

# **Marcus Whitman Central School District Athletics Eligibility Standards & Rules Student-Athlete/Parent Handbook & Athletic Code of Conduct**



## **District Mission Statement**

**We, of the Marcus Whitman Community, are committed to developing responsible, productive and caring citizens. We strive each day through personal involvement to make our school a place where each student, as an important individual, can pursue his/her highest potential by acquiring the academic, creative and social skills necessary in an ever changing world.**

Athletic Handbook Revised: May, 2015

Revisions June 2018, July 2021

## **Athletic Code of Conduct Review Committee**

Marcy Adams	Primary Special Education Teacher Girls Varsity Swim Coach
Jeff Allen	Board of Education Member
Amanda Angell	High School Teacher
Meg Bragg	Middle School Teacher
Nicole Green	Middle School Teacher
Stephanie Ellerstein	Middle School Teacher
Jerry Hoover	Girls Varsity Softball Coach
Lindsay Kramer	High School Counselor
Paul Lahue	Athletic Director
Greg O'Connor	Elementary Teacher, Girls Varsity Soccer Coach, Boys Varsity Basketball Coach
Jenn Taft	High School Principal
Brian Wickham	High School Teacher Modified Boys Football Coach Modified Boys Basketball Coach

### Revision Committee (2018)

Lindsay MacUmbert	High School Counselor
Jim Morse	Girls Varsity Lacrosse Coach
Brianna Parzych	Elementary Speech Teacher Girls Varsity Basketball Coach Girls Varsity Lacrosse Assistant Coach
Greg Parzych	Girls JV Basketball Coach
Paul Lahue	Athletic Director
Jenn Taft	High School Principal

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## **Introduction**

The Interscholastic Athletic Program is an integral part of the education process at the Marcus Whitman Central School District and an important part of student life. Participation can and should be a significant contributor to student development. The program should promote greater desire in our student body and community to take an active part in our athletics program, either as participants or spectators. It is expected that a program exists to provide students with a well-organized opportunity so they may grow, mature, and develop while engaging in competitive athletics. A student who wants to participate in interscholastic athletics should consider such participation to be a privilege, and must be willing to adhere to certain standards and rules in order to earn and maintain that privilege.

Our goal is to develop a competitive athletic program, in addition to fostering the educational values such as sportsmanship, health/wellness and scholastic achievement. The number one priority of the Marcus Whitman Central School District is to educate the whole child, first by stimulating the intellect academically and then by providing a number of common experiences designed to develop the social, physical and ethical values necessary to be a productive member of society. Extra-curricular programs help provide such experiences and thus are considered an integral part of our school's curriculum. In reality, they are an extension of the classroom.

Students have the responsibility to represent themselves, their families, exhibit pride in their school, and their community in a manner reflective of the standards and expectations of the School District. The Eligibility Standards & Rules do not replace but are in addition to District policies and procedures, including the District Code of Conduct. As a pre-requisite for participation, student-athletes and parents/guardians must sign a statement that commits the athlete to follow the established training rules and requires parents/guardians to do everything in their power to make sure their son/daughter abides by the established Athletic Code of Conduct. Each year athletes will be required to sign the contract regardless if they had signed one in the previous year. A record that the athlete signed the contract will be on file in the Athletic Office.

Often a coach develops standards for a specific team. These standards may come in the form of responsibilities, requirements, expectations, and behavioral consequences. These standards are not substitutes for the Student Code of Conduct or the Eligibility Guidelines. They are supplements and reflect the standards of this handbook. Students and parents should become familiar with these standards and expectations for a specific team.

Participation in athletics at the Marcus Whitman Central School District is a privilege, not a right. The requirements established by these Eligibility Standards & Rules remain in effect during the entire calendar year and throughout the student's educational career at the Marcus Whitman Central School District.

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## OBJECTIVES OF INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS

### **“PRIDE IN THE PAW”**

- To achieve academic and athletic success. Academic achievement is the first priority for every student.
- To teach the skills of various sports so that the participants might become proficient in them.
- To realize that athletic competition is a privilege and that specific responsibilities accompany participation.
- To promote appropriate conduct, game ethics, and sportsmanship for participants and spectators.
- To enhance a competitive spirit in each participant.
- To instill a spirit of pride and loyalty to Marcus Whitman.
- To provide our student athletes with skills valuable for college and/or the work force.
- To teach leisure time activities that can carry into adult life.

The standards of behavior as outlined are high. A willingness to live up to them is part of being a member of a team. A student's agreement to be a member of an activity, club, or team indicates one's responsibility to its members and the willingness to set a positive example, adhering to basic concepts of good citizenship, and following training rules as appropriate.

### Marcus Whitman Athletic Offerings by Season

The program of interscholastic athletics is divided into three seasons. They are as follows:

#### **Fall**

Cheerleading  
Cross Country  
Football (Merged with Bloomfield)  
Soccer  
Swimming (Girls Season)  
Tennis (Girls Season)

#### **Winter**

Basketball  
Bowling  
Cheerleading  
Swimming (Boys Season)  
Indoor Track  
Wrestling (Merged with Penn Yan)  
Ice Hockey (Merged with Geneva)

#### **Spring**

Baseball  
Lacrosse  
Softball  
Tennis (Boys Season)  
Track

The seasons will follow the standards set by the Finger Lakes League, NYSPHSAA and Section V.

## **GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICIPATION**

### **A. Registration**

A student is not eligible to participate in any sport until the following requirements have been met:

- 1) The student must register via the FamilyID system and complete the “Interscholastic Athletics Consent Form”
- 2) All eligibility requirements must be satisfied.
- 3) The athlete’s physical examination has been completed and a record of the examination is on file in the school nurse’s office.

