

ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT

Representing Whiteford Middle/High School in interscholastic competition is a privilege and not a right. Students who participate in interscholastic competition are expected to represent the highest ideals of character by exemplifying good conduct, good sportsmanship, good citizenship, and good training, which includes abstaining from the use of tobacco, alcohol, and drugs. Separate and apart from a student's performance as an athlete, the student's conduct, sportsmanship, citizenship, and training reflect at all times on the student athlete, his or her team, our school, and our community. Accordingly, this Athletic Participation Agreement has been established for all students who aspire to participate in interscholastic athletics at Whiteford Middle/High School.

A student should realize that the conduct standards in the Athletic Participation Agreement apply on a year-round basis and are not limited to student behavior at school sponsored activities or on school property. A student who violates these rules will be subject to disciplinary action as outlined in the penalty provisions and the Student Handbook.

PHYSICAL EXAMINATIONS

No athlete shall participate in any phase of the athletic program that does not have on file in the office of the athletic director a physical examination statement for the current school year. This statement must be signed by the examiner (M.D., D.O., Physician's Assistant or Nurse Practitioner) indicating that the student is physically able to compete in the athletic activity concerned. For the card to be valid, the physical examination must be given on or after April 15 of the previous school year. As a further condition of participation, an unemancipated minor's parent or guardian must also consent to the student's athletic participation. In cases of serious injury or extended illness, school officials reserve the right to require an athlete to be reexamined by a physician (M.D. or D.O.) before being allowed to participate in interscholastic athletics.

ATHLETIC ELIGIBILITY

Student academic eligibility to participate in interscholastic athletics is governed by the policies and rules of the Whiteford Agricultural Schools, as well as the rules and regulations of the Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA). Students can be declared ineligible for academic reasons under any of the following circumstances:

1. Students who fail three courses taken during the previous semester will be ineligible for sports for one full semester as outlined in the MHSAA Handbook.
2. No students shall compete or cheer for one week, Monday through Sunday, if they are failing **three or more** courses on the weekly eligibility list. The

weekly eligibility list is returned to the athletic director by 2:00 p.m. on Friday and covers all work from the beginning of the semester to the current date of eligibility. Students who are ineligible for any **two** weeks of the season under this rule will be dismissed from the team for the season.

PARTICIPATION FEE

The one time annual participation fee (\$210.00 for High School, \$130.00 for Middle School) is designed to offset part of the cost of running an Athletic Program and will enable us to continue to provide a quality program.

This fee is to be paid before uniforms are handed out. If this deadline is missed, the student-athlete will not be issued a uniform or be allowed to practice or compete until payment is made.

Pay-to-participate athletic fees will not be refunded for any reason including but not limited to injuries, suspension, discipline, eligibility, athlete quitting the team, or athletic handbook or student code of conduct violations after the first game.

If a family finds this participation fee to be a financial hardship, please fill out an Athletic Scholarship Application and return it to the Athletic Office. The scholarship application can be found under the Athletic Department forms at www.whiteford.k12.mi.us and in the Athletic Office. This information will be kept confidential between the Athletic Office and the family.

CONDUCT PENALTIES

The following behaviors constitute a violation of the Whiteford Middle/High School Athletic Participation Agreement and subject the athlete to discipline as outlined in the penalty section below:

1. Violation of the Student Code of Conduct as set forth in the Middle/High School Student Handbook, which results in a school suspension, will also result in suspension from athletics for the time the student is suspended.
2. Violation of federal, state, or local law/ordinance include a felony or misdemeanor acts other than minor traffic offenses, conviction of said act not necessary to establish a violation of the Athletic Participation Agreement but will be determined through an independent school investigation.
3. Cumulative or gross misconduct, including behavior which school officials consider conduct unbecoming an athlete and a representative of Whiteford Middle/High School, may result in a penalty as determined by the athletic council.
4. Students suspended for insubordination, persistent disobedience of school rules, or disrespectful and vulgar language directed at any school personnel will be penalized as follows: first offense-one game suspension, second offense-two game suspension, and third offense-dismissal from the squad. If the student is out of season, penalty will be assessed during the next regular season the athlete plays.

ILLICIT SUBSTANCES

An athlete shall not use, possess, conceal, distribute, sell or be under the influence of those substances listed in items A-F below:

- A. tobacco or tobacco products in any form;
- B. alcohol or alcoholic beverages in any form;
- C. illegal drugs, including but not limited to those substances defined as "controlled substances" pursuant to federal or state law;
- D. steroids, human growth hormones, or other performance-enhancing drugs;
- E. substances purported to be illegal, abusive, or performance-enhancing (i.e., "look-alike" drugs);
- F. misused prescription drugs.

PENALTIES FOR USE OF TOBACCO, ALCOHOL, OR ILLEGAL DRUGS

First Offense

Minimum penalty is a suspension for 1/3 of the games scheduled. A student wishing reinstatement must make written application to the athletic director; included in the request should be a statement as to what will be done to correct the student's behavior and why the student wishes to be reinstated. A review committee consisting of principal, athletic director and coach of the sport currently in season will be organized to review and discuss application and possible reinstatement. The suspension will be extended on a week by week basis, during the season, if certain conditions outlined below are not met.

