

WILSON CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT



INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC POLICY 2021-2022

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Dear Student-Athletes and Wilson Parents:

Welcome to the Wilson Central School District's Interscholastic Athletic Program. Wilson has an outstanding athletic history and tradition. Our student-athletes are hard working, disciplined and represent the community in a positive manner. Our program aims to provide competitive athletic experiences that are fun, successful, and promote individual growth within a safe and healthy environment. These positive experiences will be memories that last a lifetime. We are excited that you have chosen to take advantage of this wonderful opportunity.

We would also like to remind you that participating on any of our athletic teams is a privilege and with this privilege comes tremendous responsibility. It is important that you use good judgment and display mature behavior at all times. You are in a leadership role both on and off the "field of play" whether it is in or out of season. For this reason, Wilson student-athletes will follow the policy training rules year-round. Yes, Wilson athletes are held to a high standard.

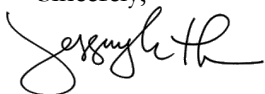
In Wilson, we believe an important part of the educational experience is the extra curricular programs available to students, in particular, the interscholastic athletic program. Nationwide studies have shown that students involved in extra curricular sports programs achieve better grades, manage time more effectively, and have less discipline problems. This holds true in Wilson with our top-achieving students regularly participating in multiple sports throughout the year.

This athletic policy will acquaint you with the specific rules and procedures of the Wilson athletic program. For students, this athletic policy will help you understand what you should expect and what is expected of you. We hope you also learn that most problems can be solved through open and honest communication. For parents, we hope this will help you understand the district's athletic policies so that you may be assured that the Wilson Central School District, its Athletic Department, and the coaching staff are doing everything possible to teach athletes fundamental values that transcend sports. If your questions or concerns are not answered within this athletic policy, please speak with your coach or feel free to call the athletic office. Please visit our website at www.wilsoncsd.org/athletics for up-to-date athletics information.

The Commissioner of Education, the New York State Public High School Athletic Association, and the Wilson Board of Education govern our athletic program. Wilson High School is a member of the NYSPHSAA, Section VI, and participates in the Niagara Orleans Athletic League.

Once again welcome and please strive to make sportsmanship an integral part of your experience. We welcome your participation in our athletic program and extend to you our assistance and best wishes for a successful experience.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey J. Roth
Director of Athletics
Wilson Central School District



PURPOSE/PHILOSOPHY:

Participation in interscholastic athletics is a privilege, not a right. The Wilson Board of Education, the administration, the faculty and the coaching staff expect that, as a condition of participation, a student-athlete will abide by the rules, regulations, and procedures outlined in this policy as well as the Wilson High School/Middle School student handbook. **It is imperative that students and parents understand that 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.**

In Wilson, we believe that athletics are an important part of the student's educational experience. As worthwhile as athletics are, they must not take precedence over a student's scholastic and citizenship responsibilities. Successful participation in activities outside of the regular school day requires an extra measure of time, energy and commitment on the part of the student and his/her parents. Student-athletes must demonstrate appropriate maturity in terms of being in control at all times. As role models and representatives of our school community, participants have an extra level of responsibility. We urge parents and students to seriously discuss the impact of the extra time and energy required to participate in sports activities as well as the eligibility rules student-athletes must follow to remain eligible for participation. To that end, we hold all student-athletes accountable for their actions.



ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

To be eligible to play a sport in Wilson, you must be a bona fide student of the school district, have a current physical and health history on file, have the signed affidavit on file, and be enrolled in a minimum of six and one-half classes. Seniors need five and one-half classes. A student-athlete shall be eligible for interscholastic competition in grades 7 and 8 (with district approval after qualifying through the New York State Athletic Placement Process) and grades 9-12. If the age of nineteen years is reached on or after July 1, the student may continue to participate during that school year, in all sports. A student-athlete is only eligible for high school athletic competition for four consecutive seasons commencing with the student-athlete's entry into the ninth grade (five consecutive years from 8th grade, and 6 consecutive years from starting 7th grade).

