

## Pen Argyl Area School District Athletic Code

### I. PHILOSOPHY

The athletic program of the Pen Argyl Area School District is an integral part of the educational experience. The development of our athletes and a well-organized program are the specific intentions of the administration. The school district regards the athletic program, along with the academic components of the students' daily schedule, as essential to a well-rounded education. We expect students to commit themselves to maintaining a sound, healthy body and developing physical skills that permit them to experience the benefits of participating in interscholastic sports.

### II. PROGRAM

The athletic program of the Pen Argyl Area School District is designed to give each player the opportunity to improve the skills, build confidence, learn teamwork, practice good sportsmanship, and enjoy healthy competition. Each coach is a teacher first, and should keep in mind that these goals are of the utmost importance and are equally important to the team's win/loss record.

### III. SCHOOL POLICIES GOVERNING INTERSCHOLASTIC SPORTS

#### \* ELIGIBILITY

1. Must be passing 4 full credits or the equivalent.

An athlete who is not fulfilling this requirement as of Friday on any given week during the marking period will not be permitted to participate (practice, games, etc.) for the following week (Sunday through Saturday).

An athlete who is not fulfilling this requirement at the end of any given marking period will not be eligible to participate (practice, games, etc.). The period of ineligibility will begin on the day report cards are issued. The academic status of the student in question will be reevaluated as of the 15<sup>th</sup> day of ineligibility. If the athlete is passing a full 4 credits or the equivalent at this point, he/she will be permitted to participate on the next day. If not, the period of ineligibility will be extended another 15 days and will be reevaluated. This pattern will continue until this academic requirement is met.

Policy

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The “4 credit rule” also applies to Pen Argyl athletes’ “Final Grades” for the current school year relative to the participation in Fall Sports in the upcoming school year. The following shall apply to an athlete who fails to “pass for the year” 4 full credits or the equivalent thereof:

- (A) Permission will be granted to participate in all practice sessions.
- (B) Permission WILL NOT be granted for the participation in scrimmages or games from the first legal practice date through the 15<sup>th</sup> day of the new school year. At this point, the above mentioned 15-day rule will be applied.

2. Consent form required for participation eligibility.

Athletes will not be permitted to participate in any practice or sport-related activity until the Athletic and Extra/Co-Curricular Code Consent Form has been properly signed and submitted.

3. Attendance

Athletes may not participate in practice or competitions on days when they are absent, unless they have been pre-excused or present a doctor’s excuse allowing them to return to school and participate in said athletic event. Conversely, athletes who are in school during the day are expected to attend after school practices/games on that day. Athletes who become ill during the school day must report their illness to a school official (i.e. school nurse, school administrator, teacher, etc.). In the event that the student is determined to be ill the appropriate school official will notify the parent(s) and coach(es) that the athlete, due to illness, will not be attending an after school practice/game. Absences without permission will be considered to be illegal and subject to discipline as stipulated in the unexcused absence section of the PAASD Athletic Code. The school reserves the right to request a doctor’s excuse to return to athletic activity in the event that the school official determines that such a doctor’s return to activity note is necessary.

If the absence occurs on the last school day of any given week, the athlete may not participate in practices or games until the next school day, unless the absence has been pre-excused or he/she presents a doctor’s excuse.

Must be in school prior to 8:10 a.m. in order to participate in practices or competitions on that particular day.

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If suspended from school, the athlete is not considered eligible until the morning following the suspension.

If a student is absent from school for 20 days or more in a given marking period, he/she is ineligible until he/she has attended school for a total of 60 school days following the 20<sup>th</sup> day absent.

An athlete who practices in the morning before school and then does not attend school on that day, is not permitted to participate in the next scheduled practice or competition.

Any student who is excused from Physical Education class and is taking Adaptive Physical Education may not participate in sports-related activities until released by the physician who originally excused the student.

For information concerning eligibility when returning from an injury, see the Athletic Injury Policy (IGDJ).

\* EQUIPMENT

1. All team equipment will be obtained by the coach from the Equipment Manager. The coach will then issue the equipment to individual team members. Following each season the coach will collect all equipment and return it to the equipment manager for storage.
2. All equipment issued to a player must be returned after the last game of the season. If the equipment is lost or abused, the player must pay the replacement cost. Any student-athlete who fails to return all issued equipment will not be permitted to participate in any further sports or extracurricular activities until said equipment is subsequently returned, or if lost or abused, paid for in full.
3. At the end of the season each coach will receive a request for equipment which is needed for the next season. The athletic director will determine the legitimacy of the articles requested and from this will determine the budget for the following year. It is very important that these requests be reasonable, but complete. Once the budget has been determined and approved by the school board, no additional money will be spent and no additional equipment will be purchased for the following season. All ordering of equipment, etc. will be performed by the athletic director. Should coaches take it upon themselves to order equipment and/or other supplies, they will be personally held responsible for the payment of the resulting bills.

