



WVA Athletic Handbook

Note: This Handbook is reliable upon printing, but may change over time, and will be updated with policy changes annually.

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Mission

Sports at West Virginia Academy are part of our vision to build effective communicators and dynamic leaders who will be prepared to change the world for the better. Specifically, sports help our students develop their talents, skills, leadership and character.

Vision

Students participating in West Virginia Academy's sports team will increase essential skills through hard work and effective practice. Teamwork, dedication, cooperation, courtesy and sportsmanship will be displayed as students work toward the highest levels of competitive success.

Requirements

Academic Requirements

Students with less than a 2.0 GPA are not allowed to participate in West Virginia Academy Athletics. Academics are the priority at WVA. For initial eligibility students will need to have a 2.0 GPA or higher from the grading period prior to tryouts, and students cannot have more than one 1 for any course. Reports that show "NG" or "I" will be calculated as a 0. Students will need to show coaches that they meet requirements before they are allowed to try out for any sport within the school year. Grades will be checked a minimum of two times throughout the season to check for similar compliance.

Behavior Requirements

Students who receive a "first" suspension during their respective sport season due to behavior issues with includes but is not limited to: disrespect, defiance or truancy will not be allowed to participate in any "sports" activities during the suspension. If that same student receives a "second" suspension for any reason they cannot participate in any "sports" activities for the remainder of that school year. If a student exhibits a pattern of misbehavior at any time during the year without requisite improvements, or is suspended from school then that student will not be allowed to participate in West Virginia Academy athletics.

Establishing Sports Teams

The sports that the school chooses to field teams in are determined by the school administration as a team, taking into consideration the WVSSAC rules and regulations, Title IX, faculty and equipment availability, student interest and parent support. It is the policy of West Virginia

Academy that participation in any sports at West Virginia Academy, whether as a coach, supporting parent, spectator, or student athlete, must comply in all respects with the rules and regulations of WVSSAC as well as state and federal law including Title IX. West Virginia Academy will endeavor to provide a rich variety of opportunities to its students so that they can have a full and successful Middle School experience.

Coaching

West Virginia Academy students will benefit from having strong, positive role models by way of coaches. Additionally, coaches will be a motivating force for academic achievement and virtuous character among our students. Coaches will demonstrate and teach athletes to have integrity on and off the playing field. Coaches must meet all requirements of the WVSSAC and will undergo an orientation to West Virginia rules and policies for athletic activities found in the Appendix at the end of this handbook.

Facilities

Athletic Facilities Scheduling

School facilities must be carefully scheduled to ensure that school sports teams have access to needed facilities for practices and games, while taking into account the need for other school groups to use the outdoor spaces or fields from time to time. The Athletic Director is responsible for creating and maintaining the schedule, in cooperation with the Executive Director and the Academic Director, ensuring that the needs of all students are addressed. The Athletic Director should submit a proposed calendar for school athletics to the administration team for discussion and resolution of conflicts.

Use of Facilities

Facilities used by West Virginia Academy Athletes will be treated with respect and used for proper purposes. Damages to facilities must be reported to the Athletic Director immediately. Any damages or injuries caused by carelessness or neglect will be the responsibility of the individual.

Off Campus Facilities

Off Campus Facilities include gymnasiums, fields, parks, or other facilities used to hold events. Athletes and coaches must gather any equipment belonging to WVA including goals, flags, balls, nets, and other equipment used for their respective sport, and ensure that the equipment is put away properly at West Virginia Academy. Athletes and coaches must pick up all trash, water bottles, and other personal belongings before leaving the facility.

Transportation

Athletes are encouraged to ride a WVA bus to and from events. Athletes are to remain seated while the vehicles are in motion. Athletes have the responsibility to clean up all equipment, personal belongings, and trash before leaving the vehicle.

Hotels

Athletes that participate in events that require a hotel will be respectful to all rules provided by the hotel policy. In addition, athletes will remain with the team at all times during an extended stay. The Athletic Director or Head Coach is responsible for the location and well being of each athlete at all times.

Athletes are not allowed to participate in the purchase of room service, in house movie rentals, or other activities that could add to a hotel bill. Athletes are responsible to pay for any damages to the hotel or additional charges brought on by carelessness, neglect, or theft.

Supervision

It is of utmost importance that students are properly supervised. Coaches are responsible for watching over their teams during practices and games. After practices students will either get an approved ride home, or wait for their ride in a designated area. It is the responsibility of the parent that their athlete is picked up after the game so the coach may leave. A school administrator or “site supervisor” will be available during and after each home game to assist with any concerns that may arise.

