

WARREN TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC CODE OF CONDUCT-2005-06

PREAMBLE

Warren Township High School is a member of the Illinois High School Association. In order to establish the ideals of good sportsmanship and respect for rules and authority; in order to establish leadership, team pride, teamwork, and team discipline; and in order to provide conditions which promote health, safety, pride in team and individual, the following principles are established for all students affiliated with the interscholastic athletic program at Warren Township High School. Participation in student athletics/activities is considered an extension of, although separate, from the regular school day. Participation in the co-curricular program is a privilege, and as such carries substantially increased expectations beyond those applicable in the daily classroom situation. By electing to participate in an athletic or activity program, the student is choosing to extend their school day, as well as the expectations for appropriate behavior and conduct. The Athletic Code identifies expectations of acceptable behavior and outlines the general consequences, which will occur when the standards are not met. As in any set of expectations, it is not possible to specify every conceivable situation. Thus, the student-athlete may be disciplined for unacceptable conduct even if such conduct or disciplinary sanctions are not specified.

PRINCIPLE 1: PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS

The athlete shall comply with the following requirements before he/she is allowed to participate in practice or any interscholastic athletic contest.

- 1.1 The athlete shall obtain written parental permission and pay associated participation fees.
- 1.2 The athlete shall obtain a medical examination each year which shall be on record with the nurse's office.
- 1.3 The athlete shall maintain passing grades in at least 25 hours of class per week to compete (the equivalent of five classes).
- 1.4 The athlete shall pass a minimum of five academic classes the previous semester to be eligible for competition the following semester (summer school may be an option available for those students who did not pass five courses during the spring semester).
- 1.5 During their season a student-athlete who either has one or more F's or two or more D's will be required to attend a weekly study table. Failure to attend will result in the student athlete being declared ineligible until they complete the requirement.
- 1.6 The athlete shall have accidental insurance coverage to participate in the program. This may be a school sponsored accident insurance or non-school accident insurance plan.
- 1.7 The athlete shall obtain an Athletic Clearance Card from the Athletic Office prior to practicing or trying out for any team.
- 1.8 Student must be in class a minimal of five consecutive class periods to be eligible for practices and games (excluding no-count and administrative approved absences).

PRINCIPLE 2: PERSONAL GOALS

Those students who participate in the interscholastic athletic program commit themselves to the following personal goals: presentation of a positive image through grooming and dress, development of athletic skills, the growth of a competitive philosophy which includes sportsmanship, and an awareness of school and community pride while always acting in a FIRST CLASS manner. Each Head Coach shall communicate written rules for his/her team regarding attendance at practice sessions and expectations. Curfew of student-athletes is the same as set by the Municipalities of Lake County. All policies are to be consistent with IHSA standards. A student-athlete representing Warren Township High School shall exemplify the highest standards of integrity and sportsmanship, while in school and in the community. Head coaches will monitor and determine appropriate consequences to address personal goal concerns.

PRINCIPLE 3: TRAINING RULES

The athletic program is an integral part of the educational opportunity of all students. Insubordination, poor sportsmanship, anti-social behavior or violation of District policies or rules are detrimental to the team and to school spirit. Athletes shall comply with the following training rules **at all times throughout the calendar year whether or not the athletes are on school property or participating in school activities.**

- 3.1 Possession and/or consumption of alcoholic beverages of any kind throughout the year is prohibited.
- 3.2 Use and/or possession of tobacco in any form is prohibited throughout the year.
- 3.3 Use and/or possession of illegal drugs, controlled substances or drug paraphernalia is prohibited throughout the year unless prescribed by a physician..
- 3.4 Attendance where there is the illegal use of alcohol, drugs, or hazing occurs is prohibited throughout the year.
The student-athlete must leave the premises immediately.
NOTE: Hazing is defined as any intentional or reckless act or ritual for the purpose of initiation into, affiliation, or maintaining membership in any organization, club, or team, or any action or statement that harasses, threatens, humiliates, or intimidates another student.
- 3.5 Any incident in an activity that could be defined as a criminal act or any involvement in a criminal activity resulting in police intervention (ex. acts of violence, criminal damage, hazing, harassment, etc) is prohibited throughout the year.
- 3.6 Repeat violations of school policies will be a violation of the athletic code.
- 3.7 Any gross disobedience or misconduct resulting in a one day out of school suspension will be disciplined according to the coach's discretion based on the expectations set at the beginning of the season.
- 3.8 Any other violation of the school code of conduct that is determined to be gross disobedience or misconduct resulting in a minimum of three (3) days out of school suspension will be a violation of the athletic code.
- 3.9 The student-athlete shall comply with any additional rules and regulations established by the school

administration and the coach(s) of the interscholastic sport(s) he/she wishes to participate.

