

Interscholastic Sports & Extracurricular Activities

Applicability- This policy applies to West Iron County students starting with their promotion into the 8th grade and ending with the completion of their senior year. The District is committed to providing an experience through interscholastic programs that will create individual growth, both as an athlete and a young adult. The District is also committed to educate our participants as to what it means to be a member of a team and the relationships that go into building a successful team.

In return, we expect the same commitment from our young athletes. We also expect to partner with parents to create a healthy and educational experience for all participants.

Students who wish to participate in and be eligible for committees, or any other extra-curricular activities and/or honors are held to the same standards of behavior, as are our school athletes. Violating the athletic code of conduct may prevent students from receiving awards or recognitions.

Interscholastic Programs

1. Football – Varsity, Junior Varsity, Junior High
2. Basketball – Varsity, Junior Varsity – Boys and Girls
3. Track – Boys and Girls
4. Golf – Boys and Girls
5. Tennis – Boys and Gy
6. Cross-Country – Boys and Girls
7. Volleyball- Varsity, Junior Varsity

Consent of Participation- As a condition of participating in any phase of the district's interscholastic/extracurricular programs, each athlete and his/her custodial parent or custodian must consent to such participation in accordance with the provisions of this Code, by completing and filing with the high school office the Handbook/ Planner Obligation Form which accompanies the student handbook. Such consent shall be deemed valid for a period of one year.

As participants in athletics, athletes and parents need to realize that coaches make judgments based on what they believe to be the best for all students involved. Each Coach or Advisor is afforded the capacity to make their own set of rules for that specific sport in accordance with both MHSAA guidelines and the West Iron County School District's Athletic Code of Conduct. The Coach's rules may go above and beyond any minimum requirements set by the MHSAA or the school. There are certain things parents can and should discuss with their child's coach. Other things must be left to the discretion of the coach. Items such as playing time, team strategy, and play calling are inappropriate topics to discuss with the coach. There are situations that may require a conference between the coach and parent. These are to be encouraged. It is important that both parties involved have a clear understanding of the other's position.

After first discussing the situation with their son/daughter, parents should call to set up an appointment with the coach. The coach should not be confronted before, during, or after the contest. These can be emotional times for both and a meeting could be counterproductive. The “24 hour rule” should be used. Both parties can discuss the situation in a more controlled manner after this period of time has passed. If a parent does not believe a solution has been reached, they should contact the Athletic Director. If they are still not satisfied, they could contact the principal or as a last resort, the superintendent.

A. Eligibility -- MHSAA

1. Michigan High School Athletic Association Rules:

- a. An athlete must have been enrolled in high school no later than Monday of the fourth (4th) week of the present semester.
- b. An athlete must be under 19 years of age and only 19 if his/her birthday occurs on or after September 1st of that year.
- c. An athlete must have no more than four seasons of competition in a sport.
- d. An athlete must not be enrolled for more than eight (8) semesters with the 7th and 8th being consecutive.
- e. An athlete must **not** be a high school graduate.
- f. An athlete must have received at least *20 credit hours* for work taken during his or her last regular semester of enrollment. An athlete must be carrying successfully at least *20 credit hours* of work during the present semester. *A full time student at West Iron County High School meets these requirements, although we define our “credit hours” differently.*
- g. An athlete must **not accept** any award for athletic performance other than an emblematic award. The value of an emblematic award may not exceed \$25.00.
- h. An athlete must **not accept** any money or other valuable merchandise for participating in any form of athletics, sports, games, or for officiating in interscholastic athletic contests.
- i. Any student participating in interscholastic athletics is required to have a physical examination.

Clarifications and penalties for infractions of these rules can be found in the Michigan High School Athletic Rule Book in the high school office.

2. West Iron County High School Rules:

- a. A student must be passing at least five (5) semester hours of credit to participate in an interscholastic sport.
- b. All athletes will follow West Iron County High School Training Rules (following pages).

