

Waverly High School



Student Athlete Handbook and Code of Conduct

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Section 1.	Statement of Purpose
Section 2.	Statement of Philosophy
Section 3.	Athletic Objectives
Section 4.	MHSAA Eligibility Requirements
Section 5.	Requirements for Participation
Section 6.	Student Athlete Expectations
Section 7.	Enforcement and Consequences
Section 8.	Disciplinary Process
Section 9.	Communication
Section 10.	Additional Athletic Expectations and Information
Section 11.	Conflicts Co/Extra-Curricular Activities
Section 12.	School Attendance
Section 13.	Grooming/Dress
Section 14.	Vacation/Trip Policy
Section 15.	Restricted Practice Days
Section 16.	Team Membership/Team Selection
Section 17.	Reporting of an Injury
Section 18.	Out of State Travel
Section 19.	Name Image Likeness/Personal Brand Activities

Acknowledgement Page

Section 1: Statement of Purpose

Participation in interscholastic athletics is a privilege that carries responsibilities both on and off the field of play. This Athletic Code of Conduct and Handbook outlines the expectations for all student-athletes representing Waverly Community Schools.

The Waverly Community Schools Board of Education, administration, coaches, and staff are committed to providing a positive, safe, and educational athletic experience. Student-athletes are expected to demonstrate good sportsmanship, personal responsibility, and strong character while representing their school, team, and community.

The Waverly athletic program is built upon the district's core **PRIDE** values:

Preparation – Be physically, mentally, and academically prepared while meeting all team responsibilities.

Respect – Treat teammates, coaches, opponents, officials, and others with courtesy and respect.

Integrity – Make responsible decisions, demonstrate honesty, and uphold the highest standards of sportsmanship.

Determination – Work hard, persevere through challenges, and strive for continuous improvement.

Engagement – Be actively involved, maintain a positive attitude, and contribute to a successful team environment.

These values provide the foundation for a successful athletic experience and help prepare student-athletes for success in school, athletics, and life.

Participation in interscholastic athletics at Waverly High School is a privilege, not a right. Student-athletes are expected to represent their school, team, and community with integrity by demonstrating good sportsmanship, responsible conduct, positive citizenship, and healthy lifestyle choices, including remaining free from tobacco, alcohol, and illegal drugs.

Because a student-athlete's actions both on and off the field reflect on themselves, their teammates, Waverly High School, and the community, all participants are expected to uphold the standards outlined in this Athletic Handbook and Code of Conduct as a condition of participation in interscholastic athletics.

Section 2: Statement of Philosophy

The Waverly Athletic Program is an extension of the educational experience. Through participation in interscholastic athletics, student-athletes develop character, leadership, teamwork, responsibility, and lifelong habits that contribute to personal success.. All athletic programs operate in accordance with Waverly Community Schools Board of Education policies and guidelines. While Waverly strives for competitive excellence, the highest priority is fostering sportsmanship, integrity, and educational values. Winning is celebrated, but never at the expense of character, safety, or ethical conduct.

Section 3: Athletic Objectives

The Waverly Athletic Program is designed to help student-athletes:

- Develop Character by demonstrating integrity, self-discipline, responsibility, and respect for teammates, coaches, officials, opponents, and the community.
- Value Teamwork by placing team goals above individual accomplishments and contributing positively to a shared purpose.
- Pursue Excellence by setting goals, working hard, embracing challenges, and striving for continuous improvement in academics, athletics, and personal growth.
- Demonstrate Sportsmanship by competing with honesty, humility, respect, and grace in both victory and defeat.
- Promote Health and Wellness by developing lifelong habits that support physical fitness, healthy decision-making, and overall well-being.
- Enjoy the Experience by building friendships, creating lasting memories, and appreciating the educational value and opportunities that participation in athletics provides.

The Waverly Athletic Department believes these objectives help prepare student-athletes for success both during their high school years and beyond.

Section 4: MHSAA Essential Eligibility Requirements

To be eligible for interscholastic athletics, a high school student must meet all applicable Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA) eligibility requirements as outlined below and in the MHSAA Handbook. These requirements are governed by MHSAA rules and are subject to change.

- 1. Age:** A student becomes ineligible for interscholastic athletics if they reach their nineteenth (19th) birthday before September 1 of the current school year.
- 2. Physical Examination:** A valid physician's statement must be on file with the school confirming that the student is physically able to participate in athletic practices and contests. The physical must be completed after April 15 of the preceding school year and cover the current school year.

