

**WILLIAMSTOWN HIGH/MIDDLE SCHOOL
WILLIAMSTOWN, NEW JERSEY**

INTERSCHOLASTIC CONTRACT/AGREEMENT

The following contract has been established to provide communication between the coach, athlete and family. We ask that the coach, athlete and parent sign this interscholastic agreement, fully realizing the effort and dedication the athletic program demands.

TO THE STUDENT-ATHLETE
IT'S YOUR PRIVILEGE

One of the good things about interscholastic athletics is that it is a completely voluntary program. You are not obligated to take part in any interscholastic sport. Participation is not required for graduation nor do you need athletic credits for college entrance. Sports involvement does require extra effort and extra time on a voluntary basis.

However, even though interscholastic sports are voluntary, those participating do represent their school. Therefore, the standards must be high. This includes academic requirements, school citizenship and sportsmanship. The dignity of your school program is reflected through interscholastic athletics, which is why you and your teammates must conduct yourselves in an exemplary manner.

Selection of team members must not be based upon athletic performance alone, but also upon attitude, conduct and cooperation. The athlete must represent the student body in a manner which complements the school and the community.

Because it is a privilege to represent Williamstown High/Middle School in athletics, it follows logically that the school administration or coach has the authority to revoke the privilege when the athlete does not behave in an acceptable manner. Not only does this responsibility exist while on the field, court, or track, but also good conduct shall be required at other times and most certainly at school.

Upon fulfilling the requirements to be an athlete of any of the interscholastic sports programs, you are required to use extreme caution when utilizing any and all social networking websites or internet applications. In accordance with Monroe Township Board of Education Policy 5516 governing student use of electronic communication and recording devices, and Monroe Township Board of Education Policy 5600 governing student behavior that may be offensive; you may not "post" any comment, link, or image which depicts the athlete engaged in any activity contrary to acceptable behaviors regarding the school, the sport, the coach, teammates, or officials of a particular contest. Further, if such comments, links, or images are found to be posted by you; your actions will be considered insubordinate and you will be subject to Subsection 4 of Article III of the ATHLETIC DISCIPLINE POLICY (see page 3). Moreover, you may not use any gestures of the hands that would represent gang affiliation when posing for a photograph with your teammates.

TO THE PARENT OF THE STUDENT-ATHLETE

Williamstown High/Middle School, its Athletic Department and its coaches expect you, as the parent of a student-athlete to be encouraging to your child and to his/her coaches and teammates. While viewing sporting events involving one of our interscholastic teams, either at WHS/WMS or abroad, we ask that you refrain from making negative comments about any and all of the players, coaches or officials involved in the contest.

If an issue arises between you and the coach, please follow the procedure below to discuss the matter:

1. A first hand message can be left for any Coach that teaches at the school or in the district.
2. You may leave a voice-mail message by calling 629-8200 (HS) or 629-7444 (MS) and following the prompts for the coach's voice-mail extension or you may send an e-mail message by finding the coach's address on the school's website. If the coach does not teach in district, contact information will be provided for you.
3. Please do not confront a coach before, during or after a contest or practice. At these times emotions are high and resolution is not promoted.
4. Contact the Assistant Principal of Athletics/Activities at 262-2409 and make an appointment to discuss the situation if a satisfactory resolution was not reached.

Cutting:

Due to the size of our community, the large number of participants trying out for our athletic squads, and the highly competitive nature of interscholastic sports, it may be necessary for coaches to institute cutting procedures to help determine members of a team. Roster limitations, safety issues, and teacher-pupil ratio are some of the reasons cut policies are put in place.

The determination of what players "make" athletic teams will be the sole decision of the coach or coaches. Every student interested in trying out for any squad will be given fair and equal treatment in regards to a position on the team regardless of previous determining factors. Previous team status does not guarantee making the team, regardless of year in school. Attendance at tryouts/practices may be used as criteria for making or not making the team. If you are not clear about any procedures or expectations, then please contact the coach first.

ELIGIBILITY (NJSIAA) **TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR ATHLETIC COMPETITION:**

High School

A. To be eligible for athletic competition during the first semester (September 1 to January 31) of the 10th grade or higher, or the second year of attendance in the secondary school or beyond, a pupil must have passed 25% of the credits (30) required by the State of New Jersey for graduation (120), during the immediately preceding academic year.

B. To be eligible for athletic competition during the second semester (Feb. 1 to June 30) of the 9th grade year or higher, a pupil must have passed the equivalent of 12.5% of the credits (15) required by New Jersey for graduation (120) at the close of the preceding semester (Jan. 31). Full-year courses shall be equated as one-half of the total credits to be gained for the full year to determine credits passed during the immediately preceding semester.

C. If an athlete is eligible at the start of the sports season, he/she remains eligible for the entire sports season regardless of his/her grades at the end of the marking period.