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\* COMMITMENT TO TEAM - PRACTICES/GAMES /EVENTS

- 1 . Extracurricular/Co-curricular/Athletic Activities are a privilege, not a right. Once a commitment to a team has been made, a player must follow through with this commitment. Anything less than full commitment is unfair to aspiring players who have failed to earn a place on the team. Failure to attend team practices, games, special events (i.e. pep rallies, etc.) will be interpreted as a lack of commitment. Parents/players cannot “cherry pick” the practices /games /events they wish to be a part of. You are either a part of the team, or you’re not! Part time attendance will result in a temporary suspension from the team and will result in eventual dismissal from the team.
2. An athlete will attend all scheduled practices, games and events except where special permission has been granted by the coach, athletic director or principal, resulting in an excused absence.
3. Unexcused absences are unacceptable. The penalties for unexcused absences are as follows: 1<sup>st</sup> offense: 1 game suspension; 2<sup>nd</sup> offense: 2 game suspension; 3<sup>rd</sup> offense: Dismissal from team. Athletes who are suspended from game participation are expected to attend all practices/games/events during the period of suspension unless specifically excused, in writing, by the coach or athletic director.
4. Players, parents, and coaches must understand that practice is the place where players develop their skills and improve their position on the team. As a result, players must put forth an optimal level of effort at each and every practice, if they are to realize significant improvement over the course of a season. Conversely, coaches must provide all players with equal opportunity to participate in drills, scrimmage situations, etc. A well-organized practice will minimize the time which less talented/experienced players spend watching and not participating. This allows for the development of all the team’s players, providing much needed depth as the season progresses. Athletes only have significant periods of “down time” during poorly-organized practices and this will be considered to be a sign of inadequate coaching.

\* REPORTING INJURIES

See Athletic Injury Policy (IGDJ).

Policy

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\* CODE OF SPORTSMANSHIP

There are a great number of benefits to be derived from the participation in interscholastic sports. However, along with these benefits come individual responsibilities. It must be understood by students who are involved in organized sports that they not only serve as role models for those younger, impressionable students who emulate them, but for everyone with whom they come into contact. They represent their parents, family, school and community and are responsible for doing so in an honest and dignified manner. It is for these reasons that the following rules of conduct are being implemented, and it should be noted that it is the responsibility of the coaches of their respective sports to carry out these regulations to the letter.

CONDUCT:

Any athlete who is penalized for misconduct (not of a flagrant nature) during an athletic contest(s) will be subject to the following disciplinary action:

1. First Offense: Will be left to the coach's discretion whether to return to play.
2. Second Offense: Removal from contest and review by the Principal and/or Athletic Director.
3. Third Offense: One-game suspension.

Note: Offenses are accumulative over the course of the season.

Any athlete who is penalized by a game official for flagrant, deliberate, willful, unsportsmanlike behavior (i.e., foul language, inciting a fight or refusing to stop once instructed to, racial slurs, endangering the well-being of other participants, etc.) will be subject to the following disciplinary actions:

1. First Offense: Removal from the contest. Athlete not permitted to reenter game.
2. Second Offense: One-game suspension.
3. Third Offense: Dismissal from team.

Note: In an extreme case, the player could be dismissed from the team prior to the third offense.

In sports where there is no game official (i.e., Tennis and Cross Country), the Head Coach will be held responsible for the conduct of the team.

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\* DRUG AND ALCOHOL POLICY

All students involved in athletic extra and co-curricular activities are bound by the Drug and Alcohol Policy (JFCI) which contains definitions, rules and procedures, and discipline actions concerning drug, alcohol and tobacco use.

\* COACH/ATHLETE/PARENTAL RELATIONS

The coach is responsible for the management of all practices and game competitions, not the athletes or their parents. Differences in philosophy, concerns regarding playing time, etc. between players/parents and coaches should be addressed somewhere other than at the site of a practice or game competition. Such differences should be dealt with on a calm, rational level and in the presence of the Principal and/or Athletic Director, with an emphasis on the steps which must be taken by the athlete in order to improve his/her position on the team.

