

APPENDIX C: CODE OF CONDUCT FOR STUDENT ATHLETES

1. Introduction

Athletics are an important component of the District's educational program. The Code of Conduct for Student Athletes applies to student athletes from their first interscholastic participation through graduation. These rules are in effect from July 1 through June 30 of each school year, and apply to all student athletes in grades seven through twelve.

Participation in athletics is a privilege, not a right. Because of this, student athletes are held to a higher standard. Students' participation in the District's athletic program is conditioned upon their adherence to the provisions of this Code of Conduct for Student Athletes.

2. General Requirements

- Student athletes and parents must sign a contract signifying that the athletes and their parents understand and accept all Rules, Code/Standards and expectations of the Athletic Code of Conduct.
- Student athletes must be enrolled in three full-time courses and actively participate in physical education classes, as required by the New York State Public High School Athletic Association.
- Student athletes must have received a current physical examination and must have returned all of the appropriate forms.
- Student athletes must attend all practices and games throughout the sport season, unless absence is approved by the coach. Interscholastic sport teams in-season must have priority over club or recreational type programs.
- Student athletes must meet all eligibility standards and abide by the rules set forth by the Baldwinsville Central School District, the Central New York Counties League, Section III, and the New York State Public High School Athletic Association.

***A season is defined as: the first Section 3 approved date of practice to the conclusion of the NYSPHSAA State Championship for that sport of participation**

3. Academic Eligibility Standards

Students are expected to remain in good academic standing during the periods of their participation in athletics. Failure in two courses will result in a probationary status for two weeks, during which time the student must demonstrate the necessary improvement. If the deficiency persists in three or more courses, the student will be ineligible to participate in athletics. Please note: dropping a course during the period of ineligibility will not result in a change to eligible status. The ineligibility remains in place until the subsequent report card date.

Varsity/Junior Varsity and Freshman Interscholastic Athletic Teams

1. If a student is failing one subject in any five-week marking period, the student may continue to participate. Students will be allowed to participate with one failing grade, but must continue their efforts to bring the grade up to passing.
2. If a student is failing two subjects in any five week marking period, the student has two weeks to bring at least one of the subjects up to a passing grade and the student may continue to participate. The student will contract with the teacher, coach, parent and administration to bring his/her grades up to passing. If, after the two weeks, the student is failing two subjects, he/she will be suspended from the activity until the next five or ten week marking period, whichever comes first. At that point the ineligibility continues until at least one grade is brought up to passing. Whenever a student is participating with one failing grade, the conditions set forth in item one above will be in effect.
3. If a student is failing three or more subjects, the student will be declared ineligible to participate in any activity until the next five or ten week marking period, whichever comes first. At that point, the ineligibility continues until the student is passing all subjects (except that he/she may participate with one failing subject under the conditions set forth in item one above).

7th, 8th and 9th Modified Interscholastic Athletic Teams

Students failing one or more core academic class(es) at the conclusion of a marking period will be placed on academic probation. Academic probation requires the student to secure an Athletic Eligibility Report form, have their teachers complete the form, and present the information to his/her coach or advisor. Students will receive instructions from their coach on how to complete the form and how to present it to their teachers for completion.

After receiving the form, students have one week to raise grades in their core academic subject areas to passing status. If at the end of the first week grades have not been brought up to passing, students will NOT be allowed to participate in subsequent contests/performances until the submission of another form/report at the end of the second week, but WILL be allowed to practice/rehearse.

Students who continue on probation after 2 weeks from the date the initial form is submitted to teachers will NOT be allowed to participate in any other subsequent matches/performances for the remainder of the season, but will be allowed to practice/rehearse until the conclusion of the season.

Communication of Eligibility Status

Ineligibility will become effective on the Monday immediately after the date grades are published in School Tool. When a student is placed on the ineligible list, administration forwards the contract to the appropriate coach/advisor who in turn discreetly gives it directly to the student athlete. It is the student athlete's responsibility to complete the contract within the deadline.

