with the team. He/she may attend practice only in a non-participating supervised study session.

3. Third non-compliance per sport season: Student is dismissed from the squad for the remainder of the season.

4. A mandatory study table will be required of all athletes below a 2.0 GPA beginning with the 2002-2003 school year. All athletes below a 2.0 GPA will be required to attend a study table session before going to practice.

B. Special Circumstances

Over the course of any given year a special set of unique circumstance could arise which might impact an athlete’s academic performance. Special or unique circumstances and hardships which are completely beyond a student’s ability to control and do result in a student being academically ineligible for athletics could be appealed in writing to the District Athletic Director. All appeals must document the specific hardship or special circumstance, which is beyond the student’s ability to control. If the said appeal meets the district’s criteria, a committee comprised of the District Athletic Director, Building Principal (or designee), and Assistant Superintendent will make the final determination as to the validity of the appeal. The committee may alter the district’s athletic policy requirements but not the minimum M.H.S.A.A. state eligibility requirements. The decision of this appeal committee is final.

V. TEAM SELECTION

Student athletes are selected to participate on a team based on a variety of criteria that may include, but is not limited to: tryouts, academics, student discipline, attendance, etc.. The coaches’ selections are FINAL with no appeal process.

VI. ATTENDANCE

Regular punctual attendance in all classes is required. To be eligible to attend and participate or to play in contest, an athlete must attend a minimum of HALF of their scheduled classes on the day of their contest. Any exceptions must be arranged with the coach and building administration in advance.

1. The usual penalty for a first time violation of this attendance policy is a suspension from the next contest or day of competition, of the squad.

2. The usual penalty for a second violation of this attendance policy is a suspension from the next three contests, or days of competition, of the squad.

3. The usual penalty for a third violation is a suspension for the remainder of the season.

VII. PHYSICAL EXAMINATION AND INSURANCE

No student will be eligible to participate on an athletic team without a proper physical examination and school health insurance, or evidence of other adequate coverage on file with the school.

VIII. EQUIPMENT

Athletes are financially responsible for all school equipment issued them (including losses due to theft.) To help prevent thefts, all athletes are requested to purchase a high quality hardened steel padlock, for use in locker rooms at practice and for use when visiting another school.

IX. THEFT

A student/athlete in unauthorized possession of an item of school equipment, (our own or another school’s) will be immediately suspended from athletics. An athlete may appeal the suspension through the appeal process.
X. **TRANSFERRING SPORTS**

Athletes may not transfer from one team to another after September 10th for Fall Sports, December 1st for Winter Sports, or April 1st for Spring Sports. This rule covers switching to a sport in the same season or to one preparing for the season ahead. In unusual circumstances, this rule may be set aside by mutual written consent of both head coaches involved.

XI. **OUTSIDE PARTICIPATION**

A student/athlete cannot play on any outside team in the same sport during the high school season.

XII. **TRANSPORTATION**

(This applies to interscholastic competition)

While traveling to and from an athletic contest, the athlete must travel in the transportation provided by the school. The only exceptions would be for prior arrangements made between the parents and the coach, in the case of injury, or in a coach’s opinion an acceptable parental request.

XIII. **PRACTICE ATTENDANCE**

Attendance at all practice is required. Student/athletes are frequently involved in multiple activities. The athlete should notify the coach and director of the other activity as soon as possible if a conflict of schedules occurs which requires the student to be in two places at the same time. A resolution of the conflict can then be reached between the coach and the director.

It is recommended by the athletic department that absences from practice totaling over 5 days, is subject to dismissal from the team at the discretion of the coach. Individual circumstances and unforeseen situations will be handled by the coach on a one to one basis. The coach will keep the student/athlete and parent informed on the amount of absences and the possibility of being removed from the team if the absences are not deemed appropriate, excusable, or justified to miss a scheduled team practice.

XIV. **SPORTSMANSHIP**

Athletes must demonstrate good sportsmanship at all time, including: accepting decisions of officials without question; refraining from abusive remarks directed toward the opponents or officials; exercising self-control and fair play during a contest, following both the letter and the spirit of the rules; condemning acts of unsportsmanlike conduct on the part of teammates or spectators. An athlete who commits an act of flagrant unsportsmanlike conduct will be suspended from further competition until all aspects and circumstances regarding the incident have been considered. Removal from the squad permanently is possible. An athlete may appeal the suspension through the proper appeal process.

XV. **ATHLETIC SAFETY**

The Taylor coaches, administrators, and medical support staff make every reasonable effort to insure the physical safety of our athletes; however, parents and students must recognize that an element of risk is inherent in interscholastic sports competition and that the possibility of injury cannot be entirely eliminate from the program.

XVI. **ATHLETIC EMERGENCY FORM**

All athletes must complete the Taylor School District Athletic Emergency Form before participating in any scheduled scrimmages or contests. These “Green Forms” are to be in the possession of coaches at all practices and games.

XVII. **APPEAL PROCESS**

A. If an athlete is suspended from the team for violations of the Taylor School District Athletic Policies the coach will:

   1. Notify the parents of such action.
   2. Notify the school administration and Athletic Director.
B. Should the student/athlete wish to appeal the disciplinary action taken, such an appeal must be made within five (5) school days to the Athletic Director.

C. Solving differences to accomplish positive goals is part of the learning process. When working with almost forty teams, resolution at the student-athlete/coach level is always desirable.

The following is the order that should be followed to resolve issues:
1. The student/athlete and the coach.
2. The parent(s), athlete, and coach.
3. The building principal/building athletic director.
4. The athletic director.
5. An appeals committee (1 assistant principal, 2 faculty members, 2 coaches).

The Athletic Director will convene the Appeals Committee within three (3) school days of receipt of a signed application for appeal. The coach’s decision will be in effect until the committee can convene.

The Athletic Director will notify the student and parents in writing of the committee’s decision.

XVIII. SUSPENSION POLICY

A student on suspension MAY NOT participate in any practice, scrimmage, or game until the suspension has been completed. A suspension begins the moment it is signed by an administrator, director or coach. The suspension ends the morning of the first day allowed back at school. This may cause a suspension to be in effect during a weekend period. (This includes school suspension and athletic suspensions). The student/athlete is not allowed to be on school grounds during his/her suspension, and is not allowed to attend the games, even as a spectator. Failure to comply with this policy will result in further disciplinary actions.

XIX. TAYLOR SCHOOLS FIGHTING RULE

Players who are ejected from an athletic event for fighting will be disqualified from the next regularly scheduled contest.