

WAUSEON EXEMPTED VILLAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT



ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT GUIDELINES

2025-2026

WAUSEON ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT ATHLETE GUIDELINES AND CODE OF CONDUCT

PREFACE

To ensure the highest caliber athletic program for the Wauseon Exempted Village School District, the Board of Education, Administration, and coaching staff of the Wauseon Exempted Village School District subscribe to these regulations and guidelines.

VALIDATION

The regulations and guidelines herein stated become effective July 10, 2000, and supersede all other regulations and procedures which have been approved by the Wauseon Athletic Department, and the Administration of the Wauseon Exempted Village School District.

PHILOSOPHY OF THE WAUSEON ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT

The primary objective of the Wauseon Athletic Department is to promote the school system as an educational institution, as set forth in the philosophy of the Wauseon Exempted Village School District.

In keeping with this primary objective, the Wauseon Athletic Department considers the development of the physical and mental growth of each individual athlete of paramount importance. Consequently, the athletic program of Wauseon Schools is open to ALL students who are enrolled, attend, and who meet the academic and citizenship standards of the Wauseon Exempted Village School District.

The Wauseon Athletic Department shall endeavor to offer attractive and challenging competition for students seeking to be involved in its programs, however, the Wauseon Athletic Department program is in no way intended to be remedial or rehabilitative in scope.

The purpose of the Wauseon Athletic Program shall be to provide a successful, efficient, balanced, and harmonious program of athletics, giving full consideration to the fundamentals of pupil's health, to emotional and personality growth of the student, and to good sportsmanship in the schools and community.

The education-based athletic programs should provide additional experiences that may not be fostered in the normal classroom setting. However, participation in athletics at Wauseon Exempted Village Schools is not a right, but an extension to those that follow the rules of the code of conduct.

EFFECTIVE DATE

The Athletic Department Guidelines go into effect on the day of the first official athletic team practice as an athlete begins at the start of their 7th grade year. The guidelines will then be applied to the athlete from that point forward until the completion of their athletic career in high school.

ELIGIBILITY AND TRAINING RULES FOR ATHLETES

I. PARTICIPATION

- A. Participation in athletics at the Wauseon Exempted Village School District is not a right, but an extension to those that follow the rules of the Code of Conduct. Participation in athletics at the Wauseon Exempted Village School District requires that all student athletes behave appropriately at all times. Their behavior is a reflection on themselves, their families, their activity, their school, and their community. If student athletes engage in conduct on or off property that is felt to be demeaning to their role as participants in the athletic program, they may be denied the opportunity to participate in the activity.

II. DUAL SPORTS PARTICIPATION

A. Rationale

Wauseon High School seeks to provide quality co-curricular athletic opportunities for its students. Some students have talents and abilities which provides them an opportunity to contribute to more than one team in a particular athletic season. Permitting an athlete to participate in more than one sport in a season is based on the philosophy that we must allow the athlete the opportunity to fully develop his/her interests and talents. Athletes and parents participating in more than one sport in the same season must understand that the loss of practice time in one or both of the sports as a result of the dual sport participation may have an impact on items such as playing time, position, and postseason awards/recognition.

Dual Sport Participation Guidelines

- Dual sport participation is for athletes in grades 9-12 only.
- Athletes must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.5 at the time of application. For a fall or winter sport, freshmen must have achieved a 2.5 GPA in the immediately preceding grading quarter.
- Any disciplinary action administered by the Athletic Department or the High School administration will be applied to both sports. (Example - athletic code of conduct violation)
- Quitting the “primary” sport during the season so the athlete may only participate in the “secondary” sport is not permitted. Extenuating circumstances such as injury or academic concerns may be considered on an individual basis with administrative approval.
- Participation in both sports on the same day is permitted. Games/meets will take precedence over practice. If both sports have games/meets at the same time, the primary sport will take precedence unless approved by the Athletic Director. The athlete’s parents may be responsible for transportation to an event..
- If the athlete is not meeting all of the expectations of dual sport participation, the Athletic Director may revoke the right to participate in both sports at any time. That decision may not be appealed. Athletic participation is a privilege, not a right.
- Any student-athlete who is a member of the marching band will not be permitted to be a dual sport athlete in the fall due to the time demands already in place with marching band.

