

# **ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT**



## **PARENT & STUDENT HANDBOOK**

**KENT SCHOOL DISTRICT ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT  
PARENT & STUDENT ATHLETIC HANDBOOK  
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# KENT SCHOOL DISTRICT ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT

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SCHOOLS	PRINCIPAL	ATHLETIC CHAIR
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**HIGH SCHOOLS:**

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Kentlake	Heidi Maurer	Greg Kaas	253-373-4926
Kentridge	Mike Albrecht	Marty Osborn	253-373-7343
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**KENT SCHOOL DISTRICT  
ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT  
INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC GOALS**

The Kent School District Athletic Department shall plan, supervise and administer the interscholastic activities programs approved by the Directors of the Kent School Board.

**The District Director of Athletics & Activities  
and Building Athletic Directors shall:**

1. Recognize that the primary responsibility of secondary schools is to educate youth.
2. Emphasize interscholastic Athletics & Activities as an integral part of the educational process.
3. Encourage and promote diversity in all aspects of the programs.
4. Establish standards and practices to insure the safety, health and general welfare of all participants.
5. Formulate policies which cultivate the ideals of good sportsmanship by students, coaches and parents.
6. Provide a model of clear communication processes between athletes, coaches, parents and administrators.
7. Design all activities to provide for fair and consistent opportunities for all students.

## ATHLETIC REGISTRATION PROCEDURE

1. Register ONLINE with FamilyID: Parent/Guardian will create an online family profile. Once profile is created, parent/guardian must follow the steps to register their student athlete for a specific sport.
2. Physical Exam Procedures for Athletes: The **KSD** Physical Form, as well as the Health History portion, must be completed and signed. Athletes are responsible for their physical exam at their own expense. A current physical examination must be completed prior to participation at the middle school level (grades 7-8). It must be dated **AFTER JUNE 1<sup>ST</sup> OF THE 6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE YEAR. No exceptions!** A current physical examination must be completed prior to participation at the senior high level (grades 9-12). It must be dated **AFTER JUNE 1<sup>ST</sup> OF THE 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE YEAR. No exceptions!** Physicals may be valid for 24 months from the date of the examination if all guidelines are met. Physical expiration dates must extend beyond the respective WIAA season ending date. Expiration dates occurring within a sport season shall require a new examination prior to that season. This form is available at the Middle and High School building, or it can also be printed from the Kent School District Athletics and Activities webpage. **Once the form is completed, it can be uploaded to your FamilyID profile or turned in to the coach, athletic secretary, or building athletic director.**
3. Head coach and/or building chairperson reviews Athletic Registration & Physical Form to see that it is accurate and COMPLETE.
4. **RETURN TO PLAY** – To resume participation following an illness and/or injury serious enough to require medical care by a doctor, a student athlete must present a completed and signed [KSD RETURN TO PLAY FORM](#) to the building Athletic Director.

## CONDUCT AND CONTROL FOR ATHLETES

To accomplish the goals set forth, it is necessary to develop and maintain a team spirit that is based on appropriate standards. Certain regulations are necessary to prevent disruption of team spirit that could detract from the competition and cooperation values provided by athletics.

School programs should reflect the attitude of the community that pays for them and, if appropriate benefits are to be derived from the athletic program, it must be able to operate in a climate devoid of disruptive influence. If the community is to truly identify with its schools through the athletic medium, it is imperative that team members conduct themselves in a manner that will inspire pride and approval.

All students who participate in the athletic program of the Kent School District will comply with the rules and regulations and will submit to the reasonable discipline of school authorities. **Any student having registered and/or participated in the athletic program is subject to the athletic conduct and control for student athletes from the first participation until graduation from senior high school.**

Any student athlete who willfully performs an act which materially interferes with or is detrimental to the orderly operation of a school's educational and athletic program will be subject to athletic discipline, probation, suspension or expulsion. Such acts shall include, but not be limited to those described below.