### **B. Physical Examinations:**

Each student wishing to participate in the interscholastic athletic program at Marcus Whitman must have a physical from a physician prior to their first athletic season of practice and play. Student-athletes must have a physical within the past 12 calendar months to participate in any sport. The school will have the final decision as to whether a student is eligible to participate.

Note: Injuries or illness that prevent participation for more than 5 days require a signed doctor’s permission slip before returning to the team. Bring the permission slip to the school nurse who will give the student authorization to return to the team.

### **C. Risk Factors in Athletics:**

Participation in sports involves a certain degree of risk of injury. Such physical injury can occur in any type of sports or co-curricular activity and vary in nature and severity. Injuries can run from minor (e.g., bruises, scrapes) to more serious (e.g., fractures, dislocations, concussions, paralysis, and even death). We want you to be aware of the risk to make an informed decision about activities and athletic competition. Pre-season conditioning, learning proper skills and techniques, and knowledge of rules and safety factors may help reduce the risk of injury.

Serious injuries will be reported on a school “Accident Report Sheet.”

Note: The student, parent(s)’ and/or guardian(s)’ insurance is primary and will be the first source of payment and the school insurance plan may give added protection if coverage applies. Any costs not covered by your policy and the school insurance policy are the responsibility of the student, parent(s) and/or guardian(s).

### **D. Dropping a Sport or Transferring to Another Sport:**

If a student athlete finds it necessary to drop a sport, the following procedure must be followed:

- 1) The student should talk to his or her immediate coach and then to the head coach.
- 2) The student should report his or her situation to the Athletic Director.
- 3) The student should return all issued equipment.

If a student athlete wishes to transfer to another sport this decision must be made within the designated tryout period for that sport. He or she must receive approval of the head coach of both teams and the Athletic Director. Failure to follow this procedure can result in loss of all athletic privileges.

### **E. Equipment:**

- 1) The student athlete will be personally responsible for any school equipment issued to him or her. The student is expected to keep the equipment clean and in good condition.
- 2) The student will have a financial obligation to repair or replace any damaged or lost equipment and/or uniforms.
- 3) Students are to wear athletic equipment issued to them for sports during the season. They are not, however, to wear any school issued equipment at any other time (including during physical education classes) without permission from the Athletic Director.
- 4) All equipment is to be returned to the coach/school district at the conclusion of the sports season.
- 5) Any student athlete not returning all issued equipment/uniform will be at risk of not participating in the next sports season.

### **F. Travel:**

- 1) Student-athletes are encouraged to ride home from away contests with their team
- 2) Students belonging to any athletic squad when attending any function connected with school activities away from Marcus Whitman when the school provides transportation must use the transportation afforded by the school to the event and must return home the same way. Parents may request that a student return home with them. This request must be made in person by the parent to the coach and the student must be signed out in writing with the coach. Squad members not complying with regulations will be subject to the discipline of the coach.
- 3) Student-athletes may be permitted to ride home with another parent provided a written note or personal phone call is communicated to either the head coach or the Athletic Director prior to the contest
- 4) All participants are expected to remain on school grounds at away games in the Fall and Spring and to remain in the school building at away events during the Winter sports season.
- 5) At all times during off-campus activities, student athletes must remain with their squads and under the supervision of their coaches.
- 6) Any deviation from these policies must receive prior approval from the coach and Athletic Director.

### **G. Practice:**

Varsity, JV, and Modified

- 1) Coaches will communicate practice schedules.
- 2) Each participant is expected to be at every scheduled practice and game. When a student is going to be absent from a practice or game, he/she will contact the coach personally before the practice or game and tell him/her the reason for his/her absence. At this time, the student should give the coach any written medical or legal excuse.
- 3) In order to practice or play a game, an athlete must be present in school. Even though an athlete is excused from practicing, he/she should watch practice and be as involved as he/she can without practicing.
- 4) Varsity and JV players can begin practice at 3:15 p.m.
- 5) All Modified players can begin practice at 3:15 p.m.
- 6) Any athlete coming to practice late due to another school obligation must present a pass to the coach.

## **H. Building Regulations:**

- 1) Student-athletes are to bring coats, books, and gear to the locker room at practice time.
- 2) After practice, no wandering around the building will be permitted.
- 3) Spikes and cleats are not to be worn inside the building by players or coaches
- 4) 7th and 8th grade student-athletes must sign into athletic study hall by 2:25 p.m. or present an athletic pass signed by a faculty member in order to participate.
- 5) All High School student-athletes must either be in Sports Cafe. or with a faculty member by 2:25 p.m.
- 6) No student-athletes should be wandering the halls/campus after 3:00 p.m. and when a designated area is available, student-athletes should report to that designation.

## **I. Dress Code for Student-Athletes**

- 1) Clothing for practices and games should be consistent with the expectations outlined in the Student Handbook.
- 2) Student-athletes must follow expectations and guidelines specific to their respective sport
- 3) At no time are additions to any uniform acceptable unless the league has been notified in advance by the athletic director and any necessary approvals received.

Violations of this code should be reported to the athletic director.

## **J. Outside Team**

The NYSPHSAA allows outside competition. Marcus Whitman athletes must understand that commitment to the school team within its season for practices and games is the priority. Outside participation in off-season sports or club teams should not be detrimental to the individual or to a Marcus Whitman team. There will be circumstances when a student would not participate in an outside activity due to the possible effect it could have on the Marcus Whitman team that is in its current season. Consult with an individual coach regarding involvement in an outside team.

## **K. Attendance Standard**

Each athlete must be in school from the beginning of 1st period to the end of 9th period (10th period, if applicable) in order to be eligible for practice or interscholastic athletic contests, unless the athlete has an approved part-time status or are legally excused by the Principal or Athletic Director. If an athlete has an unexcused absence or is tardy the day prior to a non-school day scheduled contest, the athlete is not eligible to compete in that contest.

