

## Interscholastic Athletics

Coach's Duties District policy and the coach's job description, the coach has the duty to:

**A. Instruct Participants**

The coach should employ the latest methods or proper instruction using sound progression in presenting motor skills. If an injury occurs while using an improper instructional method, negligence may be present.

**B. Warn Participants**

The coach should inform all athletes and their parents of the inherent risks involved in participation in the particular sport, including the very small risk of infection with a blood-borne pathogen. The coach must describe, using a variety of methods, the catastrophic and common non-catastrophic injuries unique to the sport.

**C. Supervise Participants**

The daily plan should show how the coach plans to conduct general supervision of the sport, and how he/she will supervise specific drills and other components of the daily practice. Adequacy of supervision should be reviewed in terms of quality and quantity. Factors to consider include, but are not limited to: the age of the students, the size of the students, the equipment involved, the maturity level of the students, the first aid equipment and training available, the appropriate certification of supervisors where required, and the safety training of the personnel involved.

**D. Provide Safe Equipment and Facilities**

Equipment should be properly fitted and maintained. Athletes should be instructed on how to conduct a daily inspection. Facilities should be free of hazards and inspected regularly.

**E. Maintain Records of Injuries**

A report should be completed for each accident. Injury reports should be maintained for a period of five years after the student's 21st birthday.

**F. Evaluate Fitness of Participants**

The coach has a duty to evaluate the physical fitness, the medical condition, and the skill level of athletes. Failure to evaluate and maintain records of those evaluations may be cause for negligence should an injury occur involving fatigue or lack of skill.

**G. Provide Equal Protection and Due Process**

While participation in co-curricular activities is a privilege, a participant who allegedly violates the conduct code must be afforded the opportunity of a fair hearing.

**H. Transport Athletes**

Safely A coach has a duty to see that athletes are safely transported to and from contests and to and from practices if practices are held at sites other than the immediate school grounds.

**I. Group Participants**

The coach has the duty to employ a recognized system of grouping for participants in a particular sport that will avoid unequal and unsafe participation, based upon skill level, age,

maturity, sex, size and experience.

**J. Foresee Danger**

A coach should be able to reasonably anticipate foreseeable dangers that may occur if the activity is continued in a facility, or with equipment, or in a situation, and take precautions protecting the children in his/her custody from such dangers.

**K. Protect from Loss**

A participant is required to present evidence that he/she is covered by an accident policy. A blanket catastrophic ("no fault") insurance provides coverage for serious injuries.

The duties listed above are not meant to be comprehensive. In carrying out the duties of the assignment a staff member is expected to act as a reasonable professional would have acted under similar circumstances. A staff member who supervises a sports activity is expected to know the intricacies of the activity that he/she is leading.

**Summer Sports Activities/Clinics**

Rules governing out-of-school and/or out-of-season student sports participation are as follows:

- A. A practice is defined as a teaching phase of a sport to any present, past or future squad member while a student in grade 7-12 during the school year or during the summer. The school may not sponsor, promote or direct activities which resemble out-of-season practices or contests during the school year or summer. A school staff member who sponsors, promotes or directs such activities during the summer vacation shall clearly indicate that he/she is operating independent of the school District. As such, the school District shall be free of liability associated with the activity.
- B. Students shall be advised that participation in a commercial summer camp or clinic or other similar type of activity shall not begin until the conclusion of the final WIAA state tournament of the school year. Participants in a fall school sports program may not attend any summer camp/clinic in that sport after August 1 until the first fall sports turnout. The school should announce by school bulletin that summer sports camp/clinic is neither endorsed nor sponsored by the District.
- C. A coach (contracted or volunteer) may not sponsor, promote, coach or direct activities which resemble out-of-season practices or contests in the sport they coach to any of their squad members or future squad members (grades 7-12) until after the school year's final WIAA state tournament.
- D. The use of the school bulletin Board, public address system or school newspaper for promotional purposes to announce sports clinics/camps shall fall within the same guidelines as applied to other commercial endeavors.
- E. School facilities to be used for summer activity and/or sports camps may be rented consistent with the rates, rules and regulations applicable for other commercial uses.

A user shall hold the district free and without harm from any loss or damage, liability or expense that may arise during or be caused in any way such use of school facilities. Authorization for use of school

facilities shall not be considered as endorsement of or approval of the activity group or organization nor for the purposes it represents.

