



WHITEFORD ATHLETIC AGREEMENT

Representing Whiteford Middle/High School in interscholastic competition is a privilege and not a right. Students who participate in interscholastic competition are expected to represent the highest ideals of character by exemplifying good conduct, good sportsmanship, good citizenship, and good training, which includes abstaining from the use of tobacco, alcohol, and drugs. Separate and apart from a student's performance as an athlete, the student's conduct, sportsmanship, citizenship, and training reflect *at all times* on the student athlete, his or her team, our school, and our community. Accordingly, this Athletic Participation Agreement has been established for all students who aspire to participate in interscholastic athletics at Whiteford Middle/High School.

A student should realize that the conduct standards in the Athletic Participation Agreement *apply on a year-round basis* and are not limited to student behavior at school sponsored activities or on school property. A student who violates these rules will be subject to disciplinary action as outlined in the penalty provisions and the Student Handbook.

PHYSICAL EXAMINATIONS

No athlete shall participate in any phase of the athletic program that does not have on file in the office of the athletic director a physical examination for the current school year. This statement must be signed by the examiner (M.D., D.O., Physician's Assistant or Nurse Practitioner) indicating that the student is physically able to compete in the athletic activity concerned. For the card to be valid, the physical examination must be given on or after **April 15 of the previous school year**. As a further condition of participation, an un-emancipated minor's parent or guardian must also consent to the student's athletic participation. In cases of serious injury or extended illness, school officials reserve the right to require an athlete to be reexamined by a physician (M.D. or D.O.) before being allowed to participate in interscholastic athletics.

ATHLETIC ELIGIBILITY

Student academic eligibility to participate in interscholastic athletics is governed by the policies and rules of the Whiteford Agricultural Schools, as well as the rules and regulations of the Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA). Students can be declared ineligible for academic reasons under any of the following circumstances:

1. Student-athletes in grades 6-12 who fail two courses taken during the previous semester will be ineligible for sports for one full semester as outlined in the MHSAA Handbook. Students can recover credits and regain eligibility by participating in summer credit recovery courses (at the expense of parents/guardians). A 7th grade student may participate without reference to his or her record in the previous grade.
2. No students in grades 6-12 shall compete for one week, Monday through Sunday, if they are failing two or more classes on the bi-weekly eligibility list. The bi-weekly eligibility list will be synced via Schoology and Infinite Campus by 2:00 p.m. on Thursday and covers all work from the beginning of the semester to the current date of eligibility. Students will be informed by the Athletic Director by Friday of their impending ineligibility for the following week. Students who

are ineligible for any **two** weeks of the season under this rule will be dismissed from the team for the season.

PARTICIPATION FEE

Participation fees help offset the cost of running a quality athletic program.

There will be a per sport fee of \$100 per season for HIGH SCHOOL and MIDDLE SCHOOL athletes. There is a family cap of \$450, and an individual cap of \$250 for high school and middle school athletes.

Pay-to-participate athletic fees will not be refunded for any reason including but not limited to injuries, suspension, discipline, eligibility, athlete quitting the team, or athletic handbook or student code of conduct violations after the first game.

If a family finds this participation fee to be a financial hardship, please fill out an Athletic Scholarship Application and return it to the Athletic Office. The scholarship application can be found under the Athletic Department forms at www.whiteford.k12.mi.us and in the Athletic Office. This information will be kept confidential between the Athletic Office and the family.

CONDUCT PENALTIES

The following behaviors constitute a violation of the Whiteford Middle/High School Athletic Participation Agreement and subject the athlete to discipline as outlined in the penalty section below:

1. Violation of the Student Code of Conduct as set forth in the Middle/High School Student Handbook, which results in a school suspension, will also result in suspension from athletics for the time the student is suspended.
2. Violation of federal, state, or local law/ordinance include a felony or misdemeanor acts other than minor traffic offenses, conviction of said act not necessary to establish a violation of the Athletic Participation Agreement but will be determined through an independent school investigation.
3. Cumulative or gross misconduct, including behavior which school officials consider conduct unbecoming an athlete and a representative of Whiteford Middle/High School, may result in a penalty as determined by the athletic council.
4. Students suspended for insubordination, persistent disobedience of school rules, or disrespectful and vulgar language directed at any school personnel will be penalized as follows: first offense-one game suspension, second offense-two game suspension, and third offense-dismissal from the squad. If the student is out of season, a penalty will be assessed during the next regular season the athlete plays.