## **L. Vacations**

Family vacations that occur on official school days will be handled as per the District's Attendance Policy.

It is important to note that the District recognizes the importance of family time and vacations. When parents and students choose to take family vacations during seasons of competition it must be understood that the time missed by the student-athlete may affect team chemistry, personal conditioning, or activity readiness. To be fair to all members of the team, students who miss practices or competitions for any reason may see adjustments in positions or playing time as a natural consequence. The coach may determine that those students who were present for the practices/competitions are better conditioned for participation in competitive athletics or better prepared than those who have not attended all recently scheduled practices and contests.

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## PLAYING TIME PHILOSOPHY

The issue of playing time differs from sport to sport. In each sport, the coach determines playing time. The playing time philosophy for each level is outlined below.

### Modified Level:

- Build fundamental skills in the sport via a competitive environment
- Emphasis is placed on developing individual skills, game/sport knowledge and team strategies
- Emphasis is on good sportsmanship.
- Winning is a secondary goal at this level with skill development receiving the emphasis
- Playing time is equitable and dependent on skill development, participation and overall attitude.

Coaches will make every effort to have each team member participate in every contest. The administration recommends coaches have a system or plan in place to reach this goal. In an effort to avoid cuts, with larger groups there may be a designation of a practice team or practice players to allow students to still develop necessary skills to build success in the sport.

### Modified A/JV Level:

- A continued emphasis is placed on developing and advancing fundamental skills within the sport
- Importance of competitiveness grows at this level - Winning contests takes on a new meaning because when a team wins, valuable lessons in developing the team concept of working together are easily understood.
- Continued emphasis on good sportsmanship.
- Team strategies and tactics become more advanced

Again, coaches will continue to make every effort to have each team member participate in every contest but doing so becomes more difficult at the Modified A/JV level. Skill level becomes a factor in determining playing time and athletes need to learn the relationship of performance, work ethics, and teamwork to the rewards of increased playing time. Coaches must be aware that athletes can not develop skills unless they are in a competitive environment. Therefore, they need playing opportunities.

### Varsity Level:

- Emphasis is placed on competitiveness. Winning contests takes on a new meaning because when a team wins, valuable lessons in developing the team concept of working together are easily understood.
- Continued emphasis on good sportsmanship.
- Team strategies and tactics are more numerous and the sport continues to become more sophisticated and advanced
- Playing time will not be equal at this level

Basic individual skills should be mastered by this time, so the coach will introduce the finer skills of the sport. Coaches spend considerable time on team strategies and tactics. Sportsmanship becomes a bigger issue because the varsity team represents our community at the highest level of High School sports.

Coaches will make decisions about playing time based on the goal of being competitive in each contest. Often this means that some athletes will not play in a game or in several games. Coaches should still attempt to give as many athletes playing opportunities as this philosophy allows.

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## PHILOSOPHY ON "CUTS"

By allowing each coach, in conjunction with the Athletic Director and administrators, to determine the number of participants for each team, we will undoubtedly have a workable situation. We will do all that we can to include as many students as possible in each sport at each level while maintaining a safe, engaging and competitive environment. The following guidelines will be followed.

**Modified** - Each team should carry as many athletes as possible to allow all participants an opportunity to improve their skills. The number may be high as long as the development and safety of all athletes is maintained. Less skilled athletes must have an opportunity to improve their skills but keep in mind the number shouldn't be so high as to prevent talented athletes from developing to their full potential.

**Modified A/Junior Varsity** - Anyone with the potential to be a varsity player should be on the team. The maximum number of athletes should be determined by how much individual attention and playing time a coach can give each person. It is at this level that coaches use their judgment in letting athletes know that being competitive with other teams is also a goal of athletics.

**Varsity** - Players whose skills will contribute to the success of the team and make us competitive in contests should be on the team. Other athletes can be part of the team but need to know they may not get ample playing time and honesty is needed to ensure athletes are not disillusioned. Athletes need to know that performance primarily determines who is allowed to be on the team and also when determining playing time.

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## Developing the Parent/Coach Relationship

Both parenting and coaching are extremely difficult vocations. By establishing an understanding of each position, we are better able to accept the actions of the other and provide greater benefit to children. As parents, when your child becomes involved in our program, you have a right to understand what expectations are placed on your child. This begins with clear communication from the coach of your child's program.

Communication you should expect from your child's coach:

- Philosophy of the coach.
- Expectations the coach has for the team and your child, as well as all of the players on the squad.
- Locations and times of all practices and contests.
- Team requirements
- Procedure should your child be injured during participation.
- Discipline that results in denial of your child's participation

Communication coaches expect from parents:

- Abide by the 24 Hour rule when expressing a concern
- Express concerns directly to the coach as your first option
- Notification of any schedule conflicts in advance.
- Specific concern in regard to a coach's philosophy and/or expectations.
- Team requirements

### Appropriate concerns to discuss with the coaches:

As your children become involved in the Marcus Whitman Interscholastic Athletic Program, they will experience some of the most rewarding moments in their lives. It is important to understand that there also may be times when things do not go the way you or your child wishes. At these times, discussion with the coach is encouraged.

- Ways to help your child improve.
- The well being of your child, mentally, physically, academically, emotionally.
- Concerns about your child's behavior.
- Practice and Game schedules

It is very difficult to accept your child's not playing as much as you hope. Coaches are professionals. They make decisions based on what they believe to be the best for all students involved. As you have seen from the list above, certain things can and should be discussed with your child's coach. Other things, such as those following, must be left to the discretion of the coach.