In order to remain eligible for competition during any one season, the athlete may not be failing more than one class. Each Monday, students failing more than one class will be declared ineligible for that week (Monday – Sunday, inclusive). Athletes declared ineligible may practice but not participate or attend any contest or school function during that week. This includes end of the season sports awards, dances, away contests, and senior prom.

EXPECTATIONS OF STUDENT-ATHLETES:

The Wilson Central School District has the following expectations for students in an interscholastic sport.

As a Wilson student-athlete, I will:

- Maximize academic performance by attending school and class (on time), being attentive, and by doing all assignments.
- Act in a manner that reflects positively on my family, team, school, and myself.
- Place team goals ahead of personal goals.
- Respect officials, coaches, teammates, spectators, and opponents.
- Respect the facilities and be responsible for all uniforms and equipment issued.
- Make a commitment to my sport by attending all contests and practices including those that occur on weekends, during vacations, and during post-season tournaments. (Athletes will always be excused for observance of religious holidays and family funerals without penalty and should notify their coaches of these circumstances in advance.)
- Compete within the rules of the sport.
- Be a positive influence on the team and always practice good sportsmanship.
- Follow the team rules established by the coach.
- Recognize that younger students may emulate my behavior.
- Give a significant amount of my time for the betterment of my community and world.
- Take responsibility if I fail to adhere to this Athletic Policy.



Conduct of an Athlete:

- If an athlete is suspended out of school, he or she will not participate in a sports activity during the duration of the suspension – whether it is practice or a game, including weekends.
- If an athlete is placed into the Alternative Learning Center (ALC) he or she will be eligible to participate unless school authorities (or the coach) determine otherwise.

Please be advised that coaches will work with athletes who do not fulfill expectations on an individual basis. Consequences may include: the loss of leadership positions; loss of playing time; or dismissal from the team.

PARENT AND SPECTATOR SPORTSMANSHIP:

Wilson coaches and teams take great pride in demonstrating leadership and sportsmanship on and off the field. Establishing an appropriate and positive learning environment is a top priority for our school program and athletic department. In an effort to encourage good sportsmanship we ask each parent/guardian to discuss the importance of proper behavior at events and continue to model appropriate behavior so that everyone can enjoy attending our sporting events. 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.

As a Wilson sports parent and spectator, I will:

- Encourage my child to exert maximum effort.
- Help my child learn through sports.

- Set an example for my child by respecting the rules, opponents, officials, teammates, supervisors, and myself.
- Use self-control to avoid losing my composure if I grow frustrated.
- Honor the game and be silent if I disagree with an official's call.
- Refrain from negative comments about my child's coach in my child's presence so that I do not negatively influence my child's motivation and overall experience.
- Be as prompt as possible dropping my child off and picking my child up from practices and games.
- Engage in "no-directions cheering", limiting my comments during the game to encouragement of all players on both teams.
- Model good sportsmanship at all times.
- Use positive encouragement and cheering and avoid taunting or foul and abusive language and behavior.
- Refrain from creating disturbances that would be detrimental to the flow of the game and/or the safety of the participants involved.
- Not bring pets into fenced in areas.
- Refrain from sideline coaching.
- Maintain a distance from players and coaches during games and contests.
(Team benches are for use of team personnel only.)
- Wait 24 hours to address concerns resulting from the participation of the players, coaches or officials.



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

COMMUNICATION:

All student-athletes who have concerns should first talk directly to his/her coach at a convenient time for both. If the concern still remains, the parent should schedule a time to meet with the coach directly. **Immediately before or after a practice and games are NOT acceptable times to meet/talk.** Parents are asked to abide by the "24 hour" rule. Please wait 24 hours before calling or meeting with a coach about concerns. If additional assistance is needed, the parent should contact the Athletic Office. A meeting between all parties may be scheduled in an attempt to remedy a situation. Communication not appropriate to discuss with the coach is: playing time, team strategy, play calling, and other students.