- 3. Enrollment:** Students must be enrolled prior to the fourth Friday after Labor Day (first semester) or the fourth Friday in February (second semester). A student must be enrolled in the school for which they compete.
- 4. Semesters of Enrollment:** Students are eligible for a maximum of eight (8) semesters of high school enrollment. The seventh and eighth semesters must be consecutive.
- 5. Academic Eligibility:** (Semester Requirements) To be eligible, students must: Have passed at least five (5) full-credit subjects in the previous semester, and be currently passing at least five (5) full-credit courses. Students must be enrolled in a minimum of four (4) credit-bearing courses to participate.
- 6. Weekly Academic Checks:** Student-athletes must be passing at least five (5) of six (6) classes with a grade of D- or higher. Eligibility is determined weekly, and the eligibility period extends from Monday through Sunday following each grade check.
- 7. Transfer Students:** A student in grades 9–12 who transfers schools is ineligible for interscholastic competition for one (1) full semester unless they meet one or more of the MHSAA's approved transfer exceptions. Families considering a transfer should consult school administration prior to enrollment changes.
- 8. Undue Influence:** The use of undue influence by any person associated with a school to recruit or encourage a student's attendance for athletic purposes shall result in ineligibility for a minimum of one (1) semester.
- 9. Limited Team Membership:** After a student has participated in or practiced with a high school team, they may not compete in non-school athletic competition in the same sport during the same season, except as permitted under MHSAA rules. Exceptions include: Ice hockey (as governed by MHSAA rules) Individual sports, where limited non-school participation (up to two events per season) may be permitted as allowed by MHSAA regulations
- 10. All-Star Competition:** Students may not participate in all-star contests or national championship events in any MHSAA-governed sport, regardless of selection method. Participation results in ineligibility for up to one (1) year of school enrollment.
- 11. Awards and Amateurism:** Students may not receive money or valuable consideration for participation in MHSAA-sponsored sports or officiating interscholastic events, except as permitted by MHSAA rules. Permissible awards include symbolic or merchandise awards not exceeding a value of \$25. Non-cash benefits such as banquets, meals, trips, or camp admissions may be accepted if provided "in kind." Cash, merchandise exceeding allowable value, certificates of monetary value, or negotiable instruments are strictly prohibited.

Note: These rules are summarized from the MHSAA Handbook. For complete and authoritative interpretations, refer to the official MHSAA Handbook available through the Athletic Office or at www.mhsaa.com.

Section 5: Requirements for Participation

Before participating in any practice, tryout, or contest, student-athletes must complete the following requirements:

8/12/2026

A. Physical Examination

A current physical examination is required each school year in accordance with MHSAA regulations. The physical must be completed on the approved MHSAA Physical Examination Form, signed by a licensed healthcare provider, and submitted to the Athletic Department before any participation. A physical is valid for the entire school year if completed on or after April 15 of the previous school year.

B. Emergency Medical Information

A completed Emergency Medical Authorization form must be submitted before participation. This form authorizes emergency medical treatment if a parent or guardian cannot be reached and provides important medical information for coaches and athletic trainers.

C. Athletic Handbook Acknowledgment

Student-athletes and their parent(s)/guardian(s) must review the Waverly Athletic Handbook and Code of Conduct and complete all required acknowledgments and consent forms before participation. By signing these forms, families acknowledge they understand and agree to follow all athletic eligibility requirements, policies, and expectations.

D. Academic Eligibility

Student-athletes must meet all academic eligibility requirements established by the Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA) and Waverly Community Schools in order to participate in interscholastic athletics.

E. Assumption of Risk

Participation in interscholastic athletics involves inherent risks of injury. While Waverly Community Schools strives to provide a safe environment through proper supervision, coaching, and equipment, no activity is entirely risk-free.

Student-athletes are expected to:

- Follow all safety rules and coaching instructions.
- Report injuries, illnesses, or medical concerns immediately.
- Participate in appropriate conditioning programs.
- Inspect and properly use all assigned equipment.

F. Equipment and Financial Responsibilities

Student-athletes are responsible for the proper care and return of all school-issued equipment.

- School-Issued Equipment: Uniforms, warm-ups, and equipment remain the property of Waverly Community Schools and must be returned in good condition

at the conclusion of the season. Students may be financially responsible for lost, damaged, or unreturned equipment.

- Athlete-Purchased Items: Some sports require student-athletes to purchase personal items such as shoes, cleats, socks, gloves, practice apparel, or portions of a game uniform. These items become the property of the student-athlete.

