

ATHLETIC/ACTIVITY CODE FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Participating in athletic or other co-curricular programs is a privilege, not a right, and involves teamwork, responsibility and self-discipline. The Olympia School District is committed to promoting the well-being, personal development and successful performance of our high school students. This policy is designed to assist students who participate in athletic or other co-curricular programs to be safe, responsible, healthy and successful. All students who choose to participate in athletics or other co-curricular programs are expected and required to set a positive example for others through their conduct and promotion of a positive school environment which holds high academic and behavior standards and is free from violence, alcohol, tobacco and other drugs.

The Olympia School District Athletic/Activity Code is designed to provide specific regulations to be followed by all high school students participating in athletics or other co-curricular programs, including but not limited to drill/dance team, cheer squad, debate and music/drama performance events that are part of an extra curricular offering.

This Athletic/Activity Code is in effect throughout the school year from the first day of turn out for a sport or activity through the remainder of the calendar year, until the participants first turn out of the succeeding year—exclusive of summer break, including, but not limited to: at school or at any school-sponsored program/event, even those occurring during breaks in the school year, and at any program/event, regardless of location, at which students are under the supervision of and/or are representing their school or the District, regardless of when the event occurs and regardless of sponsorship. Further, while under the Code, athletes found in violation of behavior standards set forth in OSD Policy 3200 and the Athletic Code are subject to sanctions as determined by the building principal and site athletic director regardless of location and/or school supervision. The Code will no longer remain in effect if a student participates in less than ten (10) practice days during their initial sports season of any year.

Sanctions related to misconduct issued under this policy will be considered cumulative throughout a student's high school years for any and all athletic or co-curricular programs. The Superintendent will establish appropriate procedures for the implementation and will broadly disseminate the Code and its' provisions in school and District publications and in a manner that will reasonably provide students and their families with notification.

WIAA REGULATIONS

Participants are required to comply with all WIAA regulations, with specific exceptions as allowed by WIAA related to academic standards and student conduct as noted in this Code. The Superintendent will publish and make available to all participants WIAA rules directly related to eligibility. Other WIAA regulations will be available at each high school site and linked to the District website.

OLYMPIA SCHOOL DISTRICT REGULATIONS:

ACADEMIC STANDARDS – PREVIOUS SEMESTER

A student will have been in regular attendance and have passed all classes (six classes Grades 8 – 11 and five classes Grade 12 if on track for on-time graduation) in a middle or high school during the semester immediately preceding the season in which they wish to participate. Students enrolled in Running Start, approved Online Education Programs, and/or those in approved Home School programs, must meet all requirements under section 18.0 of WIAA Rules and Regulations.

Incompletes must be made up for credit during the first five (5) weeks of the subsequent semester. The student will be ineligible for competition until the incomplete(s) is cleared. Students receiving a “No-Credit - NC” grade will be declared ineligible for competition for a period of five (5) weeks.

Students failing to meet these academic requirements will be placed on probation for a period of five (5) weeks from the first day of practice for that sport. For fall sports, the probationary period will begin the first day of practice through the fourth Saturday in September. Students are eligible for competition on the Monday of the week following the suspension period. During the probationary period the student is eligible to practice but may not participate in any competition. A student on academic probation will be referred to, and encouraged to participate in, an academic enhancement program and/or have practice time reduced to allow for additional study time. If the student is passing all classes at the end of the probationary period, full eligibility will be reinstated. The building Athletic Director will meet individually with each ineligible student, contact their parents and discuss available methods designed to assist the student in achieving a passing grade.

Clearance Timeline

Sports Season	Clearance Semester
FALL	2 nd Semester (previous semester)
WINTER	2 nd Semester (previous year) AND 1 semester (current year)
SPRING	1 st Semester (current year)

ACADEMIC STANDARDS – CURRENT SEMESTER

In order to maintain eligibility during the current semester, students must maintain regular attendance and have passing grades in all classes. The site athletic director will check each athlete’s grades every six (6) week of the school year.

