

WESTON HIGH SCHOOL

ATHLETIC HANDBOOK



Anthony Parker - Principal
Kelly Flynn - Assistant Principal
Michael McGrath - Athletic Director
Colleen Lanata - Athletics Assistant
Andrew Rizza - Athletic Trainer

Information:

- **Athletic Department - 781-786-5840**
- **Website - www.westonschools.org**

Welcome!

Participation on an athletic team can be a rewarding and meaningful educational experience that enhances a child's secondary education. It is important that students realize the time demands, responsibility, dedication and sacrifices required when making this kind of commitment. The following information defines the interscholastic policies and procedures for all students participating in our High School athletic programs. The Athletic Department hopes this document provides parents and students with a better understanding of our philosophy, goals and policies. Please refer to the following information when a question about your child's athletic experience arises.

Philosophy of Athletics at Weston High School:

At Weston High School, we consider athletics an integral part of the educational experience. Athletics provides opportunities that will help students develop physically, mentally, and emotionally. We view the competition of athletics as a healthy educational and physiological activity because it challenges each student to excel, to discover his or her physical limits, and to work cooperatively with team members. While winning is a natural goal in the pursuit of excellence, the principles of good sportsmanship and enjoyment of competition take precedence at all times and enhance the educational value of contests.

Governing Bodies:

Weston High School is a member of the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA), whose purpose is to organize, regulate and promote interscholastic athletics for secondary schools in Massachusetts. As an MIAA school, WHS abides by the minimum standards set forth by this organization. Please note that these are minimal standards and members schools may enforce stricter standards, which Weston High School does in many instances. Locally, WHS belongs to the Dual County League (DCL), which is comprised of eleven area schools. Those schools are Acton-Boxborough, Bedford, Boston Latin, Cambridge Rindge & Latin, Concord-Carlisle, Lincoln-Sudbury, Newton South, Waltham, Wayland and Westford Academy. We also compete against teams from other leagues, and these are referred to as "non-league" opponents.

WHS Athletic Team Information

Standards for Participation:

In order to participate in organized athletics, all student-athletes must register through FamilyID.com, have a current physical on file with the school nurse, and satisfy all academic requirements for eligibility.

- Registration for sport through the online organization, FamilyID.com
- An up to date physical examination must be on file with the school nurse prior to the start of participation. If the physical examination expires in season, the student-athlete will need to provide an updated physical to the school nurse in order to resume participation. All physicals are valid for 13 months from the date of the physical. All physicals must be signed by a licensed health care provider.
- Drug and Alcohol Policy is clearly defined in the registration on FamilyID.com and it is expected that all student-athletes and parents review this policy.
- Satisfaction of all eligibility requirements of the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA) and the Weston Public Schools.

Program Goals:

Though the unique nature of each sport dictates its specific objectives, all teams will attempt to

- Emphasize the development of basic skills, appropriate attitudes, values and team concepts.
- Allow as many students as possible to participate and share the experience and benefits derived from team membership.
- Compete competitively with Dual County and non-league opponents.

Participation at the Varsity level is generally limited to the most highly skilled players and those with the ability to interact constructively with other players for team success. The coaching staff will determine the level of play for each student-athlete (Varsity, Junior Varsity and Freshman) based on what would be most beneficial to the development and progress of each player and team. It should be understood that playing time could be limited.

Athletic Offerings:

Fall Sports

The fall season begins sometime around August 20th and ends in late October. Varsity teams that qualify for the postseason tournament may participate into the month of November. Football concludes its regular season on Thanksgiving Day. Informational meetings will be held in June. The following sports compete in the Fall:

- Girls/Boys Soccer (Varsity, JV, Freshman)
- Football (Varsity and Sub-Varsity)
- Boys/Girls Crew (Cooperative team with Wayland)
- Girls/Boys Cross Country (Varsity, JV)
- Field Hockey (Varsity, JV, Freshman)
- Golf (Varsity, JV)
- Girls Volleyball (Varsity, JV, Freshman)

Winter Sports

The winter season begins the Monday after Thanksgiving and ends in late February. Varsity teams that qualify for the post-season tournament may be participating into March. Informational meetings will be held in November.

