

Violations will be investigated by the coach of the sport, the Athletic Director, and/or the Secondary Principal (when appropriate).

**Whitehall Central School District
Interscholastic Athletic Code**

The Whitehall Central School District Board of Education believes that student participation in interscholastic athletics should educate in the area of skill, pride, character building, health and personal self-control and integrity.

Students involved in these activities are generally looked up to and respected by the school community because of their skills and the sometimes highly publicized conditions under which they perform. These students establish the school moral climate in which the school functions day-to-day and by which the school advertised itself among schools in other communities. These guidelines apply to all school-sanctioned interscholastic athletics during the entire period of the respective and specific sport's season.

A. Interscholastic Athletic Code

During the athletic season of participation, a student shall not:

- Consume a beverage containing alcohol;
- Use tobacco products of any form;
- Use or consume, have in possession, buy, sell or give away any controlled substance defined by law as a drug. It is not a violation for a student to be in possession of a legally defined drug specifically prescribed for a student's own use by his/her physician.
- Cyber Image Policy – Any identifiable image, photo or video which implicates a student athlete to have been in possession or presence of drugs, alcohol or tobacco or portrays actual use, or out of character behavior or crime, shall be deemed a violation of the code. It shall be a responsibility that the student athlete must assume. This is our rationale for demanding that our athletes not place themselves in such environments.

A student who is observed by a staff member of the district on or off school grounds using or in possession of alcohol, drugs, or tobacco products on or off school grounds, will be penalized according to the following steps:

B. Penalties for violation of Code

1. First Offense:

After confirmation for the first violation, the student athlete will be suspended from participation in all sports team in which they are members for a period equal to 15% of the league games, non-league games, and scrimmages. Student athletes will not be allowed to suit up for games during the period of suspension. Parents of the student athlete will be notified by the Director of Athletics.

2. **Second Offense:**

A second violation of this code will result in the immediate suspension from participation in all interscholastic and extra curricular activities for a period of 45 calendar days. Parents will be notified by the Director of Athletics.

3. **Third and Subsequent Offenses:**

A third and subsequent offense will result in the student being suspended from participation in all interscholastic and extra curricular activities for one (1) calendar year from date of notification of infraction. Parents will be notified by the Director of Athletics.

C. Due Process

Students accused of violation of this code will have the right to a meeting within three (3) days of allegation between the student, their parents/guardian, the high school principal, Athletic Director, and any other pertinent persons immediately following the allegation that a violation of the code has taken place. The high school principal or his/her designee will make the final determination after such meeting. Appeals to the determination are to be made to the Superintendent and Board of Education by requesting a hearing.

Student/Athlete Behavior Code

The coach has the primary responsibility for disciplining his-her team members. A coach may, at his/her discretion, take appropriate disciplinary measures to correct a student athlete's misbehavior. In severe cases, the coach may suspend an individual from participation in a sport. The Coach or AD will notify the parents. The student may appeal a coach's decision by using the process outlined below.

If a student athlete creates instances of unacceptable behavior, the Secondary Principal may discipline the student in accordance with the school's code of conduct. **STUDENTS RECEIVING AN IN-SCHOOL OR OUT OF SCHOOL SUSPENSION MAY NOT PARTICIPATE IN ANY SCHOOL ACTIVITY UNTIL THE SUSPENSION IS COMPLETELY OVER.**

The Secondary Principal will deal with continued instances of unacceptable school behavior. He/she will meet with the student, Coach, and Athletic Director when he/she feels it is necessary.

Appeal Process

If a student is suspended from a team, the student may appeal the decision to the Secondary Principal. The appeal must be in writing and signed by the student, parent(s) or guardian(s) of the student. The Secondary Principal will hold a hearing and render a decision concerning the appeal. The Secondary Principal has the authority to suspend a student athlete from participation as a normal disciplinary procedure.