

Waterford School District



Interscholastic Athletics and Extracurricular Programs Code of Conduct

Edited July 2023



Philosophy and Scope of The Waterford School District Athletic and Extracurricular Programs

The value of participation in athletic programs and extracurricular programs provides students the opportunity to experience personal growth and development, both physically and mentally. The Waterford School District athletic and extracurricular programs will allow students to learn to accept personal responsibility for success and failure, and to recognize the limitations and strengths of both. Each program will strive to teach motivation, self-discipline, self-confidence, loyalty, leadership, sacrifice, and sportsmanship.

It is important for everyone, including the staff, students and parents in the Waterford School District, to realize that participation in athletic and extracurricular programs is not the right of all students. It is a privilege that is afforded to those individuals who possess the ability, attitude, disposition, cooperative spirit and desire to represent the school and community. Waterford School District Interscholastic Athletics and Extracurricular Programs will require special standards and expectations in the area of academics, citizenship, self-discipline and sportsmanship.

Waterford School District

The *Waterford School District Interscholastic Athletics and Extracurricular Programs Code of Conduct* for student-athletes and student participants has been developed and implemented to provide a common set of rules for all students participating in athletics and extracurricular programs. A student who elects to participate in athletics or extracurricular programs is voluntarily making a choice of self-discipline. It is our hope that this information will assist all student participants and parents of the Waterford School District. Student participants are to comply with all aspects of the code if they desire continued eligibility status. For athletic programming, The Waterford School District is a member of the MHSAA and abides by its rules and guidelines.

DURATION OF INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS AND EXTRACURRICULAR PROGRAMS CODE:

Students shall be regarded to be under the rules of the Athletics and Extracurricular Programs Code of Conduct beginning with their first day of participation in interscholastic athletics and extracurricular programs and continuing through to the date of graduation or the last date of participation, whichever is later. Students entering 7th & 9th grade will be considered to have no previous violations.

SECTION 1: RULES AND REGULATIONS

A. ENROLLMENT: ATHLETICS

Student-athletes must meet all criteria for enrollment set forth by the Michigan High School Athletic Association. The student must be enrolled in the school for which he/she competes. If the student does not meet enrollment requirements, he/she may be ineligible for a period of time. Circumstances may present themselves; as such, the athletic director will work with the MHSAA to determine a student's eligibility.

ENROLLMENT: EXTRACURRICULAR PROGRAMS

Student participants in programs must be enrolled in the school or program for which he/she is involved. Circumstances may present themselves, and as such school administration or the program coordinator will work to determine a student's eligibility.

B. ELIGIBILITY: HIGH SCHOOL

Academic Requirements

The academic eligibility requirements of the Michigan High School Athletic Association require only that an athlete must have passed a minimum of 66% of their classes at the conclusion of the last semester of enrollment and continue to pass at least 66% of their classes during the season of competition.

The Waterford School District strives for academic excellence for all students, and all student participants in athletics and extracurricular programs should exceed the state requirements. Therefore, student-athletes and student-participants must meet the following academic standards:

Semester Eligibility: 1) Students must have passing grades in all classes for the previous semester OR 2) have no more than 1 E or F and at least a 2.0 in their other classes (for the previous semester).

However, student-athletes or student participants who have met MHSAA requirements, but did not meet the Waterford School District previous semester criteria, may have their current grades checked at or after the 30th school day from the first day of the semester. If **on or after the 30th**

school day the student is passing all classes OR has achieved the 2.0 Grade Point Average if failing one course, they will become immediately eligible **on the 31st school day**

Student-athletes or student participants who did not meet MHSAA previous semester criteria may have their current grades checked at or after the 60th school day from the first day of the semester. If **on or after the 60th school day** the student is passing all classes OR has achieved the 2.0 Grade Point Average if failing one course, they will become immediately eligible **on the 61st school day**.

Current Grade Eligibility: Students must have passing grades in all classes OR have no more than 1 E or F and at least a 2.0 in the other classes.

