

STUDENT ATHLETE HANDBOOK



PASCO
SCHOOL DISTRICT #1

ATHLETIC CODE FOR PASCO SECONDARY SCHOOLS

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**STUDENT-ATHLETE
HANDBOOK**

ADOPTED BY THE
PASCO SCHOOL BOARD
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I. PHILOSOPHY

Pasco School District believes the student-athlete learning experience should extend beyond the classroom. Extracurricular activities allow our student-athletes to explore different disciplines and develop skills that might not be taught within the core-teaching curriculum. In support of this belief, we offer a wide variety of school activities that include, but are not limited to, WIAA Athletics/Activities, ASB Offices, Cheer Squads, and Drill/Dance Team.

Participation in school activities beyond the classroom fosters the opportunity for our student-athletes to nurture friendships and to develop empathy for their peers. Our programs are intended to enhance the student-athlete's personal well being in spirit, mind and body. Their focus is to build self-confidence, self-worth and recognition in the individual while teaching the rewards of good sportsmanship, cooperation, respect for authority, and the spirit of hard work and sacrifice that come with activities and team participation.

Participation in Pasco School District extracurricular activities is a privilege, not a right. While involvement in these activities is strictly voluntary, those who choose to participate represent their student-bodies, families and community. In recognition of this fact, Pasco School District chooses to keep our standards high. These standards include academic requirements, citizenship, sportsmanship, and personal conduct. The dignity and integrity of the total school program requires that student-athletes conduct themselves in a manner above question. **Enjoyment of these privileges is predicated on the student-athlete's willingness to uphold the following rules of conduct. These rules will be in effect YEAR-ROUND - 365 DAYS/YEAR. (Contact the Athletic Director at 546-2859)**

All Pasco School District athletic/activities policies meet or exceed the Washington Interscholastic Activities Association (WIAA) policies and procedures. If you would like to review the WIAA handbook, a copy is available from the Athletic Director.

This handbook is subject to revision from time to time by the district to maintain compliance with WIAA rules and procedures.

Note to Parents/Guardians

- The Student Athletic Handbook is the guide for clarifying the rules and attitudes that govern the conduct of student-athletes. Any problems that occur will be handled according to the procedures stated therein. If questions arise, contact your coach for clarification.
- If your student-athlete is injured at a sporting event while out of town, the incident will be handled according to district policy. If you have any questions, please contact your coach or the Athletic Director.
- If, at any time, you have a question or concern regarding your student-athlete's sports participation, the following course of action is to be taken:
 - Talk directly to the coach. Parent/guardians are to arrange a meeting with the coach rather than approaching him/her at practice or immediately following a game.
 - If the issue is not corrected or you have concerns about the way the situation is handled, you are to arrange a meeting with the Athletic Director.
 - If the issue remains unresolved, you are advised to take the issue to the Principal.

II. RULES OF CONDUCT

The following rules of conduct apply to all student-athletes. They are intended to clarify, for the student-athletes, their obligations as leaders and participants.

A. CONDUCT ELIGIBILITY RULES AND PENALTIES (From WIAA Handbook)

Conduct resulting in ejection or disqualification from an interscholastic event or competition administered by game officials, coach or school administrators shall result in ineligibility for succeeding events or competition until compliance with WIAA penalties. Penalties will apply to student-athletes, coaches, school representatives and fans.

Enforcement of Conduct Eligibility Rules

1. First expulsion = ineligibility until after the next event/contest of the school at the same level of competition from which the person was ejected. (See WIAA Handbook)
2. Second violation (expulsion) in the same sport and season = ineligibility for the remainder of the season of that sport.
3. Appeal of either penalty = see WIAA handbook or confer with Athletic Director.
4. Building athletic administrator will counsel any person ejected from a contest to determine if further action is necessary, i.e., referral to anger management program.

B. ATHLETIC TRAINING RULES AND PENALTIES

No Tolerance Athletic Code is in effect 365 days a year.

1. Consumption, Possession, or Transmittal of Alcohol/Tobacco

The illegal consumption, possession, or transmittal of alcoholic beverages in any form by a student-athlete is prohibited.

The consumption, possession, or transmittal of tobacco products, in any form by a student-athlete is prohibited.

Penalty for Violations

a. First Violation

- i. Suspension for 40% of the current or next sport season. Suspension is to begin from the date the violation is documented in the athletic office. If less than 40% of the season remains, the suspension carries over to the next sport selected by the student-athlete. The student-athlete must participate in the selected sport for the entire season of the suspension or the suspension will continue to carry over to the next sport selected.
- ii. Referral to a chemical dependency professional for assessment. The student-athlete must comply with the professional's recommendation in order to re-enter athletic participation. The student-athlete must provide written proof of compliance signed by a chemical dependency professional.

