

# Andover and Whitesville Central School Code of Athletics



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**New York State Public High School Athletic Association's**  
**Code of Ethics**

*IT IS THE DUTY OF ALL CONCERNED WITH HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETICS:*

1. To emphasize the proper ideals of sportsmanship, ethical conduct and fair play.
2. To eliminate all possibilities which tend to destroy the best values of the game.
3. To stress the values derived from playing the game fairly.
4. To show cordial courtesy to visiting teams and officials.
5. To establish a happy relationship between visitors and hosts.
6. To respect the integrity and judgment of sport officials.
7. To achieve a thorough understanding and acceptance of the rules of the game and the standards of eligibility.
8. To encourage leadership, use of initiative, good judgment by players and the team.
9. To recognize that the purpose of athletics is to promote the physical, mental, social and emotional well-being of the individual players.
10. To remember that an athletic contest is only a game - not a matter of life or death for players, coach, school, fan, community, state of nation.

**Athletic Philosophy Statement**

Participating in interscholastic athletics is a privilege. Students are given the opportunity to experience learning through the unique vehicle of sport. Interscholastic athletics is an educational program in which participants will be required to maintain academic growth while developing citizenship, sportsmanship, character, responsibility, motor skills, and health habits to contribute to a healthy lifestyle.

## **I. General Eligibility**

- a. Must meet all eligibility requirements established by the New York State Public High School Athletic Association.
- b. Must pass an approved physical examination each year prior to participation.
- c. Athletes sustaining an injury that requires a visit to the doctor, hospital, or primary care facility must receive written clearance by a physician in order to resume participation in athletic activities. Physician's clearance must be submitted to the school nurse, who will determine if the athlete is able to return or if they will need to be cleared by the school medical director.
  - i. Head Injuries:
    1. All parents/guardians and athletes will report concussion symptoms, head injury, or fainting that occur(s) during or outside of school activity.
      - a. Any athlete with a suspected head injury or concussion must remain out of all physical activity for at least 24 hours.
    2. Any athlete who has a concussion must remain out of play until cleared by their family physician. The school medical director has final authorization and must approve all releases prior to starting the return to play protocol. This may require an appointment with the school medical director.

## **II. Academic Eligibility**

- a. An athlete may not participate in contests while failing the academic eligibility standards. Once academically ineligible, the athlete must follow the current guidelines before regaining eligibility.

## **III. Athlete Responsibilities**

- a. The privilege of competing in Allegany County, Section V, and the New York State Public High School Athletic Association mandates responsibilities for the Andover and Whitesville Central School District and its athletes. Athletes will adhere to the NYSPHAA code of ethics, eligibility requirements, sportsmanship standards, and the rules and regulations of the Allegany County Athletic Association and Section V. Specific information on these guidelines is available from the Athletic Director.
- b. Expected to demonstrate sportsmanlike and ethical behavior and will show respect for officials, coaches, opponents, and teammates. Whenever representing the school, the athlete will be expected to meet those standards outlined in the student handbook.
- c. Should be positive role models for other students.

- d. All injuries related to participation in interscholastic athletics must be reported immediately to the coach.
- e. Athletes will be required to wear appropriate protective equipment when participating during practices and contests.
- f. Athletes must return school issued equipment before being allowed to participate in another sport. If equipment is lost or returned in an unsatisfactory condition as determined by the coach or Athletic Director, the athlete will be required to pay restitution before being allowed to participate in another sport.
- g. Once an athlete decides to participate in interscholastic athletics they are committed to the team and its goals. If they quit a team they must meet with the coach within five school days. If they do not they will be ineligible to participate in their next sport season for 1/3 of the contests. If they do not meet with the coach within ten school days they must meet with the Athletic Director before any participation is allowed.

#### **IV. Attendance**

- a. Athletes must attend the entire school day to be eligible to participate in that day's contest unless the absence is excused and can be verified.
- b. Athletes are expected to attend the entire school day after a contest unless there is a verified excused absence. Athletes who are absent the day following a contest may face disciplinary action.
- c. Athletes are expected to attend all practices and contests unless excused by the coach or Athletic Director
- d. Athletes serving in/out of school suspension will not practice/play on days of suspension.
- e. Athletes assigned to academic or disciplinary detention after school must attend the detention. They may participate after detention but will not miss detention due to a game/practice.
- f. Athletes who do not participate in PE (medical excuse or by choice) will not practice/play that day.

#### **V. Transportation**

- a. Athletes will travel to and from contests by district provided transportation.
- b. Alternate transportation to a contest needs administrative approval prior to the contest.
- c. Alternate transportation from a contest:
  - 1. The athlete can be released to their parent/guardian by the coach following the contest.
  - 2. Any other form of transportation from a contest needs administrative approval prior to the contest.

## **VI. Communication Process**

The following communication process will be followed to address an issue:

1. Athlete meets with coach.
2. Parent/guardian meets with coach.
3. Parent/guardian meets with Athletic Director.
4. Parent/guardian meets with Superintendent.