The following acts by a student athlete on school premises (or in reasonable proximity thereto), or off school premises at any school-sponsored activity will constitute sufficient cause for athletic discipline, probation, suspension or expulsion: disruptive conduct; disobedience of reasonable instructions of school authorities; refusal to identify oneself; unauthorized absence from turnout or game; cheating; immoral conduct; vulgarity or profanity; destruction or defacing of property; extortion, intimidation or harassment (including racial/gender) of another student or employee; assault of another student or employee; stealing; possession or use of any dangerous weapons or objects and; the commission of any criminal act as defined by law.

The following acts by a student athlete on or off school premises will constitute sufficient cause for athletic probation, suspension or expulsion: Use, sale or possession of tobacco; use, sale or possession of alcoholic beverages; use, sale or possession of drugs and/or related paraphernalia. Possession includes both physical and constructive possession.

No student athlete will be expelled, suspended or disciplined under these rules and regulations for the performance or failure to perform any act not related to the orderly operation of the athletic program, (i.e., student athletes suspended or expelled from school must be reinstated to athletic participation when reinstated to school), if the act is not related to athletic standards. If a student is suspended from school, the student is also suspended from athletics.

## CONDUCT & CONTROL DEFINITIONS/TERMS

- *Athletic Discipline* Athletic discipline will mean all forms of corrective action or sanction other than probation, suspension or expulsion, and will include the exclusion of a student athlete from an activity by a coach for a period of time, not exceeding the balance of the immediate turnout or game.
- *Athletic Probation* Athletic probation is a period during which a student athlete remains a part of the squad while he/she is given an opportunity to correct the deficiencies in a time prescribed by the head coach. During probation, student athletes may continue to participate in turnouts and contests.
- *Athletic Suspension* Athletic suspension will be a suspension from athletic participation for a specified number of turnout days, the duration which may extend beyond the current season. The principal **may** direct that the suspended student athlete may take part in team turnouts and meetings. The suspended student athlete is not allowed to participate in any game related activities.
- *Athletic Expulsion* Athletic expulsion will mean the complete denial of the privilege to participate in the athletic program for an indefinite period of time.
- *In Season* Begins with the first WIAA allowed practice day and ends with the awards ceremony (banquet) for that sport. In the event of no season-ending banquet or a banquet held prior to the last competition, the ending date will be after the last scheduled event for that sport.
- *Out of Season* Any time not in season, starting with the WIAA defined beginning fall season, and ending with the Kent School District last student school day.
- *Calendar Year* 365 consecutive days.
- *Completed Season* A season in which a student athlete begins the season within the first week of turnout and completes the season, in good standing, without interruption, until the last scheduled contest or banquet, whichever is later
- *Actual Possession* The act of having a substance in one's custody or control. Actual possession occurs when the item is in the physical custody of the person charged with possession.
- *Constructive Possession* In the absence of physical possession, if there is dominion and control over the substance -- such as knowledge that alcohol, tobacco, legend drugs or illegal substances are available and/or being used by others -- student athletes have a responsibility to remove themselves, beyond all reasonable doubt and proximity, from that situation. At off campus events, where drugs, alcohol or other illegal substances are **evident**, student athletes who have made a **willful** choice to remain at the event, are in violation of the rule.
- *Use* Physical consumption of a substance by means of inhalation, snorting, drinking, absorption, injection or any other method which produces an intoxicating or mental/physical altering effect.
- *Sale* The act of distributing an illegal substance by means of exchanging substances for an agreed sum of money or other valuable consideration.

- *Proximity* Close in distance, time or relationship (commingling or interacting) with other students coming or going from a social gathering, whether inside location or outside (yard/street/neighborhood).
- *Discovery-Investigative* The process by which an administrator/coach arrives at a conclusion regarding a student's involvement in an athletic code infraction. The decision will be based on evidence, either verbal or written.
- *Discovery-Self Admittance* Student athletes who admit to their involvement in an athletic code infraction and who are cooperative and honest in the investigative process regarding alleged code infractions.
- *Self-Referral* Student athlete who reports self-infractions to school administrator prior to any investigation or inquire by school administrators or staff.
- *Legend drugs* Drugs obtained through prescription.
- *Controlled Substances* "Controlled substance" means a drug, substance, or immediate precursor included in schedules 1 through 5 as set forth in federal or state laws, or federal or board rules.

