

West Michigan Lutheran High School

Student –Athlete Code of Conduct

All privilege comes with responsibility. Participating in interscholastic athletics at WMLHS is to be considered a privilege and, accordingly, involve a level of personal responsibility. We adhere strongly to the policy that a student-athlete is a representative of his/her school. As such, athletes are responsible to hold themselves to this Code of Conduct and to high standards of behavior 365 days per year for the years they participate in school athletics. The Code of Conduct is based on the following general expectations: Students-athletes 1) shall reflect high levels of integrity and a commitment to striving toward Christ-likeness, 2) shall not reflect negatively on or discredit the school, and 3) shall not create a disruptive influence on educational environment of our school. Any such misconduct violating these principles shall be subject to disciplinary measures. The Code of Conduct officially begins when a WMLHS athlete (9-12th grades) begins his/her first practice and continues until graduation. The following WMLHS athletic rules are in accordance with the MHSAA.

The Code of Conduct

Eligibility

Students are to maintain a 2.00 grade point average to be eligible to represent the school in athletics. Students will be ineligible for the second and fourth quarter if their first and third quarter grades are below 2.00 or if they receive an "F" in any course. They will be ineligible for first and third quarter if their first semester or second semester grades are below 2.00 or if they receive an "F" in any course. A student must take and pass 2.5 units of credit the preceding semester to be eligible for the current semester. Any course work completed after the end of a semester must meet the MHSAA guidelines to be counted for eligibility.

An eligibility appeals committee shall be comprised of the Principal, the coach or activity sponsor involved, the teacher of the subject, and the student's advisor. If there are member duplications, faculty members will be used to complete the committee. The committee and the appealing student shall meet. This will take place one week after the student is declared ineligible. This provides a week long period for the student to take personal action to correct the difficulty. Concerns addressed shall be:

What is the cause of the failure?

Is the activity a helpful and growing experience for the student?

What is best for the student involved?

Is the student involved making an effort in the course?

Based on these questions, the committee will vote. If there is a three-fourths majority in favor of the appeal, the student will be granted weekly eligibility. The athlete must maintain a weekly GPA of 2.0 with no failing classes.

Substance Abuse Policy

One of the great concerns for all schools is the continued problem of substance abuse among teenagers despite being the best informed regarding the dangers of drugs, alcohol, and tobacco. It has become increasingly evident that education alone is not enough in stemming this tide. Consequently, WMLHS takes a strong proactive stance in regard to the possession, use, or sale of illegal or illicit substances.

The primary purpose of West Michigan Lutheran High School is to provide a safe, conducive learning environment for all of its students. In order to achieve this goal, steps have been taken to promote, enhance, and maintain a drug-free school and student body. Along with the parents, West Michigan Lutheran High School takes an active role in helping students to remain drug-free.

In that regard, the following substance abuse policies have been established:

The possession, use, delivery, transfer, or sale of illicit drugs, narcotics, or alcohol in or on school property or while attending school functions is expressly forbidden. Any student in violation of this policy can expect to be suspended and/or expelled from school and reported to the appropriate law enforcement agency.

The school reserves the right to conduct random searches of a student's book bags, lockers, or vehicles as warranted by student's behavior or suspicion of use by the student. All searches will be conducted by an administrator and another staff member and/or law enforcement officials.

The school reserves the right to require any student who at any time exhibits cause for reasonable suspicion of drug and/or alcohol usage as determined by the administration to submit to a hair analysis (which detects drug use over the past 90 days) and/or urinalysis drug test for suspected narcotics use and breath scan for suspected alcohol consumption. If the test is verified "positive", the principal will meet with the student and his/her parent/guardian to discuss the results and further action.

An essential feature of this policy is that students and their family members are encouraged to contact school administration for help with alcohol and other drug-related problems, with the assurance that such contacts will be handled sensitively and confidentially. A student who self-refers to the school, and is making satisfactory progress in following the recommendations of a certified program, will be encouraged by the school.

The primary purpose of this policy is not intended to be disciplinary or punitive in nature but to educate our students. Education directs students away from drugs and alcohol abuse and towards a healthy, safe, and drug-free life.

Practice and Game Conduct

A WMLH athlete is expected to reflect a high level of integrity and personal responsibility by:

1. Attending all practices, except for educational reasons, and participating fully in all drills and training sessions.
2. Following coaching directions and suggestions for improving skill and team success.
3. Exhibiting through words and actions a respect for teammates, coaches, opponents and game officials.

