

**WELLSBORO AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**ATHLETIC POLICY**



Table of Contents

**INTRODUCTION:**

Welcome, Mission, Vision	2
Athlete Expectations and Code of Conduct	2-3
Coaches Expectations and Code of Conduct	3
Parents Expectations and Code of Conduct	3-4
Community Expectations	4
Sportsmanship	4-5

**GENERAL INFORMATION:**

Resolving Problems	5
Attendance Policy	5
Awarding of Letters	5
Transportation	5
Booster Club	6
WASD Calendar and Athletic Schedules	6
Eligibility Requirements	6
Equipment	6
Hazing	7
Meet the Hornets	7
Off Season Participation/Open Gym Philosophy	7
Teams and Seasons	7
Dual Sport Participation	8
Eligibility Requirements	8
Medical Clearances	8

Team Structures and Goals	8-9
Playoff Participation	9
Appendices	10-13

## **WELCOME**

The Athletic Department of the Wellsboro Area School District (WASD) welcomes you. Wellsboro Athletics participates in the Northern Tier League as a Class AA school in District 4.

Athletes, by deciding to participate in an athletic program, will enhance your educational experience. As a team member, interscholastic sports will provide a forum that can enhance leadership skills. One will also learn the value of perseverance and be introduced to a level of competition beyond the boundaries of the WASD. The team approach at the interscholastic level not only promotes school spirit, but also develops individual character. As a team member, each individual will need to communicate with coaches and other team members while working within the boundaries of a team organization and the rules of the sport. As a team member the importance of establishing team goals will become evident. In order to improve as an individual athlete, the importance of self-motivation and discipline become apparent.

Parents, you are an invaluable part of your child's educational and athletic development. Your support will have a considerable impact on your athlete's performance (education) in the athletic arena. Your athlete will learn lifelong lessons of how to be gracious in victory and knowledgeable from defeat.

## **MISSION**

The mission of the WASD Athletic Department is to provide an athletic program that helps develop the whole person through education and competition; to stimulate a lasting attitude of discipline, sportsmanship, integrity, leadership, and social responsibility; to insure equal opportunity for all staff and student-athletes; and to make the athletic program an enduring source of pride for the student, athletes, alumni, and the community.

## **VISION**

The Wellsboro Area Athletic Department wishes to provide each athlete with the opportunity to achieve personal goals while simultaneously developing beneficial skills for their team. Each coach's goal is to instill in each athlete an ethic of self-discipline, cooperation, loyalty, honesty, and perseverance. Coaches will ensure that each athlete will learn to communicate with team members and coaches. Coaches will enhance leadership skills where they exist. Success is the goal of each coach whose team participates in interscholastic sports, district competition or state level competition, and the development of each athlete's skill is motivated by that goal.

## **ATHLETES EXPECTATIONS**

- A. Comply with all rules and regulations as set forth by the PIAA, NTL, school district, coaches, and athletic department.
- B. Prepares physically and mentally for each sports season.
- C. Participates fully in all practices and competitions.
- D. Be an invaluable part of your team.
- E. Encourages positive attitudes with your teammates both on and off the playing area.
- F. Maintain a positive attitude when things become more challenging for you.
- G. Allow coaches to coach. Your role is to play hard and be a contributor to your team.
- H. Promote the skills of your teammates instead of comparing and contrasting your skills, courage, or attitude in a negative manner.
- I. Take the time to know your coach in a way that allows you to understand their philosophy, ethics, knowledge, goals, aspirations, and responsibilities.
- J. Prioritize the agenda that drives your interest in the athletic program or any individual sport: the team agenda comes first, and your personal agenda follows.
- K. Have a willingness to be coached.

## **THE ATHLETES CODE OF CONDUCT**

*I will be the positive role model for my team, school, and community. In victory, I will be gracious, humble, and thankful. In defeat, I will be strong, honest, and accepting.*

## **COACHES EXPECTATIONS**

All coaching job descriptions can be viewed on the WASD website under Athletics.

## **THE COACHES CODE OF CONDUCT**

As a coach representing Wellsboro Area School District, I will set a proper example and be a good role model. As the leader of the team, I will exemplify honesty, integrity, fair play, and sportsmanship regardless of the competition. I will maintain a professional demeanor in my

relationships with athletes, officials, colleagues, administrators and the public and treat them with respect and dignity. I will refrain from and discourage the use of profanity.