- Girls/Boys Basketball (Varsity, JV, Freshman)
- Boys/Girls Winter Track (Varsity & JV)
- Boys/Girls Swimming/Diving (Varsity & JV)
- Wrestling
- Girls Hockey (Cooperative Team with Wayland)
- Boys Hockey (Varsity)
- Boys/Girls Alpine Skiing
- Boys & Girls Nordic Skiing

Spring Sports

The spring season begins the third Monday of March and ends in late May. Varsity teams that qualify for the post-season tournament may be participating into June. Informational meetings will be held in February.

- Baseball (Varsity, JV)
- Softball (Varsity, JV)
- Girls/Boys Lacrosse (Varsity, JV, Freshman)
- Girls/Boys Outdoor Track (Varsity, JV)
- Boys/Girls Tennis (Varsity, JV)
- Girls/Boys Crew (Cooperative Team with Wayland)

Levels of Play:

FRESHMAN:

At the entry level for high school athletics, athletes and their parents should expect the following concepts to be emphasized:

- Developing fundamental skills
- Providing equal practice opportunities for all participants
- Having the coach's evaluation of an athlete's attitude, skills, and team role determine game time, working toward equitable playing time for all participants
- Learning the rules of the game
- Developing an orientation toward and appreciation for team effort in each athlete
- Demonstrating sportsmanship and fair play
- Developing the ambition to achieve at the next level of competition
- Prioritizing skill and character development over winning

JUNIOR VARSITY:

This is a transitional level for high school athletics, and athletes and parents should expect the following concepts to be emphasized:

- Reinforcing and refining fundamental skills.
- Having the coach's evaluation of an athlete's attitude, skills, and team role determine game time
- Demonstrating sportsmanship and fair play
- Developing more sophisticated athletic strategies
- Specifically defining an individual athlete's role within the team concept
- Refining and reinforcing the concepts of commitment and team play.
- Focusing on physical conditioning and development
- Developing the ambition to achieve at the next level of competition
- Prioritizing skill and character development over winning

VARSIITY

At the highest level of athletic competition in high school athletics, athletes and parents should expect the following concepts to be emphasized

- Developing a high level of proficiency in the physical skills of the sport
- Having the coach's evaluation of an athlete's attitude, skills, and team role determine playing time
- Developing sophisticated strategy, situation analysis, and other mental aspects of the sport
- Specifically defining an individual athlete's role within the team concept
- Fostering maximum commitment to the athletic team
- Understanding and valuing the physical conditioning components of one's sport
- Understanding the importance of individual sacrifice for the good of the team
- Winning within the rules of sportsmanship and fair play.

There are many decisions made on a regular basis by members of our coaching staff that may include which athletes should start a contest, which athlete should play at what position, and the amount of playing time an athlete will be given. Only members of our coaching staff make these very difficult coaching decisions after weighing a considerable number of factors. Generally, the most competitive, skilled team members will play the major portion of contests; however, teams cannot be successful without committed substitutes. These athletes must work as hard as they can to help make their respective teams as competitive as possible and be ready at all times to step forward to compete. They must also demonstrate the perseverance and commitment to strive to advance to a starting role.

Team Tryouts / Selection:

During the tryout period, each coach will provide an explanation of his/her expectations. It is the duty of the student to demonstrate to the coach that they can fulfill these expectations. If a student is not selected for a team, he/she may contact the coach personally for an explanation. Students who are not selected are encouraged to explore other WHS athletic opportunities on teams that have not finalized their rosters. Please note **MIAA Rule 35** which states that a student athlete participating in any sport must have at least 10 days of practice (Football players must have 15 days of practice) before competing in an official game. For this reason, an athlete will not be allowed to join a team after its third official practice without the approval of the Athletic Director and Coach. Switching sports is also not allowed after the first contest.

The coaching staff of each sport has the sole responsibility for selecting members of the team, determining the level of play, and apportioning the amount of playing time for each student athlete.

Commitment:

Each member of an athletic team **MUST**:

- Commit to being present at all team activities, including try-outs, practices, meetings and contest with other schools.
- Dedicate himself/herself to becoming an excellent team member and school citizen.
- Strive to continually improve as an athlete.
- Demonstrate pride in team performance and in himself/herself as members of a team.

