

# **WILSON CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**



## **INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC POLICY**

Dear Student-Athletes and Parents,

Welcome to the Wilson Central School District's Interscholastic Athletic Program.

Wilson takes great pride in its rich athletic tradition. Our student-athletes are known for their hard work, discipline, and for representing our community in a positive and respectful manner. Our goal is to offer competitive athletic experiences that are enjoyable, successful, and that support individual growth in a safe and healthy environment. These experiences often create memories that last a lifetime, and we are excited that you've chosen to be a part of it.

Please remember that participation in any of our athletic programs is a privilege—one that carries significant responsibility. Student-athletes are expected to demonstrate good judgment and mature behavior at all times. Whether in-season or out-of-season, on or off the field, you serve as a leader and a role model.

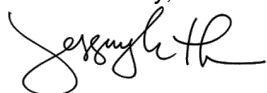
At Wilson, we believe athletics are a vital component of a well-rounded educational experience. Studies consistently show that students involved in interscholastic sports tend to achieve higher academic success, manage their time more efficiently, and face fewer disciplinary issues. This is true in our district as well, where many of our top-performing students are multi-sport athletes.

This athletic policy has been created to help you understand the expectations and procedures within our program. For students, it outlines both your responsibilities and what you can expect from us. We encourage open and honest communication as the best way to address any issues that arise. For parents, this policy serves to inform you about the standards and goals of our athletic department so you can feel confident that we are instilling values in our athletes that extend far beyond sports. If you have any questions or concerns not addressed in the policy, please contact your child's coach or the athletic office. You can also find the most current information on our website at: [www.wilsoncsd.org/athletics](http://www.wilsoncsd.org/athletics).

Our athletic program is governed by the New York State Commissioner of Education, the New York State Public High School Athletic Association (NYSPHSAA), and the Wilson Board of Education. Wilson High School is a proud member of the NYSPHSAA, Section VI, and the Niagara-Orleans Athletic League.

Thank you once again for joining our athletic community. We encourage you to make sportsmanship a central part of your experience. We look forward to supporting you and wish you the very best in your athletic journey.

Sincerely,



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## PURPOSE:

- Provide clear expectations for student-athletes and families.
- Promote responsibility, respect, and accountability.
- Ensure consistency in athletic policies and procedures.
- Foster a safe, respectful, and competitive athletic environment.



## PHILOSOPHY:

The Athletics Department believes that interscholastic athletics are an extension of the classroom, teaching life lessons such as perseverance, teamwork, humility, and leadership. Our philosophy promotes:

- Academic achievement
- Skill development
- Enjoyment of the sport
- Respectful competition
- Inclusivity
- Sportsmanship



Participation in interscholastic athletics is a privilege, not a right. The Wilson Board of Education and Athletic Department expect that, as a condition of participation, a student-athlete and his/her parents will abide by the rules, regulations, and procedures of this policy. The Wilson Central School District Athletic Policy is written specifically for student athletes and is to be used concurrently with the Wilson HS/MS Student Handbook.

## SPORTSMANSHIP:

- Show respect to teammates, opponents, coaches, officials, and fans.
- Accept victories with humility and losses with grace.
- Refrain from taunting or unsportsmanlike behavior.
- Uphold the integrity of their team and school.



## SPECTATOR EXPECTATIONS:

While winning is an important goal for all of our competitive programs, how we play and conduct ourselves is equally important. Parents and spectators are an important part of the game and shall conform to accepted standards of good sportsmanship.

- Cheer positively and support all participants.
- Avoid criticizing officials, coaches, or players.
- Refrain from foul or inappropriate language.
- Follow facility rules and event policies.
- Avoid coaching from the sidelines.
- Practice self-control.



Any spectator who engages in unsportsmanlike behavior at a high school sporting event can be ejected and banned from attending further sporting events.

## COMMUNICATION:

- Clear and respectful communication is essential.
- Athletes should speak with the coach first regarding team issues.
- Parents should contact the coach for concerns only after 24 hours and never immediately after a practice or game.
- It is not appropriate to discuss playing time, strategy, or other students.

## COMMITMENT:

- Attend all practices, games, meetings, and team events.
- Prioritize the team during the season.
- Students may not quit one team and join another in the same season without administrative approval.
- Finish the season in good standing.

## ELIGIBILITY:

- Must be a bona fide student of the Wilson Central School District.
- Cleared for participation through the School Nurse and Medical Director.
- Meet all New York State Department of Education requirements.
- Meet all NYSPHSAA requirements.
- Academic eligibility checks occur weekly.
- Students failing two or more classes are declared ineligible for the week (Monday-Sunday)
- Athletes declared ineligible may practice but not participate or attend any contest or school function during that week including sports awards, dances, away contests, and senior prom.