#### Academic Standards for Eligibility

In order to maintain athletic eligibility during the current semester/trimester, the West Valley School District has established the following criteria: Each student shall maintain passing grades in all full-time subjects with a “D or better” in all classes. Students in a mastery-based program must maintain their weekly pacing to be on track to earn credit in all classes. Any student turning out for an activity must have successfully passed all classes with a D grade or higher in the preceding semester/trimester. Those who fail a course will be subject to the WIAA 3-week (Grades 7-8) or 5-week (Grades 9-12) suspension. Any class taken one period daily for the duration of the trimester/semester shall be considered a full-time subject. On a case-by-case basis, students may be deemed to fall into an “exceptional circumstance” category. Principals may review requests of “exceptional circumstance” from parents or guardians to make a determination if the WIAA’s pass all rule may be waived. This waiver will only apply down to the WIAA mandated requirement that a student must pass four (4) classes. “Exceptional circumstances” may include age/maturity, unique personal, family, or educational factors, and special program needs.

#### Conduct and Control for Athletes

In order 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 West Valley 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 or off school District property if the actions of the student materially or substantially affect the educational process 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. Also, if a student is suspended from school, the student is also suspended from athletics and even though back in school pending appeal, the student is still subject to athletic discipline.

**Conduct & Control Definitions & Terms**

<i>Athletic Discipline</i>	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.
<i>Athletic Probation</i>	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.
<i>Athletic Suspension</i>	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.
<i>Athletic Expulsion</i>	Athletic expulsion will mean the complete denial of the privilege to participate in the athletic program for an indefinite period of time.
<i>In Season</i>	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.
<i>Out of Season</i>	Any time not in season, starting with the WIAA defined beginning fall season, and ending with the West Valley School District last student school day.
<i>Calendar Year</i>	365 consecutive days established by the coach/advisor of that activity.
<i>Completed Season</i>	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.

**Alcohol and/or Substance Abuse Definitions /Terms**

<i>Actual Possession</i>	The act of having a substance in one’s custody or control. Actual possession occurs when the item is in physical custody of the person charged with possession.
<i>Constructive Possession</i>	In the absence of physical possession if there is dominion and control over the substance- such as knowledge that alcohol, legend drugs or illegal substances are available and are 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.
<i>Use</i>	Physical consumption of any illegal substance by any means.
<i>Sale</i>	The act of distributing an illegal substance by means of exchanging substances for an agreed sum of money or other valuable consideration.
<i>Proximity</i>	Close in distance, time or relationship (commingling or interacting) with other students coming or going from a social gathering, whether inside location or outside location (yard, street, neighborhood).
<i>Discovery- Investigative</i>	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.
<i>Discovery-Self Admittance</i>	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.

**Standard Application of Sanctions - Senior and Middle Level**

Sanctions will carry over from ninth grade to senior high school, from seventh grade eighth grade and from eighth grade to ninth grade; seventh and eighth grade will not carry over to senior high school.

**Use of Tobacco**

For on or off campus violations in regard to use of tobacco (including smokeless), the following sanctions apply:

First Violation		Suspension - Removal from *15% of season scheduled contests & attendance at Tobacco Intervention Clinic	Suspension - Removal from *10% of season scheduled contests & attendance at Tobacco Intervention Clinic
Second Violation		Suspension - Remainder of season Contests	Suspension - Remainder of season contests
Third Violation		Expulsion - indefinitely	Expulsion - indefinitely
<b>Means of Discovery</b>		<b>Actual Possession/Use/Sale</b>	<b>Constructive Possession</b>
Investigative		Expulsion - 60 days or length current season, whichever is longer	Expulsion - 45 days or length current season, whichever is longer
Self-Admittance		Suspension - 60 days/30 days maximum may be held in abeyance by principal	Suspension - 45days/30 days maximum may be held in abeyance by principal
<b>Means of Discovery</b>		<b>Actual Possession/Use/Sale</b>	<b>Constructive Possession</b>
Investigative		Expulsion - 25 days or length current season, whichever is longer	Expulsion - 20 days or length current season, whichever is longer