Section 6: Student Athlete Expectations

A. Application of the Athletic Code

Participation in interscholastic athletics at Waverly High School is a privilege rather than a right. Student-athletes, team managers, and other team members are expected to comply with this Athletic Code as a condition of participation.

The Athletic Code becomes effective on the first day of tryouts or practice for a student's first athletic season and remains in effect through the conclusion of the school year. For teams or individual student-athletes whose seasons extend beyond the academic year, the Athletic Code remains in effect through the completion of the season, including postseason competition and any team awards ceremony. *See Section 7 for the definitions of "In-Season" and "Off-Season."*

Students must complete all required participation forms before attending any tryout, practice, or other team activity.

B. Scope of the Athletic Code

The Athletic Code applies at all times while it is in effect and is not limited to conduct occurring on school property or during school-sponsored events. Student-athletes are expected to demonstrate responsible behavior both on and off campus and serve as positive representatives of Waverly Community Schools.

C. Standards of Conduct

Student-athletes are expected to comply with the following standards of conduct while participating in the Waverly Community Schools athletic program. Failure to comply with these standards may result in athletic discipline as outlined in Section 7.

1. Violations of Law

- Violating federal, state, or local laws, including misdemeanor or felony offenses (excluding minor traffic violations).
- A criminal conviction is not required for the school to determine that a violation has occurred. The district may conduct its own investigation and impose athletic consequences when appropriate.

2. School Conduct Violations

- Receiving an out-of-school suspension or other serious disciplinary consequence under the Waverly Community Schools Student Code of Conduct.
- Persistent or serious misconduct that reflects negatively on the student-athlete, team, school, or community.
- Violating team rules, training rules, grooming standards, or other expectations established by the coach and approved by the Athletic Director.

3. Hazing

Hazing in any form is strictly prohibited at Waverly Community Schools.

Hazing includes any intentional, knowing, or reckless act directed toward another individual for the purpose of initiation, affiliation, participation, or maintaining membership in any school-sponsored or school-supported organization, including athletic teams, clubs, or activities. Such conduct includes, but is not limited to, actions that endanger the physical or emotional health or safety of an individual, or that cause physical pain, embarrassment, humiliation, intimidation, deprivation of rights, or mental or emotional distress.

Hazing is considered a form of harassment and abuse of power and is a violation of student dignity. Soliciting, encouraging, aiding, or engaging in hazing is strictly prohibited on school property, at any school-sponsored event, or in connection with any district-supported activity, whether on or off school grounds.

Violations of this policy will result in disciplinary action

4. Substance Abuse

Student-athletes may not use, possess, conceal, distribute, sell, manufacture, or be under the influence of:

- Tobacco or nicotine products, including electronic cigarettes and vaping devices
- Alcohol
- Illegal drugs or controlled substances
- Steroids, human growth hormone, or other performance-enhancing substances
- Look-alike or counterfeit illegal substances
- Prescription medications used by anyone other than the individual for whom they were prescribed or used in a manner inconsistent with the prescription

For purposes of this policy, **distribution** includes knowingly hosting or sponsoring a gathering where prohibited substances are possessed, used, or distributed.

The lawful use of prescription medication under the direction of a licensed healthcare provider is not a violation. Student-athletes should notify their coach or athletic trainer if prescribed medication may affect participation or athletic performance.

5. Drug Paraphernalia

Student-athletes may not possess, use, distribute, manufacture, or sell drug paraphernalia or devices associated with the use of controlled substances, including but

8/12/2026

not limited to pipes, vaping devices used for illegal substances, rolling papers, or other devices intended to inhale, smoke, inject, or otherwise consume prohibited substances.

Violations of the Athletic Code may result in athletic consequences as outlined in the **Consequences** section of this handbook.

6. Sportsmanship

Student-athletes are expected to demonstrate good sportsmanship at all times. They shall treat teammates, coaches, opponents, officials, spectators, and school personnel with respect and dignity before, during, and after all athletic events.

Unsportsmanlike conduct includes, but is not limited to:

- Disrespectful, abusive, or profane language or gestures.
- Fighting or attempting to incite a confrontation.
- Taunting, baiting, or intimidating opponents or spectators.
- Disrespect toward game officials or failure to comply with the directions of game officials or school personnel.
- Actions that reflect negatively on Waverly Community Schools or the interscholastic athletic program.

Student-athletes are expected to uphold the principles of fair play, respect, and integrity regardless of the outcome of competition.

