

# WESTFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS ATHLETIC CONTRACT

THE WESTFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS HAVE A PROUD ATHLETIC TRADITION. PARTICIPATION IN ATHLETICS CAN BE A VITAL PART OF A STUDENT'S EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE. SUCH PARTICIPATION IS A PRIVILEGE THAT CARRIES WITH IT RESPONSIBILITY TO ONESELF, TEAM, SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY. THE ATHLETIC PROGRAM PROVIDES OPPORTUNITIES TO HELP STUDENTS ACQUIRE CONFIDENCE, SELF-ESTEEM AND DISCIPLINE. THROUGH ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION THE QUALITIES OF PRIDE, SPORTSMANSHIP, LEADERSHIP, RESPECT AND MATURITY CAN BE DEVELOPED.

AS PART OF ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION, EACH ATHLETE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR FOLLOWING THESE GENERAL RULES AND POLICIES OF THE WESTFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS, THE WESTFIELD ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT, THE MASSACHUSETTS INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION (M.I.A.A.) AND THE PIONEER VALLEY INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC CONFERENCE (P.V.I.A.C.). ADDITIONAL TEAM RULES MAY BE ESTABLISHED BY EACH COACH.

**1) ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY** - EACH ATHLETE MUST PASS A MINIMUM OF FOUR (4) COURSES FROM THE PREVIOUS ACADEMIC QUARTER TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION. FOR FALL PARTICIPATION A STUDENT MUST HAVE PASSING FINAL GRADES FOR FOUR (4) FULL ACADEMIC COURSES OR THE TOTAL EQUIVALENT OF FOUR FULL CREDITS. IN ADDITION TO ACADEMIC COURSES WVT STUDENTS MUST PASS THEIR TECHNICAL SHOP. EACH ATHLETE AND HIS/HER PARENTS ARE PRIMARILY AND ULTIMATLY RESPONSIBLE FOR ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT. EACH ATHLETE MUST NOTIFY HIS/HER COACH IF THERE IS A DANGER OF FALLING BELOW THE MINIMUM STANDARDS.

**2) SCHOOL ATTENDANCE** - AN ATHLETE MUST ATTEND SCHOOL TO PARTICIPATE IN A GAME OR PRACTICE. ATHLETES MUST BE IN ATTENDANCE ON FRIDAY TO PARTICIPATE IN WEEKEND EVENTS. EXCEPTIONS TO THIS RULE CAN BE GIVEN BY THE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION OR THE ATHLETIC DIRECTOR IF REQUESTS ARE RECEIVED AT LEAST 24 HOURS BEFORE THE ABSENCE. TARDINESS TO SCHOOL/HOMEROOM: **In addition, students who do not have an acceptable excuse for arriving to school late are ineligible for participation in extracurricular and athletic activities for that day.**

**3) CHEMICAL HEALTH RULE** –

From the earliest fall practice date, to the conclusion of the academic year or final athletic event (whichever is latest), a student shall not, regardless of the quantity, use, consume, possess, buy/sell, or give away any beverage containing alcohol; any tobacco product; marijuana; steroids; or any controlled substance. This policy includes products such as “NA or near beer”. It is not a violation for a student to be in possession of a legally defined drug specifically prescribed for the student’s own use by his/her doctor. **Minimum PENALTIES:**

**First violation:** the student shall lose eligibility for the next consecutive interscholastic contests totaling 25% of all interscholastic contests in that sport. No exception is permitted for a student who becomes a participant in a Treatment program. It is recommended that the student be allowed to remain at practice for the purpose of rehabilitation. All decimal part of an event will be truncated i.e. All fractional part of an event will be dropped when calculating the 25% of the season.

**Second and subsequent violations:** When the Principal confirms, following an Opportunity for the student to be heard, that a violation occurred, the student shall lose eligibility for the next consecutive interscholastic contests totaling 60% of all interscholastic contests in that sport. All decimal part of an event will be truncated i.e. All fractional part of an event will be dropped when calculating the 60% of the season. If after the second or subsequent violations the student of his/her own Volition becomes a participant in an approved chemical dependency program or treatment program, the student may be certified for reinstatement in MIAA activities after a minimum of 40% of events. The director or a counselor of a chemical dependency treatment center must issue such certification. All decimal part of an event will be truncated i.e. All fractional part of an event will be dropped when calculating the 40% of the season. Penalties shall be cumulative each academic year. If the penalty period is not completed during the season of violation, the penalty shall carry over to the student’s next season of actual participation, which may affect the eligibility status of the student during the next academic year.

