

# CODE FOR ATHLETES

Dear Parent,

Your son/daughter has made the choice to become involved in interscholastic athletics at Assumption High School. Participation in high school athletics should be viewed as a privilege, not a right. A condition of that involvement is the requirement that your son/daughter adhere to certain rules. These rules prohibit the use and/or possession of drugs, alcohol, tobacco, anabolic steroids, attendance at social events (other than those stipulated herein) at which controlled substances are being consumed or at which alcoholic beverages are being consumed by underage individuals. Any conduct which is detrimental to the community and Assumption High School constitutes grounds for suspension. These rules apply on a year-round basis. The intent of these rules is to enhance the health and well being of your son/daughter.

We know that you want what is best for your son/daughter and your support of our efforts to set regulations for your son's/daughter's conduct can best be achieved if you understand these regulations and the reasoning behind them. Therefore, we ask that you and your child familiarize yourself with the CODE FOR ATHLETES, including the Code of Conduct, Code of Academics, and the Attendance Policy.

Please sign the attached form and return it to the Athletic office. If you have any questions, please feel free to call the athletic office at (715) 422-0915.

Date \_\_\_\_\_

I have read the Assumption Athletic Handbook, Code of Academics, and Attendance Policy and understand all provisions contained therein.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student

**(Must be returned to athletic office before the student/athlete can participate.)  
(Cautionary statement is printed on the backside of this paper)**

## CODE FOR ATHLETES

### PARTICIPATION GUIDELINES

This handbook has been prepared for the benefit of the participants, the parents, and the coaches, in an effort to make athletics a contributing and worthwhile part of the overall school program. It is the desire of all members of the athletic department that athletics should be an enriching and healthful experience in which physical, mental, and social growth shall be stimulated through interscholastic competition. A genuine understanding of the aims and objectives of the school sports program and of the training rules will be realized by careful reading and discussion of this handbook by his/her parents.

### GENERAL ELIGIBILITY RULES

Every student who desires to participate in the Assumption athletic program must:

1. Meet all WIAA and Assumption High School eligibility standards.
2. Have on file a physical examination card before first day of practice.
3. Have on file an emergency form, cautionary statement, and athletic code signed by participating students and parents/guardians.
4. Be in compliance with all aspects of this Code for Athletes.

### WIAA AGE & PARTICIPATION GUIDELINES

A student shall be ineligible for interscholastic competition if he/she reaches his/her 19<sup>th</sup> birthday before August 1<sup>st</sup> of any given year.

### AMATEUR STATUS

- A. A Student shall be an amateur in all recognized sports of the WIAA in order to compete in any sport, and he/she shall become ineligible for all further participation in the school's interscholastic program if he/she:
  - 1) Accepts reimbursement, in any form (a) salary, (b) cash, (c) merchandise of any kind or amount or (d) share of game or season proceeds, for achievement in athletics.
    - a. Actual and necessary reimbursement for transportation, food, and lodging paid in connection with playing a contest shall not be regarded as a violation.
    - b. A student may receive an award which is symbolic (non-merchandise) in nature such as trophies, medals, ribbons, event T-shirts, event hats, game balls, or other items of no intrinsic value, but may not receive such merchandise items as jackets, sweaters, sweatshirts, equipment, balls, watches, rings, billfold, etc., regardless of their value.
    - c. A school may allow a student to retain of practice and playing uniforms which, for reasons of hygiene, obsolescence, deterioration, etc., will not be passed on to another student.
  - 2) Signs a contract or agreement for service as a participating athlete.
    - a. A student may be employed (but not self-employed) on a part-time basis as an instructor on the playgrounds, game official, life-guard, etc.
    - b. This rule shall not prevent a student from signing (a) an agreement which binds him/her to play only for a particular team or (b) an athlete tender with a university or college.
  - 3) Receives compensation or benefit, directly or indirectly, for the use of name, picture, and/or personal appearance as an athlete, or provides endorsement as an athlete in the promotion of a commercial or profit-making event, item, plan, or service.
  - 4) Plays in any contest (school or non-school) under a name other than his/her own name.

## CODE OF ACADEMICS

### *Academic Eligibility:*

1. Eligibility forms for extra-curricular activities will be processed every three weeks after the initial four weeks of school.
2. A student may be declared academically ineligible if he/she is failing a course.
3. Re-evaluation of a student who is academically ineligible may be done at the end of the first week if the student meets with the Counselor and the teacher in order to review his/her progress. The progress that will be reviewed is that of the week or weeks of ineligibility.
4. The period of ineligibility runs for 3 weeks after the issuance of report cards and the mid-hex eligibility report. (The student may become eligible after 7 days if re-evaluation procedures outlined in #3 result in a positive report). That eligibility takes effect on the following Monday.
5. Teachers must turn in ineligibility forms by 8 a.m. on Fridays in order for a student and coach to be notified in a timely fashion. The Athletic Director is ultimately responsible for enforcing ineligibility.
6. Students may request grade updates from teachers Mondays - Thursday, from 2:45 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. or by appointment.

## CODE OF CONDUCT

It is extremely rare to have a winner who is not disciplined. The development of talent and the nature of both the practice and game require a high degree of control. With that in mind, an attempt is made to insure that all rules are relevant, fair, and applicable to everyone. Any penalties invoked for violation of rules will be commensurate with the offense and will be imposed immediately.