West Iron Academic Eligibility -- Regulations and Procedures

1. A Student must be passing 66% of a full credit load, or 5 out of 7 classes per the MHSAA Handbook.
2. A Student must have passed 66% of their classes, or 5 out of 7 per MHSAA Handbook, during the preceding semester. Exception would be for 1st Semester of a Student's Freshman year.
3. Students failing 1 class at grade check or end of term must report to all morning tutoring sessions to remain game eligible. If a student misses or attends late, they must remain ineligible until the student is receiving a passing grade in the class.
4. Students failing 2 or more classes at grade check time or at the end of the term will be ineligible for 1 week, a grade check will happen the following week to see if the student's grades have improved. They should also attend morning tutoring sessions.
5. Grade checks will be done at the midpoint of each term and at the end of each term/semester.
6. Exceptions will be made for those students who are not capable of achieving, academically, at these standards. Each case will be looked at and exceptions may be made.
7. The academic eligibility policy, regulations, and procedures will be subject to an annual review, prior to the semester break of the succeeding school year.

*All School-Sanctioned Extracurricular Activities
are covered by these Regulations*

Adopted: July 20, 2009

INTERSCHOLASTIC TRAINING RULES

A well-conditioned mind in a well-conditioned body is an unbeatable combination. A proper mental attitude just doesn't appear; rather, it is something planned, developed, nurtured, and built to a point where it becomes an asset ready to play an important part in the athlete's overall personality. Perhaps the most important factor in developing a proper mental attitude is for squad members to accept discipline in its various forms. Discipline learned during the day and at the practice area will carry over and produce discipline under stress in a game. Reporting to practice on time, general good conduct throughout the school day, following instruction, keeping training rules, and maintaining a proper diet are a few of the attitudes necessary for the development of discipline.

School Objectives for the athletic program are:

1. To provide an educationally sound, student centered program that integrates well with the total educational program of the school.
2. To provide an opportunity for interscholastic athletic competition.
3. To develop a good team spirit and discipline.
4. To promote a winning spirit and an ability to compete with schools of a similar size and classification.
5. To develop the athlete to the best of his/her ability.

6. To develop leadership qualities.
7. To make the athletic program a source of pride for the school, as well as the community.

An athlete should be a leader in his/her school and community. Others often follow him as an example. With this responsibility, it is necessary to have some well-defined rules to insure that the example given will be a good one. Conduct on and off the field, in season and out of season, should bring credit to the athlete, his school, and his community.

1. The contest demands that the athlete:
 - a. Play fair at all times.
 - b. Demonstrate good sportsmanship to opponents and spectators at all times.
 - c. Play for the joy of participation and the success of the team.
 - d. Play hard to the end.
 - e. Respect the officials and expect them to enforce the rules.
 - f. Not “grandstand”, quit, cheats, or bet.
2. The school demands of the athlete:
 - a. Out-of-School and out-of-town conduct is of the highest type.
 - b. Faithful completion of schoolwork as evidence of loyalty to the team and the school.
 - c. Complete observance of the training rules as a duty to the school, to the team, and to himself/herself.
 - d. Good sportsmanship toward visiting teams, officials, and spectators.

Though there are many attitudes that are desirable in the development of young athletes, a few are of such importance that special emphasis must be placed on them. The following rules and regulations are those which fit in that category and which no member of the athletic squad can disregard without hurting him and the team.

A. PRACTICE

1. An athlete must be on time.
2. All excuses from practice must be made in advance to the coach or principal.
3. If an athlete is injured or ill, but in school, he/she must attend practice in street clothes
4. Attendance is required at all practice sessions unless otherwise notified.
5. Horseplay will not be tolerated.

B. CURFEW

1. Regular: Coaches will set all rules with the approval of the Athletic Director, pertaining to curfews.
2. Day Preceding Game: Same as above.

C. PHYSICALS:

1. All athletes must have evidence, on file with the Athletic Director’s Office, of a current physical by a licensed physician indicating that they are physically suited for athletic competition. Without this evidence on file, the athlete will not practice or participate in any athletic competition. No exceptions will be granted. In cases of serious injury,

extended illness, or suspension, District officials may require an athlete to be re-examined by a physician, and submit to all reasonable medical tests, including drug tests, and to provide a new physical examination record or clearance from a physician before being allowed to further participate in the District's interscholastic/extracurricular programs.

D. GENERAL CONDUCT:

1. The general conduct of a West Iron County Athlete must be exemplary at all times. An all-out effort aimed at the successful result is expected of all athletes whether they are at home, at work, in the classroom, or participating in an athletic activity.