**4) HAZING RULE** - HAZING IS ANY CONDUCT OR METHOD OF INITIATION INTO ANY STUDENT ORGANIZATION, WHETHER ON PUBLIC OR PRIVATE PROPERTY, WHICH WILLFULLY OR RECKLESSLY ENDANGERS THE PHYSICAL OR MENTAL HEALTH OF ANY STUDENT. WHOEVER IS A PRINCIPAL ORGANIZER OR PARTICIPANT IN THE CRIME OF HAZING SHALL BE PUNISHED BY A FINE OF UP TO THREE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$3000.00) OR BY IMPRISONMENT OF NOT MORE THAN ONE (1) YEAR OR BOTH.

**5) BONA FIDE TEAM RULE**- (M.I.A.A. RULE 45 & 96)

A bona fide member of the school team is a student who is consistently present for, and actively participates in, all high school team sessions (e.g. practices, tryouts, competitions). Bona fide members of a school team are precluded from missing a high school practice or competition in order to participate in a non-school athletic activity/event in any sport recognized by the

MIAA. First Offense: Student athlete is suspended for 25% of the season (see chart on Rule 62). Second Offense: Student athlete is suspended for an additional 25% of the season, and is ineligible for tournament play

**6) SCHOOL SUSPENSIONS** - STUDENTS WHO ARE SUSPENDED FROM SCHOOL (INTERNALLY OR EXTERNALLY) SHALL NOT BE ELIGIBLE TO COMPETE OR PRACTICE ON THE DAYS OF THE SUSPENSION.

**7) TRANSPORTATION** - THE WESTFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT PROVIDES TRANSPORTATION TO AND FROM ATHLETIC CONTESTS. ALL ATHLETES ARE REQUIRED TO TRAVEL WITH THEIR TEAM. PARENTS WHO WISH TO HAVE THEIR SONS/DAUGHTERS TRAVEL TO A CONTEST OR LEAVE THE TEAM BEFORE RETURNING TO SCHOOL MUST NOTIFY THE COACH IN WRITING. IN THE EVENT OF SUCH A REQUEST, PARENTS ARE EXPECTED TO PROVIDE THE TRANSPORTATION FOR THEIR CHILD. **ATHLETES WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO DRIVE THEMSELVES OR RIDE WITH OTHER STUDENTS.**

**8) EQUIPMENT** - ATHLETES ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL EQUIPMENT AND UNIFORMS ISSUED TO THEM. ATHLETES WILL BE CHARGED REPLACEMENT VALUE FOR ANY EQUIPMENT THAT IS LOST, DAMAGED OR STOLEN. ALL EQUIPMENT AND UNIFORMS MUST BE RETURNED WITHIN ONE WEEK OF THE FINAL CONTEST. **PARTICIPATION IN SUBSEQUENT ATHLETIC SEASONS WILL NOT BE ALLOWED UNTIL ALL OUTSTANDING UNIFORMS OR EQUIPMENT HAS BEEN RETURNED.** ATHLETES MAY WEAR TEAM UNIFORMS ONLY AT TIMES AND EVENTS SPECIFICALLY RELATED TO TEAM EVENTS AND ACTIVITY.

**9) PHYSICAL EXAMINATIONS** - A CURRENT PHYSICAL EXAMINATION\* IS REQUIRED IN ORDER TO PARTICIPATE IN INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS. THE WESTFIELD ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT PROVIDES PHYSICAL EXAMINATIONS FOR ALL ATHLETES BEFORE EACH SEASON. STUDENTS MAY CHOOSE TO HAVE THEIR EXAM PERFORMED BY THEIR FAMILY PHYSICIAN. DOCUMENTATION OF THIS EXAM MUST BE PRESENTED TO THE ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT BEFORE THE FIRST OFFICIAL PRACTICE OF THE SEASON.

*\*Physicals are current if they were administered 13 months prior to the first day of practice for each sport season.*

**10) INSURANCE COVERAGE** - THE WESTFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS PROVIDES ATHLETIC INSURANCE, WHICH COVERS INJURIES SUSTAINED IN COMPETITION, PRACTICE OR TRAVEL. THIS IS A SUPPLEMENTAL POLICY WHICH PROVIDES COVERAGE WHICH IS NOT COVERED BY A FAMILY'S PRIVATE, PREPAID HOSPITAL OR MEDICAL PLAN. IF A FAMILY HAS NO MEDICAL PLAN, THIS POLICY WILL COVER MEDICAL EXPENSES.

### **ATHLETIC FEE POLICY**

THE WESTFIELD SCHOOL COMMITTEE HAS AUTHORIZED AN ATHLETIC FEE FOR ALL INTERSCHOLASTIC PARTICIPANTS AT WESTFIELD HIGH SCHOOL AND WESTFIELD VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL. WITHOUT THIS FEE IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE FOR THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE TO AUTHORIZE ANY INVOLVEMENT IN COMPETITIVE ATHLETICS.

