

TUMWATER SCHOOL DISTRICT

ATHLETIC CODE

High School

MISSION STATEMENT

The Tumwater School District Athletic Department's Mission is to provide quality, well-rounded, co-curricular programs in which our athletes learn lifelong skills of excellence, discipline, perseverance, competitiveness, cooperation, sportsmanship and dedication. We believe each sport has something unique to offer a young growing person and encourage students to participate in a variety of high school sports offerings.

ELIGIBILITY

- A. Age Limits: The student shall be under 20 years of age on September 1st for the fall sports season, on December 1st for the winter sports season, and on March 1st for the spring sports season.
- B. Scholarship: A student shall have passed the minimum number of classes (as explained on page 8) in the immediately preceding semester/trimester in order to be eligible for competition during the succeeding semester/trimester. The record at the end of the semester/trimester shall be final, except for those credits earned in a regular, accredited summer school program and accepted by the school district. Incompletes may be made up for credit during the first five (5) weeks of the subsequent semester/trimester. The student shall be ineligible for interscholastic competition until the incomplete(s) are cleared.
- C. Total Semesters of Eligibility: After entering or being eligible to enter the seventh grade, students shall have six (6) years of interscholastic eligibility. If the seventh or eighth grade is repeated, and such repetition is based upon documented academic reasons, the repeated year shall not count against the student's six (6) interscholastic competitive years.
- D. Residency Rules: In order to be eligible to participate and/or represent a member school in an interscholastic contest, the student shall be attending a school in which the student resides with the family unit and provided that the student has been continuously attending that member school or a feeder school of that member school for a period of one year.
- E. Fines: Student athletes must have all school fines paid in order to be cleared for athletic participation.

CONDUCT EXPECTATIONS

If any athlete participates in the TSD athletic program, he/she is making the choice to abide by the following expectations and athletic code guidelines. These policies will be in effect from the first day of practice until the conclusion of the athlete's sport season and/or banquet, whichever occurs last. It is the coach's responsibility to make parental contact regarding consequences of disciplinary issues. Coaches have the prerogative to have additional team specific expectations regarding attendance, academic requirements, etc. These should be shared with the athletes and the parents/guardians.

REQUIREMENTS FOR ATTENDANCE

- A. Participants must attend the entire school day in order to be eligible to practice or participate in competition. The athletic director or designee must approve any exception to this requirement. In order to be excused from school, a student with a medical appointment must bring a note from the physician's office marked with the date and time spent in the office.
- B. It is the athlete's responsibility to follow the school's attendance policy and any additional attendance regulations established by the head coach for that specific sport. For some athletes, schedule conflicts with other activities may arise. If so, a student athlete must choose and abide by the consequences set by the coach.

TRANSPORTATION

Participants are required to travel to and from contests with the team when transportation is provided for this purpose. Only through the written request of a parent or guardian **and approval by Administration** will this be waived. Request forms are available in the office. Twenty-four hour notice is preferred.

SPORT TRANSFER/DROP/SUSPENSION

Any athlete who wishes to change from one sport to another during a specific sport season must secure the approval from both coaches involved and the Athletic Director (i.e., from football to cross country). Any athlete dropping from a team after the first contest without the coach's consent will forfeit his/her award. If an athlete is suspended for the season he/she will forfeit his/her award.

COLLEGE RECRUITMENT

A player who is contacted personally by a college recruiter should contact his/her coach if the contact occurs during a time when the athlete is actively involved in that sport or another sport. Student athletes interested in college athletics are (1) encouraged to take the SAT or ACT initially during his/her junior year, and (2) **required** to sign up with the NCAA Clearinghouse. Both of these can be done through the counseling center.

AMATEUR STANDING

A student who represents a school in an interscholastic sport must be an amateur in that sport. An amateur student-athlete is one who engages in athletics for the physical, mental, social and educational benefits derived therefrom, and to whom athletics is an avocation and not a source of financial reward. In order to maintain amateur standing in those activities under WIAA jurisdiction, the student-athlete may not:

- A. Accept merchandise or in-kind gifts of more than \$300 in fair market value during any one calendar year, September 1 through August 31. Reduced membership fees or reduced user fees from an athletic club, recreation center, golf course, etc., do not count toward this \$300 limit.
- B. Accept cash awards.
- C. Enter competition under a false name.
- D. Accept payment of expense allowances over the actual and necessary expenses for the athletic trip. (NOTE: Entry fees are not considered a reimbursable expense.)
- E. Sign or have ever signed a contract to play professional athletics.
- F. Play or have ever played on any professional team in any sport.
- G. Receive or have ever received, directly or indirectly, a salary or any other form of financial assistance (including scholarships, educational grants-in-aid, or any of his/her expenses for reporting to or visiting a professional team) from a professional sports organization.

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

While the Tumwater School District is aware of the important role that interscholastic athletics play in the development of students, the District is also committed to the philosophy that the primary purpose of our secondary schools should be to prepare students academically to become productive citizens upon graduation. For these reasons we have established the following academic standards for our student athletes.

ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY

The student athlete must be currently enrolled in and passing a minimum of five (5) academic classes (only one (1) non-graded class such as a TA will be allowed to count for eligibility). The student must have also passed a minimum of five (5) academic classes the previous Semester (only one (1) non-graded class such as a TA will be allowed to count for eligibility).

Student athletes must attend classes for the entire school day in order to be eligible to practice or participate in a competition. Any exception to this requirement must be approved by the Athletic Director or designee prior to participation.

