

## **INSTRUCTION**

### **Interscholastic Athletics/Activities**

The interscholastic athletic program, including cheerleading and dance (collectively referred to in this procedure as “athletes”), of the Everett School District is designed to help our students become better school, community, state and national citizens and leaders. While the academic programs of our schools are of paramount importance, we believe participation in an athletic program affords opportunities, training and experience not ordinarily obtainable in the regular curriculum.

All students are invited and encouraged to take part in this voluntary program. Because it is a privilege to represent a school in interscholastic activities, the school shall have the authority to revoke the privilege when students do not meet the standards set forth. Because the program is voluntary, all students desiring the advantages of participation in the interscholastic athletic program, including cheerleaders and dancers, should be prepared to follow all rules and regulations as determined by the coaching staff, school administration and school board. Those who fail to comply with rules and regulations will not be permitted to participate in the program.

### **Nondiscrimination**

The district will not exclude any person from participation in the interscholastic program, deny any person the benefits of such a program or otherwise discriminate against any person in any interscholastic program on the basis of the categories identified in [Policy 3210](#), Nondiscrimination.

The district will provide necessary funds for co-curricular and athletic activities for both sexes, although the aggregate expenditures are not required to be equal for members of each sex and expenditures for separate male and female teams are not required to be equal.

When individual students with disabilities are unable to participate in existing activities even when offered reasonable modifications and necessary accommodations, aids or services, the district may offer opportunities for students with disabilities to participate in separate or different recreational or athletic activities.

The district may operate or sponsor separate teams for members of each sex where selection for such teams is based upon competitive skill or the activity involved is a contact sport. However, when the district operates or sponsors a team in a particular sport for members of one sex but not the other and athletic opportunities for members of that sex have previously been limited, members of the excluded sex must be allowed to try out for the team offered.

The district will provide equal athletic opportunities for both sexes within each school for interscholastic, club or intramural athletics. In determining whether equal athletic opportunities for both sexes are being provided, the district will consider the following factors:

1. Whether the selection of sports and levels of competition effectively accommodate the interests and abilities of members of both sexes;
2. Provision of equipment and supplies;

3. Scheduling of games and practice time, including the use of playfields, courts, gyms and pools;
4. Travel and per diem allowances, if any;
5. Opportunity to receive coaching and academic tutoring;
6. Assignment and compensation of coaches, tutors, and game officials;
7. Provision of locker rooms and practice and competitive facilities;
8. Provision of medical and training facilities and services, including the availability of insurance;
9. Provision of housing and dining facilities and services, if any; and
10. Publicity and awards.

### **Annual Athletic Program Evaluation**

The district will evaluate its intramural and interscholastic program in each school at least once each year to ensure that equal opportunities are available to members of both sexes with respect to participation in interscholastic and/or intramural programs. The evaluation will include consideration for the factors listed in the above paragraph, Nondiscrimination.

### **Student Athletic Interest Survey**

Every three (3) years, the district will administer to each school that operates interscholastic, intramural and other athletics the survey developed by the office of the superintendent of public instruction to determine male and female student interest in participation in specific sports. The district will consider the survey results when planning and developing co-curricular and athletic activities offered by the district and when determining whether equal opportunities are available to members of both sexes.

### **Medical Insurance**

Each student participating in the interscholastic athletic program or cheerleading or dance is required to have or obtain medical insurance for expenses incurred as a result of injuries sustained while participating in the program. Students shall provide evidence of coverage with a minimum coverage of \$25,000 in medical expenses or shall obtain such coverage through the insurance plan offered to all students participating in the district's athletic program. No student will be denied the opportunity to participate solely because the student's family, by reason of low income, is unable to pay the premium for such insurance. The superintendent or his or her designee may approve partial or full waiver of the premium to permit all students to obtain the required medical insurance.

### **Physical Examination**

Due to the physical and mental rigors associated with participation in athletic programs, all athletes must show evidence of having a current physical examination before participating.

## **Risks of Participation**

Certain risks are associated with participation in interscholastic athletics, cheerleading and dance. While the district will strive to prevent injuries and accidents to students, each athlete and ~~his/her~~ **the athlete's** parent(s) or guardian(s) will be required to sign a statement which indicates that the parent(s) or guardian(s) and the student acknowledge the risks of injuries resulting from such participation and give assurance that the student will follow the instructions of the coach.