Game/Practice Sessions:

Practices are held daily for approximately 2 to 2 ½ hours, or as appropriate to the activity. Some practices and games may be held on weekends. Most practice sessions do not begin before 3:30 PM. Any team member who must be late or miss practice, games, or meetings must confer with his/her coach. Practice and game schedules, particularly in the case of winter and spring sports, include school vacation weeks. Students and families should take this into consideration when deciding to try-out for our teams.

Absence Policy:

Unexcused absences from practices may jeopardize retaining a position on the team, an opportunity to earn a varsity letter, and/or playing time at the coaches' discretion.

Excused absences from practices may impact position on the team and playing time, not as a punitive measure, but for the safety of that individual, fairness to the rest of the team, and strategic reasons.

Team Captains:

Captains are elected by team members and/or appointed by coaches. Prior to the selection, coaches will inform the team members of the selection criteria and obligations of the position. The position of team captain or officer is one of honor, leadership, and responsibility. As a result, students serving in that capacity are expected to conduct themselves in an exemplary manner both in and outside of school. Any student who is involved in a violation of WHS rules (this includes the MIAA Chemical Health Rule) and regulations resulting in a suspension from school, or any student who is found to be involved with drugs, alcohol, weapons, or crimes outside of school will lose the ability to serve as captain or to be appointed or elected to the position of captain of any school sponsored team for the period of one calendar year. Any sitting captain of a WHS team will have that position rescinded and will be ineligible to serve for a period of one calendar year.

Weston High School Criteria for Athletic Honors and Awards:

To be considered for a team award presented by the coach, a student must:

- Display upright conduct and a spirit of fair play at all times.
- Exhibit respect for school personnel, coaches, game officials, and opponents.
- Not violate the MIAA Drug and Alcohol Policy
- Return all equipment at the completion of the season
- Meet criteria established by the coach.
- Finish the season as a member in good standing on his/her team, which includes being academically eligible.

Honors such as ALL-STAR selection are awarded to WHS students from time to time by the Dual County League (DCL) and other organizations outside of the school. It must be understood that while coaches may nominate students for some of these awards, they have no control over the final selection. Students who have violated the MIAA Chemical Health Rule will not be eligible for nomination.

VARSITY LETTER: Receiving a varsity letter for programs that are composed of a Varsity and a JV teams or programs that have a Varsity, JV, and Freshman teams is an honor reserved for those student athletes who have demonstrated excellence in performance and the commitment and sacrifice appropriate for membership on a varsity team. Students who are on the varsity team for fifty percent of the season and complete the season shall receive a varsity letter, as long as they have excellent attendance, work ethic and not have violated the MIAA Chemical Health Rule. The standard for receiving a varsity letter for programs that only have one team will be determined by the coach.

SUB-VARSITY CERTIFICATE: Athletes who do not receive a varsity letter, but have excellent attendance and work ethic, and have not violated the MIAA Chemical Health Rule will be awarded a Sub-Varsity Certificate to acknowledge their contribution.

MANAGER LETTER: As an integral, non-playing member of a team, managers may also be recognized for the valuable role they play. In order to be considered, managers must:

- Adhere to all general rules and regulations of athletes.
- Fulfill all the duties as outlined by the coach.
- Adhere to all rules and regulations that bind student athletes.

ALL-STAR CERTIFICATES: One individual certificate per year will be presented to athletes achieving FIRST TEAM all-star status in the Dual County League (DCL) or other Eastern Massachusetts organization in which Weston competes.

CHAMPIONSHIP PLAQUES: A picture plaque listing the team's accomplishments will be presented to teams winning the Massachusetts State Championship/SUPER BOWL in their sport.

Conflict Resolution:

Athletic involvement can be highly emotional and issues about playing time, team selection, honors and awards can arise. It is very important that these issues be addressed as soon as possible, and as directly as possible, so that they can be resolved promptly. The following model will be used when a problem arises.

