

# **WENDELL SCHOOL DISTRICT**

## **ATHLETIC HANDBOOK GRADES 6-12**

### **MISSION STATEMENT**

The mission of the Wendell School Districts athletic programs is to promote academic excellence, physical fitness, and good citizenship among all students, and to encourage all students to participate in and appreciate athletic competition.

### **VISION STATEMENT**

The goal of the Wendell School District's Athletic programs is to promote and support student development through programs that provide training and instruction that will assist participants to become successful students and citizens. To that end, all programs recognize the need to promote academic excellence, ethical behavior, and personal responsibility in all students involved, regardless of the level of play, or the ability of the athlete. An ideal program is one that strives for excellence while promoting P.R.I.D.E in school, team and self. It is a program that does not discriminate based on race, color, creed, or ethnic background. The Wendell School District schools are dedicated to the support and achievement of those goals.

### **ELIGIBILITY FOR PARTICIPATION**

All students, in order to take part in interscholastic athletics must have had an annual physical examination approving participation and a permit signed by the parents.

1. A free physical examination/interim questionnaire is provided in the corresponding year prior to the beginning of athletic practice for fall athletics. Students are encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity. Physical examinations must be recorded on the Idaho High School Activities Association's physical examination form. This form includes signed permission from the parent authorizing student participation in interscholastic athletics.
2. All students wishing to take part in interscholastic athletics must have taken out athletic insurance through the school or be able to show proof that he or she is covered by a family policy. Athletic insurance policy forms are provided to each athlete prior to the beginning of practice for each sport. Proof of insurance must be provided prior to the student beginning practice.
3. All students who plan on participating in a sport and their parents/guardians must attend a mandatory meeting prior to the beginning of each sporting season. The agenda of this meeting will include introduction of coaching staff and administration; explanation of the athletic code; and expectations of students, parents, coaches and administration. The criteria for achieving a Varsity letter in Varsity level sports will be outlined at that time.

4. All students taking part in interscholastic athletics are required to meet the academic eligibility criteria established by the Idaho High School Activities Association and the Wendell School District.
  - a. based on State Board of Education graduation requirements, and have received passing grades and earned credits in the required number of courses during the previous reporting period. Equivalency is determined by the following criteria:
    - i. 3 classes attempted must pass all three
    - ii. 4 classes attempted must pass at least three
    - iii. 5 classes attempted must pass at least four
    - iv. 6 classes attempted must pass at least five
    - v. 7 classes attempted must pass at least five
    - vi. 8 classes attempted must pass at least six
  - b. a. Students participating with a cumulative GPA below 2.0 must have an academic improvement plan in place as developed by the local school district. This plan must include monitoring, additional assistance, time provided for assistance, and an appropriate timeline. (The number of students with an academic improvement plan will be reported on the Eligibility Verification Report).
  - c. Being “on target to graduate by State Board of Education requirements” means: a student not having the necessary number of credits to graduate with their class through the normal school day program, must have a graduation plan that provides for receiving a diploma by the end of the summer following their senior year in order to be eligible for activity participation (The number of students with a graduation plan will be reported on the Eligibility Verification Report).
  - d. Schools may adopt stricter academic eligibility policy.
5. Students who do not meet the minimum criteria may appeal to the IHSAA for a waiver of eligibility due to extenuating circumstances. No student may participate in practice or competition prior to the waiver having been approved.
6. The Wendell School District requires that a student who wishes to take part in interscholastic athletics have and maintain a minimum GPA of 2.0 and have zero failing grades in any class.
7. In order to promote academic excellence, the GPA will be determined first by the record of grades from the most recent complete grading period.
8. In order to encourage students who might otherwise not be allowed to participate, and to provide incentive for improvement, students who are unable to meet the 2.0 GPA requirement in the above circumstances may be allowed to practice and compete under the following circumstances:
  - a. The student is to be placed on Academic probation. This probation requires that the student be passing all credit classes, and that the students have and maintain a 2.0 average in the classes in which the student is currently enrolled. The athletic director will inform the coaches at the beginning of the sport season of all athletes who are to be placed on academic probation.
  - b. The student who is placed on Academic probation will be checked at the beginning of each week by the athletic director. Academic progress will be

provided to his/her coach each week. Failure to abide by and meet the requirements of the academic plan will result in the student being ineligible to participate for the week following the report, and will remain ineligible each week thereafter until a satisfactory grade report is achieved.