If a student/athlete is guilty of a Major Violation according to the student/parent handbook, he or she has violated the Code of Conduct. The use of tobacco, alcohol, or other drugs is prohibited for several reasons, but most importantly because they are harmful to good health and physical conditioning. Sanctions for violation will be arranged by the Principal in consultation with the Athletic Director, and may include guilt by association. The code is enforced 12 months of the year including seasons in which the athlete may not be competing. Second and subsequent offenses are measured within a span of 12 months from the date of the first offense. Length of suspensions will be carried over to the next sport season if necessary to fulfill the suspension requirements. During the time of athletic suspension, the athlete may not participate in any team contests, and may only attend the athletic event(s) as a spectator.

A student competing for Assumption voluntarily chooses to represent more than just himself/herself. For that reason a greater degree of attention to personal behavior and appearance is expected of the athletes than of non-participating students. In this regard the athlete is expected to be well-groomed and present a neat appearance. Assumption athletes are to "dress up" on game day, especially when traveling to away contests. Extremes in appearance as determined by the Athletic Department are prohibited. Conduct determined detrimental to the school or team may result in probation or suspension. This includes the use of profanity and other forms of unsportsmanlike behavior, attendance at out-of-school activities where alcohol or other drugs are present (by anyone in attendance, not necessarily the student-athlete), vandalism or theft, or activities at which the police or school administration are called. Student athletes have privileges and responsibilities greater than the "average" student; therefore, improper conduct in or out of school will be subject to disciplinary action, as outlined in the student/parent handbook. Any athlete who is assigned detentions or suspended from school will not participate until the detention or suspension is fulfilled. Any athlete who knowingly attends practice and misses detention will not participate in the next scheduled event.

## ATTENDANCE POLICY

Students must attend a full day of classes or have an approved absence for the day in order to participate in a school-sponsored extracurricular activity or practice. Students are expected to be in school on the day following athletic events, with the exceptions of family emergency; medical, dental, clinical appointments or school-sponsored trips.

## GENERAL TRAINING RULES

The use or possession of tobacco, alcohol, and illegal drugs will not be tolerated. If student-athletes arrive at a gathering where alcohol or illegal drugs are present, either the student-athlete or the illegal substances must leave immediately. Student-athletes may attend weddings, family gatherings, restaurants, etc. but the use of tobacco, alcohol, or illegal drugs is still prohibited. These rules apply to all athletes during the entire 12 months of the year.

## CONSEQUENCES FOR VIOLATIONS OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT

*First offense:* Athlete is suspended from a maximum of 33% of the season's contests. The student must submit a letter of commitment and pledge of loyalty, apologize to the team verbally, and undergo counseling as arranged by the Principal.

*Second offense:* The Athlete is suspended from a minimum of 50% of the season's contests, and mandatory assessment and follow-through at the expense of the athlete is required. Game suspension continues until an assessment has been conducted and the athlete has fulfilled any and all treatment requirements.

*Third offense:* A third offense that occurs within 12 months of the first incident results in a 12-month suspension from competition. The athlete may only be reinstated by permission of the Administration, Athletic Director, and the coach based on progress made in dealing with his/her problem.

## UNEXCUSED ABSENCES

Students will not be allowed to participate in any school-sponsored activity including practices or games on the day of an unexcused absence. An unexcused absence from practice will be disciplined by the coach of their respective sport. If it is necessary to miss a practice, the athlete is responsible for informing his/her coach prior to the absence.

## ILLNESS

Students who miss school during the day because of illness may not participate in athletic competition or practice later that day or in the evening. The student may participate in athletic competition on a Saturday or other non-school day if he/she has been absent from school due to illness the previous day.

## TRIPS TO OTHER SCHOOLS FOR ATHLETIC CONTESTS

Transportation to and from all events will be in school-approved vehicles. A student/athlete may return from competition with only his/her parent upon prior written notification. All student/athletes must ride the bus to the competition to be eligible to play.

## MAJOR/MINOR SPORT

Student athletes are allowed to play two different sports in the same season (fall, winter, spring). The student/athlete must, however, determine which sport he/she will pick to be their major sport. For example, if a student athlete picks softball for a major sport and golf for their minor sport, the student athlete must adhere to all regulations set by the head coach of the major sport.

## AWARDS

If a student athlete is to be awarded a varsity letter in any sport, that student athlete must participate in a minimum of 60% of the season's contests played. In the case of any discrepancy, the Head Coach of that sport, along with the Athletic Director, will determine the award. All senior athletic awards will be handed out at the annual Baccalaureate held in late May or early June. Assumption High School hands out four major awards at the end of any student's senior year. These awards are: Outstanding Male/Female Athlete, Distinguished Athlete, Scholar Athlete, and American Legion Awards. The selection process is held annually in April and selected by all Head Coaches present at the annual meeting. These awards are based on all four years of high school. If interested in looking at the criteria for each award, please contact the athletic office.

#### MARAWOOD CONFERENCE

Individual Awards – To be nominated for an All-Conference honor (1<sup>st</sup> Team or 2<sup>nd</sup> Team, Honorable or Special Mention) to be voted on by coaches, athletes must satisfy their school's eligibility requirements concerning grades and code of conduct for all games, conference and non-conference, of the entire season involved. Nominees need not play, but must be eligible to play in each game. Excused absences do not disqualify athletes from nomination. Athletes involved in an ineligibility period, which overlaps two seasons, may be considered for nomination in the second season.

#### STATE TOURNAMENT POLICY

In the case of any team advancing to the State Tournament level these rules will apply.

Overnight stay – When a team advances and the contest is before 1:00 pm, overnight accommodations will be made if the trip is over 100 miles. All money that is assigned by the WIAA does not directly mean the money will be used for that tournament series. A parent meeting will be held on the following Monday after the sectional final game. All concerns will be voiced at this meeting on that upcoming state tournament series.