

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

Athletic 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 Code of Conduct for the West Shore School District athletic program; each participant will receive an Athletic Code of Conduct, be required to sign a **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 Philosophy and Objectives statement of the *Athletic Manual* and appropriate Board policies. The Code of Conduct and the **Memorandum of Understanding** will be distributed the first day of practice during the season.

I. Definitions

The following definitions shall apply:

Athletic Suspension – exclusion for a given period of time from competitions, events, and any other functions (trips, banquets, etc.) related to the activity excluding practice. 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 athlete's 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 Expulsion – loss of participation privileges in the District's athletic program.

Sport 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.

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.

II. General Rules

- A. An athlete who quits a team during the sport season shall not be permitted to participate in another sport during the sport season unless the coaches of all teams involved agree. The athletic director will make the final determination.
- B. The Rules listed below are to be read both in addition to and in conjunction with the District's discipline policy. The actions listed below represent serious violations of the *Code of Conduct* and may result in the consequences as listed with each action in addition to any penalties imposed pursuant to the District's discipline code. Offenses are cumulative for the year except in the case of #1, which is cumulative for the student's discipline as provided for in other District policies.
 - 1. **Possessing, using, delivering, or selling alcohol, or any controlled substance as defined by the Controlled Substance, Drug, Device, and Cosmetic Act while on school property or at a school sponsored activity or while on the way to or from a school sponsored activity or in uniform regardless of location. The term possession includes but is not limited to having previously ingested alcohol, a controlled substance or drug while on the way to school or school sponsored activity.**

Consequence:

- a) Immediate suspension from the team for a minimum of forty-five (45) calendar days. Violators will be referred to the school's Student Assistance Team (SAT) for possible assessment recommendation. An athlete may not participate in the sport until the assessment has been completed and until any assessment recommendations have been followed.
- b) If the athlete is at a school event, ten (10) days out-of-school suspension as per District Discipline Policy 218 and may include expulsion from school.
- c) In addition to the penalties set forth in (b) above, a second offense will result in athletic expulsion, and the student will be prohibited from participating on any school team.

- 2. **Action as stated in #1 above occurring offsite and not on the way to or from any school sponsored activity during the athletic season of the team on which the student participates.**

Consequence:

- a) Immediate suspension from the team for fifteen (15) calendar days and referral to the school's SAT. Should the offense occur when the SAT is not functioning, the principal and/or athletic director and coach will make a referral to a licensed provider appropriate to the offense for an assessment and recommendation. Failure to complete an assessment will result in continued suspension from the team until the assessment is conducted.

- b) Second offense results in athletic suspension from the team for the remainder of the season.
- c) A subsequent offense will result in athletic expulsion.

3. Action as stated in #1 above occurring offsite and not on the way to or from a school sponsored activity during off-season.

Consequence:

- a) Suspension from the team for fifteen (15) calendar days beginning on the first day of the season.
- b) Second offense results in athletic suspension from the team.
- c) A subsequent offense will result in athletic expulsion.

4. Possessing or using tobacco in any form, whether on or off school property (off property only applies if the athlete was in uniform).

Consequence:

- a) If at school event, in-school suspension as per District code and other penalties as allowed by District policy.
- b) One contest athletic suspension.
- c) Second offense results in athletic suspension from the team for ten (10) calendar days. A subsequent offense will result in additional suspensions or expulsion from the team for the remainder of the season.

5. Intentional damage (vandalism), theft, or degradation of school or person's property from any location on school property or off school property during any school sponsored event or related to any school sponsored activity.

Consequence:

- a) See District discipline policy for possible penalties including administrative probation, suspension or expulsion depending on the severity of the offense and other penalties, including referral to law enforcement authorities as allowed by District policy.
- b) Immediate athletic suspension from the team for up to seven (7) calendar days, depending on severity of the incident, payment of restitution or return of property.

6. Failure to return athletic equipment.

Consequence:

- a) Suspension from all athletic program participation until equipment is returned or paid for.

7. Acts that constitute a violation of the Pennsylvania Criminal Code, whether or not delineated as part of the student code of conduct.

Consequence:

- a) Immediate athletic suspension from the team for the remainder of the season or the school year depending upon the severity of the offense.
- b) The athlete must petition to have the athletic suspension lifted after the period of suspension.

8. Failure to carry out the directions or rules and regulations established by the coach. (Such rules and regulations must be distributed in writing to all athletes and be approved by the principal and/or athletic director).

Consequence:

- a) As established by each coach.

9. Any improper conduct, which either violates District policy or constitutes behavior inappropriate for a District student representative.

Consequence:

- a) As established by each coach, may include suspension from the team or expulsion depending on the nature of the violation.
- b) As established by the District discipline code.

10. Use of Anabolic Steroids. The use of anabolic steroids is prohibited.

Consequence:

- a) A violation of this policy or School Board Policy 227 shall result in immediate suspension from the team for the remainder of the sport season and may result in expulsion from athletics.

Procedural Guidelines for Code of Conduct

- (1) If an infraction is reported, the coach shall notify the athletic director or administration of the alleged conduct or violation. Either the administrator or the coach 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, after consultation with the administration and athletic director, shall impose the appropriate consequence by giving written notice to the athlete, the athlete's parents or guardian, the athletic director, and the building administrator. Imposition of disciplinary consequences by the athletic director is in addition to any disciplinary penalty imposed by the building administration pursuant to District policy.
- (3) The athlete or parent/guardian may appeal the coach's 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 or athlete 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 suspension or athletic expulsion has been imposed, the athlete 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 a student athlete from an athletic team for any violation of the disciplinary rules of the West Shore School District.
- (8) Athletic Code of Conduct/Policy infractions and discipline imposed are not limited to the season in which the infraction occurred.

WEST SHORE SCHOOL DISTRICT

ATHLETIC CODE OF CONDUCT

Memorandum of Understanding For Student Athletes Participating In Interscholastic Athletics

The undersigned have read and understand the “Code of Conduct for West Shore School District Students Participating in the Interscholastic Athletic 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 for this sport(s). We understand the Athletic Code of Conduct applies throughout the school year and for conduct that occurs on and off of school property. The below affixed signature(s) denote our agreement to abide by the Athletic 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) _____

Participant’s Signature _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____

Date _____

Coach’s Signature Fall _____

Coach’s Signature Winter _____

Coach’s Signature Spring _____