At the time of any grade check, if the student is failing a class they will be placed on academic probation until such time as a passing grade is confirmed by the teacher(s) and the site athletic director. Students placed on academic probation will be referred to, and encouraged to participate in an academic enhancement program and/or have practice time reduced to allow for additional study time.

PHYSICAL EXAMINATION

Prior to the first practice for high school athletic teams and drill/dance/cheer squads, students will undergo a complete physical examination conducted by a health care provider licensed to perform a physical examination, submitted on the approved OSD Athletic Physical Form, and be approved for full

participation. Physical examinations will be valid for 13 months and must be current throughout the season of participation.

GENERAL CONDUCT

Students found in violation of Policy 3200, Student Rights and Responsibilities, as described in the Student Rights and Responsibilities Handbook, will be subject to athletic/co-curricular disciplinary action, in addition to other school disciplinary action, as determined by the building principal in consultation with the site athletic director. Specific disciplinary action for violations involving tobacco, alcohol, legend drugs, controlled substances are noted below and may only be modified through the appeal process.

1. Tobacco Possession and/or Use

The use or possession of tobacco products, including e-cigarettes, “vapes”, or paraphernalia (or that which purports to be) is prohibited at school and/or at school events, and will result in the following:

- a. **First Violation:** A ten (10) day suspension from all athletic participation (practices and games). If a student completes a school or community tobacco education program, the suspension will be reduced to five (5) days
- b. **Second Violation:** Suspension from all athletic participation (practices and games) for a period of 60 days of athletic participation.
- c. **Third Violation:** Suspension from participation for one (1) calendar year from the day of suspension.

Violations are considered cumulative for the duration of high school eligibility.

2. Alcohol, Legend Drugs and Controlled Substances

At any time while under the Athletic Code the following sanctions for possession, being under the influence, sale/transfer or attempt to sell or transfer alcohol, legend drugs and controlled substances shall be considered as one part of the total school disciplinary process. Violations of this section are considered cumulative from 7th grade through the duration of high school eligibility.

- a. **First Violation:** Immediate ineligibility from all athletic participation (practices and games) for a period of sixty (60) days of athletic participation. An athlete found in violation for the first time who seeks and receives a formal chemical dependency assessment, through the OSD Student Assistance and Treatment Program, or an approved community agency, and is in full compliance with any assessment recommendations made, may have the period of ineligibility reduced by the OSD Athletic Committee, based on the recommendation of the building principal, after a minimum of twenty (20) days of athletic participation.
- b. **Second Violation:** Immediate ineligibility from all participation (practices and games) for a period of one (1) calendar year from the date of the violation.

A student found in violation for the second time will be referred to the OSD Student Assistance and Treatment Program or approved community agency. Those who complete a chemical dependency assessment and follow recommendations made as a result of the assessment may appeal the term of the suspension to the Executive Director of the WIAA.

- c. **Third Violation:** Immediate ineligibility from all participation (practices and games) for the remainder of high school eligibility.
- d. **Sale, Distribution, Trade or Transfer:** An athlete found to have sold, distributed, traded, or transferred alcohol, other drugs, or paraphernalia (or that which purports to be) shall be immediately ineligible for the remainder of their high school eligibility.

3. Conduct Away From School

At any time while under the Athletic Code, regardless of location and/or school supervision, students found in violation of behavior standards set forth in OSD Policy 3200 are subject to sanctions as determined by the building principal and site athletic director. For violations involving alcohol, legend drugs and/or controlled substances, sanctions noted in the OSD Athletic Code will be imposed. For the first violation for alcohol or other drug use or possession away from school, the building principal may reduce the ineligibility sanction to a minimum of fourteen (14) days of athletic participation if the athlete is forthcoming and participates in an approved alcohol or other drug assessment and abides by all assessment recommendations.

If the athlete attends a function where alcohol and/or other drugs are illegally used, they must make an immediate and reasonable attempt to leave. If the athlete remains, but has not used or possessed alcohol and/or other drugs, a minimum ineligibility sanction of twelve (12) athletic participation days will be imposed. If the athlete is forthcoming regarding their attendance at the function, the building principal may reduce the ineligibility sanction based on their investigation.