ILLCIT SUBSTANCES

An athlete shall not use, possess, conceal, distribute, sell or be under the influence of those substances listed in items A-F below:

- A. tobacco or tobacco products in any form; including but not limited to electronic or vape products.
- B. alcohol or alcoholic beverages in any form;
- C. illegal drugs, including but not limited to those substances defined as “controlled substances” pursuant to federal or state law;
- D. steroids, human growth hormones, or other performance-enhancing drugs;
- E. substances purported to be illegal, abusive, or performance-enhancing (i.e., “look-alike” drugs);
- F. misused prescription drugs.

PENALTIES FOR USE OF TOBACCO, ALCOHOL, VAPES, ILLEGAL DRUGS or IN POSSESSION OF ILLEGAL PARAPHERNALIA

First Offense

Minimum penalty is a suspension for 1/3 of the games scheduled. A student wishing reinstatement must make written application to the athletic director; included in the request should be a statement as to what will be done to correct the student's behavior and why the student wishes to be reinstated. A review committee consisting of principal, athletic director and coach of the sport currently in season will be organized to review and discuss application and possible reinstatement. The suspension will be extended on a week by week basis, during the season, if certain conditions outlined below are not met.

- A student is expected to attend all practices, go to all games, sit on the bench in street clothes, and follow all other training rules.
- A student must enroll in and attend all meetings of a drug awareness program as directed by the committee. A student wishing reinstatement into a subsequent sport season must attend the drug awareness program. For each meeting missed the student athlete will miss one additional week of the games scheduled.
- A student is expected to attend all classes each school day. For each truancy, the student athlete will miss one additional week of the games.
- A student must be passing all subjects. For each violation the student athlete will miss one additional week of the games scheduled.
- A student must not receive a suspension from school for any misconduct.

For each suspension the student athlete will miss an additional week of the games scheduled. If less than 1/3 of the season remains when a student commits the infraction, the remainder of the suspension will apply to the next sport season as directed by the review committee. If the student athlete quits the team or their parents make them quit, that athlete must still follow the last four conditions outlined above to be reinstated in a subsequent sports season.

Second offense

The student athlete will be suspended from all athletics for a period of one calendar year from the date of the violation. The suspension can be decreased by six months if the student athlete participates in an established drug/alcohol assessment program at their parent's expense and attends treatment sessions as prescribed in the assessment.

If no treatment sessions are prescribed, the student athlete must enroll in and attend all meetings of a drug awareness program as directed by the committee. Reinstatement six months earlier will be subject to the approval of the review committee and fulfilling the criteria described in the first offense. The minimum penalty for a second offense is the loss of a season of a sport the student has previously played.

Third offense

Permanent suspension from all athletics.

RULES RELATING TO TEAM MEMBERSHIP

1. **Transportation** – Students shall under no circumstances be allowed to provide their own transportation. Parents or legal guardians may be allowed to transport their own child any time the group provides for it. Players are also permitted to ride with other players' parents with

permission prior to the contest. No student-athlete will be allowed to participate in an away event where private transportation is used without a permission slip on file. Emergency situations will be dealt with by the coach when they occur.