Step by step process

1. The athlete and parents must complete the dual-sports application including the Statement of Intent and submit the application to the Athletic Director prior to the appropriate deadline. In the application, the athlete MUST declare the “primary” and “secondary” sports.
2. The Athletic Director will review the application and discuss any concerns with the athlete - in particular any academic concerns.
3. The Athletic Director will inform the head coaches of the two sports of the athlete’s intent and receive their input.
4. The Athletic Director will meet with the athlete and parents to discuss the expectations and will obtain signatures of all parties as an agreement of understanding of the process. The Athletic Director will also meet with the coaches to share the expectations and obtain their signatures as well. The Athletic Director will serve in the capacity of advisor and will make final judgements on matters concerning the dual participation. There is no appeal process.
5. Separate applications must be completed for each season and received by the Athletic Director by the appropriate deadline: Fall Sports - May 31, Winter sports - September 30, Spring sports - January 31

III. COMMUNICATION

A. COACH/ATHLETE RELATIONSHIP

1. Our coaches should demand a great deal from our athletes. Only by doing so will our programs 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 at the beginning of the season of all rules, regulations, game and practice schedules, and other information that will help avoid possible conflicts 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 questions 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.
- e) 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.

B. COACH/PARENT RELATIONSHIP

1. Coaches and parents must have an open and honest relationship because each is directly involved with the athletes who are the center of the athletic program. This relationship should be characterized by the following:
 - a) Coaches will communicate 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 child meet his/her obligations to the team.
 - b) 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 the responsibility of care for other students or athletes. Appointments should be made with the coach involved to discuss individual athletes.
 - c) 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, parents should realize that decisions concerning starting line-up, play calling, skill techniques, and other items are, by their very nature, the objective and/or subjective judgment of the coach.
 - d) Open and honest communication between coach and parent that follows the principles above will lead toward good relationships between parent, coach, and athlete.

C. COMMUNICATION HIERARCHY

1. The Wauseon Exempted Village School District Board of Education (Board) recognizes and values the importance of parents and families within the educational structure. As such, the board acknowledges that parents and families are the first teachers and decision-makers of children. The Board believes that student learning is more likely to occur when there is an effective partnership between the school and the student's parents and family. Such a partnership between the home and school and greater involvement of parents and family members in the education of their children generally result in higher academic achievement, improved student behavior, and reduced absenteeism. (BOE Policy 2111).
2. Involvement includes following a hierarchy of communication when a concern or praise arises. It is the ultimate goal of the district to teach students how to communicate concerns and praises appropriately. To that end, when a concern or praise arises, the parent or guardian should assist the student with addressing the staff member associated with the concern or praise. The hierarchy of communication is as follows:
 - a) Student to staff member
 - b) Parent and student to staff member
 - c) Student or Parent to the staff member's immediate supervisor if the concern is not satisfactorily addressed or the family wants the praise acknowledged.
3. Furthermore, the Board of Education and Administration recognize that in-person communication is most effective. The second most effective means is via a telephone conversation. The third most effective means of communication is via an email message. Lastly, social media is not an appropriate forum to address concerns and direct communication with staff is encouraged and expected.

IV. PARENT/SPECTATOR GUIDELINES

- A.** Parent/spectator behavior at any athletic contest or related function that degrades a player, coach, referee, school official or another parent or fan may be subject to disciplinary action by school personnel.

B. REMOVAL FROM CONTEST

1. Any person who engages in misconduct as described or who is removed from an interscholastic contest at the request of a game official, school administrator, or site management may be subject to the following disciplinary actions:
 - a) **FIRST VIOLATION**
 - (1) Offender(s) will be prohibited from attending the team's next two (2) home athletic events.
 - (2) Offender(s) must complete two online courses and submit a certificate of completion prior to having their attendance status reinstated. The courses are found at www.nfhslearn.com and are:
 - (a) "The Parent Seat"
 - (b) "Sportsmanship"
 - b) **SECOND VIOLATION**
 - (1) Offender(s) will be prohibited from attending ANY home athletic event for the remainder of the season or for a period of 3 months commencing from the date of the 2nd violation, whichever is longer
 - c) **THIRD VIOLATION**
 - (1) Offender(s) will be prohibited from attending ANY home athletic event for one calendar year commencing from the date of the 3rd violation.
- C. Any prohibition from attendance may carry over into the next sports season if not completed by the conclusion of the current season.
- D. School administration may accelerate disciplinary measures, at their sole discretion, if the gravity of the offense warrants such action.