STEP ONE: Personal Contact between Student-Athlete and Coach

As a general rule, the issue should be presented as soon as possible to the coach by the *individual* student-athlete. If personal contact is not practical, a student-athlete may ask his/her team captain to talk with the coach. If these recommended routes are not *successful*, the coach should be contacted by the student-athlete's parent(s) at an appropriate time. Times to be avoided are:

- Either prior to or immediately after a competition
- During a practice session
- During a time when other students maybe present or when it may be readily apparent to others that a discussion is taking place
- At a time when it is apparent that there would not be sufficient time to provide for a complete discussion

Usually the best solution is to ask the coach either over the phone, via email or in person if an appointment could be made to discuss the issue. A parent or student-athlete could also contact the coach via the Athletic Office. **It is strongly recommended that the student-athlete join their parent(s) at this meeting to ensure that all sides of the issue can be thoroughly discussed.**

STEP TWO: Personal Contact Between Coach, Student-Athlete and Athletic Director

If a satisfactory resolution is not reached through direct contact with the coach, the student-athlete and/or parent(s) should contact the Athletic Director. As a courtesy, the coach should be informed that this contact is being made. If this discussion does not result in a satisfactory conclusion, then a meeting will be scheduled involving all concerning parties in an attempt to reach a satisfactory resolution. It is very important for all student-athletes and their parent(s) to know that any comments, concerns, or ***issues raised to the athletic director will be addressed with the coach.*** Issues concerning coaching personnel may or may not be communicated to others.

STEP THREE: Student-Athlete – Administration Contact

If there is not a satisfactory resolution, the student-athlete and/or parent(s) should contact the High School Principal. As a courtesy, the Athletic Director should be informed that this contact is being made. While there is no guarantee, that all parties will agree with all resolutions or findings, a thorough, respectful airing, or different perceptions and experiences can lead to more productive relationships and clearer understandings in the future.

Weston High School Vacation Policy Governing Athletes:

Winter Vacation

No games will be scheduled on December 24 or 25 (with the exception of wrestling & boys/girls swim & dive). No practices will be scheduled on December 24 or 25. It is expected that Varsity Student-Athletes will be available during the December/January winter vacation for practices and/or games. Those participating on Freshman teams will not have practices/games scheduled during this time.

February Vacation

Typically Varsity teams who have qualified for the state tournament practice and play during this week.

April Vacation

While practices will be optional for coaches to call on the Friday before the start of April vacation through the Monday of April vacation, student-athletes can expect practices/games to be scheduled for the remainder of April vacation. Those participating on Freshman teams will not have practices/games scheduled during this time.

End of Summer Vacation

Athletes are expected to be at the first day of practice. If an athlete is not at practice/try-outs, he or she may jeopardize his or her chances of making the team.

When athletes miss practice during vacation weeks, coaches will determine the consequences on:

- Principles of fairness to players who attended all scheduled practices
- The importance of conditioning
- Professional discretion

If a player misses more than five days of practice, he or she will need to meet with the Athletic Director who will determine that player's eligibility.

Sportsmanship Policy:

WHS expects all parties present at a contest to display the highest possible level of sportsmanship. Players, coaches, and spectators should treat opponents, game officials and visiting spectators with respect at all times. WHS reserves the right to warn, censure, place on probation or suspend (for up to one calendar year) any player, team, coach, or school official determined to be acting in a manner contrary to the standards of good sportsmanship. Spectators who do not adhere to standards of good sportsmanship may be asked to leave the contest and/or be prohibited from future contests. If you are not sure what details good sportsmanship, please follow this simple rule: Cheer for your own team, but do not belittle opposing teams and officials.

Three important MIAA Rules pertaining to student-athletes should be noted:

1. A player “thrown out” of a game shall, at a minimum, miss the next game.
2. A player “thrown out” of two games during the same season is disqualified for one full calendar yr.
3. Striking or assaulting an official result in disqualification for one full year.

School Athletic Equipment Policy:

Students are responsible for and expected to maintain proper care of all equipment issued to them. Students are responsible for payment of any lost, stolen or damaged items. Each item not returned will be assessed at a rate comparable to the current replacement cost. All equipment is to be returned at the completion of the season. Grades will be withheld for those who do not return or pay for lost/damaged equipment. Additionally, those student athletes will not be allowed to participate in another sport. Student-athletes are not to wear uniforms, either practice or game, at any time other than those allowed by specified team regulations.

Athletic Training Room Policies:

WHS is fortunate to have a highly qualified and skillful full-time trainer as a member of our staff. On school days our trainer’s hours usually begin at 2:15 PM and last until the conclusion of the last practice or home game. During weekends and times when school is not in session, the trainer is required to be on site only for contests and for some scheduled scrimmages. Occasionally, the trainer will be on site for non-school day practices.

