

# Iroquois Athletic Handbook



## **Sportsmanship Pledge**

The New York State Public High School Athletic Association requires officials to enforce all sportsmanship rules for athletes and coaches. We will not tolerate negative statements or actions between opposing players, especially trash-talking, taunting or baiting of opponents. If such comments are heard or actions seen, a penalty will be assessed immediately. We have been instructed not to issue warnings. Let today's contest reflect mutual respect.

## **Athletic Handbook**

Welcome to the Iroquois School District's Interscholastic Athletics program. The purpose of this handbook answers many of the questions pertaining to Iroquois policies and procedures specific to our athletics program. Student-athletes and their parents/guardians are encouraged to become familiar with its contents in order to assist in creating the most positive experience for all parties involved.

### **Committee Members**

Carrie Vetter - Iroquois Athletic Director

Tom Betrus - Coach

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## Section 1

### **NYSPHSAA Code of Ethics**

The guidelines herein are consistent with the Iroquois Central School District Student Code of Conduct and those set forth by the NYSPHSAA ([www.nysphsaa.org](http://www.nysphsaa.org)).

The New York State Public High School Athletic Association (NYSPHSAA) Code of Ethics

It is the duty of all concerned with High School athletics:

1. To emphasize the proper ideals of sportsmanship, ethical conduct and fair play.
2. To eliminate all possibilities which tend to destroy the best values of the game.
3. To stress the values derived from playing the game fairly.
4. To show cordial courtesy to visiting teams and officials.
5. To establish a happy relationship between visitors and hosts.
6. To respect the integrity and judgment of the sports officials.
7. To achieve a thorough understanding and acceptance of the rules of the game and standards of eligibility.
8. To encourage leadership, use of incentive, and good judgment by the players on the team.
9. To recognize that the purpose of athletics is to promote the physical, mental, moral, social, and emotional wellbeing of the individual players.
10. To remember that an athletic contest is only a game...not a matter of life or death for player, coach, school, official, fan, community, state, or nation.

### **Governing Agencies**

1. The New York State Public High School Athletic Association (NYSPHSAA) sets the standards for participation and competition in interscholastic athletics.
2. Section VI is our representative subdivision which interprets and implements the state regulations.
3. Erie County Interscholastic Conference (ECIC) is our local division of Section VI.
4. The Iroquois Central School Board of Education establishes policies and procedures that are implemented by the Athletic Department and school administration.

### **Chain of Command**

The goal is to give the student-athletes, parents and coaches a way to resolve concerns positively and timely. It is important that information and concerns about our athletic program proceed through a logical level of communication.

Procedure will be:

1. The student-athlete should first contact the coach.
2. If unresolved, the parent/guardian should contact the coach. Please do not confront a coach before, during, or after a practice or contest.
3. If concern remains unresolved, the student-athlete or parent/guardian should contact the Athletic Director.
4. If you have not resolved your concern, the parent/guardian should contact their child's building administrator.

## Section 2

## **Philosophy**

Participation as a member of the Iroquois Interscholastic Athletic program is a privilege, not a right. Iroquois has built great athletic traditions over the years. As a player on one of our teams, you have inherited these great traditions. Your actions are not only a reflection of yourself but also a reflection of your fellow athletes and those that have helped to build this great tradition.

The Iroquois community recognizes the importance of the athletic experience in the total development of the student. Participation incorporates the development of sport-specific skills and also fosters the growth of skills required for college and career readiness. Iroquois values the acquisition of skills such as accountability, sportsmanship, confidence, leadership, work ethic, teamwork, and character development.

It is important to remember that our athletic program is sponsored by the educational system, which is why our participants are identified as student-athletes. Iroquois values the student in our athletes and places an emphasis on each student's responsibility to make their education a priority.

Iroquois School District prides itself on our Family culture which can be identified through strong community relationships, commitment from faculty and staff, positive parental support, and mutual respect for all school programming. Participants in our athletic program are largely responsible for the maintenance and growth of this culture within our school. It is our mission to produce experiences our athletes can be proud of and in return contribute positively to our culture and traditions.

## **Levels of Participation**

**Modified Teams** will be made of 7th and 8th grade students only with the exception of Modified Boys Volleyball which may include 9th grade students as well (this is based on the Modified league Iroquois competes in for this sport).