COMMITMENT GUIDELINES:

It should be understood that any student-athlete who will not be available during a school vacation period in a particular sports season considers not trying out for the sport. All athletes are encouraged to have their families try to change vacation plans made prior to a particular season. The coach, on an individual basis, will review any athlete who misses either a practice or game outside of the vacation period. No student-athlete may quit one team then try out for another team in the same season of the same year. This is different than a student-athlete being cut from one team then trying out for another team in the same season of the same year.

STUDENT-ATHLETE ATTENDANCE:

Students are expected to come to school on time every day. Students are expected to be in attendance every day. It is required that participants in extracurricular activities attend a minimum of three hours of classes with a legal excuse in order to be eligible for participation in a particular activity that day. Extenuating circumstances must have prior administrative approval.



- There are times when an athlete's absence from school is due to health reasons. Based on the type of illness, loss of strength, success and practice of the replacement player, the returning athlete's playing time may be curtailed, but only with the best interest of both the team and the athlete as a priority.
- A student who sits out of Physical Education class, are ineligible for athletic competition that same day.
- Weekend contest eligibility is determined by Friday's attendance.

TRANSPORTATION:

Wilson athletes must use school transportation when traveling to and from an away contest. The athlete's parent/guardian may take their own child home from an away contest only after the parent has made direct contact with the athlete's coach. **Under no circumstances may an athlete ride with another parent without prior administrative approval.**

ATHLETIC PLACEMENT PROGRAM:

New York State regulation permits a few qualified 7th and 8th grade students to participate on an athletic team beyond their grade placement and this program is called the "Athletic Placement Process". This program is intended for the unusually gifted athlete who has the physical maturity and athletic skills to be placed beyond other youngsters in his/her chronological age bracket.

RISKS & INJURY:

Participation in athletics involves a certain degree of risk of injury. By deciding to participate in interscholastic athletics, student-athletes and parents/guardians assume the risks. It is extremely important to report any injury to the coach. A certified athletic trainer from the University of Buffalo Medical Doctors, Orthopedics and Sports Medicine is on site for all of Wilson's home athletic events. In addition, our trainers are available for

consultation and rehabilitation of Wilson student-athletes. Athletes and parents are strongly encouraged to see the trainer as soon as an injury occurs, including concussions. Further information regarding Wilson CSD's Concussion Management Plan can be found on the Athletics website and by calling the Athletic Office.



MEDICAL INFORMATION:

A physical examination is required for all athletes. This exam covers a student-athlete for a period of twelve months from the date of the month of the exam. Our District medical provider, Work Fit Medical, at the district's cost, offers sports physicals each year. It becomes the responsibility for any athlete who misses the scheduled dates to schedule a physical, at his/her family's expense. It is strongly recommended to make appointments well in advance to assure no lost practice time. If being examined by any other doctor, the school issued examination form should be used, which is available in the Athletic Office or Health Clinic and online at the athletics website.

The Board of Education has purchased insurance coverage to protect all students in interscholastic athletics against accidental injury. This policy is in "excess" of any other insurance you may have. Thus, parents must use their own insurance first. This policy may then pick up some bills not covered by your own insurance, up to the limits in the policy. If you do not have insurance for medical expenses, this policy will then be the primary carrier. Although this coverage is very broad, there are restrictions, limitations, and exclusions in this policy. In many situations, medical bills may not be covered in full. Parents should understand that medical expenses are their responsibility, not the responsibility of the school district.

TRAINING RULES & REGULATIONS:

Students will practice rules of good citizenship at all times.

Students will be courteous, respect the rights of others, and will exhibit self-discipline.

Students will conform to the specific training rules of his/her sport.

Students will abstain from using or possessing illegal drugs, alcohol, tobacco, liquid nicotine, an electronic cigarette, electronic nicotine, a look-alike cigarette, a vaporizer, a "vape" delivery system, inhalation device, or any other device that enables usage of an electronic cigarette, and improper use/possession of over-the-counter and prescription drugs, on or off campus.