V. TERMINOLOGY

- A. **ATHLETE** - Any student in grades 7-12 who is currently participating, who has participated, and who will be participating in the future for any Wauseon interscholastic athletic team.
- B. **SELF-REFERRAL** - Athlete refers self or parent refers son/daughter to coach, athletic director, or other school official before being confronted by a coach or school official. Athletes are allowed one self-referral in their athletic career.
- C. **NON SELF-REFERRAL** - Matter of public record (police log or report) or school official, government official, or student reported violation to a coach, athletic director, or other school official.

VI. ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY

- A. The Wauseon athlete will at least meet the standards established by the Ohio High School Athletic Association. Bylaw 4 of the OHSAA constitution deals with scholarship:
- B. **OHSAA Bylaw 4-4-1:** In order to be eligible in grades 9-12, a student must be currently enrolled and must have been enrolled in school the immediately preceding grading period. For the purpose of this Bylaw 4, Section 4, the term "grading period" is defined as the school's Board-adopted calendar (e.g., six week, nine week, 12 week or semester) and does not mean an interim marking period. Furthermore, during the preceding grading period, the student must have received passing grades in a minimum of five (5) one-credit courses or the equivalent, each of which counts toward graduation. For the purpose of this bylaw, the term "immediately preceding grading period" refers to the grading period of the school which immediately precedes the grading period in question.
 1. Note: Phys. Ed. 1 and Phys. Ed. 2 do not carry enough credit to be used toward the required, 5 course minimum
- C. **OHSAA Bylaw 4-4-4:** A student enrolled in the first grading period after advancement from the eighth grade must have passed a minimum of four subjects at the conclusion of the immediately preceding grading period in which the student was enrolled.
- D. **OHSAA Bylaw 4-4-5:** A student enrolling in the seventh grade for the first time will be eligible for the first grading period regardless of previous academic achievement. Thereafter, in order to be eligible, a student in grade 7 or 8 must be currently enrolled and must have been enrolled in school the immediately preceding grading period and received passing grades at the conclusion of that grading period in a minimum of four of those subjects.

- E. **WEVS BOE Policy 2431**: In addition to the eligibility requirements established by the OHSAA, to be eligible for any interscholastic extracurricular activity, a student must have maintained at least a **1.5** grade-point average for the grading period prior to the grading period in which s/he wishes to participate.

VII. CITIZENSHIP

- A. The Wauseon Athletic Department expects correct conduct by the participating athlete at all times in all the following situations:
1. Daily school activities and functions
 2. Special school activities and functions
 3. Practice
 4. Athletic trips
 5. Athletic contests
- B. **IMPROPER CONDUCT** - Improper conduct in any phase may lead to direct disciplinary action by the principal, athletic director, or coach:
1. **FIRST VIOLATION**
 - a) Coach will handle
 2. **SECOND VIOLATION**
 - a) Denied game participation not to exceed 2 contests
 3. **THIRD VIOLATION**
 - a) Denied participation for remainder of season (loss of any potential awards)
- C. **SOCIAL MEDIA** - Participation on athletic teams is a privilege at Wauseon Schools. The use of any electronic communication by a student considered to be “unbecoming of an Indian” may result in discipline including suspension or removal from the team.
- D. **HAZING** - Hazing of other athletes or other students will not be tolerated and will be handled by the coaches and the administration. Hazing is defined as “to force others to do ridiculous or painful things as an initiation.”
- E. **SERIOUS OFFENSES** - Serious offenses, such as fighting, by the participating athletes which are punishable by direct disciplinary action from the school office, and/or law enforcement may lead to denied participation of these athletes from that sport for a designated time period. This will take place only after a meeting of the head coach, athletic director, and the building principal. Direct communication with the athlete’s parent(s) is important and will take place if any disciplinary action is taken.
- F. **SCHOOL SUSPENSIONS** - Athletes who are suspended from school by the administration will NOT be permitted to participate in, nor attend, contests, practices, or other team functions during the suspension period.
- G. **STUDENTS NEW TO WAUSEON** - OHSAA Bylaw 4-5-6 – Any student who is subject to a penalty or consequences for violations of a school’s Board adopted Code of Conduct (Student, Athletic) shall be declared ineligible in the event the student transfers to another school before the penalty or consequence has been fully served. It is the responsibility of an administrator at the new school to inquire from the administrator at the student’s former school of any violation of this nature that would affect the student’s eligibility in interscholastic athletics and duration of the suspension for that violation.