- c. A student on Academic probation with unsatisfactory grade reports for three weeks in a sport season will be declared ineligible to participate in that sport for the remainder of the sport season. Three separate unsatisfactory grade reports, or three consecutive grade reports will result in the students being declared ineligible to participate.
  - d. A student on Academic probation with an unsatisfactory grade report must attend all required practices and perform all required training activities during the period of ineligibility. Students who have been declared ineligible for the remainder of the sport season will not be allowed to practice or participate following the declaration of ineligibility.
  - e. Students Academic Probation will be awarded based on effort level, attendance, and prior completion of academic probation. Academic Probation will be outlined using an Academic Plan which is signed by the student and their parents.
9. In order to be eligible for activities/events, the student must have attended a total of four class periods the day of the activity/event. Students are required to be in class from bell to bell in order for the class to count toward the four periods. Tardy Absences will count as an absence and that class will not count as one of your four class periods. Tardies or excused absences will not negate that class period from being counted. Excused absences are accomplished by turning in a medical, legal, or authorized note to the office. Parent excused does not count as an excused absence.
10. All students and parents/guardians of the students participating in interscholastic athletics must first have provided a signed statement agreeing to the Wendell School District code of Student Athletic Conduct. The Code of Student Athletic Conduct is attached.
11. All students participating in interscholastic athletics may be required to participate in random drug testing as established by the Wendell School District. Should random drug testing be established and required by the Wendell School District, athletes must agree to participate, and parents/guardians of student athletes must agree to allow their student participate in random drug testing.

## **CODE OF STUDENT ATHLETIC CONDUCT**

The Wendell School District Student Athletes are expected to set and conform to standards which encourage good citizenship and assure the establishment and continuation of a favorable school reputation. Participation in Athletics is a privilege, not a right. Student athletes are held to the highest standards of personal, moral and ethical behavior. Failure to meet those standards may result in the student being declared ineligible for competition, and being removed from the team. Any student participating in athletics in the Wendell School District will abide by the following Code of Student Athletic Conduct. The Code of Student Athletic Conduct will be

enforced at school, at school functions, and in the community at large as an example to the rest of the student body.

## **Drug, Alcohol, and Tobacco**

Section 1: The Wendell District will not condone the possession or use of alcohol, tobacco, or any other illegal substances by any student athlete. Should any member of the school administration, coaching staff, or faculty witness or have evidence of a student athlete making use of, being in possession of, or being under the influence of any of the previously mentioned substances, that student will be suspended from participation in athletics.

1. Any student under the influence of, or in possession of any of the above substances at school or engaged in a school sponsored activity falls under the Alcohol, Tobacco, and Drug Policy of Wendell School District. Suspension from school, and from school sponsored activities will be administered in accordance with the above policy.
2. A student is determined to be under the influence of, or in possession of any of the above substances during the sport season but outside of school time or school sponsored activities will be dealt with in the following manner.
  - a. A first offense will result in a two week suspension from play. The athlete will be required to attend all practice sessions, and may be required by the coach to accompany the team to competition and sit with the team on the bench. The athlete will not be allowed to dress in team uniform at competition. The athlete will be placed on probation for one calendar year from the date of the first day of suspension.
  - b. A second offense during the probationary period will result in dismissal from the team. The athlete will be ineligible to participate in athletics for the remainder of the school year.
  - c. An athlete who does not violate the terms of the probation will have their record cleared upon completion of the probation.

## **Sportsmanship**

Section 2: Any Student Athlete who is ejected from a game or competition for unsportsmanlike conduct falls under the IHSA policy governing ejection:

1. The athlete is ejected from the game and is ineligible to participate in the next regularly scheduled competition. Rule 4.3 ejections will require students to take required classes before being allowed to participate.
2. A second ejection during the season will result in that athlete being declared ineligible to participate for two regularly scheduled competitions.
3. A third ejection during the season will result in the athlete being removed from the team for the remainder of the season.