## **PARENTS EXPECTATIONS**

- A. Be an invaluable part of your child's educational and athletic development.
- B. Encourage positive attitudes and actions through the development of your child both on and off the playing area.
- C. Require participation in all practices and competitive events.
- D. Listen to your child's issues and provide positive feedback when things become more challenging for your child.
- E. Accept my role to support, encourage, and motivate progress on a daily, weekly, monthly, and yearly basis, through support of offseason training, camps, weight training, and team building activities.
- F. Promote the skills of my child's teammates and opponents instead of comparing and contrasting the skills, courage, or attitude of my child with that of their teammates, or opponents, in a negative manner.
- G. Take the time to know my child's coach in a way that allows me to understand their philosophy, ethics, knowledge, goals, aspirations, and responsibilities.
- H. Prioritize the agenda that drives my interest in the athletic program or any individual sport: the team agenda comes first, and my personal agenda follows.

## **THE PARENT CODE OF CONDUCT**

*I will be the positive role model my child needs to become a successful adult, In victory, I will be gracious, humble, and thankful. In defeat, I will be strong, honest, and accepting.*

## **COMMUNITY EXPECTATIONS**

- A. Partner with Wellsboro Area School District to actively promote, encourage and support local athletes in achieving academic, social and athletic success.
- B. Attend athletic events when possible.

- C. Provide financial support.

## **SPORTSMANSHIP**

The following are just a few reminders of the important role parents and community play in modeling behaviors when involved in athletic programs:

- A. You are a fan and spectator. Please allow the coach to coach and the officials to officiate.
  
- B. You are the host for all visiting teams; treat them with respect and dignity.
  
- C. You should cheer for our TEAM, not against the opponent.
  
- D. You are a role model for your child, his teammates, and the overall program. Consider how you want to be remembered.

---

## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

---

### **RESOLVING PROBLEMS**

If an athlete or parent encounters a problem, the following “chain of command” **must** be used to solve the problem. Avoid initiating contact with the coach immediately prior to and/or right after a contest or during practice time.

1. Coach
2. Athletic Director/coach
3. Head of Athletics/coach
4. Principal/Head of Athletics
5. Superintendent
6. School Board

### **ATTENDANCE POLICY**

Students are required to attend a full day of school in order to practice or play a competition on that day. Any student arriving after 10:00 am or leaving early and not returning with a legal excuse accepted by the administration will not practice or play in a competition that day.

Appointment validation will be required. Students absent from school will not play or practice in a competition on that day.

Athletes are required to attend school the day after an event no matter how late the student arrives home from their previous competition, unless approved by administration.

## **AWARDING OF LETTERS**

Each sport will have a specific system for awarding letters. The head coach will determine the criteria for that sport. The lettering system will be explained to the athletes and parents at the first meeting of the season.

## **TRANSPORTATION**

All athletes will travel to and from all contests on the team bus. If an exceptional circumstance arises a parent or guardian must notify the coach and sign out their child following the contest. Under no circumstances will an athlete transport himself/herself to a contest.

## **BOOSTER CLUB**

WASD athletic department encourages the participation of all parents in the Booster Club. This is a critical support system for the entire athletic program. The ideal booster club is one that is made up of parents, fans, and coaches. We need this group to promote athletics and assist the department in providing our athletes with equipment facilities, and opportunities they otherwise would not enjoy.

## **WASD CALENDAR AND ATHLETIC SCHEDULES**

School Calendar can be found online at [www.wellsborosd.org](http://www.wellsborosd.org)

Athletic Schedule can be found online at [www.highschoolsports.net](http://www.highschoolsports.net)

Cancellations can be found online at [www.wellsborosd.org](http://www.wellsborosd.org)

Cancellations and district updates through Twitter

**No athletic events/practices may take place, on that school day, when school is cancelled or an early dismissal occurs.**

## **ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS**

Under the rules of the Pennsylvania High School Athletic Association and Wellsboro Area School District, athletes are NOT ELIGIBLE IF:

- A. They have reached the age of 19 prior to July 1 of the current school year.
- B. They have ever violated their amateur status.
- C. They have been absent more than 20 school days during a semester.
- D. They do not have a physical.
- E. They have ever participated in an athletic contest under an assumed name.
- F. They are failing more than one class per week (as defined by a weekly eligibility report).  
An “Incomplete” in a class counts as an "F" until the work is made up. If work is not made up within ten days, then the work becomes a zero and is averaged into the grade.
- G. They have graduated from a 4 year high school or an equivalent institution.

## **EQUIPMENT**

Every athlete will be given equipment and/or uniforms that are provided by the WASD. Athletes are responsible for these items. The student and parent/guardian are financially responsible to replace lost or damaged equipment.

## **HAZING**

It is the policy of the WASD that hazing will not be permitted in any way, shape, or form. Athletes, coaches, and/or parents who violate this District guideline will be punished accordingly. Parents are encouraged to report any incidents of this type to the coach immediately.

## **SWARM THE HIVE**

In the beginning of the fall season – the Booster Club and Athletic Department combine to introduce the athletes and coaches for each sport. The Athletic Department encourages all parents and athletes to attend.