E. GROOMING AND APPEARANCE:

1. All athletes must maintain a neatly groomed appearance at all times in order to maintain the proper school image and to set an example for those who would follow unusual or objectionable trends. Any student representing the West Iron County School in any athletic role or other extracurricular activity must be well groomed at all times. Excessive hairstyles, inappropriate clothing, and/or uncleanness shall cause the student to be subject to restrictions as the supervisor and/or Athletic Code Committee shall impose after reasonable notice for change has been given. This rule is included in the interest of health, sanitary and safety measures. Because each sport is different in the way it is played each coach has the right to make and enforce rules of student appearance regarding hairstyles and dress codes. These rules will be communicated in writing to the students during the parent-player meeting near the beginning of each season.

ATHLETIC DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES

A. MISSING PRACTICE

1. The unexcused missing a practice session will be penalized at the coach's discretion.
2. The coach will outline his/her policy at the start of the season.

B. BREAKING CURFEW

1. If an athlete breaks curfew the night before the contest, the Athletic Director will determine the appropriate disciplinary action.
2. Any falsification of attendance records may result in an immediate suspension from school and any contest that occurs on the date of suspension. Any athlete who has an unexcused absence from school may not play in the next contest, unless the Athletic Director makes an exception.

C. MISSING SCHOOL

1. The Athletic Director shall discipline any athlete who has an unexcused absence from school accordingly.
2. Any student who misses more than one-half day of school on the day of the contest will not be allowed to participate in that contest. The principal and/or athletic director,

depending upon the circumstances surrounding the absence, will make exceptions to this rule.

D. MISCONDUCT: Any conduct that does not exemplify an athlete and student of West Iron County School.

1. Misconduct in school, in a game, in the community, in practice, or at a hosting team's facility or town may lead to the missing of a contest or suspension from the sport as determined by the coach, principal, or athletic director.
2. Being present at an activity, party, or function that involves the use or possession of alcoholic beverages, tobacco, drugs, or narcotics are a violation of the athletic training rules. It is the **athlete's responsibility** to avoid participation in events that include any of the above. Guilt by association will be considered a violation if the athlete cannot or will not provide evidence or proof that he/she was not participating in these activities.

E. VIOLATIONS: Any Alcohol, Tobacco, Drug use/possession or other civil infraction that would be considered less than a 90 day misdemeanor during school or school events will be handled in the following manor.

- First Offense: In any sport, including those with less than 15 contest dates, the offender will be suspended for 20% of the contest dates if he/she reports the alleged offense to the Athletic Director within one school day. The penalty will be 30% of the contest dates if not timely reported to the Athletic Director, and the Athletic Director is notified from another source. **When reporting the alleged offense, the student may accept the school penalties without admitting guilt to the alleged offense, or the student may report the alleged offense, and deny any wrongdoing and/ or request a hearing under the appeals provision.** If a first violation occurs during the school year involving a student who is not participating in an athletic activity at the time, the suspension will be enforced in the next sport the offending student participates. If necessary, the enforcement of the suspension will be carried into the next sports season and/ or next school year.
- Second Offense: The offender for a second offense will be suspended for 50% of the contest dates. If the suspension starts before 50% of the contest dates have been completed, there will be no carryover to the next sports season. If the suspension starts after 50% of the contest dates have been completed, the suspension will carry over onto the next sports season.
- Third Offense: Suspension for the third offense will be One Calendar Year. **If a student who has received a year suspension successfully completes counseling (at parents expense) and we receive in writing from the counselor that the program was a success, we may reinstate student after a 60 school day suspension, as long as the athletic director is satisfied with the progress.**
- Fourth offense: The penalty for a fourth offense will be a lifetime suspension from athletics at West Iron County High School. **If a student who has received lifetime suspension successfully completes counseling (at parents expense) and we receive in writing from the counselor that the program was a success, we may reinstate student**

after a 90 school day suspension, as long as the athletic director is satisfied with the progress.

- Fifth Offense: The penalty for a fifth offense will be a lifetime suspension from athletics at West Iron County High Schools.

Parents are encouraged to contact the Principal or Athletic Director for guidance in finding help for their child.

Any Alcohol, Tobacco, Drug use/possession, or other civil infraction that is not connected to school time or school events, the District is committed to partnering with parents to establish consequences for behavior, using the consequences above as a potential guide. Consequences can be parent driven or in partner with the coach or athletic department.

Felonies and Misdemeanor charges greater than 90 days, regardless of occurring during school time, events, or non-school time will be handled by the athletic director with consequences determined by the Athletic director. An appeal process is identified below.