This level emphasizes growth of the fundamental skills required to play the given sport. While play time may not be equal, the goal is for all participants to have the opportunity to engage in meaningful competition. Effort will be made for each participant to participate in each contest however this is not guaranteed. Winning is not the primary objective but rather an interest in maximizing participation. As a result roster sizes may be larger so long as safety is maintained.

**JV Teams** are composed of 9th and 10th grade students. 7th and 8th grade exceptional athletes can play at this level but can make up no more than 20% of the teams total roster. A 7th or 8th grade exceptional athlete cannot make the team at the exclusion of a 10th grade student in the 2nd year of competition.

The emphasis at this level is the refinement of fundamental skills, physical conditioning, and strategic play required to compete at the next level. Meaningful contest participation is provided to all participants throughout the season, however, equal play time is not guaranteed. Winning is emphasized but is not the primary focus. Roster size is limited, participants are chosen based on their performance of a specific set of criteria during the tryout process.

**Varsity Teams** can be composed of any student, grades 7-12, with those 7th and 8th grade exceptional athletes making up no more than 20% of the total teams roster.

Mastery of fundamental skills and commitment to the team is necessary for meaningful participation at the varsity level. Team play, sportsmanship, individual ability, physical conditioning, motivation, and attitude are all important aspects of competing at the varsity level. Winning is emphasized and not all players may play in every competition. Roster size is limited, participants are chosen based on their performance of a specific set of criteria during the tryout process.

**Exceptional Athlete**

The exceptional athlete is only the very talented and highly skilled pupil. The intent is to provide a safe and suitable competition at an appropriate level. 7th and 8th grade exceptional athletes must take and pass the state mandated APP (Athletic Placement Process) to prove physical readiness to participate on a JV or Varsity team.

**Sport Offerings**

Fall Sports	Winter Sports	Spring Sports
<b>Varsity</b> Football Cheerleading Cross Country Girls Field Hockey Golf Boys Soccer Girls Soccer Boys Volleyball Girls Volleyball Girls Swimming Girls Tennis	<b>Varsity</b> Cheerleading Girls Basketball Boys Basketball Boys Bowling Girls Bowling Girls Ice Hockey Boys Ice Hockey Rifle Boys Swimming Indoor Track Boys Wrestling Girls Wrestling	<b>Varsity</b> Boys Baseball Girls Softball Boys Lacrosse Girls Lacrosse Boys Tennis Boys Track and Field Girls Track and Field Girls Flag Football
<b>JV</b> Football Girls Field Hockey Boys Soccer Girls Soccer Girls Volleyball	<b>JV</b> Cheerleading Girls Basketball Boys Basketball Wrestling	<b>JV</b> Boys Baseball Girls Baseball Boys Lacrosse Girls Lacrosse
<b>Modified</b> Football Cross Country Girls Field Hockey Boys Soccer Girls Soccer Girls Volleyball	<b>Modified</b> Girls Basketball Boys Basketball Wrestling	<b>Modified</b> Boys Baseball Girls Baseball Boys Lacrosse Girls Lacrosse CoEd Track and Field
Unified - CoEd Volleyball Unified - CoEd Bocce	Unified - CoEd Bowling	Unified - CoEd Basketball

**Section 3 - Athletic Eligibility**

**NYSPPHSAA Eligibility Rules**

a. Any bona fide student enrolled in grades 7-12 may participate. NYSPPHSAA defines a bona fide student as a “regularly enrolled student who is taking sufficient subjects to make an aggregate amount of three courses and who satisfies the physical education requirement.”

- b. A pupil shall be eligible for interscholastic athletic competition in a sport during each of four consecutive seasons of such sport commencing with the pupil's entry into the 9th grade and prior to graduation. Additional years are granted should a student start at the JV or Varsity level while in 7th or 8th grade. Years played at the modified level do not count against the four years of eligibility.
- c. If the age of 19 years is reached on or after July 1, the student may continue to participate during that school year in all sports.
- d. Students may be eligible regardless of age or grade if they have been approved through the State Education Department's Athletic Placement Program (APP).
- e. A 15 year old below the 9th grade needs only to meet APP maturity standards to be eligible at the high school level.

