

ATHLETIC CODE OF CONDUCT**Preface:**

Participating on an athletic team is a privilege which results in many positive outcomes for our student-athletes. The student-athlete represents the Ichabod Crane Central School District and his or her Ichabod Crane Middle School or Ichabod Crane High School team. As a condition of participation, the student-athlete has the responsibility to uphold District policies and the team's rules and codes of conduct. These regulations are in effect for the calendar year and apply to student-athlete behavior in all school and non-school locations.

Prior to or at the beginning of each sport season, coaches will distribute the interscholastic athletic guide and team rules and procedures to each student-athlete. The notice of rules and procedures must be signed by the student-athlete and his or her parent/ guardian as a condition for participation on that team.

Student-Athlete:

A student becomes a student-athlete on the day he or she tries out for an interscholastic sport and is considered to be a student-athlete for a full-calendar year following any involvement in interscholastic athletic participation.

Student Eligibility:

According to NYSPHSAA Regulation, a pupil shall be eligible for interscholastic competition, provided that he/she is a bona fide pupil of the high school represented and must be taking at least four subjects including Physical Education. Each individual team has its own regulations concerning daily attendance at practices, and the minimum number of practices before being eligible for competition. Your coach will inform you of these rules.

Dropping off/Quitting a Team. Quitting a Team is defined by

- a. The student-athlete informs the coach that he/she is quitting or
- b. The student-athlete misses three consecutive days, unexcused from participation.

If you quit a team (after teams have been selected), you must meet with and obtain permission from the Athletic Director to try out for another team. The Athletic Director will have the option of imposing a consequence of a game(s) suspension(s) for athletes who have previously quit without an approved or valid reason.

Attendance:

In order to participate in interscholastic athletics on any day, student-athletes must be in attendance at school on such a day pursuant to Board Policy #5100, Attendance Policy, which is available on the District's Web site.

Late to School:

Student-athletes who arrive at school after homeroom for an unexcused tardy shall not be allowed to participate in any athletics scheduled that day.

Transportation:

Athletes will be transported to and from away contests by school authorized vehicles. Under special circumstances, an athlete may receive permission from his/her coach to ride home from a contest with his/her parents. Special circumstances must be pre-approved (using form CO-77). Upon receiving approval, the parent(s) will be required to sign their child's release from the coach's supervision at the conclusion of the contest. All squad members are expected to conduct themselves in a fashion that will ensure the safety of all passengers, and all safety rules must be followed.

Substance Abuse Violations-Penalties:

A student shall not, regardless of the quantity, use, consume, possess, buy/sell, or give away any beverage containing alcohol; any tobacco product (including e-cigarettes, VAP pens & all similar devices); marijuana (including synthetic); steroids; or any controlled substance inside or outside of school property. This policy includes products such as "NA or near beer". If a student-athlete is found to be in possession of illegal drugs the police will be called and the student will be subject to arrest. (Board of Education Policy 5312.1)

If a student in violation of this rule is unable to participate in interscholastic sports due to injury or academics, the penalty will not take effect until that student is able to participate again.

FIRST VIOLATION MINIMUM PENALTIES: When the Principal confirms, following an opportunity for the student to be heard, that a violation occurred, the student shall lose eligibility for the next consecutive interscholastic contests totaling 25% of all interscholastic contests in that sport. For the student, penalties will be determined by the current or next season of participation. No exception is permitted for a student who becomes a participant in a treatment program. It is recommended that the student be allowed to remain at practice for the purpose of rehabilitation. Any fractional part of an event will be dropped when calculating the 25% of the season.

# of Events/Season	# of Events/Penalty
1-7	1
8-11	2
12-15	3
16-19	4
20 or over	5

SECOND & SUBSEQUENT VIOLATIONS AND MINIMUM PENALTIES: When the Principal confirms, following an opportunity for the student to be heard, that a violation occurred, the student shall lose eligibility for the next consecutive interscholastic contests totaling 60% of all interscholastic contests in that sport. For the student, penalties will be determined by the current or next season of participation. Any fractional part of an event will be dropped when calculating the 60% of the season.