The Booster Club and Athletic Department also combine to host an end of the year All-Sports Awards Ceremony.

## **OFF-SEASON PARTICIPATION/OPEN GYM PHILOSOPHY**

Out-of-season open gym participation is at the sole discretion of the in-season coach. Expectations of in-season coach, regarding open gym, must be clearly defined in team rules/expectations. Team/player consequences should also be defined.

The Wellsboro Area Athletic Department believes championships are won in the off season by the extra work an athlete and team perform. Student-athletes are expected to organize their off season around the following priorities:

- (1) Weight Room
- (2) Individual Skill Development
- (3) Team Continuity and Development
- (4) Individual Camps
- (5) Team Skill Development

## **TEAMS AND SEASONS**

Male Sports:

Fall: Cross Country, Football, Golf and Soccer

Winter: Basketball and Wrestling

Spring: Baseball, Tennis, and Track and Field

Female Sports:

Fall: Cross Country, Soccer, Tennis, and Volleyball

Winter: Basketball

Spring: Softball, and Track and Field

## **DUAL-SPORT AGREEMENT**

An athlete is eligible to participate in more than one sport if the sport(s) of interest are offered during the same season. To initiate action it is essential that the athlete contact both coaches of the sports being considered. If permission is granted an agreement must be signed by the athlete, parent/guardian, athletic director, and both respective coaches. All parties involved in this agreement must agree to this participation, if not, a student will NOT be allowed to participate in dual sports.

## **ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS**

- A. Pre-participation eligibility requirements
- B. WASD eligibility requirements

## **MEDICAL CLEARANCES**

Athletes must pass a physical exam prior to participation. WASD will offer physicals 1 time per year for ALL athletes. Prior to each season ALL athletes must complete a re-certification physical form. All injuries must be reported to the coach immediately. A student whose injuries require a doctor's attention must present a doctor's note clearing the athlete to return to practice or competition.

## **TEAM STRUCTURES AND GOALS**

### **Middle School Programs-**

The Middle School Programs are entry level. The emphasis of middle school sports is to introduce interscholastic sports to as many students as possible. Coaches will focus on teaching the sports basic skills and having fun. We will have an A and B team structure. The number of athletes at this level may be limited and playing time will be determined at the discretion of the coaching staff. Members of each team will be chosen based on team criteria. The coaching staff will select teams if try-outs are necessary. Our goal is to have every athlete participating at his or her level of development.

### **Senior High Programs-**

Junior Varsity - This is the varsity preparatory level. We continue to develop the sport, its basic and complex skills, and the fun element at the levels just below the requirements for varsity competition. The number of athletes at this level will be limited and playing time will be determined at the discretion of the coaching staff.

Varsity - This level focuses on everything that has been developed and learned over the last several years. Basic skills continue to be extremely important. Complex sport skills are critical. The number of athletes at this level will be limited and playing time will be determined at the discretion of the coaching staff.

### **Participation Selection-**

Certain teams at certain levels have limitations on the number of participants. These limitations are the result of factors including time, facilities, equipment, staffing, budgets, and tradition. We do not like to limit participation of our teams. In fact it is the most difficult decision any coach has to make, but in some instances it has to be made.

You should know that many factors are considered before the coaching staff makes limitation decisions. Perhaps the most important element may be the roles to be played on the team and how each part fits into the entire puzzle.

We will make the necessary decisions about limiting teams to certain numbers in as fair and as professional manner as possible. Questions concerning such decisions should be directed to the athletic office.

### **PLAYOFF PARTICIPATION**

Any team entering post-season play must have a record of .500 or greater.

#### APPENDIX A

### **WELLSBORO ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT DUAL SPORT PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT**

**Student:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

As a student at Wellsboro Area High School, it is my request to be an active participant in the sports of \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_. I understand that this is agreeable to my coaches, my parents/guardians, myself, and has been approved by the Wellsboro Area School District Athletic Director.

The following is a list of criteria included in this option.

1. In situations where there is a game/meet/practice in both sports scheduled on the same day, I have decided that I will participate in \_\_\_\_\_ (Primary Sport).
2. I understand that scheduling will result in conflicts between events in both sports.
3. If there is a conflict between practices in one sport versus competition in the other sport, the primary sport has priority.
4. In the case of a conference meet or state sponsored event conflicting with a regular season contest, the conference meet or state event has priority.
5. I agree not to switch the primary sport during the course of the season. If one sport becomes a better situation for the team or for me personally, I will still adhere to my decision as stated in #1 above. **Quitting primary sport will forfeit opportunity to participate in secondary sport.**
6. Academics are the first priority. This request will only be considered if the applicant is in good academic standing at the time. If this academic standard is not maintained as reflected by mid-term grades and the remainder of the semester, the student will discontinue participation in the second sport and there will be no appeal (Minimum 85% on a 100% scale).
7. This agreement may be changed or modified due to a medical condition supported by a doctor's note.
8. This decision is mine and has been agreed to by all of the respective parties.

