

### **Interscholastic and Middle School Athletics**

The Yakima School District recognizes the value of a program in interscholastic and middle school athletics as an integral part of the total school curriculum. The program of interscholastic and middle school athletics shall include all activities relating to competitive sport contests, games or events, or sports exhibitions involving individual students or teams of students of this district when such events occur between separate schools within this district or with any schools outside this district. It is expected that:

1. All interscholastic activities and events, grades 9-12, shall be in compliance with the rules and regulations of the Washington Interscholastic Activities Association (WIAA), as well as with additional rules and regulations as stated in the district's *Athletic Handbook* and the *Student Athlete Handbook*. Middle school athletic activities and events, grades 6-8, shall be in compliance with the rules and regulations of the Yakima Middle School Athletic League (YMSAL). The superintendent shall establish rules defining the circumstances under which school facilities may be used and under which announcements of summer sports leagues and/or clinics may be channeled to students.
  - 1.1 The schools of the district will not participate in any out-of-season athletics that are not sanctioned by the WIAA.
  - 1.2 The district shall not be responsible or liable for non-school-sponsored programs or for programs that are organized, promoted or participated in by staff members without school approval.
  - 1.3 The district shall not be responsible for, or control and incur liability for, summer and/or out-of-season activities unless specifically sponsored by the school district.
2. An athletic coach must be properly trained and qualified for an assignment as described in the coach's job description.
3. Coaching stipends and all gifts to a coach that exceed five hundred dollars (\$500.00) in a season must be approved by the board of directors.
4. A district *Athletic Handbook*, which outlines the philosophy, goals, general safety guidelines and requirements, academic eligibility requirements, and coaching responsibilities, will be distributed to each coach. A coach must secure permission in advance if he/she wishes to deviate from the *Athletic Handbook*.
5. Safety Guidelines
  - 5.1 In-service training opportunities will be afforded each coach so that he/she is trained to attend to the health care needs of participants. Prior to a sports season, the coach will prepare a plan for handling medical emergencies at practice sessions and games (home and away).
  - 5.2 Participants will be issued equipment that has been properly maintained and fitted.
  - 5.3 All facilities and equipment utilized in the interscholastic athletic program, whether or not the property of the district, shall be inspected on a regular basis.
  - 5.4 Non-prescribed medications must be approved by the superintendent or designee before they may be available for use by coaches and/or athletic trainers. After athletic training medications

have been approved, the coach and/or trainer must secure authorization from the parent/guardian and the student's doctor before the medications may be used during the athletic season. If such release is not on file, the non-prescribed medications may not be used. This provision does not preclude the coach and/or trainer from using approved first aid items.

A sign will be posted to warn students that eligibility to participate may be denied if anabolic steroids are used for the purpose of enhancing athletic ability.

- 5.5 The district recognizes that certain risks are associated with participation in interscholastic sports. While the district will strive to prevent injuries and accidents to students, each participant and his/her parent(s)/guardian(s) will be required to sign a statement which indicates that the parent(s)/guardian(s) and the student acknowledge the risks of injuries resulting from such participation and give assurance that the student will follow the instructions of the coach; see operational procedure 3436.
- 5.6 Each participant shall be required to furnish evidence of physical fitness prior to becoming a member of an interscholastic team. Prior to the first practice for participation in interscholastic athletics or middle school athletics, a student shall undergo a thorough medical examination and be approved for interscholastic athletic or middle school athletic competition by a medical authority licensed to perform a physical examination. This must be completed before a student is allowed to practice. The physical is valid for twenty-four (24) months from the date of the examination.
- 5.7 A written report shall be completed when a student is injured while participating in a school-supervised activity; see exhibit 3436.2X. A participant shall be sufficiently recovered from injury or illness before being allowed to participate in any activity. To resume participation following an illness and/or injury serious enough to require medical care, a participating student must present to the school officials a physician's written release.
- 5.8 Each student participating in interscholastic athletic activities is required to have or obtain medical insurance for expenses incurred as a result of injuries sustained while participating in the extracurricular activity. Students shall provide evidence of coverage with a minimum limit of twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) in medical expenses or shall obtain such coverage through the insurance plan offered to all students participating in activities in the district. No student will be denied the ability to participate solely because the student's family, by reason of low income, is unable to pay the entire amount of the premium for such insurance. The superintendent or designee may approve partial or full waiver of premiums to permit all students to obtain the required medical insurance.
6. Meetings of Yakima School District coaches will be held as required to review concerns regarding athletic programs. These meetings will be under the direction of the school or district athletic director.

The superintendent's designee shall annually prepare, approve, and present to the board for its consideration a program of interscholastic athletics for the school year. Also prepared are rules for the conduct of student athletes including, but not limited to, use of alcoholic beverages; use of tobacco; use or possession of illegal chemical substances (including marijuana/cannabis) or opiates not prescribed by a physician; physical appearance; curfew; unsportsmanlike conduct; absence from practice; gambling; or any infraction of civil law. Rules and disciplinary actions related to rule violations shall be distributed to each participant and his/her parent(s)/guardian(s) prior to the beginning of an athletic season.

