

West Valley Central School Athletic Code of Conduct

1. STATEMENT OF CODE AND DEFINITIONS

A. Participation in athletics requires keen minds and healthy bodies and high levels of training and conditioning. Individual performance and team success are dependent upon the following universally recognized training rules both in school practice, and in those times between practices when student-athletes are away from school. In addition to encouraging pupils to develop their athletic skills, the district encourages and promotes excellent sportsmanship, competence, character, civility, and citizenship. Student-athletes wearing the letter of the school are uniquely identified with the school district and their actions and behaviors reflect on them as individuals, their team and on the school district.

B. Student-athlete refers to any student participating on a school sponsored athletic team. The student-athlete is held to the conditions of the athletic code of conduct from the first day of the season until the last.

C. This athletic code of conduct has been adopted to promote excellent sportsmanship and sound moral judgment from all student-athletes. The consequences that this code of conduct imposes for poor judgment by the student-athlete will be enforced in order to educate the individual about setting clearer goals and more consistent boundaries for his/her behavior. Ultimately, this code will assist student-athletes in making proper decisions about his/her future within athletics and as a mature young adult.

2. CONDITIONS FOR PARTICIPATION IN ATHLETICS

A. The student-athlete must have an approved annual physical examination before participating in team practices.

B. The student-athlete will be provided with an athletic code of conduct to be read in full, signed by the student-athlete and his/her parent/guardian and returned to the coach prior to the first day of practice. Along with this code of conduct, student-athletes are required to complete and return in full a medical emergency card and an updated medical history report prior to the first day of practice.

3. TRAINING RULES: CONSUMPTION/POSSESSION OF ALCOHOL, TOBACCO AND/OR CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE

A. Consumption and use of alcohol, tobacco and/or controlled substances have been determined to be adverse to good health and possibly a violation of law. These substances are prohibited, to protect the health of student-athletes and to encourage proper conditioning practices for a successful athletic experience.

B. Student-athletes who are found to be in possession of alcohol, tobacco and/or a controlled substance will also be found in violation of the athletic code of conduct.

C. Student-athletes who are seen consuming and/or in possession of alcohol, tobacco and/or a controlled substance within any type of photographs, cyber imaging, etc. (My Space, Face Book, etc.) within the season, regardless of when the images were taken, will also be in violation of the athletic code of conduct.

D. If student-athletes are attending a party/gathering, in which alcohol or drugs are being illegally dispensed, the student-athlete must leave the party/gathering immediately and report their attendance to a coach or administrator before the end of the next school day. Be sure to leave IMMEDIATELY upon arriving and take as many of your teammates with you as possible.

4. OTHER RULES AND REGULATIONS

A. Each athlete will participate under the eligibility requirements, rules, and regulations of the NYS Commissioner of Education and the NYS Public High School Athletic Association, as well as the West Valley Central School Board of Education.

B. Student-athletes must be in school by the end of fourth period to practice or play in a game that day unless there are extenuating circumstances satisfactory to the coach/administration.

C. Student-athletes on school suspension may not practice or play during the period of suspension. Students may practice or play after detention.

D. Student-athletes on Academic Ineligibility (AI) will not be allowed to practice or play games. Students are placed on the AI list when failing one or more subjects and have failed to meet the requirements of the Student Success Plan.

E. Student-athletes permanently suspended, who have quit for the season, will not receive certificates or other letter awards. Also, student-athletes who are suspended from a sports team may not join or participate in any way on another team during the remainder of that sports season.

F. Student-athletes must ride the bus to and from games. At the discretion of the coach, parents may request athletes to ride home with other parents or themselves. Athletes and parents must report to the coach and sign-out prior to leaving an away sporting event.

G. Hazing – An activity that is expected of a student-athlete in order to join a team or to stay a part of a team that humiliates, degrades, or risks emotional or physical harm, regardless of the athlete's willingness to participate is not allowed. Any student-athlete who is involved with initiating and/or enforcing any type of hazing activity will be in violation of the athletic code of conduct.

H. Mandatory Reporting Requirement – Any student-athlete who is arrested during the course of a season is required to report this incident to the Superintendent, who will in turn contact the Athletic Director. The incident could be deemed a violation of the athletic code of conduct and may be subject to disciplinary action. The form to be completed is attached as Appendix A and will be kept securely in the Superintendent's office.

I. The **"DO GOOD RULE"** can be applied to a wider range of misconduct performed by a student-athlete. The athletic code of conduct cannot list all the things that might require some form of discipline therefore a student-athlete must anticipate that any action of his/hers that reflects poorly on the team, school or community's perception of our program will result in disciplinary action. Athletes are measured by a higher standard than most students because of their visibility and prestige. Any actions that reflect negatively upon that image will be subject to discipline. The discipline may range from a reprimand to dismissal from the team.

5. COACHES' AUTHORITY

Coaches may establish other rules as they deem necessary and prudent for the participation of student-athletes in sports. They may use their judgment in handling problems that may develop during the season which are not specifically covered in this code of conduct.