Student-athletes and student participants who are failing no more than 1 class must have at least a 2.0 grade point average in their other classes during the **present semester**. **Current grades** will be checked on Fridays. If the student does not meet this standard they must sit out a minimum of (1) week defined as Sunday through Saturday or until the minimum requirement is met. The student may continue to practice during the ineligible period, but may not participate in competition, performances, or events during that time.

Note: For purposes of determining grades and eligibility requirements for pass/fail courses, percentages will be considered. Academic Center **IS CONSIDERED in determining weekly athletic eligibility.*

C. ELIGIBILITY: MIDDLE SCHOOL: ATHLETICS

Athletic coaches will turn in complete rosters to the athletic manager one (1) week before the first competitive game. The athletic manager will check grades of athletes on the rosters on a weekly basis. Activity coordinators will check grades of their participants on a weekly basis. Extracurricular program supervisors/coordinators are responsible for checking grades of their student participants.

The Athletic Manager will notify coaches and student-athletes if student-athletes are ineligible to participate in sports for the current eligibility week due to not meeting the requirements in the previous grade check. Activity coordinators will notify student-participants for the current eligibility week due to not meeting the requirements in the previous grade check. The eligibility period is one week, and students can earn their eligibility back for the following weeks if marks are improved. This process will be completed weekly.

A student is ineligible when he/she is:

- failing two (2) or more classes academically
- failing one (1) class and has less than a 2.0 GPA in other classes
- earning a total of three (3) unsatisfactory citizenship marks or two (2) unsatisfactory citizenship marks and failing one (1) academic class.

**Note: For purposes of determining grades and eligibility requirements for pass/fail courses, percentages will be considered.*

The building assistant athletic administrator, building administration or district athletic director, will decide all final eligibility decisions.

D. AGE REQUIREMENT: HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETICS

Per MHSAA requirement, a student who competes in any interscholastic athletic contest must be under nineteen (19) years of age, except that a student whose nineteenth (19th) birthday occurs on or after September 1 of a current school year is eligible for the balance of that school year.

E. AGE REQUIREMENT: MIDDLE SCHOOL ATHLETICS

Per MHSAA requirement, a seventh grade student who competes in any interscholastic athletic contest must be under fourteen (14) years of age, except that a student whose (14th) birthday occurs on or after September 1 of a current school year is eligible for the balance of that school year. An eighth grade student who competes in any interscholastic athletic contest must be under fifteen (15) years of age, except that a student whose (15th) birthday occurs on or after September 1 of a current school year.

F. PHYSICAL EXAMINATION: ATHLETICS

Per MHSAA requirement, a student must have a physical examination form signed by the MD, D.O., Physician’s Assistant, or Nurse Practitioner who administers the physical examination, certifying that the student is fully able to compete in athletics. This physical must take place April 15 or later to be used for the current school year. The student cannot participate in any practice sessions or contests until the completed form has been turned over to the team coach and filed in the school’s main office.

G. CONCUSSION AWARENESS FORM

A student must have a Concussion Acknowledgement Form signed by the parent/guardian and student. The student cannot participate until the completed form has been turned in and filed in the school’s office. Acknowledgement Forms are available online at the schools’ athletic websites, school year registration, or in the schools’ athletic offices.

H. CODE OF CONDUCT AND SPECTATOR SPORTSMANSHIP ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The student cannot practice or compete in athletics or extracurricular programs until the attached *Code of Conduct Acknowledgment* form in this document, is signed and returned by the student and parent.

The student cannot practice, participate, or compete in athletics or extracurricular programs until the attached *Spectator and Supporter Sportsmanship Expectations Acknowledgement* form is signed and returned by the student and parent.

I. INDIVIDUAL TEAM RULES AND GUIDELINES

Each coach or activity supervisor/coordinator has the authority to develop additional award requirements and team/program guidelines for his or her sport consistent with school wide rules and procedures. These rules will be subject to the approval of the building Administration or the Athletic Director and presented to all team/program members at the beginning of the season.

J. SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Students are expected to be in school *for the entire* school day on the same day of a contest, event, performance, or practice. If the student misses any portion of the school day, the activity coordinator/supervisor, or athletic administration must be notified and validate the absence in order for the student to participate in the activity that day. The building principal or athletic director have the authority to prearrange exceptions to the attendance regulation. Examples include, but are not limited to: court appearances, death in the family, funeral arrangements, other student activities, college visits, and other prearranged appointments.

K. EQUIPMENT USAGE

Any participant who is issued any equipment or clothing owned by the school district will be held financially responsible for the use and care of the assigned or designated equipment or clothing.

SECTION II: MAINTAINING AMATEUR STATUS: ATHLETICS

Students must abide by all criteria for maintaining amateur status, as set forth by the Michigan High School Athletic Association.

A. ELIGIBILITY

After once representing a MHSAA member school in competition in any sport, a student shall not be eligible to represent his or her high school if that student: (1) receives money or other valuable consideration from any source for participating in athletics, sports, or games listed below; (2) receives money or other valuable consideration for officiating in interscholastic athletic contests; or (3) signs a professional athletic contract.

A student shall be ineligible under this regulation if he or she violates its amateur provisions only in the following activities: baseball, basketball, bowling, girls' competitive cheer, cross-country, football, golf, ice hockey, lacrosse, alpine skiing, soccer, girls' softball, swimming and diving, tennis, track and field, girls' volleyball or wrestling.

B. REINSTATEMENT

A student ineligible under this Regulation may not apply for reinstatement until the equivalent of one full school year of enrollment has elapsed following the date of his or her last violation.

Any questions regarding maintaining your amateur status should be directed to your building athletic director or the district Athletic Department.

SECTION III: GIFTS: ATHLETICS

- A.** A student will not accept from any source anything for participation in athletics other than an emblematic award. An emblematic award would include, but not be limited, to any medal, ribbon, badge, plaque, cup, trophy, banner, picture or regular letter awards.
- B.** No acceptable award shall exceed forty (\$40.00) dollars in value. The price does not include engraving.
- C.** No one, such as a parent, friend, or other person, may accept an athletic related award related to the student-athlete's MHSAA sport, on behalf of the athlete at any time prior to graduating from high school that exceeds forty (\$40.00) in value.

Acceptance of such items as merchandise, memberships, privileges, services, sweaters, athletic equipment, wearing apparel, watches, etc. would be a violation.

SECTION IV: FOR COLLEGE BOUND STUDENT-ATHLETES: ATHLETICS

If you are planning to enroll in college as a freshman and you wish to participate in Division I or Division II athletics, you must be certified by the NCAA Eligibility Center.

The Eligibility Center is an updated version of the "NCAA Clearinghouse" which was established as a separate organization by the NCAA member institutions in January 1993. The Eligibility Center ensures consistent interpretation of NCAA initial-eligibility requirements for all prospective athletes at all member institutions.

If you want to participate in Division I or Division II athletics, plan to start the certification process early – usually the end of your junior year in high school. Information can be obtained on the web site at: <https://web3.ncaa.org/ecwr3/> or by searching "NCAA Eligibility Center."

In addition, the student-athlete should meet with his/her counselor and athletic administrator immediately so they can appropriately guide the student-athlete. Additional resources pertaining to college athletics of all levels can be found at: www.wsdmi.org/athletics

SECTION V: CONFLICT RESOLUTION PROCEDURE

When a student-athlete, student participant, or parent has a question, concern, or complaint regarding a situation, the following lines of communication have been found to be most effective:

Start with the source – the student should talk directly with the coach or activity supervisor/coordinator in a face-to-face conversation, away from the practice site. Then, contact from a parent to the coach or activity supervisor/coordinator, would be an appropriate second step

1. Student speak with coach or activity supervisor/coordinator
2. Parent and student speak with coach or activity supervisor/coordinator
3. Contact athletic director (athletics)
4. Contact principal

All concerns must be heard at the lowest possible level before intervention by a higher authority can occur.

