

It is the responsibility of the student and parents to read this code of conduct before signing. In order to participate in co-curriculars within FWCS, the student and their parents must sign to indicate that you have read, understand and will abide by the regulations as stated in this handbook.

FWCS ATHLETIC MISSION STATEMENT

FWCS athletic programs will ensure student athlete character and athletic development through high standards and a positive competitive atmosphere that will nurture physical, emotional, mental and academic growth.

PROFILE OF FWCS CO-CURRICULAR PARTICIPANTS

Participation in school activities is a privilege that carries with it varying degrees of responsibility, recognition and reward. Participating students represent their school and other members of the student body, and it is their duty to conduct themselves in a manner that is positive for themselves, their families, their school and their community.

Participants in the school's co-curricular activities shall be governed by local and state laws, related state association regulations, the Code of Conduct, School Behavior Code and the Co-Curricular Code of Conduct. In addition, with the approval of the principal or designee, each coach, club sponsor or faculty adviser of co-curricular activity may develop and impose eligibility rules with respect to attendance or other matters, which may be in addition to the general behavior requirements of the FWCS Code of Conduct, an individual school's Behavior Code or this Co-Curricular Code. These rules and regulations shall be properly distributed to and reviewed by all participants in that particular activity before that activity begins.

Members of high school athletic programs are also reminded of the IHSAA rules regarding conduct of contestants, both in and out of school (IHSAA Rule 8, Section 1) and scholastic eligibility (IHSAA Rule 18, Section 1).

This Code applies to all students who are connected with any school-sponsored or school-sanctioned co-curricular activity, including clubs and athletic programs in various sports, academic competitions, competitive groups that are an extension of the curricular program, such as speech and debate teams, VICA, Business Professionals, COE and DECA contests, and competitive music events such as jazz band. This

list is not to be considered all inclusive.

Boys are offered a 10-sport program including: cross country, football, soccer and tennis in the fall; basketball, wrestling and swimming in the winter and baseball, golf and track in the spring.

Girls are offered a 10-sport program including: cross country, golf, soccer and volleyball in the fall; basketball, gymnastics and swimming in the winter and softball, track and tennis in the spring.

All students are eligible to participate provided they meet the scholastic standards and conduct requirements as established by FWCS and the IHSAA.

All FWCS High Schools are charter members of the Summit Athletic Conference. Other members include: Bishop Dwenger, Bishop Luers and Concordia, in addition Homestead and Carroll for football and boys & girls basketball only.

PHILOSOPHY

FWCS believes co-curriculars are an extension of the educational process. The sole purpose of interscholastic athletics and education based co-curriculars is to teach life-long lessons that can be learned from participation in co-curriculars. The student will learn the value of hard work, caring more for others than self, positive competitive spirit, a healthy lifestyle, personal accountability, and a sense of honor and unity toward all co-curriculars.

All FWCS co-curricular departments expect all participating students to adhere to high moral and ethical standards and to obey the law.

All participating students, coaches and co-curricular departments will maintain a unified spirit of respect for FWCS programming by supporting one another. All FWCS coaches will be held accountable with the responsibility of modeling these expectations.

CODE OF CONDUCT

Students volunteer to participate in the co-curricular and interscholastic athletic program are expected to accept the responsibilities associated with their choice. Student athletes are expected to be committed to a high degree of conduct and set a positive example for all students throughout their entire athletic career. It is a privilege to be a student athlete. A student athlete is expected to make the appropriate choices in

his/her personal conduct and life-style. If a student elects to be an athlete, the student also chooses to make that commitment.

RULES AND POLICIES

All student athletes must adhere to the standards and rules established by the Indiana High School Athletic Association and presented in the *FWCS Athletic Handbook*. All rules and policies are in effect 365 days of the year and will be enforced by the principal or the principal's designee.

The coach of each sport has the authority to add additional rules and policies concerning his/her sport.

