

WAITS RIVER VALLEY SCHOOL

Athletic Handbook for Students & Parents



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This handbook is designed to provide students and parents with information about athletics at the Waits River Valley School. Parents, please familiarize yourself with this information so that you and your child understand and accept responsibility for our rules and policies.

Participation in athletics means more than individual or team competition. It is more than winning or losing. Participating in athletics teaches many social and emotional lessons, sportsmanship, cooperation, teamwork, appreciation, understanding and pride. This guide has been prepared for all WRVS athletes with these goals in mind. As an athlete, you will be asked to read the following guidelines and submit a commitment to your coach.

1. Athletes will keep academics and citizenship on the highest levels.
2. Athletes must accept responsibility for taking proper care of all equipment and uniforms.
3. Athletes must realize that profanity will not be tolerated.
4. Athletes will demonstrate good conduct in and out of school.
5. Athletes need to realize that while winning is a desired outcome they must learn to enjoy victory, yet maintain modesty. On the other side of victory is defeat. Athletes should be able to accept losing graciously.
6. After a completed, well-played contest, each athlete must courteously congratulate his or her opponents.
7. Athletes need to develop a pride in their coach, teammates, school and most importantly, themselves.
8. Athletes must encourage their teammates at all times. They should never criticize or blame another teammate for their play.
9. Athletes will never argue or dispute an official's call.
10. Athletes have a great influence on their fellow students. Good examples such as speaking with respect to all students, faculty, and staff are a positive approach that is highly encouraged.
11. Athletes should maintain proper fitness throughout the year to avoid injuries.
12. Athletes should arrive to practice on time and should be picked up from practice promptly.
13. Athletes who are on medical release from physical education class will not be allowed to practice or play.
14. Any violation of the previously listed guidelines will result in appropriate consequences by the coach, athletic director, and principal.
15. Athletes who miss practice may have a reduction in playing time based on the discretion of the coach.

Sportsmanship Mission Statement

Good sportsmanship is the attitude and behavior that exemplifies positive support for the interscholastic programs, as well as for the individuals who participate in such programs. People involved in all facets of the interscholastic program are expected to demonstrate respect for others and display good sportsmanship.

Sportsmanship Is Everyone's Responsibility

Sportsmanship starts on the court or athletic field and extends into the bleachers and beyond. In today's increasingly competitive environment, the thrill of victory and the agony of defeat seem to be more intensified than ever before. It is important to raise the public awareness of sportsmanship and interscholastic activities. It is everyone's responsibility to practice good sportsmanship. Recognizing the efforts by students, coaches, administrators, and fans is a valuable part of the interscholastic experience. It is expected that all fans will abide by these guidelines.

1. Remember the game is for the players. They are here because they want to play, compete, and enjoy the experience. Your sportsmanship will enhance this educational experience.
2. Refrain from distracting the players during play.
3. Recognize and appreciate skill in performance regardless of affiliation. Applause for an opponent's good performance is a demonstration of generosity and good sportsmanship.
4. Treat the officials with respect before, during, and after the contest. We cannot play the game without officials, as they are an integral part of the game and they should be recognized as impartial arbitrators.
5. The administration has the authority to remove any spectator who does not conduct himself or herself respectfully. Abusive or inappropriate language will not be tolerated.
6. Recognize the fact that as a spectator, you represent the school, as do the athletes.
7. Spectators are to remain off the playing surface at all times.

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 others and provide a greater benefit to the student. As a parent, when your children become involved in our programs, you have a right to understand what expectations are placed on your child. This begins with clear communication from the coach.

Communication Between Coach & Families

1. Expectations the coach has for your child as well as all players on the team.
2. Locations and times of practices and games.
3. Procedures should your child be injured during practice or games.
4. Contact chain: Coach - Principal

Communication Coaches Expect from Athletes

1. Notification of any schedule conflicts in advance
2. Medical concerns
3. Injuries

Student athletes at the Waits River Valley School will experience some of the most rewarding moments of their lives. It is important to understand that there will also be times when things do not go the way the student would like. At these times, discussion with the coach is encouraged.

Health & Safety

1. All athletes **must** have on file a current physical exam certificate within the last two years in order to participate in games.
2. All athletes must be covered by a health insurance plan. Students must show proof of insurance at registration by submitting insurance company name and policy number or by enrolling in the school insurance plan.
3. If the Athletic Director and/or Nurse have a reasonable cause to believe a student's health condition may pose a risk to the student or others in the activity, he/she may require a more current certification of fitness from a physician to participate.

Transportation

Parents are responsible for arranging transportation for their student-athletes throughout the course of any given athletic season. Parents need to arrive in a timely fashion at the conclusion of all practices and contests to pick up their child. Coaches communicate with parents about any time changes to practice schedule in a timely fashion. Expectations would include inclement weather when after school activities (games and practices) may be cancelled at the last minute. In these instances, student-athletes should take their regular after school transportation home.

School Attendance

As stated in the WRVS Parent & Scholar Handbook, students must be at school for the entire day in order to participate in practice or a game. Exceptions can only be made by the Principal. Documentation of medical appointments, etc., must be provided to the coach and athletic director prior to participation in practice or a game.

Administrative Discretion

Since it is our goal to have an excellent school and athletic program, violations of school rules are not acceptable. Students who have reoccurring disciplinary actions may be reviewed for eligibility by the coach and/or principal.

Out-of-school suspension and/or extreme behavior will result in an immediate conference with the coach, athletic director, principal and parents for possible dismissal.

Because participation in athletics is a privilege, this handbook is merely a guide for responding to a certain identified actions or conduct. Not every situation involving conduct inconsistent with a student participant's status as a representative of the Waits River Valley School is or can be covered. The school reserves the right, but not obligation, to alter, revise, adjust, or increase discipline on a case-by-case basis, as the interests of the school require.