

**Watervliet Public School
Student – Athlete
Athletic Code**

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I. INTRODUCTION

This document represents a uniform athletic code for Middle and Senior High School athletes attending Watervliet Public Schools. All athletes, who represent Watervliet Schools, are expected to live up to the letter and spirit of these regulations. A student is considered a high school athlete the day after their eighth grade year is complete and runs through the last contest their senior year. The varsity coach for each sport is responsible for overseeing middle and high school programs, and implementing drills and strategies that are consistent with the varsity program.

II. STANDARDS FOR PARTICIPATION IN ATHLETICS

A. Sportsmanship

Sportsmanship is the responsibility of all of our students, whether they are at our school or a visiting school. The Watervliet Public Schools and the Watervliet Athletic Department encourages student participation and cheering for our teams while attending events. Cheers should be positive and support the team. Students should never demean an athlete, official, or opposing fan. Students and student-athletes who demean or use derogatory language at sporting events towards opponents, coaches, or officials will be addressed. Good sportsmanship makes an enjoyable event and creates a positive atmosphere.

Any student-athlete who quits during the course of his/her season will not be permitted to use any athletic facilities to prepare for the next season until the last game of that sport is completed. The athlete must meet with the coach of the sport in which they quit and formally present a letter explaining their reason(s) for quitting. The parents should also communicate with the coach or athletic director regarding their son/daughter quitting.

B. Scholastic Standards

A Coach or Athletic Director has the discretion to require an athlete to attend after school tutoring if his/her athletic status is in academic jeopardy.

A. Current Semester

1. A participating athlete must be passing ALL CLASSES in order to compete in athletics. Grades are checked in regards to a student's semester grade.
2. A weekly ineligibility list will be in effect starting after the third (3rd) week of each new semester.
3. If an athlete appears on the academic failure list on Monday, that athlete becomes ineligible for the entire week including any Saturday contests.

B. On-line Classes

1. Each week students must be on track or ahead of schedule in their on-line class to be eligible. (2014-15)

C. Personal Conduct Standards (Any and all rule infractions will be cumulative, grades 9-12)

1. No smoking or possession of tobacco products including e-cigarettes, vapor, etc.
2. No illegal use of drugs or possession of illegal drugs.
3. No drinking or possession of alcoholic beverages.
4. No theft of goods, equipment, or property.
5. An athlete's conduct in and out of school shall be such as not to bring discredit to the athlete, parents, school, team or community. If you are at a party where alcohol or drugs are present and the police are involved, you may be subject to athletic suspension. (2016-17)
6. Coaches of specific sports may set rules in addition to aforementioned rules.
7. Conduct of an athlete on school property, public places, in the cyber world, (Internet, MySpace, Facebook, Twitter Vine, etc.) or elsewhere in the community shall comply with high standards of personal conduct and morality.
8. The student shall obey the rules listed above and shall not commit any criminal **and/or** civil infraction of the community or the state.

D. School Attendance

Students must be in attendance for all classes to participate in practice or athletic contests. Exceptions would include a pre-arranged absence/early dismissal. Any unique situations that might arise during the day will be decided upon by the athletic director. Any student-athlete that signs in after 8:15 AM will NOT be allowed to participate in practice or games that school day.

E. Practice and Participation

The Watervliet schools and athletic department view practice as a vital time for teaching and learning.

1. Athletes must practice, if allowed, during suspension to be eligible to continue in that sport.
2. If an athlete commits a violation and does not serve the penalty completely, he/she can not participate until the penalty has been served.

F. Equipment Return

Each season athletes are expected to return any and all equipment issued to them prior to the start of the next sport season. Spring participants are expected to return their equipment within 10 days of their last contest. Any athlete that does not return his/her equipment and/or pay for missing equipment may not attend or participate in any other extra-curricular activities. (2016-17)

III. DISCIPLINARY PROCESS

A. Scholastic Violations

Previous Semester

1. Students who have failed **one** class will miss one contest week of the following semester.
2. Students who have failed **two** classes during a previous semester will be declared ineligible for the following semester **for the first three contest weeks of that season**. Completion of a successful summer-school course as a make-up for a failed class during the second semester will allow the student to become eligible immediately in the fall.

B. Personal Conduct Violations

1. Athletic Council

The Athletic Council consists of six individuals: the Athletic Director, High School Principal or building administrator designee, a girls varsity coach, a boys varsity coach, a non-coaching faculty member, and the Watervliet Athletic Booster President or designee.