FORT WAYNE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS CODE OF CONDUCT **(POLICY NO. 5160X)**

5160.1 – Extracurricular/Co-Curricular Participants Participation in school activities is a privilege which carries with it varying degrees of responsibility, recognition and reward. Participating students represent their school and other members of the student body, and it is their duty to conduct themselves in a manner that is positive for themselves, their families, their school and their community.

Participants in the school's extracurricular and co-curricular activities shall be governed by local and state laws, related state association regulations, the *FWCS Student-Parent Handbook*, the Extracurricular/Co-curricular Code of Conduct and disciplinary action by the principal or his/her designee.

In addition, with the approval of the principal or designee, each coach, club sponsor or faculty adviser of an extracurricular/ co-curricular activity may develop and impose eligibility rules with respect to attendance or other matters which may be in addition to the general behavior requirements of the FWCS Code of Conduct, school behavior codes, or this Extracurricular/

Co-curricular Code. These rules and regulations shall be properly distributed to and reviewed by all participants in that particular activity before that activity begins.

Members of athletic programs are also reminded of the IHSAA rules regarding conduct of contestants, both in and out of school, and scholastic eligibility.

This Code applies to all students who are connected with any school-

sponsored or school-sanctioned extracurricular/co-curricular activity which includes clubs and athletic programs in various sports, academic competitions, competitive groups that are an extension of the curricular program, such as speech and debate teams, VICA, Business Professionals, COE and DECA contests and competitive music events such as jazz band, concert band, marching band, solo and ensemble contests, etc. *This list is not to be considered all inclusive.*

5160.3 – Enforcement

Any alleged violations of the Code of Conduct shall be investigated by the principal or his/her designee. Prior to the initiation of any penalty under this Code, a conference between the principal or his/ her designee and the student and parent will be held within two weeks, during which an informal fact-finding session and discussion, if appropriate, shall occur.

If the principal or the principal's designee determines that a violation has occurred and that an appropriate remedy involves or includes suspension from extracurricular/co-curricular activity, the suspension from extracurricular/co-curricular activity shall be in accordance with the following guidelines:

First Offense of a Code Violation – If a violation has occurred and if the student is willing to participate in an FWCS-approved assessment and indicated follow-up therapy at the student's expense or with the current FWCS Student Assistance program, the student will be suspended from participation for 25% of the sports season or activity. If the student chooses not to participate in the assessment/ therapy phase, then the suspension would be for 50% of the season or activity. If less than 25% of the season or activity remains or the violation occurs between seasons or activities, the penalty shall be extended into the next season or activity in which the student participates for the equivalent remaining percentage of that next season or activity until the total suspension equals 25% or 50% as appropriate.

The offense and action taken will be recorded and filed in the office of the principal or principal's designee and a copy filed with the area administrator and the executive director of FWCS Student Services.

Second Offense of a Code Violation – The penalty shall be suspension from participation and forfeiture of eligibility for any honors or awards related to any season or activity from which the student is suspended for one calendar year from the date of the second offense along with

recommended therapy.

The offense and action taken will be recorded and filed in the office of the principal or principal's designee and a copy filed with the area administrator and the executive director of FWCS Student Services.

Further Code Violations – The penalty shall be suspension from participation in all sports or extracurricular activities as appropriate for the remainder of the student's high school career.

The offense and action taken will be recorded and filed in the office of the principal or principal's designee and a copy filed with the Deputy Superintendent and Chief Operations Officer.

5160.4 – Appeal Procedure

Any student has the right to appeal a decision based on the established disciplinary hearing (due process) proceedings as outlined in the *FWCS Student-Parent Handbook*. All sanctions will remain in force pending the appeal hearing and the hearing examiner's final decision.

FWCS CO-CURRICULAR POLICIES

Inherent Injury Risk

Trying out, practicing, playing or any other form of participation in any sport can be a dangerous activity involving many risks of injury.