## 7. Coach's Duties

In accordance with district operational procedure and the coach's job description, the coach has the duty to:

### 7.1 Instruct Participants

The coach should employ proper instruction when working with students to develop motor skills.

### 7.2 Warn Participants

The coach should inform all athletes and their parents/guardians of the inherent risks involved in participation in the particular sport, including the very small risk of infection with a blood-borne pathogen.

### 7.3 Supervise Participants

The coach will create a daily plan, showing how the coach plans to conduct general supervision of the sport, and how he/she will supervise specific drills and other components of the daily practice.

### 7.4 Provide Safe Equipment and Facilities

Equipment should be properly fitted and maintained. Athletes should be instructed on how to conduct a daily inspection. Facilities should be free of hazards and inspected regularly.

### 7.5 Maintain Records of Injuries

A report should be completed for each accident.

### 7.6 Assess Fitness of Participants

The coach will assess the physical fitness, the medical condition, and the skill level of athletes prior to participation in sporting activities.

### 7.7 Provide Equal Protection and Due Process

A student whose participation will be terminated or suspended based on an alleged violation of the conduct code will be afforded the opportunity for a fair hearing.

### 7.8 Transport Athletes Safely

A coach has the duty to see that the athletes are safely transported to and from contests.

### 7.9 Group Participants

The coach has the duty to employ a recognized system of grouping participants in a particular sport that avoids unequal and unsafe participation.

### 7.10 Foresee Danger

A coach should be able to reasonably anticipate foreseeable dangers that may occur, take precautions protecting the children in his/her custody from such dangers.

The duties listed above are not meant to be comprehensive. In carrying out the duties of the assignment, a staff member is expected to act as a reasonable professional would act under similar circumstances. A staff member who supervises a sports activity is expected to know the intricacies of the activity that he/she is leading.

## 8. Summer Sports Activities/Clinics

Rules governing out-of-school and/or out-of-season student sports participation are as follows:

### 8.1 Coaches will follow the WIAA rule regarding summer activities (WIAA Rule 17.10).

### 8.2 A practice is defined as the teaching phase of a sport to any present, past or future squad member while as the student is in grade 7-12. Practices may take place during the school year or during the summer. The school or coach may not sponsor, promote or direct activities which resemble out-of-season practices or contests during the school year or summer.

A school staff member who sponsors, promotes or directs such activities during the summer vacation will clearly indicate that h/she is operating independent of the school district.

- 8.3 Students will be advised that participation in a commercial summer camp or clinic or other similar type of activity will not begin until the conclusion of the final WIAA state tournament of the school year. Participants in a fall school sports program may not attend any summer camp/clinic in that sport after August 1 until the first fall sports turnout.
- 8.4 A coach (contracted or volunteer) may not sponsor, promote, coach or direct activities which resemble out-of-season practices or contests in the sport they coach to any of their squad members or future squad members until after the school year's final WIAA state tournament.
- 8.5 School facilities to be used for summer activity and/or sports camps may be rented consistent with the rates, rules, and regulations applicable for other commercial uses.  
A user will hold the district free and without harm from any loss or damage, liability or expense that may arise during or be caused in any way such use of school facilities.  
Authorization for use of school facilities will not be considered an endorsement of or approval of the activity group or organizations or the purposes it represents.

## 9. Athletic Code

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 principals, athletic directors, and coaches.

A student who is found to be in violation of any rule is subject to removal or suspension from the team. A student who has allegedly violated one or more of the conduct rules may appeal the disciplinary action.

The following rules, at a minimum, will be applicable for each sport's season:

- 9.1 Use and/or Possession of Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco
- 9.2 Use and/or Possession of Illegal Chemical Substances or Opiates, Including Marijuana/Cannabis
- 9.3 Unsportsmanlike Conduct
- 9.4 Attendance at School
- 9.5 Attendance at Practice
- 9.6 Repeat Offenses
- 9.7 Violation of Law
- 9.8 Violation of School Rules

## 10. Athletic Eligibility and Recruitment Procedures

- 10.1 It is understood that the profession of education depends on ethical conduct and trust among all members in order for all children to be efficiently and effectively served. The spirit of the regulations governing athletic eligibility in the Yakima School District is that all people involved will work together for the benefit of students by personally seeing that no inducement is brought to bear as they make their personal decision as to what individual school program they want to invest their abilities. It is highly desirable and encouraged that the teachers of common athletic activities pool their resources and expertise to plan grades seven (7) through twelve (12) off season athletic clinics and/or programs which would benefit students interested in such activities. Such clinics and/or programs will be planned and coordinated through the school or district athletic director and will be open to all students interested and eligible in the Yakima School District. The school or district athletic director will make certain all interested parties have a chance for representation.
- 10.2 Athletic eligibility - Student athletes who choose to attend a Yakima high school from middle school or other schools will carry athletic eligibility with them if eligible under WIAA. If a

student is enrolled at one high school and subsequently transfers to the other high school, the athlete will not be allowed to participate in competitive interscholastic athletics until clearance of his/her eligibility is established. High school transfer students are not eligible for varsity participation for one (1) calendar year from the date of enrollment (WIAA Rule 18.11).