**Each participant will be required to furnish evidence of physical fitness prior to becoming a member of an interscholastic team. A written report will be completed when a student is injured while participating in a school-supervised activity. A participant will be free of injury and will have fully recovered from illness before participating in any activity.**

## **Equipment and Facilities**

Coaches shall issue properly maintained and fitted equipment to interscholastic athletics participants. All district facilities and equipment utilized in the interscholastic athletic program shall be inspected on a regular basis by the building athletic coordinator and coaches. Students will return all school issued equipment in good condition. Fines shall be assessed to students for failure to return equipment or for returning equipment damaged in excess of normal use.

The district will provide separate facilities (e.g., showers, toilets, and training rooms) for male and female students or schedule the facilities equitably for separate use.

## **Athletic User Fees**

Prior to the first contest of the season, athletes must pay an athletic user fee to subsidize program costs. Students on free or reduced lunch will have this fee waived. Families may request that the building athletic coordinator partially waive the fee or be placed on a payment plan if the fee poses a financial hardship. The hardship may include the fact that the family has multiple students participating in the same season.

Refunds will be determined on a case-by-case basis. Refunds will **not** be given if a student quits the team after the first contest or if the student is dismissed for disciplinary reasons.

Payment of this fee does not guarantee playing time or a letter award at the end of the season.

## **Eligibility Exceptions**

Athletes and/or their parent (s) or guardian(s) may request exceptions to the WIAA eligibility regulations through their building athletic coordinator or designated assistant principal in cases involving hardship or extenuating circumstances. Students and/or their parent(s) or guardian(s) may request a hearing before the Northwest District 1 Eligibility Committee in order to contest the reason(s) for any alleged ineligibility under the standards established by the WIAA. Any student aggrieved by a decision of the Eligibility Committee may appeal to the Executive Board of WIAA.

## **Ejection from Contest**

First ejection of the season from a contest by a game official shall result in the ejected person (athlete, coach, other school representative) being ineligible until after the next two (2) contests of the school at the same level of competition from which the person was ejected. Ineligibility from the second contest may be appealed to the building athletic coordinator.

Second ejection in the same sport and season shall result in ineligibility of the athlete, coach, or school representative for the remainder of the season of that sport. The severity of the penalty may be appealed to the WIAA Executive Director within two (2) school days from the second ejection upon presentation of rationale and written documentation signed by the WIAA member school principal or superintendent desiring and supporting penalty modification.

## **Team Selection**

When selecting members of a team, coaches consider the following criteria:

1. Physical strength, coordination and/or size, which, in the opinion of the coach, would endanger the safety and health of the athlete or other participants.
2. Athletic skill.
3. Available facilities, coaches, and the nature of the competition which may require a limited number of positions on a team or squad.
4. Attitude, conduct or citizenship.

## **Supervision of Athletes While Away from Campus**

It is the responsibility of coaches and staff members to supervise athletes at all times during a trip off campus.

1. All athletes participating in off campus trips shall be under the supervision of a staff member or athletic coach employed by the district during the entire trip. On overnight trips, responsibility for the athletes shall be 24 hours per day throughout the duration of the trip.
2. The staff member in charge shall be available to students at all times while away from school.
3. The staff member in charge shall be responsible for training and assigning specific duties and responsibilities to adult volunteers on the trip, per district policy.
4. Adult volunteers shall complete the district's volunteer information packet and be cleared to supervise students prior to departure to the event.
5. Adult volunteers will only supervise students in groups of two or more.

A written report from the staff member in charge will be submitted to the principal as requested or whenever any unique situation occurs such as an accident, injury, major incident, etc.

## **Travel Regulations**

1. Students will use district transportation to events when provided. Students transported to events on district transportation will return on district transportation. When parents or guardians wish to transport their own child from the event, they must provide, to an adult supervisor, a signed and dated document to that effect.
2. A parent or guardian who wishes to have their student transported by another adult must make such request, in writing, and be granted approval from building administration in advance.
3. All events taking place prior to 4:15 PM on school days will require district transportation for all students.
4. If an away contest takes place in the Everett School District after 4:15 PM, students may be asked by their coach to meet at the event site. Event sites include Mariner, Kamiak, Lynnwood and Glacier Peak High Schools. Students must go directly from their homes to the event site.
5. Students may transport themselves to off-site practice facilities with written permission of the parent or guardian (per [Policy 3241](#)).
6. All private vehicle travel authorization forms will be submitted to the building athletic coordinator or activities coordinator and kept on file in the respective office for six (6) years.
7. Staff will not direct or allow students to transport other students.

