

## **PHILOSOPHY**

Inland Lakes School District believes interscholastic sports have an important role in the overall educational process, providing the student-athlete with an opportunity to acquire progressive physical and mental skills. It is the goal of our program to develop the proper values, morals, ethics, social behaviors, and competitive spirit necessary for each student-athlete to reach his/her potential, and be successful both in athletic competitions and his/her personal life.

### **1. Expectations and Role of the Student- Athlete**

Student-athletes at Inland Lakes will:

1. Learn the value of team work
2. Achieve self discipline in order to comply with the rules of the team/game
3. Achieve victory and defeat with dignity

Participation in interscholastic sports is a privilege that carries with it responsibilities to the school district, to the sport, to other students, to the community, and to the student-athlete. Because a student-athlete represents the school district, it is important that he/she and his/her parents/guardians comply with the district's expectations and the rules governing participation contained in the Inland Lakes Athletic Code.

### **2. Requirements and Eligibility**

A. Every student athlete must pass a physical examination. His/her examination permit card must be filled out along with the waiver and athletic policy, and be on file before participating in an athletic contest or practicing for such a contest.

B. This code and its enforcement shall be in effect once the first practice session of the fall season begins or the beginning of the school year, whichever comes first. Rule 4-C is the only exception to this rule.

C. Student athletes must have passed 5 classes and have achieved an overall 2.00 grade point average (or greater) for the previous semester. A student will be allowed to receive one D+ or lower. The remainder of his/her grades must be a C- or better. Students taking less than five classes must pass all classes and maintain a 2.00 G.P.A. or greater. Students not meeting these requirements at the end of each semester will not be allowed to participate in any interscholastic athletic activity for the following semester. However, deficiencies, including incompletes, conditions or failures may be made up during summer session or night school. Eligibility may be reinstated when and if 2.00 G.P.A. is met. An "NC" (non-calculated) is equal to an "E" when computing eligibility.

*\*Please note that correspondence courses are no longer available to regain eligibility for interscholastic athletics.*

D. Weekly eligibility will be considered based on current marking period grade. Eligibility will start with the first practice in a sport and if ineligible during pre-season, an athlete will miss the first day of competition when the regular season begins. Eligibility will be reviewed on Friday and will run Monday through Saturday. A student will be allowed to receive one D+ or lower. The remainder of his/her grades must be a C- or better. If ruled ineligible, the student athlete will be ineligible to participate in any interscholastic athletic events Monday through Saturday, which means he/she must attend all practices and games, but cannot play or dress for any contest during the time of ineligibility. Any athlete who becomes ineligible three times in a season will be dropped from his/her team. These rules are in addition to the M.H.S.A.A. basic rules on academic eligibility.

E. For a student to compete in an athletic contest, or attend practice he/she must attend all six class periods of the day of the contest, have a prearranged absence slip on file in the principal's office, or have a recorded excused absence.

F. Managers are considered student athletes and as such must adhere to the athletic code and its rules.

G. Individual coaches can set up additional rules, but they must be approved by the Athletic Director. Two copies of the Coach's rules will be sent home. One copy must be signed by the parent/legal guardian and the athlete and returned to the coach before the athlete will be allowed to participate in any game or meet. Coaches will not create any rules or regulations which supersedes the Athletic Policy.

### **3. General Rules for Participation**

A. All equipment issued by the school must be turned in at the end of that sport season before an athlete can participate in any other extra curricular activity.

B. Any athlete quitting a team must be released by the head coach of that team before being permitted to join another athletic team.

C. All athletes must travel to and from athletic events in approved school transportation unless the Athletic Director, or Principal receives the parent's/guardian's consent in writing prior to the contest, and the coach's approval is given. They must ride with a parent or guardian only, if not riding the bus.

D. There will be no practices on Sunday, unless there is an exception made by the Athletic Director and Superintendent.

### **4. Ineligibility, Rule Violations & Consequences**

A. Any student serving an out-of-school suspension will not be allowed to participate in practice or in competitions for duration of the suspension. Any student serving an in-

house suspension will be required to participate in practices, but not allowed to participate in competitions for the duration of the suspension.

B. Any behavior reflecting negatively on the coach, team, teachers, classmates, opponents and their coaches, officials, and adults which is determined detrimental to the team, and school such as those described in this code and including unsportsmanlike conduct, and violations of the school rules and regulations, shall be considered a violation of this code and the penalty will be determined by the Coach, Athletic Director, and the High School Principal. Previous violations will be considered when determining the penalty. In all cases involving suspension, the Superintendent is to be informed and consulted.

Suspension from participation in interscholastic athletics for the remainder of a student's high school career is possible for extreme circumstances as determined by a preponderance of evidence, such as felonies.

