

## Pittsford Central Schools Athletic Code of Conduct

Participation in athletics is both a privilege and a responsibility. Athletes earn recognition for their achievements as representatives of their school, team, student body, and the community. When an athlete accepts the privilege, he/she must live up to a code of conduct beyond that of the general student body on and off school property during the athletic season and off-season.

As a prerequisite for participation, athletes and parents must sign a statement that commits the athlete to follow the established training rules and requires parents to do everything in their power to make sure the athlete abides by the established code of conduct. Even if an athlete plays more than one sport, this code of conduct forms must be signed at the beginning of each season. Every athlete and parent must attend the district's parent/athlete meeting, which will be facilitated by the Athletic director. The parent/athlete meetings will be scheduled at the beginning of each sport season. The athletic code of conduct is applicable during the entire calendar year. Violations in the off-season and summer recess will be administered during the next athletic season in which the student participates.

### I. Established Team Rules

The Athlete is expected to comply with the established team rules, procedures and instructions of the coach. Coaches have the authority to suspend an athlete temporarily for failure to comply with the rules and procedures or when the athlete's safety or safety of others requires such action. Permanent removal from the team may occur only after a written recommendation, from the head coach, is submitted to the Athletic Director. The Athletic Director will consult with the building principal to make a final determination.

### II. Citizenship and Sportsmanship

Athletes are expected to follow the rules and policies of The Pittsford Central School District and Athletic Department as stated in the school's student handbook. A few examples of unacceptable behavior include, but are not limited to: truancy, insubordination, fighting, vandalism, academic dishonesty, stealing, and violations of the rights of others.

If an athlete exhibits poor citizenship or sportsmanship, the consequence can range from a one game suspension to a one-year suspension. The Athletic Director, Head Coach, and Building Principal will base the consequence on the nature and level of severity as determined.

### III. Substance Abuse Policy

The use and/or possession of tobacco, alcohol, and illegal drugs, including performance-enhancing products, are prohibited. If an athlete is reported to the school district, the following process will occur:

1. An initial meeting will take place with the Director of Athletics, Building Administrator, and athlete to discuss the violation.
2. The Athlete's parents/guardian will be notified in a timely manner.
3. The Director of Athletics will facilitate a meeting of the athlete, athlete's parents/guardian, a school administrator, and the prevention coordinator, to determine the validity of the reported violation and discuss consequences.

If the athlete is found to have violated the substance abuse policy, the following penalties will be imposed:

**First Offense:**

1. The athlete will be suspended from active participation with the team for a period of 10 days. The athlete will attend but not participate in practices.
2. Once the suspension has been served, the athlete will be withheld from participation of the next 20% of athletic contests. The denial of athletic contests cannot be concurrent with the timeframe of the first suspension.
3. An athlete may initiate and complete a drug/alcohol evaluation from an outside agency. The athlete must sign an information release to the district's Prevention Coordinator. Based on the results of the evaluation, the Prevention Coordinator may recommend to the Director of Athletics a reduction of 10% of games the athlete is held out of. (*First Offense Only*)

**Second Offense:**

1. The athlete will be suspended from active participation with the team for a period of 20 days. The athlete will attend, but not participate in practices.
2. Once the suspension has been served, the athlete will be withheld from participation of the next 40% of athletic contests. The denial of athletic contests cannot be concurrent with the timeframe of the first suspension.

**Third Offense:**

1. The athlete will be suspended from participation on any athletic team for one calendar year.
2. If the athlete agrees to participate in an approved program, as recommended by the school's prevention coordinator, he/she can make a written request to the Athletic Director for reinstatement as an active member of an athletic team. The written request can be made 90 days after the initial meeting with the athlete and his/her parents.

**Review Process:**

The parent/guardian can request an appeal of the decision. If an appeal is requested a review board will be formed to consider and resolve the situation. The athlete will remain ineligible until the review board has reached a decision. The review board will be an objective committee from one of the other secondary schools. The Deputy Superintendent will chair the committee. The Review Committee will consist of:

1. Deputy Superintendent
2. Director of Athletics
3. Administrative Designee

4. Member of the school's Core Team
5. Teacher/Coach

\*Other areas of concern will be discussed with the school administration, Director of Athletics, and coaches. The administrative leadership reserves the right to act promptly and with the best interest of the student/athlete in mind.

**\*NOTE:** Coaches may have specific team expectations regarding Code and Conduct. These are not to supersede the school's academic/athletic guidelines.

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