Additional note: Issues could arise that may not be addressed in the above statements. Either coach involved has the right to call a meeting to present and resolve the issue.

<b>Student:</b> _____	<b>Date:</b> _____
<b>Parent/Guardian:</b> _____	<b>Date:</b> _____
<b>Parent/Guardian:</b> _____	<b>Date:</b> _____
<b>Primary Coach:</b> _____	<b>Date:</b> _____
<b>Secondary Coach:</b> _____	<b>Date:</b> _____
<b>Athletic Director:</b> _____	<b>Date:</b> _____

**REMINDER:** Coaches are to communicate with each other and the student and parents in regard to practice and contests while insuring that the student does not face undue pressure.

· A dual sport student participates without consequence for missing practice/contests in accordance with the conditions of this agreement.

· A dual sport participant is expected to practice under the supervision of the coaches involved in the sports.

APPENDIX B

Revised 3/16

RULES AND PROCEDURES FOR  
 INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS AND EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES  
 IN THE WELLSBORO AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

1. Students are expected to attend a full day of school in order to practice or play in a competition on that day. Any student arriving after 10:00 a.m. or leaving early and not returning with a written legal excuse accepted by the administration will not practice or play a competition. Appointment validation will be required. Students absent from school will not practice or play a competition on that day.
2. No player who has been injured or ill and has been under a physician's care will be permitted to practice or play without written permission of the attending physician and the parent or guardian of the student.
3. Training rules established by the Wellsboro Area School Board prohibits the use or possession of any alcohol, controlled substance and tobacco (including smokeless tobacco and Electronic cigarettes) at any time or any place from the first official P.I.A.A. practice date to the last practice or competition or from the first day of an extra-curricular activity through the last date of the activity. Any student found in violation will be dismissed unless the student has a drug and alcohol assessment, completes ten hours of school community service, completes a minimum of four hours of counseling at an approved provider at student/parent's or guardian expense, and is suspended from competition and exhibition for fifteen school days. Subsequent violations will result in dismissal and exclusion from further extra-curricular activities for the remainder of the school year. In order to participate in extra-curricular activities for the following year, the student must complete a drug and alcohol assessment, complete twenty hours of school community service, and complete eight hours of counseling at the student/parent/guardians expense.
4. Every student participating in an interscholastic sports competition or practice must be covered by suitable insurance. School insurance may provide coverage beyond the student's primary insurance coverage. The coach or advisor must file an incident report in the high school office within one week of a student being injured. Parents/Guardians agree to allow the coach or advisor of the extra-curricular activity to seek medical attention for their child in the event of an injury, if necessary (i.e. emergent medical care in the absence of the parent/guardian and the parent/guardian cannot be reached).
5. All participants are expected to be good representatives of the school and shall adhere to the characteristics of good sportsmanship in reference to teammates, opponents, officials, and spectators.
6. Any student caught stealing or defacing uniforms or equipment agrees to pay the replacement cost of lost or ruined uniforms or equipment.

7. All athletes will travel to and from all contests on the team bus. It is realized that from time to time a circumstance may arise when it may be necessary for the athlete to ride home with a **parent**. If an exceptional circumstance arises a parent or guardian must notify the coach and sign out their child following the contest. Under no circumstances will an athlete transport himself/herself to a contest.

Policy of Academic Criteria for extra-curricular activities will be as follows:

- a. Any student failing more than one class per marking period shall be ineligible to participate in extra-curricular activities. An incomplete in a class counts as failing until the work is made up. If work is not made up within ten days, then the work becomes a zero and is averaged into the grade.
- b. Eligibility for all high school fall activities is determined by the failure of more than one class based on the final second semester grades of the previous school year. Eligibility for all middle school fall activities is determined by the failure of more than one class based on the final grades of the previous school year.
- c. A student shall be declared ineligible on any Friday that his/her cumulative grades reflect failure of more than one class.
- d. A student declared ineligible on Friday shall be ineligible commencing on the immediate following Sunday through the following Saturday.
- e. A student declared ineligible at the end of the nine week marking period for failure of more than one class shall remain ineligible for fifteen official school days.
- f. Any student ineligible for fifteen days shall become eligible on the sixteenth school day providing the report of the immediate preceding Friday meets the criteria of section c.

It is important that all students involved in extra-curricular activities and their parents understand these regulations. The student, parent/guardian, and coach/advisor are required to sign and date the two copies of this form. The blue form will be returned to the office and the white form will be returned to the parent or guardian. I have read the above rules and procedures and I fully understand the implications so stated.

Signature of student: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of parent/guardian: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of coach/advisor: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_