### **Tryouts and Practice Sessions**

- 1.) Team members must be present and on time for all scheduled practice sessions and games. Any athlete who is present in school, but absent or late to the athletic event without prior permission from the coach, will be subject to appropriate disciplinary action. That action ranges from a warning, to suspension, to dismissal from the squad.
- 2.) To be eligible to participate on an athletic team, an athlete must attend all practices or try-outs established by the head coach. Exceptions are limited to the following, with coaches permission:
  - a. Sickness
  - b. Emergency appointments (doctor, dentist, court appearance)
  - c. Funerals
  - d. Special examinations, tests, or overlapping seasons
  - e. Family vacations or other unusual situations will be given consideration by the coach and/or athletic director who must be made aware of the situation ASAP
  - f. Transfers from another district meeting NYSPHSAA Eligibility rules

### **Prolonged Absence**

- 1.) A player who misses practice during the season for 3 or more consecutive days must have a minimum of one (1) day practice for reconditioning purposes to participate in a game or scrimmage. If medical attention is required, a written physician's approval to return to practice must be submitted to the coach prior to participation.

In addition, each incidence of prolonged absence will be reviewed individually by the coach and the athletic director, consulting with the school physician when necessary. Due to the circumstances surrounding the absence additional reconditioning practices may be required based on the athlete's readiness for safe return to competition.

- 2.) Accepted Excuses for Prolonged Absences (with coaches approval)
  - a.) School sponsored activities
  - b.) College Visitations
  - c.) Family vacations where the athlete must attend a parent's request
  - d.) Emergency situations
  - e.) Religious obligations

**Note:** All of these excuses must be submitted to the coach and approved by the High School Attendance office prior to missing practice. It should be noted that the athletic department realizes that unusual situations arise where the athlete must miss practice. It is our responsibility to make sure that all athletes returning from these absences have a period of reconditioning before participating.

### **Game Day Expectations**

- 1.) All players will sit with their own team during the entire athletic event.
- 2.) No athlete will leave the site of an athletic activity without permission from the coach.

## **Transportation and Alternate Transportation**

- 1.) *Transportation to an athletic event:* A player must use school transportation to an athletic event. Exception: when the athlete has secured a written note (preferably 24 hours in advance) from his/her parents to ride with his /her parents. A coach may approve written permission provided the parents fill out the alternate transportation form provided by the athletic department. This type of permission should not develop into a pattern or be abused.
- 2.) *Transportation from an athletic event:* A player is strongly encouraged to use school transportation to return from an away athletic event.
  - a.) A player may receive a ride home from an athletic event with a parent or legal guardian only. All athletes must have a parent or legal guardian sign out with the coach before departing each event.
  - b.) A player may not receive a ride home from adult that is not a parent or legal guardian. Exception: Approval may be granted in extenuating circumstance. This requires the athlete to secure a written note (preferably 24 hours in advance) from his/her parent or legal guardian and turn into the athletic office.
- 3.) Under no circumstances may a student transport themselves to or from an athletic event.
- 4.) A player who misses a scheduled bus for an "away" athletic activity will not be permitted to participate in that activity.
- 5.) Conduct of players while riding school transportation will be subject to regulations for regular bus students. No food or beverage will be permitted on the bus unless permission is given by the coach.

## **Termination from a team**

Any athlete wishing to terminate his/her association with the team must, during the season:

- a. Meet with the coach
- b. Define reasons
- c. Gain written parental approval
- d. Gain approval from the coach and the athletic director to participate in his/her next sport season
- e. Athletic privileges will be revoked and a new Code must be sign in before participation in a new sport season.

**Attendance:** An athlete must be in school the day of the contest.

- 1.) If an athlete is illegally absent, truant, suspended in (I.C.E.) or out of school, he/she may not participate or be a spectator at a sport activity that day whether practice or game.
- 2.) If an athlete is excused from any part of the school day due to illness, he/she may not participate in a sports activity whether practice or game. An athlete is expected to report on time for school each day. Absence for any of the above reasons the day prior to a contest will exclude the participant from that contest.
- 3.) A student athlete is required to attend half day (3 hours) of school in order to participate in any athletic event that same day (practice, game and/or tournament). The athletic department realizes that unforeseen circumstances arise that create special situations that will require the Athletic Director and Administration to review.
- 4.) An athlete should be in school the day prior to a weekend or holiday contest. An athlete absent the day before a weekend or a holiday must bring a signed statement to the coach from the parent or guardian stating that the athlete is physically able to participate. It is recommended that the coach call the parent regarding the absence.
- 5.) Each athlete is expected to be in school the day following athletic events. If a pattern of absence develops following athletic events, the sport coach will take appropriate disciplinary action. That action may range from a warning to suspension from participation for a period of time.
- 6.) If a player becomes ill during the day and cannot practice, it is his/her responsibility to notify the coach involved.

