

BOWLER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

ATHLETIC CODE AND TRAINING RULES

- I. **PREFACE:** The special efforts and discipline necessary for proper athletic participation are well known. The importance of all phases of athletics is beyond question. The gains in self-discipline, physical and mental strength, health, sportsmanship and many other traits are clear. Therefore, the Athletic Council, Coaching Staff, Administration, and Board of Education have formulated the following rules of conduct to safeguard the athlete's health, encourage optimum performance and establish good representation of the school and what it stands for. All students are expected to follow this code on a twelve (12) month basis. Any questions regarding this Athletic Code should be directed to the athlete's coach or the Athletic Director.

- II. **ELIGIBILITY:** The student-athlete must meet all rules of eligibility for interscholastic competition established by the WIAA. As well, students must meet Bowler School and DPI requirements defining a full-time student and have received no more than one failing grade (including incompletes) in the most recent grading period. The Athletic Director will check grades that are last measurable for eligibility, which include mid-quarter and end of quarter grades for high school athletes. If a student does not meet eligibility requirements, a period of 15 school days and nights must pass before grades can be checked again for eligibility. For fall sports, 4th Quarter grades from the previous year will be used for eligibility. The Fall season ineligibility period shall be the lesser of (A) (21) consecutive calendar days, beginning with the date of earliest allowed competition or (B) one-third of the maximum number of games/matches/meets. Students that are declared academically ineligible will be unable to attend away games or attend any home events other than their own games (must stay with the team) due to the great amount of time commitment. Participation in scrimmages during ineligible period will be left to the discretion of the coach. All elementary/middle school athletes' grades will be checked on the second Friday after practice for a particular season has started and each Friday thereafter thru the end of the season to determine eligibility. Uniforms must be returned or paid for before an athlete can participate in the next sport.

- III. **CONDUCT:** (at games, practices, bus rides and non-school hours) An athlete shall conduct himself/herself in a manner that is respectful and respectable at all times on and off the athletic field, as they are representative of the school by virtue of their being in athletics. His/Her conduct shall be such to be a credit to his/her school, staff, community, and family. Suspension will result from the use of vulgarisms, unacceptable moral conduct or relating to the verbalizing about current personal use of alcohol, drugs, or tobacco as defined under Section V.

Conduct violations need to be reported in writing to the Athletic Director or school administration. Violation reports will be accepted from Bowler School staff members, adult community members, law enforcement, and staff from other schools.

First Offense- One game suspension. Athlete must participate in practice, attend, but not suit for game.

Second Offense- Two game suspension. Athlete must participate in practice, attend, but not suit for games.

Third Offense- Suspended from athletics for the remainder of the year.

IN-SCHOOL CONDUCT: An athlete's in-school conduct will be subject to the Bowler School Discipline Policy and possible team rules.

- IV. **ALCOHOL-DRUGS-TOBACCO:** An athlete shall refrain from habits that are harmful to his/her health and performance. The possession or use of alcoholic beverages, tobacco, non-prescribed drugs, street drugs, and performance enhancing drugs are hereby prohibited. The mere presence of a student at a teen drinking party is prohibited.

Violations need to be reported in writing to the Athletic Director(s) or school administration. Violation reports will be accepted from Bowler School staff members, adult community members, law enforcement, and staff from other schools.

A written report of an athlete, possessing or using alcohol, drugs, tobacco, non-prescribed drugs, street drugs, and performance enhancing drugs, shall result in suspension from athletics as follows:

First Violation: Restriction from athletic participation (competition) for a period of 50% of the contests based on the regular season of that sport. Any remaining suspension not served during the initial sports season shall be applied toward the season of the next sport in which the athlete participates.

Suspensions will only be considered complete if a full sports season has been completed. Failure to complete the sports season will result in the suspension starting over.

A student can have his/her suspension reduced to 10% of the contests by completing 5 hours of community service. The Athletic Director must approve community service hours. Community service agreements must be completed before being able to participate in the next game or meet.

Any student disciplined for the first violation will be required to practice with his/her team and will travel with or be with the team during contests (not in uniform). The suspended athlete must follow all training rules and requirements of the sport team.

Second Violation: Suspension from contests and practices for one year beginning with

the date of infraction and ending with completion of the sports season the following year. If the athlete chooses to participate in competition, thereafter, he/she will be required to have an alcohol/drug assessment (outpatient).