4. Behavioral Eligibility Standards

Student athletes are expected to abide by the applicable codes of conduct, to demonstrate respect for the rights of others, and to behave in a manner that reflects positively on themselves, their school, and their community. Specifically, students are expected to:

- a. refrain from the use, possession, sale or distribution of alcohol, drugs, and tobacco/non-tobacco and related novelty products, on or off campus;
- b. demonstrate self-control and respect for others during participation in all athletic activities;
- c. respect the integrity and judgment of faculty, staff, and officials involved in the athletic activities;
- d. be familiar with, understand, and abide by the rules and regulations of the athletic activity or event;
- e. abide by any further conditions imposed by the advisors, moderators or coaches of the athletic activity during the periods of participation athletic activities.

Students who fail to meet these behavioral expectations may be suspended from their participation in athletics, in addition to any other penalty imposed by the school or by the district.

5. School Attendance

Student athletes must be in attendance for the entire school day in order to be eligible to participate in practices or athletic contests on that day. Student athletes who are truant or who are serving in-school suspension or out-of-school suspension will not be eligible to participate in practices or athletic contests on that day. The athletic director, principal, or superintendent of schools may make exceptions for the following reasons:

- death or serious illness in the family;
- court appearance;
- college visitation;
- medical appointment verified by a note from the medical office personnel;
- religious observance;
- extraordinary circumstances.

6. Level 1 Violations

It is a violation of the Code of Conduct for Student Athletes to:

- a. use, possess, sell or distribute tobacco/non-tobacco, related novelty products and/or accessories;
- b. use, possess, sell, distribute or be under the influence of alcoholic beverages, illegal drugs or performance enhancing substances (e.g., caffeine pills, steroids), whether legal or illegal, look-alike drugs, or drug paraphernalia on school grounds, off school grounds, whether during sport season or out of sport season;

- c. host or remain present at events, activities or locations where minors are consuming or being served alcohol, illegal drugs or other performance-enhancing substances;
- d. use, possess, or distribute firearms, weapons or explosive devices on school grounds or at school events;
- e. engage in illegal gambling activities;
- f. engage in harassing behaviors that include: verbal threats, threatening, hazing activities, bullying, cyber bullying, vandalism, intimidation, retaliation or abuse, conduct or speech based on a persons' actual or perceived race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group religion/religious practices, disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender, or perceived gender, protected federal rights, or other personal misconduct, including, but not limited to, conduct that involves police or court action.
- g. Will not engage in indecent exposure at any time or at any place.

For purposes of this section, "possess" shall mean to have in one's possession or control, *e.g.*, on one's person or in one's physical control or keeping, or to have in one's presence or close proximity.

7. Level 1 Violations – Consequences

Following the investigation of the facts by the coach, Athletic Director or building administrator, the following actions will be taken for violation of the Code of Conduct for Student Athletes by the Athletic Director:

- parental notification;
- suspension from participation in District athletic programs until the student has been through the reinstatement process.

PROCESS:

The student athlete is immediately suspended from the team or athletic club for the remainder of that sport season. This includes all regular season games and post-season play. The suspension continues for future interscholastic sports participation while the student's appeal or request for reinstatement is pending.

The student athlete may seek reinstatement for eligibility for the season of desired participation. If approved, participation would commence following completion of the in-season suspension and completion of any additional consequences imposed. The reinstatement process requires that a student submit a written request for a meeting with the Athletic Reinstatement Committee. This meeting will be held within two weeks from receipt of the student's written request. The Athletic Reinstatement committee will make a recommendation regarding reinstatement to the Athletic Director. The Athletic Director will make a determination to deny or grant reinstatement. Within five school days, the athletic director shall notify the student in writing of the decision of the Athletic Reinstatement Committee. The student athlete and his/her parent/guardian(s) have the right to appeal the decision within five (5) days to the Superintendent of Schools or his/her designee.

