

## ATHLETIC CODE

The following Athletic Code of Conduct has been adopted and placed into operation by the Board of Education of Whitehall District Schools. This code will be explained and discussed by each coach at the beginning of each sport season. A copy is to be taken home by each athlete for parental information.

Athletics are recognized as an important part of the total school program. Athletic teams provide the focus for many of the school's activities each year. Regardless of win and loss records, athletes stand in a significant position in setting the example of conduct for school and community alike.

Whitehall District Schools Board of Education, administration, coaches, and athletes agree that an athlete should set an example for the youth of the community, the student body, and the entire community at large.

Membership on an athletic team is to be considered an honor and privilege. It is also agreed that an athlete should not:

1. Smoke, or be in possession of, or use any tobacco product.
2. Drink, or be in possession of, any alcoholic beverages.
3. Use, sell, or be in possession of, illegal drugs or look-a-like substances.
4. Violate criminal laws or ordinances.
5. Use, sell, or be in possession of performance enhancing drugs.

Training rule violations will be recorded at the beginning of an athletes' seventh grade year and will accumulate throughout their high school career. These training rules will be enforced during the entire calendar year.

If an athlete violates the athletic code at any time from the first day of legal practice in fall sports of their seventh grade year, the following sanctions will be imposed:

1. **\*First Offense -** Three (3) week suspension from competition. If the student is not currently in a sport, or if the number of weeks remaining in the season doesn't equal the penalty, the penalty will carry over into the next sport season. The athlete will be allowed to practice with the coach's consent.

### **Self-Disclosure -**

**\*If an athlete comes forward and discloses to the athletic director or coach that he/she has violated the athletic code, substance abuse policy, prior to the investigation, and if the athlete, along with the parent/guardian, attends a screening for substance abuse, no suspension will be imposed.**

**This self-disclosure will only be allowed once, and will be considered a first offense. All other violations will result in suspensions.**

2. **Second Offense:** Six (6) week suspension from competition. Suspension will carry over to next sport season if it is not fully completed. Athlete will be allowed to practice with the coach's and athletic director's consent. It will be recommended that the athlete attend rehabilitation and/or counseling.
3. **Third Offense and All Subsequent Offenses:** Athlete will be suspended for one (1) calendar year. Athlete will be required to attend counseling and/or rehabilitation at the school district's discretion. The athlete will not be allowed to practice.

\*Serious violations of the law or school policies may result in more severe disciplinary actions. These acts of gross misconduct will be handled on a case by case basis.

## **APPEAL PROCESS**

If the student athlete so chooses to appeal the decision, a hearing will be conducted by a review board consisting of: athletic director, appropriate principal, and three assigned members of the Athletic Council. The Athletic Council consists of the athletic director, as chairman, high school or junior high school principal, and coaches. The superintendent shall be an ex-officio member.

**ATHLETES, PLEASE BE AWARE that coaches may impose sanctions above and beyond those in the school's policy. Team rules will be given to athletes prior to the season and a copy will be on file in the office.**

## **MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION STATEMENT:**

Each athlete shall abide by all rules, and regulations of the Michigan High School Athletic Association, including conduct, any athlete proven to have violated the M.H.S.A.A. flagrant violation clause, in excess of two (2) incidences, will be dealt with in the same manner as above.

## **ATHLETIC ELIGIBILITY:**

The eligibility system has been adopted and placed into operation by the Board of Education of Whitehall District Schools. The procedure will be explained and discussed by each coach at the beginning of the sport season.

The eligibility process will be managed by each head coach.

## **SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY STANDARD**

1. The State minimum standard of passing 20 credit hours (3 classes receiving 1 credit each) current and previous terms is always in effect. If a student does not pass 3 core classes in a given term the student/athlete is suspended from athletics for 90 school days.

Student/Athletes must also maintain a 1.5 minimum grade point average. Grades will be checked every 2 weeks. When a student/athlete falls below a 1.5 GPA he/she is placed on probation for 2 weeks and must bring the trimester GPA up to at least a 1.5. If this is not done by the end of the probationary period, the student/athlete will be suspended from competition for 2 weeks and will continue to be suspended from competition for consecutive 2 week periods until the GPA is raised to at least 1.5.

2. An athlete must be in attendance at least three (3) class periods during the school day of the scheduled athletic event to participate unless the absence is approved by the athletic director.

WHITEHALL DISTRICT SCHOOLS  
ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT  
ATHLETIC CODE OF ETHICS AND ELIGIBILITY  
ACKNOWLEDGMENT FORM

STATEMENT TO BE SIGNED BY PARTICIPANT AND PARENT/GUARDIAN

I have read and understand the ATHLETIC CODE OF ETHICS AND ELIGIBILITY STANDARDS contained in the WHITEHALL ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT MANUAL FOR STUDENTS AND PARENTS.

I accept my personal responsibility for following these guidelines.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Athlete Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

I acknowledge receiving the WHITEHALL ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT ATHLETIC CODE OF ETHICS AND ELIGIBILITY STANDARDS FOR STUDENTS AND PARENTS and accept my responsibility in helping my son/daughter live up to the responsibilities and obligations of an athlete as outlined.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

THIS FORM MUST BE SIGNED AND PLACED ON FILE IN THE ATHLETIC OFFICE