

## **Addendum II – ATHLETIC 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; (1) 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, (2) at school or at any school-sponsored program/event, even those occurring during breaks in the school year, and (3) at any program/event at which students are representing their school or the District regardless of when the event occurs and regardless of sponsorship. 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 (Reference WIAA 18.6)

A student will have been in regular attendance and have passed all classes 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 school, per section 18.0 of WIAA Rules and Regulation, for students failing two or more classes. During the probationary period the student is eligible to practice but may not participate in any competition. A student on academic probation will be required to participate in an academic enhancement program/“study table” 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 <sup>nd</sup> Semester (previous semester)
WINTER	2 <sup>nd</sup> Semester (previous year) AND 1 semester (current year)
SPRING	1 <sup>st</sup> Semester (current year)

**Academic Standards – Current Semester (Reference WIAA 18.7)**

In order to maintain eligibility during the current semester, students must maintain regular attendance and have passing grades in all classes. The building Athletic Director will check progress grades at six (6) and twelve (12) weeks

The building Athletic Director will consult with the student’s teacher(s) to determine the reason for the failing grades, meet individually with the student and make contact with the parent. If a student has a failing grade at the six (6) week check they will be given until the eighth (8<sup>th</sup>) week to confirm a passing grade. If at that time they are failing a class they will be placed on probation until such time as a passing grade is confirmed by the teacher(s) and building Athletic Director. If failing a class at the twelve (12) week check they will be immediately placed on probation until such time a passing grade is confirmed. Students placed on academic probation will be required to participate in an academic enhancement program/“study table” and/or have practice time reduced to allow for additional study time.

**General Conduct**

Students found in violation of district Policy 3200, Student Rights and Responsibilities 1 - 27 (and as described in the Student Rights and Responsibility Handbook) may be subject to athletic/co-curricular disciplinary action, in addition to other school discipline action, as determined by the building Athletic Director and Principal. Disciplinary action for violations involving tobacco, alcohol, legend drugs, controlled substances and conduct away from school are noted below and may only be modified through the appeal process.

**1. Tobacco Possession and/or Use (Reference WIAA 18.26)**

The use or possession of tobacco products is prohibited at school and/or at school events, and will result in the following:

- First Violation: A ten (10) day suspension\* from participation (practice and games). If a student completes a school or community tobacco education program, the suspension will be reduced to five (5) days.
- Second Violation: Suspension from participation for the remainder of the season. If less than fifteen (15) days, the suspension will carryover into the student's next season of participation.
- Third Violation: Suspension from participation for one (1) calendar year.

\* If less than the specified number of days remain in the season, the suspension will carryover into the student's next season of participation.

The above sanctions will be implemented in addition to school discipline procedures. Violations are considered cumulative for the duration of high school eligibility.

## 2. Alcohol, Legend Drugs and Controlled Substances (Reference WIAA 18.26)

The following Code sanctions for possession, being under the influence or sale/transfer of alcohol, legend drugs and controlled substances at school or at a school-sponsored event, shall be considered as one part of the total school disciplinary process. Violations of this section are considered cumulative from 7<sup>th</sup> grade through the duration of high school eligibility.

- First Violation: Immediate ineligibility from all participation (practice and games) for the remainder of the sports season. If less than twenty (20) practice/game days remain in the season the remainder of the sanction shall carryover into the students next season of participation; e.g., 5 day carryover if only 15 days are left in the season.
  - A. A student who seeks and receives help for a problem with the use of alcohol ad/or other drugs will be given the opportunity for assistance through a school and/or community agency. In no instance will participation in a school and/or community assistance program excuse a student from subsequent compliance with this regulation. However, successful utilization of such an opportunity and compliance with any recommendations made by the assistance program, may allow him/her to have full eligibility reinstated in that sports season, pending recommendations of the District Athletic Committee.
  - B. In order to be eligible to participate in the next sports season, the student must meet with the District Athletic Committee. The Committee will recommend to the building principal appropriate action to be taken. The school principal will have the final authority as to the student's future participation.
- Second Violation: Immediate ineligibility from all participation (practice and games) for a period of one (1) calendar year from the date of the violation.
- Third Violation: Immediate ineligibility from all participation (practice and games) for the remainder of high school eligibility.

## 3. Conduct Away From School (Reference WIAA 18.26)

Students participating in athletics or co-curricular activities who attend gatherings (parties) at any time during the school year where alcohol and/or other drugs are being

illegally used, must, upon learning of the presence and/or use of such substances, make immediate and reasonable attempts to leave.

If found in violation of remaining at the gathering (party) the student will be immediately ineligible for a minimum of one (1) contest.

If found to have been in possession, under the influence or sale/transfer of alcohol and/or other drugs, the appropriate sanction (first violation, second violation, third violation), as noted in this section (General Conduct, Item 2) will be imposed.

### **Appeal Process**

A student and/or parent/guardian who believes that there are extenuating circumstances which would allow a modification of a disciplinary action resulting from a Code violation, he/she may access the following appeal procedure.\*

#### **Academic Probation Appeal**

Upon the imposition of academic probation, any aggrieved student or parent/guardian of said student will have the right to appeal to the Building Athletic Committee consisting of the building principal, athletic director, two (2) coaches (not associated with the appeal) and one (1) counselor. Appeals to this committee will be made in writing to the building Athletic Director. A request for an appeal hearing must be made within three (3) school days of the action grieved or the student or parent/guardian will have waived their right to the appeal. The building athletic committee will hear the appeal within three (3) days of receiving the request. The aggrieved student or parent/guardian will be notified of the building committees decision within three (3) days of hearing the appeal. The aggrieved party may appeal the decision of the building committee to the District Athletic Committee within 3 days of receiving notice from the building.

#### **Disciplinary Action Appeal**

The aggrieved party may appeal the decision of the building to the District Athletic Committee consisting of the District Coordinator for Health, Fitness and Athletic Programs, three (3) District level administrators and the Athletic Director from the high school not involved in the appeal. Appeals to this committee shall be made in writing to the District Coordinator of Health, Fitness and Athletic Programs within three (3) school days of notification of the building committee's decision or the aggrieved parties will waive their right to the appeal. The District committee will hear the appeal within five (5) school days of receiving written notification and will render a decision on the case within five (5) school days of hearing the appeal.

The aggrieved parties may appeal the District Athletic Committee decision to the Board of Directors within three (3) school days of receiving notification of the district committee decision or the aggrieved party will have waived their right to the appeal. The Board of Directors will hear the appeal at their next regular meeting. After hearing the case the aggrieved party will be notified of the decision within ten (10) school days. The decision of the Board of Directors will be final.

Appeals related to specific violations of WIAA Rules and Regulations must follow established WIAA procedures. The aggrieved party shall meet with the building Athletic Director within three (3) school days of the notification of a WIAA violation to review the appeal process.

\* Students with approved Individual Education Plans (IEPs) who wish to appeal academic probation must base the appeal on areas specifically addressed and agreed upon in the approved plan which was in effect during the semester where failing grades were received.

**Physical Examination**

Prior to the first practice for high school athletic teams and drill/dance/cheer squads, students will undergo a physical examination, dated after May 1 and be approved for full participation. Physical examinations will be valid for 13 months.