## **Academic Standards**

- 1.) In order to remain eligible for participation in the District's interscholastic athletic program, student athletes must maintain satisfactory academic standing as determined by administration.
- 2.) Any person failing in more than one subject will receive, in writing, a warning that he/she has five (5) school days in which to correct the deficiency or be suspended. (An individual may continue participation in any activity with one deficiency.)

Exception: Students under the supervision of the Committee of the Handicapped with multiple deficiencies will be dealt with on an individual basis through a committee consisting of: The student's special education teacher, the athletic director, the head coach and either the school psychologist or guidance counselor.

- a.) If, after five days, the deficiencies are not taken care of, the student shall be suspended until all deficiencies are taken care of but one (1).
- b.) It shall be the coach's responsibility to notify the athlete who is deficient in more than one (1) subject. This should be done as soon as the coaching staff receives the eligibility list from the principal's office.
- c.) Incomplete grades will be included on the failure list and treated as a deficiency to be addressed to maintain eligibility.

## **Physical Education Requirements**

- 1.) Athletics is an outgrowth of the physical education program. It offers students with the physical ability, motivation and interest; the opportunity to pursue a physical activity and derive the benefits from such competition.
- 2.) Each program has a place in the total education of the individual. Therefore, the athlete is expected to participate in physical education classes. He/she will be unable to practice or play in a game on a day that the athlete did not participate in a scheduled physical education class.

## **Sports Physicals and Athletic Registration**

- 1.) All student-athletes must be medically cleared to participate in any interscholastic sport by passing a sports physical conducted by their primary medical provider. The District provides physicals for Iroquois students at the beginning of each season.
- 2.) If the student-athlete has not taken and passed a sports physical, he/she cannot and will not be allowed to participate in any tryout, practice, or competition.
- 3.) Be advised that once a student-athlete is medically cleared to play he/she will be required to (according to state regulations) participate successfully in a sport specific number of conditioning practices in order to be eligible for interscholastic competition.
- 4.) Parents and student-athletes must use the online registration system to sign up for sports participation. The registration period starts within 30 days prior to the first eligible day of practice. The nurse will review the student's physical and answers to the health questionnaire before clearing the child for sports participation.
- 5.) Exceptional Athletes must register on FamilyID for both the APP registration and the sport they are wishing to try out for. The student's most recent physical on file will be used to determine eligibility. Deadlines for registration will not be extended due to an outdated physical on file.

## **Injuries**

- a. It is imperative that all injuries sustained during any tryout, practice or game be reported to the coach immediately. The coach will file a report on all injuries and communicate with the parent/guardian of the student-athlete. The school nurse/district athletic trainer will review the incident report on each injury and work with the student-athlete and coach to return the student-athlete to play as soon as he/she is medically cleared.

b. If a student-athlete is injured at any time during any season (from day one of tryouts until the end of the last competition), it is required that he/she be “re-certified” or “cleared” to participate again by the student athlete’s doctor and/or the District’s medical provider if those individuals held the student-athlete out of competition. Following a serious injury, it will need to be determined by the student-athlete’s doctor and/or the District’s medical provider, and any guidelines established by NYSPHSAA, when the student-athlete may return to competition and what kind of re-conditioning protocol will be established.

### **Exceptional Athlete Policy**

#### **7TH & 8TH GRADE EXCEPTIONAL ATHLETES PARTICIPATING ON JV/V TEAMS**

The Exceptional Athlete is only the very talented and highly skilled pupil. The intent is to provide safe and suitable competition at an appropriate level. 7th & 8th grade Exceptional Athletes must be approved by the district physician and then take and pass the state mandated Selective Classification Test to prove physical readiness to participate on a JV or Varsity team.

