

2020-2021

Parent & Student Athlete Handbook

**WILLIAMS VALLEY
JR. / SR. HIGH SCHOOL**

10330 State Route 209
Tower City, PA 17980
Phone: (717) 647-2167

www.wvschools.net



PARENT & STUDENT ATHLETE HANDBOOK TABLE OF CONTENTS

WILLIAMS VALLEY PARENT & STUDENT ATHLETE HANDBOOK.....	1
PURPOSE.....	3
WVSD MISSION STATEMENT	4
WVSD ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT MISSION STATEMENT	4
CORE VALUES	4
WELCOME LETTER	4
TO THE PARENT/GUARDIAN.....	5
TO THE STUDENT-ATHLETE	5
GOVERNANCE.....	5
ATHLETIC CHAIN OF COMMAND.....	6
ELIGIBILITY.....	7
PARENT/STUDENT-ATHLETE/COACH RELATIONSHIP.....	7
RESPONSIBILITIES OF A STUDENT ATHLETE / COACH	8
STANDARD PROCEDURES.....	9
TRANSPORTATION.....	10
CODE OF CONDUCT	10
PHYSICAL EDUCATION CLASS PARTICIPATION ...	10

PRACTICE SESSIONS AND GAMES.....	10
ATTENDANCE AT PRACTICE SESSIONS & GAMES	11
SPECTATOR EXPECTATIONS.....	11
DRUGS, ALCOHOL, AND STERIODS.....	11
SCHOOL CONDUCT.....	12
SUSPENSIONS	12
RISKS OF ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION (ASSUMPTION OF RISK).....	12
SPORTSMANSHIP.....	12
SOCIAL MEDIA.....	13
HAZING	13
ATHLETIC OBJECTIVES	13
COLLEGE ELIGIBILITY.....	13
WILLIAMS VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT ATHLETIC OFFERINGS 2020-2021.....	14
WEIGHT ROOM	14
SPORTS BOOSTER CLUBS.....	15
TITLE IX.....	15
SIGNATURES PAGE	16

PURPOSE

Welcome to the **Williams Valley Vikings' Athletics**. Williams Valley School District has a long standing tradition of athletic success. This tradition took the hard work of many people over the course of many years. As a member of an interscholastic team at Williams Valley, you have inherited a tremendous tradition which you are challenged to uphold.

The continuation of this tradition rests with you and the other student-athletes who have chosen to be a part of one of our sports teams, and it carries with it certain expectations and responsibilities that must be maintained. When you wear the uniform representing Williams Valley, we assume that you not only understand our traditions, but are willing to assume the responsibilities that go with them. However, the contributions you make will be a satisfying accomplishment to you and your family.

These responsibilities include:

Responsibility to Yourself:

The most important of these responsibilities is to broaden and develop strength of character. You owe it to yourself to attain the greatest benefit from your high school experiences' your academic studies, your participation in extracurricular activities as well in sports.

Responsibilities to Your School:

As a student-athlete, another responsibility you assume is to your school. Williams Valley cannot maintain its reputation unless you do your best in the activity in which you engage and be true ambassadors of the school. By participating in interscholastic athletics to the maximum of your ability, you are contributing to the reputation of Williams Valley.

Responsibilities to Others:

As a member of athletics you also bear a heavy responsibility to your team, your family and your community. As a member of one of our teams, you have an obligation to always give your best effort, to abide by all team and school rules, and to refrain from activities that might jeopardize your health and welfare.

Statement of Philosophy:

In addition to embracing and committing to the WVSD philosophy, we will also encourage and promote:

The belief that student-athletes should participate in multiple opportunities and not specialize in any one specific sport. The concept of the broadest based participation extends the opportunity to participate to as many students as possible. The premise being that all teams are considered vital for our student athletes and each is a valued part of our athletic program. No one sport is considered more important than any other and all teams are treated as fairly as possible. The younger students in the Williams Valley School District are watching you. They will imitate you in many ways. Do not do anything to let them down. Set a good example for them and be outstanding role models.



WVSD MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Williams Valley School District is to provide a safe, cooperative, educational environment that will enable and motivate every learner to progress intellectually, socially, emotionally, and physically through a rigorous curriculum focused on real-world opportunities.

WVSD ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT MISSION STATEMENT

The fundamental purpose of the extracurricular and athletic programs in the Williams Valley School District is to promote the physical, mental, social, emotional, and moral well-being of its student-athletes, creating a positive force to prepare youth.

CORE VALUES

INTEGRITY

By their very nature, athletics inevitably involves character development; for this reason, especially, we must conduct ourselves with utmost integrity.

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

Our primary purpose is to promote the personal growth and physical well-being of our student athletes, to guide them to become the best they can be.