Compliance and Media Release

Compliance

All students who would like to participate in West Virginia athletics must complete all necessary registration forms. West Virginia Academy requires all athletes to read and agree to documents which include, but are not limited to: an insurance waiver, the Athletic Code of Conduct, and a physical from a licensed physician, which will need to be turned in to the Athletic Director or Head Coach.

Media Release

All students who participate in West Virginia Academy athletics understand that the leagues require that each player’s image, name and grade be publicized for confirmation of team rosters

and may be sent to the local news media when team and individual results are published. West Virginia Academy will post team and individual pictures and names of team members, coaches and manager on the school's website.

Participation Fee

West Virginia Academy will charge a \$15 participation fee for all athletes for each sport played to offset the cost of uniforms for the 2022 - 2023 school year. Please make checks payable to West Virginia Academy and mail or deliver the check to its administrative office. Please include the name of the student athlete and sport(s) on the check.

Sport Safety

Sport safety is very important to West Virginia Academy. Along with coaches teaching athletes how to play their sport safely, coaches are also taught to recognize signs to prevent injury.

Physical Exam

No student shall be eligible to compete in any athletic contest unless such student has a physician's certificate stating that he/she is physically able to compete in inter-school athletic contests. Physician form is the general WVSSAC Student Athlete Physical Examination Form and is available on our athletics and competitive sports page of our website or through the WVSSAC.

Health Examination

A health examination must be performed and the student athlete cleared for participation in a sport before any student may compete in West Virginia Academy athletic activities. A properly completed and signed WVSSAC Student Athlete Physical Examination Form indicating the student's clearance to participate plus the forms attached to this policy (acknowledgement, insurance information, and medical consent) must be completed and on file prior to participating in any competitive sport.

The health examination shall be completed annually after May 1st and before beginning activity in such sport, including any summer workouts or practices. The health examination may be completed and the form signed by a qualified medical professional operating within the legal scope of their practice. Forms may be obtained on the school's website or at the front administrative office.

Proper Equipment

Athletes are encouraged to wear proper equipment while practicing with their team or playing in games. Proper equipment includes, but is not limited to, proper footwear for each respective sport, proper padding for each sport.

Physical Injury

Physical injuries often happen without warning. West Virginia Academy coaches are trained to assist with minor injuries, concussions, first aid, and CPR. In such a case that this training is required the parent of the athlete will be notified at the first available opportunity. Paramedics will be requested depending upon the intensity of the issue.

Concussion

A concussion is a traumatic brain injury that interferes with normal brain function. An athlete does not have to lose consciousness (be “knocked out”) to have suffered a concussion.

Common symptoms of concussion include:

- Headache
- Fogginess
- Difficulty Concentrating
- Easily Confused
- Slowed thought Processes
- Difficulty with Memory
- Nausea
- Lack of Energy, Tiredness
- Dizziness, Poor Balance
- Blurred Vision
- Sensitive to Light and Sound
- Mood changes Irritable, Anxious, or Tearful

Athletic Parent/Student Handbook

1. No athlete will return to play (RTP) or practice on the same day of a concussion.
2. Any athlete suspected of having a concussion should be evaluated by an appropriate healthcare professional that day.
3. Any athlete with a concussion will be medically cleared by an appropriate healthcare professional prior to resuming participation in any practice or competition.
4. After medical clearance, RTP will follow a stepwise protocol with provisions for delayed RTP based upon return of any signs or symptoms.
 - a. Step 1: Light exercise, including walking or riding an exercise bike. No weight lifting.
 - b. Running in the gym or on the field. No helmet or other equipment.
 - c. Non-contact training drills in full equipment. Weight training can begin.
 - d. Full contact practice or training.

e. Game play.

Concussions can happen at practice or at games. If an athlete receives a blow to the head and either the coach or athlete recognizes any symptoms of concussion from above, the coach will immediately pull the athlete from the event. The steps for concussion management will be followed until the athlete is ready to RTP.

Code of Conduct

Each athlete must read and agree to the Athletic Code of Conduct in order to complete registration.

