

Williamston High School

Student Athletic and Activities Code of Conduct

Representing Williamston High School in interscholastic athletics and activities is a privilege and not a right. Students who participate in interscholastic competitions and activities are expected to **represent the highest ideals of character** by exemplifying good conduct, citizenship, sportsmanship, and training. The student's conduct and citizenship reflect on the student, his or her team, club, or group, as well as our school and community.

When a student participates in interscholastic competitions and activities, he/she agrees to abide by the Student Athletic and Activities Code on Conduct (SAACC) throughout his/her high school career. A student may not attend or participate in athletics or activities until he/she has submitted a signed acknowledgement form agreeing to comply fully with the SAACC. This code applies to all students including candidates, members, and managers of all school-sponsored teams, clubs, and activities.

Calendar Application of the Athletic and Activities Code

The SAACC will be applicable to all students from the first day of practice (including tryouts) for any Fall sport or activity until the conclusion of the 6th-hour final examination period of the Spring semester. Additionally, the SAACC applies to students whether or not they are "in season" or "off season." For individuals, teams, or activities that compete beyond the conclusion of the academic year, the SAACC will extend through the post-season and awards event for that team or activity.

Time and Place Applications of the SAACC

The SAACC is not limited to student conduct at school-sponsored events and activities or on school property. Rather, the SAACC applies on a 24-hour basis and has no limitation as to the place of the conduct.

Consequences and Penalties Applications of the SAACC

The same consequences and penalties apply equally for both in-season and off-season violations. Likewise, once a student is elected to a leadership position or cast a role in a play/musical, consequences and penalties apply for violations from the elected/casted date until the end of the term of office or the end of the

play/musical. Specific to student/athletes, if a student is not currently participating in a sport when the violation occurs, the consequences and penalties will be applied to the next athletic season in which the student participates.

Infractions

The following list of infractions is not all inclusive. Other misconduct may give rise to discipline.

1. Violation of any team, club, or group conduct or training rule established by the coach or adviser and approved by the Administration.
2. Violation of the WHS Student Code of Conduct which results in a school suspension.
3. Gross misconduct or conduct unbecoming a student athlete or activities participant.
 - a. Substance Abuse
 - i. Possession, concealment, sale, purchase, barter, delivery or intent to do so, as well as the use or under the influence of:
 1. Tobacco or tobacco products in any form including but not limited to e-cigarettes, vaporizers, chewing tobacco, or cigars;
 2. Alcohol or alcoholic beverages of any kind;
 3. Illegal drugs, including but not limited to those substances defined as “controlled substances” pursuant to federal and or state law;
 4. Devices designed for and/or associated with the use of controlled substances, e.g., to include but not limited to pipes, clips, rolling papers, or devices use to smoke, inhale, inject, or otherwise consume controlled substances.
 5. Steroids, human growth hormone, or other performance-enhancing drugs;
 6. Substances represented as illegal or performing-enhancing drugs, i.e., “look-alike” drugs; mind-altering substances.
 7. Misused prescription drugs.
 - b. Violations defined by the Williamston High School Code of Conduct which include, but are not limited to: fighting, physical assault,

hazing, sexual misconduct, theft, shoplifting, weapons, and bullying including cyber-bullying.

- c. Violations of federal, state, or local laws or ordinances including felony or misdemeanor acts other than traffic offenses. Conviction is not necessary to establish a violation of the SAACC, but will be determined through an independent school investigation and may result in a consequence or penalty.

If the SAACC or other school policies or procedures do not cover situations that arise, the Administration reserves the right to establish such rules, conditions, and penalties to respond effectively to unanticipated or unique circumstances.

Consequences or Penalties for Student Athletes and Participants

A student athletic or activity participant who is suspended from school due to a violation of the WHS Code of Conduct or who engages gross misconduct or conduct unbecoming of the SAACC will be subject to disciplinary action as outlined below. If the student commits a subsequent offense while a previous consequence is still being served, the subsequent consequence will not begin until the first consequence has been fully served.