The main role of the Council is to validate that there was an offense committed, judge the severity and subjectivity of the violation, and determine the consequences for the handbook infraction. The Athletic director may convene the Athletic Council at his/her discretion.

2. Acceptable Evidence

Reports of violations of basic rules shall be considered official if the report is made by one of the following individuals:

1. Any coach, staff member, or administrator of the Watervliet Public Schools.
2. Any Watervliet Board of Education member.
3. Any law enforcement official.
4. Self-reporting.

3. Penalties for Violations – Any student-athlete violating the athletic code is subject to attending TNDA or Prime Choices Classes. Classes must be started prior to being eligible to participate in another sporting event. **Student-athletes that do NOT complete the class or fail to sign up in a timely manner will be subject to another 20 % of the season suspension. In addition, violating the personal conduct standards will eliminate student/athletes from leadership positions for no less than one calendar year.**

Self-Reporting: (Penalty, 1/3 of the season **and** TNDA or Prime Choices Class)
If the **student-athlete** self-reports prior to any administrator finding out about the infraction **from the police department or officer of the law, (2016-17)** the penalty will be one-third of the season. **Subsequent self-reporting occurrences will follow the offense progression from offense 1 to offense 3 up to and including permanent suspension from athletics.**

First time offenders facing disciplinary action may select from among two options to satisfy reinstatement requirements as outlined below:

Option 1	First Offense	Option 2
Self-Reporting (Student Initiated)		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1/3 of the season • TNDA or Prime Choice classes 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 competitive weeks suspension • TNDA or Prime Choice classes
For Drug/Alcohol Offenses:		For Drug/Alcohol Offenses:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 Bi-weekly drug tests (district pays) • No appeal to the Athletic Council • Complete on-line drug awareness program 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 Bi-weekly drug tests (student pays) • No appeal to the Athletic Council • Complete on-line drug awareness program
Traditional Investigation (School Initiated)		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1/2 of the season • TNDA or Prime Choice classes 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 competitive weeks suspension • TNDA or Prime Choice classes
For Drug/Alcohol Offenses:		For Drug/Alcohol Offenses:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 Bi-weekly drug tests (district pays) • No appeal to the Athletic Council • Complete on-line drug/alcohol awareness program 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 Bi-weekly drug tests (student pays) • No appeal to the Athletic Council • Complete on-line drug/alcohol awareness program
<p>The Athletic Director will phone the parent(s)/guardian(s) to set up a meeting within three school days of the confirmation of a policy violation. A meeting will be scheduled within five school days of the phone call and will include the Athletic Director, Principal, the student/athlete, and parent/guardian.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A description of the violation will be discussed • A letter will be given to the athlete and parents/guardians describing the infraction, the consequences, and the appeal process (if available). <p>Please note: Any positive test result or missed class results in second offense.</p>		

Second Offense
Up to one calendar year suspension from the date of infraction.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TNDA or Prime Choice classes • Mandatory meeting of the Athletic Council
For Drug/Alcohol Offenses:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 Bi-weekly drug tests (student pays). In addition, testing may take place prior to the next eligible sports season • Complete on-line drug awareness program • Weekly meeting with guidance counselor • No appeal to the Athletic Council
<p>The Athletic Director will phone the parent(s)/guardian(s) to set up a meeting within three school days of the confirmation of a policy violation. A meeting will be scheduled within five school days of the phone call and will include the Athletic Director, Principal, the student/athlete, and parent/guardian.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A description of the violation will be discussed • A letter will be given to the athlete and parents/guardians describing the infraction and when the Athletic Council will convene • The Athletic Council will determine the penalty

Third Offense
Penalty may result in permanent suspension from athletics.
<p>The Athletic Director will phone the parent(s)/guardian(s) to set up a meeting within three school days of the confirmation of a policy violation. A meeting will be scheduled within five school days of the phone call and will include the Athletic Director, Principal, the student/athlete, and parent/guardian.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A description of the violation will be discussed • A letter will be given to the athlete and parents/guardians describing the infraction and when the Athletic Council will convene • The Athletic Council will determine the penalty and conditions for possible reinstatement

Extreme Violation (as determined by the Athletic Director)
Penalty may result in permanent suspension from athletics.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extreme offenses may result in second or third offense penalty being applied. • If a student/athlete violates the athletic code for drug/alcohol abuse, it is recommended by the athletic department that he/she enroll in Prime Choice or TNDA classes. Information about these programs can be obtained through the Athletic Department.