7. Social Media and Electronic Communication

Student-athletes are responsible for all content they create, share, or distribute through social media, text messaging, and other electronic communication platforms.

Posts, images, videos, or messages that interfere with the educational environment or negatively impact the athletic program may result in athletic discipline. Examples include, but are not limited to:

- Bullying, cyberbullying, harassment, or hazing.
- Threats or intimidation.
- Discriminatory or hateful language or images.
- Profane, vulgar, or obscene content.
- Posts depicting or promoting violations of the Athletic Code, including alcohol, tobacco, nicotine, vaping, illegal drug use, or other prohibited conduct.
- Content that substantially disrupts school operations or damages the reputation of the athletic program.

Electronic communications should reflect the same standards of respect, responsibility, and sportsmanship expected of student-athletes in person.

8. Harassment, Bullying, and Discrimination

Waverly Community Schools is committed to providing an athletic environment that is safe, respectful, and inclusive. Harassment, bullying, cyberbullying, hazing, discrimination, or retaliation based on any protected characteristic or personal attribute will not be tolerated.

Student-athletes are expected to contribute to a positive team culture by treating others with dignity and respect.

9. Sports Wagering and Gambling

Student-athletes may not participate in sports wagering or gambling involving interscholastic, collegiate, or professional athletic events. This prohibition includes:

- Placing bets or wagers.
- Participating in fantasy sports contests involving entry fees or prizes when prohibited by law or MHSAA regulations.
- Providing inside information for gambling purposes.
- Promoting or facilitating sports wagering activities.

Violations may result in school disciplinary action and loss of athletic eligibility under MHSAA rules.

Section 7: Enforcement and Consequences

A. Conduct Offenses (Non–Substance Abuse) Violations of Conduct Offenses that occur outside of athletic competition (off the field or court) will be addressed as follows:

- **First Offense:** Handled in accordance with the Waverly Community Schools Student Code of Conduct and team rules established by the coach and approved by the Athletic Director.
- **Second and Subsequent Offenses:** May result in additional consequences as determined by school administration, the Student Code of Conduct, and applicable team rules.

B. Substance Abuse Offenses: Substance abuse violations are cumulative across a student's high school career, regardless of season.

1. First Offense

- Ineligibility for **25% of contests** (rounded to the nearest whole number) for the current team and/or the next team in which the student participates.

2. Second Offense

- Ineligibility for interscholastic athletic participation for the remainder of the current school year.

3. Third Offense

- Removal from participation in Waverly High School athletics for the remainder of the student's high school career.

C. Substance Abuse Self-Disclosure

A student-athlete who voluntarily discloses a substance abuse concern to a school employee, coach, or administrator before any report, investigation, or allegation may be eligible for self-disclosure consideration. If approved:

- The student must complete a chemical assessment and follow all recommended treatment.
- No violation will be recorded unless the disclosure is determined to be primarily an attempt to avoid discipline.
- This option may be used only once during a student's high school career.
- All costs are the responsibility of the student and family.
- Completion of all requirements must be verified in writing by a licensed provider.

D. Chemical Assessment and Treatment Requirements

1. First Violation

- The student-athlete is strongly encouraged to complete a chemical assessment through a licensed agency.

2. Second Violation

- The student-athlete must complete a chemical assessment and any recommended treatment program.
- The student and parent/guardian must meet with a licensed substance abuse counselor to review findings and recommendations.
- Written verification of compliance must be submitted to the Athletic Director.
- The student may not participate in athletics until requirements are completed.
- All costs are the responsibility of the student and family.

E. Definitions of Season

1. In-Season

"In-season" begins with the first day of practice or tryouts and continues through the completion of postseason competition and the team awards ceremony.

2. Off-Season

"Off-season" includes all time periods not defined as in-season.

F. Overlapping Seasons

When a student participates in two sports with overlapping seasons, the student may be considered in both seasons simultaneously once tryouts or practices for the next sport begin.

If a violation occurs during this overlap:

- The penalty will be applied to the upcoming sport season.
- This applies only when the current season's competition is complete but the awards ceremony has not yet occurred.
- The student remains eligible for awards from the completed season but may be restricted from attending the awards ceremony.

G. Application of Consequences

- Consequences are not considered complete unless the student-athlete finishes the season. Quitting a team does not satisfy a penalty.
- During suspension, athletes may not compete in contests. Participation in practices, team activities, or attendance at events is at the coach's discretion.
- Suspended athletes may not wear school-issued uniforms during the suspension period.
- If a new violation occurs while a penalty is being served, the new penalty will not begin until the prior penalty is completed.
- All offenses are cumulative across a student's high school career.
- No distinction is made between in-season and off-season substance abuse violations for cumulative tracking purposes.

