

# Athletic Code-of-Conduct



Both student-athletes and parents should carefully read the *Athletic Code-of-Conduct*. If you have any questions, please contact the athletic director.

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Physical Form *see <a href="http://www.ohssa.org/medicine.PPE.pdf">www.ohssa.org/medicine.PPE.pdf</a>	

**Western Reserve Local Schools Athletic Department**  
**Code of Conduct**

**PREFACE:**

Those responsible for overseeing, planning, and supervising the athletic programs view athletics as a privilege. All who will discipline themselves and spend long hours preparing and training may participate. The participants will discipline themselves to a greater degree than non participants and willingly abide by the training rules established by the Athletic Director and approved by the Administration and the Western Reserve Board of Education.

**RULES:**

If an athlete commits acts such as lying, stealing, cheating, school or community misconduct, etc., discretion will be applied relative to the seriousness of the offense. If coach feels the athlete's actions are continually detrimental to the program, the coach has the right to suspend the student for any length of time deemed reasonable. Action may be taken even to the point of suspension from all athletics for the season in progress.

- A. Dress and appearance for athletes will be determined by the head coach with the student handbook taken into consideration.
- B. Any action by a player which produces disunity or disharmony on the team will result in conference with the head coach.
- C. An athlete and or his/her parents will be financially responsible for damage to, or destruction of school property occurring as a result of his/her carelessness or misbehavior.
- D. Any equipment or garment issued to an individual is his/her responsibility and he and or his parents will be billed if there is a loss, damaged, torn, or tattered. Equipment is to be used for practice or games. Equipment is not issued for use in other areas.
- E. Denial of Participation and Appeal Process:
  - 1. Written or Verbal Notification-all notification of probation and or intent for denial of participation must be made in writing or verbally to the athlete and athletic director.
  - 2. Process of Appeal — any athlete dismissed from a team by the coaching staff for violation of the above mentioned rules may, within three (3) school days after being notified of any disciplinary actions, file a written request signed by the athlete and his/her parents with the principal, appealing the disciplinary action of the coaching staff.

3. Coaches are responsible for the administration of their sports program. In this capacity, they have the option to make judgments and decisions they believe are necessary to insure continued high ideals for their sports program.
4. To participate in a practice or contest, athletes on an athletic squad must be in attendance by 10:30 am, of the school day to participate in a contest or practice. Students must attend the second half of the day to be eligible to participate. The principal or athletic director may make exceptions to the afternoon rule for funerals, doctor appointments, and other items determined to be necessary to attend or excusable absence. College visitations, field trips, curricular will be valid excuses as they are functions of the school system.
5. If an athlete is absent from school the day prior to a game, they may participate in their sporting event game; however, the coach will determine if the athlete will "start" the game. A student missing school as an excused absence on a Friday may participate in practice or play in Saturday events.
6. While students are on either a center assignment or out-of-school suspension, students may not participate in games unless deemed so by the building principal.

### **Suspension from Sports:**

Any student who is suspended or removed from a team will forfeit their right to use the Western Reserve Athletic facilities for the remainder of the season. A student is considered a member of the team if they are still participating one week prior to the first scheduled contest. If special circumstances arise, the student may be permitted to use facilities with the written release of the coach of the team from which the student was (suspended, removed, or quit), and with the approval of the Athletic Director.

## **ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY**

**HIGH SCHOOL:** During the nine weeks prior to participation, an athlete must pass five credits or their Equivalent to be eligible. In addition, the Western Reserve Board of Education prohibits students from participating in interscholastic extra-curricular activities if they have less than a 1.75 grade point average on a 4.0 scale. Failure to comply with the grading period eligibility results in ineligibility for the succeeding three week interim grading period.

According to OHSAA rules any student enrolled in grades 9-12 are required to receive passing grades in minimum of five, one credit courses or the equivalent, which count towards graduation, the preceding grading period to maintain eligibility for the next grading period. Likewise, students must maintain a minimum grade point average of 1.75 per grading period. Grades will be checked every three weeks for eligibility.

**MIDDLE SCHOOL:** Western Reserve's middle school philosophy emphasizes academic success as its top priority. These guidelines are in compliance with board policy and OHSAA bylaws.

- Middle school students are required to pass five classes during the previous grading period in order to participate in athletics.
  - “Grading period” duration is defined as three weeks for eligibility purposes.
  - If a student was ineligible at the end of the previous quarter, then “grading period” becomes nine weeks.