TEAMWORK

We compete to win—as individuals, as team members, and as representatives of this community. We clearly understand that the success of any one person is always the result of dedicated effort on the part of many people. So, while we are quick to recognize individual performance, we are even quicker to celebrate achievements of the team.

SPORTSMANSHIP

A set of behaviors to be exhibited by student-athletes, coaches, game officials, administrators and fans in athletics competition. These behaviors are based on values, especially respect and integrity.

LEADERSHIP

Our goal is to maintain a model athletic program. Dedication to the personal development of our student athletes, integrity and excellence in our programs, teamwork, and determination to play a leadership role in the community.

WELCOME LETTER

Dear Williams Valley Student Athletes, and Parents/Guardians of Williams Valley Student Athletes:

We hope this handbook proves to be informative and assists you in making your athletic experience a positive one.

Student-athletes will learn teamwork, discipline, and group responsibility. They will also learn to appropriately deal with success and overcome adversity. Research proves that those who participate in extracurricular activities tend to attain better grades and have fewer discipline problems than those who do not participate.

This handbook is provided to assist in guiding you and your student-athlete throughout their Williams Valley athletic career. Please take the time to read each section. When finished, sign the back page stating that you and the student-athlete have read the handbook, and understand what is contained within. We wish you the best of luck during the upcoming school year.

Sincerely,



Ben Ancheff
WVSD Athletic Director

TO THE PARENT/GUARDIAN

This material is presented to you because your student has indicated a desire to participate in interscholastic athletics and you have expressed your willingness to permit them to compete. Your family interest in this important component of WVSD educational process is gratifying. We believe that participation in sports provides a wealth of opportunities and experiences which assist students in personal adjustments and preparing for life's many experiences.

We are concerned with educational development through athletics and feel that a properly controlled, well-organized sports interscholastic athletic program can meet student needs for self-expression, social, mental, and physical growth. It is our intent to conduct a program that is educationally sound in purpose and will enhance each student's personal growth. We are striving for excellence and do not want our student-athletes to compromise with mediocrity or unsportsmanlike behavior.

When your student-athlete registers to participate in one of the WVSD sports programs, they can be assured our staff maintain certain responsibilities and obligations which include:

Providing adequate equipment and facilities

Providing well trained coaches

Provide equalized contests with skilled officials

Likewise, you have committed yourselves to certain responsibilities and obligations, which will be reviewed throughout this handbook and reinforced throughout the season.

It is the role of the Athletic Department to make and enforce rules that govern the spirit of competition for the school. These rules need a broad basis of community support, which is achieved through communication to the parent.

TO THE STUDENT-ATHLETE

Being a member of a Williams Valley Athletic team is an ambition for many students. The attainment of this goal carries with it certain traditions and responsibilities that must be maintained. A great athletic tradition is not built overnight; it takes the hard work of many people over many years. As a member of a Williams Valley interscholastic team, you have inherited a wonderful tradition which you are challenged to uphold. Our tradition has been to win with honor and practice good sportsmanship at all times. We desire to win, but only with honor to our student-athletes, our school, and our community. Such a tradition is worthy of the best efforts of all concerned. Over many years, our teams have achieved more than their share of League, District, and State Championships. Many individuals have set records, and achieved All-League, All-Area, and All-State honors. It will not be easy to contribute to such a great athletic tradition. When you wear the blue and white, we assume that you not only understand our traditions, but also are willing to assume the responsibilities that go with them. However, the contributions you make should be a satisfying accomplishment to you and your family.

GOVERNANCE

The National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS)

The NFHS consists of the fifty-one individual state high school associations and/or activities associations. The purpose of the NFHS is to serve, protect, and enhance the interstate activity interests of the high schools belonging to state associations; to assist in those activities of the state associations which can best be operated on a nationwide scale; to sponsor meetings, publications, and activities which will permit each state association to profit by the experience of all other member associations, and to coordinate the work to minimize duplication.

The NFHS is both a service and regulatory agency. The growth and influence of state associations and the NFHS ensures some degree of teamwork on the part of more than 20,500 schools and enables them to formulate policies for the improvement of interscholastic activities. www.NFHS.org

The Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association (PIAA)

All schools are voluntary members of the PIAA and compete only with member schools. As a member school district, the Williams Valley School District agrees to abide by and enforce all rules and regulations promoted by this association. The primary role of the PIAA is to maintain rules and regulations that ensure equity in competition for the student-athletes and a balance with other educational programs. The PIAA solicits input and is responsive to requests for rule modifications from member schools, District committees, and coaches' associations.

The PIAA attempts to enforce such rules that assure the greatest good for the greatest number and to ensure that competition is conducted in an appropriate manner.

Please visit www.piaa.org for pertinent state regulations.

