

WATAUGA HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT ATHLETE CODES OF CONDUCT

A firm and fair policy of enforcement is necessary to uphold the regulations and standards of the athletic department and school. The community, school administrators, and the coaching staff feel strongly that high standards of conduct and citizenship are essential in maintaining a sound program. The welfare of the student is our major consideration and transcends any other consideration. All students shall abide by a code of ethics that will earn them honor and respect that participation and competition in the interscholastic activity program affords. Any conduct that results in dishonor to the athlete, the team, the school, or the community will not be tolerated.

Ethics Rule

Acts of unacceptable conduct, such as, but not limited to, disruption of school, theft, vandalism, disrespect, immorality, or violations of the law tarnish the reputation of everyone associated with the program and will not be tolerated. Due to the serious nature of violations of the Ethics Rule, the appropriate coach, the athletic director, and the principal shall meet and determine the penalty according to the degree of the infraction. This includes inappropriate and/or illegal activities demonstrated and/or posted on social networking websites or captured on video or film.

Training Rules and Regulations

We cannot compromise participation in interscholastic activities with substance abuse. The student who uses tobacco, alcohol, illegal drugs, or any type of mood altering substance found in legal over the counter products jeopardizes team morale, team reputation and team success and does physical harm to himself/herself. Students have to decide for themselves whether or not they want to participate in our interscholastic program. If you wish to participate, you must make a commitment. A big part of this commitment is following a simple set of training rules that the school system believes to be fair.

1) Use of Tobacco - Research emphasizes that use of tobacco is physically harmful to young adults. The harm done is not only a health problem. The community follows the progress of young competitors, and any deviation from accepted training rules marks one as unwilling to pay the price of competition and commitment. If one squad member breaks the rule, the whole team's reputation is damaged.

This rule means no use of tobacco all year, in or out of season.

2) Use of Alcoholic Beverages—There is no way to justify competitors' use of alcoholic beverages, even though social pressure may be hard to resist. ***This rule means no use of alcoholic beverages all year, in or out of season.***

3) Use of Illegal Drugs or Mood Altering Substances—simply stated, drug abuse will not be tolerated. The use or misuse of drugs or chemicals is a social problem.

Students with a strong sense of purpose have no need for mood modifiers. ***The rule for drugs/chemical abuse is in effect all year.***

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Penalties for Violation of Training Rules

1) Tobacco/Drugs/Alcohol Violations:

- 1st offense: If in or out of season, a “minimum” forfeiture of playing in 20% of the scheduled contests or 10% of the contests if the student voluntarily participates in a tobacco/alcohol/drug prevention program. Further discipline is the discretion of the head coach.
- 2nd offense: In or out of season, a “minimum” forfeiture of one calendar year of participation in all interscholastic activities.
- 3rd offense: In or out of season, exclusion from all interscholastic activities for the remainder of the student’s high school career.

3) DUI/DWI conviction:

- 1st offense: In or out of season, forfeit one calendar year of participation in all interscholastic activities.
- 2nd offense: In or out of season, exclusion from all interscholastic activities for the remainder of the student’s high school career.

4) If less than 20% (or 10% if participating in a tobacco/alcohol/drug prevention program) of the contests remain, there will be a carryover into the next activity including the following year, if necessary, so that the total exclusion is served.

5) During the exclusion period, the student will not participate in team activities unless approved by the coach and/or athletic director.

6) The student found in violation for a third offense has the right to an appeal after one calendar year from the determination of guilt. The appeal for reinstatement is contingent upon substantial proof of rehabilitation and will be made to the principal, athletic director, and the head coach.

7) A student arrested, under investigation, on probation, etc., will be suspended from competition until cleared by the principal (excluding minor violations, such as traffic violations).

Individual Coaches’ Rules

Coaches may establish rules and regulations with the approval of the athletic director and principal for their respective activities. These rules, as pertaining to a particular activity, must be given by the coach in writing to all team members and explained fully at the start of the season. Penalties for violation of team rules will be in writing and shall be administered by the coach. Copies of all additional team rules by coaches are on file in the athletic office.