A \$85.00 ATHLETIC FEE WILL BE ASSESSED EACH SEASON TO ALL STUDENT ATHLETES PARTICIPATING ON INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC TEAMS. A MAXIMUM OF \$170.00 PER SINGLE SEASON WILL BE ASSESSED TO A FAMILY WITH THREE OR MORE ATHLETES PARTICIPATING IN THE SAME ATHLETIC SEASON. A MAXIMUM OF \$255.00 WILL BE ASSESSED TO ANY ONE ATHLETE WHO PLAYS ALL THREE SPORT SEASONS. (FALL \$85.00, WINTER \$85.00, SPRING \$85.00.)

PLEASE RETURN THE ATHLETIC FEE WITH THE SIGNED ATHLETIC CONTRACT AND PERMISSION FORM TO YOUR COACH. ALL PAYMENTS MUST BE MADE BY CHECK OR MONEY ORDER. **ALL PAYMENTS ARE DUE PRIOR TO THE FIRST GAME. NO REFUNDS WILL BE GIVEN AFTER THE FIRST GAME.**

CHECKS SHOULD BE MADE OUT TO:

“WESTFIELD HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC REVOLVING ACCOUNT”

OR

“WESTFIELD VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC REVOLVING ACCOUNT”

ATHLETE \_\_\_\_\_ GRADE \_\_\_\_\_

SPORT \_\_\_\_\_ LEVEL (CIRCLE ONE) – VAR. J.V. FR.

MY ATHLETE AND I HAVE READ AND UNDERSTAND THE RULES AND REGULATIONS AS OUTLINED IN THE WESTFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS ATHLETIC CONTRACT. WE AGREE TO ADHERE TO THEM DURING THE ATHLETIC SEASON. I HEREBY GIVE MY SON/DAUGHTER PERMISSION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE WESTFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS ATHLETIC PROGRAM.

SIGNATURE OF PARENT:

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE OF STUDENT:

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

INSURANCE COVERAGE: THE WESTFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS PROVIDES ATHLETIC INSURANCE, WHICH COVERS INJURIES SUSTAINED IN COMPETITION, PRACTICE OR TRAVEL. THIS IS A SUPPLEMENTAL POLICY WHICH PROVIDES COVERAGE WHICH IS NOT COVERED BY A FAMILY'S PRIVATE, PREPAID HOSPITAL OR MEDICAL PLAN. IF A FAMILY HAS NO MEDICAL PLAN, THIS POLICY WILL COVER MEDICAL EXPENSES.

INSURANCE COMPANY: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME OF INSURED: \_\_\_\_\_ POLICY NO. \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTICE OF ATHLETIC INJURY RISK**

PARTICIPATION IN ATHLETICS IS INHERENTLY DANGEROUS. EVEN WHEN ALL REASONABLE PRECAUTIONS ARE TAKEN, STUDENTS CAN AND MAY BE INJURED. ALL ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION IS VOLUNTARY AND ENGAGED IN WITH THE PERMISSION OF PARENTS OR GUARDIAN. WITH PARTICIPATION IN THE VOLUNTARY ATHLETIC PROGRAM, STUDENTS AND THEIR PARENTS/GUARDIAN AGREE TO ACCEPT THE INHERENT RISK.

I/WE \_\_\_\_\_ THE PARENT/GUARDIAN OF

\_\_\_\_\_, A MINOR, DO HEREBY CONSENT TO HIS/HER PARTICIPATION IN VOLUNTARY ATHLETIC PROGRAMS AND DO FOREVER RELEASE, ACQUIT, DISCHARGE AND COVENANT TO HOLD HARMLESS THE CITY OF WESTFIELD AND THE WESTFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS FROM ANY AND ALL ACTIONS, CAUSES OF ACTION, CLAIMS OR SUITS OF ANY KIND AND NATURE ARISING OUT OF, EITHER DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY, ALL KNOWN AND UNKNOWN PERSONAL INJURIES OR PROPERTY DAMAGE WHICH I/WE MAY NOW OR HEREAFTER HAVE AS THE PARENT/GUARDIAN OF THE ABOVE REFERENCED MINOR CHILD AND ALSO, ALL CLAIMS OR RIGHT OF ACTION FOR DAMAGES WHICH THE MINOR HAS OR MAY HEREAFTER ACQUIRE, EITHER BEFORE OR AFTER HIS/HER MAJORITY RESULTING FROM HIS/HER VOLUNTARY PARTICIPATION IN THE WESTFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS ATHLETIC PROGRAM AND/OR VOLUNTARY EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITY OF ANY KIND.

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_