To be eligible for interscholastic athletics, a high school student must meet the following state regulations:

- A. Enrollment
- B. Age
- C. Physical Examinations
- D. Seasons of Competition
- E. Semesters of Enrollment
- F. Residency Requirements
- G. Transfers
- H. Guardianship
- I. Awards
- J. Amateur Practices
- K. Participation on Independent Teams
- L. Recruiting

Schuylkill League

Williams Valley School District is a voluntary member of the Schuylkill League. This League was established for the primary purpose of promoting interscholastic activities among member schools and the assurance of such advantages as may be gained by a union of effort.

The Schuylkill League has had and continues to have a prominent place in athletic competition within District XI and the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association (PIAA). The league offers many sports programs that help create and mold the best student-athletes who not only excel in sports, but, most importantly, life. The league objective continues to be met yearly due to the consistent support of our families, coaches, and school districts as a whole who nurture the endeavors of our student athletes.

The league was created to stimulate, foster and sponsor friendly rivalry through competition in athletic activities and to encourage and develop right attitudes, ideals, and practices between contesting athletic teams and their respective student bodies, i.e. good sportsmanship.

In summary, thank you for your support of the WVSD athletes. With everyone's continued care and convictions, our athletes will become the pillars of our businesses and communities in the future. The league looks forward to many more years of outstanding athletic competition. <https://schuylkill-league.org/>

Member schools include:

Blue Mountain
Halifax
Jim Thorpe
Lehighton
Lourdes Regional
Mahanoy Area
Marian Catholic

Millersburg Area
Minersville Area
Nativity B.V.M.
North Schuylkill
Panther Valley
Pine Grove Area
Pottsville Area

Schuylkill Haven
Shenandoah Valley
Tamaqua Area
Tri-Valley
Upper Dauphin
Weatherly Area
Williams Valley

ATHLETIC CHAIN OF COMMAND

Superintendent
Jr./Sr. High School Principal
Athletic Director
Head Coach
Assistant/JV Coaches
Volunteer Coaches

If there are any questions or concerns involving some aspect of our athletics program, the student athlete should first contact the appropriate coach. If there were no resolution, they would then go to the head coach, etc.

ELIGIBILITY

WILLIAMS VALLEY JR-SR. HIGH SCHOOL ELIGIBILITY

On a weekly basis, the athletic director will provide to the Junior-Senior High School Principal the names of those students who are failing two (2) or more full credit courses or two (2) core courses (math, English, science, and/or history). The Junior-Senior High School Principal will review the list and provide to the advisor/coaches/faculty the names of those students who are failing two (2) or more full credit courses or two (2) core courses (math, English, science, and/or history). The purpose of this is to notify advisors/coaches/faculty of ineligible students.

Students must be in good academic standing by Wednesday of each week. Teachers will update grades for eligibility no later than Friday at noon. A Skyward report will be generated by the high school secretary at noon on Friday listing the names of those students who are failing two (2) or more full credit courses or two (2) core courses (math, English, science, and/or history). Generated reports will be given to the athletic director to review and create the eligibility list. If a student is failing two (2) or more full credit courses or two (2) core courses (math, English, science, and/or history), they become ineligible to participate during the next one-week progress report period (the immediately following Sunday through the next following Saturday).

First and Second Offenses: Students may practice with the team.

Students may travel to and attend a scheduled event on the sidelines with the team but may not participate in the scheduled event. During the week that the student is academically ineligible, the student must attend mandatory tutoring during the activity period with the teacher(s) of the subjects in which he/she is deficient. Students must get their tutoring log signed by the teacher who is the tutor during activity period and by the athletic director each day of tutoring. A student who does not attend tutoring and/or does not have the tutor's signature on his/her log must attend practice but must work on their homework.

Third Consecutive Offense or Four Total Offenses Within the Season

Student is dismissed from the activity for the remainder of the season. A student who chooses to participate in a sport during a different season will begin the eligibility process again for that sport. Any student who becomes ineligible shall be notified before leaving school on Friday and will be given a Tutoring Log for the next week.

At the end of a grading period if a student is failing two (2) or more full credit courses, or two (2) core courses (math, English, science, and/or history) during the previous grading period, said student shall be ineligible to participate in scheduled extra-curricular events for ten (10) school days of the next grading period, beginning on the first day report cards are issued. Incomplete grades will not be counted as failing grades nor will they be counted as passing grades in determining eligibility.

Students, who are retained at the end of the year, shall be ineligible to participate in scheduled extra-curricular events for ten (10) days at the beginning of the next school year. Suspension will start on the first day of practices. Should a student be deemed ineligible the last week of the academic school year and said student is still participating in extracurricular activities beyond the school year, (i.e. playoffs/postseason) said student shall remain ineligible. Additionally, there are attendance requirements that may cause a student athlete to lose eligibility for a daily or seasonal period. In order to participate in a scheduled athletic contest, student athletes must be in school by 11:00 AM on the day of the contest. If a student comes to school after 11:00 AM, they may not participate in a game and/or practice unless they have a signed doctor's note or at the discretion of the athletic director and principal.