The training program exists to help athletes receive the best possible care. At certain times, however, the trainer and training room facilities are extremely busy. Consequently, access to the training room and its services is limited to athletes who require care only. Training services are granted on a first come, first served basis on practice days. On game days, students will be treated in an order that will allow bus and/or game commitments to be met.

In the event of an athletic injury, the trainer is in immediate control. At away contests, if the trainer is not present, the host school medical personnel are in control. If no medical personnel are present, members of the coaching staff are instructed to “take charge” of the situation and, if warranted, call for emergency care. All sport related injuries must be reported to the athletic trainer and a student may not return to competition without clearance by the trainer, which may also include written permission from a physician.

Student-athletes who have been treated for an injury must be cleared by the Athletic Trainer prior to resuming participation.

Transportation Policy:

When WHS provides transportation to and from athletic events, student-athletes are required to ride that transportation. The members of the athletic staff feel it is in the best interest of team unity that everyone travel together and share the game experience. As the “guardian” during these trips, the athletic staff must be able to account for the whereabouts of all student-athletes and ensure their safety. It is expected that our student-athletes will conduct themselves appropriately while on bus transportation. Any misconduct will result in a penalty including and up to dismissal if warranted. Student-athletes will be responsible for any damages to bus property and subsequent costs to repair or replace.

In the event that there are extenuating personal circumstances or JV/Varsity games are scheduled back to back and a parent wishes to take responsibility for the transportation of his/her son or daughter, it is required, barring unforeseen circumstances, that the parent/guardian provide written notice to the coach requesting the exception 24 hours in advance. A parent/guardian must also present himself/herself to a member of the coaching staff informing the coach that his/her child is leaving with him/her. Student-athletes may then ride with their parent/guardian. Student-athletes may not ride with other student-athletes or anyone else other than their parent/guardian.

Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association Rules:

I) Eligibility Rules:

MIAA student eligibility requirements for participation in high school athletics are very detailed. MIAA regulations have been condensed here in an attempt to highlight the most important rules and regulations. As with all MIAA rules, there is waiver process. The school principal must initiate a waiver of MIAA rules. If the information below does not answer specific questions, or there is a concern that a waiver might be necessary, please contact the Athletic Office. A complete copy of the MIAA Rules can be found on www.miaa.net.

MIAA Rule 58: Enrollment/Academic Achievement

A student must secure during the last marking period preceding the contest (e.g. second quarter marks and not semester grades determine third quarter eligibility) a passing grade and full credit, in the equivalent of four traditional yearlong major English courses. To be eligible for the fall marking period, students are required to have passed and received full credits for the previous academic year the equivalent of four traditional year long major English courses. A student cannot, at any time, represent a school unless that student is taking courses which would provide Carnegie Units equivalent to four traditional year long major English courses. Academic eligibility of all students shall be considered as official and determined only on the published date when the report cards for that ranking period are to be issued to the parents of all students within a particular class.

MIAA Rule 59: Time Allowed for Participation after First Entering Grade Nine

A student shall be eligible for interscholastic competition for no more than 12 consecutive athletic seasons (i.e. eligible during only four consecutive academic years) after first entering grade 9.

MIAA Rule 60: Age

A student must be less than 19 years of age prior to September 1st of the current school year. For freshmen competition, a student shall be under 16 years of age but may compete during the remainder of the school year provided that the sixteenth birthday occurs on or after September 1 of that year.

MIAA Rule 57: Transfer Students

A student who transfers from any school to an MIAA member high school is ineligible to participate in any interscholastic contest at any level for a period of one year in all sports in which that student participated at the varsity level or its equivalent during the one year period immediately preceding the transfer. "Varsity participation" is defined as any appearance, as a competitor, in a varsity interscholastic contest other than a scrimmage. The MIAA executive staff on the basis of the quality of non-school sport program participation will judge the "equivalent".

MIAA Drug and Alcohol Policy:

From the earliest fall practice date (the 3rd Monday in August), to the conclusion of the academic year or final athletic event (whichever is latest), on and off school grounds, weekdays and weekends, twenty-four hours per day, regardless of the quantity, use or consume, possess, buy/sell or give away any beverage containing alcohol (including products such as NA or near beer); any tobacco product (including e-cigarettes & vaping); marijuana; steroids; or any controlled substance as defined in the Massachusetts General Laws (Chapter 94-C, Sections 1-48). (NOTE: It is not, however, a violation for a student to be in possession of a legally defined drug specifically prescribed for the student's own use by his or her doctor.) It should be clearly understood that any gross violation of this rule, e.g., being drunk and/or disorderly, could result in immediate dismissal from the team.