## **STANDARD APPLICATION OF SANCTIONS**

### **SECTION 1: ILLEGAL SUBSTANCES** **(Refer to WIAA Rule 18.25.0)**

**USE OF ILLEGAL SUBSTANCES** – School and WIAA rules and regulations are intended to discourage the use of alcohol, tobacco, legend drugs, controlled substances and paraphernalia and to encourage the use of school and community resources. School and community resources should be identified for students who have had a violation and seek help or who are referred for assessment.

18.25.2 Legend drugs and controlled substances – Penalties for the possession, use or sale of **legend drugs** (drugs obtained through prescription, RCW 69.41.020-050) and **controlled substances** (RCW 69.50) shall be as follows:

**1st Violation** - A participant shall be immediately ineligible for interscholastic competition in the current interscholastic sports program for the remainder of the season. Ineligibility shall continue until the next sports season in which the participant wishes to participate unless the student accesses the assistance program outlined in B (below).

An athlete who is found to be in violation of the Legend drugs and controlled substances rules shall have two options.

A. The athlete will be ineligible for participation in contests for the remainder of that interscholastic sports season and must meet the school's requirements in order to be eligible to compete in the next interscholastic sports season. The school

principal will have the final authority regarding the student’s participation in further interscholastic sports programs.

- B. The athlete may choose to seek and receive help for a problem with use of legend drugs or controlled substances. Successful utilization of school and or community assistance programs may allow him/her to have eligibility re-instated in that athletic season, pending recommendation by the school.

2<sup>nd</sup> Violation – A participant who again violates any provision of RCW 69.41.020 through 69.41.050 or of RCW 69.50 shall be ineligible for interscholastic competition or a period of one (1) calendar year from the date of the second violation.

3<sup>rd</sup> Violation – A participant who violates for a third time RCW 69-41.020-69.41.050 or of RCW 69.50 shall be permanently ineligible for interscholastic competition.

**STANDARD APPLICATION OF SANCTIONS**

**SECTION 2: Alcohol & Tobacco Products**  
**(Refer to WIAA Rule 18.25.1)**

Sanctions will carry over from eighth grade to senior high school and from seventh grade to eighth grade. Seventh grade infractions will not carry over to senior high school.

For on or off campus violations in regard to alcohol and tobacco abuse for student athletes, the following sanctions will apply:

**FIRST VIOLATION: IN SEASON - SENIOR HIGH**

Means of ⇓ Discovery ⇓	Actual Possession/Use/Sale	Constructive Possession
Investigative	Expulsion - 60 days or length of current season, whichever is longer	Expulsion - 45 days or length of current season, whichever is longer
Self-Admittance	Suspension - 60 days/30 days maximum may be held in abeyance by principal	Suspension - 45 days/30 days maximum may be held in abeyance by principal
Self-Referral	Suspension - 60 days/45 days maximum may be held in abeyance by principal	Suspension - 45 days/35 days maximum may be held in abeyance by principal

**FIRST VIOLATION: IN SEASON - MIDDLE SCHOOL**

Means of ↓ Discovery ↓	Actual Possession/Use/Sale	Constructive Possession
Investigative	Expulsion - 25 days or length of current season, whichever is longer	Expulsion - 20 days or length of current season, whichever is longer
Self-Admittance	Suspension - 25 days/10 days maximum may be held in abeyance by principal	Suspension - 20 days/12 days maximum may be held in abeyance by principal
Self-Referral	Suspension - 25 days/15 days maximum may be held in abeyance by principal	Suspension - 20 days/15 days maximum may be held in abeyance by principal

**FIRST VIOLATION: OUT OF SEASON**

The student athlete will be placed on suspension for the first fifteen turnout days during the next completed sports season in which the student athlete participates. Also, the student athlete will miss the first interscholastic contest to follow this suspension if no interscholastic contest should fall within the suspension period.

**SECOND VIOLATION: IN SEASON OR OUT OF SEASON**

Whether in season or out of season, a second violation of the athletic code under Section 2 (when combined with a first violation from either Section 1 or Section 2) will result in expulsion from all sports in the Kent School District for one calendar year.

If a student athlete completes tobacco and/or alcohol dependency assessment and subsequent recommendation, the principal may reduce sanction to suspension from the first 50% of game contests for the next completed sports season.