Note: All ineligibility sanctions noted include both practices and contests. The period of ineligibility begins on the day official notice of ineligibility is given to the athlete and parent/legal guardian.

4. Hazing

The Olympia School District prohibits initiation activities and behaviors required for acceptance by the team, or expected to obtain peer acceptance, involving any student athlete, whether or not it takes place in any school facility, on school property, or at any District sponsored event.

Hazing is a form of harassment, intimidation and bullying, and is defined as any act or coercing of another, including the victim, to perform any act of initiation into any team or group or organization that causes, or creates a risk of causing, mental, emotional or physical harm. Permission, consent, or assumption of risk by an individual subject to hazing shall not lessen the activities prohibited.

Athletes found in violation of District harassment, intimidation and bullying (including hazing) policies will be found ineligible from all athletic participation for a minimum period of one calendar year from the date of notification.

APPEAL PROCESS

An athlete and/or parent/guardian who believes there are circumstances which would allow a modification of a disciplinary action resulting from a Code violation, may access the following appeal procedure.

ACADEMIC PROBATION APPEAL

Upon the imposition of academic probation, any aggrieved athlete, or parent/guardian of said athlete has the right to an informal conference with the building principal and site athletic director. A request for an informal conference must be made within three (3) school days of the action grieved or the athlete or parent/legal guardian will have waived their right to appeal. The principal and site athletic director will meet with the athlete and/or parent/legal guardian within three (3) days of receiving the request. The aggrieved athlete or parent/guardian will be notified of the decision within three (3) days of the informal conference. The aggrieved party may appeal the decision of the building to the District Athletic Committee within three (3) days of receiving notice from the building. The District Athletic Committee will conduct a formal hearing within seven (7) days of receiving the written request for an appeal.

DISCIPLINARY ACTION APPEAL

1. Within three (3) school business days of receiving notice of athletic disciplinary sanctions, the athlete and/or parent/legal guardian may request an informal conference with the building principal and site athletic director for the purpose of resolving the grievance. During the conference the athlete and parent/legal guardian shall be subject to questioning by the building principal and site athletic director and shall be entitled to question school personnel involved in the matter.

If the aggrieved sanction was imposed for violations of the tobacco, alcohol and other drug provision of the Code, and during the informal meeting the violation is confirmed, the process for assessment and minimum sanctions noted in the Code shall be imposed.

2. If the grievance is not resolved, the student and/or parent/legal guardian may file a written request for a formal hearing by the District Athletic Committee. The District Director of Health, Fitness and Athletic Programs must receive the written request for a hearing within three (3) school business days of the building decision. The District Committee will conduct a hearing within seven (7) school business days after receiving the written request.

At the hearing the athlete and parent/legal guardian shall be subject to questioning by Committee members and shall be entitled to representation and to present information directly related to the issue resulting in athletic sanctions being imposed.

The Committee chair will notify the athlete and parent/legal guardian of the Committee decision within three (3) school business days of the hearing.

3. If the grievance is not resolved, the student and/or parent/legal guardian shall have the right to present a written and/or oral grievance to the Board of Directors during their next regular meeting; the grievance will be heard in Executive Session. The District Director of Health, Fitness and Athletic Programs must receive the written request for the grievance presentation to the Board within two (2) school business days of the District Athletic Committee decision. The student and/or parent/legal guardian shall be notified of the Board decision within three (3) school business days of Board action.

WIAA RULE VIOLATIONS

Appeals related to specific violations of WIAA Rules and Regulation must follow established WIAA procedures. The aggrieved party shall meet with the site athletic director within three (3) school business days of the notification of a WIAA violation to review the appeal process.



*POLICY ADOPTED..... May 12, 2014**

**Prior to this date, the High School Athletic/Activity Code was part of Policy 3200, Student Rights & Responsibilities*