### Issues not appropriate to discuss with coaches:

- Playing time
- Position on the team
- Team strategy
- Play Calling
- Other Student Athletes

There are situations that may require a conference between the coach and the parent. Please do not attempt to confront a coach before or after a contest or practice. These can be emotional times for both the parent and the coach. Meetings of this nature do not promote a resolution to the issue of concern. It is expected that 24 hours pass before addressing any issue that arises in a practice or contest. To help facilitate both parties understanding of a situation, a conference is encouraged. **Communication with the Athletic Director, Principal, Superintendent and/or Board of Education should not occur until communication with the student-athlete's coach has been established.**

**The expected communication path is as follows:**

- 1) Athlete to coach
- 2) Athlete and/or parent to coach
- 3) Athlete and/or parent to AD and coach
- 4) Athlete and/or parent to AD, Principal and coach
- 5) Athlete and/or parent to AD, Principal, coach and Superintendent
- 6) Athlete and/or parent to Board of Education

All parties agree that if the student-athlete, parent and/or coach fail to abide by the aforementioned rules and guidelines they may be subject to disciplinary action that could include, but is not limited to:

- 1) Verbal warning by Administration
- 2) Written warning by Administration
- 3) Completion of NFHS Course
  - a. Sport Parenting (Free Course)
  - b. Engaging Effectively with Parents (Free Course)
- 4) Student-athlete, parent and/or coach may be suspended from game(s), season and/or a portion of the school/calendar year. Written documentation kept in the Athletic Office.
- 5) Law enforcement may be involved when necessary

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## ATHLETIC AWARDS

Student-Athletes must complete the full sports season in order to be eligible for any athletic awards or receive credit towards full participation.

- Varsity Letter - Earned after participation and completion of a Varsity sports season
- Varsity Pin - Earned after participation and completion of a 2nd Varsity sports season and beyond
- Iron Cat Award - Dedication to the weight room & personal fitness
- Ally Galens Spirit Award - Cheerleader who displays leadership, work ethic and a positive attitude.
- Dan Harris Memorial Award - Basketball player demonstrating leadership, character, dedication and selflessness.
- Tom Jones Memorial Award - A competitor who enjoys the game, always displays a positive attitude & builds camaraderie among fellow teammates (NEW 2015)
- Tom Meyer Award - Character, relentless work ethic and love of the sport of wrestling
- Blane Smith Wildcat Perseverance Award - Overcoming obstacles to achieve success
- Jim Tuck Memorial Award - Determination to success, unselfish and a leader on and off the field.
  
- 12 Sport Athlete Award - Commitment and dedication to Whitman Athletics
- Senior Most Outstanding Athlete -Female & Male - Criteria include leadership, sportsmanship, perseverance, performance, competitiveness, attitude, integrity and commitment to Marcus Whitman.

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## ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL ATHLETICS

In an effort to improve and maintain academic achievement, the Shared Decision Team has developed and the Board of Education has approved an academic eligibility policy that requires students to be passing in all subjects in order to participate in any extracurricular activity.

The process to determine eligibility will start 10 days after the school year begins. Weekly academic averages will be used to determine eligibility. By 12:00pm on Tuesday, teachers will be required to notify the high school office in writing of any students who should be placed on the warning list. The process will start anew each quarter with the first two weeks as a warning list only.

**WARNING LIST:** When a student has a grade of 64 or below in a subject, he/she will be placed on the warning list for a period of **two weeks** (**one week** for Middle School students). The following interventions will be put in place:

- Notified by the teacher.
- Required to sign his/her name to verify that s/he was notified. Absence from class or refusal to sign will not change the warning or ineligible status. It is the student's responsibility upon their return to find out whether or not they were placed on the list.
- The high school office will notify the parent or guardian either electronically, by automated phone system or by mail.
- Required to meet with the teacher(s) between 2:22 and 3:00pm. The school day ends at 3:00pm and this meeting is mandatory. This time will be spent on any work owed. A list of work/expectations will be given to the student.
- Students in lounge will report to a designated study hall.
- Seniors will lose courtyard privileges.
- If the student meets with the teacher(s) to the teacher's satisfaction, s/he will be allowed to participate in extracurricular activities during the warning period.

After the **two week** (**one week** for Middle School students) warning period, a student will be either eligible, ineligible, or continue on the warning list for another **two weeks** (**one week** for Middle School students) based on the student's performance.

**INELIGIBLE LIST:** If a student who was on the warning list has not met with his/her teacher(s) to the teacher's satisfaction s/he will be placed on the ineligible list.

- The teacher(s) will notify the student of his/her ineligible status and notify the high school office by 12:00 pm on Tuesday of all ineligible students.
- The student will be required to sign his/her name on the ineligibility list to verify that s/he had been notified of his/her ineligible status. Refusal to sign will not change a student's status.
- Students will be kept on the no pass list; however, they may have a pass related to the class/classes that they are deficient in.
- All of the above interventions from the warning list are in place as well.
- Students must meet with the teacher for which they are ineligible during 10th period. In order to practice, note must be obtained and presented to the coach to show this meeting occurred.
- The high school office will notify the parent/guardian electronically, by automated phone system or by mail.

Copies of both lists will be given to teachers and the appropriate staff by noon on Thursday. Ineligible means that a student will NOT be allowed to participate in ANY extracurricular activity for one week, with one exception (see below). The week will be defined as Friday at 3:00pm through the next Friday at 3:00 pm. After a one-week period of ineligibility, a student may be eligible, ineligible, or be placed back on the warning list for **two weeks** (**one week** for Middle School students), based on his/her performance in all subjects.

### **Drug, Alcohol, Tobacco and Behavioral Policy**

All students must abide by the following minimum rules that apply to all sports. Coaches may have additional expectations and/or rules which will be presented to athletes.

- Abstain from the use/possession of alcoholic beverages
- Abstain from the use/possession of e-cigarettes, vaporizers and/or illegal drugs including, but not limited to, synthetic drugs, prescription drugs, etc.
- Abstain from the use/possession of all tobacco products, including smokeless tobacco.
- Abstain from attending an event where alcohol and /or illegal products are in evidence.

