# INTERSCHOLASTIC ACTIVITIES: 2151P

## Athletic/Activity Conduct Expectations

The opportunity to participate in the interscholastic athletic program is a privilege granted to all students of the district. Participants in this voluntary program are expected to conform to specific conduct standards established by the District, principals, athletic directors, and coaches. All interscholastic activities and events shall be in compliance with the rules and regulations of the Washington Interscholastic Activities Association (WIAA).

A student who is found to be in violation of any athletic/activity rules is subject to removal from the team. Provision is made for a student who has allegedly violated one or more of the athletic/activity conduct rules to appeal a disciplinary action as specified in this procedure.

## District's Beliefs and Purpose

The Federal Way School District believes that activities and athletics are important choices to be offered in a comprehensive and challenging educational experience for all students. To this end, the District holds the following beliefs:

1. Participation in any activity and/or athletic program shall be connected with and contingent upon the student's achievement of required academic standards.

2. Students participating in any activity and/or athletic program shall be focused on learning and improvement, both as an individual and as a member of a team or group.

3. Activity advisors and coaches shall teach, expect, practice, and model respect, responsibility, and integrity. Student participants shall demonstrate these qualities.

4. Activity advisors and coaches shall include parents as partners in the education and development of their students.

5. The purpose and goals of all activity and/or athletic programs shall be clearly defined and articulated to students and parents.

Yearly evaluations shall be conducted for each activity/athletic program and shall focus on the level of support they provide for the school's broader objectives.

## Athletic Code

Participation in interscholastic sports and activities is a privilege and is completely voluntary. Students must be responsible for their conduct and concerned about their health. The decisions they make with regard to their conduct and health affect their performance in class and in interscholastic activities, competition, or performance. In order to represent their community, their school, and themselves in interscholastic competition or performance, students must be responsible for their conduct, concerned about their health, and refrain from using drugs, alcohol, and/or any tobacco products (including e-cigarettes). The goals of the activities/athletic program are to teach sportsmanship, teamwork, and respect for fellow competitors, officials, opposing team members, and opposing team fans.

# INTERSCHOLASTIC ACTIVITIES: 2151P

The following rules shall be applicable for a sports season. The "athletic/activity season" is defined as the time from the first day activities begin in August and continues through the last day of the school year for each individual school.

**Alcohol, Anabolic Steroids, Illegal Drugs, Tobacco Products (including e-cigarettes), and the Misuse of Prescription and Over-the-Counter Drugs**

At all times during the athletic/activity season, students are to abstain from illegally using, possessing, selling, distributing, or being under the influence of alcohol, anabolic steroids, illegal drugs, or tobacco products (including e-cigarettes), or misusing prescription or over-the-counter drugs.

**Unsportsmanlike Conduct**

All athletes will conduct themselves in a manner that is consistent with the FWPS sportsmanship plan. Coaches and athletes will compete within the rules of the game. Coaches and athleteswill conduct themselves in a way that promotes district programs positively on and off the field of play. Athletes who display unsportsmanlike conduct will receive consequences as outlined in the FWPS sportsmanship plan.

**Attendance at School**

An athlete must attend ALL scheduled classes on the day of a practice or competition unless excused. This includes those attending school on a modified schedule, remotely, or in-person. Student athletes are expected to show up in the classroom, at practice, and for their team. Penalty: If an athlete receives an unexcused absence for any portion of the day, the athlete shall be ineligible to participate in the contest or practice on that day. If excused, the athlete may participate if he/she was in attendance for one half day or more.

**Absence from Practice**

An athlete is expected to be in attendance at all team practices unless excused for illness or by prior approval. The penalty for unexcused absence may include ineligibility to participate in the next contest.

**Violation of Law on School Grounds**

When a student is found guilty of an illegal act committed while on school grounds or at a school activity, the corrective action will depend upon the nature of the violation.

**Repeated Offenses**

If a student repeatedly violates one of the above rules, he/she may be removed from the team for the remainder of the sports season.

All student participants must meet the eligibility requirements of the Washington Interscholastic Activities Association (WIAA), with the exception that the academic eligibility requirements listed below shall substitute for the WIAA academic requirements.

# INTERSCHOLASTIC ACTIVITIES: 2151P

All scheduled team organized activities, which include practices, competitions, meetings, and performances, are considered mandatory, even on non-school days. If unable to attend, students must communicate with their coach ahead of time. Unverified or undocumented absences will be addressed at the building level which could include removal from the team or suspension from contests. In the event of disciplinary action, parents/guardians will be contacted.

A copy of the WIAA eligibility requirements shall be provided to each student who participates or turns out for a sport or activity prior to any practices.

In addition to this Athletic code, all the rules of the District will apply where appropriate.

In addition to any other corrective action or discipline described in the Federal Way School District Student Rights and Responsibilities Handbook, students who violate rules regarding the use of alcohol, anabolic steroids, drugs or tobacco (including e-cigarettes) will be subject to the following sanctions:

**Violations And Penalties - Alcohol, Anabolic Steroids and Illegal Drugs**

**Parent/guardian must be involved in these processes and law enforcement authorities will be contacted.**

**A. Alcohol, Anabolic Steroids, Illegal Drugs, First Offense:**

1. **Sale or delivery** - in school, on adjacent property or at school functions – student shall be removed from the school district and be immediately ineligible for interscholastic competition for the duration of the removal.