## **Athletic Code**

The following student rules (the "Athletic Code") shall apply to all students who participate in the district's athletic, cheer or dance programs (collectively referred to in this procedure as "athletes"). Athletes are subject to the provisions of the Athletic Code for a one-year period commencing with their participation in an athletic season. For purposes of the Athletic Code, the seasons will be determined as follows: Each season begins with the first day of scheduled participation as determined by the Washington Interscholastic Activities Association (WIAA) calendar or school program calendar and continues until the beginning of the next sport or activity season as determined by the same WIAA or school program calendar.

### **I. BASIC CONDUCT EXPECTATIONS FOR ATHLETES**

Because athletes perform and represent their schools in public, they are expected to conduct themselves at all times in a manner that will reflect the high standards and ideals of their activity, team, school and community and to demonstrate their non-use and non-tolerance of harmful substances. The district is committed to promoting the well-being, personal development and successful performance of all of their students.

Any athlete who willfully performs any act which materially interferes with or is detrimental to the orderly operation of a school's athletic program (including, but not limited to, all misconduct specifically prohibited by these rules, as well as other illegal or serious misconduct) shall be subject to Athletic Code discipline. Such acts may include school or non-school activity performed either on or off campus and the discipline may include permanent removal of a participant from the athletic program.

## II. BASIC RULES

- A. For an athlete's violation of district and school rules, the athlete will be treated as any other student. **In addition**, the athlete will be penalized in accordance with the Athletic Code. Students suspended or expelled from school may not participate in athletics during the period of school exclusion.
- B. The following rules apply to athletes. Rules 6 and 7 concerning drugs, alcohol, and tobacco apply throughout the year and are in effect even when athletes have completed their season and are not currently participating in a particular sport. Rules 6 and 7 also extend to an athlete's conduct at all times, both on and off campus.

### 1. **WIAA Compliance**

Athletes shall comply with official WIAA rules.

### 2. **Team Rule Compliance**

Athletes shall abide by the team/squad rules and shall obey the reasonable and lawful directives of coaches. Team/squad rules will be approved by each school's principal or designated assistant principal and distributed by coaches at the start of each season.

### 3. **Pre-participation Requirements**

To be eligible to try out for a team/squad, students must have been in regular school attendance as a full-time student during the semester/~~trimester~~ immediately preceding the season of competition. A full-time student is a student enrolled in a minimum of five (5) of six (6) classes (high school) or six (6) of seven (7) classes (middle school). Running Start and home instruction students shall meet the eligibility requirements outlined in the WIAA handbook. All other requirements, e.g., current physical exam, medical insurance, ASB membership, completion of forms and Athletic Code contract, and compliance with residence and other WIAA and school rules, must also be met.

### 4. **Academic Requirements**

To be eligible to compete/perform, students must:

- For purposes of determining initial academic eligibility, the most recent semester ~~or trimester~~ shall be the determining grade used. The athlete must have passed five (5) of six (6) classes in the previous semester ~~or six (6) of seven (7) classes in the previous trimester.~~
- Be registered for, attending, and passing all classes.
- A non-passing grade is any grade where credit is not granted.
- During the season, frequent grade checks will be conducted. Athletes must be passing all classes or face academic probation or suspension. Athletes on academic probation will be permitted to practice and compete. Athletes on academic suspension will be permitted to practice, but will not be permitted to compete until they have met academic requirements.

## 5. Illegal Substances

Athletes shall not be under the influence, possess, sell, deliver and/or use alcohol, any form of tobacco or illegal chemical substances (including marijuana/cannabis). Athletes also shall not be in the presence of, or remain in the vicinity of, others illegally using alcohol or using illegal drugs or controlled substances. Athletes arriving at a party, function or other location where illegal drugs or controlled substances (including marijuana/cannabis) are being used, sold or delivered or substances (such as alcohol) are being illegally used, sold or delivered shall immediately leave the premises. Failure to immediately leave the premises will result in the same discipline as actual use.