Students will not engage in disruptive behaviors, including (but not limited to) altercations, bullying, hazing, or theft.



The school administration has established fair and reasonable rules and expectations for circumstances that may arise requiring action that is not covered in the Athletic Policy. In all cases, rules, expectations and consequences shall be as consistent as possible with previously established incidents. When it has been determined that a student-athlete has violated training rules pertaining to alcohol, tobacco, and/or drugs the Athletic Director may utilize the Athletic Policy Violations section below.

VIOLATIONS - FIRST OFFENSE

- a) If guilty, the student-athlete may be suspended from competition for up to 25% of the sport's scheduled contests. (Based on the NYSPHSAA "Maximum Number of Contests") If seasons overlap, the remaining percentage will be applied to the next athletic season and its Maximum Number of Contests. Attending practice is expected unless otherwise excused by the coach.
- b) The student-athlete may have a minimum of two documented counseling sessions accompanied with at least one parent/guardian. Upon completion of counseling (documented by the counselor), a meeting shall be set between the Athletic Director or designated Administrator and at least one parent/guardian.
- c) Final decision of return to play comes from the Athletic Director.

VIOLATIONS - SECOND OFFENSE

- a) If guilty, the student-athlete may be suspended from competition for up to 50% of the sport's scheduled contests. (Based on the NYSPHSAA "Maximum Number of Contests") If seasons overlap, the remaining percentage will be applied to the next athletic season and its Maximum Number of Contests. Attending practice is expected unless otherwise excused by the coach.
- b) The student-athlete may have a minimum of 6 documented counseling sessions accompanied with at least one parent/guardian. Upon completion of counseling (documented by the counselor), a meeting shall be set between the Athletic Director or designated Administrator and at least one parent/guardian.
- c) Student-athlete must forward a letter for reinstatement to the Executive Coaches Committee (ECC) c/o the Athletic Office. A meeting will be set up with the student-athlete and at least one parent/guardian with the ECC where the student-athlete will address his/her reasons to be reinstated.
- d) Final decision of return to play comes from the Athletic Director and will follow the ECC meeting.

VIOLATIONS - ADDITIONAL OFFENSES

- a) If guilty, the student-athlete may be suspended, required to attend counseling, and/or have his/her high school athletic career terminated.
- b) Student-athlete must forward a letter to the ECC c/o the Athletic Office for reinstatement. A meeting may be set up with the student-athlete and at least one parent/guardian with the ECC where the student-athlete will address his/her reasons to be reinstated.
- c) Final decision of return to play comes from the Athletic Director and will follow the ECC meeting.

Any student-athlete who has not completed his/her previous reinstatement requirements for a violation must do so before being eligible for competition. When a student comes forward and confidentially asks his/her parent, coach, counselor or administrator for help in addressing an abuse problem, that student may remain eligible for participation in athletics so long as a rehabilitation plan is in place. Under this circumstance the emphasis is placed on helping a young person rehabilitate him/herself. Participation could continue as long as it is consistent with the goals of the student-athlete's rehabilitation program.

VIOLATIONS OF TEAM RULES:

Violations of individual team rules and/or regulations are dealt with on a team-by-team and sometimes on an individual basis. It is expected that each student-athlete and respective parent/guardian be familiar with the team's rules. Any athlete ejected from a contest will need to meet with the Athletic Director and a parent before he/she will be eligible to return to contests.

Note: Quitting a team prior to completing the reinstatement requirements does NOT exonerate a student-athlete from his/her obligations.



PHILOSOPHY BY LEVEL:

Modified:

This is the introductory level of competitive sports, which emphasizes the fundamentals of the game. The focus at this level is on learning athletic skills, game rules, and fundamentals of team play, socio-emotional growth, and low stress competition. This level introduces student-athletes to the regimen and the privilege of participating in interscholastic athletics. A strong emphasis is based on academics, sportsmanship, and team play. Practices are important at this level, and the schedule will generally involve either a game or a practice on every weekday. There will be some occasions throughout the season where games or practices are scheduled on Saturdays. At the modified level, coaches will strive to ensure that all players receive meaningful playing time throughout each contest. However, this does not mean that each player will receive equal playing time. Students participating in modified athletics need to accept the responsibility of team membership and dedication to practice sessions. Developing athletic skills and understanding will be the focal points of modified athletics. Students will have opportunities to participate in meaningful events throughout the course of the season. The sense of winning may be tempered by the goal of developing students.