VIII. ATTENDANCE

- A. Unless there is a notified absence cleared through the principal’s office, athletes must be in attendance all day if they are to participate in a contest or practice. Notification must be made by the start of the school day. Sickness is not a notified absence. In the absence of the principal, the athletic director and the coach will make a determination.
- B. **WAUSEON VIRTUAL ACADEMY (WVA)**
1. Attendance records for WVA students are maintained on a weekly basis. When a WVA student/athlete meets any of the following thresholds, daily attendance will be recorded. Daily attendance will be determined by the student/athlete’s “in course” hours as found in a Student Daily Usage Report.
 - a) Does not attend the minimum 25 hours “in course” each week
 - b) Is more than 6% (1 week’s assignments) behind
 - c) Has been required to attend an Attendance Intervention Team (AIT) meeting

- d) Fulton County Attendance Officer sends an “18 year old letter” home requesting the student to either attend school or withdraw
2. As stated at the time of enrollment, student/athletes are to make equal progress in all classes as the grading period progresses. If the student/athlete completes all assignments prior to the due dates assigned and there are zero (0) past due assignments on the student/athlete’s Connexus “to do list”, attendance requirements will be considered to be met.

IX. APPEARANCE

- A. An athlete’s appearance should show a positive representation of the Wauseon School system. The head coach of each sport will establish specific rules of appearance.

X. DRUGS - TOBACCO - ALCOHOL

- A. Drugs/tobacco/alcohol (including e-cigarettes and vaporizers) shall not be used by or be in the possession of any Wauseon athlete or support personnel throughout the entire year. Any violation occurring during the summer months will result in the discipline being applied to the first sports season of participation during the following school year. This applies both on and off school grounds.

1. FIRST VIOLATION

- a) **SELF-REFERRAL** - The athlete shall not be denied the privilege of dressing for practices and games/meets solely due to the violation of training rules. However, the coach may impose discipline by controlling participation in such practices and contests. The athlete must:
 - (1) Attend sessions for the purpose of education and assessment administered by the Fulton County Drug Court Facilitator.
 - (2) The athlete will be required to be tested during the next three (3) drug testing screenings
- b) **NON SELF-REFERRAL** - The athlete must:
 - (1) Attend sessions for the purpose of education and assessment administered by the Fulton County Drug Court Facilitator.
 - (2) Athlete will be denied participation in the specified number of games/meets:
 - (a) 2 games/meets: HS - Cross Country, Football, Football Cheerleading, Track; JH - Cross Country, Football, Football Cheerleading, Track
 - (b) 3 games/meets/points: HS - Golf, Soccer, Swimming/Diving, Tennis; JH - Basketball, Basketball Cheerleading, Volleyball, Wrestling
 - (c) 4 games/meets/points: Baseball, Basketball, Basketball Cheerleading, Bowling, Softball, Volleyball, Wrestling
 - (3) The athlete must be in attendance at the game/meet in order for it to count toward completion of the denial of participation. The athlete shall be with the team and may NOT be in uniform.
 - (4) The athlete will be required to be tested during the next three (3) drug testing screenings

2. SECOND VIOLATION

- a) **SELF-REFERRAL** - The athlete must:
 - (1) Attend sessions for the purpose of education and assessment administered by the Fulton County Drug Court Facilitator
 - (2) Athlete will be denied participation in the specified number of contests:
 - (a) 2 games/meets: HS - Cross Country, Football, Football Cheerleading, Track; JH - Cross Country, Football, Football Cheerleading, Track
 - (b) 3 games/meets/points: HS - Golf, Soccer, Swimming/Diving, Tennis; JH - Basketball, Basketball Cheerleading, Volleyball, Wrestling
 - (c) 4 games/meets/points: Baseball, Basketball, Basketball Cheerleading, Bowling, Softball, Volleyball, Wrestling
 - (3) The athlete must be in attendance at the game/meet in order for it to count toward completion of the denial of participation. The athlete shall be with the team and may NOT be in uniform.