Section 8: Disciplinary Process

A. Due Process and Notification

All disciplinary actions under the Athletic Code will follow the process outlined below to ensure fairness and due process.

Before any suspension is imposed:

- The coach or Athletic Director will notify the student-athlete and parent/guardian of the alleged violation.
- The student will be informed of the evidence supporting the allegation.
- The student will be given an opportunity to respond.

If a violation is confirmed, written notice will be provided to the student and parent/guardian identifying the violation and any resulting consequences.

B. Effective Date of Consequences

All suspensions and consequences begin on the date of the written notice of violation.

During any appeal process:

- The student-athlete is excluded from participation in practices and contests unless otherwise determined.
- Permission to attend practices or contests during an appeal is at the discretion of the coach and Athletic Director.

C. Appeal Process

Appeals are limited to whether proper procedures were followed and whether the Athletic Code was correctly applied. Appeals do not address or modify the established consequences.

1. Level One Appeal – Athletic Appeal Committee

- Appeals must be submitted in writing to the High School Principal within **five (5) school days** of receiving written notice of the violation.
- The Athletic Appeal Committee will review the appeal and issue a written decision within **five (5) school days** of receipt.

Committee Membership:

- Principal or designee
- Athletic Director
- One head coach selected from off-season coaches who are members of the high school teaching staff

Coaches of the sport involved in the appeal are not eligible to serve on the committee.

Written notice of the committee's decision will be provided to the student-athlete, parent/guardian, and Athletic Director.

2. Level Two Appeal – Superintendent Review

- A parent/guardian may appeal the Athletic Appeal Committee's decision to the Superintendent.
- This appeal must be submitted in writing within **five (5) school days** of the committee's decision.
- The Superintendent will issue a written decision within **five (5) school days** of receiving the appeal.

The Superintendent's decision is final.

Section 9: Communication Expectations

A. Parent–Coach Communication

Parenting and coaching are both demanding roles that share responsibility for supporting student-athletes. Clear, respectful communication helps create a positive athletic environment and ensures the best experience for students participating in Waverly High School athletics. Our coaches and administrators are not expected to endure yelling, verbal or physical abuse from parents.

When a student participates in athletics, parents/guardians have the right to understand program expectations. This begins with open communication between coaches and families.

8/12/2026

B. Communication from Coaches to Parents

Parents can expect coaches to communicate:

- The coach's philosophy and expectations for the program
- Expectations for student-athletes, including behavior, commitment, and participation
- Any circumstances that may affect a student-athlete's participation

C. Communication from Parents to Coaches

Coaches should expect parents to:

- Provide advance notice of scheduling conflicts
- Communicate concerns about their child in a respectful and timely manner
- Address concerns directly with the coach when appropriate

D. Appropriate Topics for Discussion

The following topics are appropriate to discuss with coaches:

- Academic concerns related to athletic participation
- Ways to help the student-athlete improve
- Behavioral concerns (on or off the field/court)
- The treatment, safety, or well-being of the student-athlete

E. Inappropriate Topics for Discussion

The following topics are not appropriate for discussion with coaches:

- Playing time
- Team strategy or game planning
- Play calling
- Other student-athletes

F. Communication Procedures

1. Meeting with Coaches -Parents who wish to discuss a concern should:

- Contact the coach to schedule an appointment
- Reach out through the Athletic Office at 517-321-2189 if the coach is unavailable
- Expect a timely response to messages or requests

Parents should not attempt to confront coaches before, during, or immediately after practices or competitions, as these are not appropriate times for discussion and do not support productive communication.

2. Escalation of Concerns

If concerns are not resolved after meeting with the coach, parents should:

- Contact the Athletic Director to schedule a follow-up meeting at 517-321-2189
- The Athletic Director will review the situation and assist in determining an appropriate resolution

Section 10: Additional Athletic Expectations and Information

A. Educational Value of Athletics

Participation in athletics provides students with valuable opportunities for growth, achievement, and learning. These experiences include both success and challenge, and the behavior of adults plays a key role in shaping the student-athlete experience.

Waverly Community Schools believes participation in co-curricular activities contributes to student success in school and in life. The athletic program is designed to develop character, resilience, and lifelong skills that support success beyond high school.