**THIRD VIOLATION: IN SEASON OR OUT OF SEASON**

Whether in season or out of season, a third violation of the athletic code for alcohol and/or substance abuse, will result in expulsion from all sports in the Kent School District.

**RE-INSTATEMENT PROCESS:**

- Application for reinstatement following any form of athletic discipline in Section 2, will be reviewed by the principal upon completion of the following:
- Letter of intent and purpose for reinstatement

- Drug, tobacco and/or alcohol assessment by an individual or agency that is acceptable to the school district. Results will be shared with family and school administration.
- Proof that a tobacco, drug/alcohol, counseling, or preventive education program has been completed.
- The principal may waive any or all of the requirements above if deemed appropriate. Final decision for reinstatement resides with the school principal.

**PROCEDURES FOR IMPLEMENTING ATHLETIC DISCIPLINE,  
PROBATION, SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION**

- **Athletic Discipline and Probation**

- Coaches may send student athletes home for the remainder of a contest or turnout if their conduct is disruptive.
- In the event athletic probation is imposed, the coach will:
  - Inform the Building Athletic Chairperson of the proposed discipline and secure approval;
  - Inform the student athlete of the deficiencies, how the student athlete is to correct them and the number of days of probation;
  - Send an athletic discipline letter to the parent/guardian with copies to the athletic chair, principal and District Athletic Director.
  - Upon completion of the probationary period, and if the deficiency is corrected, the student athlete is removed from probation; if the deficiency is not corrected, the probationary period is extended or the student athlete is recommended for suspension.

- **Athletic Suspension and Expulsion**

- Prior to the suspension or expulsion of any student athlete, a conference will be conducted with the student athlete as follows:
  - The head coach, building chair or principal will present to the student athlete an oral and/or written notice of alleged misconduct and violation(s) of school district rules; the evidence of school district rules; the evidence in support of the allegations; and, the corrective action or sanction to be recommended.
  - The student athlete will be provided the opportunity to present an explanation.

- Following the conference with the student athlete, the head coach and/or the building athletic chair may recommend athletic suspension or expulsion to the principal.
- If the principal imposes athletic suspension or expulsion, the student athlete will be orally notified of the action taken. Promptly thereafter, written notice will be sent by mail to the student athlete's parent/guardian containing the following information:
  - The action taken (suspension, expulsion, etc.).
  - The reason for such disciplinary action.
  - The right to an informal conference.
- A copy of the suspension or expulsion notice will be sent to the Secondary Level Assistant Superintendent and District Athletic Director.

## **GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE**

- Informal Conference
  - Any student athlete, parent or guardian who is aggrieved by any athletic suspension or expulsion has the right to an informal conference with the principal, or his/her designee, and any other employee involved. Any request for such informal conference will be made within five school days of the written notice of the action.
  - At such informal conference, the student athlete, parent/guardian will be subject to questioning by the principal or his/her designee and will be entitled to question school employees involved in the matter being grieved.
- Formal Conference
  - Any student athlete, parent/guardian who may be aggrieved following the informal conference may, upon three days prior notice, present a written and/or oral grievance to the Superintendent or to his/her designees. If the grievance is not resolved, the student, parent/guardian, upon three school days prior notice, may present a written and/or oral grievance to the Board of Directors to be dealt with at its next regularly scheduled or special meeting. Any such grievance will be made within five school days after previous decisions have been rendered.
  - The Board of Directors will notify the student athlete and the student athlete's parent/guardian in writing of its decision within ten school days following the meeting.
  - The athletic discipline, probation, suspension or expulsion will continue during the implementation of the grievance procedure.

# ACADEMIC STANDARDS

## POLICY:

To be eligible to compete on an interscholastic athletic team, participate as a cheerleader, dance member, drill member or to serve as a student government officer in the Kent School District, a student must pass both the **WIAA Scholastic Standard** and the **Kent School District Scholastic Standard** for the immediately preceding grading period.