- (4) The athlete will be required to be tested during the next three (3) drug testing screenings
- b) **NON-SELF REFERRAL** - The athlete must:
 - (1) Attend sessions for the purpose of education and assessment administered by the Fulton County Drug Court Facilitator.
 - (2) Athlete will be denied participation in the specified number of games/meets:
 - (a) 4 games/meets: HS - Cross Country, Football, Football Cheerleading, Track; JH - Cross Country, Football, Football Cheerleading, Track
 - (b) 6 games/meets/points: HS - Golf, Soccer, Swimming/Diving, Tennis; JH - Basketball, Basketball Cheerleading, Volleyball, Wrestling
 - (c) 8 games/meets/points: Baseball, Basketball, Basketball Cheerleading, Bowling, Softball, Volleyball, Wrestling
 - (3) The athlete must be in attendance at the game/meet in order for it to count toward completion of the denial of participation. The athlete shall be with the team and may NOT be in uniform.
 - (4) The athlete will be required to be tested during the next three (3) drug testing screenings

3. THIRD VIOLATION

- a) The athlete will be denied participation in all athletic activities for the remainder of his/her high school career regardless of whether or not the offense was self-referral or not.
4. **Note** - Scrimmages do not count as games/meets for fulfilling the denial of participation.

B. EDUCATIONAL SESSIONS NOT COMPLETED PRIOR TO END OF THE DENIAL OF PARTICIPATION

1. If the denial of participation is completed prior to the completion of the educational sessions, the student may be reinstated as long as they are making progress toward the completion of the program.

C. DENIAL OF PARTICIPATION NOT COMPLETED PRIOR TO SEASON'S END

1. Denial of participation in athletic games/meets/points may carry over into the next sports season. (e.g. - If only 2 games remain in the volleyball season, and the athlete is suspended for 8 games, the athlete will be denied participation in a proportional number of contests of the next sports season in which he/she participates.) This may only apply to sports the athlete has participated in during the preceding 12 months. The athlete must complete the season in good standing in order to complete the denial of participation.

XI. DUE PROCESS

- A. The athletic director will meet the student athlete to review the complaint. Based on the review of the facts in this meeting the decision will be made by the athletic director to deny participation or not to deny participation. The student and the parent/guardian will be notified in writing if the decision is to deny participation. The athlete may appeal this decision to the principal. The athlete's appeal must be in writing and submitted to the building principal within 48 hours after receiving the written notification from the athletic director or the right of appeal will be waived. The final authority to deny participation rests with the building principal. Until a decision is reached on the appeal, the student will be denied participation.

XII. RELATIONSHIP OF THESE RULES TO THE DISTRICT'S CODE OF STUDENT CONDUCT

- A. These rules supplement the District's Code of Student Conduct and are administered independently of that code. A violation of these rules may also independently violate the Code of Student Conduct and result in the participant's suspension or expulsion from school or the participant's removal from a curricular or extracurricular activity under the provisions of that Code in addition to any athletic-related disciplinary penalty that is called for under these rules.
- B. A student-athlete serving a suspension from school (both in-school and out-of-school) due to a violation of the school's code of conduct will not be permitted to attend practices and/or contests during the school suspension period.

XIII. QUITTING A SPORT

- A.** If an athlete quits a sport after the first interscholastic contest, he/she may not participate in another sport until the end of the season of the sport he/she quit. (Exception: an athlete left a sport for medical reasons.) If an athlete quits a sport before the first interscholastic contest, he/she may go out for another sport only if both coaches consent. If a player is not selected to be a member of a team before the first interscholastic contest, he/she may go out for another sport. Quitting a sport results in the forfeiture of all awards.

XIV. RETURN TO PLAY PROTOCOLS - ATHLETE INJURIES

- A.** The return to play protocols for Wauseon Schools are outlined in the Ohio High School Athletic Association's and/or the athletic training contracted service agency's protocols. The school district's coach, athletic trainer, and athletic administrator will have the final say regarding return to play protocols.

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