

ICHABOD CRANE CENTRAL SCHOOL



CODE OF CONDUCT FOR STUDENT ATHLETES

Board of Education Policy: #5275

Effective: August 5, 2008

ICHABOD CRANE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Code of Conduct for Student-Athletes

I. MISSION STATEMENT AND INTRODUCTION

The Ichabod Crane Central School District understands that interscholastic athletics are a significant part of the educational process. The combination of academics and athletics enhances the quality of students' lives and expands their options for learning and personal growth. Athletics provide an educational opportunity in which students can learn essential life lessons beyond those that can be learned in an academic classroom. This opportunity is a privilege that carries with it responsibilities to the school, to the sport, to other students, to the community, and to the athletes themselves.

This reflects our belief that the essential requirement for teamwork, the mental and physical challenges of training and competition, and the experience of winning and losing graciously and respectfully are important life lessons in every student's developmental experience. These lessons will serve students well in their future beyond.

Developing good character habits requires time and effort. Coaches, parents, and other stakeholders can help students develop such habits by continually discussing, modeling, and reinforcing the desired attitudes and beliefs over time.

We also understand that participation on an athletic team or teams demands a commitment that involves both dedication and sacrifice. This is required of not only student athletes, but also the coaches and parents.

The following Code of Conduct shall govern all student participants involved in School District interscholastic athletics. These standards of conduct shall supplement, and not supplant or replace, the Code of Conduct or any additional or more stringent rules and standards of conduct that the governing or supervising authority of each athletic team lawfully imposes as a condition of participation in such activity. Discipline imposed as a result of a violation of this generally applicable code of conduct shall not preclude additional discipline or consequences under the rules and regulations of the individual sport. These rules must be read, and all athletes and their parents/guardians indicating an agreement to abide by the rules contained herein must sign the Acknowledgment (see back cover). The signed Acknowledgment must be returned to the coach before the student is allowed to participate. The Athletic Director will retain the signed Acknowledgment.

II. STANDARDS OF CONDUCT

- A. Each student-athlete is expected to display good sportsmanship, win or lose.
 - 1. This means that student-athletes must demonstrate good citizenship in both school and the community at large.
 - 2. Disrespectful comments, the use of foul language, violent or disruptive conduct or insubordination by a student-athlete directed toward any other person, including but not limited to game officials, coaches, advisors, teammates, athletes, or members of opposing teams or schools, fans or spectators, or any other persons will subject the student to recourse by the School District.
 - 3. No student-athlete who participates in interscholastic athletics shall intentionally

damage, or cause to be damaged any personal or real property belonging to the School District, any other school district, or any other person.

4. As a member of an athletic team, participants must be mindful that they, at all times, represent their team, the interscholastic athletic program, school, family, and community both in and out of the season of participation. Team members are expected to fulfill their obligation for conducting themselves as good students and role models both in and out of school and in the community. Students are expected to refrain from exhibiting any behavior(s) that violates the principles of good citizenship.
 5. Information and/or images of inappropriate or illegal behavior posted on the Internet shall constitute a basis for disciplinary review under this Code.
- B. When membership or participation in any athletic team is linked with involvement in hazing activities, the educational purpose of the endeavor is compromised or completely undermined. Moreover, such activities can endanger the safety of student-athletes. Because the School District is committed to providing a safe and orderly environment that promotes respect, civility, and dignity for all members of the school community, hazing is strictly prohibited by the Board of Education. Any member of the School District community involved in such activity shall be subject to disciplinary action for violation of this policy.

The term "hazing," as used in this Code of Conduct, means any conduct or methods of initiation into any student organization, whether on public or private property, before, during, or after school hours, which willfully or recklessly endangers the physical or mental health of any student or other person, or which is reasonably likely to cause harassment, intimidation, physical, emotional, or psychological harm, including embarrassment or loss of human dignity, to another person.

Such conduct shall include, but not be limited to the following:

- Whipping, beating, branding, or any other physical assault;
- Forced calisthenics of any kind, such as sit-ups, pushups, any other physically abusive exercises, or any other brutal treatment or forced physical activity, which is likely to adversely affect the physical health or safety of any such person;
- Forced exposure to weather or the elements;
- Forced consumption of food, liquor, beverage, drug, or any other substance
- Any forced activity which subjects such student or other person to extreme mental stress, including extended deprivation of sleep or rest or extended isolation;
- Forced total and/or partial nudity at any time;
- Forced wearing or carrying of an obscene or physically burdensome or embarrassing article;
- Any type of personal servitude performed for activities, which is demeaning, and/or of personal benefit to the active members;
- Forced transportation and intentional abandonment of any person or member at any location;
- Forced assignment of "pranks" such as stealing, painting objects, or harassing other organizations, institutions, or activities; or
Calling or assigning prospective teammates demeaning names.