Iroquois athletic teams will be comprised of student/athletes that have made a sports team at the level which is appropriate for their skill level.

**Modified Teams** will be made of 7th & 8th grade students only with the exception of Modified Boys Volleyball which may include 9th grade students as well (this is based on the Modified Leagues Iroquois competes in for these sports).

**JV Teams can** be comprised of 7th & 8th Exceptional Athletes, 9th or 10th grade students with those in the 7th & 8th grade making up no more than 20% of the teams total roster. However, a 7th or 8th grade student cannot make the team at the exclusion of a 10th grade student in the 2nd year of competition.

**Varsity Teams** can be comprised of any student, grades 7-12, with those in the 7th & 8th grades making up no more than 20% of the teams total roster and being classified as Exceptional Athletes.

### **Dual Sport Participation**

- 1.) Student-athletes interested should be limited to those that are considered exceptional athletes in both sports. Exceptional is defined as someone that would likely be a starter on both teams or someone that is likely to advance to the post season should the sport be individual.
- 2.) Any student interested in playing two sports in the same season must complete the appropriate form and turn it into the athletic office for approval prior to the start of each season.

The form will require the following:

- a. Academic standing – All students must maintain good academic standing. Not only does this mean that the student must remain academically eligible (student code of conduct). If a teacher identifies a student's grades to be suffering additional requirements may be required to continue in both sports.
  - b. Identify a primary and secondary sport. Signatures are required by both coaches. Coaches are required to agree. Included will be a practice and competition plan that is agreed upon. If a conflict occurs, the student-athlete will honor their commitment to the primary sport first.
  - c. Additional signatures are required from parents and administration.
- 2.) Coaches are responsible for maintaining appropriate communication throughout the season.
  - 3.) Consideration for approval will include each team's ability to maximize opportunity for others trying out.
  - 4.) A final decision is made by the Athletic Council (athletic director, high school assistant principal, and athletes current head coach. The athletic council has the right to modify the agreement. If modifications are made the student-athlete has the right to terminate their participation.

## **Transfer Students**

A student's eligibility is determined by the situation/facts at the time of registration. All transfer student's entering Iroquois School District must complete Transfer Notification paperwork and submit to the Section Office. Specific eligibility rules can be found in the NYSPHSAA handbook. This process can be lengthy as numerous signatures and detailed information is required from both sending and receiving school. Families are encouraged to contact the athletic office as soon as their child is enrolled at ICS.

## **Mixed Competition**

Requests for a pupil to compete with an alternate gender must fall within the rules outlined within the NYSPHSAA handbook. If eligible, an individual athletic profile is compiled for each student that includes athletic performance test scores, physical data, and PE and medical history. Additionally, the district requires a recommendation from the athlete's primary care physician, a letter from the athlete's parents granting permission, and a request from the athlete themselves. Each case is then reviewed by the ICS athletic panel for approval.

## **Special Accommodations**

Every situation requesting permission for special accommodations is evaluated on an individual basis. NYSPHSAA outlines procedures for requests specific to Special Devices and Prosthesis and Religious Accommodations. ICS is required to submit a written request to the NYSPHSAA office which will provide notice or approval or denial to the school in a timely manner.

## **Foreign Exchange Students**

Foreign exchange students will be given the opportunity to try out for any athletic team once formally registered as an Iroquois student. The same time period to try out will be allowed for these students upon their arrival. A physical and all appropriate paperwork must be completed. A coach cannot set aside a spot on their roster for this student until he or she have arrived and has gone through a tryout evaluation. All foreign exchange students must meet the standards and criteria set forth by NYSPHSAA and participation in interscholastic athletics at Iroquois must be reported to the NYSPHSAA.

# **Section 4 - Program Expectations**

## **Parent/Guardian Expectations**

Prior to the student being allowed to participate, a parent/guardian will:

- a. Attend the pre-season meeting hosted by the athletic director and coach(es) and/or read athletic handbook.
- c. Ensure that the online registration is completed prior to the first day of tryouts. Your child(ren) must also have an up-to-date physical examination in order to participate.