### **ATHLETES SHALL BE DISCIPLINED FOR:**

- a. Unauthorized drug use, abuse, and/or possession
- b. Drinking of any alcoholic beverage
- c. Smoking or use of tobacco in any form. All student athletes participate in Random Drug Testing.

## **DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES**

The following are recommended penalties for violations when serious violations occur, the specific actions may be waived by the stronger measures. Similarly, the school administrator may consider extenuating circumstances. Penalties invoked in the Athletic Handbook are in addition to school policy.

Violation of established curfews: (set by individual coach)

- 1<sup>st</sup> offense warning and extra work from the coach or advisor.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> offense—suspension from one or more competitions.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> offense - dropped from the team or activity for the season.

Use or possession of alcoholic beverages and/or drugs at a school function:

- 1<sup>st</sup> offense - (20) percent suspension from competition and evaluation.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> offense—the student cannot be a member of any team for the remainder of the school year.

Use or possession of alcoholic beverages and/or drugs at a time or place other than a school function during the school year:

- 1<sup>st</sup> offense—the student may practice but not participate in a contest, activity or driving privileges until confirmation is received by the school that a formal assessment has been scheduled with a licensed professional.
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Offense—the student cannot be a member of any team for the remainder of the school year.

Tobacco and Tobacco Products

A student/athlete may no possess or use any tobacco products. Penalties for use or possession of tobacco are congruent with the penalties for alcohol or drug use and possession.

### **SELF-REFERRAL POLICY:**

1. Self-referral, by definition, is when the student-athlete and/or parent/guardian initiate contact with the coach or administrator in seeking assistance with a drug, alcohol, or tobacco problem. The self-referral option may be used one time only for the student's athletic career and is not applicable when the athlete is caught in violation by an administrator, coach, or law enforcement official. There shall be no prohibition from game participation and the self-referral will not be considered

- a violation if steps two through seven are initiated.
- 2. Fifteen (15) hours of community service.
- 3. Alcohol use or drug use, abuse, and/or possession:
  - a. A pre-assessment administered by a certified drug-alcohol counselor.
  - b. Agreement to follow counseling recommendations.
- Tobacco use:
  - a. Participation in a tobacco education instructional program approved by the administration.
- 4. Counseling as determined by the guidance department.
- 5. The student/athlete and his/her coach will develop a written plan of action specific to the violation that outlines goals and specific steps to be taken to alleviate the problem and allow for future development.
- 6. Practice attendance required.
- 7. Denial of athletic award and participation in future sports restricted until satisfactory completion of items two through five.

Consequences for violating the drug/alcohol policy or testing “positive” during a drug screening: **POSITIVE DRUG TEST POLICY:**

- 1. The Building Principal, within 24 hours, will notify and meet with the parent/guardian/custodian first, then the student and Athletic Director of any positive results. A written notification from the drug testing service provider, by form letter, will be sent to the parent/guardian/custodian by certified mail. The building principal may keep all test results for a period up to one year.
- 2. The student will be notified and be required to submit to five random tests at the school's choosing anytime during the rest of the school year. The cost of these five tests will be incurred by the school.
- 3. If the parent/guardian/custodian or student wishes to contest the results the Vendor will arrange for the split portion of the specimen to be submitted to another laboratory approved by the Board of Education for testing. This is done at parent/ guardian/custodian or student expense. Such a request must be made to the Building Principal in writing within five working days from first notification of positive test results.

The MRO may use quantitative results to determine if positive results on repeat testing indicate recent use of illicit or banned substances or the natural decline of levels of the illicit or banned substance from the body. If the MRO feels the quantitative levels determined to be above the established cutoffs do not reflect current use but natural decay, then a negative results may be reported. All drug test results are considered confidential information and will be handled according to state regulations.

**Consequences:** No student participating in this testing program shall be penalized academically for testing positive for illegal drugs. The results of drug tests pursuant to this policy will not be documented in any student's academic records. Information regarding the results of drug tests will not be disclosed to criminal or juvenile authorities absent legal compulsion by valid and binding subpoena or other legal process, which the District shall not solicit in the event of service of any such subpoena or legal process, the student and the custodial parent or legal guardian will be notified at least 24 hours before the response is made by the District.

The records of all students who tested negative will be destroyed at the end of the school year. Only the records of those students who tested positive and whose penalties transcend the school year into subsequent school years shall have their records maintained.