Consent of the victim of hazing shall not be available as a defense to any prosecution of hazing under this Code of Conduct. Whoever knows that another person is the victim of hazing and is at the scene of such a hazing shall, to the extent that the

person can do so without danger or peril to himself/herself or others, report such activity to an appropriate official as soon as responsibly possible. Any person who knowingly and unreasonably fails to report hazing activity shall be guilty as an accomplice in such activity. Employees who fail to report an incident of hazing may be subject to disciplinary action.

- C. The use, sale, distribution and/or possession of tobacco products, alcoholic beverages, illegal drugs, non-prescription, banned performance enhancing substances, controlled substances, or drug paraphernalia by student-athletes participating in School District interscholastic athletics, whether on or off school grounds, will not be tolerated.

No student-athlete shall knowingly attend any party or other social gathering where underage drinking and illegal drug use occurs. This rule is intended to apply to gatherings of primarily students where underage drinking is occurring, and shall not apply to any student-athlete attending an event which is hosted by his or her own family, such as a wedding or a family reunion. It shall not be defense to this rule that a gathering of students at which alcohol and drugs are consumed was sanctioned by any parent, or held with parental consent.

Student-athletes found to be using, selling, distributing, and/or possessing tobacco products, alcoholic beverages, illegal drugs, non-prescription or controlled substances, or drug paraphernalia on or off school property during the time that the student is participating in interscholastic athletics will be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with the Code of Student Conduct, as well as this Athletic Code of Conduct, and any other applicable policies and laws.

D. ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY

All students who participate on an interscholastic team are subject to Board of Education Policy #5305, Eligibility for Extracurricular activities and #5305-A (Middle School). A copy of the policy is available on the District's Web site at www.ichabodcrane.org or by contacting the Athletic Director.

E. ATTENDANCE

1. Student-athletes are expected to attend all practices, games, or other events scheduled in regard to the team unless excused by the coach. Failure to regularly attend practices, games, or other events scheduled may result in the student-athlete's suspension or dismissal from the team.
2. A student-athlete who finds it necessary to miss a practice, game, or other event scheduled must notify the coach and indicate his/her reason for absence. This should be done well in advance of the absence. The coach may require documentation in form of a written excuse from the parent. The coach will evaluate the reason for a missed practice, game, or other event and determine whether or not action is warranted, and so inform the student-athlete. Acceptable reasons for absence may include: medical and/or dental work that must be scheduled at a particular time; death in the family, sudden personal or immediate family illness, or other specific unavoidable causes of conflict.
3. In the event that the coach approves of the student-athlete's absence, the student-athlete should be aware that there is a possibility that he/she could miss games upon his/her return to the team. Reasons of safety as well as team continuity and the philosophy of the coach will govern the duration. An extended absence may mean that the student may have to re-qualify by completing the minimum number of practice dates stipulated by State regulations in order to compete.

4. 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 or by contacting the Building Principal. Student-athletes who arrive at school later than first block for an unexcused tardy or are absent from school shall not be allowed to participate in any athletics scheduled that day.
5. Student-athletes should take notice that there may be games, practices, or events during certain scheduled vacations and/or Saturdays.
6. Any student-athlete who is suspended from school for a violation of any school rule or school policy will not be allowed to play in a game or participate in any athletic activities, including practices during the period of his/her suspension from school. The period of his/her suspension is defined as those dates indicated in the letter from the District Administrator, which notifies the student-athlete and his/her parent of the suspension. This applies to out of school suspensions.
7. As a member of an interscholastic team, it is expected that your top athletic priority be to your team during the entire season of play. Participation on non-school related athletic teams in the same season of interscholastic participation is permissible, but not recommended. Participation on another team should never conflict with fulfilling your responsibilities to the interscholastic team and/or violate school, Patroon Conference, Section 2, or New York State Public High School Athletic Association (NYSPHSAA) rules.
8. It is expected that all student-athletes will read and comply with any established team rules of their coach, the Student Code of Conduct, and this Athletic Code of Conduct.
9. A participant on any athletic team is expected to finish the season in that sport.
 - a. No student-athlete may quit a team without first speaking with the coach to explain the reasons for leaving the team. Any student-athlete who violates this requirement will be unable to practice for another sport until the season of the team he/she left is completed. An athlete's mid-season resignation results in ineligibility to participate in any sport unless the athlete:
 - Provides written explanation of the decision to resign, and
 - Undergoes a successful reinstatement process.
 - b. A student who has been dismissed from a school team may be reinstated into the sports program for the next sports season after undergoing a successful reinstatement process.