## STANDARDS:

- **WIAA SCHOLASTIC STANDARD** (18.7.4) - A student shall have passed at least five-(5) full time subjects (2.5 credits/6 period day) in the immediately preceding grading period in order to be eligible for competition during the succeeding grading period. The record at the end of the grading period shall be final, except those credits earned in a regular, accredited summer school program or alternative educational program accepted by the school district.
- **WIAA SCHOLASTIC STANDARD** (18.7.6) - In the fall, an incoming ninth grade student is not required to meet the previous semester scholarship rule in 18.7.4 provided he/she has met all other eligibility requirements. The student's grades will be monitored during the first designated monitoring period established by the school and every three (3) to six (6) weeks thereafter.
- **KENT SCHOOL DISTRICT SCHOLASTIC STANDARD** - A student shall have earned a 2.0 grade point average (GPA) in all classes officially enrolled in the immediately preceding grading period in order to be eligible for competition during the succeeding grading period. Any student not achieving a 2.0 grade point average that can demonstrate an accumulative grade point average (AGPA) of 2.0 or better will be considered to have met this standard.

## SANCTIONS:

Students not meeting the WIAA and Kent School District Scholastic Standards will be subject to the following sanctions:

- **WIAA ACADEMIC SUSPENSION** - A senior high student who failed to meet the WIAA scholastic standard shall be placed on academic suspension from the end of the previous semester through the last Saturday of September in the fall or the first five (5) weeks of the succeeding semester. The suspension period for middle school students shall be from the end of the previous semester through the first three (3) weeks of the succeeding semester. A student may be declared eligible by the school administration on Monday of the week following the end of the suspension period if student is meeting both WIAA and Kent School District standards. A student taken off of academic suspension will automatically be placed on academic probation for the remainder of the current grading period or end of season, whichever comes first.

- **KENT SCHOOL DISTRICT ACADEMIC SUSPENSION** - A student who failed to meet the Kent School District scholastic standard shall be placed on academic suspension and shall be ineligible in the first contest in which they are scheduled to compete. Jamborees will not count as a contest and participation is prohibited when on academic suspension.

A student may be declared eligible by the school administration if student is meeting both WIAA and Kent School District standards. A student taken off academic suspension will automatically be placed on academic probation for the remainder of the current grading period or end of season, whichever comes first.

When a sports season extends beyond an official grading check period, in-season athletes not meeting standard are to be placed on academic suspension and will receive a 72-hour grace period prior to implementation. The grace period begins at the time school administration receives grades and identifies the athletes not meeting standards.

- **ACADEMIC PROBATION** - A student placed on academic probation must maintain a 2.0 GPA and passing a minimum of five classes (6 period day) for the remainder of the grading period or end of season, whichever comes first, to maintain athletic eligibility. Grade checks must be submitted to the building administration once a week. A student on probation not meeting the standard will be placed on academic suspension until the next weekly grade check.

#### **DEFINITIONS:**

- **ACADEMIC SUSPENSION** - that period during which a student is **ineligible** to compete interscholastically against other schools. Students are eligible to turnout and attend team practices and meetings during this time.
- **ACADEMIC PROBATION** - that period when a student is **eligible** to compete against other schools but is required to submit weekly grade check verifying compliance of WIAA and Kent School District academic standards. Failure to do so will result in academic suspension.
- **GRADE POINT AVERAGE (GPA)** - The average numerical grade of all credits earned in a given grading period. An A = 4.0; A(-) = 3.7; B(+)= 3.3; B = 3.0; B(-) = 2.7; C(+) = 2.3; C = 2.0; C(-) = 1.7; D(+) = 1.3; D = 1.0; D(-) = 0.7; F = 0. The point total for all grades is then divided by the number of grades given to determine the GPA.

**ACCUMULATIVE GRADE POINT AVERAGE (AGPA)** - An accumulative grade point is that mark on the official school transcript that averages all grades from entry in the ninth grade to the present grading period for senior high schools and 7<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade at the middle school level.

## **ATTENDANCE REGULATIONS**

ATTENDANCE – Students who are absent or arrive at school two hours after the start of school are not eligible to compete or practice on that day unless permission is granted by the principal. The principal may grant exceptions for field trips, doctor/dentist appointments or other related absences.