Any above violation requires the student-athlete to meet with a specified counselor. After meeting with the counselor recommendations may include: outpatient or inpatient treatment or other educational program deemed necessary. The athlete is required to sign a release of information with the treatment provider to release information pertinent to the successful or unsuccessful completion of treatment. The release should be directed to the counselor. The student athlete may return to full participation if they continue to comply with the recommendation. If the evaluation and recommendation of the school-approved center are not met, the athlete will not be allowed to participate in any sport until these requirements have been satisfied. The cost of the evaluation and treatment will be at the student's expense.

### **PENALTY FOR VIOLATION DURING SPORT SEASON**

The first violation of the Drug, Alcohol, Tobacco and Behavioral Policy will result in suspension from the team for 25% of the scheduled contests for that sport season, in consecutive fashion. Any suspension not completed during the sport season in which the violation occurred will be carried over to the next season in which the student athlete participates.

The second violation of the Drug, Alcohol, Tobacco and Behavioral Policy will result in suspension from the team for the remainder of the season. If the violation occurs after one half of the regularly scheduled games have been contested, an additional suspension equal to 50% of the scheduled contests for that student's next sports season will be enforced. Any suspension not completed during the sport season in which the violation occurred will be carried over to the next season in which the student athlete participates.

The third violation of the Drug, Alcohol, Tobacco and Behavioral Policy will result in the Athletic Review Board convening to determine further penalty. That penalty is at the full discretion of the Athletic Review Board

- A student who violates the Athletic Code more than once in a given sport season is subject to dismissal for the remainder of that season. Any amount of suspension left over will carry over to the next season.
- Student must remain academically eligible for contests to count towards any suspension.

## **PENALTY FOR VIOLATION OUT OF SEASON**

The first violation of the Drug, Alcohol, Tobacco and Behavioral Policy will result in suspension from the next sport's season in which they participate for that number of games that is equal to 25% of the contests scheduled for that sport.

- If a student chooses to formulate a Volunteer Project Plan with the Athletic Director during an out of season suspension and works in good faith to complete that project, then a student can initiate the appeal process for the Athletic Review Board to review and possibly reduce the suspension for the athlete's next sport season.

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- Student must remain academically eligible for contests to count towards any suspension.

**\*Special Note: Anyone in grades 9-12 who violates the Athletic code and the penalty is equal to or exceeds 25% of a season, is automatically not eligible for Senior Outstanding Athlete Award.**

## **SELF REFERRAL**

If a student athlete initiates a meeting with the Athletic director, Building Administrator or coaching staff for the purpose of acknowledging \* involvement in a **first time** violation of the Drug, Alcohol, Tobacco and Behavioral Policy, he/she will be subject to the following:

- **During and Out of Season Violation:** The student will have their contest suspension reduced by half the number of contests originally calculated by the 25% rule.

**\*The acknowledgment must take place prior to the Athletic Director, Building Administrator or coaching staff having knowledge of the student's personal involvement in the incident or during a grace period offered by the Athletic Director or building Administrator as part of the investigation.**

The duration of a suspension is determined by the number of offenses the student has incurred. The following suspensions are cumulative over a participant's high school career. In an event that police arrest a student, the administration will conduct an investigation to determine the consequences for the alleged action that led to the arrest. The arrest will be used to determine consequences for violating the eligibility code (and not findings by a court). The Athletic Review Board reserves the right to evaluate the severity and consequences of any issue involving a member of a team at any time.



### **In-School Suspension**

A student who has been placed on in-school suspension/alternative to suspension may not be involved as a participant in any interscholastic athletic activity until the first day following the end of the suspension, provided all other requirements for participation have been met.

### **Probation and Ineligibility:**

If a student is reported in violation, it will be the responsibility of the Coach to investigate the accusation and to report his or her findings to the Athletic Review Board. The Committee will make the final determination concerning probation or ineligibility based on the standards described in this document. An appeal can be directed to the Superintendent and then the Board of Education.

### **Appeal Process**

To bring an eligibility appeal to the Superintendent of Schools:

- Your appeal must be in writing.
- The written request must be submitted to the attention of the Superintendent of Schools and received in the District Office no later than ten calendar days from the date of the original decision
- The written request must indicate the name of the student for whom the appeal is requested and the reason(s) for the appeal. The person(s) making the appeal should specifically state the objections to the decision.
- Upon receipt of the appeal in the District Office, the Superintendent shall render a decision regarding the appeal within five school days. The student will remain ineligible for competition/participation until the appeal process has been completed and a decision rendered in writing by the Superintendent

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## CONDUCT

Student participation in athletics is a choice. Participation becomes a privilege that has inherent responsibilities. Any student-athlete who brings discredit to himself/herself or Marcus Whitman may be suspended or dismissed from the team, and/or all athletics at Marcus Whitman, and may be subject to other disciplinary measures determined by the Principal and Athletic Director or Athletic Review Board.