D. An athlete becomes ineligible for high school athletics if he/she attains the age of 19 prior to September 1. However, any athlete attaining the age of 19 after September 1, shall be eligible for the ensuing school year.

E. No student shall be eligible for high school athletics after the expiration of 8 consecutive semesters following his/her entrance into 9th grade.

Middle School

- A. Any middle school student in grades 6, 7 and 8 are eligible for interscholastic middle school sports, providing they will not turn 16 years of age prior to entering high school. In this case the student must participate in high school sports as an 8th grader.
- B. To be eligible for athletic competition for interscholastic middle school sports, the student must not have failed two or more subjects during the immediately preceding academic marking period.
- C. To remain eligible for athletic competition for interscholastic middle school sports during the season, the student must not have his/her grades in two or more subjects fall below a failing level (69 or below).

MONROE TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS

ATHLETIC DISCIPLINE POLICY

I. PHILOSOPHY

To achieve the proper goals of athletics, proper conduct by the athlete must be displayed at all times. Cooperation between the athlete, parent and coach must be maintained for an athletic program to be successful.

The ultimate goal of all disciplinary action shall be to help develop self-discipline on the part of the athlete. In doing so, the disciplinary action shall always meet the following criteria:

- a. Counseling is provided explaining what behavior is acceptable.
- b. Disciplinary action is fair and consistent to the athlete in view of the nature of the offense.
- c. Notice is given to the athlete regarding the consequences to expect if the unacceptable behavior is not corrected.
- d. Disciplinary action is progressively stern and commensurate with the nature of the offense.

II. PROCEDURE FOR DISCIPLINE

Athletes are expected to follow the Monroe Township Board of Education Regulation 5600 governing student behavior.

1. When an athlete violates the discipline policy, the parent/guardian will receive a written explanation of the infraction. The form will be signed by the coach and the athlete.
2. When an athlete is dismissed from a team, a letter will be sent to the athlete, parent, principal, supervisor of athletics and the case manager, when appropriate. When an athlete is enrolled in an alternative school or under the direction of a child study team, the coach will maintain communication with the case manager.
3. Coaches are to review the discipline rules with their athletes prior to the first practice. This will be the athlete's first warning.

III. OFFENSES AND RELATED ACTIONS

Disciplinary action for the following offenses include:

1. Unexcused Absences From Practice:

See student handbook for what is considered an excused absence. Absences will be considered excused from the sport once the athlete presents the proper paperwork to the coach. A parent/guardian must call and notify the coach as to reason for an absence. A phone call is not an automatic excuse. A reason must be given and the coach will determine the validity of the excuse. Under no circumstances will an athlete be excused from practice or game to go to work.

1st Offense: Suspended from next game or scrimmage.

2nd Offense: Suspended from next 2 games or scrimmages (except football and Fall cheerleading due to short schedule/1 game) and a warning note sent to parents.

3rd Offense: Immediate dismissal from team.

2. Unexcused Absence From Game:

1st Offense: Dismissal or 2 game suspension (except football and Fall cheerleading/1 game) at coach's discretion.

2nd Offense: Immediate dismissal.

Exception: If an unexcused absence occurs the last game of the season, the athlete may be dismissed from the team.

*Suspended athletes must be at all practices and games, but do not dress or participate. Failure to appear will be cause for immediate dismissal.

*Except when state rule is in effect, which does not allow suspended athlete to be present at the game.

3. Fighting, Abusive Or Unsportsmanlike Conduct:

- 1st Offense:** One game suspension (next game). Or if conduct is of flagrant nature-immediate dismissal.
- 2nd Offense:** Immediate dismissal.

4. Insubordination:

- 1st Offense:** One game suspension or immediate dismissal if violation is of an abusive or flagrant nature.
- 2nd Offense:** Immediate dismissal.

5. Ejection From A Contest:

N.J.S.I.A.A. now makes it mandatory that the athlete must be suspended for the next two games except football, which will be one game:

- 1st/2nd Offense:** Coaches may dismiss athlete from the team, depending on circumstances.
- 3rd Offense:** Automatic dismissal from the team.

6. After School Detention:

- 3 Detentions – One game or scrimmage suspension (football – ½ game).
- 6 Detentions – Two game or scrimmage suspensions (football – 1 game).
- 9 Detentions – Dismissal from team.

7. Out-of-School Suspension / 3-7 School Suspension:

When an athlete is suspended out-of-school, or issued a 3-7 School Suspension he/she may not participate in the next scheduled contest from the point of discipline being issued. The coach or athlete may not choose which event he/she will sit out.

In the event of the student-athlete being issued 2 separate incidents resulting in 3-7 School Suspensions, the student-athlete will be dismissed from the team.

In the event of the student-athlete **is** issued a 3-7 School Suspension that equals 5 or more days, the student-athlete will be dismissed from the team.

Should an athlete lose team status any time prior to the official close of a season, including tournament games, all awards for which the athlete may have been eligible to receive will be forfeited.