C. Using tobacco products, consuming alcoholic beverages, and using controlled substances is illegal and may be hazardous to the student-athlete's health and his/her athletic performance. Therefore, any athlete caught or admitting to using tobacco products, consuming alcoholic beverages, or using controlled substances, or in the possession of same, shall be in violation of the athletic code. Violations involving a "Class A Substance" (listed below) will begin at Step 1 and a violation involving a "Class B Substance" (listed below) will begin at Step 3 **2**.

Class A Substances:

1. Tobacco Products
2. Alcohol beverages

Class B Substances:

1. All dangerous controlled substances as so designated and prohibited by Michigan statute
2. All chemicals that release toxic vapors
3. Any prescription or patent drug, except those for which permission to use in school has been granted pursuant to Board policy
4. All "look-alike" drugs
5. Any other illegal substances so designated and prohibited by law

Violation of this rule is cumulative for the student's high school career. Example: An athlete is guilty of smoking and is penalized on Step 1. He/she is later guilty of drinking alcoholic beverages, he/she will be penalized on Step 2. The penalties for violating this rule are as follows:

Step 1: Suspension from interscholastic athletic contests for 25% of the season. The athlete must attend all practices and games, but cannot dress or play for any contest during the suspension.

Step 2: ~~Suspension from participation in interscholastic athletics for the remainder of the season or semester, whichever is longer.~~

***Suspension from interscholastic athletic contests for 50% of the season and perform 25 hours of community service with an approved non-profit organization and/or complete a recognized substance program as approved by the athletic director.*** The athlete must attend all practices and games, but cannot dress or play for any contest during the suspension.

Step 3: Suspension from participation in interscholastic athletics for one calendar year ***and perform 50 hours of community service with an approved non-profit organization and/or complete a recognized substance assessment/treatment program as approved by the athletic director.***

D. ***All suspensions (number of games forfeited by a student athlete) will be calculated upon the athletes current or next sport's regular season schedule. In fulfilling a suspension, all games left in the total season, including all state tournament games in which the team participates, will count towards fulfilling an athlete's suspension.***

E. ***If at the time of a student's athletic code violation, the assigned consequence cannot be fulfilled, the consequence will be carried over to the next athletic season the student chooses to participate in and completes to the satisfaction of the coach and athletic director.***

F. Responsibility for reporting rule violations rest with the coaches, teachers, school administration, parents of the athletes involved, the athlete involved, and law enforcement agencies.

G. If at any time during the calendar year, an athlete shall come under the jurisdiction of the probate court as the result of an alleged criminal act the superintendent, the principal, athletic director, and coach shall determine what, if any, school disciplinary action is taken.

***Suspension from participation in interscholastic athletics for the remainder of a student's high school career is possible for extreme circumstances as determined by a preponderance of evidence, such as felonies.***

H. When a violation occurs, a meeting between the athlete(s) and Athletic Director or Principal will take place before any disciplinary action is determined. All disciplinary actions will be handed out in a meeting of the Athletic Director and/or Coach and athlete(s) involved.

I. All one calendar year suspensions may be reviewed after six months if a request is made by the athlete or the athlete's parent/legal guardian. The review will be based on the following criteria: 1) Academics, 2) School Attendance, 3) School Discipline, and 4) Citizenship and community service.

J. ***Should an incident happen that causes the Athletic Director to potentially cancel a sport season, the information will be presented to the Inland Lakes Schools Board of Education Athletic Committee as well as the school Superintendent for discussion and direction.***

## **5. Appeals Process**

An appeal by the athlete's parent/guardian or coach must be made in writing to the athletic director within five calendar days of the original punishment being handed out. The appeal process will then follow this order.

- 1) Athletic Director and Principal Recommendation
- 2) Superintendent of Schools
- 3) The Board of Education Athletic Sub-Committee
- 4) The Board of Education

## **6. Awards Criteria**

At the end of each season, each coach will turn in a list of students earning participation awards. The awards could include a certificate, J.V., or Varsity Letter. Each coach will establish a specific criteria that is necessary for a student to earn the participation award. In addition, the following criteria will apply to all sports.

A. The athlete must attend all contests as part of the team unless a prearranged absence is approved or an emergency situation arises (determined by coach, parent/guardian, athletic director, and principal).

B. The athlete must not be in violation of sections 4-B, 4-C, or 4-E of the athletic code during the entire season.

C. If an athlete violates 4-B, 4-C, or 4-E of the athletic code in the given school year he/she will not be eligible or be named the male or female athlete of the year, male or female sportsmanship recipient, or male or female scholastic recipient. This rule is in effect once the first practice session of the fall season begins or the beginning of the school year, whichever comes first.