Student-athletes who are in violation of the Code of Conduct will be subject to penalties which will be determined by either the Principal or Athletic Director. **Category 1, 2, 3 or 4 violations are shown on the chart below.**

<u>Category 1</u>	<u>Category 2</u>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. <b>Violation of Attendance Procedure</b></li><li>2. <b>Chronic Lack of Preparation for Class</b></li><li>3. <b>Violation Procedures or School Policy</b></li><li>4. <b>Cutting extra help 10th period or during the school day</b></li><li>5. <b>Minor Cafeteria Violation</b></li><li>6. <b>Minor Transportation violations</b></li><li>7. <b>Minor Violations of Student Driving/Parking regulations.</b></li><li>8. <b>Violation of Dress Code</b></li><li>9. <b>Minor Computer/Internet Violation</b></li></ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. <b>Excessive Tardiness to Class and/or School</b></li><li>2. <b>Classroom Disruption</b></li><li>3. <b>Inappropriate Behavior</b></li><li>4. <b>Disrespectful Behavior</b></li><li>5. <b>Insubordination 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree</b></li><li>6. <b>Disruptive Behavior</b></li><li>7. <b>Bullying 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree</b></li><li>8. <b>Harassment 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree.</b></li><li>9. <b>Aggravated Harassment 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree</b></li><li>10. <b>Obscene Materials/Language</b></li><li>11. <b>Aggressive Horseplay</b></li><li>12. <b>Destruction of Property</b></li><li>13. <b>Disruptive Transportation Violations</b></li><li>14. <b>Truancy (A)</b></li><li>15. <b>Cheating</b></li><li>16. <b>Violation of School Procedures</b></li><li>17. <b>Violation of ISP procedures</b></li><li>18. <b>Violation of Student Driving/Parking Regs</b></li><li>19. <b>Cafeteria Violation</b></li><li>20. <b>Cell Phone Violation</b></li><li>21. <b>Violation of non-designated area</b></li><li>22. <b>Falsely Reporting an Incident (3<sup>rd</sup> Degree)</b></li></ol>

**Category 3**

1. **Cheating**
2. **Assault 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree**
3. **Lewd or Illicit Behavior**
4. **Disorderly Conduct**
5. **Harassment 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree**
6. **Sexual Harassment 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree**
7. **Aggravated Harassment 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree**
8. **Hazing 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree**
9. **Threatening Behavior**
10. **Bullying 1<sup>st</sup> Degree**
11. **Forgery**
12. **Gambling**
13. **Petit Larceny**
14. **Possession of Stolen Property**
15. **Bribery**
16. **Extortion**
17. **Trespassing**
18. **Major Cafeteria Violation**
19. **Criminal Mischief**
20. **Violation of NYS Fire Code**
21. **Tobacco Use**
22. **Reckless Driving**
23. **Computer/Internet Infractions**
24. **Insubordination 1<sup>st</sup> Degree**
25. **Leaving school grounds without permission**
26. **Truancy (B)**
27. **Reckless Endangerment 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree**
28. **Student repeatedly enters non-designated area**
29. **Falsely reporting an incident 2<sup>nd</sup> degree**

**Category 4**

**AUTOMATIC 5 DAY SUSPENSION PENDING A SUPERINTENDENT'S HEARING AND POSSIBLE LAW ENFORCEMENT INVOLVEMENT.**

1. **Reckless Endangerment 1<sup>st</sup> Degree**
2. **Grand Larceny**
3. **Assault 1<sup>st</sup> Degree**
4. **Harassment/Bullying 1<sup>st</sup> Degree**
5. **Aggravated Harassment 1<sup>st</sup> Degree**
6. **Threatening Behavior towards Staff/Personnel/School**
7. **Chemical Substance/Use, Possession or Sale**
8. **Hazing 1<sup>st</sup> Degree**
9. **Weapon Possession**
10. **Sexual Harassment 1<sup>st</sup> Degree**
11. **Falsely Reporting an Incident 1<sup>st</sup> degree**
12. **Police Action**

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## CONCUSSION PROTOCOL

The long term risks and consequences of repeated head injuries have caused the district to re-address our return-to-play protocol following concussions. Where previously, we would accept the private physician's medical clearance for an immediate return to practice and competition, now the physician's clearance is one part of several measures we use for a student's readiness to return. These protocols were developed in conjunction with our district physician, Dr. Robert Ostrander, in cooperation with our district Athletic Trainer, and are based upon the newest international recommendations for management of head injuries. These protocols have been approved by the district administration and adopted as best practice by the New York State Public High School Athletic Association and locally by Section V Athletics.

Accordingly, when a student sustains a head injury diagnosed as a concussion, he/she must be medically cleared by a private physician and remain completely symptom-free for at least 24 hours before the return-to-learn and/or return-to play is allowed. Even then, there is a **mandatory six day graduated return-to-learn/return-to-play schedule** that must be followed. If symptoms return at any point during this re-training period, the process is suspended, and the student must be symptom-free again for 24 hours, at which time, the graduated re-entry plan starts over.

This protocol applies to mild concussions which are the first for an athlete. More serious concussions, for example, if there is any loss of consciousness, and subsequent concussions carry more risk and require a longer process. In these cases, the protocol will be individualized and determined by the athletic trainer, private physician and school physician working together. **All final decisions about clearance for school athletics will be determined by the school physician.**

No day may be skipped to speed up the process of full return-to-play. No exceptions will be made to this re-entry process for any reason, because the risks are too great. Medical literature has demonstrated a repeat of even a minor blow to the head of a previously injured child who is not fully recovered can lead to permanent brain damage and even death. Because there is no way to know whether a headache, nausea, confusion, memory issues, and similar symptoms that persist are related to either post-concussion symptoms or to an inter-current illness, such as sinusitis, the "flu", or other condition, we have made the deliberate decision to err on the side of caution, because the health of the child is the ultimate goal.

Please understand, this protocol is in place in order to ensure the health and safety of the student-athlete. Assistance and cooperation in educating the child of the importance of following a graduated re-entry to play following a head injury are deeply appreciated.

### **Protocol: Day 1 begins after 24 hour symptom free period and private medical release**

- Day 1: Light aerobic activity (ie. stationary bike) (Encompasses Steps 1-7 of Return to Learn)
- Day 2: Aerobic Activity/Resistance Training (running without contact)
- Day 3: Sport Specific Activity
- Day 4: Non-Contact training drills
- Day 5: Full-Contact training
- Day 6: Return to Play

**Any return of symptoms re-starts the protocol from the beginning.**

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## Appendix A

### DEFINITION OF TERMS

**Athletic Review Board:** The Athletic Review Board will serve to make disciplinary decisions based on upholding the Athletic Training Rules and Code of Conduct. All decisions of the ARB will be of a majority decision. The ARB will be comprised of the Athletic Director or designee, Principal or designee, a School Counselor, up to three coaches not directly involved in the sport in question and up to five athletes not directly involved in the sport in question.