If a student participates in athletics or extra curricular activities as well as driving privileges, all privileges will be revoked in accordance with the progressive consequences process if a true positive test is returned.

**First Offense:** The student will be referred to a licensed facility for drug assessment. Parents may choose their own licensed facility, only with the written approval of the facility by the building principal. Participation is contingent upon the student following through and complying with the facility's recommendation. The student may observe but not participate in the sport, activity or driving privileges until confirmation is received by the school that assessments have been scheduled. The student will also be required to submit to five random urine specimens, via the vendor. The expenses of the five random tests will be incurred by the school. The parent or guardian will incur the expenses of the assessments.

**Expunging One Positive Test:** The 1<sup>st</sup> offense for testing positive can be expunged by the District once the student provides documentation of forty hours of drug counseling and successful voluntary passing of twelve monthly drug tests by the District's approved vendor, at the family's expense. This first offense can only be expunged once in the student's time in the Western Reserve School District, This documentation must be provided before the occurrence of a second offense. Failure of any one of the twelve monthly drug tests paid for by the family will not count as a second offense, but nullifies the first offense removal procedure.

**Second Offense within a Three-Year Time Period:** The student participant will receive a suspension of athletic, extra curricular activities and driving privileges, for remainder of the school year. The student will also be referred to a licensed facility for a drug assessment. Parents may choose their own licensed facility, only with the written



approval of the facility by the building principal. Participation is contingent upon the student following through and complying with the facility's recommendation. The student will also be required to submit to five random urine specimens, via the Vendor. The parent or guardian will incur the expenses of the assessments.

**Third Offense within a Three-Year Time Period:** The student participant will receive a permanent suspension of driving privileges as well as a permanent suspension from any sport. The student will also be referred to a licensed facility for a drug assessment.

A complete copy of Western Reserve School District's *Drug and Alcohol Awareness for Athletic Programs, Extracurricular Activities, and Student Drivers* is available in the main office.

## **AWARD SYSTEM**

The giving of awards to an individual is based on the individual meeting the necessary requirements in each sport as set by the coach and then only on the coach's recommendation.

**FIRST YEAR AWARD**—a 6" Block "WR" with the proper insert as part of the letter. Only one letter may be earned in each sport. A letter may be earned for each sport participated in. If the athlete does not earn a letter, but finishes the year in good standing, he or she will receive their numeral. One set per athlete. (Date of graduation).

**SECOND YEAR AWARD**—the athlete will receive a "Pin".

**THIRD YEAR AWARD**—A 4 by 6 inch plaque recognizing the athlete as a third year award winner in that particular sport.

**FOURTH YEAR AWARD**—a 6 by 8 inch plaque recognizing the athlete as a fourth year award winner in that particular sport.

**FRESHMEN**—a certificate showing that the athlete has finished his sport season in good standing. If a freshman participates at the junior varsity level, he or she will receive his/her date of graduation numeral.

**EIGHTH GRADE**—a certificate showing successful completion of the sport in which the athlete participated.

**SEVENTH GRADE**—a Certificate showing successful completion of the sport in which the athlete participated.

Awards will be given only for years of participation in Western Reserve's athletic programs.

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**WESTERN RESERVE ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT**  
**WALL OF FAME CRITERIA**

**Philosophy:** The purpose of putting pictures of an athletic team or individual on the commons wall is to give historical recognition to outstanding teams and individuals, to encourage future athletes to strive to accomplish outstanding feats, and to publicize Western Reserve High Schools' athletic program to the community.

**Team Criteria:**

1. A Team that advances into the "final four" of an O.H.S.S.A. sponsored tournament.

**Individual Criteria:**

1. All-Ohio (1<sup>st</sup> Team) as determined by AP, UPI, Coaches Poll, or by O.H.S.S.A. tournament accomplishments.

**Pictures may be retired if:**

1. Space is needed (beginning with the oldest).
2. They do not meet the current criteria.
3. The Athletic Council determines that the conduct or actions of athlete or team is detrimental to the ideals of high school athletics.

## **TRANSPORTATION GUIDELINES**

The Western Reserve Schools will provide transportation for students to all away events when buses and drivers are available. Students will not be permitted to transport other students to or from any school sponsored away events.

When school transportation is not available, parents may provide transportation provided they have proper liability and car insurance.