- A student is expected to attend all practices, go to all games, sit on the bench in street clothes, and follow all other training rules.
- A student must enroll in and attend all meetings of a drug awareness program as directed by the committee. A student wishing reinstatement into a subsequent sport season must attend the drug awareness program. For each meeting missed the student athlete will miss one additional week of the games scheduled.
- A student is expected to attend all classes each school day. For each truancy, the student athlete will miss one additional week of the games.
- A student must be passing all subjects. For each violation the student athlete will miss one additional week of the games scheduled.
- A student must not receive a suspension from school for any misconduct. For each suspension the student athlete will miss an additional week of the games scheduled. If less than 1/3 of the season remains when a student commits the infraction, the remainder of the suspension will apply to the next sport season as directed by the review committee. If the student athlete quits the team or their parent's make them quit, that athlete must still follow the last four conditions outlined above to be reinstated in a subsequent sports season.

Second offense penalty:

The student athlete will be suspended from all athletics for a period of one calendar year from the date of the violation. The suspension can be decreased by six months if the student athlete participates in an established drug/alcohol

assessment program at their parent's expense and attends treatment sessions as prescribed in the assessment.

If no treatment sessions are prescribed, the student athlete must enroll in and attend all meetings of a drug awareness program as directed by the committee. Reinstatement six months earlier will be subject to the approval of the review committee and fulfilling the criteria described in the first offense. The minimum penalty for second offense is the loss of a season of a sport the student has previously played.

Third offense penalty:

Permanent suspension from all athletics.

RULES RELATING TO TEAM MEMBERSHIP

1. **Transportation** – Students shall under no circumstances be allowed to provide their own transportation. Parents or legal guardians may be allowed to transport their own child any time the group provides for it. Players are also permitted to ride with other players parents with permission prior to contest. No student-athlete will be allowed to participate in an away event where private transportation is used without a permission slip on file. Emergency situations will be dealt with by the coach when they occur.

2. **Practices** - All athletes and cheerleaders are expected to attend all practice sessions unless they are excused by the coach. Students who go home sick are not allowed to practice or play that day. *New- No player will be permitted to practice or participate in a game if absent for any part of the day. Exceptions to this policy will be granted for: A. Absences for medical, doctoral, dental or optical appointments where the office has received a 24 hour written notice. B. Funerals, college visits, field trips and other school business. C. Each student-athlete will be given 2 exemptions (free passes) per sports season where the student arrived or left early but was present for at least 4 hours of the school day.*

3. **Loyalty** - All student athletes and cheerleaders are expected to be loyal to their team, their coach, and other team members. Any student-athlete who quits or is removed from a team will not be eligible for any game, state or league award.

4. **Sportsmanship** - All athletes and cheerleaders are expected to maintain the highest standard of sportsmanship both as contestants and as spectators.

Flagrant acts of unsportsmanlike conduct may result in suspension or dismissal from the squad.

5. **Care of equipment** - The equipment issued to you as a participant in athletics represents a capital investment of hundreds of dollars annually. The proper care of this equipment is expected and is your responsibility. You will be held responsible for reimbursing the cost of lost equipment. No athlete may go out for or participate in another sport unless lost equipment is returned or paid for.

6. **Injuries** – Student-athletes are expected to report all injuries immediately to their respective coaches and trainer where applicable. In cases of serious injury or extended illness (i.e. keeping a student-athlete from participating), a release must be completed by a M.D., D.O., Physician's Assistant, or a Nurse Practitioner prior to being allowed to compete.

PENALTIES may be determined by the administration and/or coaches and can include but are not limited to; warnings, suspension(s) from games, or dismissal from team.

PARENT/GUARDIAN INVOLVEMENT

Parents, along with our students, must practice good sportsmanship at all times. Parents need to remember the purpose of athletics is to help our student-athletes acquire important life skills that will help them be successful in their adult lives.

Parents can be the most important role model for student athletes when it comes to their understanding of sportsmanship; therefore, parents should exhibit the qualities of fairness, courtesy and grace in winning and defeat at home or away games and events.

Parents' actions, and reactions to situations, can have a significant impact, not only on their particular student-athlete, but on the whole program. Parents should reflect on the possible consequences of their actions beforehand.

**TO HAVE COMPLETED AND ON FILE WITH THE ATHLETIC
DEPARTMENT PRIOR TO PARTICIPATING IN SPRING SPORTS**

- ☐ **Athletic Participation Form SIGNED** (this form)
- ☐ **Completed Physical By First Practice**
- ☐ **Participation Fee-** (to be paid before uniforms are handed out)
High School = **\$210.00** Middle School = **\$130.00**
Cash or Check accepted. Checks payable to:
Whiteford Agricultural Schools
**Fee is non-refundable and does not guarantee playing time*

Participation in athletics at Whiteford Agricultural Schools requires a parent's/guardian's signature and the student's signature after the following statements:

THE PARENT/GUARDIAN:

I have read the preceding material and agree to abide by it. I will also help my child fulfill his/her commitment.

Parent's/Guardian's Name(s) (please print) _____

Parent's/Guardian's Signature(s) _____ Date _____

THE STUDENT:

I have read the preceding material and agree to abide by it. I understand the code of conduct and the penalties listed within it. I also understand that this code will be enforced anytime, **365 days a year** to include **all** vacation periods. This agreement will remain in effect from the date signed through spring sports of my senior year.

Student's Name _____

Student's Signature _____ Date _____