- iii. Forfeit all Pasco School District athletic awards and letters. In case a penalty carries over into another season, this applies to only the season in which the violation was documented.

b. Second Violation

- i. Loss of 100% of a sport season. Suspension is to begin from the date the violation is documented in the athletic office. The suspension will be in effect for the remainder of the current sport season and a corresponding percentage of the student-athlete's next selected sport, the total suspension of which shall constitute 100% of a sports season. Example: if less than 30% remains in the season then suspension will include 70% of the next sport season in which the student-athlete selects to participate. If the student-athlete is not currently enrolled in a sport then he/she loses 100% of the next sport season in which he/she normally participates. If the student-athlete elects to serve the suspension in a sport that he/she does not normally participate in, the following conditions must be adhered to: (1) The student-athlete must participate in the selected sport for the entire season of the suspension. (2) The student-athlete must attend all practices but NOT play in games. (3) The student-athlete must end the season in good standing according to these rules. If all three conditions are not met, the suspension will continue to carry over to the next sport selected.
- ii. Referral to a chemical dependency professional for assessment. The student-athlete must comply with professional's recommendation in order to re-enter athletic participation. The student-athlete must

provide written proof of compliance signed by a chemical dependency professional.

- iii. Forfeit all Pasco School District athletic awards and letters. In case a penalty carries over into another season, this applies to only the season in which the violation was documented.

c. Third Violation

The student-athlete will be dismissed from athletic participation for the remainder of the student-athlete's high school career.

2. Being in the Presence of Alcohol & Tobacco

A student-athlete shall not **knowingly be in the presence** of alcoholic beverages, tobacco products, or controlled substances in any form that are being introduced or used unlawfully.

It is the responsibility of the student-athlete to remove himself/herself from the presence of these illegal activities as soon as reasonably possible after he/she becomes aware these activities are taking place.

Penalty for Violations

a. First Violation

The Athletic Director shall be authorized to suspend the student-athlete for up to 30% of the sport season for a violation of this section of the code, based upon the seriousness of the student-athlete's conduct, amount of involvement, and length of time the student-athlete

remained in the presence of the illegal activity. The suspension is to begin from the date the violation is documented in the athletic office. The student-athlete must participate in the selected sport for the entire season of the suspension or the suspension will continue to carry over to the next sport selected.

b. Second Violation

- i. Suspension for 40% of the current or next sport season. Suspension is to begin from the date the violation is documented in the athletic office. If less than 40% of the season remains, the suspension carries over to the next sport selected by the student-athlete. The student-athlete must participate in the selected sport for the entire season of the suspension or the suspension will continue to carry over to the next sport selected.
- ii. Referral to a chemical dependency professional for assessment. The student-athlete must comply with the professional's recommendation in order to re-enter athletic participation. The student-athlete must provide written proof of compliance signed by a chemical dependency professional.
- iii. Forfeit all Pasco School District athletic awards and letters. In case a penalty carries over into another season, this applies to only the season in which the violation was documented.

c. Third Violation

- i. Loss of 100% of a sport season. Suspension is to begin from the date the violation is documented in the athletic office. The suspension will be in effect

for the remainder of the current sport season and a corresponding percentage of the student's next selected sport the total suspension of which shall constitute 100% of a sports season. Example: if less than 30% remains in the season then suspension will include 70% of the next sport season in which the student-athlete selects to participate. If the student-athlete is not currently enrolled in a sport then he/she loses 100% of the next sport season in which he/she normally participates. If the student-athlete elects to serve the suspension in a sport that he/she does not normally participate in, the following conditions must be adhered to: (1) The student-athlete must participate in the selected sport for the entire season of the suspension. (2) The student-athlete must attend all practices but NOT play in games. (3) The student-athlete must end the season in good standing according to these rules. If all three conditions are not met, the suspension will continue to carry over to the next sport selected.

- ii. Referral to a chemical dependency professional for assessment. The student-athlete must comply with professional's recommendation in order to re-enter athletic participation. The student-athlete must provide written proof of compliance signed by a chemical dependency professional.
- iii. Forfeit all Pasco School District athletic awards and letters. In case a penalty carries over into another season, this applies to only the season in which the violation was documented.