1. Parents will be responsible for providing transportation to and from home school events and facilities where school transportation is not provided.
2. Athletes are expected to ride to and from away contests by school-provided transportation. There may be occasions when a parent requests permission to transport his child home from an away contest. The Athletic Director should receive a written excuse from the parent and it is preferred that the Athletic Director see the parent face-to-face. The Athletic Director is not required to grant permission in such instances; however, if he/she does, the family needs to understand that they would be forfeiting any coverage under the Western Reserve Schools insurance and that of the O.H.S.S.A.

State Law specifically states that there shall be no eating and drinking on the bus when traveling. Please assist the driver in enforcing this rule. Many times drivers know how to get to the destination. However, they may need your assistance after reaching the town to find the specific building or location. It is the coach's responsibility to have these directions. It is the driver's responsibility to drive to the location, and that generally means that they have certain routes and roads that they feel are safer and are confident in traveling. Coaches may provide suggestions for routes to take, but it is the driver's responsibility to establish which routes they actually travel. Before leaving the bus, please have athletes help in cleaning the bus and depositing trash in the trash container. Again, leave the bus better than you found it!

The driver is not the chaperone in controlling the athletes. The coach must maintain order! Keep noise at a minimum and there must be complete silence at rail road crossings. The driver has his/her hands full with handling the bus and maintaining safe driving procedures. Please cooperate and assist with the driver's wishes.

As the State of Ohio continues to try and make the transporting of students safer and more descriptive, we at Western Reserve will comply with the following recommendations.

If a parent intends to transport their athlete home following an event, a parental note must be submitted to school personnel 24 hours prior to the athletic event. Please make sure that this important step is completed correctly.

The State of Ohio is again stressing the part of the Ohio Revised Code that states that bus riders "must refrain from eating and drinking on the bus". Young people often take food and drink to eat during or after an event. It is the responsibility of the coach/advisor to make sure that no food or drink is consumed on the bus. Kids will be kids and they will try to drink and eat while in route. The Western Reserve bus drivers have been instructed to not allow this to happen, and would appreciate the cooperation of the adult staff in making sure that the Ohio Revised Code is followed. The driver has the right and responsibility to stop the bus should there be any infractions of this rule.

## **Spectator Sportsmanship Policy**

The following are acceptable behaviors at an athletic contest in

As a spectator, I will:

- Cheer for my team, not against my opponent
- Not use profane or inappropriate language
- Treat the game as a game not a war
- Lead positive cheers in a positive manner
- Applaud the efforts of both teams at games end
- Show concern for an injured player regardless of the team
- Demand sportsmanlike behavior from all fans
- Depart the game in a dignified and ethical manner
- Respect the official's judgment at all times
- Understand that my admission does not excuse my behavior

The following are considered unacceptable behaviors and subject to sanction ranging from warnings to dismissal and subsequent suspension from attendance.

As a spectator, I will not:

- Use profanity, taunt, trash talk, or heckle our opponents, and coaches, the officials, our team and coaches, or other spectators.
- Wear derogatory or offensive attire
- Enter the playing surface before, during or after the contest
- At any time throw any objects or projectiles
- Attend an event under the influence of drugs or alcohol

An ejection or dismissal from any athletic event will result in a mandatory 2 week ban from all athletic events. (home or away).

A fan that physically assaults anyone at an athletic contest will be prosecuted and denied admission to all future contests until he/she is reinstated by the District Superintendent.

## **Student Athlete Pledge**

As a student athlete, I know I am a role model. I understand the spirit of fair play while playing hard. I will refrain from engaging in all types of disrespectful behavior, including inappropriate language, taunting, trash talking, and unnecessary physical contact. I know the behavior expectations of my school, my conference, and O.H.S.A.A. I hereby accept the responsibility and privilege of representing this school and community as a student athlete.

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Student Athlete's Signature

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Date

## **Student Athlete's Parent Pledge**

As a parent, I acknowledge that I am a role model. I will remember that school athletics are an extension of the classroom, offering learning experiences for the students. I must show respect for all players, coaches, spectators, officials, and support groups. I will participate in cheers that support, encourage, and uplift the teams involved. I understand the spirit of fair play and that good sportsmanship is expected by our school, our conference, and the O.H.S.A.A. I hereby accept my responsibility to be a model of good sportsmanship that comes with being the parent of a student athlete.

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Parent/Guardian Signature

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Date