NOTE: Possession of alcoholic beverages on school property will be referred to the Weston Police Department for prosecution for violation of Massachusetts State Statutes (Chapter 272, Sec. 4A). Possession of any controlled substances on school property will result in criminal prosecution for violation of Massachusetts State Laws.

The minimum PENALTIES per M.I.A.A. **Rule 62.1** are:

First offense: Suspension from representing the school for the next consecutive interscholastic contests totaling 25% of all interscholastic contests in that sport. All fractional parts of an event will be dropped when calculating 25% of a season. Students will be required to attend all practices and team meetings during that time. During this time frame, the student may not represent the school in scrimmages or jamborees.

Second and subsequent offenses: Suspension from representing the school for the next consecutive interscholastic contests totaling 60% of all interscholastic contests in that sport. All fractional parts of an event will be dropped when calculating 60% of a season.

Penalties shall be cumulative each academic year, and a penalty period will extend into the next academic year. That is, if the violation occurs outside a season of competition or if the penalty period is not completed during the season of violation, the penalty will carry over to the student's next season of actual participation, which may affect the eligibility status of the student during the next academic year.

POSSESSION OF, USE OF, OR BEING UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF ALCOHOL OR ANY CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE WHILE REPRESENTING WESTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS AT PRACTICES, GAMES, OVERNIGHT ATHLETIC TRIPS, ETC. WILL RESULT IN IMMEDIATE DISMISSAL FROM THE TEAM.

Loyalty to the High School Team

MIAA Rule 45: Bona Fide Team Member

A bona fide member of the school team is a student who is consistently present for, and who actively participates in, all high school team try-outs, practices and competitions. Bona fide members of a school team are precluded from missing a high school practice or competition in order to participate on a non-school activity/event in any sport recognized by the MIAA. Any student who violates this standard becomes ineligible for the next two contests or two weeks (whichever is greater) and is ineligible for MIAA tournament (s) for that season.

Massachusetts Hazing Laws:

Chapter 269: Section 17. Hazing; organizing or participating; hazing defined

Whoever is a principal organizer or participant in the crime of hazing, as defined herein, shall be punished by a fine of not more than three thousand dollars or by imprisonment in a house of correction for not more than one year, or both such fine and imprisonment.

The term “hazing” as used in this section and in sections eighteen and nineteen, shall mean any conduct or method of initiation into any student organization, whether on public or private property, which willfully or recklessly endangers the physical or mental health of any student or other person. Such conduct shall include whipping, beating, branding, forced calisthenics, exposure to the weather, forced consumption of any food, liquor, beverage, drug or other substance, or any other brutal treatment or forced physical activity which is likely to adversely affect the physical health or safety of any such student or other person, or which subjects such student or other person to extreme mental stress, including extended deprivation of sleep or rest or extended isolation.

Notwithstanding any other provisions of this section to the contrary, consent shall not be available as a defense to any prosecution under this action.

Chapter 269: Section 18. Failure to report hazing

Whoever knows that another person is the victim of hazing as defined in section seventeen and is at the scene of such crime shall, to the extent that such person can do so without danger or peril to himself or others, report such crime to an appropriate law enforcement official as soon as reasonably practicable. Whoever fails to report such crime shall be punished by a fine of not more than one thousand dollars.

Chapter 269: Section 19. Copy of Secs. 17 to 19; issuance to students and student groups, teams and organizations; report

Each institution of secondary education and each public and private institution of post secondary education shall issue to every student group, student team or student organization which is part of such institution or is recognized by the institution or permitted by the institution to use its name or facilities or is known by the institution to exist as an unaffiliated student group, student team or student organization, a copy of this section and sections seventeen and eighteen; provided, however, that an institution's compliance with this section's requirements that an institution issue copies of this section and sections seventeen and eighteen to unaffiliated student groups, teams or organizations shall not constitute evidence of the institution's recognition or endorsement of said unaffiliated student groups, teams or organizations.

