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## **ATHLETIC CODE FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS**

The following rules and regulations have been adopted by the District Board of Directors to meet Washington Interscholastic Activities Association (WIAA) rules and regulations, as well as standards set forth by the Olympia School District. All rules and regulations apply to interscholastic activities.

### **A. ELIGIBILITY**

#### **1) Previous Semester Rule**

A student shall have been in regular attendance in an elementary or middle school during the semester/quarter preceding the season in which the contest is held. A student shall have passed at all subjects in the immediately preceding semester/quarter with a minimum of a C minus (C-) grade. If the student has failed to achieve the foregoing grade requirement they shall be placed on academic probation for a period of three (3) weeks, during this time they will be ineligible for competition. If at the end of the period of ineligibility, the passing grades are confirmed full eligibility shall be reinstated.

#### **2) Scholarship -- Current Semester**

In order to maintain athletic eligibility during the current semester/ quarter, the student shall maintain a C minus (C-) grade in all subjects; grades of all athletes will be checked on a weekly basis.

A student who has failed to achieve the foregoing grade requirements during the current semester/quarter shall be placed on academic probation until such time a passing grade is confirmed by the assistant principal. The school will inform students and their parents of available resources to enhance study skills and/or their abilities in specific subjects.

#### **3) Physical Examination**

Prior to the first practice for participation in middle school athletics, a student must undergo a complete physical examination and be approved for full athletic participation by a medical authority licensed to perform a physical examination, submitted on the approved OSD Athletic Physical Form. Physical examinations will be valid for 13 months.

### **B. ATTENDANCE REGULATIONS**

#### **School Attendance**

A student must be in full attendance—all assigned classes—in order to participate. The Assistant Principal must clear any absences. Exceptions may be granted by the Assistant Principal for excused tardies.

### **C. SPECIAL REGULATIONS**

#### **General Conduct**

Students found in violation of Policy 3200, Student Rights and Responsibilities, will be subject to athletic disciplinary action, in addition to other school disciplinary action, as determined by the building Assistant Principal. Specific 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**

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

- **First Violation:** A ten (10) day suspension from all athletic 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 all athletic participation (practice and games) for a period of 60 days of athletic participation.
- **Third Violation:** Suspension from participation for one (1) calendar year from the day of suspension.

Violations are considered cumulative for the duration of middle 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 7<sup>th</sup> grade through the duration of high school eligibility.

- **First Violation:** Immediate ineligibility from all 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) athletic participation days of ineligibility.
- **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 for assistance through the OSD Student Assistance and Treatment Program and/or approved community agency. Those found in violation for the second time who complete a chemical dependency assessment and follow recommendations made as a result of the assessment may appeal the term of their suspension directly to the Executive Director of the WIAA.

- **Third Violation:** Immediate ineligibility from all participation (practices and games) for the remainder of middle school eligibility.

**3. Conduct Away From School**

At any time, regardless of location and/or school supervision, while under the Athletic Code, athletes found in violation of behavior standards set forth in OSD Policy 3200, Student Rights & Responsibilities, are subject to sanctions as determined by the building principals and site athletic director. For violations involving tobacco, alcohol, legend drugs and/or controlled substances, sanctions noted in the OSD Athletic Code will be imposed.

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.

**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 appeal to the Assistant Principal. A request for an appeal 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 the appeal. The Assistant Principal will hear the appeal 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 hearing the appeal. 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.

**Disciplinary Appeal**

Within three (3) school business days of receiving notice of athletic disciplinary sanctions, the athletes and/or parent/legal guardian may request an informal conference with the building principal for the purpose of resolving the grievance. 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.

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

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 Middle School Athletic Code was part of Policy 3200, Student Rights & Responsibilities*