An athlete reported to have been using or possessing alcohol/drugs/tobacco can attempt to prove his/her innocence by virtue of a breathalyzer test, blood test, or other convincing evidence.

Student athletes should be aware of the fact that being in such situations should be avoided and he/she should make an effort to convince his/her peers that this is wrong. If the possession or use of alcohol, drugs or tobacco continues, the student needs to leave immediately.

Self-Referral- If a student self-refers or is self-referred by parent(s) for an assessment and follows through with its recommendations, there shall be no suspension. Documentation of the assessment and all recommendations must be provided to the Athletic Director as soon as possible. Failure to follow through with the assessment and its recommendations will result in full violation penalties-meaning 50% suspension of a sports season. A self-referral does not count as a first violation. A self-referral can only happen once in your athletic career, without penalties being assessed. **The self-referral can only happen before your first violation.**

Clean Slate Rule- If an athlete has one full year of good behavior, his/her slate is wiped clean.

V. **CURFEW:** Rest is absolutely essential for proper health and peak athletic performance. The following times are to be adhered to:

- A. Nights before games 10:00 pm
- B. Other week nights 10:30 pm
- C. Friday and Saturday 1:00 am
- D. Summer Months 1:00 am

Exceptions here would be school sponsored events or when under supervision of parents or guardians.

First offense- One game suspension and athlete must participate in practice, attend, but not suit for the game.

Second offense- Two game suspension and athlete must participate in practice, attend, but not suit for games.

Third offense- Suspended from athletics for the remainder of the school year.

VI. **SUSPENSION FROM CLASSES:** No student-athlete suspended from classes with a discipline notice shall be allowed to participate in games or practices until reinstated. Suspension from practice and games begins immediately upon the student being informed that he/she is being suspended. For example- if an athlete is told 3rd hour of the day that they will be suspended; the suspension from athletics begins immediately.

VII. **ABSENCES:**

- A. If absent from school on the day of a competition, the Athletic Director must excuse students in order to participate.
- B. Unexcused from practice- No participation in the next game or meet.
- C. Unexcused from game/meet- Suspension from squad for the duration of the season.

*Coaches' discretion on what is excused and unexcused.

*Athletes will continue to attend games and practices, even when injured.

VIII. **ABSENCES FROM PRACTICES:** Athletes are expected to be at every practice. If the athlete cannot attend practice, they must notify the coach, office, or Athletic Director personally prior to practice in order to be considered excused from practice. A parent/guardian must make notification of emergencies at home to the coach, office, or Athletic Director prior to practice. Athletes who are unexcused from practice cannot participate in the next contest or meet. A second offense would result in a two game suspension; a third offense would result in suspension for the remainder of the season.

*Barring extreme emergency situations

IX. **PERSONAL APPEARANCE:**

- A. Hair and grooming- Hair should be kept so as to be neat and not protrude over the eyes. Athletes may have hair held in place by an acceptable band. Hair should be cut to be a credit to school, staff, community, and family. The participation and abilities of the athlete should not be impeded by the hair, thus causing a situation for possible injury. Grooming should be maintained to insure health.
- B. Dress- All athletes should be dressed neat and clean.

Penalty- Suspension from sport until situation is rectified and conditions of rules met.
- C. Hickeys-Any athlete who has a visible hickey will not be able to participate in a contest unless fully covered with a bandage.

X. **NO QUIT POLICY:** A student must present parent permission prior to quitting a sport and must talk with the coach and Athletic Director. A student may change sports only if he/she talks to the coach of the sport being quit prior to actually quitting and only prior to the first contest of the new sport. Failure to do so will put the student athlete absent from practice/game and subject to code violations for being absent.

XI. **GENERAL:**

- A. Compounding punishment- if a student-athlete is guilty of more than one of the violations involving suspension, the times are to be added together.
- B. An athlete suspended for the remainder of the year is not eligible to receive an award in the sport in which he/she was suspended. An athlete who has earned an award prior to suspension for the remainder of the year, would be eligible to receive the award, but not at a banquet or award ceremony. An athlete under a current one or two game suspension will not be eligible to attend an athletic banquet or ceremony.
- C. Amateur Status- All non-school participation, or anything in question should be checked with school officials first.
- D. The athlete should have the right to due process for review and/or appeal. In the event of an appeal, the student is ineligible for sports activities until the appeal process is completed.
- E. Before a complaint by an adult can be considered, it must be in writing, signed, dated, and submitted to the Athletic Director.
- F. This code shall be in effect for athletes in grades 6th-12th.