B. Dropping or Transferring Sports

Quitting a team is strongly discouraged; however, there may be situations in which a student-athlete must leave a sport for a valid reason.

If a student-athlete decides to leave a team:

- The coach must be notified in person.
- All school-issued equipment must be returned within 24 hours.

If a student-athlete who has earned a varsity letter or award wishes to change sports, they should consult with both head coaches to ensure a smooth and respectful transition that supports all programs involved.

C. Equipment Responsibility

All school-issued equipment is the responsibility of the student-athlete. Equipment must be properly cared for, maintained, and returned in good condition.

Lost, damaged, or unreturned equipment is the financial responsibility of the student-athlete.

D. Attendance at Practices

Regular attendance at all practices is expected. If an absence is necessary, the coach must be notified in advance whenever possible.

Unexcused absences are not acceptable and may result in consequences, including potential impact on team participation or role.

E. Travel Expectations

Student-athletes are generally required to travel to and from contests using transportation provided by the Athletic Department.

There may be situations where personal transportation is permitted. In such cases:

- Parents/guardians are responsible for monitoring transportation arrangements.
- A signed permission form must be on file with the coach.

F. College Recruitment and Eligibility

Information regarding college recruitment is available in the Counseling Office and Athletic Office. Student-athletes are encouraged to communicate with their head coach regarding any recruitment interest.

For eligibility requirements, student-athletes should refer to the NCAA Eligibility Center.

Important Notes:

- Pass/Fail coursework may not meet NCAA eligibility requirements.
- Students and families are responsible for confirming NCAA academic eligibility standards.
- Additional information is available at the NCAA Eligibility Center website: <https://www.ncaa.org>

Section 11: Conflicts in Co-Curricular and Extracurricular Activities

Waverly Community Schools values student participation in a wide range of co-curricular and extracurricular activities. These experiences are an important extension of the educational program and help students develop skills, responsibility, and personal growth.

Participation in these activities is a privilege and carries responsibilities to the school, activity, coaches/sponsors, teammates, student body, and community.

A. Participation and Expectations

The district encourages broad participation in athletics and other co-curricular programs. When feasible, activities are structured to allow participation at appropriate skill levels so students can be involved regardless of ability.

However, students who participate in multiple activities may occasionally experience scheduling conflicts. When obligations overlap, students may be required to choose between activities if conflicts cannot be reasonably resolved.

Students are responsible for managing their commitments carefully and should avoid joining multiple activities when known conflicts are likely.

B. Responsibility for Communication

8/12/2026

When a conflict occurs, the student must notify all involved coaches or sponsors immediately. Early communication is essential to allow for effective planning and resolution.

The athletic department will also make reasonable efforts to schedule events in a way that minimizes conflicts whenever possible.

C. Conflict Resolution Process

When a conflict arises, coaches and sponsors will first work together with the student to find a reasonable solution that supports the student's best interests.

If a resolution cannot be reached, the matter will be referred to an appeals committee consisting of:

- The coaches or sponsors of the involved activities
- The Athletic Director
- The Assistant Principal in charge of student activities

The committee will consider the following factors when making a decision:

- The relative importance of each event (competition vs. practice)
- The importance of each activity to the student
- The student's role and level of contribution
- The length of time each event has been scheduled
- Input from parents/guardians and school staff
- Any other relevant circumstances

D. Final Decision and Outcome

Once a decision is made, the student is expected to follow it. No penalties or negative consequences will be imposed by coaches or sponsors for participating in the activity determined by the decision-making process.

Section 12: School Attendance

Student-athletes must be in attendance for at least four (4) hours of the school day to be eligible to participate in practices or contests on that day. Parents are encouraged to avoid excusing students from school for non-emergency reasons during the athletic season. A student who is absent from school on a Friday may participate in a Saturday contest, provided the absence is considered excused by the attendance office.

Exceptions to the attendance requirement must be approved in advance by building administration prior to the absence and/or participation.

Section 13: Grooming and Dress

A student-athlete's appearance, dress, expression, and conduct directly reflect on themselves, their team, and Waverly Community Schools.

By choosing to participate in athletics, student-athletes agree to uphold established standards of grooming and dress as determined by the school and coaching staff. These expectations are intended to promote team unity, positive representation, and respect for the program.

Section 14: Vacations/Trips Policy

Vacations during an athletic season are strongly discouraged. Student-athletes and families should carefully consider their commitment to the team before scheduling travel during a season.