THE "5-DAY" RULE

Any athlete who joins a team later than the initial start date (including those student-athletes changing teams and transfer students), or was unable to complete pre-competition conditioning, must accumulate five (5) practices before being eligible to compete.

PARENT/STUDENT-ATHLETE/COACH RELATIONSHIP

Coaching styles

Just as our students are exposed to a variety of teaching styles and techniques, our student-athletes are exposed to a variety of coaching styles and techniques. Consequently, the Athletic Department does not have any rules which mandate the amount of playing time received by each player. Those decisions ultimately rest with the coaches in the program. Questions or concerns about playing time are best addressed in a player/coach or a parent/coach conference.

Cutting the Team

While our ultimate goal is to promote the greatest athletic participation possible at Williams Valley Jr.-Sr. HS, it may be necessary in some sports to cut a squad. This may occur due to limitations of our facilities, regulations specific to some sports, travel restrictions, and other factors. Every coach has the responsibility and authority for selecting his or her team. The criteria for selecting the team is developed by the coach. A copy of the written criteria is then distributed to our student athletes prior to the try outs and to our parents at our preseason meetings.

Expressing Concerns

When expressing an occasional concern with a coach, please refer to and use the following guidelines: Never approach a coach immediately after a contest. This is not the proper time or place for a discussion concerning your student athlete or the team. Use the 24-hour rule to think through the issue. Call the following day and make an appointment, which is convenient for both you and the coach to meet. Raise your concern in a calm civil manner. Yelling, being rude or using foul language is unacceptable. Once you have stated your question or concern, listen to the explanation. Often a sport parent may be blinded by emotion and this overrides logic and reason. Listening receptively may really help you to understand any explanation which is given.

Receiving technical or strategic instruction at home may interfere and conflict with the instructional process at practice sessions and games. This may ultimately impede your athletes progress and impact their playing time whether they win a starting position.

Contacting the Athletic Office

It is always better to express a concern than to internalize it. A valid concern that is not addressed can lead to other problems for the student athlete, the coach, or the team. A player/coach or a parent/ coach conference is still the most appropriate way to express a concern. If for whatever reason, a student athlete or parent feels uncomfortable about talking to the coach, it is then advisable to contact the Athletic Director. The Athletic Director will use discretion in dealing with the matter. After listening to the concern, the Athletic Director will either address the concern for the purpose of correcting it, or they will explain to the caller why the coach is operating in a correct manner. If the caller does not accept the Athletic Director's explanation, the caller has the option of contacting the Jr./Sr. High School Principal.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF A STUDENT ATHLETE / COACH

Coaches expect a student athlete to adhere to the following guidelines:

The team's goals, welfare and success must come before any individual.

A student athlete needs to consistently attend practice sessions. This also includes weekend and holiday periods.

Players must be receptive to coaching.

Team members are responsible for all issued uniforms and equipment.

As a member of the team, a student athlete must agree to and follow the team and school district rules. Student athletes need to remember that they represent not only themselves, but the coaching staff and the school district.

If injured, a student athlete must report all injuries to the coach/ athletic trainer immediately.

At Williams Valley Jr./Sr. High School, a coach has the responsibility for the following:

The selection of the squad.

The determination of the style of play, including the offensive and defensive philosophy.

The teaching and instruction at practice sessions.

The determination of who starts and how long an athlete plays in a contest.

The decision of who plays in what position.

The establishing of team rules.

The selection of team captains.

The communication with student athletes and parents with respect to when practice sessions will be held, and when the sessions will start and finish.

STANDARD PROCEDURES

Instructions to Student-Athletes:

Athletes will not be permitted in any area of the building after school except those areas designated by the coaches or athletic director. No practice arrangements, formal or informal, are permitted without the presence of supervisory coaching personnel. Athletes may not practice until proof of a physical exam is on file in the Athletic Office. Athletes are responsible for the rules and regulations presented in this handbook.

Emergency Phone Numbers and Contact Information:

Please find below critical phone numbers that you might need during your season:

Williams Valley Jr./Sr. Principal's Office (717) 647-2167 press 1

Williams Valley Athletic Director's Office (717) 647-2167 x1243

Our website also has schedule information, physical paperwork, and athletic contacts.

Please visit [www.https://www.wvschools.net/wvsd/](https://www.wvschools.net/wvsd/) and go to "Sports" for more information.

Injuries:

Following a serious injury, an injury report must be submitted by the coach to the trainer within twenty-four hours. A written statement from the physician and the parent or guardian must be submitted before the student resumes participation in practices or contests.