8. Attendance:

Every athlete is expected to attend school each day. If a student is late to school, he/she must report prior to the end of 3rd period in order to be eligible for practice or to participate in any interscholastic contest for that day. If you are absent (unexcused) from practice the day before a contest, you may not play in the contest. Emergency situations will be handled by the coach in conjunction with the Assistant Principal of Athletics/Activities.

Athletes are encouraged to schedule medical appointments so that there are no conflicts with practice or contest.

Athletes will not be excused from practice or games to go to work. This is positively inexcusable and unfair to the rest of the team.

9. Forgeries:

If an athlete is found to have forged his/her permission or physical forms, the athlete will be immediately dismissed from the team.

10. Extra Curricular Meetings:

Student athletes are to show school citizenship, therefore, attendance at club meetings will be permitted provided the student/athlete presents to the coach a signed pass from the advisor. Athletes are expected to report to practice immediately following their extracurricular meetings, violators will be subject to disciplinary action.

11. Note:

An athlete may not quit one sport and begin practice with another. He/she must successfully complete his/her season before starting practice with another team. (Exception - - if an athlete is released or cut from a team, the athlete may request to try out for another sport. Permission from the coaches of both sports must be granted before the athlete joins the new team).

WILLIAMSTOWN HIGH/MIDDLE SCHOOL WILLIAMSTOWN, NEW JERSEY

ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT ATHLETIC CONTRACT APPEAL PROCEDURES

There are occasions when extenuating circumstances surround a student's violation of the Athletic Contract/Agreement. Therefore, the following appeal procedure has been established for such occasions:

1. When an athlete's actions or behavior violates the Athletic Contract a parent or guardian may file a written appeal to the Athletic Appeals Committee; which will consist of the following: either the Assistant Principal of Athletics/Activities and two offseason head coaches or the Assistant Principal of Athletics/Activities, one offseason head coach and a current faculty member that was a former coach.
2. A written reason for the appeal must be submitted to the Athletic Appeals Committee; which will consist of the following: either the Assistant Principal of Athletics/Activities and two offseason head coaches or the Assistant Principal of Athletics/Activities, one offseason head coach and a current faculty member that was a former coach, within three (3) calendar days after receiving notification of the violation.
3. The Athletic Appeals Committee; which will consist of the following: either the Assistant Principal of Athletics/Activities and two offseason head coaches or the Assistant Principal of Athletics/Activities, one offseason head coach and a current faculty member that was a former coach, will notify the parents of the committee's decision in writing within three (3) calendar days after the appeal violation.
4. If the parent or guardian is not satisfied with the decision of the Athletic Appeals Committee; which will consist of the following: either the Assistant Principal of Athletics/Activities and two offseason head coaches or the Assistant Principal of Athletics/Activities, one offseason head coach and a current faculty member that was a former coach, a written request to meet with the principal must be submitted within two (2) calendar days after meeting with the Athletic Appeals Committee. The parent/guardian will be notified of the principal's decision within three (3) calendar days after the appeal hearing.
5. The principal's decision will be final.

Williamstown High/Middle School
Williamstown, New Jersey
INTERSCHOLASTIC CONTRACT/AGREEMENT
Web Site Posting, Media & Waiver Consent Form

*Pursuant to law, we will not release any personally identifiable information without prior written consent from you as parent or guardian. **Personal identifiable information** includes student full names, first name only, photos or images, or school-developed identifier of athletic events.*

Web Site – Complete online within registration form:

_____ I give permission to allow a photo/image of my child to be published on the school and/or district web site. Only photos/images with my child in a group will be posted and NO personal identification information will be provided.

_____ I give permission to allow a photo/image **and** first name of my child to be published on the school and/or district web site.

_____ I give permission to allow a photo/image **and** full name of my child to be published on the school and/or district web site.

_____ I give permission to allow a photo/image **and** personal identifiable information of my child to be published on the school and/or district web site.

_____ I DO NOT give permission for a photo/image of my child to be published on the school and/or district web site.

Media & Video Waiver complete online within registration form:

Interscholastic events and activities are sometimes photographed or videotaped by school representatives or local media to post in newsletters, newspapers, television stations, electronic yearbooks, magazines, Internet, or other professional periodicals and venues. Permission is required to authorize your child's voice, physical presence and participation to be transmitted and possibly recorded for viewing by others.

_____ **I DO authorize permission** for my child's voice, physical presence and participation to be transmitted and possibly recorded for viewing by others. I release and discharge Monroe Township Public Schools and its employees from any liability to me and/or my child by virtue of any representation that may occur in making or editing of said recordings.

_____ **I DO NOT authorize permission.**

I have read this agreement, prior to signing below, and warrant that I do fully understand its contents.

If you, as parent or guardian, wish to rescind this agreement, you may do so at any time in writing by sending a letter to the Assistant Principal of Athletics/Activities.