BASIC INTERSCHOLASTIC PARTICIPATION POLICIES

Participation

A student may participate in only one sport per season unless two coaches/sponsors agree to the student’s competing in both activities and priorities are set to settle conflicts before the season.

Dropping or Transferring Sports

1) Quitting is an intolerable habit. A quitter may lose the privilege of participating in the interscholastic program. On occasion, however, a student may find it necessary to drop a sport for a good reason. If this is the case, the following procedure must be followed:

- Consult with immediate coach and then the head coach
- The coach will report the situation to the athletic director
- Check in all equipment issued to you

2) If the student wishes to change activities during a season, he/she shall consult with both coaches concerned and the athletic director. If both coaches fail to agree, the student cannot begin a new sport until he/she completes the regular season of the sport in which he/she is currently involved. This procedure assures a smooth transfer, which is in the best interest of all involved.

Equipment

School equipment issued to the student/athlete is the student's responsibility. Loss of any equipment is the athlete's financial obligation, and failure to meet that obligation can result in the denial of participation in our program.

Missing Practice

A student should always consult his/her coach before missing practice. Missing practice or a game without good reason will be dealt with at the discretion of the coach.

College Recruitment Policy

In the event that a college recruiter should contact a student athlete personally, he/she has an obligation to work through his/her coach and the athletic department. Inform your coach of the contact as soon as possible. College recruitment information is available in the athletic office or counseling office.

Conflicts in Extracurricular Activities

An individual student who attempts to participate in several extracurricular activities will be in a position of a conflict of obligations.

1) The athletic department recognizes that each student should have the opportunity for a broad range of experiences in the area of extracurricular activities and will attempt to schedule events in a manner that minimize conflicts.

2) Students have a responsibility to do everything they can to avoid conflicts. This would include being cautious about belonging to too many activities where conflicts happen. It also means notifying the faculty sponsors/coaches involved immediately when a conflict does arise.

3) When a conflict does arise, the sponsors/coaches will work out a solution so the student does not feel caught in the middle. If a solution cannot be found, the principal will make the decision based on the following:

- The relative importance of each event
- The importance of each event to the student
- The relative contribution the student can make
- How long each event has been scheduled
- Talk with parents

Once the decision has been made and the student has followed that decision, he/she will not be penalized in any way by either sponsor/coach. If it becomes obvious that a student cannot fulfill the obligations of a school activity, he/she should withdraw from that activity.

Attendance

Students who miss over half of the school day due to illness will not be able to play in a contest or practice on that date. Students missing school for reasons other than illness must have an excused absence in order to participate. Final authority for infractions of this rule will rest with the principal and athletic director. Students absent from school on the day prior to a nonschool day will be eligible to participate the day after the absence.

Full day In-School and Out-of-School Suspension

Students will not be allowed to participate until they have served their suspension. There should be no adjustments made in the assignment of suspension days to allow a student to participate in any activities. During the season, the student must forfeit a minimum of one game after an out of school suspension. If a student athlete is assigned partial day ISS, the coach, athletic director, and principal will determine punishment.

Release from Class

It is the responsibility of the student to see his/her teacher(s) the day before he/she is to be released to participate in an interscholastic activity. All work shall be made up at the convenience of the teacher.

Squad Selection

The philosophy of athletics in the high school setting is to see as many students as possible participate in the interscholastic program while in school. Coaches are encouraged to keep as many students as they can without compromising the integrity of their program. Time, space, facilities, equipment, and other factors will place limitations on the most effective squad size for any particular activity. Choosing the members of athletic squads is the responsibility of the coaches.

Reporting of Injury

All injuries that occur while participating in athletics should be reported to the trainer/coach. If the injury requires medical attention by a doctor or treatment center, it will be necessary to have an injury report form completed. Once a physician treats a student, the athlete must obtain written permission from the doctor to return to the activity. The head athletic trainer also reserves the right to hold a student-athlete out of practice or athletic contests.