1. First Offense – Suspension from 25% of the athletic or activity season. Suspension from games and activities could impact two sport or activity seasons. If the violation occurs when less than 25% of the season remains, the rest of the suspension will be prorated into the next athletic or activity season in which the student participates even though it may carry over into the next school year. Additionally, the student will lose all captain or leadership positions for the remainder of the current school year (this may carry over to multiple athletics or activities). The student may be allowed to participate in practices for conditioning purposes during the suspension. The suspended student may not wear the team uniform during the suspension and may also be required to participate in mediation/conflict resolution/restorative justice or counseling.
2. Second Offense – Termination of participation in the current sport or activity for the remainder of that season and forfeiture of all awards for that sport or activity. The student will be ineligible to participate on any other team or activity for one calendar year. The student may also be required to participate in mediation/conflict resolution/restorative justice or counseling.

3. Third Offense – Termination of any future participation in the entire athletic and activity program and forfeiture of all school awards. The student may also be required to participate in mediation/conflict resolution/restorative justice or counseling.

Consequences or Penalties for Student Leaders

1. First Offense – Loss of all leadership positions for the remainder of the school year. Students who violate this policy after elections in the spring will be removed from the leadership position (captaincy, presidency, or other office) for the next school year. The student may be allowed to participate in meetings or activities after nine (9) weeks, but not in a leadership role. The student may also be required to participate in mediation/conflict resolution/restorative justice or counseling.
2. Second Offense – Loss of all leadership positions for one calendar year and forfeiture of all awards for the position. The student will be ineligible to participate in any meetings or activities during that time. The student may also be required to participate in mediation/conflict resolution/restorative justice or counseling.
3. Third Offense – Permanent termination from all leadership positions, denial of participation in all meetings and activities, and forfeiture of all awards. The student may also be required to participate in mediation/conflict resolution/restorative justice or counseling.

If a student chooses to quit the team or activity rather than accept the consequences, the consequences will still be enforced in the next season in which the student chooses to participate. The Administration reserves the right to make discretionary decisions if major, significant, or unique situations occur.

Self-Disclosure

A student who voluntarily discloses to a Williamston school official or employee a need for assistance for alcohol or substance abuse prior to any report, charge of complaint under the SAACC will be required to follow the chemical assessment/treatment procedures outlined below. Reporting after an incident that might give rise to discipline will not be considered “self-disclosure.” The student who self-discloses will not be charged with a violation of the SAACC and this option is available only once to a student during high school.

- a. Satisfaction of the assessment/treatment requirements must be verified in writing by a licensed agency.
- b. Any expense incurred for the chemical assessment or treatment program will be the responsibility of the student and not Williamston Community Schools.

Disciplinary and Appeal Processes

Before any consequence takes place, the Administration will verbally advise the student of the alleged violation and the student will have an opportunity to respond. All suspension and consequences will begin from the date of the written notice of the violation. The student will be excluded from participation in practices and contests during the pendency of all appeals. However, the decision to permit the student to attend (but not participate in) practices and contests during the appeals process is discretionary with the team coach or activity adviser.

Level I Appeal - Coaches' Council

The student must submit a written appeal within five school days of the written notice of violation and must submit the appeal to the Athletic Director. The Athletic Director will convene the Coaches' Council to hear the appeal and make arrangements for the student to appear before the council which is required as a part of the appeal process. The Coaches' Council will be composed of the Athletic Director (designee administrator such as the Assistant Principal) and three athletic coaches or activity advisers. Head coaches or advisers from the athletic team or activity of the student who is appealing will not be eligible to hear the student's appeal.

The Coaches' Council will meet with the student, hear a verbal appeal, and then issue a written determination within five days of the hearing. The Athletic Director or designee will present the decision to the student.

Level II Appeal – Principal

Within five school days of receipt of the written response from the Coaches' Council, the student may appeal the decision to the Principal. The Principal will meet with the student and issue a determination within five school days. The decision of the Principal is final.

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