Realizing that both parenting and coaching are extremely difficult vocations, the list below presents communication guidelines for both parents and coaches or activity supervisors/coordinators:

Communication parents expect from their child’s coach or activity supervisor/coordinator:

1. Philosophy of the coach/program
2. Expectations the coach or program supervisor/coordinator has for their child as well as the team/program
3. Locations and times of all practices, events, and contests
4. Team requirements as well as special equipment, out-of-season preparation information
5. Discipline that may result in the denial of their child’s participation

Communication coaches or activity supervisors/coordinators expect from parents

1. Concerns expressed directly to the coach
2. Notification of any schedule conflicts well in advance
3. Specific concerns regarding the coach’s or program’s expectations

Appropriate concerns to discuss with the coach or activity supervisor/coordinator

1. The treatment of their child both mentally and physically
2. Ways to help their child improve
3. Concerns about their child’s behavior

Inappropriate concerns to discuss with the coach or activity supervisor/coordinator

1. Playing/participation time
2. Team/program strategy
3. Play calling
4. Other students

SECTION VI: CONDUCT EXPECTATIONS FOR PARENTS/SPECTATORS

A. CONDUCT OF PARENTS/SPECTATORS: The Waterford School District believes that the educational value of interscholastic athletics and extracurricular programs is far more important than the outcome. We expect all parents and spectators to positively support, and be respectful to all involved in our interscholastic athletic programs and extracurricular programs.

Attached to this code of conduct, is a “Spectator and Supporter Sportsmanship Expectations” document that must be signed and filed before students can compete or participate in their athletic program or extracurricular activity.

https://www.waterford.k12.mi.us/downloads/athletics/spectator_sportsmanship.pdf

As outlined in this document, any parents or spectators in violation of these expectations or engaging in unsportsmanlike behavior will likely be removed from events and incur possible suspensions from future events; in addition to completing an online module

<https://nfhslearn.com/courses/the-parent-seat>

SECTION VII: CONDUCT EXPECTATIONS FOR STUDENT ATHLETES AND PARTICIPANTS

Participation on an interscholastic athletic team or extracurricular activity is a privilege, not a right; therefore, there are additional expectation requirements. As outlined in the Waterford School District Student Code of Conduct, a student-athlete or student participant will be suspended from school if he/she breaks a rule and the discipline guideline calls for suspension. If a student-athlete or student participant breaks an expectation guideline as outlined in this Code of Conduct, additional penalties may be enforced similar to those outlined in *Section VII: F Tobacco, Alcohol, and Drugs*, or additional penalties such as administrative intervention to permanent dismissal from the program.

A. SCHOOL BEHAVIOR/SUSPENSIONS:

If a student-athlete or student participant receives *either an in-school suspension or out-of-school suspension for any reason*, the athlete **will not** practice, participate, perform or compete until the suspension has been served. This includes the entire day the suspension is served. Additional penalties may be enforced such as administrative intervention to permanent dismissal from program.

B. CONDUCT OF THE ATHLETE:

If a student-athlete or student participant engages in conduct that is determined by the coach, program supervisor/coordinator, and school administration to be detrimental to the athletic program, school, or school district; penalties may be enforced such as administrative intervention to permanent dismissal from program.

This type of conduct may include but is not limited to actions on or off campus including: fighting, sexual harassment, harassment, bullying, social media violations, drug/alcohol/tobacco violations, civil law infractions, theft, vandalism, arrest, etc.

C. SOCIAL MEDIA: When using social media of any kind, student-athletes and extracurricular participants are encouraged to always exercise the utmost caution when participating in any form of social media, or online communications both within the Waterford School District and beyond. Any content posted that is made public is expected to follow acceptable social behaviors and to comply with federal government, state of Michigan, and Waterford School District regulations. Student-athletes and extracurricular participants that portray conduct unbecoming of a Waterford School District student may be penalized for their actions. Penalties may be enforced such as administrative intervention to permanent dismissal from program.