During the sport season, the parent/guardian will:

- a. Be a positive role model for your child as a student-athlete by following spectator expectations at practices, games, and other events as well as provide support in balancing athletics and academics.
- c. Follow the appropriate chain of concern when encountering issues or concerns.
  - i. Encourage your student athlete to communicate with the head coach. It is always preferred that the student athlete learn to advocate for him/herself whenever possible.
  - ii. When this is not possible, you may join your child or contact the head coach yourself. In all cases, it is preferred that the "24- hour-rule" be followed. In other words, it is better to let a day pass before speaking to the coach about a disagreement that you may have. It is not acceptable to speak to a coach about playing time or other athletes on the team. It is acceptable to find out how your

son/daughter can become a better teammate/athlete on that team and in that sport. A meeting of this sort should be done by appointment, not after a contest or practice.

- iii. Communicate with the athletic director(s) if you cannot resolve the issue you have with the coach.
- d. Ensure proper communication with the coach and athletic trainer immediately regarding any and all injuries (no matter how minor) sustained by your son/daughter during his/her participation in any team activity (i.e. tryouts, practices, scrimmages, meetings, contests, etc.). Some injuries may require the parent/guardian to receive medical clearance from the primary care physician.
- f. Support, however and wherever possible, the efforts of the Sports Boosters Organization, which is run solely by parents and independently from the school itself.
- G. Pick up and drop off your student athlete in a timely manner for games, practices, and bus arrival and departure. Coaches are responsible for athletes until parent arrives for pick up.

Following the Season, the Parent/Guardian Will:

- a. Ensure that all property of the Iroquois Central School District associated with the sport in which your son/daughter has participated is returned to the coach clean and in good condition and in a timely manner.

### **Spectator Expectations**

Definition: A spectator is defined as any non-participant who is present at an athletic contest, home or away.

- a. The primary purpose for attending a sporting event as a spectator is to enjoy watching our student athletes compete to the best of their ability. Your presence and cheering at the contest should always be positive and in supportive of the efforts of our student-athletes and those that they are competing against. Negative cheers/gestures/actions directed towards any individual present at the contest are prohibited.
- b. Spectators should respect the judgment of the officials and the coaches during a contest. Spectators should refrain from any attempt at direct communication with these individuals during or after the contest.
- c. Spectators should refrain from entering the official playing areas of any athletic contest, unless otherwise directed by a coach or an athletic administrator. This includes the player bench and warm-up areas.
- e. Sportsmanship is an expectation. Unsportsmanlike conduct and behavior may result in removal from the school premises and further possible consequences. Progressive discipline will apply to repeated infractions.
- f. All public school properties (inside and out) in New York State are drug, alcohol and tobacco free zones. Use of prohibited items on school property may result in removal from the contest and further possible consequences.
- g. Iroquois athletic fields have a no pet policy. Please refrain from bringing your pet to a Iroquois event or practice.

### **Coaches Expectations**

As educators, leaders, and role models, all Varsity, JV, Freshman, and Modified coaches, along with the Athletic Director, are expected to uphold the following standards:

- 
- a. Foster a Positive Learning Environment
    - Promote an inclusive, respectful, and encouraging team culture where athletes are taught character, sportsmanship, and personal responsibility.
    - Recognize the individual worth of each student-athlete and support the development of their self-esteem and confidence.
  - b. Act as an Educator and Role Model
    - Understand that coaching is teaching in its truest form.

