

IROQUOIS ATHLETIC HANDBOOK/CODE OF ETHICS

Participation as a member of an Iroquois athletic team is a privilege, not a right. For many of our athletes, playing is the fruition of childhood ambitions. Iroquois has built a great athletic tradition. As a player on one of our teams, you have inherited this great tradition. Your actions are not only a reflection of yourself, but also a reflection of your fellow athletes and those that have helped build this tradition. These rules of eligibility have been established for the benefit of our Varsity, Junior Varsity and Modified sports squads. If our school is to excel in interscholastic competition, we must first discipline our conduct and behavior as individuals, then as a team, and then as a school.

7TH & 8TH GRADE EXCEPTIONAL ATHLETES PARTICIPATING ON JV/V TEAMS

The Exceptional Athlete is only the very talented and highly skilled pupil. The intent is to provide safe and suitable competition at an appropriate level. 7th & 8th grade Exceptional Athletes must take and pass the state mandated APP Test to prove physical readiness to participate on a JV or Varsity team.

Iroquois Athletic Teams will be comprised of student/athletes that have made a sports team at the level that is appropriate for their skill level.

Modified Teams will be made of 7th & 8th grade students only with the exception of Modified Basketball and Modified Baseball which may include 9th grade students as well (this is based on the Modified Leagues Iroquois competes in for these sports).

JV Teams can be comprised of 7th & 8th Exceptional Athletes, 9th or 10th grade students with those in the 7th & 8th grade making up no more than 20% of the teams total roster. However, a 7th or 8th grade student cannot make the team at the exclusion of a 10th grade student in the 2nd year of competition.

Varsity Teams can be comprised of any student, grades 7-12, with those in the 7th & 8th grades making up no more than 20% of the teams total roster and being classified as an Exceptional Athletes.

GAMES AND PRACTICE SESSIONS

1.) Team members must be present and on time for all scheduled practice sessions and games. Any athlete who is present in school, but absent or late to the athletic event without prior permission from the coach, will be subject to appropriate disciplinary action. That action ranges from a warning, to suspension, to dismissal from the squad.

2.) To be eligible to participate on an athletic team, an athlete must attend all practices or try-outs established by the head coach. Exceptions are limited to:

- a. Sickness
- b. Emergency appointments (doctor, dentist, court appearance)
- c. Funerals
- d. Special examinations, tests, or overlapping seasons
- e. Family vacations or other unusual situations will be given consideration by the coach and/or athletic director who must be made aware of the situation ASAP
- f. Transfers from another district meeting NYSPHSAA Eligibility rules

3.) Sickness or Injury

A player who misses practice during the season for 5 or more consecutive days must have a minimum of two (2) days practice for reconditioning purposes to participate in a game or scrimmage. If an athlete misses three (3) or four (4) consecutive days of practice, one (1) day of reconditioning must take place before participation in a game or scrimmage. If medical attention is required, a written physician's approval to return to practice must be submitted to the coach and school nurse prior to participation.

4.) Excuses from practice for an extended period of time during a season may be limited to:

- a. School sponsored activities
- b. College Visitations
- c. Family vacations where the athlete must attend a parent's request
- d. Emergency situations
- e. Religious obligations

Note: All of these excuses must be submitted to the coach and approved by the High School Attendance office prior to missing practice. It should be noted that the athletic department realizes that unusual situations arise where the athlete must miss practice. It is our responsibility to make sure that all athletes returning from these absences have a period of reconditioning before participating.

5.) All players will sit with their own team during the entire athletic event

6.) No athlete will leave the site of an athletic activity without permission from the coach

7.) A player who misses a scheduled bus for an "away" athletic activity will not be permitted to participate in that activity. A player must use school transportation to and from an athletic event. Exception: When the athlete has secured prior (24hr) written or email permission for his/her parents, the athletic director and coach to ride with his/her parents.

A player must use school transportation from an athletic event. Exception: when the athlete has secured a written note or email (preferably 24 hours in advance) from his/her parents to ride with his /her parents. A coach may approve written permission provided the parents fill out the form provided by the athletic department. This type of permission should not develop into a pattern or be abused.

8.) Conduct of players while riding school transportation will be subject to regulations for regular bus students. No food or beverage will be permitted on the bus unless permission is given by the coach.