4. If penalties are imposed at the end of the sport season and no contest remains, the penalty is carried over to that particular sport until the next school year. In the case of a senior student, the penalty will continue to the next IHSAA sponsored sport.

## **School Discipline**

Section 3: Any Student Athlete charged with insubordination, or having violated the attendance policy violates the Code of Conduct and shall be subject to disciplinary action.

1. A student athlete who is suspended from school or placed in in-school suspension shall be ineligible to practice or play during the suspension. Further disciplinary action may be administered at the discretion of the coach. Coaches will notify the administration of any further disciplinary action taken at the time the action is administered.
2. Minor violations of the student code of conduct will be dealt with by the individual coach. Should there be sufficient violations to warrant a student athlete being assigned Friday School for disciplinary reasons, coaches will be informed of disciplinary referrals and will inform the administration of any additional consequences.

## **Citizenship**

Section 4: Participation in any activity that violates Federal, State, or local laws, other than minor traffic offenses, constitutes a violation of the Code of Student Athletic Conduct and will result in disciplinary action.

1. Any activity which would be a misdemeanor if committed by an adult will result in a two week suspension from competition. A second such offense will result in the student athlete being removed from the team for the remainder of the sport season. The possession of alcohol or tobacco is an exception to this rule and is dealt with under the policy dealing with Drugs, Alcohol, or Tobacco.
2. Any activity which would be a felony if committed by an adult will result in the student athlete being removed from the team for the remainder of the sport season.
3. Under certain circumstances, an activity which would be a felony if committed by an adult, and which constitutes a violent crime or a threat to the well-being of others may result in the student being declared ineligible for all athletics for a period of 365 days from the date of suspension.
4. The determination of year-long ineligibility in this case would be made by a Disciplinary Board.

## **General**

Section 5: The Code of Athletic Conduct will be in effect as soon as any student athlete signs up for and participates in the first practice for that sport, and will continue in effect throughout that

sport season. All activities by student athletes, whether in school, on a school sponsored activity, or outside of school hours and jurisdiction are subject to this code of conduct.

Section 6: The standard of proof for all allegations of wrongdoing will be that of reasonable belief. The coach or administration will be required to have a reasonable belief that the alleged action did take place. No conviction or court action is required, and the principle of reasonable doubt will not apply.

## **RIGHT OF APPEAL/DUE PROCESS**

Any student athlete who feels that the penalty imposed for violation of the Code of Student Athletic Conduct is unfair or unwarranted has the right of appeal. Any student athlete who feels that they have a grievance has the right to have that grievance heard. The procedure for complaints as established by the Wendell School District will be followed.

1. If an individual has a complaint with a school employee, he/she should seek resolution by discussing it with that employee.
2. Complaints against school district employees should be referred to the immediate supervisor of the employee against whom the complaint is lodged.
3. If the complaint is not resolved in step #2 above, then the complaint may be referred by either or both parties to the superintendent for a settlement. When a complaint against a school employee is not resolved by the immediate supervisor of the employee or by the superintendent, the complaint may be brought before the Board of Trustees under the following conditions:
  - a. The complaint shall be in writing and signed by the individual or individuals registering the complaint.
  - b. The individual employee involved shall be advised of the nature of the complaint and shall be given every opportunity for explanation, comment, and presentation of facts, as he/she understands them.
  - c. During the executive session to hear a complaint, the Board of Trustees shall observe the following:
    - i. All individuals concerned, may present facts, make explanations and clarify issues.
    - ii. The Board of Trustees will be the final authority on determining if any situation or information to be introduced into a public meeting.

## Wendell School District

**Student Name** \_\_\_\_\_ **School/Grade** \_\_\_\_\_

### Acknowledgement/Consent Form

I hereby consent to the above student participating in the interscholastic athletic program in the Wendell School District. I acknowledge the receipt of the Athletic Handbook and Athletic Code of Conduct. I understand the conditions set forth in the Handbook and Code of Conduct and agree to abide by those conditions.

Signature of Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

I understand that my participation in interscholastic athletics at The Wendell School District is entirely voluntary on my part. I have received a copy of the Athletic Handbook and Code of Conduct. I understand the conditions set forth in the Handbook and Code of Conduct and agree to abide by those conditions.

Signature of Student: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_