Athletic Trainer:

The Athletic Trainer will be responsible for the prevention and treatment of all athletic injuries. Students should report all injuries to the athletic trainer immediately. If an athletic trainer is not present during the injury the student should report the injury to the coach. The coach will then report the injury or seek immediate medical attention if the injury is of a serious nature. Lauren Leshko, LAT, ATC (570) 640-2900

Cancellation of Games and Practices Due to Inclement Weather:

In the event that school is cancelled or there is an early dismissal due to inclement weather, the following will apply to all athletic teams:

- All practices are cancelled unless administrative approval is given.
- Students cannot be required to attend an approved activity/practice during a school closing.
 - Participation must be voluntary.
 - All home activities involving spectators are cancelled.
 - If an early dismissal occurs all activities are cancelled.
 - No outdoor practice should occur with lightning in the area.
- If inclement weather should arrive after the school day is over, the decision to cancel games or practices will be made by the athletic director and/or high school Principal.

Financial Obligations and Equipment

All athletes are responsible for the proper care and security of equipment issued to them. School-furnished equipment is to be worn only for contests and practices. Students are responsible for the replacement or repair of any equipment not returned in good condition at the end of the season.

Awarding Athletic Letters

The criteria for awarding a varsity letter will be an evaluation by the coach or coaches concerning the amount of game or meet time played by the athlete along with the following:

- Attitude of athlete
- Attendance of athlete
- Self-discipline of athlete
- Character of athlete
- Skill development of athlete
- Leadership qualities of athlete
- Loyalty qualities of athlete

Guidelines for evaluating game time:

Baseball/Softball – 50% of total innings, 25% of games participated in if pitcher.

Basketball/Football – 50% of total quarters.

Volleyball/Wrestling/Archery – 50% of matches

Soccer – 50% of halves

Cheerleading/Managers/Trainers – recommendation of the coach.

A varsity letter will be awarded for the first time an athlete meets the requirements. In following years when a varsity letter is earned, a pin will be issued in lieu of a letter. Any athlete that participates in a varsity sport shall receive a varsity letter in his/her senior year.

A varsity letter may be considered upon a written request by the student athlete. Written request for extenuating circumstances (ex. season ending injury). Requests must be approved by the coach and athletic director to receive a varsity letter.

The criteria for the scholar athlete selection is broken up into three parts: 50% academics, 40% athletics, and 10% community involvement/ leadership. Due to the COVID 19 Pandemic, spring 2020 student athletes will receive varsity letters. The spring varsity letters for 2020 will not be a factor included in the scholar athlete calculation for the 2021-2023 scholar athletes.

TRANSPORTATION

Since the Williams Valley School District provides transportation for athletes to and from away contests, ALL athletes should ride the team van or bus. However, if it is necessary for a student-athlete to ride home with a parent/guardian from an away contest, the following procedure should be used: A parent requesting that their child ride home with him/her should submit the request in writing/email prior to the game to either the Athletic Director (first choice), Principal/Coach (alternate) for approval. The athlete should then submit the signed parental note to the coach who will maintain this note for his/her files. No student athlete will be permitted to ride home with anyone other than his/her parent, even if they have a written request asking permission to ride with another parent.

CODE OF CONDUCT

A firm and fair policy of enforcement is necessary to uphold the regulations and standards of the athletic department. The community, school administrators and the coaches believe that high standards of conduct and citizenship are essential in maintaining a sound program of athletics. The welfare of the student athlete is our primary consideration and transcends any other consideration. All athletes shall abide by a code of ethics which will earn them the honor and respect that participation and competition in the interscholastic program affords. Any conduct that results in dishonor to the athlete, the team, or the school will not be tolerated. Acts of unacceptable conduct, such as, but not limited to theft, vandalism, disorderly conduct, immorality, poor sportsmanship, or violations of law, tarnish the reputation of everyone associated with the WVSD athletic programs, will not be tolerated, and will result in the student athlete being subjected to all applicable consequences.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION CLASS PARTICIPATION

It is important to also understand that all student athletes are expected to actively participate in all required Physical Education classes even when "in season" during their particular sport. Physical Education is an important and required course for graduation. Students, who participate in interscholastic athletics, should not expect "special" treatment from teachers to be excused from Physical Education classes even on the day of competition. Physical Education teachers will use prudent judgment with student athletes on determining their participation level in class on the day of competition.

PRACTICE SESSIONS AND GAMES

Practice sessions are the equivalent of a teacher's classroom and there is real, quality instruction taking place. Interruptions and interference to a student athlete's concentration and focus in practice cannot be allowed any more than a disruption would be tolerated in an academic setting. Education in any setting cannot be compromised.

At Williams Valley Jr.-Sr. HS practice sessions: The length of practice will be at the discretion of the coach. May start and end at different times due to the schedule of the coach or of our facilities. Check with the coach for the specific times. Will not be held when school is dismissed early due to inclement weather. Will not be held when school is not in session due to inclement weather. May be held on Saturdays and over holiday periods. May be held on a Sunday due to the schedule with administrative approval.