Athletes

All athletes at West Virginia Academy represent their team and school. As such, it is the responsibility of the athlete to maintain a culture of honesty and sportsmanship within the program. Athletes will conduct themselves in a way that represents WVA positively. Any athlete who displays unsportsmanlike conduct may be removed from current and/or future events. If unsportsmanlike conduct is a recurring issue or extreme in nature the athlete may be dismissed from the team. Any dishonesty or cheating from any athlete will be reported to the WVSSAC.

Hazing

West Virginia Academy has a zero tolerance for hazing of any kind. Hazing includes but is not limited to: forcing someone to do something against their will, humiliating another individual, or bullying in any form. Any students involved with hazing may be removed from the team immediately, followed by disciplinary action carried out by the Executive Director.

Practices and Games

Practices

It is vital that each member of the team regularly and consistently attends practices. Team development cannot happen without each player. Athletes who consistently miss practices may lose playing time or possibly be removed from the team.

Games

Games are scheduled with opposing schools on a regular basis throughout the season. It is important that each member of the team attends all games regardless of playing time. As a team, athletes depend on one another for support and rest. In extreme cases where players are injured or removed from the playing field for various reasons, the remainder of the team must fill in any gaps.

Jerseys

Each athlete will be issued a jersey to represent West Virginia Academy. The jerseys are for competitive play only, not practices. Students must wash and return jerseys at the end of each sport's season to the head coach. Fines equaling the value of a new jersey will be issued for any damaged or missing jerseys.

Parents

The school, coaches, and athletes need the full support of parents. If parents or players have any disagreements with other athletes, parents, coaches, or athletic administration it is the responsibility of the parent to address the individual that can best address their concerns in a respectful manner at the appropriate time. Any parents that show unsportsmanlike conduct before, during, or after events may be asked to leave the event. For "Home" games or events where the school is not providing transportation, parents are responsible for providing transportation for their athletes to and from events on time.

APPENDIX

WVA ATHLETIC FORMS

Please note that in addition to the acknowledgement, insurance information, and medical consent forms below, each student athlete must complete a physical with a physician and submit the separate WVSSAC Student Athlete Physical Examination Form.

[The remainder of this page is intentionally left blank]



Athlete and Parent Acknowledgement

We have received a copy of the 2023 - 2024 West Virginia Academy Athletic Handbook and Code of Conduct. My signature below confirms my understanding and acceptance of the code as stated in this handbook.

Student First and Last Name (PRINT)

Student Signature

Date Signed

Parent First and Last Name (PRINT)

Parent signature

Date Signed



Athletic Insurance Verification form

I am the parent or guardian of _____ and desire my child to participate in the _____ program. I understand that West Virginia Academy and/or coaches do not carry medical or accidental insurance for students, and I hereby certify that my child is covered by a personal insurance policy, which I have in force. I also understand that if my insurance changes, I will complete a new form.

In my child's behalf, I do hereby voluntarily assume all risk of accident, injury, damage and/or loss to my child or my child's property which, may arise out of my child's participation in the athletic program. I also do hereby release and discharge West Virginia Academy and all personnel associated or connected with the athletic program for every claim, liability, or damage of any kind. My execution of this release also authorizes routine medical care for my child and treatment not considered routine to be referred to a local physician or medical facility at my expense.

Participant's Name

Parent/Guardian Name (PRINT)

Home Address

Home Phone

Work Phone

Cell Phone

Insurance Company

Policy #

Policy Holder's Name

Effective Date

Last Physical Date

Doctor

Parent Guardian Signature

Date



Emergency Medical Consent

Child's Full Name Date of Birth

Address City, State, Zip

Name of Parent or Legal Guardian (PRINT)

Phone Number: Home Work Cell

Parent's Email

I authorize West Virginia Academy, or the assigned designee, to provide emergency treatment for my child if they become ill or injured while under school authority and when parents cannot be reached. I grant consent when in the event reasonable attempts to contact me at the above numbers. I hereby give my consent for the administration of any treatment deemed necessary

by my personal doctor _____ or my preferred dentist _____ . If either of my designated preferred providers are not available then by another licensed physician or dentist. I also hereby authorize the transfer of my child to my preferred hospital _____ or any hospital reasonably accessible.

NOTE: This authorization does not cover major surgery unless the medical opinions of two other licensed physicians or dentists, concurring on the necessity for such surgery, are obtained prior to the performance of such surgery.

Date Signature of Parent or Guardian

REFUSAL TO CONSENT

I do not give my consent for emergency treatment of my child. In the event of illness or injury requiring emergency treatment, I wish the coach to take no action or to:

Date Signature of Parent or Guardian