# of Events/Season	# of Events/Penalty
1-3	1
4	2
5-6	3
7-8	4
9	5
10-11	6
12-13	7
14	8
15-16	9
17-18	10
19	11
20 or over	12

If after the second or subsequent violations the student of his/her own volition becomes a participant in an approved chemical dependency program or treatment program, the student may be certified for reinstatement in interscholastic contests activities after a minimum of 40% of events provided the student was fully engaged in the program throughout that penalty period. The high school principal in collaboration with a Chemical Dependency Program or Treatment

Program must certify that student is attending or issue a certificate of completion. If student does not complete program, penalty reverts back to 60% of the season. All decimal part of an event will be truncated i.e. All fractional part of an event will be dropped when calculating the 40% of the season.

# of Events/Season	# of Events/Penalty
1-4	1
5-7	2
8-9	3
10-12	4
13-14	5
15-17	6
18-19	7
20 or over	8

Penalties shall be cumulative each academic year, but serving the penalty could carry over for one year. Or, if the penalty period is not completed during the season of violation, the penalty shall carry over to the student's next season of actual participation, which may affect the eligibility status of the student during the next academic year. (e.g. A student plays only football: he violates the rule in winter and/or the spring of same academic year: he would serve the penalty(ies) during the fall season of the next academic year.)

Conduct Rule Violations:

- A. Unsportsmanlike and/or inappropriate behavior which reflects unfavorably on the school, the team or the student-athlete or which results in school discipline (pursuant to the Student Code of conduct policy #5310 applicable to students in general) or criminal prosecution or penalty.
- B. Disrespectful behavior toward a coach or teacher
- C. Fighting in or out of school
- D. Possession of unauthorized/stolen equipment
- E. Internal and External school suspensions
- F. Student athletes are prohibited from hosting or attending a party or other social gathering that involves underage drinking of alcoholic beverages or the use of illegal drugs or other controlled substances.

Conduct Rule Violation Penalties

Conduct rule violations will result in a minimum penalty of probation for one (1) year and a one (1) game suspension up to and including a maximum penalty of removal from the team. The Athletic Director will impose a penalty to reflect the seriousness and circumstances of the offense. A review of the student's record of athletic conduct and/or training rule violations will be considered when establishing a penalty.

Violations involving disrespectful behavior toward a coach will require a conference which includes the player, coach and parent/guardian. Reinstatement to the team will not occur until such a conference is held. Written conditions of the probation will be presented and signed by all parties.

Student athletes are prohibited from either practicing or participating in any team events during the period of an external suspension. Student-athletes who receive an external suspension will also receive an athletic penalty with the use of the games suspension formula as a minimum penalty. Depending on the seriousness and the circumstances of the behavior resulting in the external suspension, a more severe penalty up to and including removal from all interscholastic competitions may be imposed.

Reporting Of Violations:

Information about a rules violation must be presented to the Athletic Director by a student-athlete, parent/guardian, a school staff member or community member. Anonymous complaints lacking independent corroboration will generally not form the basis of an investigation.

Academic Eligibility

All students who participate on an interscholastic team are subject to Board of Education Policy #5305, Eligibility for Extracurricular Activities. A copy of the policy is available on the District's Web site at www.ichabodcrane.org

Due Process:

The Athletic Director will conduct the investigation of an alleged rules violation and may request the assistance of school administrators or other staff members. The purpose of an investigation is to determine whether an actual rules violation has occurred and to decide the penalty to be imposed. During the course of the investigation, the Athletic Director or school administrator may question the student-athlete to evaluate the validity of the information associated with the allegation.

The Athletic Director will notify the student-athlete who is the subject of the alleged rule violation and he or she will be given the opportunity to respond to the accusation prior to any final determination regarding the matter. The student-athlete and his or her parent/ guardian will be notified of the Athletic Director's final determination. The parent/ guardian of the student-athlete and/or the student-athlete may request a meeting with the Athletic Director to discuss the findings of the investigation.

The student-athlete and/or parent/guardian have the right to appeal the penalty imposed by the athletic director. An appeal must be submitted in writing to the Building Principal within one calendar week following the parental notification of the disciplinary action and must include the specific reasons for contesting the penalty. The student-athlete and the parent/guardian may request a meeting with the Building Principal. At the discretion of the Athletic Director and/or Building Principal, the penalty may be stayed during the appeal process. The determination of the Building Principal regarding the appeal is final and shall be provided in writing to the student-athlete and/or the parent/guardian.

Effective Date: August 2, 2016