

APPENDIX

HORSEHEADS INTERSCHOLASTIC SPORTS

ELIGIBILITY RULES AND CONSEQUENCES & ATHLETIC CODE OF CONDUCT

I. Introduction

Purpose

The Horseheads Athletic Programs strive to provide an environment which allows individuals to excel as students, as athletes and as members of the community. A firm and fair policy of enforcement is necessary to uphold the regulations and standards of the Athletic Department. The community, school administrators, and coaching staff feel strongly that high standards of conduct and citizenship are essential in maintaining a sound program of athletics.

All students participating in athletic programs shall abide by a code of conduct which earns them the honor and respect participation and competition provides.

Eligibility Implementation

The Athletic Code of Conduct applies to students starting in Seventh Grade. The policy will remain in effect from the first official day of practice, as designated by Section IV through the final athletic contest of the season.

When a student is suspended from an athletic competition, the student will be expected to attend practice unless the suspension encompasses the remainder of the sport's season. If the student misses practices/meetings without a valid reason, the suspension from competition will be extended for additional games/events.

Procedure

It is the responsibility of the entire community, including coaches, advisors, students, and most importantly parents, to ensure that the Code of Conduct is observed. Any violations should be reported immediately to the coaches or athletic director. Due Process will be followed in handling all report(s) of any violation to Athletic Code of Conduct. Each allegation will be investigated and the student(s) in question will have the opportunity to present his/her position(s) on the allegation to the person(s) conducting the investigation. Upon completion of the investigation the administration will render an appropriate decision.

II. Academics (High School Only)

Conduct	Support to Meet Expectation	Consequence
Lack of effort and/or difficulty meeting expectations.	Athlete is placed in <i>Athletic Study Hall</i> for a three-week probationary period until course teacher evaluation shows that improvement and/or progress toward improvement is made, or sufficient effort to improve is made. Use of other academic resources is encouraged during this time period.	If, after three-week probation, course teacher evaluation shows that the athlete has not met expectations, the athlete will be declared <i>Academically Ineligible</i> . If an athlete is absent from athletic study hall, they are not to participate in the next scheduled athletic event (practice/game).
Athlete is <i>Academically Ineligible</i>	Athlete continues in <i>Athletic Study Hall</i> . Weekly course teacher evaluations are made until the athlete shows that improvement and/or progress toward improvement is made, or sufficient effort to improve is made.	Athlete continues to be <i>Academically Ineligible</i> to play until improvement is shown or until athlete's season ends

- Athletic Study Hall – A three-week supervised study session at the high school. All sessions are held at 7:00 A.M. There is no alternative. There is one three-week session during the fall sport season and two three-week sessions during the winter and spring sport seasons.
- Academic Ineligible – Athlete and parent(s)/guardian(s) are notified within 24 hours of declaration of academic ineligibility. The athlete can practice with the team, but is not allowed to play or dress for any game or travel to away contest with the team.

III. General Rules of Conduct

Horseheads Central School District Expectations and Requirements

- Attendance - Unexcused absences, as defined by the Horseheads Central School District's Code of Conduct, will result in being ineligible for practices and contests that day. A legal excuse and in school 50% of the day is required to participate in practices or contests.
- Physical Education - Student athletes are expected to be prepared and participate in physical education class. Students failing to participate in physical education will be ineligible to participate in practices or contests.

General Rules of Conduct (Continued)

- Team Specific Rules - Coaches may establish additional rules that govern practice and competition. Student athletes will abide by the specific conduct and rules established by the coach.
- Vacations - STAC and Section IV contests are often scheduled throughout school recesses. Practices and contests take precedence over vacations. Athletes who miss practices and/or contests during school recesses understand that this could effect:
 - Chances for making the team.
 - Team Standing.
 - Playing time.
 - Earning of Varsity letter.
 - May have consequences carry over to the next sport season.

IV. Expectations for Behavior and Citizenship

Acts of unacceptable conduct, such as, but not limited to: bullying, hazing, disrespect, immorality, insubordination, vandalism, destruction or theft of property.

Students are expected to remove him/herself immediately from locations where violations of the athletic code of conduct occur.

Unacceptable conduct will be addressed by the coach. Examples of possible consequences include, but are not limited to:

- Half-game suspension
- A single-game suspension
- A multi-game suspension

Depending on the severity of the violation, the athletic director may intervene. Examples of the possible consequences include, but are not limited to:

- A one-year suspension from participating in athletic department activities
- Permanent removal from interscholastic athletics
- Any other consequence deemed appropriate

Please note that the above referenced consequences are recommendations. The Athletic Director and Appeals Board have the authority to depart from these recommendations based on the nature and/or severity of the offense.