- Exemplify the highest moral character at all times, serving as a positive role model for student-athletes both on and off the field.
  - Strictly refrain from swearing, using foul language, or engaging in any unprofessional conduct.
- c. Uphold Athletic Program Philosophy and Policies
- Fully adhere to the Iroquois Central School District's philosophy of athletics and comply with all guidelines in the athletic handbook.
  - Establish and enforce team rules that reflect the values of the athletic program, including abstaining from drugs, alcohol, tobacco, and destructive behaviors.
- d. Prioritize Athlete Safety and Well-Being
- Provide continuous and responsible supervision of athletes during all practices, competitions, and team activities.
  - Ensure a safe environment for all training and competitive settings.
  - Maintain a working knowledge of injury prevention, care, and treatment.
- e. Be Punctual and Prepared
- Arrive on time and be fully prepared for all practices, contests, meetings, and related functions.
- f. Communicate Clearly and Professionally
- Share team expectations, schedules, and goals with players and parents through meetings and/or written communication at the start of each season.
  - Communicate important issues—such as injuries, misconduct, or disciplinary actions—with parents in a timely and respectful manner.
  - Clearly communicate and support the goals and objectives of the athletic program to parents and the community.
- g. Support Academic Success
- Encourage and assist all student-athletes in striving to reach their highest academic potential.
- h. Develop Leadership and Character
- Help athletes build leadership skills, initiative, and sound judgment as part of their overall development.
- i. Show Respect for the Game and Its Officials
- Teach and abide by the rules of the game in both letter and spirit.
  - Respect the decisions and integrity of officials, modeling appropriate reactions for student-athletes.
- j. Collaborate Professionally
- Build and maintain ethical, respectful relationships with fellow coaches, administrators, and educators.
  - Commit to continuous improvement in coaching knowledge, skills, and techniques.
- k. Follow Oversight and Legal Responsibilities
- Program volunteers must be approved by the Board of Education and remain under the direct supervision of the head coach at all times.
  - Understand and uphold the Fourteen Legal Duties of a Coach, ensuring all actions align with legal and professional expectations
  - Follow and uphold all District policies

## **Section 5 - Code of Ethics**

It is critical for all to understand that participation in interscholastic athletics is a privilege and not a right. If a student-athlete abuses this privilege, there will be consequences. In most cases, the consequences will be two-fold. First, all student-athletes are subject to the consequences of the Student Code of Conduct that all students are subject to (as outlined in their calendar and website). Secondly, they are subject to the consequences as written in this document that pertain specifically to their participation in athletics found on website and FamilyID.

## **General Rules of Conduct**

All student-athletes are expected to exhibit sportsmanship and emotional control at all times. This means that student-athletes give and show respect for themselves, their coach(es), teammates, opponents, officials, school personnel, spectators, members of the media, their physical environment and the property of others, etc. If a student engages in unsportsmanlike behavior from the very beginning of the season (first day of tryouts) to the very end of the season (the last contest or scheduled team event) or at any point in between, he/she will be subject to progressive discipline.

Discipline may include: warning, student or parent conference, mediation, written behavior contract, practice or game suspension, team dismissal. Any discipline imposed by a coach that does not take a progressive approach will be made in conjunction with the Athletic Director.

*Progressive Discipline may be enforced by a coach throughout the season and includes but is not limited to the following infractions.*

- Violations to the attendance policy without communication with the coach.
- Poor sportsmanship during practices or games.
- Use of vulgar language.
- Any athlete who is insubordinate during any practice session or game will be subject to disciplinary action by the team coach. That action may range from a warning, to suspension, to dismissal from the team based on documented events.
- Behavior that is unbecoming of your expectations as a student athlete.
- Behavior that risks the safety of the others around you.
- Any behavior outside of the expectations outlined in the athletic handbook.
- Any athlete in possession of any school athletic equipment or uniform at the end of the season will not be permitted to participate in another interscholastic athletic activity until all equipment or uniforms have been returned.
- Falling behind in classwork or assignments not being turned in.

## **Severe Violations of Conduct**

*Infractions that are to be reviewed the Athletic Review Council for a decision.*

Violations of the student code of conduct that warrant any type of suspension from school may include but are not limited to.

1. Any display of unsportsmanlike conduct.
2. Possession or use of tobacco of any kind, on or off school property. It is prohibited by the School Code of Conduct, district policy, and, in most cases (depending on the age of the student-athlete), illegal.
3. Possessing or using vaporizers/e-cigarettes and associated liquid substances.
4. Possessing or being under the influence of alcohol, on or off school property. This infraction is also in violation of the School Code of Conduct and the law.
5. Possessing or consuming illegal drugs or drugs/substances not prescribed to you by a physician, or even "over the counter" stimulants, on or off school property. This includes steroids and any performance enhancing drugs as well. Students may be subject to a Superintendent's Hearing.
6. Possessing or attempting to use any item (illegal or otherwise) as a weapon on or off school property. Student may be subject to a Superintendent's Hearing.
7. Athletes shall not participate in or condone hazing or initiation rituals as an initiation or acceptance to a sports team. This type of behavior is in violation of the district's Harassment/Bullying Policy. Any athlete who participates in this type of activity will be suspended from participation or dismissed from the squad.
8. Harassment of any kind on or off school property, directed toward another individual through the use of technology/the internet/cell phone or otherwise.

