

## Whitehall Athletics Code of Conduct



**Athletic Director: Christian Subdon**  
**Athletic Administrative Assistant: Sydney Stine**

### **PHILOSOPHY STATEMENT**

We believe that Whitehall District Schools' athletes should compete honorably while representing their team, school, and community. With appropriate attitude, dedication, and leadership, they will contribute positively to school spirit and community pride. To accomplish this, we encourage the cooperation of athletes and parents.

Participation in athletics is a PRIVILEGE and when student-athletes participate on an athletic team, those individuals assume the responsibility of being team members.

The responsibilities include:

- Being aware that he/she will be expected to act as a positive force in the school.
- Following the code of conduct in the athletic code of ethics and student handbook.
- Complying with team rules and policies.
- Maintaining academic eligibility.
- Maintaining a positive attitude.
- Understanding his/her role as a team member.

Team members and their parents need to understand that not all athletes will RECEIVE equal playing time. There will be an emphasis on participation for all athletes at the middle school and freshmen levels. As the athlete moves to the Junior Varsity and Varsity levels, parents and student athletes must understand that playing time depends on the athlete's ability of the participants and team needs in that particular sport as determined by the coaching staff. Our athletic philosophy encourages our teams to compete for league championships and continue in state MHSAA tournament play as far as possible.

### **ATHLETIC ELIGIBILITY POLICY**

The Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA) establishes a baseline standard for all schools in Michigan. To be academically eligible to compete at the high school level, students must be passing 66% of credit load potential for a full-time student. The period of ineligibility for not meeting this standard at the end of a grading term is the "next semester or 60 scheduled school days in schools not operating under a trimester system." At Whitehall High School this means that student-athletes must pass 4 of 6 classes the semester prior to sport. In addition to the MHSAA standard, student athletes at WHS must maintain a minimum of a 1.50 GPA in the previous marking period to be eligible for the next sport season. Once a season begins, grades will be checked weekly on Monday. To maintain eligibility, students must meet the MHSAA standard of passing 4 of 6 classes. When an athlete falls below this standard, he/she is placed on a 1 week probationary period, and if the student does not meet the MHSAA standard by the following Monday, they will be ineligible for 1 week of competition at a time, until

they are passing 4 of 6 classes. If the student is passing 4 of 6 classes at the time of the next grade check, they will be allowed to resume competition.

### **Attendance**

An athlete must be in attendance at least three (3) class periods during the school day of the scheduled athletic practice or event unless the absence is approved by the athletic director in advance.

\*Absences due to doctor/dentist appointments and bereavement will not be held against the athlete

### **SOCIAL MEDIA**

Social Media Rules/Guidelines:

Coaches reserve the right to investigate claims of social media misuse, but are not responsible for monitoring student social media. In such cases that it is claimed that an infraction/misuse has occurred, the coach will provide the player the opportunity to share/discuss the social media posts. Offensive content or misuse may lead to consequences that impact player participation. As always, the intent and the egregiousness of the misuse will be taken into consideration.

All athletes will have the opportunity to participate in a session with the athletic director/coach/designee where these appropriate social media norms will be shared and the expectations for positive, competitive, and appropriate athletic conduct will be established as it relates to social media. The Social Media Notice should be discussed by coaches at the beginning of the season and is a great guide to use in terms of appropriate use of social media by Viking players and coaches.

Do not post information about specific student-athletes, whether from WDS or another school, unless it is related to an award or honor. Please follow common sense privacy guidelines and good taste. Refrain from talking about internal matters of your program, Whitehall District Schools, the West Michigan Conference or the MHSAA. Practice generosity. Disparaging remarks about another person's political views, religion, or gender are off limits.

Whitehall District Schools understands that the use of electronic devices, the internet and social networks have a valid and useful purpose, but they can be disruptive when used inappropriately. It is the expectation of Whitehall District Schools that student-athletes understand the consequences of inappropriate use can result in the loss of athletic eligibility.

### **ATHLETIC CODE**

The following Athletic Code of Conduct has been adopted and placed into operation by the Board of Education of Whitehall District Schools. This code will be explained and discussed by each coach at the beginning of each sport season. Each and every student-athlete at Whitehall High School will be expected to conduct themselves in a positive fashion and represent their team appropriately. Failure to do so can, and will negatively affect eligibility status.