ATTENDANCE AT PRACTICE SESSIONS & GAMES

All members of each sport/activity will attend all scheduled practices, meetings and games. If circumstances arise whereby the student cannot attend a practice, meeting or game, the coach or advisor must be notified prior to the practice or event by personal contact, phone call or written statement from the parent or guardian. Any student, who cuts practice, fails to appear for a game/event or meeting, or fails to attend school on the day of a game or practice will be disciplined by the coach/advisor, Athletic Director as designated by the school procedure referenced in the Coaches Handbook. Excessive absences from practices, games/events, or meetings may be cause for removal from the sport or activity. All students are required to attend class(es) on a regular basis. Students delinquent in class attendance are subject to disciplinary action. Lack of attendance in class(es) may result in failing grades which will result in ineligibility in athletics/extracurricular activities.

SPECTATOR EXPECTATIONS

Acceptable Behavior

- Applause during introduction of players, coaches, and Contest officials.
- Players shaking hands with opponents who foul out while both sets of fans recognize player's performance with applause.
- Accept all decisions of Contest officials.
- Cheerleaders lead fans in cheers in a positive manner.
- Handshakes between participants and coaches at the end of the contest, regardless of outcome.
- Treat competition as a Contest, not a war.
- Coaches/players search out opposing participants to recognize them for outstanding performance or coaching.
- Applause at end of Contest for performances of all participants,
- Everyone showing concern for an injured player, regardless of team.
- Encourage surrounding people to display only sportsmanlike conduct.

Unacceptable Behavior

- Yelling, waving arms, or objects during the opponent's free throw attempt.
- Disrespectful or derogatory cheers, chant, songs, or gestures.
- Criticizing officials in any way, displays of temper with an official's call.
- Cheers that antagonizes opponents
- Refusing to shake hands or give recognition for good performances.
- Blaming loss to Contest on officials, coaches, or participants.
- Laughing or name-calling to distract an opponent.
- Use of profanity or displays of anger that draw attention away from the Contest.
- Doing their own cheers instead of following the lead of cheerleaders.
- Wearing extreme or unusual clothing or excessive face or body painting that detracts from the action on the playing surface.

SCHUYLKILL COUNTY INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION SCHOOLS RESERVE THE RIGHT TO EJECT ANY SPECTATORS WHOSE CONDUCT IS DETRIMENTAL TO GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP. MISBEHAVIOR AT SPORTING EVENTS MAY LEAD TO PROSECUTION OR SCHOOL DISCIPLINARY ACTION

DRUGS, ALCOHOL, AND STERIODS

The possession, use, furnishing, or transmission of narcotics, stimulant drugs, alcoholic beverages, steroids, tobacco, or other unauthorized substances by athletic program participants is prohibited. The school district discipline policy will be applied where there is an infraction dealing with the above. Refer to school board policies 227, and 222, for more details.

The use or possession of alcohol or other drugs, tobacco in any form or anabolic steroids are prohibited. This applies to verified usage that occurs either in or out of school. Verification must be by school personnel, police or by admission of the involved student. Athletic team members specified prohibitions during their respective sport season shall be subject to these restrictions: First violation shall result in suspension from practicing with or participating on any team for a minimum of 45 (forty-five) PIAA season days or the remainder of the season, whichever is greater. Referral to the Student Assistance Program will be made. For more information on this matter refer to board policy

236.

SCHOOL CONDUCT

It is important to Williams Valley that all students be good citizens as well as athletes or members of a community organization. If a student athlete violates the school conduct policy which results in school discipline, the athlete will also be subject to sanctions with relation to his/her ability to participate in a game or event.

SUSPENSIONS

If a student is suspended from school (either in-school or out-of-school) s/he will face the following sanctions: Up to a 3-day suspension -if a suspension is on the day of a game/event the student will miss the game/event and/or practice. If the suspension is not on the day of a game/event, the following procedure will be in effect:

- 1-day suspension = $\frac{1}{4}$ of game or event. Volleyball - 1 day = 1 match
- 2-day suspension = $\frac{1}{2}$ of game or event. Volleyball - 2 day = 2 matches
- 3-day suspension = 1 game or event.

Due to the nature of the sports, students participating in wrestling and/or archery must sit out the entire match if suspended 1, 2, or 3 days.

4 or more days' suspension - the student will miss any game scheduled during the days of the suspension and must practice at least two (2) days before returning to participate in interscholastic events. Practice must be legal and follow PIAA Guidelines (ex: a pre-game warm up or a volunteer practice are not acceptable). If during the period of suspension there are no interscholastic events, the following procedure will be in effect: 4-5-day suspension = 2 games

- 6-7-day suspension = 3 games
- 8-9-day suspension = 4 games
- 10 day = removal from the team

If during the period of suspension, the total number of games in the disciplinary action is not met, the student will not be eligible to play in an interscholastic event until the number of games in the disciplinary action is met.