Reinstatement Process

It is the student's responsibility to:

- obtain a reinstatement application from the Athletic Director
- complete the application
- return the completed application to the Athletic Director prior to the first practice session of the sport to which the student wishes to return
- only students who complete an entire sports season are eligible for end-of-year recognition.

Submission of a completed reinstatement application will be reviewed by an "Athletic Appeal Committee" comprised of the following: Athletic Director, Assistant Principal, Coach of the team from which the student withdrew, and Coach of the team that the student would like to join. Information may be

solicited from the previous team coach(es). The committee will review the request, along with information from the student/parents and will render a determination on whether or not the student may participate in the sport. The Athletic Director will confirm the committee's determination in writing to the parent/guardian and student. The parent/guardian may appeal the determination of the "Athletic Appeal Committee" to the Building in writing. The appeal must be made in writing to the Building Principal. The Building Principal will make a determination within five school days after receiving the letter.

III. PENALTIES FOR ENGAGING IN PROHIBITED CONDUCT

A. GUIDELINES FOR THE IMPOSITION OF PENALTIES

The following are guidelines reflecting minimum penalties that may be imposed on student-athletes who participate in interscholastic athletics and who are found to have violated this Code of Conduct. These penalties shall not be construed as a promise or guarantee of any particular form of discipline, as the School District retains the right to impose discipline under this policy, which it deems appropriate under the individual circumstances of each case. These penalties shall be served in addition to any penalties assessed under the District's Student Discipline Code of Conduct.

All game(s) suspensions will be served during the athlete's current season of participation. In the event that a penalty is assessed at the end of the current season, suspensions will be carried over and pro-rated- if necessary, into the next sport season the student-athlete participates in, and completes. Student-athletes will begin to serve game(s) suspensions **immediately** upon the imposition of any penalties assessed by the coach and/or Director of Athletics. In the event a student-athlete files an appeal (see Appeal Process) of a penalty imposed as a result of a code violation, the game(s) suspension will be **immediately served** upon imposition of the penalty, and/or during the appeals process.

The District will not tolerate repeated violation of school rules under any circumstances. The District will not extend the privilege of participation in extracurricular activities to any student-athlete who agrees to accept this Code of Conduct and then repeatedly demonstrates disregard for its provisions.

The District may, however, consider expunging a student-athlete's violation record if he/she meets the following criteria:

1. The student-athlete has satisfactorily completed all components of the penalty assessed for a violation of the code, and does not commit any code violation during the probation period stipulated, and;
2. The student-athlete commits no further code violations for 1 calendar year from the date his/her probation period expired.

B. CLASSIFICATION OF VIOLATIONS

1. **Minor Violations** – A coach shall be responsible for assessing penalties for violation of team rules and attendance issues. Such penalties may range from a verbal warning to expulsion from the team for repeat offenses. Coaches shall generally practice progressive discipline, depending on the facts and circumstances. A coach's decision to remove a student-athlete from a team will be approved by the Athletic Director prior to the imposition of the penalty. Prior to the imposition of any penalty, the coach will notify parents of the nature of the offense and the reason(s) for the action.

2. **Level 1 Violation:** Any student-athlete found to have engaged in conduct prohibited under **section II (A,D,E)** may be suspended from competition for one contest, for a first offense. Otherwise, Level 1 offenses include, but are not limited to: possession and/or use of tobacco or tobacco products, attendance at a party where alcohol/drugs are being served or used as specified in **section II(C)**, or good citizenship or disciplinary code of conduct violations such as theft or vandalism.
3. **Level 2 Violation:** Any student-athlete found to have a second Level 1 Violation, or any student-athlete found to have engaged in a first offense of any conduct prohibited under **section II (B)**: 1) possession and/or use of alcohol, 2) hosting a party where alcohol/drugs are being served/used, or 3) sexual harassment (formal complaint filed under Board of Education policy #5020.1).
4. **Level 3 Violation:** Any student-athlete who is found to have a second Level 2 Violation, a third Level 1 Violation, use or possession of drugs/drug paraphernalia under **section II(C)**.
5. **Level 4 Violation:** Any student-athlete who is found to have a second Level 3 violation or any incident in which the athlete's continued presence on a team would pose, or have the potential of posing a serious physical or emotional threat to the well being of the other student athletes, coaches or spectators.
6. **Probation-** A stipulated period of time assessed to an athlete as a consequence for committing a code violation. This period of time may be extended until the athlete has successfully fulfilled all requirements of the sequence assessed for the violation(s).