Argumentative behavior and disrespect displayed on the part of athletes toward coaches will not be tolerated:

1. First Offense: Athlete will be removed from the contest and receive a one game suspension. If the incident occurs in a setting other than a game situation, the athlete will receive a one-game suspension.
2. Second Offense: Dismissal from team.

Notes:

In an extreme case, such verbal abuse of a coach by an athlete (regardless of the setting) can result in his/her immediate removal from the team.

Head Coaches will be held responsible for the conduct of the teams in their respective programs as well as that of their assistant coaches. This will be an area of concentration upon evaluating coaches upon the completion of each season.

\* TRAVEL

1. The school will provide transportation to all away athletic events.
2. All players must ride on the team bus (or van) to and from away competitions.

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Note: Only in rare circumstances will an athlete be exempt from riding on the team bus. In such instances, arrangements are to be made in advance (by the parents) by speaking directly with the head coach and providing a note in advance requesting such permission. The written parental request must state the compelling reason for the student to be excused from riding the team bus. Other players will not be allowed to accompany them home.

\* COACHING RESPONSIBILITIES

A Pen Argyl Area School District coach has many professional responsibilities. The relationships you develop with your players, other coaches, athletic director and administrators are important and should be maintained professionally at all times. Building a positive and healthy player-coach relationship is a primary goal of coaching at Pen Argyl. This professional relationship should be based on consistency when dealing with athletes, maintaining open communication, and giving individual attention to all players, not just your better or best players, for the development of all players is a primary goal of the athletic program at Pen Argyl. Team spirit and cohesiveness will result when the coach provides positive experiences to all players.

\* OFF-SEASON TRAINING PROGRAM

1. The head coach of each sport shall submit (along with the other required end-of-season paperwork) a statement of his/her team's weaknesses, a plan for resolving said deficiencies during the off-season months, and a specific program in which team members shall be expected to participate for the sake of their individual improvement and the betterment of the team.
2. Athletes shall be held accountable for achieving the individual off-season goals established for them by the coaching staff, for this is a period of time that should be used by the individual athlete to improve his/her status on the team and earn desired playing time for the upcoming season. The attainment of the required goals shall be viewed by the coaching staff as a measure of dedication/commitment to the sport, team and their individual improvement. Remember, quality of performance is a variable that will be used by each and every coaching staff in determining playing time once the upcoming season begins.

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\* MULTI-SPORT ATHLETES

1. Athletes who are participating in a sport which is in-season will not be allowed to participate in workouts, weightlifting, competition or any other sports-related activity which is endorsed by the Pen Argyl Area School District during that season without written consent of the in-season head coach. (This rule, due to the risk of injury, also pertains to the participation in the activity of “powder puff football.”) \*Reasonable cooperation and consideration amongst coaches should prevail!
2. Any student-athlete who wishes to participate in multiple sports during the same season of competition must 1) declare their primary sport and 2) obtain the unanimous written consent of the head coaches involved prior to the first day of practice for said season. Failure to complete both prior to the deadline will result in the student-athlete only being permitted to participate in his/her primary sport.
3. Student-athletes who wish to switch sports once practice begins, must do so by Friday of the first week of practice. However, the athlete must receive the permission of both coaches in order for the change to take place. Should the head coaches be unable to agree as to whether or not the student-athlete should be permitted to switch sports, the switch will not be allowed to occur. Student-athletes will not be permitted to change sports under any circumstances after the Friday of the first week of practice.
4. Failure of coaches to comply with this rule will be greatly frowned upon. Such actions will be reflected in the end-of-season evaluation of the head coach of the sport in question.

A parent or legal guardian and the student must sign the Student Athlete’s Code of Conduct consent form and return it before the first legal practice date of the sports season in question. This will assure that the athlete and parent/legal guardian have read and understand the contents of the Athletic Code and agree to uphold its standards.

**NOTE: Athletes will not be permitted to participate in any practice or sport-related activity until this form is signed and submitted.**



**PEN ARGYL AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**ATHLETIC AND EXTRA/CO-CURRICULAR CODE CONSENT FORM**

I have read the Athletic Code (IGDJA), the Parental/Spectator Guidelines (IGDJA-R), and the Drug and Alcohol Policy (JFCI) and agree to uphold the standards for the \_\_\_\_\_ school year.

STUDENT'S NAME (PRINT) \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_ SPORT(S) \_\_\_\_\_

PARENT'S NAME (PRINT) \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

RELATIONSHIP (CIRCLE)    MOTHER    FATHER    GUARDIAN

**NOTE: Athletes will not be permitted to participate in any practice or sport-related activity until this form is signed and submitted.**

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM TO YOUR COACH