The student commits discipline infractions that total 10 days of suspension during the sport season in which they are participating. The student will be dismissed from that sport team for the remainder of the season. Should that student commit an additional Level 3 or above infraction s/he will lose the privilege of participating in athletics or extra-curricular activities for the remainder of that school year.

RISKS OF ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION (ASSUMPTION OF RISK)

In spite of protective equipment, and the supervision and sound instruction by our coaches, there are some risks associated when someone participates in athletics. Injuries in some of our activities can and do occur. In extremely rare cases, death could also result. All student athletes and parents need to be aware and understand this possibility. At Williams Valley School District, we will do all that we can to ensure a safe and healthy environment for our student athletes.

SPORTSMANSHIP

Student-athletes are positive role models within the school and the community at large. A good sport knows that athletic competition builds character and shapes lifetime attitudes. You, in turn, experience additional educational and leadership benefits that come from participation in sports. Integrity, fairness and respect - these are the principles of good sportsmanship. With them, the spirit of competition thrives, fueled by honest rivalry, courteous relations, and graceful acceptance of the results.

As an athlete at WVSD, your sportsmanship goals include:

Developing a sense of dignity under all circumstances

Respecting the rules of the game, the officials who administer the rules and their decisions

Respecting opponents as fellow students and acknowledging them for striving to do their best while you seek to do your best at the same time

Looking at athletic participation as a potentially beneficial learning experience, whether you win or lose

Educating other students and fans to understand the rules of the contest, and the value of sportsmanship

Accepting the personal responsibility that comes with your actions during competition. You are the spokesperson for our school when you represent WVSD in athletic competition. Your actions are viewed by family and friends, opposing fans, the local community and media.

Your display of good sportsmanship will show the most positive things about you and our school and will remind us all that in the end, sports are meant to be fun.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Student athletes should be aware that third parties, including the media, faculty, future employers, and college officials, could easily access their profiles and view all personal information. This includes all pictures, videos, comments and posters. Inappropriate material found by third parties affects the perception of the student-athlete and the school. This can also be detrimental to the future options of a student-athlete (e.g., college, profession). Be smart about what you post. Think "would my grandparent be happy seeing this post" as a guide to see if the material should be posted or not.

HAZING

Students are prohibited from organizing, soliciting, aiding or participating in any type of hazing for any class, school-sponsored club, activity, or athletic team. Hazing is any intentional, knowing or reckless act directed against a student for the purpose of being initiated into, affiliation with, holding office or maintaining membership in any class, school-sponsored club, activity, or athletic team.

Hazing is any activity expected of someone joining or belonging to a group that humiliates, degrades, abuses or endangers, regardless of the person's willingness to participate. Students are required to report any known or suspected form of hazing to a principal immediately. Disciplinary action including, but not limited to, permanent removal from the class, club, activity, or athletic team, may be taken against any students who organize, participate in, and/or fail to report a hazing rite. Refer to school board policy #247 for more information on Hazing.

ATHLETIC OBJECTIVES

- To conduct a program that achieves a high level of interest and support of students, faculty, alumni, local community and other segments of the community.
- To employ an athletic staff with integrity, knowledge, skills and leadership qualities that enable programs of mental, moral, and physical benefit to student-athletes.
 - To compete with high ideals of integrity and sportsmanship.
- To provide student-athletes with adequate practice and competition facilities under proper medical supervision.
 - To promote academic success and on-time graduation.
- To realize that athletic competition is a privilege to be earned and maintained throughout the season.
 - To understand the concept of teamwork and the individual's role as a team member.

COLLEGE ELIGIBILITY

NCAA / NAIA / NJCAA

The National Collegiate Athletic Association (**NCAA**), an organization founded in 1906 that has established rules on eligibility, recruiting, and financial aid, regulating college sports. The NCAA has three membership divisions—Divisions I, II, III. Institutions are members of one of the divisions according to the size and scope of their athletic programs and awarding of athletic scholarships. If a high school student-athlete is planning to enroll in college as a freshman upon graduating from high school and they wish to participate in Division I or Division II sports, the NCAA Initial-Eligibility must certify them. The NCAA Eligibility Center will analyze the student-athlete's academic information and determine if they meet the NCAA's initial-eligibility requirements.