9.) Any athlete wishing to terminate his/her association with the team must, during the season:

- a. Meet with the coach
- b. Define reasons
- c. Gain written parental approval
- d. Gain approval from the coach and the athletic director to participate in his/her next sport season
- e. Athletic privileges will be revoked and a new Code must be sign in before participation in a new sport season.

SCHOOL RULES

ATTENDANCE: An athlete must be in school the day of the contest

- 1.) **If an athlete is illegally absent, truant, suspended in (I.C.E.) or out of school, he/she may not participate or be a spectator at a sport activity that day whether practice or game.**
- 2.) If an athlete is excused from any part of the school day due to illness, he/she may not participate in a sports activity whether practice or game. An athlete is expected to report on time for school each day. Absence for any of the above reasons the day prior to a contest will be left to the decision of the coach to allow the athlete to participate in the next day contest.
- 3.) A student athlete is required to attend a half day (3 ½ hours) of school in order to participate in any athletic event that same day (practice, game and/or tournament). The athletic department realizes that unforeseen circumstances arise that create special situations that will require the Athletic Director and Administration to review.
- 4.) An athlete should be in school the day prior to a weekend or holiday contest. An athlete absent the day before a weekend or a holiday must bring a signed statement to the coach from the parent or guardian stating that the athlete is physically able to participate. It is recommended that the coach call the parent regarding the absence.

5.) Each athlete is expected to be in school the day following athletic events. If a pattern of absence develops following athletic events, the sport coach will take appropriate disciplinary action. That action may range from a warning to suspension from participation for a period of time.

6.) If a player becomes ill during the day and cannot practice, it is his/her responsibility to notify the coach involved.

ACADEMIC STANDARDS

In order to remain eligible for participation in the District's interscholastic athletic program, student athletes must maintain satisfactory academic standing as determined by administration.

Any person failing in more than one subject will receive, in writing, a warning that he/she has five (5) school days in which to correct the deficiency or be suspended. (An individual may continue participation in any activity with one deficiency.)

Exception: Students under the supervision of the Committee of the Handicapped with multiple deficiencies will be dealt with on an individual basis through a committee consisting of: The student's special education teacher, the athletic director, the head coach and either the school psychologist or guidance counselor.

- a.) If, after five days, the deficiencies are not taken care of, the student shall be suspended until all deficiencies are taken care of but one (1).
- b.) It shall be the coach's responsibility to notify the athlete who is deficient in more than one (1) subject. This should be done as soon as the coaching staff receives the eligibility list from the Principal's office.
- c.) Incomplete grades will be included on the failure list and treated as a deficiency to be addressed to maintain eligibility.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS FOR ATHLETES

- 1.) Athletics is an outgrowth of the physical education program. It offers students with the physical ability, motivation and interest; the opportunity to pursue a physical activity and derive the benefits from such competition.
- 2.) Each program has a place in the total education of the individual. Therefore the athlete is expected to participate in physical education classes. He/she will be unable to practice or play in a game on a day that the athlete did not participate in a scheduled physical education class.

RULES AND PROCEDURES

Possession or use of alcohol, tobacco in any form, marijuana, or other controlled substances.

Iroquois student-athletes shall not use, possess or be under the influence of any product containing tobacco, marijuana, alcohol or any other controlled substance. This applies whether on or off school property, and applies during the time that the student-athlete is participating in a school-sponsored athletic program anytime during the calendar year.

PENALTIES

FIRST OFFENSE – If it is determined that a student-athlete has violated the above rule, the student-athlete will be suspended from athletics for a minimum of 10% (rounded up) of contests starting from the date of violation as deemed appropriate by the Athletic Directory and/or Administration.

SECOND OFFENSE - If it is determined that a student-athlete has violated the above rule for a second time, the student –athlete will be suspended from athletics for sixty (60) days starting from the date the violation is ruled upon. This suspension will carry over into the next sport the student-athlete plays or into the next school year if athlete only plays one sport. The student athlete can still try out and practice but is not eligible for games during the suspension. The suspended student athlete would have the opportunity to earn back up to one-half of the suspension thirty (30) days through an approved cessation program, approved counseling and/or participation in approved school or community service. Extenuating circumstances as determined by the Athletic Council will be considered in each case.

THIRD OFFENSES – The student-athlete will be suspended from the athletic program for an additional twelve months for each infraction. **This includes try-outs and practices.** Although this suspension cannot be reduced it will still be recommended that the athlete participate in an approved cessation or counseling program.