The dangers and risks of engaging in sports include, but are not limited to, death, serious neck and spinal injuries which may result in complete or partial paralysis, brain damage, serious injury to virtually all bones, joints, ligaments, muscles, tendons and other aspects of the muscular-skeletal system, and serious injury or impairment to other aspects of the body, health and well-being.

The dangers and risks of engaging in sports may result not only in serious injury, but in a serious impairment of the future abilities of the student athlete to earn a living and to engage in business, social and recreational activities, and generally to enjoy life.

Because of these risks, it is important that the student athlete listens to and follows all of the coach's instructions and warnings regarding playing techniques, training methods, rules of the sport and other team rules. It

is also important that the student athlete reads and adheres to all written instructions and warnings regarding playing techniques, training methods, rules of the sport and other team rules. Parents

should direct and encourage their child to obey all of the coach's instructions and warnings.

Practice

All practices must be supervised. Athletic practices and contests have priority with respect to club or travel teams out of season.

All student athletes must report for practice on time and may not miss a practice except due to illness or with the advanced permission of the coach.

Inclement Weather

The following procedures will be applied by FWCS high schools in determining the status of athletic practices, games and activities when there is inclement weather. The safety of students and staff must always be the highest priority during these situations.

Schools are closed (Stage II) – No emergency has been declared by the mayor, county and/or governor. Conditions improve during the day. The decision to hold practice rests with the building principal, but no practice shall be mandatory. A student may not be penalized for missing practice. A parent/guardian should call their coach indicating conditions are too hazardous for his/her student to attend.

Schools are closed (Stage I) – A state of emergency has been declared by the mayor, county and/or governor. All practices and/or games will be canceled.

Dress Guidelines

For many people in the community, seeing FWCS athletes at functions may give them their first and only impression of our schools and community. Athletes will represent themselves and their athletic program in a dignified manner. This includes proper dress and appropriate manners and conduct.

Eligibility

In order to represent FWCS in interscholastic competition, a student athlete must meet all eligibility requirements mandated by the Indiana High School Athletic Association. A student must have received passing grades and earned credit at the end of their last grading period in school in at least (70%) of the maximum number of full credit subjects that a student can take and must be currently enrolled in at least 70% of the maximum number of full credit subjects that a student can

take.

Equipment

The student athlete is responsible for all equipment issued and must pay for any issued equipment which is lost or damaged. School-owned athletic equipment may be worn only for contests unless special instructions are given by the coach.

Insurance

FWCS is pleased to have your son/ daughter participate in our interscholastic sports program. We have a continuing concern about the increasing cost of medical care as it relates to the high-risk area of interscholastic sports.

All students participating in interscholastic sports will be provided supplemental athletic accident coverage by FWCS.

This program of coverage is intended to supplement your family or employer group coverage or plan. It is not designed to replace your present coverage. If you have no health insurance, this plan becomes primary coverage for your son/daughter while they are participating in the play and or practice of interscholastic sports. It is the responsibility of the athlete and parent to work with the school athletic trainer and coach to process and file the accident report. This report must be on file in the athletic office within a week of the injury for claim processing.

Pre-Participation Physical Evaluation Form

Students participating in co-curriculars must have a completed IHSAA Physical Evaluation Form on file in their school's respected co-curricular office, dated after April 1 of each school year to be eligible to participate in any activities offered for the upcoming school year. This includes summer and pre-season workouts.

COMMUNICATION MAKES THE DIFFERENCE

Parenting and coaching are challenging. When parents and coaches understand each other's role and views, it is easier to accept situations and benefit our students. Parents have a right to understand the expectations placed on their student-athlete. Understanding begins with clear communication from the coach.

Coach's communication to parents

- Philosophy of the coach/teacher
- Expectations the coach has for your child, as well as all members of the

- team
- Location and times of all practices and contests
- Team requirements, such as fees, special equipment, off-season conditioning
- Procedures should your child be injured during practice or competition
- Discipline consequences

Parents' communication to coach

Coaches want to hear from parents about the following:

- Notification of schedule conflicts well in advance
- Concerns about treatment of your child, mentally and/or physically
- Ways to help your child improve
- Concerns about your child's behavior

There are some issues that are not appropriate to discuss with coaches and should be left to their discretion. These include:

- Playing time: Coaches are professionals. They make judgments based on what they believe to be best for all students involved.
- Team strategy
- Play calling
- Other student athletes

If you need to talk to the coach...