3. Legend Drugs/Controlled Substances

See WIAA Handbook Use of Illegal Substances - Penalties for violation of RCW 69.41.020-69.41.050 (legend drugs including anabolic steroids possession and/or use) or violation of RCW 69.50 (Uniform Controlled Substances Act). A violation of RCW 69.41.020 – 69.41.050 shall be considered a violation of the eligibility code and standards, and shall subject the student-athlete to disciplinary actions. Legend drugs are defined as those that are legal only through prescription. Controlled substances and controlled substance analogs are defined in RCW 69.50.101, as a substance that has a stimulate, depressant, or hallucinogenic effect on the central nervous system.

Penalty for Violations

a. First Violation

A participant shall be immediately ineligible for interscholastic competition in the current interscholastic sports program for the remainder of the season. Ineligibility shall continue until the next sports season in which the participant wishes to participate. In order to be eligible to participate in the next interscholastic sports season, the student-athlete shall meet with the Athletic Appeal Board to request approval to participate. The Athletic Appeal Board will recommend the appropriate action to be taken in the student-athlete's case. The school Principal shall have the final authority as to the student-athlete's participation in the interscholastic sports program.

A participant who seeks and receives help for a problem with use of legend drugs (RCW 69.41.010 identified substances) or controlled substances and controlled substance analogs (RCW 69.50.101 identified substances) shall be given the opportunity for assistance through the school and/or community agencies. In no instance shall

participation in a school and/or community approved assistance program excuse a student-athlete from subsequent compliance with this regulation. However, successful utilization of such an opportunity or compliance with athletic code by the student-athlete may allow him/her to have eligibility re-instated in the athletic program, pending recommendation by the Athletic Appeal board.

b. Second Violation

A participant who again violates any provision of RCW 69.41.020 through 69.41.050 or of RCW 69.50 shall be ineligible for interscholastic competition for a period of one calendar year from the date of the second violation.

c. Third Violation

A participant who violates for a third time RCW 69.41.020-69.41.050 or of RCW 69.50 shall be permanently ineligible for interscholastic competition.

4. Illegal Selling or Trafficking

The illegal **selling** or **trafficking** of any substance will result in expulsion from the athletic program for one calendar year from date of violation. The matter will be referred to the police if appropriate.

In order to be eligible to participate in interscholastic sports after one calendar year, the student-athlete shall meet with the Athletic Appeal Board to request approval to participate. The Athletic Appeal Board will recommend the appropriate action to be taken in the student-athlete's case. The school Principal shall have the final authority as to the student-athlete's participation in the interscholastic sports program.

5. **Self-Reporting**

This applies to either the first or second violation of rules number (1) and (2). If a student-athlete reports he/she was involved in a violation of this policy to the athletic director/coach/administrator in a timely manner (which will generally mean within the first school day after the violation) and prior to discovery by district personnel, then the Athletic Director shall have the discretion to reduce the suspension penalty by up to 50% of the penalty set forth in the rule. (Athletic Office phone number is 546-2859.)

6. **General Information**

Upon verification of a training violation, the student-athlete will be subject to disciplinary action.

Oral notification of the alleged violation will be given to the parent/guardian within two school days of the time the Athletic Director gets notice of the alleged violation, followed by written notification. See WAC 392-183A-020 – Due Process.

An independent investigator (hired by the Pasco School District) may be utilized to investigate allegations of violations of this policy as deemed appropriate by the Principal/Athletic Director.

A season is defined as follows: From the first allowable “turnout” date to the end of the regular season.

In calculating the percentage of season suspended, the school shall use the number of games in the regular season contest limits shown in the table below as defined in WIAA Handbook. For purposes of calculating the percentage of the season suspended, there shall be no partial-game suspensions. The suspension time will be rounded-

up to the next complete contest. (For example, a 30% suspension of eight games would result in three complete games suspended.)

Violations are cumulative during grades 7-8 and 9-12.

For student-athlete Appeal Rights, see Section III.

WIAA Maximum Contests Allowed Per Season

Sport	Regular Season	
	Middle School	High School
Baseball	10	20
Basketball	10	20
Cross Country	7	12
Football	6	10
Golf	8	12
Bowling	9	18
Soccer	10	16
Softball	10	20
Tennis	10	16
Track	7	10
Volleyball	10	16
Wrestling	10	16

C. OTHER RULES OF CONDUCT

Student-athletes are expected to demonstrate exemplary conduct on and off campus and adhere to standards of good citizenship. Student-athletes must also be aware that their actions represent the student body, the community and the school. Student-athletes are in a position to be excellent role models for the young children in our community and should take seriously that responsibility.

1. Theft of another's possessions or school property, or being in possession of stolen property, may result in expulsion from the athletic program for one year.