Once the Athletic Reinstatement Committee or the Athletic Director has determined that the student will be reinstated, then, as a condition of such reinstatement, one or more of the following additional consequences will be applied based on seriousness of the violation:

- A minimum of three hours of substance abuse awareness counseling or education may be required for drug- and alcohol-related infractions.
- If the suspension is for less than 25% of the regular-season contests in the present sport season, the student will have the difference applied to the next sport season of participation to meet or, if applicable, exceed 25% minimum number of contests. The suspension is applied the next sport season of participation for which student previously participated on during the past calendar year and also applied to any sport which the student did not participate on during the last calendar year, which takes place prior to the sport of previous participation.

Example: A soccer/lacrosse player is suspended from the fall season and for 20% of the next season of participation. Reviewing the previous year, this individual would sit out 20% of the upcoming spring season. If he elects to participate in the winter season, the student will sit out 20% of both seasons (spring and winter).

- The minimum suspension after student reinstatement process is 25% and could range up to one calendar year.
- If a modified student athlete commits a level 1 violation during their modified career (modified 7th/8th, modified 8th/9th or modified 9th) the student athlete will follow the process for reinstatement for consideration to return to modified athletics.
- If a modified student athlete commits two level 1 violations during their modified career (modified 7th/8th, modified 8th/9th and modified 9th) they will be deemed ineligible to participate in modified athletics.
- Any student deemed ineligible in modified athletics is allowed to participate in high school athletics (Varsity, Junior Varsity & Freshman). If this student athlete commits another level 1 violation at the High School Level they will immediately enter into the athletic reinstatement process.

Post-season play is not calculated into the percentages.

- If all terms of the suspension are completed during the regular season, the student athlete would be eligible to participate in the post-season.
- If the student athlete has not completed all terms of the suspension, during the regular season, the student athlete will serve the terms of the suspension into the post-season. At the time all terms of the suspension are completed, the student athlete would be eligible to participate in the remainder of the post season at the direction of the Athletic Director.
- Any post-season awards, recognition or attendance at banquets will be determined by the coach and the athletic director.

8. Level 2 Violations

1. Student athletes will adhere to individual team rules, which are established in writing by coaches and on file in the athletic office, and which shall not be inconsistent with the Code of Conduct.
2. Student athletes will return school equipment and uniforms at the end-of-season, or they will forfeit post-season awards and will not be eligible to participate in any other sport until the matter has been resolved.
3. Student athletes who quit or are unable to finish the season or post season play because of disciplinary action, academic ineligibility, or other reasons, will forfeit all awards, including team awards, certificates, letters, pin, etc.
4. Student athletes will dress appropriately and participate in scheduled physical education classes.
5. Student athletes will not engage in activities or actions which bring discredit to the school program or team as determined by the coach, athletic director or principal.
6. Student athletes will be responsible for theft or damage of uniforms, money or school property related to the athletic program.
7. Athletes will not be absent from practices or games to attend other sports, clubs or recreational type activities. In-season interscholastic program will take priority over these activities.

9. Level 2 – Consequences

Decisions regarding the enforcement of the Level 2 consequences for first and second offenses are made by the individual coach(es), who submit a written report to the athletic director regarding the violation and the consequences imposed as a result of the violation. All third offenses will be reviewed by the coach and athletic director to determine the consequences.

1st Offense: A first offense penalty may range from an official warning to exclusion from athletics for up to 25% of scheduled contests. Post-season awards will be determined by the coach and athletic director.

2nd Offense: A second offense penalty may range from exclusion from athletics for up to 25% of the season, which could be carried over to the next sport season of participation. Post-season awards will be determined by the coach and athletic director.

3rd Offense: A third offense penalty will result in suspension for up to one calendar year, and forfeiture of awards and post-season recognition.

During the period of suspension, the student athlete is ineligible to participate in any contests or team activities for the duration of the suspension. The coach, athletic director and principal will determine whether the suspended student athlete will participate in practices and/or attend

contests. In no case will the suspended student athlete dress in a school uniform, sweats or team clothing during the suspension period.