There are situations that arise that may require a conference between the coach and parent. This dialogue is encouraged. When a conference is necessary, the following procedures should be followed:

1. Call to set up an appointment. Keep in mind that most of our coaches are classroom teachers or have full time jobs, and meeting time during the school day may be limited.
2. Do not attempt to confront a coach before or after a contest or practice. This can be an emotional time for all. Meetings in this setting usually do not promote resolution.

The next step...

If a meeting with the coach does not provide a satisfactory resolution, call to set up an appointment with the athletic director.

Electronic Media

Electronic media devices have implicated many student athletes in inappropriate situations. If the principal or athletic director determines that a violation of IHSAA Rule 8-1 or any other FWCS rule has occurred, an appropriate outcome may involve or include suspension from extracurricular/co-curricular activities.

Hazing

All FWCS athletic departments interpret hazing as any act whether physical, mental, emotional or psychological, which subjects another person, voluntarily or involuntarily, to anything that may abuse, mistreat, degrade, humiliate, harass or intimidate the person, or which may in any fashion compromise the inherent dignity of the person. It is the policy of FWCS that hazing of any type will not be permitted. Athletes who violate this policy will be subject to disciplinary action.

ACCIDENTS

All accidents or injuries occurring during practice, conditioning, or competition need to be reported to the coach and athletic trainer as soon as possible. Information is imperative in order that proper insurance claims can be processed.

When an injury occurs medical evaluation and treatment should begin with the school's athletic training staff. Further course of action will be continued medical evaluation/treatment provided by the schools training staff or referral to physician.

Pertaining to Student-Athletes:

Indiana High School Athletic Association, Inc.

9150 North Meridian Street, PO Box 40650,

Indianapolis, Indiana 46240-0650

Phone: 317-846-6601 Fax: 317-575-4244

Website: www.ihsaa.org

Paul Neidig, Commissioner

Athletic Eligibility: A Basic Guide for Schools, Students and Parents

To All Student Athletes

- Your high school years will provide some of the most memorable and enjoyable moments you will ever experience. Competition in interschool athletics is a once-in-a-lifetime experience, which will influence you forever.
- Your participation in high school athletics is dependent on your Eligibility.
- Keep that Eligibility. Read the following summary of the IHSAA Eligibility rules which govern your participation.
- Review these summaries with your parents and ask your principal, athletic directors and coaches about them.

To All Parents of Student Athletes

- The value of participating in athletics has been well documented: participants earn better grades, have better school attendance and have a greater chance for success in later life, than non-participants in athletics.\
- Students must meet certain Eligibility rules to maintain the privileges of participating in interschool athletics.
- Review the following summaries with your son or daughter. Your role in stressing and supporting the value of following these rules cannot be emphasized enough.

From the IHSAA

- Since 1903 the IHSAA has been the principal governing body for high school athletics in Indiana.
- Your school is a voluntary member of the IHSAA and has agreed to follow the IHSAA rules.
- Your school and the IHSAA believe in equal competition and the close relationship between academics and athletics.
- The following are only summaries of some of the IHSAA Eligibility rules

affecting student athletes. A complete listing of the IHSAA Eligibility rules is found in the *IHSAA By-Laws and Articles of Incorporation* manual, which your principal and your athletic directors have a copy; an on-line version can also be found at www.lhsaa.org.