9. Any athlete who vandalizes school property will be suspended from participation or dismissed from the squad.

10. Any athlete stealing or in possession of stolen items will be suspended from participation or dismissed from the squad.

### **Investigation of Alleged Violations**

Any alleged violations will be confidentially investigated on an individual basis including, but not limited to, the involvement of: coaches, the athletic director, administration, the school resource officer, adult observers, and possibly students. A written report will be filed upon completion of the investigation.

### **General Rule Violations**

In the event an athlete is found to be in violation of the general rules of conduct the coach will keep written documentation of any progressive discipline. It will be the responsibility of the coach to inform the athlete's parents. Violations will range from a warning to dismissal from the squad as listed in the General Rules of Conduct.

All penalties for a violation of the code of ethics are separate from any other penalties that may be imposed by the principal under the Iroquois Central School Districts Code of Conduct.

### **Rules and Procedures for Severe Violations of Conduct**

Any violations that require a review by the Athletic Review Council shall receive the following penalties. This applies whether on or off school property and applies during the time that the student-athlete is participating in a school-sponsored athletic program anytime during the calendar year.

PENALTIES – \*School Policy shall supersede Athletic Code of Conduct

#### *Internal Offense:*

- 1) If an athlete is illegally absent, truant, suspended in (I.C.E.) or out of school, he/she may not participate or be a spectator at a sport activity (dance) that day whether practice or game.
- 2) If the internal consequence is not greater than the external the external shall apply

#### *External Offense: Specific to Athletic Review Council Decisions*

**FIRST OFFENSE** – If it is determined that a student-athlete has violated the above rule, the student-athlete will be suspended from athletics for a minimum of 10% (rounded up) of contests scheduled for the season. The student-athlete will begin their suspension the date of the violation or as deemed appropriate by the Athletic Director and/or Administration. The student-athlete shall be allowed to participate in practices during this suspension.

**SECOND OFFENSE** - If it is determined that a student-athlete has violated the above rule for a second time, the student –athlete will be suspended from athletics for sixty (60) days starting from the date the violation is ruled upon. This suspension will carry over into the next sport the student-athlete plays or into the next school year if athlete only plays one sport. The student athlete can still try out and practice but is not eligible for games during the suspension. The suspended student athlete would have the opportunity to earn back up to one half of the suspension thirty (30) days through an approved cessation program, approved counseling and/or participation in approved school or community service. Extenuating circumstances as determined by the Athletic Council will be considered in each case.

**THIRD OFFENSES** – The student-athlete will be suspended from the athletic program for an additional twelve months for each infraction. This includes try-outs and practices. Although this

suspension cannot be reduced it will still be recommended that the athlete participate in an approved cessation or counseling program.

### **APPEAL OF VIOLATIONS BY ATHLETE AND PARENT**

Allegation only, not length of the penalty can be appealed. Upon notification of a violation, the athlete may appeal the ruling through the following channels at each level, the accused and the accuser must be present.

- a.) General rules of conduct appeals
  - Athletic Director
  - Further appeals can be heard by the Athletic Council.
- b.) Severe rules of conduct appeals
  - Athletic Council
- c.) The decision of the Council will be final.

### **Definitions**

**Athletic Council:** A committee who will enforce all penalties outlined in the Code of Ethics must include: the Athletic Director, the High School Assistant Principal, and the athletes current Head Coach. All rulings on penalties involving a single athlete in any degree of offense, are decided, and implemented by these primary members. A subordinate committee organized by the Athletic Director can be comprised of one additional administrator and one additional coach from the program. This committee may convene for situations extending beyond those outlined specifically in the code of ethics or for an appeal.

**Approved Cessation and Counseling Programs:** are those programs provided by the school or community that the school administration feels addresses the news's of the player. The number and length of session attended will be set by the participating agency with verification of completions.

**Community and School Service:** are considered appropriate tasks assigned by the school administration.

***If an interpretation of the code of ethics or a ruling is required, the line of responsibility is the immediate coach, then head coach, then athletic director, and finally, if necessary, the Athletic Council.***