**Community Service:** Community service is minimally defined as an act of giving to one's community. Community service will not be accepted if:

- The service directly benefits you
- The service is done for immediate family or relatives
- The service is completed during classroom hours.

**Cooperation:** When a student is questioned about a violation of the Athletic Code, we expect the student to be honest and forthcoming in answering any and all questions. If the student lies, let it be understood, there may be additional consequences, determined at the discretion of the Athletic Review Board.

**Dignity Act Coordinator:** The Board of Education shall designate at least (1) staff member at every school building to be thoroughly trained to handle human relations in the area of race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practices, disability, sexual orientation, gender, gender expression and other characteristics protected by applicable federal, state and local laws (the Dignity Act Coordinator). The names of the coordinators and contact information are found on the school website and in the Student Handbook.

**Due Process:** All students are afforded due process during any discipline situation. A **student** has the right to appeal decisions prior to the disciplinary measures going into effect. The following are the procedures that must be followed to invoke the formal appeal process:

- **Disciplinary Decisions of the Athletic Director:** may be appealed to the Athletic Review Board by submitting a formal written request that must be received by the Athletic Director within 5 school days from the decision being made by the Athletic Director.
- **Disciplinary Decisions of the Athletic Board:** may be appealed to the Superintendent by submitting a formal written request that must be received by the Superintendent's Office within 5 school days from the decision being made by the Athletic Review Board
- **Disciplinary Decisions of Superintendent:** may be appealed to the Board of Education by submitting a formal written request that must be received by the District Clerk (Mrs. S. Benedict) within 5 school days from the decision being made by the Superintendent.

**Duration:** The Athletic Code is signed when playing the first sport in Middle School. It is enforceable from the day the Athletic Code is signed and for the duration of Middle School. The Athletic Code is signed again in High School and is enforceable through graduation of High School. The Athletic Code **is** in effect between seasons and during the summer.

**Duration of Competition:** A student shall be eligible for modified and interscholastic athletic competition in accordance with the guidelines and standards of the NYSPHSAA.

**Eligibility:** A student shall be eligible for interscholastic competition only if s/he is a student at Marcus Whitman and s/he meets the criteria for eligibility established by the New York State Public High School Athletic Association Handbook. Each coach will review criteria for eligibility with students established by the NYSPHSAA found in addendum to this code.

**Equipment/Uniforms:** Equipment/uniforms issued to the student are school property and are to be worn only during practice sessions and games, unless otherwise designated by the coach, principal and/or AD. Responsibility for the return of equipment/uniforms at the end of the sport season is up to the individual student. Any student who has not returned school equipment/uniforms will be ineligible to participate in any other sport and may be charged and/or prosecuted criminally for the replacement cost of any lost or damaged equipment/uniforms.

**Guilt by Association:** All student athletes are expected to abstain from attending an event where alcohol and/or illegal products are in evidence. If a student finds him or herself in such a situation, they must make a direct effort to remove themselves from the premises.

**Harassment & Bullying:** The Dignity for All Students Act (§§10-18 of Education Law) (“DASA”) (as amended) defines harassment and bullying as the creation of a hostile environment by conduct or by verbal threats, intimidation or abuse (including cyber bullying) that has or would have the effect of unreasonably and substantially interfering with a student’s educational performance, opportunities or benefits, or mental, emotional or physical well-being; or conduct, verbal threats, intimidation or abuse that reasonably causes or would reasonably be expected to cause a student to fear for his or her physical safety. It also includes conduct that reasonably causes or would reasonably be expected to cause physical injury or emotional harm to a student; or conduct which occurs off school property and creates or would foreseeably create a risk of substantial disruption within the school environment, where it is foreseeable that the conduct, threats, intimidation or abuse might reach school property. The phrase "threats, intimidation or abuse" includes both verbal and non-verbal actions. The harassing behavior may be based on any characteristic, including but not limited to a person’s actual or perceived:

- race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practice, disability, sex, sexual orientation, or gender (including gender identity and expression).

In addition, we follow the guidance and regulations of The Crown Act (S6209A/A7797A) to ban discrimination against traits historically associated with race, including but not limited to hair texture and protective hairstyles. In some instances, bullying or harassment may constitute a violation of an individual’s civil rights. The District is mindful of its responsibilities under the law and in accordance with District policy regarding civil rights protections.

**“Cyber-bullying”** means harassment or bullying as defined above, where such harassment or bullying occurs through any form of electronic communication.

**“Discrimination”** is the act of denying rights, benefits, equitable treatment or access to facilities available to all others, to an individual or group of people because of the group, class or category to which that person belongs (as enumerated in under Harassment, above).

**“Hazing”** is a form of harassment among students defined as any intentional or reckless act directed against another for the induction, initiation or membership process in any school sponsored activity, organization, club, or team involving harassment which produces public humiliation, physical or emotional discomfort, bodily injury or public ridicule. Hazing of a student includes soliciting, encouraging, aiding, or engaging in “hazing” behavior as defined pursuant to District policy, regulation and/or law. Hazing is demeaning, abusive and/or illegal behavior that harms victims, and is inconsistent with the educational goals of the District by negatively impacting the school environment. Hazing of a student by another student or group of students is strictly prohibited on school property; in school buildings; on school buses; by school sponsored groups, clubs or teams; and at school sponsored events and/or activities whether occurring on or off-campus. Eligibility Standards & Rules 20

**“Retaliation”** is a separate and distinct violation of this policy in which any employee, student, or visitor mistreats any person because he/she reported in good faith, testified about, or otherwise assisted in an investigation, proceeding or hearing related to alleged harassment or bullying.