XII. **CRIMINAL OFFENSES:** No athlete shall be allowed to participate in a sport if convicted of any felony.

Penalty- Suspension for duration of season, or period of probation or sentence.

XIII. **DUE PROCESS:**

- 1. The athlete should have the right to due process for review and/or appeal. In the event of an appeal, the student is ineligible for sports activities until the appeal process is completed.

2. In case of possible violations of the athletic code, parties involved shall meet with the Athletic Director to present their side of the case. The Athletic Director shall hand down a decision within 72 hours.
3. An appeal of the Athletic Director's decision may be brought to the Athletic Council. The appeal shall be in writing and presented to the High School Principal within 72 hours of the Athletic Director's decision. The Athletic Council shall meet as soon as possible, but within seven (7) days of the date of appeal. The Athletic Council's decision is final.

XIV. **MULTI- SPORT PARTICIPATION:** Effective the 2015-16 school year, the CWC Conference and Bowler School District will allow multi- sport (in same season) participation. Only high school students are eligible and a contract must be on file with the Athletic Director prior to the first scheduled contest. The athlete must participate in at least one regular season event in their secondary sport to be eligible to participate in the WIAA tournament series for the sport.

XV. **TRAVEL:** Athletes must use the mode of transportation provided by the school. An athlete, who travels to a site with a school team, must return with the team. The only exception to this rule would be with permission from parents/guardians, and the Athletic Director/Principal for special circumstances. A **Transportation Waiver Form** must be completed prior to the event and signed by the Principal or Athletic Director and given to the coach before leaving for the contest. If an athlete does not use the mode of transportation to the competition that is provided by the school, and has not previously filed the proper paperwork, the athlete may be declared ineligible to participate in that day's competition or their next scheduled competition. In cases of an absolute emergency, the coach can release the athlete to a parent at the site on a written request from the parent.

XVI. **SOCIAL MEDIA:** Social media has become engrained in today's society. The Bowler School District recognizes and supports its student- athletes' right to freedom of speech, expression, and association, including the use of social networks. As a result, the Bowler School District encourages safe and responsible student behavior with regard to internet use. In this context, each student must remember that participating and competing for Bowler School is a privilege, not a right. The student represents his or her school and is expected to portray themselves, their team, and their school in a positive manner at all times. We highly recommend our students avoid inappropriate use of public web sites such as YouTube, Facebook, Twitter or any other such sites. Any identifiable image, photo, video, or posted on-line conversation discovered which implicates a student to have been in violation of our Alcohol, Drug, Tobacco Policy (Section IV) or Code of Conduct (Section III) will be investigated and action taken by the Administration.

XVII. **TIME:** Though the Athletic Code is an agreement signed yearly, it is binding from the student-athletes first year of sports participation through 12th grade. All prospective athletes are expected to sign the Athletic Code at the beginning of the school year. All violation reports must be presented within 30 days to the school office.

XVIII. **PARENT CODE OF CONDUCT:** I as parent agree to practice and promote good sportsmanship by learning and understanding the rules of the game, school, conference, and WIAA. I will be a positive role model and encourage good sportsmanship by showing respect, courtesy, and positive support for players, coaches, officials, and other spectators.

*** The Athletic Code is posted in the office and published in the Bowler School Chalkdust at least once per year.

*** Legal excuse refers to state statutes relating to illness of the person involved or emergency in the family.

*** Athletic Council is advisory to the Bowler School Board only.

*** This code supersedes any and all Bowler Athletic Codes previously in effect before September 21, 2015.

ATHLETIC CODE SIGNATURE PAGE:

Having read this Athletic Code and Training Rules, WE agree to abide by the rules governing participation in the athletic programs at the Bowler Public Schools.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Athlete's Signature

Date

Date

After signing the Athletic Code, please return to the Athletic Director. Keep the rules portion for future reference.

Approved by School Board: September 21, 2015