If a vacation or trip is unavoidable, the student-athlete is expected to:

1. Travel with their parent or legal guardian during the absence.
2. Notify the head coach prior to the trip, preferably before tryouts or the start of the season.
3. Accept any consequences related to missed practices or contests as determined by team rules and coaching staff.

Section 15: Scheduling Expectations

When developing athletic practice and competition schedules, the Athletic Department considers input from a variety of sources, including the Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA), the Capital Area Activities Conference (CAAC), neighboring school districts, religious leaders, community organizations, and parent groups.

Despite these efforts, it is not possible to create a schedule that accommodates all individuals or groups. Student-athletes may therefore be required to participate in practices or competitions when school is not in session, including during holidays and scheduled breaks.

The Athletic Department will make every reasonable effort to minimize scheduling conflicts whenever possible.

A. Weekend Practices

Whenever possible, practices will be scheduled on school days. Saturday practices should be limited in both frequency and duration. Sunday practices are generally discouraged and will only be permitted under the following conditions:

- For varsity teams with approval from the Athletic Director
- When a varsity contest is scheduled for the following day
- When a tournament or postseason event occurs the following day

B. Holiday Practices

Holiday practices are strongly discouraged, especially for non-varsity teams. Holiday practices may only be scheduled under the following conditions:

- With approval from the Athletic Director
- When a contest is scheduled for the following day
- When a tournament or postseason event occurs the following day
- When participation is optional and no penalty is applied for absence

Section 16: Team Membership

Waverly High School encourages broad student participation in athletics in alignment with its educational philosophy. Coaches are encouraged to include as many participants as reasonably possible within the limits of space, facilities, equipment, safety, and competitive standards.

Prior to tryouts, all candidates will be informed of the following:

- The length and structure of the tryout period (minimum number of practices)
- Criteria used for team selection
- Number of athletes to be selected
- Practice expectations and commitments, including potential holiday or break participation
- Game and competition commitments
- Overall season expectations

A. Team Selection

Selection of team members is the sole responsibility of the coaching staff for each sport.

When roster reductions are necessary, the process will include the following:

1. Each candidate will participate in a predetermined minimum number of practice sessions.
2. Each candidate will participate in at least one game-like or evaluative setting when feasible (exceptions may be made due to weather or other extenuating circumstances, particularly in spring sports).
3. Each candidate will be informed of the final decision by the coach.

B. Communication and Opportunities

When a student-athlete is not selected for a team, coaches are encouraged to communicate alternative opportunities for participation within the athletic program or suggestions for continued athletic involvement.

Section 17: Reporting of an Injury

All injuries that occur while participating in athletics should be reported to the trainer/coach. Once a physician treats an athlete, the athlete must obtain and submit a doctor's permission to the Athletic Director in order to return to the activity.

Section 18: Out-of-State Travel

The Waverly High School Athletic Department follows all Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA) policies regarding interscholastic athletic travel for practices and competition. Waverly athletic teams may travel to neighboring states and regions, including Wisconsin, Indiana, Ohio, and Ontario, Canada, when approved.

All out-of-state travel requests will be reviewed and approved on a case-by-case basis.

Section 19: Name, Image, and Likeness (NIL) / Personal Brand Activities (PBA) Policy

Purpose

Waverly High School supports student-athletes in pursuing educational and personal development opportunities while maintaining compliance with Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA) regulations. This policy establishes expectations regarding Personal Brand Activities (PBAs) and outlines the requirements necessary to maintain athletic eligibility.

Definition of Personal Brand Activities (PBAs)

A **Personal Brand Activity (PBA)** is any arrangement in which a student-athlete promotes, endorses, advertises, markets, or otherwise uses their name, image, likeness, reputation, or personal brand in exchange for current or future compensation. Compensation may include money, products, services, discounts, gifts, or any other item of value.

Examples of PBAs include, but are not limited to:

- Social media endorsements or sponsored content
- Promotional appearances
- Commercial advertisements
- Product endorsements
- Paid autograph sessions
- Personal training, camps, or instructional services
- Content creation and influencer activities

Student-Athlete Responsibilities

Participation in PBAs is voluntary and is the sole responsibility of the student-athlete and their parent/guardian.

Student-athletes are responsible for ensuring that all PBAs comply with MHSAA regulations, school district policies, and applicable laws. Failure to comply may result in loss of athletic eligibility and/or other disciplinary consequences.