Registration is available through the NCAA Eligibility Center at: www.ncaaeligibilitycenter.org

COLLEGE BOUND STUDENT ATHLETE

http://fs.ncaa.org/Docs/eligibility_center/Student_Resources/CBSA.pdf

In the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (**NAIA**), a student-athlete can compete during four "seasons of competition" within the first ten (10) semesters (fifteen (15) quarters) in college. A season of competition is counted when an athlete participates in one or more intercollegiate contests whether at the varsity, junior varsity or freshman level. To compete, student-athletes must be enrolled in at least twelve (12) hours every semester or quarter and be making normal progress toward a baccalaureate degree. They must also meet freshman and/or continuing eligibility rules. Registration is available through the NAIA Eligibility Center at: <https://www.playnaia.org/>

The National Junior College Athletic Association (**NJCAA**), founded in 1938, is the governing association of [community college](#), [state college](#) and [junior college](#) athletics throughout the United States. Currently the NJCAA holds 24 separate regions across 24 states and is divided into 3 divisions. www.njcaa.org
For more information on collegiate eligibility, please refer to your Athletic Director.

WILLIAMS VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT ATHLETIC OFFERINGS 2020-2021

Fall

Boys Soccer (Varsity and JV)	Cheerleading
Football (Varsity and JV)	Girls Basketball (Jr. High)
Girls Soccer (Varsity and JV)	Volleyball (Varsity and JV)

Winter

Archery (Varsity and Jr. High)	Boys Basketball (Varsity and JV)
Boys Basketball (Jr. High)	Cheerleading (Basketball)
Girls Basketball (Varsity and JV)	Wrestling (Varsity and JV)

Spring

Baseball (Varsity and JV)	Softball (Varsity and JV)
Softball (Jr. High)	

WEIGHT ROOM

The weight room is a great tool for student athletes to utilize not only for their physical health but also their mental health. The weight room can provide a new found confidence that the student athlete may not have previously possessed. Student athletes should take pride in using the weight room to its full potential.

Weight Room Rules

- Release of liability waiver must be signed and on file in the office in order to use the weight room.
 - Horseplay is not permitted.
- Students are not permitted in the weight room without a coach or weight room supervisor present.
- Spotter is mandatory during appropriate lifts. Spotters should be as focused on the lift as the person performing the exercise.
- Weight Room lifting calls for proper technique; it must be used at all times and never lift more weight than you can safely handle.
 - Interference or distraction is prohibited while someone is performing an exercise.
 - Equipment must be wiped down after use.
 - Plates must be cleared from the Olympic bars when not in use.
 - Weights must be returned to appropriate storage racks after use.
 - Weights should never be placed on the floor or up against the equipment.
 - Weight or Equipment damages must be reported to the supervisor.
 - Footwear and proper attire is required to use the facility
- Weight Room badge access is held by only coaches, teachers, and staff who have all required clearances.

SPORTS BOOSTER CLUBS

Williams Valley's Sports Booster Clubs exist to support all teams and the entire athletic program. Booster Clubs should have four primary goals: to raise funds, to assist the athletic programs, to increase school spirit, and to encourage and promote good sportsmanship.

The Booster club is a service and support organization. All parents are encouraged to join a Booster Club and become an active member. Most Booster Clubs hold monthly meetings throughout the year.

TITLE IX

"No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, or denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any educational program or activity receiving federal assistance."

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 to the Civil Rights Act of 1964

The Department's Title IX regulations prohibit sex discrimination in interscholastic, intercollegiate, club, or intramural athletics offered by a recipient institution, including with respect to (a) student interests and abilities; (b) athletic benefits and opportunities; and (c) athletic financial assistance.

A three-part test to determine whether an institution is providing nondiscriminatory athletic participation opportunities in compliance with the Title IX regulation. The test provides the following three compliance options: 1. Whether participation opportunities for male and female students are provided in numbers substantially proportionate to their respective enrollments; or 2. Where the members of one sex have been and are underrepresented among athletes, whether the institution can show a history and continuing practice of program expansion which is demonstrably responsive to the developing interests and abilities of the members of that sex; or 3. Where the members of one sex are underrepresented among athletes, and the institution cannot show a history and continuing practice of program expansion, as described above, whether it can be demonstrated that the interests and abilities of the members of that sex have been fully and effectively accommodated by the present program.

Note: The Superintendent, Jr./Sr. High School Principal, and Athletic Director can meet at any time and review and revise this handbook with approval of the Board of Education.

SIGNATURES PAGE

These signatures attest that you have read and understand the guidelines presented in the Parent & Student Athlete Handbook and that you agree to abide by its provisions.

Parent / Guardian(s) - Printed Name

Parent / Guardian(s) - Signature and Date

Student Athlete - Printed Name

Student Athlete - Signature and Date

Note: THIS PAGE MUST BE RETURNED TO THE ATHLETIC DIRECTOR /
COACH

The student athlete will not be permitted to participate in practices, scrimmages or games unless the parent/guardian has signed the Signature Page and returned it to the athletic director / coach.

Note: The Superintendent, Jr./Sr. High School Principal, and Athletic Director can meet at any time and review and revise this handbook with the approval of the Board of Education.