- 3.10 Inappropriate use of telecommunication devices capable of taking/or transmitting digital photographs as specifically referenced/described in the student-parent handbook is prohibited.

PRINCIPLE 4: NON-COMPLIANCE

If an athlete fails to abide by the above rules, he/she may be suspended from athletics and forfeit the privilege of participation as a team member in any sport. At the time of a suspension, the student-athletes and parent(s) will be notified as to the reason for the suspension, the length of suspension, the requirements and expectations for improvement. Student-athletes are expected to conform to the Athletic Code throughout the year. Violations are cumulative over the athlete's high school career.

The following levels of discipline are in effect. Further, students will be subject to the disciplinary rules of the District, including Board policies and procedures and the provisions in the Student Handbook.

- 4.1 Violations relating to drugs, alcohol, tobacco, hazing, and inappropriate use of telecommunication devices -see 3.10 (including being present where the illegal use of alcohol or drugs occurs). After a confirmation of a first offense, the student-athlete shall lose eligibility for 30% of the current or next season in which they participate in. Participation in all practices and completion of the season is required to be eligible for the next season. After confirmation of a second offense relating to drugs or alcohol, the student-athlete will be suspended from athletic participation for a period of one calendar year. If there is a confirmation of a third offense relating to drugs or alcohol, the student-athlete will be suspended for the remainder of his/her high school career.
- 4.2 After a confirmation of a first offense involving drugs or alcohol the student-athlete and parent/guardian must complete an assessment from an approved agency/hospital and successfully complete the recommendations from the said assessment (at student/parent expense). Proof of the completed assessment and recommendations must be submitted to the Director of Athletics. Failure to complete the assessment and recommendations will result in the loss of eligibility until the assessment and recommendations have been completed.
- 4.3 Violations of training rules will result in disciplinary action ranging from percentage of season to suspension for the remainder of their high school career. Any combination of training rule violations will result in the student-athlete advancing on the discipline scale.
- 4.4 Official self-reporting is the act in which a student, accompanied by a parent or guardian, voluntarily turns themselves in to the athletic director for a violation of the athletic/school codes of conduct, school rules or school policies. Self-reporting must occur prior to any school personnel or police department/officer being aware of the incident. This initiative along with any act of self-reporting **may** be taken into consideration by the athletic director or school administration. Self-reporting is limited to the student's first violation only of misconduct during their enrollment at school.

PRINCIPLE 5: GENERAL

- 5.1 If the percentage of the sport season which remains after a violation of training rules is less than the percentage of ineligibility, then the consequence will extend into the next sport season in which the athlete participates. Participation in all practices and competitions are required.
- 5.2 Student-Athletes are required to report possible code violations to their head coach or the athletic director.
- 5.3 The District reserves the right to impose discipline in addition to that specified by the policy for serious misconduct.
- 5.4 Realizing that some students are unfamiliar with certain sports, they may desire to drop from that activity after trying the sport. There is no problem with dropping a sport prior to the first contest, however, if he/she drops a sport after the first contest, the athlete will need the approval of the Athletic Director before trying out for another sport that same season.

PRINCIPLE 6: DUE PROCESS

- 6.1 A student-athlete and his or her parents will be advised by the Athletic Director of the charges against him/her.
- 6.2 The student-athlete and his or her parents will be given the opportunity to respond to the charge in a meeting scheduled with the Athletic Director
- 6.3 The student-athlete and his or her parents will be advised and notified in writing by the Athletic Director of any disciplinary action taken as a result of the charges.
- 6.4 The student-athlete and his or her parents will be provided an opportunity to appeal the disciplinary action to the Athletic Review Board (two building administrators and one varsity head coach) **within three school days.**

PARENT PERMISSION SLIP

- I. Your signature on the Permission Form indicates that you have read and understand the athletic code, gives consent for your student to participate in the Warren Township High School interscholastic program, and to travel with the school representative on necessary school trips.
- II. Your signature indicates that you agree to be responsible for the safe return of all equipment issued by the school.
- III. **Your signature indicates that you realize there is a risk of being injured that is inherent in all sports and that some of the injuries could be severe, including risk of fractures, brain injuries, paralysis or even death. By signing below, the student and his/her parent(s) or guardian(s) assume the liability and risk of the student's participation in the sport, and further agree to hold harmless the Board of Education of Warren Township High School District No. 121, its members, employees and volunteers, from the responsibility or liability for any and all personal injuries, damages or expenses which may be incurred as a result of participation in the sport. The undersigned gives permission to the school employees, volunteers or a physician and/or medical**

attendants to administer emergency treatment.