V. Substance Use and Possession/Criminal Activity Policy

- Alcohol - consumption, possession, buying, selling, giving away of any alcoholic beverages
- Tobacco - consumption, possession, buying, selling, giving away of any tobacco products which includes electronic cigarettes or vapor products
- Controlled/Illegal Substances - consumption, possession, buying, selling, giving away any controlled or illegal substance
- Weapons – illegal use, distribution, possession, sale of any object used to inflict bodily harm
- Charge/convicted of a misdemeanor or felony.

Violations of the Substance Use and Possession/Criminal Activity Policy as outlined above will be, as a general rule, progressive. Subsequent violations that occur during the same school year will result in increased penalties for the student. In determining the appropriate disciplinary action, the athletic director and building administrator will consider the non-exhaustive list of factors stated below.

The expectation is for the athlete to openly admit a violation of the Substance Use and Possession/Criminal Activity Policy if questioned by a school official. The following procedure will typically be used:

First Offense:

- Parents/guardians will be notified of infractions resulting in the suspension of their son/daughter from competition/participation.
- Suspension from participation in 20% of the regularly scheduled contests of the team on which he/she is playing.
- Participation in a Drug and Alcohol Program may be deemed appropriate, given the nature of the misconduct.

Second Offense:

- Parents/guardians will be notified of infractions resulting in the suspension of their son/daughter from competition/participation.
- Suspension from participation in 50% of the regularly scheduled contests of the team the student is participating in.
- Participation in a Drug and Alcohol Program may be deemed appropriate, given the nature of the misconduct.

Third Offense:

- Parents/guardians will be notified of infractions resulting in the suspension of their son/daughter from competition/participation.
- Dismissal from the team for a period up to one calendar year or permanent suspension from all athletic programs for the duration of the student's school career.

If the student denies the problem or incident, but is determined by the administration to have participated in the problem or incident despite the student's denial the following procedure will be used:

First Offense

- Parents/guardians will be notified of infractions resulting in the suspension of their son/daughter from competition/participation.
- The student will be suspended from the team/activity for 30 calendar days. Should the season end before the completion of the 30 day suspension, the remainder of the suspension shall begin on the date of the student(s) first contest/event in the next athletic/extracurricular season for which he/she participates. This will not affect the tryout period for the next season. After the tryout period the student is not permitted to continue to practice or attend meetings until the suspension is completed. The above mentioned suspension will also be put into place if the student refuses to participate in any suggested counseling.

Second Offense

- Parents/guardians will be notified of infractions resulting in the suspension of their son/daughter from competition/participation.
- The student will be suspended from the team/activity for 60 calendar days. Should the season end before the completion of the 60 day suspension, the remainder of the suspension shall begin on the date of the student(s) first contest/event in the next athletic season for which he/she participates. This will not affect the tryout period for the next season. After the tryout period the student is not permitted to continue to practice or attend meetings until the suspension is completed. The above mentioned suspension will also be put into place if the student refuses to participate in any suggested counseling.

Third Offense

- Parents/guardians will be notified of infractions resulting in the suspension of their son/daughter from competition/participation.
- The student will be suspended from participation in athletics activities for the rest of their high school career.

VI. Appeals

All final decisions regarding the appropriate sanction to be imposed for a violation of the rules are appealable to the Athletic Appeals Board.

Decisions regarding athletic code of conduct may be appealed to the athletic director. Parents/guardians who request an appeal must submit it in writing to the athletic director. The appeal must be filed within three school days of notification of the breach of the code of conduct. The written appeal must state the nature of their concern(s) with the athletic penalty and reason to appeal the decision.

Once a written request for an appeal is received, the athletic director will convene an athletic appeals board. The athletic appeals board will convene within three school days of receipt of the written appeal request. The building principal will be the facilitator and the committee will consist of an assistant principal, school counselor, and two coaches (out of season).

Athletic Appeals Board

The hearing process will start with the reading of the appeal by the facilitator. The athletic director will present the violation of the code of conduct and the initial consequence. The parent and student will then be given the opportunity to summarize their reason for appeal. Additionally, the parent/guardian, as well as the student, will answer any and all questions of the hearing committee to the best of their ability. Upon hearing the relative information, the hearing committee members, along with the non-voting facilitator, will convene privately and make a determination. The initial eligibility status, as determined by the athletic director, will remain in effect during the appeal process until a final decision is made via the Athletic Appeals Board eligibility review hearing. A final decision of the committee will be communicated to the parent/guardian via a letter written by the facilitator within 24 to 48 hours.

Procedural Review

The athletic director and the administration will review these Athletic Eligibility Regulations and Procedures annually. Changes may be recommended and made based upon annual review.