

ACTIVITIES AND ATHLETICS PROGRAMS

Purpose and Expectations - Code of Conduct Contract

Involvement in any aspect of West Morris Mendham activities or athletic programs provides many opportunities for growth and development. As a school community, we strive to offer a wide variety of programs so that we might encourage maximum student participation. Viable programs foster engagement, the involvement of individual talent and the social dimension of team building and teamwork in clubs or on teams. Hopefully, these opportunities lead not only to the development of individual capabilities and potential but also allow for enjoyment and the development of a sense of pride in our school community.

To accomplish all the positive dimensions of our activities and athletic programs, all who are involved must understand two extremely important cogent principles-

First – Participation in any activity club or on any athletic team is a privilege granted by West Morris Regional High School District Board of Education.

Second – Along with the privileges and benefits of any involvement, certain responsibilities must be accepted and acted upon throughout each school year.

Eligibility for participation in any activity club or athletic team requires responsible behavior consistent with good citizenship both in the school and the community throughout the school year. The engaged, involved student:

- Must recognize that the primary reason for attending school is to become a responsible, educated citizen.
- Must strive to set a positive personal example at all times.
- Must realize that the use of alcohol, any steroid or any mind-altering or mood-altering substance is not consistent with responsible personal behavior.
- Must adhere to all school and community rules.
- Must strive to reach the limits of individual talent or athletic ability.

Given these fundamental principles, I agree to abide by the following rules throughout the school year:

- I will not use any tobacco, steroid, alcohol or other mind-altering or mood-altering substances. If any violation occurs relating to such usage the mandatory requirements of the West Morris Regional High School District Tobacco Use Policy #5131.4 and the Substance Abuse Policy #5131.6 will be implemented.
- I will conduct myself within the community in a manner which will bring credit to my activity, sport and school.

Any violation of the above rules is cumulative throughout a students four year career, and will lead to the following penalties:

A **First Violation** of the above rules will result in a minimum of a one-week suspension from any activity when it is offered or any athletic team during its current and/or subsequent season(s). During a particular athletic season, this one-week suspension will not be for more than a two-game suspension from a team. For an out of season violation, the term of suspension will begin with the first week of competitive games/contests.

Additionally, for any egregious offense, a student may be subject to the complete removal from all activity(s) and/or athletic team(s).

A **Second Violation** of the above rules throughout a student's four year career may result in a minimum of a two week (14 day) suspension from any activity when it is offered or any athletic team during its current and/or subsequent season(s). **Exception: If a second violation occurs within the same school year as the first violation, then the student will receive a twenty-one (21) day suspension from all activity(s) and/or athletic team(s), based upon the severity of the incident. For an out of season violation, the term of suspension will begin with the first week of competitive games/contests.**

A **Third Violation** of the above rules throughout a student's four year career may result in a thirty (30) day suspension from all athletics and activities, or may result in a complete denial of the privilege to participate in any activity club(s) or any athletic team(s).

Reporting – It is understood and agreed by all advisors and coaches that a student violation reported by a West Morris Mendham faculty member, administrator, district administrator or law enforcement office will be accepted and acted upon as appropriate for the particular offense.

Appeal – Every accused activity-engaged or athletically-engaged student has the right to be informed directly of the accusation, the right to offer an explanation, and the right to appeal the decision to the next higher authority.

School Attendance

Students must be in attendance no later than the beginning of the school's lunch period in order to be eligible for participation in a practice or scheduled event on that day. A student may arrive late and participate on that day if **prior approval** is given by an administrator.

Any unusual circumstance(s) must be explained to an administrator and **prior approval** must be given by the administrator before participation can occur.

I have read the above expectations, guidelines and rules. I believe it is important to stay committed to these values, and I agree to abide by them during the year of my participation in any activity club or on any athletic team at West Morris Mendham High School or West Morris Central High School.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Student Signature

Date

Printed Name