You may be fully ELIGIBLE for interscholastic competition, if:

1. **Age Eligibility (Rule 4).** You **will not** have turned 20 by the scheduled date of the state finals of IHSAA Tournament Series in your sport.
2. **Amateurism Eligibility (Rule 5).** You **have not**:
 - Played under an assumed name.
 - Accepted money or merchandise directly or indirectly for any athletic participation, in your sport.
 - Signed a professional contract in your sport.
3. **Awards and Gifts Eligibility (Rule 6).** You **have not** received, or been 'loaned':
 - An award in recognition of your athletic talents in your sport which was not approved by your school and the IHSAA.
 - Merchandise as an award, prize or gift, or been allowed to purchase for a token sum.
 - An award, medal, recognition, gift or honor from a college/university or it's alumni.
4. **Conduct and Character Eligibility (Rule 8).** You **have not**:
 - Conducted yourself in or out of school in a way which reflects discredit upon your school or the IHSAA.
 - Created a disruptive influence on the discipline, good order, moral and educational environment of your school.
5. **Consent and Release Certificate Eligibility (Rule 3).** You **have** on file with your principal, each school year, a Certificate (annual physical form) which was completed between April 1 and your first practice in your sport.
6. **Enrollment Eligibility (Rule 12).** You **have**:
 - Enrolled in a school during the first 15 days of the semester.
 - Been enrolled for no more than 4 consecutive years (or the equivalent, e.g. 8 semesters, 12 trimesters, etc.), beginning with grade 9.
 - Represented a high school in your sport for no more than 4 years.
7. **Illness and Injury Eligibility (Rule 9).** You **have been absent, due to illness or injury, from practice sessions**:
 - On 5 or more, but less than 11 consecutive days (not including Sunday), but have since participated in at least 4 separate days of practice prior to your participation in an interscholastic contest in your sport.

- On 11 or more consecutive days (not including Sunday), but have since participated in at least 6 separate days of practice prior to your participation in an interscholastic contest in your sport.

8. Participation (Rule 15).

a. During the Authorized Contest Season in your sport, you have not:

- Participated in a try-out or demonstration in your sport as a prospective post-secondary school student-athlete.
- Participated in a practice with or against players not belonging to your school in your sport.
- Participated in a non-school sponsored contest, in your sport, without an approved waiver.
- Attended a non-school sponsored camp in your sport.
- Attended and participated in a student-clinic in your sport.

b. During the School Year Out-of-Season in your sport, you have not:

- Participated in a team sport contest as a member of a non-school team where there was more than the following number of students, who had participated the previous year in a contest as a member of the school team (also including incoming freshmen): Basketball-3 Baseball-5 Football-6 Volleyball-3 Softball-5 Soccer-7.
- Received instruction in your sport, in a school sponsored program, from an individual who was a member of your school's coaching staff (Exception: see the Limited Contact Program of your school).
- Participated in a non-school contest during school time without the approval of your school.

c. During the Summer, you have not:

- Attended a school-sponsored fall sports camp/clinic after Monday of Week 5 (See your AD for specific dates).
- Attended a non-school sponsored camp/clinic after Monday of Week 7 (See your AD for specific dates).

9. Pre-participation Practice (Rules 50 & 101). You have completed the required number of separate days of organized practice in your sport under the direct supervision of your school's coaching staff prior to your participation in a contest.

10. Scholarship Eligibility (Rule 18). You have:

- Passed 70% of the full credit subjects, or the equivalent, that a student can take at your school, in the previous grading period (semester grades take precedence of grading period grades).
- Been enrolled in 70% of the full credit subjects or the equivalent that a student can take at your school.

