CODE OF CONDUCT
FOR
WEST SHORE SCHOOL DISTRICT STUDENTS
PARTICIPATING IN THE INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC AND STUDENT ACTIVITES PROGRAM

Athletic and Student Activities are an extension of the educational experience that the District offers. Therefore, student participation is voluntary and is a privilege, not a right. Those who choose or are selected to participate must be aware of this and abide by the code of conduct for the West Shore School District athletic and student activities program; each participant will receive an Athletic and Student Activities Code of Conduct, be required to sign the Athletic and Student Activities Code of Conduct Memorandum of Understanding and is expected to operate within the framework of the code and regulations.

This code of conduct is designed to further describe expectations as outlined in the District's Athletic and Student Activities Philosophy and Objectives statement of the *Athletic and Student Activities Manual* and appropriate Board policies. The Athletic and Student Activities Code of Conduct and the **Athletic and Student Activities Code of Conduct Memorandum of Understanding** will be distributed the first day of practice during the season.

I. Definitions

The following definitions shall apply:

Athletic/Student Activity Suspension – exclusion for a given period of time from competitions, events, and any other functions (trips, banquets, etc.) related to the activity excluding practice. Inclusion or exclusion from practice will be made on a case-by-case basis by the coach, Athletic Director and Building Administration. A suspension will not necessarily be limited to the season during which the infraction occurred but may be imposed during subsequent seasons. Where applicable, a suspended athletes/students name may be removed from award consideration and from similar recognitions.

Review Committee – body to conduct informal hearings, comprised of two building administrators, the Director of Human Resources or Director of Secondary Education and the building Athletic Director.

Substantiated – found to have committed a stated offense based on an investigation of an event.

Athletic/Student Activity Expulsion – loss of participation privileges in the District's athletic/student activity program.

Season – the interval commencing with the approved PIAA starting date of practice or the first day of practice, whichever is later, and terminating with the final competitive event for the sport/student activity.

Probation – imposed for school related offenses that result in students being ineligible to participate in extra-curricular activities until such probation is formally lifted by the Board or administration.

Hazing – any activity that recklessly, intentionally or unintentionally endangers the mental health, physical health or safety of a student for the purpose of initiation or membership in or affiliation with any organization including but not limited to a sport or extracurricular activity recognized by the Board of School Directors.

Endangering the physical health includes but is not limited to any contact of a physical nature such as whipping, beating, branding, forced calisthenics, exposure to the elements, forced consumption of any food, alcoholic beverage, drug or controlled substance, or other forced activity that could adversely affect the physical health or safety of the individual.

Endangering the mental health includes, but is not limited, to any activity that would subject an individual to unusual mental stress, such as sleep deprivation, prolonged exclusion from social contact, forced conduct which might result in extreme embarrassment, or any other activity, which could adversely affect the mental health or dignity of the individual. Any activity if made part of an initiation, shall be presumed to be hazing, even if a student willingly participates.

Discrimination shall mean to treat individuals differently or to harass or victimize based on a protected classification including race, color, age, creed, religion, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, ancestry, national origin, marital status, pregnancy, disability or differently abled status.

Harassment by students, employees or third parties on the basis of race, color, age, creed, religion, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, ancestry, national origin, marital status, pregnancy, handicap/disability, differently abled status or for participation in reports or investigations of alleged discrimination is a form of discrimination and is subject to this policy. A person who is not necessarily an intended victim or target of such harassment but is adversely affected by the offensive conduct may file a report of discrimination on his/her own behalf.

II. Disciplinary Consequences

A student who is determined to be responsible for violation of District policy shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary action consistent with the Code of Student Conduct, which may include but is not limited to:

1. Loss of school privileges;
2. Permanent transfer to another school building, classroom or school vehicle;
3. Exclusion from school-sponsored activities:
4. Detention:
5. Suspension:
6. Expulsion; or
7. Referral to law enforcement officials.

Procedural Guidelines for Violations of the Code of Conduct

1. If an infraction is reported, the coach/director shall notify the Athletic Director or administration of the alleged conduct or violation. Either the administrator or the coach/director at the direction of the administrator shall investigate to determine if a violation of the code has occurred.

2. If, after investigation, a violation of the code can be substantiated, the coach/director, after consultation with the administration and Athletic Director, shall impose the appropriate consequence by giving written notice to the athlete/student, the athlete's/student's parents or guardian, the Athletic Director, and the building administrator. Imposition of disciplinary consequences by the coach and/or Athletic Director is in addition to any disciplinary penalty imposed by the building administration pursuant to District policy.

3. The athlete/student or parent/guardian may appeal the coaches/directors decision to the administration who will convene a Review Committee to hear the appeal and render a decision. Such decision will be made within ten (10) business days of the appeal. During the ten (10) business days, the initial disciplinary action imposed will remain in effect. Appeal of the discipline penalties imposed by the building administrator under District policy is governed by the school code.

4. If the parent/guardian or athlete/student is not satisfied with the decision of the Review Committee, a hearing may be requested within five (5) business days of the decision. The appeal shall be in writing and directed to the Superintendent of Schools or designee. The Superintendent or designee has complete discretion whether or not to hear the appeal. If the Superintendent or designee decides to hear the appeal, such hearing shall be conducted within ten (10) business days of the date of the appeal. If such hearing is granted, the initial disciplinary action will remain in effect. The appeal hearing shall be informal and the decision of the Superintendent or his/her designee shall be final.

5. Once an athletic/student activity suspension or athletic/student activity expulsion has been imposed, the athlete/student will not be permitted to participate in any competitions, events or other functions unless the recommendation for suspension/expulsion is reversed after appeal.

6. An expulsion includes forfeiture of any school related awards for that season.

7. Nothing in the code shall preclude any building principal, in consultation with the Athletic Director from suspending or excluding an athlete/student from an athletic team/student activity for any violation of the disciplinary rules of the West Shore School District.

8. Athletic and Student Activity Code of Conduct and District School Board Policy infractions and discipline imposed are not limited to the season in which the infraction occurred.

WEST SHORE SCHOOL DISTRICT

ATHLETIC AND STUDENT ACTIVITY CODE OF CONDUCT

Memorandum of Understanding
For
Athletes and Students Participating
In
Interscholastic Athletics and Student Activities

The undersigned have read and understand the "Code of Conduct for West Shore School District Students Participating in the Interscholastic Athletic and Student Activities Program" as provided in the West Shore School District *Athletic and Student Activities Manual*. Further, we have read and understand the rules and regulations provided by the coach/director for this sport(s)/student activity. We understand the Athletic and Student Activity Code of Conduct applies throughout the school year. The below affixed signature(s) denote our agreement to abide by the Athletic and Student Activity Code of Conduct and promote decorum which serves as a positive role model in our community and beyond.

Participant's Name _____

Season(s) (check all that apply) ☐ Fall ☐ Winter ☐ Spring

Sport(s)/Student Activity/Activities _____

Participant's Signature _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____

Date _____

Coach's/Director's Signature Fall _____

Coach's/Director's Signature Winter _____

Coach's/Director's Signature Spring _____