Proper communication and social media expectations can be found in the *Waterford School District Student Code of Conduct*:

https://www.waterford.k12.mi.us/downloads/district/code_of_conduct_v.2023.pdf

D. HAZING ACTIVITIES: Hazing of any type are inconsistent with the educational process and are prohibited at all times. Hazing is defined as any willful act done by a student, whether individually or in concert with others, to another student for subjecting such student to humiliation, physical abuse or threats of abuse, social or other ostracism, shame or disgrace. If knowledge of any type of hazing activity, a conference involving coach or activity supervisor/coordinator, parents, student, and building administration will take place. Penalties may be enforced such as administrative intervention to permanent dismissal from program.

E. UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT OR PROFANITY: A display of unsportsmanlike conduct toward an opponent, official, teammate, or any participant in an event; or the use of profanity during a practice or contest can result in penalties issued by MHSAA officials, coaches, activity supervisors/coordinators, or school administration. It is possible behavior such as this could result in penalties being enforced such as administrative intervention to permanent dismissal from program.

F. TOBACCO, ALCOHOL, AND DRUGS:

As stated in the MHSAA handbook; a code of conduct must be in place for disciplinary action regarding: smoking, use of vapes/e-cigarettes/similar devices, chewing of tobacco, drinking of alcoholic beverages, drug abuse, performance enhancing drugs, steroids, and/or human growth hormones. All are banned or illegal substances for both possession and use and have been proven detrimental to students' performance and/or health. Therefore, possession and/or use of any of these substances, or paraphernalia associated with these substances, including e-cigarettes, vape pipes, or similar devices, regardless of their contents, is prohibited among students. These rules apply regardless of age. If a student-athlete or student participant breaks these training rules on or off campus, the discipline guidelines for suspension will be applied to their participation in sports and extracurricular programs.

FIRST OFFENSE:

Illegal substance, drug or alcohol offense: Similar to the Waterford School District Code of Conduct as a suspendable offense, the student-athlete or student participant will be suspended from the team/program for 30% of the total scheduled games, performances, or events. The suspension from the team/program can include post-season games. If the violation occurs when less than 30% of the contests, performances, or events remain, the suspension will be carried over to the next season of competition or program of participation. In addition, penalties may be enforced such as administrative intervention to permanent dismissal from program.

Non drug or alcohol offense: The student-athlete or student participant will be suspended from the next date of competition, performance, or event, and must complete an online module before return to participation. Additional penalties may be enforced such as administrative intervention to permanent dismissal from program.

Distribution: penalties for distribution will be no less than 30% of the season, and may result in permanent dismissal from the program.

SECOND OFFENSE:

The student-athlete or student participant will be dismissed from the team/program for the remainder of the current season and possibly into their next season of participation so that the second offense equates to a full season. The student-athlete or student participant must meet with the building athletic administrator and school administration before reinstatement to any program.

THIRD OFFENSE:

The student- athlete or student participant will not be allowed to participate in any interscholastic program for a full calendar year from the time of offense. seasons. He/she must show proof of counseling before appearing before the building athletic administrator and/or school administration for reinstatement.

PREVIOUS SCHOOL OFFENSE: ATHLETICS

The Waterford School District Athletic Department will determine the enforcement upon a new student any period of ineligibility to which that student would have been subject because of a student or athletic code of conduct violation at the student's most recent previously attended school. A student who transfers to the Waterford School District, after becoming ineligible because of a conduct violation at the previously attended school may remain ineligible for not less than the period of ineligibility imposed by that previously attended school.

REMINDER: *As a student-athlete or extracurricular program participant, you are representing the Waterford School District. Your conduct and behavior is a direct reflection on yourself, your parents, team and school.*



Waterford School District

Waterford Kettering High School
2800 Kettering Dr.
Waterford, Michigan 48329
248-674-0113

Waterford Mott High School
1151 Scott Lake Rd.
Waterford, Michigan 48328
248-674-3847

Waterford School District Spectator and Supporter Sportsmanship Expectations

Waterford School District is committed to the health and safety of our students, as well as creating a positive experience for all who participate in or attend our athletic events, school performances, extracurricular programs, etc. As such, Waterford School District is working in partnership with Lakes Valley Conference and Michigan High School Athletic Association to improve sportsmanship at all levels of sports participation, and extracurricular program participation. When coaching staff, program supervisors/coordinators, students, and parents are working together for the good of the team or program, all stakeholders benefit by creating a positive environment that will promote a quality experience for our students.