11. Transfer and Initial Promotion Eligibility (Rule 19). You have:

- a. **Not** transferred from your prior school to your current school for Primarily Athletic Reasons, or,
- b. Enrolled at your current school for the first time as a 9th grader, or,
- c. Transferred from your prior school to your current school:
 - And at the same time you and your parents made a bona fide move to a New District or Territory, or,
 - Because you became a ward of the court, or,
 - Because you became an orphan, or,
 - Because your prior school closed, or,
 - And your prior school was not a member of the local state athletic association or was not accredited by the local state accrediting agency, or,
 - Because of a school board mandate for redistricting which involved your prior school, or,
 - Because you enrolled or attended, in error, a wrong school, or,
 - And you transferred from a correctional school to your current school, or,
 - Because you are emancipated and you have now moved to a New District or Territory, or,
 - And you did not participate in a contest for another school or for a club team during the preceding 365 days, or,
 - And your prior school was not a member of the local state athletic association and you have moved back to reside with the same parent or guardian, or,
 - And the transfer is either to or from a Boarding School, or,
 - And you are a qualified Foreign Exchange Student under an approved CSIET program for one year, or,
 - And at the same time your parent or guardian just took a licensed or certified position at your current school, or,

12. Undue influence (Rule 20). Your enrollment at your new school:

- Was **not** influenced by anyone seeking to secure you as a student at your new school for athletic purposes.
- Did **not** involve a Past Link (see definition).

7 Period Day

RULE 18-8A ON PAGE 65 OF THE BY-LAWS:

Colleges: A student may attend an accredited institution for credit that is acceptable both for high school graduation and/or for college credit. The student must be enrolled in credit courses at their home school at least 50% of the normal school day and be enrolled in and passing enough credit courses to meet the minimum academic standards for eligibility. In determining credits, three semester hours or the equivalent shall be counted as equivalent of one high school credit.

Classes = Must be taking and passing five of seven credited classes.

Service working and/or Study Hall does **not** count as a credited class.

POLICY ON PERFORMANCE ENHANCING DRUGS & SUPPLEMENTS

In order to minimize health and safety risks to student/athletes, maintain ethical standards and reduce liability risks, coaches should never supply, recommend or permit the use of any drug, medication or food supplement.

SUMMIT ATHLETIC CONFERENCE

Sportsmanship Statement

Good sportsmanship is a characteristic that we desire to be exhibited by members of our athletic teams, cheerleaders, student body, coaches and staff, fans and support groups. We take a proactive stance and encourage good sportsmanship to grow and remain strong for many years to come. Good sportsmanship demands that our players and fans be good people, take responsibility for their actions and show consideration for all others. We expect our teams to show pride in their abilities, have humility in their accomplishments and display great confidence without arrogance. Teams, coaches and fans are expected to exhibit the same characteristics in victory or defeat and show respect for opponents, officials and other fans. Fans are expected not to interfere in any way with players, coaches and/or coaching decisions, officials or administrators. The members of the Summit Athletic Conference are committed to the concept that sportsmanship is an essential part of the educational mission in all of our schools.

ADULT BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS

I WILL...

- ✓ Remember that I am at a contest to support my team and to enjoy the skill and competition.
- ✓ Never intimidate or ridicule the other team and/or its fans.
- ✓ Remember that school athletics are learning experiences for students and that mistakes are sometimes made.
- ✓ Praise student athletes in their attempt to improve themselves as students, as athletes and as people as we would praise a student working in the classroom.
- ✓ Understand that the ticket of admission is a privilege to observe the contest and not a license to verbally assault others and be generally obnoxious.
- ✓ Learn the rules of the game to understand and appreciate why certain situations take place.
- ✓ Show respect to the opposing players, coaches, spectators and support groups.
- ✓ Respect the integrity and judgement of game officials.
- ✓ Recognize and show appreciation for an outstanding play by either team.
- ✓ Refrain from the use of any controlled substances (alcohol, drugs, etc.) before and during games and afterwards on or near the site of the event.
- ✓ Use only cheers that support and uplift the team.
- ✓ Not use profane language.
- ✓ Recognize and compliment the efforts of school and conference administrators for their efforts in emphasizing the benefits of athletics and the rule of good sportsmanship.
- ✓ Not interfere with or question the decisions made by school administrators in their attempts to control lack of sportsmanship and respect among spectators.

All FWCS high schools reserve the right to remove any fan for improper behavior.

Acknowledgment

I have read the *Fort Wayne Community Schools Athletic Code of Conduct* and understand and accept the policies, rules, procedures and consequences it describes.