GENERAL RULES

CITIZENSHIP

1.) Good sportsmanship and citizenship are required of all athletes. Good school citizenship involves regular attendance and good conduct in and out of school. Athletes referred to the office for poor conduct may be subject to disciplinary action from the sport's coach; i.e., physical or verbal altercations are considered poor school citizenship and reflect poor conduct. That action may range from a warning, to suspension, to dismissal from the team.

- 2.) Any athlete stealing or in possession of stolen items will be suspended from participation or dismissed from the squad.
- 3.) Any athlete who vandalizes school property will be suspended from participation or dismissed from the squad.
- 4.) Any athlete in possession of any school athletic equipment or uniform at the end of the season will not be permitted to participate in another interscholastic athletic activity until all equipment or uniforms have been returned.
- 5.) Any athlete who is insubordinate during any practice session or game will be subject to disciplinary action by the team coach. That action may range from a warning, to suspension, to dismissal from the team.
- 6.) Athletes shall not participate in or condone hazing or initiation rituals as an initiation or acceptance to a sports team. This type of behavior is in violation of the district's Harassment/Bullying Policy. Any athlete who participates in this type of activity will be suspended from participation or dismissed from the squad.

INVESTIGATION OF ALLEGED VIOLATIONS

Any alleged violations will be confidentially investigated on an individual basis including, but not limited to, the involvement of: coaches, the athletic director, administration, the school resource officer, adult observers, and possibly students. A written report will be filed upon completion of the investigation.

VIOLATIONS

In the event an athlete is found to be in violation of these necessary standards, a written Conduct report will be initiated by the coach. A copy will be forwarded to the Athletic Director. It will be the responsibility of the coach to inform the Athletic Director. It will be the responsibility of the coach to inform the athlete's parents of the violation. Violations will range from a warning to dismissal from the squad as listed in the General Rules of Conduct.

All penalties for a violation of the code of ethics are separate from any other penalties that may be imposed by the principal under the Iroquois Central School Districts Code of Conduct.

APPEAL OF VIOLATIONS BY ATHLETE AND PARENT: Allegation only, not length of the penalty can be appealed. Upon notification of a violation, the athlete may appeal the ruling through the following channels at each level, the accused and the accuser must be present)

- a.) Athletic Director
- b.) Further appeal can be brought to the Athletic Council

c.) The decision of the Council will be final.

DEFINITIONS

- 1.) An “athlete” must be full-time student at Iroquois Central School, that is, he/she must be enrolled in at least (4) classes plus physical education.
- 2.) An “athlete” is an Iroquois Central student who agrees to follow the training rules in order to participate on a team within the school year.
- 3.) The “Athletic Council” is a group composed of the Athletic Director, three Head Coaches, (one head coach from each sports season-Fall, Winter, and Spring) the High School Assistant Principal, a PTO Parent, and a student involved in the athletic program. It is chosen by the Athletic Director in conjunction with administration.
- 4.) “Approved Cessation and Counseling Programs: are those programs provided by the school or community that the school administration feels addresses the news’s of the player. The number and length of sessions attended will be set by the participating agency with verification of completion.
- 5.) Community and School Service are considered appropriate tasks assigned by the school administration.
- 6.) Foreign exchange students will be given the opportunity to tryout for any athletic team once formally registered as an Iroquois student. The same time period to try out will be allowed for these students upon their arrival. A physical and all appropriate paperwork must be completed. A coach **cannot** set aside a spot on their roster for this student until he or she have arrived and has gone through a tryout evaluation.

If an interpretation of the code of ethics or a ruling is required, the line of responsibility is the immediate coach, then head coach, then athletic director, and finally, if necessary, the Athletic Council.

GRADE LEVEL _____
SPORT _____

I have read the above rules of eligibility and agree to abide by them as an Athlete of Iroquois Central School District and as a member of the team.

Please Print Athletes Name - _____

Athletes Signature* - _____

*This applies whether on or off school property, and applies during the time that the student-athlete is participating in a school-sponsored athletic program anytime during the academic calendar year.

I have read the above rules of **eligibility/consequences** and **Iroquois Concussion Protocol on the Iroquois Athletic Website** and accept them as the parent and guardian of the above signed athlete.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

PLEASE KEEP THE CODE OF ETHICS FOR YOUR REFERENCE

ALL REQUIRED PAPER WORK, CODE OF ETHICS, SIGNATURE SLIP AND PARTICIPATION CARD MUST BE SUBMITTED TO YOUR COACH.