2. **Practices** - All athletes are expected to attend all practice sessions unless they are excused by the coach. Students who go home sick are not allowed to practice or play that day. No player will be permitted to practice or participate in a game if absent for any part of the day. Exceptions to this policy will be granted for: A. Absences for medical, doctoral, dental or optical appointments where the office has received a 24 hour written notice. B. Funerals, college visits, field trips and other school business. C. Each student-athlete will be given 1 exemption (free pass) per sports season where the student arrived or left early but was present for at least 4 hours of the school day.
3. **Loyalty** - All student athletes and cheerleaders are expected to be loyal to their team, their coach, and other team members. Any student-athlete who quits or is removed from a team will not be eligible for any game, state or league award.
4. **Sportsmanship** - All athletes and cheerleaders are expected to maintain the highest standard of sportsmanship both as contestants and as spectators. Flagrant acts of unsportsmanlike conduct may result in suspension or dismissal from the squad.
5. **Care of Equipment** - The equipment issued to you as a participant in athletics represents a capital investment of hundreds of dollars annually. The proper care of this equipment is expected and is your responsibility. You will be held responsible for reimbursing the cost of lost equipment. No athlete may go out for or participate in another sport unless lost equipment is returned or paid for.
6. **Injuries** – Student-athletes are expected to report all injuries immediately to their respective coaches and trainers where applicable. In cases of serious injury or extended illness (i.e. keeping a student- athlete from participating), a release must be completed by a M.D., D.O., Physician's Assistant, or a Nurse Practitioner prior to being allowed to compete.

PENALTIES may be determined by the administration and/or coaches and can include but are not limited to; warnings, suspension(s) from games, or dismissal from the team.

COACH-ATHLETES

Our coaches should demand a great deal from our athletes. Only by doing so will our program lead to success. Athletes must be prepared to give and sacrifice in order to benefit from athletics. Coaches in turn will give a great deal to the athletes. A relationship where each party is called on to give of oneself must be founded on trust and respect. The following statements are most important:

- A. Coaches will notify athletes in writing at the beginning of the season of all rules, regulations, game and practice schedules, procedures for squad selection, and other information that will help avoid possible conflict during the season.
- B. Athletes will follow all such rules and procedures established by the coach, or face denial of participation.
- C. When concerned or confused about such rules and procedures, the athlete will approach the coach as soon as possible for clarification and explanation. Athletes should not bring complaints or queries to the attention of others before the coach is asked for clarification and explanation.
- D. The coach will respond to questions from athletes concerning such rules and procedures and explain when necessary, the purpose and reasons behind the rules. Athletes will be expected to address concerns using the Flowchart for Public Concerns found on the Athletic website

resources.

Use of the above strategies for open, honest communication will create the mutual trust and response necessary for the coach and athlete to work together for success.

COACH-PARENT RELATIONSHIP

Coaches and parents must have an open and honest relationship because each is directly involved in the athletes who are the center of the athletic program. This relationship should be characterized by the following standards:

- A. Coaches will meet with the parents at the beginning of the season and explain all rules, procedures, game and practice schedules, and other information the parents will need in order to help their student/athlete meet his/her obligations to the team. (Parents who cannot meet with the coach should make alternate arrangements.)
- B. No athlete will be allowed to participate in any regular season contest until the parent's obligation in letter A above has been met.
- C. Coaches will explain such rules and other information to parents when they need clarification. *However, coaches will not meet with parents during a practice, a game, or other times when the coach has a duty of care for other students or athletes.*
- D. Coaches should seek to be as cooperative as possible with parents when the parents have questions concerning the type of information referred to above. However, no coach should be subjected to questions and criticisms from parents concerning starting line-ups, play-calling, skill techniques, and other items that by their very nature can only be determined by the objective and/or subjective judgment of the head coach. *Parents will be expected to address concerns using the Flowchart for Public Concerns found on the Athletic website resources.*

Open and honest communication between coach and parent that follows the principles above will lead to good relationships between parent, coach, and athlete.

PARENT/GUARDIAN INVOLVEMENT

Parents, along with our students, must practice good sportsmanship at all times. Parents need to remember the purpose of athletics is to help our student-athletes acquire important life skills that will help them be successful in their adult lives.

Parents can be the most important role model for student athletes when it comes to their understanding of sportsmanship; therefore, parents should exhibit the qualities of fairness, courtesy and grace in winning and defeat at home or away games and events.

Parents' actions, and reactions to situations, can have a significant impact, not only on their particular student-athlete, but on the whole program. Parents should reflect on the possible consequences of their actions beforehand