

Athletic Code Procedures

This Athletic Code is in effect throughout the school year from the first day of an individual student's eligibility clearance for an athletic program, including cheer and drill/dance, through the remainder of the calendar year, until the participant's first-eligibility clearance of the succeeding year 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 the school or the District, regardless of when the event occurs and/or sponsorship. Further, while under the Code, athletes found in violation of behavior standards set forth in OSD Policy 3240/3240P 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.

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

An athlete will have been in regular attendance and have passed all classes (six classes Grades 8 – 11 (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. Athletes 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.

Athletes 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. An athlete on academic probation will be referred to, and encouraged to participate in, an academic enhancement program and may request to have practice time reduced to allow for additional study time. If the athlete 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.

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Initial Clearance Timeline

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

ACADEMIC STANDARDS – CURRENT SEMESTER

In order to maintain eligibility during the current semester, athletes must maintain regular attendance and have passing grades in all classes. The site athletic director will check each athlete’s grades every four (4) to six (6) week of the school year.

At the time of any grade check, if the athlete is failing a class they will be placed on academic probation and ineligible for games/competition until a passing grade is confirmed by the teacher and the site athletic director. If failing two or more classes the athlete will become ineligible for both practice and games until passing grades are confirmed. Athletes participating in winter sports will have a grade check conducted at the end of the 1st semester. If failing class(es) at that time, they will be placed on academic probation, as defined above, for a period of five (5) weeks. Students placed on academic probation will be referred to, and encouraged to participate in, an academic enhancement program and may request to 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 by the examining health care provider. 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 3240/3240P Student Conduct Expectations will be subject to athletic disciplinary sanctions in addition to other school disciplinary action. Athletic sanctions will be determined by the site athletic director in direct consultation with the building principal. Specific disciplinary sanctions for violations involving tobacco, alcohol, legend drugs, and controlled substances are noted below and may only be modified through processes noted in in Section 1 (Tobacco Possession and/or Use) and Section 2 (Alcohol, Legend Drugs, and Controlled Substances).

If a violation of this policy occurs during a season of non-participation in athletics and/or activities, sanctions will be imposed during the student-athletes next season of participation.

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 two (2) game suspension will be imposed.
- b. Second Violation: A seven (7) game suspension will be imposed. If less than seven (7) games remain in the current season the balance will be served beginning the first day of the next season of participation.

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- c. **Third Violation:** Suspension from all athletic/activity participation (practice and games) for a period of 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, regardless of the location and/or school supervision, the following sanctions for possession, being under the influence, sale/transfer or attempt to sell or transfer alcohol, legend drugs and controlled substances will be considered as one part of the total school disciplinary process. Violations of this section are considered cumulative from 8th grade through the duration of high school eligibility.

- a. **First Violation:** Immediate ineligibility from all scheduled athletic participation (practices and games) for the remainder of the season. An athlete found in violation for the first time who seeks and receives a formal chemical dependency assessment, from an approved community agency, and remains in full compliance with any assessment recommendations made, may have the period of ineligibility reduced by the building principal, in direct consultation with the site athletic director, to a minimum of fourteen (14) days of scheduled athletic participation. If less than fourteen (14) scheduled athletic participation days remain in the student-athlete's current season, the balance of ineligibility will be served beginning the first day of the athlete's next season of participation. An athlete failing to remain in full compliance with all assessment and school recommendations will have the full term of ineligibility reinstated and will be ineligible for all post-season competition for a period of one (1) calendar year from the date verification of non-compliance is received by the building principal.
- 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.

An athlete found in violation for the second time will be referred to an approved community agency. Those who complete a chemical dependency assessment and follow recommendations made as a result of the assessment may have the period of ineligibility reduced by the OSD Athletic Committee, based on the recommendation of the building principal, to a minimum of one hundred-twenty (120) athletic participation days plus ineligibility from all post-season competition for a period of one (1) calendar year from the date of the violation.

- 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) will be immediately ineligible for participation in athletics, including drill, cheer and dance, for the remainder of their high school eligibility.

Note: For the process to appeal a building or district decision on sanctions implemented for violations of this section refer to the "Appeal Process—Disciplinary Action" section of this Code.

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3. Conduct Away from School

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 maximum ineligibility sanction of seven (7) athletic participation days will be imposed. If extenuating circumstances warrant, a lesser or greater disciplinary consequence may be used if appropriate. When considering extenuating circumstances for a consequence, the athletic administrators will discuss the details with the principal and district designee prior to issuing such discipline.

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 /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, 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 will not lessen the activities prohibited.

Athletes found in violation of District harassment, intimidation and bullying (including hazing) policies will be ineligible from all athletic, including cheer and drill/dance, 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 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 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 guardian will be subject to questioning by the building principal and site athletic director and will be entitled to question school personnel involved in the matter.

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If the aggrieved sanction was imposed for violations of the alcohol, legend drugs and controlled substances provisions of this policy/procedure and during the informal meeting the violation is confirmed, the sanctions noted in this policy/procedure will be imposed.

2. If the grievance is not resolved, the athlete and/or parent 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 guardian will be subject to questioning by Committee members and will 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-guardian of the Committee decision within three (3) school business days of the hearing.

3. If the grievance is not resolved, the athlete and/or parent guardian will 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 athlete and/or parent guardian will be notified of the Board decision within three (3) school business days of Board action.

WIAA RULE VIOLATIONS APPEALS

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

The Superintendent will broadly disseminate this policy/procedure and its' provisions in school and District publications and in a manner that will reasonably provide athletes and their families with notification.

Procedure Established April 19, 2010 As Procedure 3200P
Revised.....June 26, 2013
Revised.....August 7, 2017
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