C. PENALTIES

Level 1 Infraction	Level 2 Infraction	Level 3 Infraction	Level 4 Infraction
20% Games Suspension plus 1-Year Probation	40% Games Suspension plus 1-Year Probation	Loss of participation for 1 calendar year plus 1-Year Probation	Loss of participation privileges for the remainder of his/her high school career

D. ELIGIBILITY CHART

	Contest	Penalty
# of Regular Season Contests	Level 1 (20%)	Level 2 (40%)
8	2	4
9	2	4
10	2	4
11	2	4
12	2	4
13	3	6
14	3	6
15	3	6
16	3	6
17	3	6
18	4	8
19	4	8
20	4	8
21	4	8
22	4	8
23	5	10
24	5	10

E. PROCEDURES FOR ALLEGED CODE VIOLATIONS

1. Reporting an Athletic Code Violation

Any individual or stakeholder may choose to report a violation orally or in writing to:

- Building principal
- Director of Athletics
- Teachers
- Coaches
- Counselors
- Nurses
- Staff members

2. All employees who receive violation reports concerning student-athletes **must** report such allegations to the Athletic Director.

3. Investigations of Code Violations

An investigation by the appropriate personnel shall be initiated immediately to determine the nature of such allegations.

Any student-athlete can at any time make a self-referral for a violation of the athletic code. This self-referral must be made prior to any investigation and must be made to the Athletic Director. The self-referral must be made prior to any investigation or reported allegations to the school authorities.

Any student-athlete suspected of violating this Code of Conduct shall be notified of such allegations by the Athletic Director. The aforementioned personnel will interview student-athlete(s) suspected of violating the Code as a step in the investigative process. The student-athlete and his/her parents shall have an opportunity to meet with the Athletic Director and the coach to discuss such allegations.

Full cooperation during an investigation is expected from all student-athletes under the code. It is important for all student-athletes to understand that involvement in our athletic programs **is a privilege**. With the responsibility of being an athlete, comes a commitment to the conditions of this code of conduct. In the event a student-athlete comes under investigation for possible violations to the provisions of this code, it is expected that the student-athlete will be forthright and fully cooperative.

To the extent possible, Code violations shall be investigated within 3 school days.

4. Assessment of Penalties

Upon the finding of a violation, the Athletic Director will assign the appropriate consequences and/or remedies unless otherwise stated in this Code.

The Athletic Director shall meet with the student-athlete to impose the penalty.

The parents of the student-athlete shall be notified of the penalty by telephone and in writing.

5. Appeals Process

A student-athlete found to have violated this Code of Conduct by either the coach or Athletic Director shall have the right to appeal the disciplinary decision to the High School Principal. The High School Principal may alone hear the appeal, or, at his/her discretion, appoint other persons to a panel to join him/her in hearing the appeal. Additional members shall be appointed on a case-by-case basis, as deemed necessary and appropriate by the Principal, provided that the panel shall not contain as a member any person involved in making the determination appealed from. The student-athlete must make such appeal within five (5) days of the initial decision. The decision of the Principal or the review panel, as appropriate, shall be final unless appealed to the Superintendent of Schools within five (5) calendar days.

The decision of the Principal or the review panel, as appropriate, may be appealed to the Superintendent by a written request filed with the Superintendent's office within five (5) calendar days from the date of such decision. The decision of the Superintendent shall be final unless appealed to the Board of Education within five (5) calendar days.

The decision of the Superintendent or the review panel, as appropriate, may be appealed to the Board of Education by a written request filed with the Board within five (5) calendar days from the date of such

decision. The Board shall receive all relevant documentation and may, in its sole discretion, permit the accused to appear before the Board at its next regular meeting or render its decision solely on the record.

IV. 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 by the Director of Athletics. 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.

Ichabod Crane Central School District

**ATHLETIC CODE OF CONDUCT
ACKNOWLEDGMENT**

***MUST BE COMPLETED FOR EACH SPORT SEASON IN WHICH
STUDENT/ATHLETE PARTICIPATES***

**PLEASE RETURN THIS SHEET TO THE COACH OR
ATHLETIC DIRECTOR'S OFFICE**

I have read the preceding Code of Conduct and agree to follow it. I understand that this Code of Conduct applies for one sport season from the date of my signature, and the consequences that may be applied as a result of my actions, which violate these rules, as set forth in the Code. Furthermore, I understand that these consequences may include suspension or removal from the team.

Student/Athlete (Please Print)

Student/Athlete (Signature)

Date

Sport

I have read the preceding Code of Conduct. I understand, am in agreement with, and am aware of, its implications for my son/daughter. Furthermore, I will do my best to see to it that he/she follows said rules as set forth in this Code. In addition, my signature confirms that my son/daughter has had no illnesses or injuries that should limit his/her participation in high school athletics or the extracurricular activity of his/her choice.

Parent/Guardian (Please Print)

Parent/Guardian (Signature)

Date

Phone No: _____
Home

Business and/or Cell

R- FINAL8/6/09/nb