8/12/2026

Prohibited Activities

To maintain athletic eligibility, student-athletes may **not**:

1. Use School or MHSAA Branding

Student-athletes may not use or display:

- Waverly High School names, logos, trademarks, or mascots
- MHSAA names, logos, or trademarks
- School-issued uniforms, warmups, varsity jackets, equipment, or other school-branded apparel
- Any image, statement, or representation suggesting endorsement by Waverly High School, Waverly Community Schools, or the MHSAA

2. Use School Facilities or Property

PBAs may not be conducted on or utilize:

- School athletic facilities
- School buildings or grounds
- Locker rooms
- Team equipment
- School vehicles or other district property

Examples include commercial photo shoots, advertisements, promotional videos, or other compensated activities conducted on school property.

3. Accept Pay-for-Play Compensation

Student-athletes may not receive compensation that is:

- Based on athletic performance, statistics, awards, rankings, or achievements
- Contingent upon making or remaining on a team
- Tied to participation in athletics
- Connected to enrollment, transfer decisions, or continued attendance at Waverly High School

4. Participate During School or Athletic Activities

Student-athletes may not engage in PBAs:

- During the school day
- During classes or school-sponsored activities
- During practices, scrimmages, competitions, tournaments, or other MHSAA events
- During team travel or other athletic obligations

5. Promote Prohibited Products or Services

Student-athletes may not enter into PBAs involving products or services prohibited by the MHSAA or district policy, including but not limited to:

- Gambling or sports wagering
- Alcohol
- Tobacco or nicotine products
- Cannabis or marijuana products
- Controlled substances or banned performance-enhancing substances
- Adult entertainment or sexually explicit content
- Firearms or weapons
- Any business or activity determined by the MHSAA or district administration to be inappropriate for high school students

Disclosure Requirement

Before entering into a PBA agreement, student-athletes are **strongly encouraged** to disclose the opportunity to the Athletic Director.

The disclosure should include:

- Name of the sponsoring individual or business
- General description of the activity
- Nature of the compensation
- Expected dates of participation

Disclosure does **not** constitute approval by the school district. Responsibility for compliance remains with the student-athlete and parent/guardian.

School Non-Involvement

Waverly High School, its employees, coaches, and volunteers will **not**:

- Negotiate PBA agreements
- Arrange sponsorship opportunities
- Provide legal, tax, or financial advice
- Endorse products or services connected to a student's PBA
- Facilitate contact between student-athletes and potential sponsors

Booster Clubs, Foundations, and Associated Organizations

Booster clubs, athletic foundations, alumni groups, major donors, and other organizations associated with Waverly High School athletics may **not**:

- Arrange, facilitate, coordinate, or secure PBA opportunities for student-athletes
- Provide compensation connected to athletic participation
- Offer incentives related to school attendance, transfer decisions, or team participation
- Promote or advertise PBA opportunities on behalf of student-athletes

Violations involving booster clubs or associated organizations may result in MHSAA sanctions affecting individual student-athletes, teams, or the school district.

Tax and Financial Responsibility

Student-athletes and their parents/guardians are solely responsible for:

- Reporting income earned through PBAs
- Complying with all applicable federal and state tax laws
- Meeting any contractual, employment, or financial obligations associated with PBA participation

The school district assumes no responsibility for tax reporting, financial planning, or legal compliance related to PBAs.

Eligibility Consequences

Failure to comply with MHSAA regulations, district policies, or this handbook provision may result in one or more of the following:

- Loss of athletic eligibility
- Team or program sanctions
- School disciplinary action, when appropriate
- Additional penalties imposed by the MHSAA

(PLEASE DETACH AND RETURN TO COACH)

Receipt and Acknowledgement Page

Athletic Code of Conduct and Handbook

I acknowledge having received this copy of the *Athletic Code of Conduct and Handbook* and will review it with my child to assure that we know and understand all four sections of its contents.

Please initial where indicated and sign this form at the bottom of the page to indicate that you have received this Athletic Code of Conduct and Handbook and return it to the coach or Athletic Office. If you have questions, comments, or concerns, please add them below and your coach or Athletic Director will get back with you.

Questions, Comments, or Concerns

I have seen the Athletic Code of Conduct and Handbook and below are my questions/comments/concerns. Please get back with me at your earliest convenience.

Code of Conduct Acknowledgement

_____ (*Please Initial*) Yes, I have received a copy of the Athletic Code of Conduct and Handbook and have reviewed it with my child. I understand the rights and responsibilities of being involved in the athletic program.

Student Name: _____

Parent Name: _____

Parent Signature: _____

Date: _____/_____/_____