## TRANSPORTATION:

- School transportation is provided for all away contests.
- Athletes must ride the bus to and from contests.
- Parents may take child home from away contest, although not encouraged.
- Athletes will conduct themselves respectfully on all trips.
- Bus should be cleaned after trip.

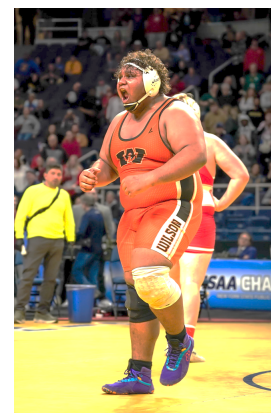


## SCHOOL ATTENDANCE:

- Students are expected to come to school on time every day.
- Athletes must attend school for a minimum of three hours with a legal excuse to be eligible for practice or games.
- Friday attendance is used for weekend practices and games.
- Frequent absences may result in disciplinary action or ineligibility.
- Contact the Athletic Office if extenuating circumstances arise.

## RISKS & INJURY:

- Participation in sports carries risk of injury.
- Athletes and parents assume the risk.
- Athletes must report all injuries to their coach and/or athletic trainer.
- Medical clearance may be required to return to play.
- The school carries limited insurance; families are encouraged to have primary coverage.
- Medical expenses are not the responsibility of the Wilson Central School District.
- A certified athletic trainer is on campus for all home JV and Varsity contests.



## CONDUCT OF AN ATHLETE:

- Students will be courteous, respect the rights of others, and will exhibit self-discipline
- Athletes will follow team rules.
- Athletes will not engage in disruptive behaviors, including (but not limited to) altercations, bullying, hazing, or theft.
- Athletes must report all injuries to their coach and/or athletic trainer.
- Use, possession, or distribution of illegal substances, alcohol, or tobacco (including vaping) is strictly prohibited and may result in suspension from athletic participation, school discipline, and/or counseling programs.
- Medical clearance is required to return to play after doctor visit for injury.
- The school carries limited insurance; families are encouraged to have primary coverage.
- Medical expenses are not the responsibility of the Wilson Central School District.

## VIOLATIONS OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT:

Violations may result in:

- Verbal or written warnings
  - Temporary or permanent removal from the team
  - School disciplinary actions
  - Loss of awards or leadership roles
  - Game ejections require meeting with Athletic Director to determine reinstatement.
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- Athlete's suspended out of school will not attend/participate for the duration of the suspension.
  - Athlete's placed into the Alternative Learning Center (ALC) will be eligible to participate unless Admin/Coach determine otherwise.



The school administration has established guidelines for addressing situations not specifically outlined in the Athletic Policy. In such cases, expectations and the resulting consequences will be applied as consistently as possible with previously addressed incidents. If it is determined that a student-athlete has violated policies related to the use of alcohol, tobacco, and/or drugs, the Athletic Director may enforce the following disciplinary actions:

- First Offense - Suspended from competition for up to 25% of the sport's scheduled contests.
- Second Offense - Suspended from competition for up to 50% of the sport's scheduled contests.
- Additional Offenses – Athlete may be suspended, required to see counseling, and/or removed from athletics.

## PHILOSOPHY BY LEVEL:

- Modified: Emphasis on skill development and equal opportunity for participation.
- Junior Varsity: Continued development with playing time based on effort, attitude, and skill.
- Varsity: Emphasis on competition and team success; playing time is not guaranteed and is at the coach's discretion.

## LETTERING:

- Letters will be awarded for participation in a varsity sport only.
- The criteria to letter are at the discretion of the varsity coach.
- Athlete will receive one chenille "W" letter for the FIRST time they letter in any sport.
- Each time the athlete meets the criteria to earn a letter they will receive a sport specific symbol.

## ORANGEMEN AWARD:

- Established in 1970 by the Wilson All-Sports Booster Club
- Participate in three sports per year for all four years of high school.
- "Club" sports do not count towards Orangemen eligibility.

Fall Sports Offerings	Winter Sports Offerings	Spring Sports Offerings
Varsity Boys & Girls Cross Country Varsity & Modified Field Hockey Varsity Boys & Girls Golf Varsity & JV Boys Soccer Varsity & JV Girls Soccer Varsity Gameday Cheerleading Varsity & JV Football Varsity, JV, Modified Girls Volleyball	Varsity, JV, Modified Boys Basketball Varsity, JV, Modified Girls Basketball Varsity Competitive Cheerleading Varsity, JV, Mod Boys & Girls Wrestling Unified Bowling	Varsity & JV Baseball Varsity & Modified Lacrosse Varsity & JV Softball Varsity Boys Tennis Varsity Boys Track & Field Varsity Girls Track & Field