## **HAZING & HARASSMENT-FREE ENVIRONMENT**

1. Student athletes engaging in "orientations", "hazing", or "rough-housing" that fall outside of a harassment-free environment as outlined in Kent School District Policy 3207, will be subject to respective school discipline.
2. Harassing conduct includes repeated offensive sexual flirtations, advances or propositions, continued or repeated verbal abuse of a sexual or racial nature, graphic, degrading or demeaning sexual or racial comments about an individual or about his/her appearance, the display of sexually suggestive objects or pictures, or any offensive or abusive physical contact.
3. All students and employees will deal with all persons in a manner that conveys respect for individuals regardless of race, color, marital status, national origin, creed, religion, sex, age or disability. Acts of harassment, whether by verbal, written, physical, or by gesture will not be tolerated. Any demeaning form of on-campus or off-campus hazing or harassment which is related to school issues and is used to initiate or humiliate another student or staff member constitutes grounds for disciplinary action including suspension and/or expulsion.

## **EQUIPMENT**

School equipment checked out by the student athlete is the student's responsibility. The student athlete is expected to keep it clean and in good condition. Athletes will be responsible for lost school equipment assigned to them.

Students attending commercial camps or clinics during summer must provide their own equipment and uniforms unless specifically authorized by the Director of Athletics and the District Risk Manager.

## TRAVEL RULES FOR ATHLETES

The following rules will be enforced whenever it is necessary to travel to other schools for athletic contests or to alternate off-campus turnout/game sites:

1. All athletes must travel to and from athletic contests in which transportation is provided by the school district, except that an athlete may travel:
  - a. With their own parent, if the parent arranges with the coach, to transport his/her athlete in their own vehicle.
  - b. In a private vehicle, if the following forms have been signed and are on file at the school:
    - DF-17 Volunteer Driver Screening-Affidavit of Insurance
    - DF-18 Student Private Transportation Permission
    - Student Volunteer Form (student driver)
2. Athletes will remain with their squad and under the supervision of their coach when attending any contests.
3. Misconduct of any sort while traveling to and from an away contest will be dealt with according to “Conduct and Control for Athletes” as outlined in this handbook.

Visiting athletes are direct representatives of their school, community and homes and should conduct themselves accordingly.

# KSD ATTENDANCE BOUNDARY RULES

Each student in the district is required to attend the school designated for the geographic attendance area in which he or she resides, unless an exception is authorized in accordance with KSD transfer procedures. Contact Student and Family Support Services for more information.

## **ATTENDANCE AREA TRANSFERS (excerpts from District Policy 3131P)**

### 1.0 RESIDENT ATTENDANCE AREAS

The Kent School District is divided into boundary attendance areas. Students are expected to attend the school assigned according to their home address.

### 2.0 NON-RESIDENT STUDENTS

For non-resident student transfers refer to policy 3141. (*Contact Student Services*).

### 3.0 CONDITIONS FOR TRANSFER OF RESIDENT STUDENTS

3.1 Students requesting attendance in another school (reference 4.0), may, under the provisions of resident student transfers, be considered on a space available basis, meaning placements may be granted if it does not cause an adverse enrollment impact (as defined by committee outlined in 3.2) on either the school being requested, or the school being requested to leave.

3.2 Availability of space at all Kent School District schools is determined by district enrollment projections, program capacity, staffing, classroom/programs counts, and/or total student enrollment as determined by a district committee comprised of members of Student and Family Support, Human Resources and Finance and Operations. Transfer processes will avoid creating racial imbalance in the buildings, per WAC 392-342-025.

3.2.1 The Kent School District reserves the right to review annually all transfers and reverse/terminate transfer agreements based on district related financial impacts related to enrollment and district planning.

**NOTE:** Students transferring from one Kent school to another must have a corresponding change of residence to maintain Varsity level athletic eligibility as per WIAA.

### 4.0 STUDENT TRANSFER PROCESS

Contact KSD Student and Family Support Services for Student Transfer Process.

# MIDDLE SCHOOL LEVEL PHILOSOPHY

**MIDDLE SCHOOL PHILOSOPHY** – Recognizing the unique developmental needs of the middle level student, the WIAA promotes activities that build student success through active **participation**, increased **skill building**, and positive **sportsmanship**.

