

## Worsley Central School Athletics Policy

### **Eligibility**

Students must be in attendance in school on the day of a practice or game in order to participate in that practice or game. They must also be in school on the Friday preceding a weekend game/tournament that begins on Saturday. Legitimate reasons for an absence, which would allow a student to participate on the same day as the absence, are:

- o School Sanctioned Activities
- o Appointments with health professionals
- o Emergency Situations
- o Planned absence for personal or educational purposes that have been approved by the school administration.

Legitimate reasons for absences must be communicated to the office in a timely manner.

**\*\*Senior High Students who are enrolled in in VEP classes will have their attendance monitored by the Principal in consultation with the Alternative Education Principal. Eligibility to participate in school sports will be at the discretion of the Principal.\*\***

**Students who are absent from classes for a portion of the day due to illness are not eligible to participate for the remainder of that day/weekend.**

Students must be in good standing in all classes. This means that they must be working diligently in class. Students on all school teams must also ensure that their academic performance as well as their behavior in school and their attendance is at acceptable levels. Furthermore, all course assignments must be complete and handed in and be considered up to date.

If a student is falling behind in their course studies, their teacher shall inform the Athletic Director. That student will receive one warning from the Coach or Athletic Director to get caught up on missing assignments. Failure to do so may result in one of the following consequences:

- Mandatory after-school study sessions to get caught up
- Suspension from practices, games, tournaments and all team activities until all assignments are completed and their mark is acceptable
- Suspension from the team for the remainder of the season
- Suspension from all WCS school sports activities for the remainder of the year

An athlete under suspension from school is also suspended from participation in extracurricular activities, until such time as the student has been reinstated to classes.

**\*\*Senior High Students who are enrolled in in VEP classes will have their grades and assignments monitored by the Principal in consultation with the Alternative Education Principal. Eligibility to participate in school sports will be at the discretion of the Principal.\*\***

### ***Playing Time***

The WCS rep teams are competitive, and as such, coaches will determine playing time based on player's ability, attitude, and effort. Coaches will endeavor to make decisions based on the best interest of the team and, in doing so, recognize that what is fair is not always equal.

### ***Conduct***

Student athletes are representatives and ambassadors of Worsley Central School, the community of Worsley, and Peace River School Division. Student athletes are expected to provide strong examples of leadership and citizenship both on and off the court/field of play, and both in and out of the classroom.

**Team Before Self** - Most sports are team games and although it is proper and even necessary to have personal objectives, it is paramount that each member of the Wildcat's team possesses an unselfish attitude where team objectives are primary. Regardless of when or where an athletic event occurs, it is a school sponsored activity. The use of tobacco, drugs, or alcohol is prohibited and shall be strictly enforced. If a student athlete does not conduct themselves in a manner that reflects favorably on the school, the privilege of participation may be suspended or revoked by a Coach, the Athletic Director, or Principal.

### ***Injury***

Injury is a possibility in all school sports. It is imperative that all student athletes provide to their coach their Alberta Health Care number and/or Emergency Contact information so that emergency care can be expedited. It is also required that the student athlete or their parents indicate all medical conditions that could have an impact on the safety and wellbeing of the athlete while at practice or in a game situation.

Any student injured on or off the field of play, and requiring medical attention, must present a note from a physician indicating when it that student is eligible to return to play.

## **Commitment**

Being a member of any school team is a privilege, which each athlete must earn. A key to earning that privilege is commitment to the team. Team success can only be achieved if all participants are committed. This type of commitment includes;

- o Attendance at all practices, games, and team events.
- o Providing the coach with advance notice of absences from practices or games, and an explanation of that absence.

While it is acceptable for a student athlete to have a job, it is not reasonable to expect the coach to accept working as a legitimate reason for missing practice or a game.

## **Worsley Central School Athletics Social Media Policy and Guidelines for Student Athletes**

Student-athletes at Worsley Central School are held in the high regard and are seen as role models in the community. As leaders you have the responsibility to portray your team, your family, your school and yourselves in a positive manner at all times. Sometimes this means doing things that are an inconvenience to you but benefit the whole team. Instagram, Facebook, Twitter, Snapchat and other social media sites have increased in popularity globally and are used by the majority of student athletes here at Worsley Central School in one form or another. Student-athletes should be aware that third parties, including the media, faculty, and future employers, could easily access your profiles and view all personal information. This includes all pictures, videos, comments, and posts.

Inappropriate material found by third parties affects the perception of the student-athlete, our athletic program and Worsley Central School. This can also be detrimental to a student-athlete's future college and employment options.

Examples of inappropriate and offensive behaviors concerning participation in online communities may include depictions or presentations of the following:

- o Photos, videos, or comments criticizing the actions or behaviors of Worsley Central School coaches or players. The proper course of action to bring these concerns to light is to bring them to the attention of the coach and/or Athletic Director.
- o Photos, videos, comments or posters showing the personal use of alcohol, drugs and tobacco e.g., no holding cups, cans, shot glasses etc.
- o Photos, videos, and comments that are of a sexual nature. This includes links to websites of a pornographic nature and other inappropriate material.

- o Pictures, videos, comments or posters that condone drug-related activity. This includes but is not limited to images that portray the personal use of marijuana and drug paraphernalia.
- o Content online that is unsportsmanlike, derogatory, demeaning or threatening toward any other individual or entity (examples: derogatory comments regarding another school; taunting comments aimed at a student-athlete, coach or team at another school and derogatory comments against race and/or gender). No posts should depict or encourage unacceptable, violent, or illegal activities (examples: hazing, sexual harassment/assault, gambling, discrimination, fighting, vandalism, academic dishonesty, underage drinking, and illegal drug use).
- o Content online that would constitute a violation of Worsley Central School rules.
- o Information that is sensitive or personal in nature or is proprietary to the athletic program or Worsley Central School, which is not public information (examples: tentative or future team schedules, student athlete injuries and eligibility status, travel plans/itineraries or information).