Any student athlete who does not meet the above stated criteria will be considered ineligible. This means that he/she may continue practicing, but will not be allowed to participate in competitions until the athlete meets the minimum academic expectations.

ACADEMIC PROBATION

Any student athlete who is passing at least five (5) academic classes but is not currently earning a 2.5 GPA and/or passed at least five academic classes but did not earn a 2.5 GPA the previous semester, will be placed on "Academic Probation." This means the student may be required to attend study table on certain days, asked to bring parent verification of study time at home, and the coach will monitor the student's progress. At any time the coach believes the student is not making a valid effort to improve, the student athlete may lose participation time.

ACADEMIC SUSPENSION

A school student who failed to make the grade requirements shall be placed on suspension. The student shall be ineligible during the suspension period. If, at the end of the suspension period, the student is passing in the minimum number of classes required above, the student may then be reinstated for interscholastic competition. The suspension period for high school students shall be from the end of the previous semester through the last Saturday of September in the fall and the first five (5) weeks of the succeeding semester.

ATHLETIC DISCIPLINE

DISCIPLINE INFRACTIONS

- A. Unsportsmanlike conduct (including disruption, fighting, vulgarity, verbal abuse etc.).
- B. Violations of school policies and/or school disruptions.
- C. Involvement in criminal offenses.
- D. Attending social functions where minors are illegally using a prohibited substance.
- E. Consumption, possession, transmission or selling the following prohibited substances: alcoholic beverages, drugs (including anabolic steroids), look-alike drugs, narcotics, or tobacco (including chewing tobacco).

CONSEQUENCES

Infraction A or B: Consequences defined at the discretion of the head coach.

Infraction C or D: Consequences will be referred to the Athletic Review Board and consequences may range from restitution to season or yearlong ineligibility. The Athletic Review Board shall be chaired by the Athletic Director and consist of an assistant principal or designee, one teacher, and one out-of-season coach.

Infraction E: (These violations are cumulative for a student/athlete's entire high school eligibility)

1. **First Violation:** The student/athlete shall be immediately ineligible for interscholastic competition in the current interscholastic sports program for the remainder of the season.

Ineligibility shall continue until the next sports season in which the student/athlete wishes to participate. In order to be eligible to participate in the next interscholastic sports season, the student athlete shall meet with the school Athletic Director, to request approval to participate. The Athletic Director will recommend to the principal appropriate action to be taken in the student athlete's case. The school principal shall have the final authority as to the student athlete's participation in the interscholastic sports program.

A student/athlete who seeks and receives help for a first violation may have his/her eligibility re-instated during the season in which the violation occurred. The student/athlete must:

- Request in writing to the Athletic Director for a Student Assistance Program Assessment.
- Successfully complete the assessment and agree to comply with the recommendations of the assessment.

The Athletic Director will then reinstate the student/athlete with the following guidelines:

- A seven (7) calendar day (no school holidays) suspension with a 3-day practice requirement completed before any competition. During the seven (7) day suspension, the athlete cannot participate in practice, competition or other team events (fund-raisers, unity camp, etc.).
 - During the suspension, the student/athlete may not attend any co-curricular activities as a participant or fan.
 - The student/athlete will be assigned 10 community service hours that must be coordinated with the Athletic Director and completed within a school determined timeline.
 - The student-athlete must be making satisfactory progress in completing the prescribed assessment recommendations in order to continue in that sport season.
 - If the prescribed recommendation carries over into a subsequent sport season, satisfactory progress must be demonstrated in order for a student-athlete to participate in competition.
2. **Second Violation:** A student/athlete who again violates shall be ineligible for interscholastic competition for a period of one (1) calendar year from the date of the second violation.
 3. **Third Violation:** A student/athlete who violates for a third time shall be permanently ineligible for interscholastic competition.

DISCIPLINE PROCESS AND APPEAL

When an alleged violation of the Athletic Code occurs, the following steps shall be taken:

1. The head coach will be notified.
2. The coach and/or Athletic Director will conduct an investigation. This will include interviewing the students who are involved in the alleged misconduct or violation.
3. If the coach and/or Athletic Director determines that a violation has occurred, the coach and/or Athletic Director shall impose disciplinary action and notify the student and parents/guardians.
4. The student and his/her parents may accept the decision or initiate an appeal on behalf of their student. The student and his/her parents have three (3) business days to file a written notice of appeal with the principal. A hearing must convene on the appeal within three (3) business days of receipt of the notice of appeal. The discipline action shall continue during the appeal procedure set forth unless the principal or his/her designee elects to postpone such action. The Athletic Appeals Board, consisting of the Athletic Director, an assistant principal or designee, one teacher, and one out-of-season coach, will hear the appeal. Upon hearing the appeal, the student and his/her parents shall leave to allow the Athletic Appeals Board members time to discuss the appeal. Upon completion of this discussion the Athletic Appeals Board will make a recommendation. The Athletic Director is not a voting member of the Appeals Board.
5. If the recommendation is not acceptable to the student-athlete and his/her parents, they may request a meeting with the principal, provided the principal was not involved in the original hearing. This meeting must be held within three (3) business days after receipt of the hearing recommendation.
6. If the principal's decision is not acceptable to the appealing parties, they may request a meeting with the Superintendent's designee. This meeting must be convened within two (2) business days of the Superintendent receiving a formal written request for a meeting.
7. Following the decision of the Superintendent, the appealing party may seek further remedy through the School Board at its next regular meeting. Presentation of the appeal to the School Board shall be in closed session. The School Board shall notify the student and his/her parents of its response to the appeal within ten (10) business days after the date of the meeting.