## **Participation**

- Emphasize participation over win/loss records.
- Provide opportunities for everyone to participate.
- Balance competition with cooperation.
- Encourage lifelong participation in activities.
- Emphasize having fun.

## **Skill building**

- Develop age appropriate skills.
- Focus on fundamentals.
- Develop skills as a foundation for improvement.

## **Sportsmanship**

- Develop a positive team attitude.
- Encourage, cooperate and collaborate with peers.
- Present positive adult role models that demonstrate self-control and (mutual) respect.

## **Middle School Coaches Shall Understand**

- Students have varying levels of ability, and coaches need to present a developmentally appropriate program for students.
- Positive encouragement is the strongest tool for learning.
- Coaches should provide a safe environment for kids to “risk” and grow.
- Activities should be meaningful and fun.
- Fundamentals and practice are the building blocks for a successful athlete.
- Coaches are a key role model.
- Every team member’s responsibility is to encourage one another.

## LETTER AWARDS

### PROCEDURES:

1. Senior high varsity award winners may purchase a letter jacket and/or letter at the end of the sports season after receiving their award certificate.
2. Award winners will receive their certificates at an awards banquet or awards assembly as determined by each school.
3. Schools will furnish certificates.

### STANDARDS FOR LETTER AWARDS:

In all cases, the judgment of the Head Coach will be the deciding factor in determining who will become “candidate eligible” to be awarded a letter. However, here are some basic guidelines or general standards.

- Major emphasis to earn a Varsity letter will be focused on the following:
  1. Significant participation during Varsity contests
  2. Earning All-NPSL Individual Award recognition
  3. Must have completed the season, unless injured or excused by the coach for special reasons
  4. Must have followed the Athletic Code
  5. Must have been in regular attendance at turnouts during the league season
  6. Must be a student in good standing
  7. Must have turned in all equipment and/or paid all fines and obligations

## SCHOLASTIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

The WIAA, in cooperation with the Washington Association of Secondary Principals, the Washington Middle Level School Principals Association, the Athletic Directors Association, the Washington State School Directors Association, and the Washington State Coaches Association will make available to schools the following awards:

### *Outstanding Scholastic Achievement Award*

To a team/activity that achieved a 3.50 or above trimester/semester/quarter grade point average (GPA). Qualification for this award is computed by the accumulation of a 3.50 or above by the team/activity/members as a group.

### **Distinguished Scholastic Achievement Award**

To a team/activity that achieved a 3.0 - 3.49 Trimester/Semester/Quarter GPA during their specific season. Computation same as above.

### **Individual Awards**

Individual letter insignias and certificates may be purchased from the WIAA office. Any student of a team having received a scholastic achievement award is eligible to receive the individual award. An individual school may establish more restrictive standards/qualifications if they desire. A student should receive only one insignia per year.

**State Academic Champions** - Nominations for these awards are to be submitted by the building principal on the designated form. The State Academic Champions in each classification and in each activity will be determined from the applications submitted within the established timeline. The State Academic Champions will receive a plaque at their respective State Tournament.

## **COLLEGE RECRUITMENT**

In the event you should be contacted personally by a college recruiter, you have an obligation to work through your coach and the Athletic Department. Inform your coach of such contact as soon as possible. This is especially important if it occurs during the time when you are actually involved in active participation. Check with your coach regarding [NCAA rules](#) governing recruiting. Rule violations could result in loss of eligibility.

## **NCAA COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC & SCHOLARSHIP ELIGIBILITY**

A student's eligibility for practice, competition, and financial aid in their freshman year at a Division I or II college must be certified by the NCAA Eligibility Center. It is important to see a school counselor as soon as possible to allow time for processing the required information.

These regulations can change on an annual basis. Contact your school counselor, school athletic administrator, or [NCAA Eligibility Center](#). NCAA Eligibility Center can also be reached toll free at 877-262-1492.

# WIAA HANDBOOK

[Official WIAA Handbook](#)

**WIAA Handbook offers information regarding several topics including:**

Recruiting

Student Standards for Interscholastic Athletic Eligibility

Running Start Student Eligibility

WIAA Out-Of-Season Regulations