10.3 Recruiting - School district employees shall not in any way try to recruit (influence/persuade) athletes to attend a certain school. Comparison between school athletic and academic programs shall not be made for the purpose of athletic recruiting. High school athletes shall not be encouraged to enact recruitment activities among middle school students. If an employee is accused of this recruiting, the alleged incident will be investigated by the school's athletic director. Proven acts of recruitment as judged by the school's athletic director will be considered as unethical and grounds for disciplinary action. Disciplinary action will be determined by the school's athletic director.

10.3.1 Not in Violation of Recruiting Regulations

**Interest:** It is entirely within order to express genuine interest by attendance at games, visiting with other coaches and verbally congratulating student athletes on a game well played. Such interest must remain on a casual, chance, and ethical basis.

10.3.2 In Violation of Recruiting Regulations

**Influence:** Coaches have power or station that is influential to athletes. Further, a subtle force may be exerted by coaches knowingly to their current athletes in order to influence prospective athletes. Letters of congratulations, sought-out contacts or invitations are non-normal genuine interest as described above. These types of influences are violations of the code.

**Persuasion:** Athletic personnel shall not urge either directly (coach to prospective student) or indirectly (current athlete, friend of the coach, etc., to the prospective student) that a prospective student attend a particular school.

## 11. Appeal Process for Disciplinary Action

When an infraction occurs within the athletic program, the following process will be followed:

### 11.1 Step 1 – Informal Conference with the Head Coach

1.1 The student or parent/guardian must submit a written request for the informal conference within five (5) school days of the imposition of the penalty. If no such written request is received by the head coach within five (5) school days of the imposition of the penalty, the student and parent/guardian will have waived their right to the conference.

### Step 2 – Hearing with the School's Athletic Director

2.1 If the parties are unable to agree at the informal conference, the student or parent/guardian may appeal to the school's athletic director. A written request for hearing the appeal must be received by the school's athletic director within three (3) school days of the notification of the result of Step 1. If no such written request is received by the athletic director within three (3) school days of the notification of the result of Step 1, the student and parent/guardian will have waived their right to the hearing.

### Step 3 – Hearing with the District's Activity Review Board

3.1 **District ARB** - There shall be a district ARB consisting of the following voting members: Two (2) high school principals or designees and the four (4) middle school principals or designees who will hear and render decisions regarding all cases of inducement that arise. A quorum of five (5) schools must be represented and vote to make the decision valid, particularly the schools involved.

3.2 Proceedings and conclusions will be sent to all committee members and the superintendent of schools.

Step 4 – Hearing with the District Athletic Director

4.1 A written request for a hearing with the District Athletic Director must be received within three (3) school days of the notification of the result of Step 3. If no such written request is received by the district athletic director within that timeframe, the student and parent/guardian will have waived their right to the hearing.

4.2 After hearing the case, the district athletic director will render a decision within three (3) school days of the hearing.

Step 5 – Hearing with the Superintendent

5.1 A written request for a hearing with the superintendent must be received within three (3) school days of the notification of the result of Step 4. If no such written request is received by the superintendent within that timeframe, the student and parent/guardian will have waived their right to the hearing.

5.2 After hearing the case, the superintendent will render a decision within three (3) school days of the hearing.

Step 6 – Hearing with the Board of Directors

6.1 A written request for a hearing with the board of directors must be received within three (3) school days of the notification of the result of Step 5. If no such written request is received by the board of directors within that timeframe, the student and parent/guardian will have waived their right to the hearing.

6.2 The Board of Directors, after hearing the case in detail, will render a decision on the case within ten (10) school days of the hearing.

6.3 The decision of the board is final.

Cross References:

- (cf.: 2151 – Co-curricular Activities)
- (cf.: 2152 – Philosophy of Athletics and Intramurals)
- (cf.: 2153 – Interscholastic and Middle School Athletics)
- (cf.: 2167 – Substance Use/Abuse)
- (cf.: 3210 – Nondiscrimination and Complaint)
- (cf.: 3410 – Student Health)
- (cf.: 3416 – Medication at School)
- (cf.: 3430 – Student and Staff Safety and Welfare)
- (cf.: 3431 – Emergency Treatment)
- (cf.: 3436 – Concussion and Head Injury in Youth Sports)
- [cf.: 3510 – Associated Student Body (ASB)]
- (cf.: 4330 – Public Use of School District Facilities)

WIAA Handbook

Legal References:

- RCW 28A.400.350 Liability, life, health, health care, accident, disability, and salary insurance authorized–Premiums
- RCW 28A.600.200 Interscholastic athletic and other extra-curricular activities for students, regulation of–Delegation, conditions
- RCW 69.41.330 Public Warnings–School districts
- RCW 69.41.340 Student athletes–Violations–Penalty

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