Athletics are recognized as an important part of the total school program. Athletic teams provide the focus for many of the school's activities each year. Regardless of win and loss records, athletes stand in a significant position in setting the example of conduct for school and community alike.

Whitehall District Schools Board of Education, administration, coaches, and athletes agree that an athlete should set an example for the youth of the community, the student body, and the entire community at large.

Membership on an athletic team is to be considered an honor and privilege. It is also agreed that an athlete should not:

- o Smoke, or be in possession of, or use any tobacco product or electronic vapor device (e-cigs/mods...etc.).
- o Drink, or be in possession of, any alcoholic beverages.
- o Use, sell, or be in possession of illegal drugs or look-a-like substances.
- o Violate criminal laws or ordinances.
- o Use, sell, or be in possession of performance enhancing drugs.

Athletic code violations will be enforced at the beginning of an athlete's sixth grade year. Violations will be recorded during their 6th-8th grade years, and again during their 9th-12th grade years.

## **VIOLATIONS**

### Group I Examples of violations

1. Use or possession of tobacco or tobacco products
2. Use or possession of alcohol or alcoholic products
3. Use or possession of other illegal substances or look-a-like substances
4. Use of any drug, medication or food supplement in a way not prescribed by the manufacturer or a physician
5. Use of any drug, medication, or food supplement solely for performance enhancing purposes
6. Actions which would be deemed misdemeanors under the criminal code
7. Conduct or action that is considered to be detrimental to the positive image of the Whitehall District Schools athletic program, whether on social media, locker room, classroom, or on the playing field.

### Group II Examples of violations

1. Furnishing or assisting other students in obtaining or using any prohibited substances
2. Using or selling any prohibited substances, on or off school grounds
3. Actions which would be deemed felonies under the criminal code

## **PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS**

### Group I

WDS reserves the right to use alternative uses of discipline, such as community service, mediation, or other versions of interventions for consequences, whether in part or full, for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Group 1 Violations.

WDS also reserves the right to accelerate the consequences for Group 1 Violations, depending upon the severity of the offense.

1. First Offense is suspension for the next date of competition.
2. Second Offense is suspension for 1/2 of the dates of competition.
3. Third Offense is suspension for 12-months (ALL Sports).

\*All group 1 violations and punishments are subject to review by the Athletic Director and District Administration.

**Group II**

Penalties for Group II violations will be determined on a case-by-case basis, but will normally range between a 1/4 season suspension to a full 12 month suspension from all athletic sports of their sixth grade year, the following sanctions may be imposed:

\*Serious violations of the law or school policies may result in more severe disciplinary actions. These acts of gross misconduct will be handled on a case by case basis. Athletes, please be aware that coaches may impose sanctions above and beyond those in the school's policy. Team rules will be given to athletes prior to the season.

**APPEAL PROCESS**

If the student athlete chooses to appeal the decision, a hearing will be conducted by a review board assembled by the athletic director and school administration. The superintendent shall be an ex-officio member. No competition may occur during the appeal process.

The eligibility system has been adopted and placed into operation by the Board of Education of Whitehall District Schools. The procedure will be explained and discussed by each coach at the beginning of the sport season.

**Sports by Season**

<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Fall Girls</u></b>            Varsity Volleyball            JV Volleyball            Cross-Country            Varsity Sideline Cheer            JV Sideline Cheer            Varsity Golf            JV Golf</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Winter Girls</u></b>            Varsity Basketball            JV Basketball            Freshman Basketball            Varsity Competitive Cheer            JV Competitive Cheer            Bowling</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Spring Girls</u></b>            Varsity Softball            JV Softball            Track and Field            Tennis            Varsity Soccer            JV Soccer</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Fall Boys</u></b>            Varsity Football            JV Football            Freshman Football            Cross Country            Varsity Soccer            JV Soccer            Tennis</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Winter Boys</u></b>            Varsity Basketball            JV Basketball            Freshman Basketball            Wrestling            Bowling            Hockey (Coop)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Spring Boys</u></b>            Varsity Baseball            JV Baseball            Track and Field            Varsity Golf            JV Golf</p>