**"School Property"** means in or within any building, structure, athletic playing field, playground, parking lot, or land contained within the real property boundary line of a public elementary or secondary school; or in or on a school bus.

**"School Function"** means a school-sponsored extracurricular event or activity.

**Physical Examination:** A student who chooses to engage in interscholastic competition shall receive an adequate health examination and health history update when required, and may not practice or participate without the approval of the school doctor. Physicals for participation in school sports may be scheduled at any time during the calendar year. The results of the physical shall be valid for a period of 12 months during the last day of the month in which the physical was conducted unless the physical is conducted within 30 days of the start of a season, and then a health history update is required. Any pupil whose safe participation is in question as a result of the health history interview, or injury, or prolonged absence must be re-qualified by the school physician prior to participation. If the 12 month period for the physical expires during a sport season, participants may complete the season as long as a health history was conducted prior to the season. For example, a physical is conducted on August 1 it would be valid through August 31. If a student plays beyond August (ex football) the student may complete that sport season as long as an interval health history was conducted before the start of the season. Immediately following the last sanctioned competition for that season, a new physical is required if the student is going to play another sport. Sport season includes tryouts.

**Practice Attendance:** Each student will be expected to be consistently present at practice. Any absence, other than illness, must be approved by the coach. Absences may result in dismissal or suspension from that team.

**Reset:** When students transition from Middle School to High School, the Athletic Code “Resets.” Any violations that occurred with a student-athlete while he/she was in Middle School are no longer counted against him/her in High School.

**School Attendance:** Each athlete must be in school from beginning of 1st period through the end of 9th period (10th period if applicable) in order to be eligible for practice or interscholastic athletic contests, unless the athlete has an approved part-time status or are legally excused by the Principal or Athletic Director. If an athlete has an unexcused absence the day prior to a scheduled contest, the athlete is not eligible to compete in that contest.

**Self Referral:** If a student athlete initiates a meeting with the Athletic Director Building Administrator or coaching staff for the purpose of acknowledgment must take place prior to the Athletic director, Building Administrator or coaching staff having knowledge of the incident.

**Sportsmanship:** Student athletes, along with coaches and spectators must recognize that their conduct plays an important role in establishing the reputation of our school and community. Athletes who do not display good sportsmanship, fair play and a sense of respect for team members, officials and opponents may be disciplined.

**Suspension from Athletic Competition:** Suspension from Athletic Competition is defined as the length of time a student may not compete in contests. At the coach’s discretion the athlete may participate in all practices, team meetings and be present, but not in uniform, with the team during contests. Suspension from Athletic Competition will include post-season competition.

**Transportation:** Transportation to and from contests is provided by the school district. Situations will arise where a student will request to use their own personal transportation; these situations will be handled as follows:

- There will be a pre-season permission form filed with the Athletic Director and signed by the parent/guardian granting permission for the student to drive and/or ride to practice held off the main campus;.
- For students to ride home with a parent/guardian at away contests, a permission form will be signed by the parent/guardian at the contest and filed with the coach in charge. The coaches will have this permission form with the team at all away contests.
- Riding from an athletic event or contest with anyone other than the student's parent/guardian will not be allowed without a note from home with the parent/guardian's signature, signed by a Principal or Athletic Director.

**Volunteer Project Plan:** A Volunteer Project Plan for community service may be used to possibly reduce the length of an out of season violation only. The Volunteer Project Plan must be initiated within 10 days of the violation agreement form being signed, and the Athletic director and athlete will agree upon the appropriate form of community service and the completion date. There can be no duplication of community service hours required by any academic class. The athlete must submit a record of completed volunteer work to the Athletic Director in order to initiate the Athletic Review Board's appeal process.

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## Appendix B

### NYS RULES FOR INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC ELIGIBILITY

You are eligible, under New York State Rules, if you meet the following requirements:

- If you are a bona fide student of the high school grades 9, 10, 11, or 12 taking at least four (4) subjects including Physical Education and in regular attendance.
- If you are in between your 14th and 19th birthdays. If the age of 19 is reached on or after July 1st, you are eligible the remainder of the school year.
- If you have the signed parent consent form, a medical examination and approval from the school doctor prior to any interscholastic scrimmage or game.
- If you enrolled the first 15 days of the semester or in two (2) weeks after transferring from another school.
- For eight (8) consecutive semesters beginning with the semester in which you entered grade 9.
- For only four seasons in any one sport.
- If you have not played or practiced with a college team.
- If you are an amateur having never used your athletic skill for gain, and if you have never competed under an assumed name.
- If you are familiar with the rules of the game and the standards of sportsmanship.

NOTE: Via the coach's and/or Athletic Director's invitation, a 7th or 8th grade student that meets NYS Athletic Placement Process standards and otherwise meets the school's eligibility standards may participate on the JV or Varsity teams.

### N.Y.S.P.H.S.A.A. CODE OF ETHICS

It is the duty of all student athletes in High School Athletics:

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

## SECTION V STUDENT-ATHLETE CODE OF BEHAVIOR

It is the responsibility of the student to:

- Demonstrate self control and respect for others at all times by the coaches, officials, spectators or athletes.
- Remember that participation in athletics is a privilege that is not to be abused by unsportsmanlike conduct.
- Deal with opponents with RESPECT. Shake hands after the competition and congratulate them on their performance.
- RESPECT the integrity and judgment of the officials.
- Remember that improper behavior while in uniform reflects poorly upon yourself, your family, your school and your community.
- Understand and abide by the rules and regulations of the game.
- Accept victory with GRACE and defeat with DIGNITY.

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