Self-Admittance		Suspension - 25days/10 days maximum may be held in abeyance by principal	Suspension - 20days/12days maximum may be held in abeyance by principal
-----------------	--	--	---

**Alcohol and/or Substance Abuse**

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

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

First Violation	Suspension - Removal from *15% of season scheduled contests & attendance at Tobacco Intervention Clinic	Suspension - Removal from *10% of season scheduled contests & attendance at Tobacco Intervention Clinic
Second Violation	Suspension - Remainder of season Contests	Suspension - Remainder of season contests
Third Violation	Expulsion - indefinitely	Expulsion - indefinitely
<b>Means of Discovery</b>	<b>Actual Possession/Use/Sale</b>	<b>Constructive Possession</b>
Investigative	Expulsion - 60 days or length current season, whichever is longer	Expulsion - 45 days or length 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
<b>Means of Discovery</b>	<b>Actual Possession/Use/Sale</b>	<b>Constructive Possession</b>
Investigative	Expulsion - 25 days or length current season, whichever is	Expulsion - 20 days or length current season, whichever is

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

First Violation	Suspension - Removal from *15% of season scheduled contests & attendance at Tobacco Intervention Clinic	Suspension - Removal from *10% of season scheduled contests & attendance at Tobacco Intervention Clinic
-----------------	---	---

Second Violation	Suspension - Remainder of season Contests	Suspension - Remainder of season contests
Third Violation	Expulsion - indefinitely	Expulsion - indefinitely
<b>Means of Discovery</b>	<b>Actual Possession/Use/Sale</b>	<b>Constructive Possession</b>
Investigative	Expulsion - 60 days or length current season, whichever is longer	Expulsion - 45 days or length 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
<b>Means of Discovery</b>	<b>Actual Possession/Use/Sale</b>	<b>Constructive Possession</b>
Investigative	Expulsion - 25 days or length current season, whichever is longer	Expulsion - 20 days or length 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

**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 inter-scholastic 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 for alcohol and/or substance abuse, will result in expulsion from all sports in the West Valley School District for one calendar year. If a student athlete completes drug/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 West Valley School District.

### **REINSTATEMENT PROCESS:**

- Application for reinstatement following any form of athletic discipline will be accepted by the principal upon completion of the following:
- Letter of intent and purpose for reinstatement

Drug 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 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.
- Legend Drugs/Anabolic Steroids
- Penalties for violation of RCW 69.41.020 - 69.41.050 (Legend Drugs including anabolic steroids possession, sale, and/or use) – A violation of RCW 69.41.020 - 69.41.050 will be considered a violation of the eligibility code and standards and will subject the student to disciplinary actions. The following penalties will be administered:
  - **FIRST VIOLATION** - The student athlete will be immediately ineligible for interscholastic competition in the current interscholastic sport program for the remainder of the season. Ineligibility will continue until the next sports season in which the student athlete wishes to turn out. In order to be eligible to participate in the next interscholastic sports season, the student athlete will meet with the school eligibility board, consisting of coaches and administrators selected by the principal to request approval to participate. The school eligibility board will recommend to the principal appropriate action to be taken in the student athlete's case. The school principal will have the final authority as to the student athlete's participation in the interscholastic sports program.

A student athlete who seeks and receives help for a problem with use of legend drugs (RCW 69.41.010 identified substances) will be given the opportunity for assistance through the school and/or community agencies. In no instance will participation in a school and/or community-approved assistance program excuse a student athlete from subsequent compliance with this regulation. Successful utilization of this opportunity by the student athlete may allow him/her to participate in the athletic program, pending recommendation by the school eligibility authority.

- **SECOND VIOLATION** - A student athlete who again violates any provision of RCW 64.41.020 through 69.41.050 will be ineligible and prohibited from participating in any WIAA member school interscholastic sports program for a period of one calendar year from the date of the second violation.

- **THIRD VIOLATION** - A student athlete who violates for a third time RCW 69.41.020 - 69.41.050 will be permanently prohibited from participation in any WIAA member school athletic program.

## **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 Athletic Director 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 director, 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 athletic director 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 director 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; and,
  - 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.

### **Appeal 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 appeal 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 notwithstanding the implementation of the appeal procedure.

Adoption Date: 10.15.00  
Classification: Encouraged  
Revised Date: 01.20; 09.22; 02.24