## 6. Illegal Activity and Other Serious Misconduct

Athletes may not engage in other misconduct that violates the law or brings dishonor to their team/squad, e.g., criminal violations, harassment, bullying, hazing, fighting and cheating.

### III. PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION OF THE CODE

#### A. Imposition of Discipline

Penalties for violation of Rule II.B.3, team rules, may be imposed by head coaches in consultation with the principal or designated assistant principal. All other discipline must be imposed by the principal or designated assistant principal. Exclusion from a team/squad for the remainder of a season shall be approved by the principal or designated assistant principal.

#### B. Pre-participation Requirements

Penalties for violations of Rule II.B.4 shall be as follows:

- The student is not eligible to try out, practice, compete, perform, or otherwise take part in the athletic program.

#### C. Academic Requirements

Penalties for violations of Rule II.B.5 requirements shall be as follows:

- An athlete not satisfying Rule II.B.5 at the end of each semester/~~trimester~~ shall be on **academic suspension** for the succeeding semester/~~trimester~~ and shall, during this time, be ineligible from competitions/performance through the last Saturday in September in the fall, or for five (5) academic weeks in the spring, (high school) or three (3) academic weeks (middle school). If, at the end of the suspension period, the athlete shall be passing in the required number of classes, he or she may then be reinstated for practices and competition. Athletes returning from academic suspension must maintain compliance with Rule II.B.5 to maintain eligibility.

An athlete not satisfying Rule II.B.5 as a result of school-administered grade checks during a season shall be placed on **academic probation** on the Monday following the date grades are checked. The athlete will remain eligible for practices and competitions/performances during the probationary period provided the athlete participates in daily study sessions before attending practices. After one week, the probationary athlete's grades will be checked again. If the athlete is passing all classes, the athlete will be removed from probation. If the athlete is still not passing all classes, the athlete shall be placed on **academic suspension**. The athlete will remain eligible for practices, provided the athlete participates in daily study sessions before attending practice, but not eligible for competitions or performances. **The athlete shall remain on suspension until a minimum of one game suspension is served AND the athlete is passing all classes.**

At the conclusion of a ~~trimester~~/semester, the student will maintain full academic eligibility if the student passed six (6) classes (middle school) or five (5) classes (high school).

## **D. Drug and Controlled Substance Violations (WIAA Rule 18.26.2)**

### First Violation

An athlete shall be immediately ineligible for interscholastic competition in the current sports program for the remainder of the season. Ineligibility shall continue until the next sports season in which the participant wishes to participate unless the student accesses an assistance program. All athletes violating this rule shall have two options:

1. The athlete will be ineligible for participation in contests for the remainder of that sports season and must meet with the school eligibility committee to be eligible for the next sports season. The school eligibility committee will make a recommendation to the principal or designated assistant principal. The principal or designated assistant principal will have the final authority regarding the student's participation in further sports programs.
2. The athlete may choose to seek and receive help for a problem with use of drugs. Successful utilization of school and/or community assistance programs may allow ~~him/her~~ **the student** to have eligibility reinstated in that athletic season, pending recommendation by the school eligibility committee and principal or designated assistant principal. Minimum suspension periods are outlined in the Alcohol Violations section of this code.

### Second Violation

The penalty shall be ineligibility from all interscholastic athletic participation for a period of one (1) calendar year from the date of the second violation.

### Third Violation

The penalty shall be permanent ineligibility from all interscholastic athletic participation for the remainder of the athlete's high school career (WIAA Rule 18.22.0).



## **E. Alcohol Violations**

### First Violation

A first violation of Rule II.B.6 discovered through an investigation shall result in immediate suspension for forty-two (42) calendar days or the remainder of the season, whichever is longer. This ineligibility also carries into the next season (as previously defined) in which the student participates. A student who admits wrong doing and cooperates honestly in the investigation may have their suspension reduced to twenty-eight (28) calendar days. A student who self-reports a violation prior to any investigation or inquiry may have ~~his/her~~ the suspension reduced to fourteen (14) calendar days. All violations carry a minimum one game suspension. The building principal may reinstate the athlete if the athlete follows the process in III.F.

### Second Violation

The penalty for a second violation of Rule II.B.6 shall be removal from all athletic participation for a period of one calendar year. The building principal may reinstate the athlete if the athlete follows the process in III.F.