Technical Fouls/Red Cards And Game Ejections

Any time an athlete is ejected from a contest, the athlete is required to miss the next playing date(MHSAA rule). An athlete who is ejected or receives a technical foul for unsportsmanlike conduct will be required to attend a coaches' meeting to explain his/her actions. The coaching staff will use this opportunity to instruct the athlete in the area of self-control and in personal and team testimony. In the case of repeated offenses, a strategy will be developed by the staff to assist the athlete in the development of self-control. This may result in suspension from a team or suspension for a limited number of games.

School Conduct

Homework: ZAP

1. Zeros Aren't Permitted
 - Homework must be completed at beginning of the class
 - ZAP will take place Mon-Thurs
 - If a ZAP is assigned on a Friday it will be served by the student the following Monday
2. Consequences
 - Stay after school for 40 min. (ZAP Time)
 - Grade Reduction (at teacher's discretion)
 - **No participation in after school activities on that day including practice, games, etc.**
 - The teacher will make first contact with parents regarding ZAP for their student(s). If there is no response to the email then the parents may be contacted by either the Administrative Assistant or Principal.

3. "What if?"

- Grace Coupons – four per class per semester
- Grace Coupons give students a temporary no ZAP for 1 day; however, the homework assignment must be complete by a certain time given by the teacher

Detention

Detention has precedence over school activities. No participation in after school activities (practice, games, performances, etc.) will be allowed on the day the detention is served.

In-School Suspension (ISS)

ISS will be held when and where the Principal designates. Students are to report to ISS at the beginning of the school day. Students should bring textbooks and other materials needed to complete assignments.

Meaningful class work plus assignments will be provided by the instructors. All work is to be completed before the student leaves ISS. Credit may be issued for daily work, depending on conditions of the ISS. Tests may be taken during ISS. Credit will be issued for tests.

No participation in after school activities (practice, games, performances, etc.) will be allowed on the days the ISS is served.

Out-of-School Suspension (OSS)

The student is expected to be at the home of his/her parent or guardian. The student is not allowed on campus. All work should be completed for the student's benefit. Credit may be issued for daily work, depending on the OSS conditions. Major tests will be given at the discretion of the class instructor.

No participation in after school activities (practice, games, performances, etc.) will be allowed on the days the OSS is served.

Enforcement of the Code of Conduct

The Athletics Director and the coaches shall enforce all rules and regulations as described in the Code of Conduct for athletes. All rules regarding behavior and/or training as outlined in the MHSAA handbook apply (refer to www.mhsaa.org). Parents/guardians and athletes are required to sign the acknowledgement, consent, and disclosure document stating that they understand the code and the athlete is subject to disciplinary measure should he/she violate the Code of Conduct. A new code form must be signed each year and is in effect 12 months a year, grades nine through twelve.

General Procedure: Offender, accompanied by his/her coach goes before the Principal. The Principal reads the code and applies the punishment for that offense.

Appeals Procedure

When a student feels he/she has been unfairly treated, he/she may appeal the decision to the next person in charge. Except in the cases where a student has been expelled, students appeal rights end with the decision rendered by the executive director.

Code of Conduct Parameters and Protocol

1. If a violation or apparent violation occurs, and the individual refuses to cooperate with the investigation by school authorities, he/she may be suspended from the sport until cooperation is obtained or until the investigation is complete, at which time further penalties may be imposed.
2. Suspensions are to begin immediately subsequent to the offense.
3. Appeals will be handled expeditiously.
4. A student may not participate (except practices if allowed by the code) during the appeals process. He/she has already been judged to violate the code and therefore a penalty begins immediately upon his/her hearing with the Athletic Director.
5. The total number of regular season scheduled contests defines a season. This calculation does not include MHSAA tournament contests. However the penalty may include MHSAA tournament contests.
6. Any suspension in which the entire suspension cannot be fulfilled in that sport season shall be continued in the athlete's next sport season.
7. Violations from middle school shall not be carried over to high school, but all high school violations shall be considered cumulative.
8. In the event there is an apparent offense, but it falls into an "uncovered" or "gray" area, then the Principal shall, after seeking any possible parallels or common and standard procedures in such cases, evaluate the evidence and administer a penalty commensurate with the offense.

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I have read and understand the expectations of being a high school athlete for West Michigan Lutheran High School as expressed in the Code of Conduct, and I agree to hold to these expectations.

In order to participate in this athletic program this code must be read and signed by the player and a parent/guardian.

Date _____

Player Name _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____

Player Signature _____