WATAUGA HIGH SCHOOL COACHES CODE OF CONDUCT

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR COACHES: Coaching Responsibilities

All coaches are to follow the code of conduct established by the NCHSAA and the Watauga County Public Schools. This code of conduct is as follows:

1. The coach has tremendous influence on the student athletes and should never place winning above the value of instilling the highest ideals of character.
2. The coach shall strive to set an example of the highest ethical and moral conduct to the student athletes, officials, athletic director, school administrators, NCHSAA, the media, and the public.
3. The coach will discipline athletes who display unacceptable behavior in accordance with athletic policy and individual team rules.
4. The coach will know the game rules and regulations and will be responsible for their interpretation to the team members. Coaches should instruct all of their athletes prior to the beginning of play and during the coaching experience of such rules and regulations. Additionally, the coach will not try to seek an advantage by circumvention of the spirit or letter of the rules.
5. The coach will promote and work in harmony with the entire interscholastic program of the school.
6. The coach will respect and support contest officials, avoiding conduct which will incite players or spectators against the officials.
7. The coach will actively promote good sportsmanship to spectators by working closely with administrators, cheerleaders, pep club sponsors, and booster club.
8. The coach will meet and exchange greetings with the opposing coach before and after the contest to set and maintain a positive tone through the event.
9. The coach shall take an active role in the prevention of alcohol, tobacco, and other drug use while stressing the importance of a healthy lifestyle.
10. Watauga County Schools believe that coaches should be role models for all our student athletes and should be held to a high standard of conduct.
11. All coaches are to maintain order and discipline on each sports team and shall enforce the Student Athlete Code of Conduct and school rules and regulations at all times they are supervising students.
12. Coaches are responsible for all athletes under their supervision at all times. Coaches will maintain a high level of discipline and will supervise their athletes before, during, and after each athletic contest and/ or practice. During off season workouts, student athletes must also be supervised at all times. Former athletes can participate in activities if supervised by a coach and with the athletic director's permission. A coach or designee should not leave campus until all student athletes under their supervision have left campus.
13. Coaches should have a genuine desire to improve themselves and their programs.
14. Coaches who teach in our schools will accept that they are classroom teachers and will never forget that teaching is their first responsibility.

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15. The repeated use of profane, foul, threatening and/or abusive language by a coach (employed or volunteer) is considered unacceptable behavior and will not be tolerated. Repeated use of such language by a coach *directed toward a student athlete* will result in disciplinary action by the principal and athletic director.
16. A coach who has used or possessed tobacco products during a school function will be penalized in accordance with athletic policy.
 - First offense - suspension for one game from the team or teams he/she is coaching.
 - Second offense – suspension from coaching for one full year. Coach must meet with athletic director prior to return.
 - Third offense – permanent dismissal from coaching.
17. Board policy specifically addresses the use of drugs/alcohol by any employee of the Watauga County Public Schools. Coaches found to have violated this policy will be dismissed from coaching and will be subject to disciplinary action for violating such policy. Disciplinary procedures and actions by the Board of Education will not exempt said employee or volunteer from possible criminal prosecution.
18. Coaches, both paid and volunteer, must follow all rules and regulations, both local and state, which apply to any teacher while supervising students or athletic teams.
19. Coaches, both paid and volunteer, who participate in illegal activities or questionable actions, are subject to disciplinary action and/or dismissal. This includes activities performed in public or posted on social networking websites or captured on video or film.
20. Coaches should be mindful of social networking websites. Extreme caution should be taken in what is posted and/or shared on these websites and with whom. Illegal activities or questionable actions shared on these websites with students or with the public are subject to disciplinary action and/or dismissal.
21. Coaches are a representative of the high school, the athletic department, and their individual sport 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year. While coaches are of legal drinking age, they should refrain from drinking in public while wearing Watauga High School clothing, apparel, or paraphernalia. Those doing so in public are subject to disciplinary action and/or dismissal.