Boys Soccer Handbook

Mission Statement

The Waterford Wolverine Soccer Program develops the student-athlete to pursue excellence with effort, energy, and enthusiasm on and off the field of play. Winning games and championships emerge as a by product of competing each day with effort, energy, and enthusiasm and making good decisions on and off the field.

The Wolverine soccer student-athletes will be educated on the importance of academics first. Good academic standings will prepare our players for college and career readiness. WUHS soccer athletes will lead by example and will be role models within the Waterford School District.

The Wolverine soccer program is a program with high expectations, and we are going to strive to win on a daily basis. Along with this process, the WUHS coaching staff uses the game of soccer to teach their athletes how to be better human beings. The WUHS soccer program stresses the importance of team over individual, which is a great message not only for the game of soccer, but most importantly for life.

Wolverine Soccer Athletes' Character Code

Moral Values	Actions In Life (Off-Field)	Actions In Sports (On-Field)
Be Respectful	-Be respectful of other people. -Be respectful of others' property. -Be respectful of the environment. -Be respectful of yourself. -Use eye contact when communicating with another person. - Use appropriate language when communicating in	-Be respectful of the game and it's rules / traditions. -Be respectful of all your teammates. -Be respectful of your opponents. -Be respectful of the officials. -Be respectful in victory and defeat. -Use proper eye contact when

	any professional	

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	situation	communicating with a coach or teammate. - Use appropriate language when communicating when representing your school
Be Responsible	-Fulfill your obligations. -Be dependable. -Be in control of yourself. -Be persistent.	-Prepare yourself to do your best. -Be punctual for training sessions and games. -Be self-disciplined. -Be cooperative with your teammates.
Be Caring	-Be compassionate and have empathy. -Be forgiving. -Be generous and kind. -Avoid being selfish or rude.	-Help your teammates play better. -Support teammates in difficult times. -Be generous with praise and stingy with criticism. -Play for the team, not yourself.
Be Honest	-Be truthful and forthright. -Act with integrity. -Be trustworthy. -Be courageous to do the right thing.	-Play by the spirit of the rules. -Be loyal to the team and school. -Play drug free. -Admit to your own mistakes.
Be Fair	-Follow the Golden Rule. -Be tolerant of others. -Be willing to share. -Avoid taking advantage of others.	-Treat other athletes as you wish to be treated. -Be fair to ALL athletes. -Give other players an opportunity. -Strive to win

		within the rules.
Be A Good Citizen	-Obey the laws / rules of the school district and community.	-Be a good role model. -Strive for excellence.

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	-Be educated and stay informed. -Contribute to the community. -Protect others.	-Give back to the sport. -Encourage teammates to be good citizens.

Athletes' Character Code applies to all forms of social media; including accounts, posts, comments, and photos

Consequences for Violating Athletes' Character Code or Core Values

First Incident: The athlete will be warned and a meeting will occur between the athlete and coach. This one on one conversation serves to discuss how the athlete's current behavior does not place the emphasis on the team's number one rule: Put the Team First.

Second Incident: The athlete will see a reduction in playing time and contact to parent(s)/guardian will be made.

Third Incident: The athlete will serve a minimum 1 game suspension or be removed from the team depending on severity of incident. Parent(s)/guardian will be contacted with a possibility of being dismissed from the team.

Fourth Incident: Conference with the player and parent. The athlete will be removed from the team and will not receive any awards or recognition at the post-season banquet.

Note: The coaching staff reserves the right to skip incident levels as deemed appropriate, should the players conduct warrant a higher level of punishment.

WUHS Junior Varsity Program

The Junior Varsity program is geared to augment the Varsity soccer program. Player development is the

primary goal of this program. Athletes will be given a chance to play and improve their skills. Equal playing time will be distributed to the best of the coaching staff's ability. We ask that you understand that our coaches have many responsibilities to each other and the players. We recognize that perfectly equal playing time is not physically possible. Everyone will have the opportunity to compete as long as they meet the coaching staffs' expectations. The Junior Varsity team will be using similar principles and strategies so that the transition from the JV to Varsity is seamless.

WUHS Soccer Practice Procedures / Expectations

Practice Attendance Policy: All soccer athletes must be present for three full days with the team before being eligible for any game contests.

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At both levels, student-athletes are expected to attend practice every day unless they are too ill to compete, there is a family emergency, or a doctor's appointment. In the event that an athlete is too sick, has a family emergency, or has a doctor's appointment, the athlete is expected to contact Coach Cresswell or another coach in advance in order for the absence to be excused. Acceptable forms of contact are email, ParentSquare, call to school phone, or in person. Having a teammate contact a coach WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. All other excuses for missing practice will be viewed as unexcused. If an athlete fails to notify Coach Cresswell, Coach Crissey, or Coach Franke regarding not being able to attend practice for any reason, whether it is an excusable absence or not, that absence will be viewed as unexcused. In the event that an athlete is unable to practice or compete in a match due to the fact that they have an unexcused absence from any class during the school day, that practice or match will be viewed as unexcused, thus implementing the unexcused absence policy.