Summer Violations

Any athlete involved in a summer violation of the above rules shall be notified of the violation by the principal or athletic director. Said athlete shall follow the appeal procedure before he/she may participate in athletics. The Athletic Council shall determine the conditions of reinstatement.

Middle School Penalties

Middle School penalties may carry over into high school. If an athlete had any Middle School violations of the athletic policy, his/her first offense violation in high school may result in:

1. A convening of the Athletic Council.

4. Appeal Process

1. Any appeal of a suspension must be made in writing within three (3) business days from the date on the Parent Notice of Denial of Participation in Athletics form from the athletic director. Written appeals must be made by the parents/guardian using the Declaration of Appeal form.
2. The athletic director will convene the Athletic Council.
3. The appeal proceedings will be attended by the six-member Athletic Council, the athlete, and parents/guardian of the student athlete in question.
4. If requested, an appeal of the Athletic Council's decision may be made to the Board of Education.
5. First offenders will be allowed to practice but not to play during the appeal. Second and subsequent offenders will not be allowed to practice or play during their appeal.

Any offender will not be allowed to practice if he has been directly dismissed by the coach or if the “extreme violation” policy is being recommended.

Please note: Positive drug test is not allowed to be appealed to the Athletic Council.

IV. DRUG TESTING

1. Random drug testing will take place no less than 3 times per year. When testing takes place, each sport team will have 20% randomly tested and an additional 20% of the sport season participants.
2. Consequences for testing positive will follow the offense progression outlined penalties and violations. (2016-17)

V. TRANSPORTATION

1. It is the practice and policy of the Watervliet School’s athletic department that all athletes will travel to and from all events with the team on the team bus. Part of the educational experience of being an athlete is riding the bus home after a great win or a tough loss.
2. If it is necessary for an athlete to ride home with his/her parent, the parent must sign the Watervliet Athletic Bus Transportation Sign-Out Sheet prior to leaving the event. We do understand there are special circumstances which will be handled individually. Athletes may leave only with their parents/legal guardian. Any exceptions must go through the athletic director prior to leaving for the event and must be submitted in writing. (2014-15)

VI. DUAL PARTICIPATION

A student may participate in dual sports by applying for a dual sport waiver prior to the sport season. A committee (Coaches & Athletic Director) will review each athlete’s application and meet with the parents, athlete and coaches to determine if participating in dual sports is advantageous for the athlete. (2014-15)

Application for dual sports waivers must be turned in to the Athletic Director prior to participating in dual sports. (2014-15)

VII. TRANSFER POLICY

Watervliet High School will enforce upon a transfer student any period of ineligibility that that student would have been subject to as a result of a student athletic code violation(s) at that student’s most recent previously attended school. A student who transfers to Watervliet High School after becoming ineligible because of a student or athletic conduct code violation(s) at the previously attended school shall remain

ineligible at Watervliet High School for not less than the period of ineligibility imposed by the previously attended school. This would be the case even if the student's situation would otherwise satisfy one or more of the exceptions to the transfer regulation of Watervliet High School and the Michigan High School Athletic Association (Regulation 1, Section 9), and even if the act which caused the student's ineligibility at the previous school would not be a violation or cause the same period of ineligibility at Watervliet High School. The student is subject to the rules and penalties of the previous school and shall not be allowed to escape the consequences of his/her conduct.

VIII. Post High School Aspirations

NCAA REQUIREMENTS

Students who are planning on playing sports at a division I or II College, must meet certain grade and class requirements established by the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA). It is the student's responsibility to keep track of NCAA requirements. Student athletes interested in the prospect of competing as a collegiate athlete should inform his/her coach and athletic director prior to the season during his/her junior year. For more information, please see Mrs. Stasiak or check the official website. www.ncaaclearinghouse.net (2014-15)

VIII. FINAL FORMS (High School Only)

Final Forms is an electronic system that stores important information. Final Forms turns school, athletic and state forms into customized, streamlined data collection process. Once parents and students complete this intuitive online process, Athletic Directors, coaches, and trainers can login to the easy-to-use system to view, manage, and input relevant data. Prior to any student participating on a sports team, all four components of Final Forms must be complete. The four components are, physical on file, parent forms completed and signed, student forms completed and signed, and eligibility verified by the athletic administration. Final Forms registration can be found at www.watervliet.finalforms.com

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