PROCEDURE AND APPEALS OF DECISIONS:

1. The Athletic Director shall enforce this Disciplinary code as he/she sees fit. In his/her absence the principal of the high school may act as the athletic director's designee. Upon a ruling of a suspension by the athletic director, the student shall be notified in writing. The ruling shall be effective immediately. The notice shall provide for a description of the violations and the period of the suspension. The district will retain a record of the violation.
2. In all felony cases, an order of the District Court binding the student over to Circuit court shall be considered prima facie evidence of sufficient grounds to implement applicable penalties.
3. Within three school days of receiving a notice of suspension, the student or his/her guardian may request a hearing. The athletic director's ruling of suspension shall be in effect until the hearing has occurred. The hearing will be held as soon as possible but shall be held within three school days of the notification of request.
4. The hearing shall be held before an Athletic Disciplinary Code Appeals Board, consisting of three members. The Board shall consist of an un-involved administrator, and two (2) non-involved coaches.
5. At the hearing, the Athletic Disciplinary Appeals Board shall hear and/or accept any reasonable reliable and relevant evidence as to the alleged violation. The athletic director shall initially present the alleged violations and applicable penalties. The student or guardian may then present any applicable evidence. It shall be the responsibility of the student to obtain and produce all relevant police reports and police records including any drug or alcohol testing.
6. The Athletic Disciplinary Code Appeals Board may decide to uphold the penalty as ruled by the athletic director, amend, or revoke the ruling of the athletic director, or stay the suspension until additional information is obtained and the hearing is reconvened.
7. The decision of the Athletic Disciplinary Appeals Board shall be based on a civil standard of a preponderance of evidence and not on the criminal standard of beyond a reasonable doubt.

8. The Athletic Disciplinary Appeals Board may consider all reasonable reliable evidence regardless of whether the evidence is admissible for purposes of a criminal trial under criminal law (ie. Scientific testing, fingerprinting, blood tests, breath tests, admission, etc..)
9. A majority vote of the Athletic Disciplinary Appeals Board will be the decision of the Athletic Disciplinary Board.
10. The Athletic Disciplinary Appeals Board may consider a request to re-hear an appeal after its initial decision. A request for a rehearing may be made at anytime by the student or his/her guardian, or by the athletic director. The request must first be submitted in writing to the Athletic Disciplinary Board. The request shall set forth the basis for the rehearing. The only grounds for a rehearing shall be new relevant and reliable evidence not previously presented to this Board. This Board shall decide whether to grant a new hearing based solely on the written request.
11. All witnesses presenting evidence to the Athletic Disciplinary Appeals Board shall swear or affirm that they are telling the truth. All hearings shall be recorded.
12. If a request for a re-hearing has been denied, or rehearing reaffirms consequence, the student, parent or guardian may request a hearing with the West Iron County School Board. The West Iron County School Board reserves the right to meet as a full board, have a present committee, or assign a committee to review and or hear the appeal. The athletic directors ruling shall remain in effect until meeting of the school board or committee. The above steps, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9 shall be followed.
13. The decision of the West Iron County School board shall be final.

PUBLIC ACT 31 -- STEROIDS:

As per Public Act No. 31, a person who knowingly uses an androgenic anabolic steroids in violation of section 17766a of the Public Health Code Act No. 368 of the Public Act of 1978, being section 17766a of the Michigan Compiled Laws, is guilty of a misdemeanor, punishable by imprisonment for not more than ninety (90) days, or a fine of not more than \$100.00, or both.

A person who knowingly possesses an androgenic anabolic steroids in violation of section 17766a of Act No. 368 of the Public Acts of 1978 is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment for not more than ninety (90) days, or a fine of not more than \$100.00, or both. A second or subsequent violation is a felony, punishable by imprisonment for not more than four (4) years, and a fine of not more than \$2000.00, or both.

A person who knowingly delivers or knowingly possesses with intent to deliver an androgenic anabolic steroid or counterfeit androgenic anabolic steroid to another person in violation of section 17766a of Act No. 368 of the Public Acts of 1978 is guilty of a felony, punishable by imprisonment of not more than seven (7) years, or a fine of not more than \$5000.00, or both.

Possession, delivery, and or use of steroids in school shall be disciplined under the Alcohol/Drug section of the student handbook.