

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 at all times, until the student/athlete graduates from Horseheads Central Schools.

When a student is suspended from an athletic competition, the student will be expected to attend practice unless the suspension encompassed the remainder of the sport's season. If the student misses practice/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 confirmed report(s) of any violation to Athletic Code of Conduct. Each allegation will be investigated when factual documentation is presented to the administration which supports any violation to the code of conduct. In each confirmed case, a full investigation will be conducted and the student(s) in question will have the opportunity to present his/her position(s) on the allegation to the person conducting the investigation. Upon completion of the investigation the administration will render an appropriate decision.

HORSEHEADS INTERSCHOLASTIC SPORTS ELIGIBILITY RULES AND CONSEQUENCES AND ATHLETIC CODE OF CONDUCT

II. Academics

Conduct	Support to Meet Expectation	Consequence
Lack of effort and/or difficulty meeting expectations. For all high school student athletes	Athlete is placed in <i>Athletic Study Hall</i> for a 3 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 3 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 3 week supervised study session at the high school. All sessions are held at 7:00am. There are no exceptions for time and place of study hall sessions. There is one 3 week session during the fall sports season and two 3-week sessions during the winter and spring sports 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 practice and contests that day. A legal excuse 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.
- Team/Club Specific Standards- Coaches and advisors may establish additional guidelines that govern training, practice, and competition. Student athletes will abide by specific conduct and rules established by the coach.
- Vacations- Athletes who commit to a program should assume that practices and/or contests take precedence over vacations. STAC and Section IV contests are often scheduled and are required to take place throughout school recesses. Athletes who must practice and/or contests during school recesses should expect that there may be some

effect on their standing on the team, their playing time, their chances of making a team when cuts take place, and their ability to earn a letter for that sport. Athletes who finish a season while away on vacation may have consequences carry over to their next sport season-

III. Reporting Violations of Conduct

Reports of alleged violations that have been personally witnessed and/or include physical documentation of alleged violation(s), will be verified, then investigated by the athletic director.

IV. Expectations for Behavior and Citizenship

Acts of unacceptable conduct, such as, but not limited to: bullying, hazing, disrespect, immorality, insubordination, or tarnish the integrity of the athletic program will not be tolerated.

Students are expected to remove him/herself immediately from locations where violations of the athletic/extracurricular eligibility program regulations occur.

Unacceptable conduct may 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 that may come from 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 advisory recommendations. The Athletic Director and Appeals Board, when necessary, 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- The use, consumption, possession, buying, selling, giving away of any alcoholic beverages
- Tobacco- Possession and/or use of tobacco products, which includes the use of electronic cigarettes or vapor products
- Controlled/Illegal Substances- The use, consumption, possession, buying, selling, giving away any controlled or illegal substance
- Weapons- The use, distribution, possession, sale or giving away of any object that is used as a weapon to inflict bodily harm
- Theft- Stealing, committing any act of vandalism, and being charged/convicted of a misdemeanor or felony
- Arrest- The arrest and being charged with a crime

Violations of the Substance Use and Possession/Criminal Activity Policy, as outlined above will be, as a general rule, be 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:* 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. Parents/guardians will be notified of infractions resulting in the suspension of their son/daughter from competition/participation.
- Second Offense:* 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. Parents/guardians will be notified of infractions resulting in the suspension of their son/daughter from competition/participation.
- Third Offense:* 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. Parents/guardians will be notified of

infractions resulting in the suspension of their son/daughter from competition/participation.

- 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

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. Parents/guardians will be notified of infractions resulting in the suspension of their son/daughter from competition/participation.

Second Offense

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. Parents/guardians will be notified of infractions resulting in the suspension of their son/daughter from competition/participation.

Third Offense

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

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 eligibility penalties may be appealed to the athletic director. Parents must request an appeal, in writing to the appropriate athletic director. The appeal must be submitted within three school days of notification of the imposed athletic penalty. The written appeal must state the nature of the parents' concerns with the athletic penalty of their student(s) and the reason that the initial decision should be overturned.

Once a written request for an appeal is received, an athletic appeals board will be convened by the athletic director. The building principal who will be the facilitator. The voting athletic appeals board will convene within three school days of receipt of the written appeal request. This committee will consist of the student's building principal, guidance counselor, and two coaches/advisors (out of season).

First Appeal: Athletic Eligibility Review Hearing

The hearing will be conducted only with the presence of the parent/guardian requesting the appeal, as well as the student in question.

The hearing process will start with the reading of the appeal request by the facilitator. The parent and student will then be given the opportunity to summarize their appeal and state why the student should be eligible. 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 of eligibility for the student. 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 eligibility review hearing. A final decision of the athletic eligibility review hearing committee will be communicated to the parent/guardian via a letter written by the facilitator within 24 to 48 hours of the hearing.

Final appeal: Superintendent

A final appeal can be made to the superintendent by the parent and student within three (3) calendar days. The superintendent will have the final decision and authority to uphold, rescind, or modify the penalty imposed by the athletic eligibility review board following a hearing.

Procedural Review

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