2. **Possession or use** - student shall be immediately ineligible for interscholastic competition for a term of forty (40) school days. The period of ineligibility may be modified by up to twenty (20) school days if a student self-reports the incident and/or participates in an assessment by an agency approved by the Federal Way School District and follows the recommendations(s) made by that agency.

3. **Not immediately leaving a situation where above-mentioned substances are being used** – student shall be immediately ineligible for interscholastic competition for not less than five (5) days to no more than fifteen (15) school days. The period of ineligibility may be modified if a student self-reports.

**B. Alcohol, Anabolic Steroids, Illegal Drugs, Second Offense:**

For a second violation of numbers 1, 2, or 3 above, the student shall be immediately ineligible from participation in any District activity/athletic program for one calendar year from the date of the second violation.

**C. Alcohol, Anabolic Steroids, Illegal Drugs, Third Offense:**

For a third violation of numbers 1, 2 or 3 above, the student shall be permanently prohibited from participation in any District interscholastic activity/athletic program.

# INTERSCHOLASTIC ACTIVITIES: 2151P

**Violations and Penalties - Use of Possession of Tobacco (including e-cigarettes)**

**Parent/guardian must be involved in these processes.**

**A. Tobacco (including e-cigarettes), First Offense:**

The student will be suspended from any District interscholastic activity/athletic program for ten (10) school days.

In order to regain eligibility for the current school year a student must also enroll in and complete a smoking/tobacco use cessation class.

**B. Tobacco (including e-cigarettes), Second Offense:**

The student will be suspended from any District interscholastic activity/athletic program for twenty (20) school days. In order to regain eligibility for the current year school year the student must also enroll in and complete a smoking/tobacco use cessation class, as well as participate in an at-risk assessment and agree to follow the recommendations of the assessment.

**C. Tobacco (including e-cigarettes), Third Offense:**

The student will be suspended from any District interscholastic activity/athletic program for must (90) school days. In order to regain eligibility for the current school year the student must also enroll in and complete a smoking/tobacco use cessation class, as well as participate in an at-risk assessment and agree to follow the recommendations of the assessment.

**Appeals Process for Discipline for Violations Pertaining to Illegal Drugs, Alcohol, Anabolic Steroids, Tobacco (including e-cigarettes), or Ineligibility Due to Grades**

There shall be an Appeals Board for violations involving illegal drugs, alcohol, anabolic steroids and tobacco (including e-cigarettes), and ineligibility due to grades. The Appeals Board shall be composed of a minimum of three (3) District representatives comprised of athletic directors or administrators representing the student's school and at least two (2) other schools at the same level, i.e., high school or middle school. The administrator who issued the school/athletic discipline may not serve as a member of the Appeals Board (however, may be present at the hearing). The student may invite up to two (2) personal advocates.

The athletic director, activities director, administrator, coach, athletic liaison, and district administrator shall be selected by the Deputy Superintendent or designee.

Appeals for all violations named above shall be made in writing within three (3) days of notification of ineligibility to participate in athletics or activities pursuant to this policy to the Deputy Superintendent who shall select and convene the Appeals Board within five (5) business days of receipt of the request to appeal.

# INTERSCHOLASTIC ACTIVITIES: 2151P

Subsequent to the ruling of the Appeals Board, the student, parent, or guardian upon two (2) school business days' prior notice, shall have the right to present a written and/or oral appeal to the Deputy Superintendent/designee of the District. Subsequent to the ruling of the Deputy Superintendent/designee, the student, parent, or guardian, upon two (2) school business days' prior notice shall have the right to present a written and/or oral appeal to the Superintendent/ designee.

An activity/athletic suspension will remain in force until the appeal process is complete.

**Academic Eligibility for Participation in Interscholastic Activities**

To be eligible for participation in interscholastic competition, a student must meet the following academic requirements:

Enrolled in at least four (4) credits and receive a "C"/Approaching/Meeting Standard or better at the semester in each class in which the student is enrolled. At the six (6) week progress check in each semester the requirement is to be Approaching/Meeting Standard for that grading period in each class. (See Policy 2420)

Schools shall monitor each participant's grades at the end of six (6), twelve (12) and eighteen (18) weeks. At the end of six (6) week progress check in each semester a student may continue athletic/activity by Approaching/Meeting Standard in each class. (See Policy 2420)

The student and his/her parent/guardian are responsible for establishing a work plan with individual teachers to improve grades to meet eligibility requirements. The student shall regain eligibility as soon as the teacher verifies the student's grade meets the established standards. Ineligible students may continue to practice but may not participate in any interscholastic activity, competition, or performance during the period of ineligibility.

Students who participate in activities/athletics as a written part of their Individualized Education Plan (IEP) will be governed by the language established in the IEP.

Middle schools may modify these requirements to meet specific building or program needs, with prior approval of the Superintendent/designee.

**Coach's Duties**

See District Athletic Handbook.

**Summer Sports Activities/Clinics**

See District Athletic Handbook.