Please keep the following recommendations in mind as you participate in social media websites:

- o Set your security settings so that only your friends can view your profile.
- o You should not post your email, home address, local address, telephone number(s), or other personal information as it could lead to unwanted attention, stalking, identity theft, etc.
- o Be aware of who you add as a friend to your site – many people are looking to take advantage of student-athletes or to seek connection with student-athletes.
- o Consider how the above behaviors can be reflected in all Facebook applications.

If you are ever in doubt of the appropriateness of your online public material, consider whether it upholds and positively reflects your own values and ethics as well as the athletic program and Worsley Central School. Remember, always present a positive image and don't do anything to embarrass yourself, the team, your family or Worsley Central School

By signing below, you affirm that you understand the Worsley Central School Athletic Department's Social Media Policy and Guidelines for Student-Athletes and the requirements that you must adhere to as a Worsley Central School student-athlete. Also, you affirm that failure to adhere to this policy and guidelines will subject you to disciplinary action, which may include suspension or permanent removal from the team.

### ***Bullying and Cyber-Bullying (PRSD AP 350)***

Worsley Central School is a place where students should be able to go to feel safe and secure. Therefore, the Wildcat's sports programs will not tolerate any form of bullying or cyber-bullying. Bullying is defined as "an act of repeated aggressive behavior in order to intentionally hurt another person, physically or mentally. Bullying is characterized by an individual behaving in a certain way to gain power over another person."

Acts that will be considered bullying include:

- Repeated negative comments about another player's skills or other personal qualities, in the player's presence or not.
- Physical intimidation of another player during practice, in the locker room, in the school or any other environment.
- Use of Facebook, text messaging, the internet or any other form of electronic communication to spread derogatory comments about a teammate's skill or other personal qualities.
- Any other act, as determined by the Coach, Athletic Director or Principal to be detrimental to the physical or mental well being of a teammate.

Any bullying that is witnessed by a staff member/coach, or has been shown to take place may result in the following punitive actions taken:

- Suspension from the team for a period of time determined by the Coach/or Athletic Director (this includes all games, practices and team functions).
- Removal from the team for the remainder of the season.
- Removal from all Worsley Central School sports for the remainder of the year.
- Removal from all Worsley Central School sports for a period longer than the remainder of the year. This could include the remainder of the athlete's school career.
- Suspension from all Worsley Central School activities for a period not exceeding 5 days.
- Other consequences as determined by the Coach, Athletic Director or Principal.

Any of the above actions can be applied at any time as warranted by the action triggering it, or multiple occurrences of the same offense as determined by the Coach, Athletic Director and/or Principal.

### ***Hazing***

Hazing or negative initiation activities are considered to be an act of bullying and as such prohibited by Worsley Central School. The planning, initiation of, or participation in such activities shall be dealt with under the behavioral expectation of Wildcat's Athletics and may lead to suspension or removal from a team and/or school.

The above Athlete Code of Conduct was created in accordance with the following PRSSD Administrative Procedures:

[AP 146 Appropriate use of Social Media](#)

[AP350 Student Conduct](#)

[AP352 Student Harassment and Bullying](#)

[AP 355 Student Discipline](#)

[AP356 Alcohol, Restricted and Illicit Drug Use by Students](#)

I understand the contents of this document and will follow its guidelines in order to remain eligible for athletics on Worsley Central School athletics teams. This includes students from other schools who are forming joint teams.

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Student Signature

Date

PARENTS: Every parent wants to see their child play as much as possible. However, each player is reminded that they may not receive equal playing time. Different game and/or tournament tactics, various circumstances, player behaviour or coaches decisions can affect an athlete's playing time. If you have concerns regarding your child's court time, this can be brought to the coach's attention following the game or tournament (never during). It is never to be discussed in front of other players or other parents. Remember a coach is a volunteer and will try to be as fair as possible to each player and try to make the right decisions for the team at the right times. If a parent has any issue with a coach, or a decision made by a coach, they are to discuss said issue with the coach outside the game in private. The discussion must be carried out in a respectful manner. If no solution is found both parties should contact the sports director and school-based sports director to discuss possible solutions all parties can agree to. Parents attending games and tournaments are representing Worsley School and should be respectful by not making negative comments towards any officials, players, coaches or other spectators. If an issue or problem arises it should be discussed in a constructive manner at an appropriate time. **Early dismissal for games and tournaments will be communicated and must be adhered to. If a player is leaving earlier the parent must communicate the time of departure with the school administration either in person, or through a phone call, written note or email**

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Parent Signature

Date

## Worsley Central School Sports Discipline Procedure

If student athletes are not following the directives of this document OR are not behaving in such a way as to be a positive addition to team the following steps will be taken.

1. **Warning:** The athlete will be verbally warned by the coach that the behaviour exhibited is not acceptable. The warning stands for the duration of the season and will be recorded on a form and signed by the coach, the player, and the sports director. Parents will be notified.
2. **Temporary Suspension:** Upon the second warning and in consultation with the sports director, the athlete will be placed on temporary suspension following a meeting between the player, coach and sports director. The duration of the suspension will be decided cooperatively by the coach and the sports director. The athlete must approach the coach to discuss and find a solution to the problem. Parents and school administration will be notified.
3. **Permanent Suspension:** The third warning will result in immediate suspension from the team for the remainder of the season. The incident will be followed up by a formal review by the sports director and the school administration. **The decision will be FINAL.** Parents will be notified.