Each such group, team or organization shall distribute a copy of this section and sections seventeen and eighteen to each of its members, plebes, pledges or applicants for membership. It shall be the duty of each such group, team or organization, acting through its designated officer, to deliver annually, to the institution an attested acknowledgement stating that such group, team or organization has received a copy of this section and said sections seventeen and eighteen, that each of its members, plebes, pledges, or applicants has received a copy of sections seventeen and eighteen, and that such group, team or organization understands and agrees to comply with the provisions of this section and sections seventeen and eighteen.

Each institution of secondary education and each public or private institution of post secondary education shall, at least annually, before or at the start of enrollment, deliver to each person who enrolls as a full time student in such institution a copy of this section and sections seventeen and eighteen.

Each institution of secondary education and each public or private institution of post secondary education shall file, at least annually, a report with the board of higher education and in the case of secondary institutions, the board of education, certifying that such institution has complied with its responsibility to inform student groups, teams or organizations and to notify each full time student enrolled by it of the provisions of this section and sections seventeen and eighteen and also certifying that said institution has adopted a disciplinary policy with regard to the organizers and participants of hazing, and that such policy has been set forth with appropriate emphasis in the student handbook or similar means of communicating the institution's policies to its students. The board of higher education and, in the case of secondary institutions, the board of education shall promulgate regulations governing the content and frequency of such reports, and shall forthwith report to the attorney general any such institution which fails to make such report.

The Weston Public Schools believes in the full inclusion of all students to participate in athletics in regulation with **Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973**. Coaches will collaborate with the special education faculty and staff in order to determine appropriate and safe participation based on individual needs and skill set of the student.

For additional information please refer to the WHS Student Handbook

Athletic Code of Conduct:

Daily Attendance:

Any student-athlete absent from school the day of scheduled game or practice session will not be allowed to participate in that game or practice. A student must be in school for a minimum of 3 ½ hours in order to participate. Students who cut class or do not fulfill their Saturday School responsibilities will also be ruled ineligible for participation.

Students in “Good Standing”:

All athletes must be a student in “good standing” in order to participate in athletics. “Good standing” is defined but not limited to:

- Adherence to school rules that regulate behavior and attendance
- Respectful behavior towards all members of the school community

A student is considered not to be in good standing during the season of play/activity if he/she has a suspension, Saturday Schools or class cuts. A student found not to be in good standing may be denied the privilege of participating in an interscholastic sport or extracurricular activity.

Academic Duty:

Students will plan their time so that they will devote sufficient energy to their studies to ensure grades representing their true abilities.

Taunting:

Taunting, either as an active team member or as a spectator, at a sporting event is forbidden and may lead to suspension or elimination from the team.

Honesty and Integrity:

Honesty is expected at all times. Stealing and lying will not be tolerated and, subject to due process, will result in immediate dismissal from the team. Any individual who is found in possession of another individual’s personal property will forfeit their privilege to participate on any WHS Athletic team for at least one full year. Participation on a WHS athletic team after the one-year suspension will be contingent upon the outcome of a hearing comprised of WHS Administration and the Athletic Director.

Representation:

Student Athletes are considered representatives of the school at all practices and contests and events. Students will conduct themselves properly when traveling as they represent the community, school and team. Profanity will be discouraged.

Respecting the Spirit of the Game:

Students will realize that officials do not lose a game, but are there for the purpose of insuring the game they are playing is a fair and safe contest for all participants. The officials will be shown courteous respect at all times. Student-athletes will also not employ illegal tactics to gain an advantage.

Respect for the Coaching Staff:

Students will understand that their coaches have their best interests in mind as they plan and guide the athletic team. They will obey the specific rules of the coach.

Respect for school buildings and grounds:

Students will understand that damage to the school building, grounds, or school equipment will result in immediate suspension from the team. The length of such suspension will depend on the severity of the damage as determined by the Athletic Director and Coach. Please note, cleats are not to be worn in the building or on the track at any time.

FINAL MESSAGE TO ALL STUDENT-ATHLETES, SPECTATORS AND PARENTS:

We urge you to support WHS Athletics by:

- Attending sporting events.
- Lending positive support to our teams and coaches.
- Encouraging all players without regard to their role on the team.
- Helping other spectators and parents to maintain an appropriate sportsmanlike attitude.
- Showing respect for the authority of the game officials.
- Enjoying the Weston High School athletic experience

GO CATS!