Just to reiterate, playing soccer for WUHS is a commitment and athletes in the Wolverine soccer program need to be responsible / accountable for their actions. In the event of an injury that prevents the athlete from competing in either practices or games, it is the expectation that, if they can be at school, they should be present for the practice or game as well.

If injuries keep a player from participating in practices, the expectation is that the player attends all practices that they are able outside of physical therapy or appointments. We do recognize, however, that each athlete is a student first. If a player feels they need to leave practice to complete school work during practice time, the player should discuss it with a coach on a case by case basis. If a player has to sit out

from practice for any reason the day before a game, they will not be eligible to play in that game. We believe that all players fit enough to play in a game are required to and should be participating in practice. If you cannot practice, you cannot play.

Unexcused Absence Discipline:

1. First UNEXCUSED practice missed will be a warning to the player.
2. Second UNEXCUSED will result in loss of playing time
3. Third UNEXCUSED practice missed guaranteed 1 game suspension
4. Fourth UNEXCUSED practice missed will result in a guaranteed 3 game suspension
5. Fifth UNEXCUSED practice will result in a removal from the team

Excused absences come with no penalty as long as they are communicated to the coach at least 24 hours prior to the absence with valid reasoning such as a sickness, appointment, or prior scheduled trip. We recognize that life happens, and so for events out of your control within the 24 hour window, they will be treated on a case by case basis.

Pre-Practice Routine:

1. Be dressed in all practice gear and at the assigned practice location before the scheduled start of practice.
2. The field / gym is not a substitute for a dressing area.

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3. If an athlete needs attention from the athletic trainer, it is their responsibility to allow enough time to be treated prior to the scheduled start of practice. Practice time is for practicing, not time to receive treatments.
4. Players will either juggle or form a Rondo possession game when they take the field before practice. Free shooting or messing around does not fit into the core values of the WUHS soccer program.

Bus and Travel Expectations

Since the WUHS soccer program is emphasizing a family atmosphere and establishing a positive team culture, it is essential for every student-athlete to experience winning and losing together as a team. Therefore, the following rules apply for all Varsity and Junior Varsity contests.

1. It is REQUIRED (unless approved by Coach Cresswell, Coach Crissey, or Coach Franke) that all athletes ride the bus to and from competition.
2. Student-Athletes will get a MAXIMUM of three games, for the whole season, where they can sign out early to leave. Anything more will need to be cleared with Coach Cresswell, Coach Crissey, or Coach Franke from a parent 24 hours before the scheduled game
3. On the bus, athletes are to remain seated and talk at a normal level. Comments from everyone should always remain positive. The Athletes' Character Code is the standard while on the bus as well. 4. It is REQUIRED by all student-athletes within the WUHS soccer program to watch each contest as a team from a designated area, as each Varsity or Junior Varsity match provides a great tool for developing one's soccer knowledge.

Lettering Requirements

Players who are eligible for a Varsity letter must have all these requirements met by the end of the season: 1. They must have played in at least 75% of the Varsity competitions that they were physically fit to play in AND/OR been on the Varsity roster for the entirety of the season

2. They must not have a 5th infraction for behavior or attendance

Guidelines for Proper Communication

As a parent, it is very difficult to accept that your child is not playing as much as you may have hoped. It is imperative parents and athletes trust that the coaching staff is putting the team first for all individuals involved. It is important to understand that the coaches are the ones with the team on a daily basis in practice and competition. Therefore, the coaches will make judgment decisions based on what is in the best interest of the team.

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Coaches will not discuss the following at any time with parents or guardians

- Tactical Strategy of the Team
- Other athlete's playing times
- Make-up of the Varsity and Junior Varsity teams
- Other Players

If there are concerns, the following steps should be followed:

1. The athlete talks to his coach 12 hours after a game or team selection decisions. We will be honest with your son and he will be treated with the respect that he deserves. The coach will discuss with him their reasoning for their choices and give him advice on how he can improve his technical and

tactical ability.

2. If the parents or student are not satisfied with the way the athlete and coach conversation went, the parent may request a meeting with the coach at least 12 hours after the game or first contact.
3. If the parent / guardian conference with the coach does not resolve the concern(s), there will be a meeting scheduled and mediated by the athletic director. The meeting will be held in a non threatening environment and all parties involved will be allowed to speak in an uninterrupted manner.

As a coaching staff, we completely understand where parent concerns originate. As parents, you all love your kids and want them to be happy. The entire coaching staff cares for and respects your son, and we would love for all athletes in this program to receive the playing time or play the position they want. Unfortunately, one of the coach's duties is to put the best team on the field that strives to win the game (assuming those athletes are conducting themselves with the core values of the WUHS soccer program).

Team Website

Check out the updated team website for team rosters, statistics, pictures, and scheduling changes https://www.wuhs.us/athletics-activities/fall-sports/boys-soccer

Coaches Contact Information

Coach Cresswell: acresswell@wuhs.us Phone- (262) 534-3189 Ext. 1421

Coach Franke: mfranke@wuhs.us

Coach Crissey: dcrissey@wuhs.us

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I certify that I have read and will abide by the rules and guidelines laid out in the player handbook to the best of my ability.

Athletes Printed Name: _____

Athlete Signature: _____

Date: _____

Please return to Coach Cresswell in order to be eligible to play in games.

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