Junior Varsity:

The Junior Varsity level provides competition for students at this skill level and prepares athletes for varsity competition. Increased emphasis is placed on team play, physical conditioning, and the refinement of basic skills. The outcome of each contest is more important than at the modified level and student-athletes will be taught how to cope with game situations and how to win and lose properly. A strong emphasis is based on academics, sportsmanship, and team play. It is recognized that not all athletes may play in every contest. Coaches will make playing time decisions based upon ability, practice performances, attitude, and game situations. Commitment includes attending all practices, games, meetings and other group activities. It is vital for each team member to have a role and be informed of his/her importance to the team. At this level, athletes are committing to a six-day-a-week commitment that is expected at the varsity level as well. With the goal of becoming a varsity athlete clearly in sight, a high level of dedication is expected. Practice sessions and games are sometimes scheduled during school vacation periods.



Varsity:

This is the culmination of the high school athletic program and generally consists of eleventh and twelfth grade students. Sound attitudes coupled with an advanced level of skill are prerequisites for a position on a varsity team. At this level, preparing to win, striving for victory in each contest, and working to reach the group's and individual's maximum potential are worthy goals. Playing time is never guaranteed at the varsity level – it is always earned. Coaches will make these decisions based upon many factors, including ability, practice performance, attitude, and game situations.

There continues to be a strong emphasis on academics, sportsmanship, and team play. A varsity athlete is making a six-day-a-week commitment. This commitment goes into vacation periods for all sport seasons. The dedication and commitment needed to conduct a successful varsity program should be taken seriously. Coaches are not required to work around student job schedules or outside of school activities. Lettering requirements are established and communicated by each varsity coach.

LETTERING:

Letters will be awarded for participation in a varsity sport only.

The criteria to earn a letter will be left to the discretion of each varsity coach.

Each athlete will receive one chenille "W" letter during his or her career and it will only be given to them the FIRST time they letter in any sport.

Each time the athlete meets the criteria to earn an additional letter in any sport they will receive a sport specific symbol to attach to their previously earned "W".



ORANGEMEN AWARD:

In 1970 the Wilson All-Sports Booster Club wanted to honor individuals who were able to compete in a sport, each season, throughout his/her high school career. (three sports a year for grades 9, 10, 11, and 12) After much discussion amongst the members of the Booster Club, they decided to name the award the "Orangemen Award," significant of our school colors. It was determined that recognition of the Orangemen Award would culminate the final Sports Awards presentation of the year. Wilson student-athletes can earn an Orangemen Award by competing in three school-sponsored sports for all four years of high school. "Club" sports do not count towards Orangemen eligibility.

NYSPHSAA CODE OF ETHICS

IT IS THE DUTY OF ALL CONCERNED WITH HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETICS:

1. To emphasize the proper ideals of sportsmanship, ethical conduct and fair play.
2. To eliminate all possibilities which tend to destroy the best values of the game.
3. To stress the values derived from playing the game fairly.
4. To show cordial courtesy to visiting teams and officials.
5. To establish a happy relationship between visitors and hosts.
6. To respect the integrity and judgment of the sports officials.
7. To achieve a thorough understanding and acceptance of the rules of the game and standards of eligibility.
8. To encourage leadership, use of incentive, and good judgment by the players on the team.
9. To recognize that the purpose of athletics is to promote the physical, mental, moral, social, and emotional well being of the individual players.
10. To remember that an athletic contest is only a game... not a matter of life or death for player, coach, school, official, fan, community, state or nation.



Sports Offerings

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

**WILSON CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
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