## **VII. Levels of Participation**

- a. Modified: The modified program focuses on teaching the rules and fundamentals of the game, skill development, responsibility, accountability, and sportsmanship. Fair participation for all athletes is the goal (at the coach's discretion).
- b. Junior Varsity: The purpose of the junior varsity sports program is to continue to improve at a higher level what is taught at the modified level. Further emphasis is placed on competition and preparation for the varsity level. Playing time begins to focus on contribution to team success (at the coach's discretion).
- c. Varsity: The focus of the varsity sports program is to compete at the highest level while continuing the development of the athlete's physical and mental abilities and their responsibilities as a varsity athlete. With team success being the goal, playing time will be dependent upon who can best contribute to that goal (at the coach's discretion).

## **VIII. NYSPHSAA Athletic Placement Process Requirements**

7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders who wish to participate on a JV or varsity team must meet the NYSPHSAA eligibility requirements. The Athletic Placement Process is as follows:

1. Coach's Interest
2. Parent/Guardian Permission
3. Administrative Approval
4. Medical Clearance
5. Sport Skill Evaluation
6. Physical Fitness Testing
7. Qualification Determination
8. Try Outs

## **IX. Substance Abuse**

- a. Athletes will not have in their possession, be associated with, or use tobacco, alcohol, or other chemicals in any way including look a like drugs and all those outlined in the Whitesville Central School Drug and Alcohol Policy. The term “possession and association” implies the legal definition according the New York State ABC law, whereas “the intent to consume” alcohol or other chemicals may be reasonably inferred by the circumstances.
- b. First Offense
  - i. The athlete will be suspended for 1/3 of the scheduled regular and postseason contests rounded to the higher number. In the event that there are less than 1/3 of the games remaining in the season, the suspension will carry over into the next season in which the athlete participates. The athlete will continue to practice with the team but will sit on the bench in street clothes during contests. If receiving in or out of school suspension as a result of the offense, the athletic suspension will go in to effect upon completion of the school suspension. If the athlete provides documentation of completion of one counseling session with the Allegany County Council on Alcoholism and Substance Abuse the suspension may be reduced to 1/4 of the contests.
- c. Second Offense
  - i. The athlete will be suspended for 2/3 of the scheduled regular and postseason contests rounded to the higher number. In the event that there are less than 2/3 of the games remaining in the season, the suspension will carry over into the next season in which the athlete participates. The athlete will continue to practice with the team but will sit on the bench in street clothes during games. If receiving in or out of school suspension as a result of the offense, the athletic suspension will go in to effect upon completion of the school suspension. If the athlete provides documentation of completion of one counseling session with the Allegany County Council on Alcoholism and Substance Abuse the suspension may be reduced to 1/3 of the contests.
- d. Third Offense
  - i. The athlete will be suspended for a full season. In the event that there is less than a full season remaining, the suspension will carry over into the next season in which the athlete participates. The athlete will continue to practice with the team but will sit on the bench in street clothes during games. If receiving in or out of school suspension as a result of the offense, the athletic suspension will go in to effect upon completion of the school suspension.
- e. Any athlete who is suspended from competition for these offenses must meet the requirements of the school Drug and Alcohol Policy before resuming participation.

- f. School personnel will make every attempt to assist students and families with counseling for alcohol, tobacco or other drug habits.

## **X. Adhering to the Code of Athletics**

- a. The athlete must sign a School Code of Athletics prior to competing, indicating they have read the code and will abide by its terms. The athlete's parent/guardian must sign the code indicating an awareness and support of the code and the rules governing participation in athletics.
- b. Coaches and other responsible adults may report violations of this code by athletes.
- c. Coaches or administrators may take steps to insure athletes adhere to this code. Discussions with athletes, parents/guardians, shortening of playing time, contest suspensions, and expulsion from a team are among options.
- d. Coaches may establish additional rules and procedures for their teams.

## **XI. Due Process**

- a. Athletes reported by a coach or other responsible adult to have committed a serious misconduct while in or out of school jurisdiction will be referred to the Athletic Council who will determine any disciplinary action to be taken.
- b. The athlete and their parent/guardian will receive notice of the disciplinary action. An athlete may have a parent/guardian present to discuss the facts underlying the proposed disciplinary action against them.
- c. An athlete or their parent/guardian may appeal the suspension.
  - i. The request for appeal shall be made in writing to an administrator.
  - ii. The administrator will convene with the Athletic Council, made up of the athletic director, a coach, and a teacher. The administrator will appoint an alternate if the appealing athlete's coach is a member of the Council.
  - iii. It is recommended that a parent/guardian be present at the hearing. Any party present may question another party on facts and issues relevant to the athlete's conduct and the disciplinary actions taken at that time.
  - iv. A decision shall be reached by majority vote of the Athletic Council and written notice will be sent to the athlete and their parent/guardian. The decision is final.

## **XII. Summary**

- a. Interscholastic athletics is an educational program that is an extension of the school day. All standards for students established by the Andover and Whitesville Boards of Education apply to athletes while participating in interscholastic athletics. Athletes will

meet the terms of this code of athletics and other policies or discipline codes of the school and are subject to all of the rules and regulations therein.

**XIII. Conclusion**

- a. It is the intent of Andover and Whitesville Central School to continually review this code to ensure it is directing athletic program towards its goals stated in the Athletic Philosophy. Feedback is welcome.

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**Student Signature**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Parent/Guardian Signature**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

**\*Signature reflects an understanding and support of the Code of Athletics throughout each sport season the athlete participates in during the school year. In signing, the parent/guardian and athlete acknowledge that participation in athletics includes the risk of injury, permanent disability, and death.**