10. Parent & Guardian Responsibility

Parents and guardians are essential partners in maintaining a safe, educational and enjoyable program of athletics for students. When present at the District's athletic events, including practices, they are expected to model the kind of citizenship and sportsmanship that is expected and required of students. The following are among the District's expectations for the parents of student athletes:

1. Parents/Guardians are knowledgeable about the Rules and Conduct/Standards to which their children have committed as student athletes.
2. Parents/Guardians review the athletic code of conduct with their student athlete(s) and to know the consequences for violations of those Rules and Conduct/Standards and assist in their enforcement.
3. Parents/Guardians are supportive and encourage their children to demonstrate appropriate behavior while representing the District as student athletes.
4. Parents/Guardians hold their children accountable for their actions and guide them in making proper decisions regarding drugs, alcohol and tobacco.
5. Parents/Guardians are knowledgeable about individual team rules and expectations and address concerns regarding their children's program to the coach.
6. Parents/Guardians are knowledgeable spectators, knowing the rules of the game and serving as role models for sportsmanship. They cheer our successes, and show understanding in the wake of defeat. They encourage the efforts of their children's teams, and they respect the efforts of the opposing teams.
7. Parents/Guardians adhere to state laws that prohibit smoking (includes electronic cigarettes) on school grounds or in school buildings.
8. Parents/Guardians should encourage their student athlete(s) to be proactive if they have a concern with their team and to follow the protocol. It is important for our student athletes to advocate for himself or herself if they have a concern.
9. Parents/Guardians demonstrate a respect for the privacy of all student athletes, and an understanding of the coaches' responsibilities to all student athletes, by refraining from speaking with coaches about such issues as playing time, athletic ability, and team strategy, insofar as those subjects relate to student athletes other than their own child.

11. Protocol for Athletic Concerns

If a concern/situation presents itself during the season, below is the protocol to address the concern/situation. As a reminder, there is a 24-hour rule for speaking with coaches after a meet/match/game.

As a reminder, parents/guardians and student athletes will refrain from speaking with coaches about such issues as playing time, athletic ability, and team strategy insofar as they relate to student athletes other than their own child.

- Student athlete meets with coach – if not resolved;
- Student athlete & parent/guardian meets with coach – if not resolved;
- Student athlete, parent/guardian and coach meets with the Athletic Director.

12. BCSD Spectator Sportsmanship Policy

The Baldwinsville Central School District (BCSD) believes in the educational value of Interscholastic Athletics, and therefore emphasizes the importance of good sportsmanship and equitable competition. Student-athletes are expected to follow the rules and play to the best of their abilities while demonstrating good sportsmanship, and spectators are expected to encourage and to cheer positively for their teams. At times, when people get emotionally caught up in the competition, they cross the line between encouraging and discouraging, positive and negative. Therefore, the BCSD has implemented rules to apply to spectator behavior, similar to those that already exist for players and coaches.

Behavior that degrades, humiliates, intimidates or threatens a player, coach, referee, school official or another parent or fan before, during or after a contest is subject to action by school personnel. Anyone who engages in misconduct as described above, or who is removed from an interscholastic contest at the request of a game official or school personnel, will be subject to the following:

- 1st Offense: Offender(s) removed immediately from the contest and prohibited from attending the NEXT contest of that sport. (Whether the contest is home or away). If it is the last contest of the season, the penalty carries over to the next season.
- 2nd Offense: Offender(s) prohibited from attending ANY contests in that sport for the remainder of the season in question (fall, winter, spring). If it is the last contest of the season, the penalty carries over to the next season.
- 3rd Offense: Offender(s) prohibited from attending ANY HOME OR AWAY school district athletic events for one full calendar year, commencing from the date of the 3rd offense.

13. Acknowledgement of the Risk of Injury

Parents and guardians acknowledge that participation in athletic programs exposes participants to the risk of injury, including, but not limited to, the risk of sprains, fractures and ligament and/or cartilage damage which could result in a temporary or permanent, partial or complete impairment in the use of limbs, brain damage, paralysis or even death. Having been so cautioned and warned, participation in the District's athletic program by the student athlete indicates the parent's full knowledge and understanding of the risk of injury.