As a parent/guardian of a student-athlete or student participant in Waterford School District athletics and extracurricular programs, there are certain behaviors we should model for our students. It is important to remember that attending a Waterford School District event is a privilege. While it is understood that the nature of athletics and competition is competitive and sometimes emotional, it is important for the safety and well-being of all, that all spectators display behaviors appropriate to the family nature of these events.

Therefore, we ask the parents of our students involved in athletics and extracurricular programs, to help us in ensuring a positive experience for all by adhering to the behaviors below. This document details the acceptable guidelines of behavior by a spectator or supporter, which will help us to ensure our events remain safe, engaging and fun family activities.

In keeping with that goal, the expectations are that spectators will:

- provide positive encouragement to student-athletes and student participants.
- maintain the position as a spectator and refrain from attempting to address the coach or program supervisor/coordinator during the event.
- demonstrate good sportsmanship and appropriate behavior at all times.
- be respectful and sportsmanlike toward all officials, players, coaches, other spectators, and all participants within the athletic event or extracurricular activity, performance, or competition.
- refrain from using inappropriate language (swearing, vulgarity, crude gestures), verbally harassing, confronting, taunting and badgering; officials, players, coaches, other spectators, etc.
- assist in ensuring guests within your party understand these expectations.
- notify school personnel of any concerns you have about safety or behaviors so they can respond.
- contact the coach or program supervisor/coordinator with concerns about the athletic program or extracurricular program outside of the event times and location when it can be conducted in a calm and respectful manner.
- follow the Waterford School District Interscholastic Athletics and Extracurricular Programs Code of Conduct "Conflict Resolution Procedure" (chain of command), on page 5-6); when addressing a concern.

These standards of sportsmanship will assist Waterford School District in providing positive support and encouragement for every student and family in interscholastic athletics and extracurricular programs. We are asking all parents of our student-athletes and student participants to sign this document to indicate that you have read and understand these guidelines.

Please understand that these standards will be upheld regardless of signature. Infractions of these guidelines will result in consequences that may include removal from a contest, short-term suspension from athletic events, completion of an on-line spectator sportsmanship course, and/or long-term suspension from athletic events. Together, let's make this a great year for our Waterford athletic and extracurricular community!



Waterford School District

Acknowledgement Form Interscholastic Athletics and Extracurricular Programs Policy

Sports _____

Programs _____

Student's Name _____
(Please Print) Last First Middle

Statement to be signed by student and parent/guardian:

I have received a copy of and have read the *Interscholastic Athletics and Extracurricular Programs Code of Conduct of the Waterford School District*. I understand the guidelines and accept my personal responsibility for following all of them.

(Student Signature) Date _____

I acknowledge receiving the *Interscholastic Athletics and Extracurricular Programs Code of Conduct of the Waterford School District*. I accept my responsibility for following, and helping my son/daughter to follow these guidelines.

(Signature of Parent/Guardian) Date _____

Acknowledgement Form Waterford School District Spectator and Supporter Sportsmanship Expectations

Statement to be signed by student and parent/guardian: I have received a copy of and have read the *Waterford School District Spectator and Supporter Sportsmanship Expectations*. I understand the guidelines and accept my personal responsibility for following all of them.

(Student Signature) Date _____

(Signature of Parent/Guardian) Date _____

(Signature of Parent/Guardian) Date _____

(Signature of Parent/Guardian) Date _____

This form MUST BE SIGNED and returned to a coach (athletics), the athletic office (athletics), or your program supervisor/coordinator (extracurricular programs)