6. REPORTING OF VIOLATIONS OF ATHLETIC POLICY

Coaches, responsible adults, and employees of West Valley Central School District may report, in writing, actions of the student-athletes which are contrary to the athletic code of conduct to the Superintendent and/or Athletic Director. The alleged violation will be reviewed with the superintendent, the Director of Physical Education and Athletics, Athletic Director, and coach.

Persons providing information must be willing to give evidence at a hearing scheduled in accord with this code.

7. APPEAL PROCEDURES

A student-athlete or his/her parents/guardians may appeal the disciplinary action taken by the coach and/or the athletic department. Such appeal shall be made to the athletic council by notification given to the Superintendent. A hearing by the athletic council shall be scheduled no later than five school days from the receipt of the notice of the appeal. The student-athlete and his/her parents/guardians shall have the right to appear before the athletic council. The appeal will be decided by a majority vote of coaches and the Athletic Director. To render the decision, the council must have five members present with the majority voting to uphold or deny the appeal. A written notice of the decision will be sent to the pupil and the Superintendent.

An appeal of the above decision may be made to the Superintendent and the Director of Physical Education and Athletics within two school days.

8. HEARSAY AND RUMORS

Hearsay and rumors may be investigated by the coach and/or Athletic Director. Disciplinary action can be taken against a pupil if adequate proof of a violation is found or an admission of a violation by the student-athlete is made.

9. DISCIPLINARY ACTION

The following disciplinary actions shall be followed if a student is found in violation of the athletic code of conduct.

1st offense: The first offense to the athletic code of conduct will result in a two week suspension from practice and game play. There will also be a mandatory meeting with the coach, Athletic Director, student-athlete, school counselor and the parent/guardian about the violation prior to returning to competition. It will be determined at this time whether further counseling will be required.

2nd offense: The second offense will result in dismissal from the team for the remainder of the season. Prior to participating in any future West Valley Central School sponsored athletic team, the student-athlete and the parent/guardian must be present at a mandatory meeting with the coach, Athletic Director, school counselor, the Director of Physical Education and Athletics and/or an administrator. It is at this time that the coach, Athletic Director, and the administrator involved will determine if any further counseling is necessary for the student.

3rd offense: The third offense in the same school year will result with the student-athlete's suspension from participation on any West Valley Central School sponsored athletic team for one calendar year. Prior to participating in any future West Valley Central School sponsored athletic team, the student-athlete and the parent/guardian must be present at a mandatory meeting with the coach, Athletic Director, school counselor, the Director of Physical Education and Athletics and/or an administrator. It is at this time that the coach, Athletic Director, and the administrator involved will determine if any further counseling is necessary for the student.

10. OTHER DISCIPLINARY MEASURES

The athletic code of conduct shall not be deemed exclusive or supersede any other policies or discipline codes of the school. For example, the discipline code of the school may require suspension from the school while this athletic code of conduct requires suspension from team

activities. Student-athletes are subject to this athletic code of conduct and any other discipline codes or rules and regulations of West Valley Central School.

11. RECORDING OF VIOLATIONS

A written record of violations and action taken shall be kept on file in the Director of Physical Education and Athletics and the Superintendent's office.

12. ACCIDENT PROTOCOL

Each student-athlete will be required to turn in "Medical Emergency Card" in the case of an accident. In the event of an accident, in which no parent is present, the emergency contact number(s) will be called. If a parent/guardian is unable to be reached, trained personnel on site and/or coaching staff will make an educated decision on whether the student-athlete needs immediate medical assistance. Our first responsibility will be placed with the safety of the student-athlete.

13. STUDENT-ATHLETE INSURANCE

Due to the physical nature of athletics in general, student-athletes are subject to certain types of risks. Physical injury can occur in any type of sports activity. By volunteering to participate in school sponsored athletic activity, a student and his/her parents/guardian acknowledge the potential risk for physical injury to occur. The district will provide supplemental accident insurance coverage for students in all school sponsored athletic activities. The policy is provided to cover more serious claims for student-athletes that do not have family insurance plans. All injuries must be reported to the school nurse as soon as possible.

PLEASE RETURN TO THE ATHLETIC DIRECTOR



- Parent/Guardians must understand and agree to the conditions for involvement for their son or daughter in order for them to participate in athletics.
- The parent (s) or guardian (s) shall read all the enclosed material and acknowledge understanding of the athletic eligibility rules and code of conduct.
- The parent (s) or guardian (s) shall sign and return the Responsibility Acknowledgement Agreement to the Athletic Department prior to participating in any practice or contests.

I have read the West Valley Central School Athletic Code of Conduct. I fully understand its meaning and consequences and support its enforcement by persons responsible.

Please sign and return to the Athletic Director. This needs to be done only once during a sport season at West Valley Central School and will be kept on file.

You may not participate in interscholastic athletics until this form is signed and returned.

Signature of Athlete

Signature of Parent/Guardian

Signature of Coach

Received by the Athletic Department:

Athletic Director

Date