

WCS Athletic Eligibility Regulations

Scholastic Eligibility

Middle School athletes must be passing the equivalent of four major subjects. If a student receives more than one unsatisfactory grade on their report card, including conduct and effort, they may be declared ineligible. Eligibility may be restored after meeting with the Middle School Team and the athletic director.

High School and Middle School athletes participating at the Varsity level must earn a minimum GPA of 1.50 in the previous quarter. Two failing grades, two 4's in effort, or two unsatisfactory behavior notations on a report card will result in the suspension of the student's privilege to participate in athletics.

Game & Practice Attendance

Attendance at practices and games is needed for a team to give its best performance. Faithful attendance represents the athlete's commitment to the team. It is expected that team members avoid missing practices or games. Games include any post season or tournament play for which the student or team qualifies. We understand that family commitments may make this difficult from time to time. Please plan family vacations accordingly. Advance communication with coaches is imperative if conflicts are unavoidable. An individual whose absence from a practice is unexcused will not be permitted to suit up or to play in the team's next game. Similarly, a student who is absent from school on the day of a game will not be allowed to play in the game except in special circumstances, i.e., attending a funeral. Three unexcused absences from practice will result in the individual being removed from the team. One unexcused absence from a game will permanently suspend an individual from the team. Students reporting to school tardy must be signed in by 9:30 a.m. in order to practice or play in a game.

Conduct Policy

While our conduct policy applies to all school activities including athletic activities, our membership in the MIAA imposes additional disciplinary requirements for chemical abuse. Students abusing illegal chemicals during school time or non-school time during a sport season are subject to the additional discipline of the MIAA. It should be noted that the discipline given below would apply in a similar way to non-athletic activities. Thus, any student found guilty of using, possessing, acquiring, delivering or transporting drugs, alcohol, or tobacco on or off the school grounds during a sport season shall become ineligible to participate in interscholastic contests or practice with that sport. The athletic director and the principal shall implement the decisions regarding such cases.

Offenses during Athletic Events

For a drug, alcohol or tobacco offense committed during a school athletic event; on the way to a game, at a game, or returning from a game, the student will be dismissed from the team for the remainder of the season. The student will also be suspended from school for an appropriate number of days for committing the offense. MIAA rules require that a student lose eligibility for two games or two weeks, whichever is greater, and that this suspension is to carry over into the student's next sport season. Since our school complies with MIAA rules, an offense towards the end of the season will result in suspension carrying over to the student's next sport season. Following a second school offense, a student will be prohibited from participating in any further WCS athletics activities.

Offenses during Non-School Hours

For the first non-school offense in a year, the student shall be suspended from team play or practice for at least four games. The length of the suspension can be increased according to the specific character of the offense. The athletic directory and the principal shall determine the length of the suspension. A second substance abuse offense in the same year will result in the student's suspension from the remainder of his or her current season, any playoff games and that number of games from the student's next sport season so that the total number of suspended games is at least twelve. Except in the most unusual of circumstances, a third offense will result in a student being prohibited from participating in any future WCS athletic activities.

Uniforms & Equipment

Students are responsible for returning, in a timely fashion, uniforms and equipment issued to them in like condition as received, or bear the cost of replacement. Uniforms are to be worn for contests and approved special events only.

Transportation Policy

All team members are expected to travel to and from games with school-arranged transportation as a team. If a parent wishes to take their child directly home after a game, the athlete must have a face to face conversation with the coach before leaving the game.

Dress Code Policy

All team members are expected to maintain appropriate dress and appearances. Teams that do not travel to and return from contests in uniform (including team sweat suits) and all athletes who participate in evening contests at home will conform to the following dress standards: Girls must wear a dress, skirt or dress slacks with a blouse or sweater. Boys must wear a dress shirt, tie, and dress slacks.

All Athletes

At the beginning of the first season of athletic participation each school year, students are required to sign the Athletic Registration and Permission form acknowledging a full understanding of the rules. Athletes must also pass a physical examination prior to participating in a practice or game and turn in a doctor's signed physical form before the expiration of a prior physical or before the first practice. A physical is valid for 13 months. Massachusetts laws regarding Hazing and Head Injuries are on our website and athletes and parents are required to read and be familiar with them. Each athlete and a parent/guardian must attend a parent/athlete meeting with the athletic director and specific team meetings with the coaching staff at the beginning of each sport season.

Guidelines for Parents

Parents are an important part of the athletic program at WCS. The support and encouragement given to the athletes and coaching staff is highly valued. Parents, as well as athletes, coaches, and fans represent WCS to the community. WCS expects parents to demonstrate Christian sportsmanship that reflects positively on the WCS school community. It is important that respect for opposing athletes and game officials be shown at all times.

Practice time is critical to the development of the team and individual skills. Practices are closed to parents and non-participating students. If parents would like to observe a practice, they must obtain permission from the coach. Since parental attitudes have a great impact on the attitudes of the athletes, parents are expected to encourage loyalty and dedication to the team and to the coaching staff. Prayer for coaches and team members is greatly appreciated. If concerns or conflicts arise during the season, please follow the guidelines below:

The athlete must first talk to the coach. If the issue is not resolved, the parent should contact the coach to discuss it. Both the parent and the coach want to do what is best for the athlete and the team. Remember, the coach may have additional information from practice time and other contact with your student athlete. This discussion should be beneficial to both the coach and the parents, as both should have the welfare of the student athlete and of the team in mind.

Refrain from approaching a coach following a game. Allow at least 12 hours to pass and then call to set up a meeting to talk or meet personally.

If the conflict is not resolved following the meeting with the coach, you may call the athletic director to discuss your concerns.

If the conflict is not resolved following your meeting with the athletic director you may contact the principal to discuss your concerns.

The coaching staff, athletic director, and administration of WCS appreciate your willingness to support your student in participating in the athletic programs at WCS. We understand that this commitment means an adjustment of family schedules, as well as a significant commitment of time, energy and emotional involvement in your student athlete's successes and disappointments.