2. Hazing/bullying will not be tolerated and will result in severe disciplinary action.
3. Student-athletes will dress appropriately and in good taste according to team standards Appearance will be governed by Pasco School District's "Dress and Physical Appearance" policy (No. 3224). For reasons of safety, there will be no excessive application of oily substances to the hair and hair will be cut so as to be out of the eyes, trimmed neatly in accordance with the standards established by the rules of a particular sport and/or the coach involved. Dress and grooming rules relate to the health, safety and welfare of participants.
4. Student-athletes shall obey all school rules and regulations. If school disciplinary action is taken against a student-athlete, the following shall apply to the student-athlete's participation in athletics: any suspension = no practice, no games; expulsion = removal from team.
5. Student-athlete shall maintain a satisfactory attendance record and attend all regularly scheduled classes unless appropriately excused. (See Page 27 Attendance Regulations.)
6. The student-athlete shall meet all WIAA and Pasco School District eligibility requirements.
7. On athletic trips, the student-athlete shall obey bus riding, training and school rules and regulations, remain with the squad, group or team at all times and comply with the written rules and regulations of the sport as established by the head coach.

Since being part of a team includes traveling to and from games with the team, student-athletes will only be released

to their parent/guardians for the purpose of travel following out of town contests under the following conditions:

- a. When travel is to an opposite destination or there are other extenuating circumstances, i.e., family commitment, injury, home is in the block area and contest is in Moses Lake, Wenatchee, Yakima, or Walla Walla.
 - b. The parent/guardian in person, must submit a written request to the coach to have their student-athlete released to them at the contest site
 - c. No student-athlete will be released to anyone other than his/her parent/guardian without an approval from a school administrator. The parent/guardian will need to submit a note to the Athletic Director along with a note from the adult the student-athlete will be released to. The Athletic Director will then approve and give the coach a signed note authorizing them to release the student-athlete.
8. Sportsmanship is a quality of conduct that demonstrates courtesy, fairness, and respect for others. Student-athletes representing teams of the Pasco School District are expected to exemplify the highest standards of good sportsmanship.
 9. The use of profane or obscene language or acts of vulgarity are not considered socially acceptable modes of behavior. By being members of athletic teams, the student-athlete is expected to conduct himself/herself in a first-class, socially acceptable manner.
 10. The student-athlete shall turn out for all regular and special practices and meetings, unless pre-excused by the coach.

11. The student-athlete shall be responsible for all school-owned equipment checked out by the participant in any activity. The loss or misuse of this equipment will be the financial obligation of the participant. The participant will not be allowed to continue participation or receive awards until this obligation is fulfilled.

12. Dressing Room Conduct

- Show proper respect to all visitors.
- Keep assigned lockers, locked and clean.
- “Rough-housing” or “horse-play” of any sort is dangerous and will not be permitted at any time.
- Turn off all showers before leaving and dry in the drying areas, not in the dressing area.

13. The student-athlete shall follow all other written rules and regulations as established by the head coach.

Each head coach shall establish, distribute and explain to athletic participants and their parents/guardians, written rules and regulations for their specific sport/season. These written rules and regulations shall be reviewed and approved by the Athletic Director. Written penalties for violation of the “Rules of Conduct,” as stated in the athletic code, will be established by the head coach and/or building coaching staff within each sport season in accordance with the disciplinary procedures outlined in this code. These written penalties for violations shall be reviewed and approved by the Athletic Director.

Student-athletes and parents/guardians are encouraged to resolve disagreements directly with the coach. There is no limit on the amount of time that may be devoted to this informal resolution process.

Penalties for Violation of Other Rules of Conduct

Any student-athlete failing to comply with the “Other Rules of Conduct” as stated shall be subject to disciplinary action by his/her coach and the building Athletic Director in accordance with the following procedures:

a. Athletic Probation

Probation is a period of time during which a student-athlete may be given an opportunity to correct deficiencies that could result in short-term suspension, long-term suspension, or expulsion from athletic participation. In the event of probation, the following shall prevail:

- i. The length of the probation shall be a minimum of five (5) school days, but shall not exceed one sports season.
- ii. During this period of probation, the student-athlete must turn out with the team, but will not be permitted to compete in scheduled athletic events.
- iii. While on probation, any violation of the “Rules of Conduct” of the Code and/or conditions of probation may result in long-term suspension from the squad.
- iv. In all cases in which a student-athlete is placed on probation, the Athletic Director shall inform, in writing, the student-athlete and the parent/guardian of the infraction and the conditions of probation. Copies of this notification shall also be directed to the building Principal, the head coach and the district administrator of the athletic code.