### Third Violation

The penalty for a third violation of Rule II.B.6 shall be permanent removal from all athletic participation for the remainder of the athlete's high school career and in the case of drugs, permanent ineligibility at all WIAA institutions for the remainder of the athlete's high school career (WIAA Rule 18.22.0).

## **F. Tobacco Violations**

### First Violation

The penalty for a first violation of Rule II.B.6 shall be immediate suspension for fourteen (14) calendar days. This may be reduced to seven (7) days if the student self-reports prior to an investigation. The building principal may reinstate the athlete if the athlete follows the process in III.F.

### Second Violation

The penalty for a second violation of Rule II.B.6 shall be immediate suspension for twenty-eight (28) calendar days. The building principal may reinstate the athlete if the athlete follows the process in III.F.

### Third and Subsequent Violations

The penalty for a third and subsequent violations of Rule II.B.6 shall be immediate suspension for forty-two (42) calendar days. The building principal may reinstate the athlete if the athlete follows the process in III.F.

## **G. Reinstatement Process**

An athlete may apply for reinstatement following any form of athletic discipline by submitting the following to the principal:

1. Letter of intent and purpose of reinstatement.

2. Drug, alcohol and/or tobacco assessment by an individual agency that is acceptable to the school district. (Recommendations of approved agencies will be provided to the parent.) Results will be shared with family and school administration.
3. Proof that a drug, alcohol and/or tobacco counseling or preventative education program has been completed.
4. Treatment recommendations must be followed as a condition for reinstatement.
5. The principal may waive any or all of the requirements above if deemed appropriate. The school principal has sole discretion regarding the reinstatement of a student.

## **H. Out of Season Violations**

If an athlete violates the athletic code out of season, the suspension will be served in the next season in which they participate on an athletic team provided that the athlete participated on that sports team the prior year. In order for a suspension for a partial season to be deemed validly served, the athlete must complete the season, in which the suspension is served, in good standing.

## **I. Accumulation of Violations**

Any penalty assigned a participant in middle school for violation of Rule II.B.6. shall not be carried over to high school. Violations of Rule II.B.6 shall accumulate in grades 7-8 and then again in grades 9-12.

## **J. Illegal Activity and Other Serious Misconduct Violations**

Athletes who violate Rule II.B.7 by committing criminal violations (other than drugs, alcohol, and tobacco violations) or engaging in other serious misconduct (e.g., harassment, bullying, hazing, fighting, cheating) may be excluded from participation in the athletic program for a period consistent with the seriousness of the offense. Any serious criminal behavior may be the basis for final exclusion from the athletic program for the remainder of a student's career.

## **IV. ATHLETIC DISCIPLINE APPEALS**

Any athlete, parent, or guardian who is aggrieved by the imposition of discipline, including exclusion from participation in athletics, shall have the right to an informal conference with the building principal or ~~his/her~~ designee for the purpose of resolving the grievance. The conference must be requested within three (3) school days of the time the parent receives oral or written notice of the discipline. The employee whose action is being grieved shall be notified of the initiation of a grievance as soon as reasonably possible. During the informal conference the student, parent, or guardian shall be subject to questioning by the building principal or ~~his/her~~ designee and shall be entitled to question school personnel involved in the matter being grieved. Subsequent to the building level grievance meeting, the student, parent, or guardian, upon two (2) school business day's prior notice, shall have the right to present a written or oral grievance to the District Athletic Director. If the grievance is not resolved, the student, parent, or guardian, upon two (2) school business day's prior notice, shall have the right to present a written or oral grievance to the Disciplinary Appeals Council. The Council shall notify the student, parent, or guardian of its response to the grievance within ten (10) school business days after the date of the meeting. The decision of the Council is final.

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The discipline action shall continue notwithstanding the implementation of the grievance procedure set forth in this section unless the principal or ~~his/her~~ designee elects to postpone such action.

## V. STUDENT ATHLETIC PROGRAM CONTRACT

At least once a year, each athlete shall, as a precondition to participation, sign a contract covering all athletic programs. This contract applies to all athletic programs (including cheer and dance) and is in effect for a period of one calendar year from the date of signature.

Cross references:     [Board Policy 2151](#)     Interscholastic Athletics/Activities  
                             [Board Policy 6535](#)     Student Insurance

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