

Watchung Hills Ice Hockey Program Athletic Code of Conduct

Student Code of Conduct

Student participation in the Watchung Hills Ice Hockey Program is a privilege, not a right.

A student athlete's participation in interscholastic athletics is contingent upon their full compliance with all provisions of this Athletic Code of Conduct and the Watchung Hills Regional High School Student Handbook. The following goals will serve as the foundation for the specific provisions within this Code of Conduct: Our goals are:

1. To develop and maintain the highest level of sportsmanship and represent Watchung Hills Regional High School proudly both on and off the ice.
2. To develop proper attitudes toward winning and losing-- success and failure.
3. To encourage and develop respect for fellow athletes whether they are teammates, members of other Watchung Hills athletic teams, or members of opposing teams. To treat everyone fairly regardless of race, gender, religion, ethnic origin, or sexual orientation.
4. To assure that the amount of time required for athletic participation does not interfere with academic success. Academics comes before athletics.
5. To develop proper attitudes and behaviors toward individual health habits, appearance on and off the ice, and citizenship in and out of school.
6. To encourage competition not only for the tangible rewards but also for the development of positive attitudes that makes athletic competition valuable and worthwhile.
7. To maintain the highest standard of ethics, recognize each participant as an individual who will conduct him/herself in a manner befitting his/her responsibilities to this Code, to his/her teammates and coaches, and develop the kind of rapport with the broader school community demonstrating what it means to be a Watchung Hills Ice Hockey Program athlete.
8. To be respectful by using appropriate language in appropriate tones when interacting with other athletes, coaches, officials, parents, and spectators.
9. To refrain from taunting, using obscene gestures, or engaging in boastful celebrations that demean fellow athletes, coaches, or staff.

Parents Code of Conduct

Parents have a major influence on student athletes and should always show a positive influence in and outside the rink. The Parents Code of Conduct is as followed:

1. Be positive with your son/daughter. Let them know that they are accomplishing something by being part of the team and representing Watchung Hills Regional High School.
2. Encourage them to work hard and do their best.
3. Encourage and insist that athletes follow the rules of this Code and as outlined in the Watchung Hills Regional High School Student Handbook.
4. As a fan, you are entitled to cheer enthusiastically for your team, but don't become belligerent. Coaches work with athletes and know their talents. Respect that.
5. Insist that the athletes respect team rules, school rules, and game officials. Self-respect begins with self-control.
6. Encourage the athletes to improve their self-image by believing in themselves.
7. Encourage your athlete to play for the love of the game.
8. Remember: at a competition you, the parent, represent the Club, our team, our school, and your son/daughter. Please be a positive role model.

Athletic Code of Ethics

1. Accept and understand the seriousness of your responsibility as an athlete and the privilege of representing your school and community.
2. Learn and know the rules of your sport thoroughly. This will assist you in achieving a better understanding and appreciation of the game and promote fair play.
3. Cooperate fully with coaches and officials, always exercise good sportsmanship, abiding by the rules as they are stated.
4. Only the captain or alternate captain may communicate with officials on the clarification of rules. It is his/her responsibility to communicate what was said back to his/her teammates and/or coach.
5. Always respect the official's judgment and interpretation of the rules. Never argue or make non-verbal gestures that indicate disagreement. This type of immature activity may invite undesirable behavior on the part of teammates, the other team, or spectators. Remember, you are an important role model for others.
6. Congratulate opponents in a sincere manner following either victory or defeat. This is a true measure of character and sportsmanship.

Athletic Code of Conduct

1. Abide by the Watchung Hills Ice Hockey Program Code of Conduct and the Watchung Hills Regional High School Student Handbook.
2. Detention: An athlete may not participate in any extracurricular activity until detention has been completed.
3. Out-of-School/In-School Suspension: An athlete may not participate in any extracurricular activity until the suspension period has concluded and the student has been formally readmitted to school.
4. School Absences: An athlete may not participate in any extra-curricular activity unless he/she has been present in school for a full day of attendance (must be in school no later than 9:30 a.m.). The only exceptions to this rule are excused absences such as doctor/dentist appointments, college visitations, court appearances, or other extraordinary circumstances. It is incumbent that the parent ensures loss of school time is minimized when making such appointments. This applies to Saturday/Sunday games if absent on Friday.

5. Attendance:
 - A. A player is expected to be at all practices and games. The entire team depends on full participation.
 - B. In rare cases, a player may find it necessary to miss a practice or a game. The player must request permission from the coach and not pass on the reasons for being absent through another player. This applies even if the player is not in school that day.
 - C. C. If family obligations are known to a player in advance that would cause a player to miss a game or practice, this must be made known to the coach at the earliest possible time. The coach will let the player know if the reason is acceptable. Consequences will be established by the coach if necessary.
6. Dismissal/Quitting the Team: Any student who quits or is dismissed from the team will not be allowed to participate in that activity or attend that particular activity until that sport season has concluded. The student athlete will not be eligible to participate in the following year's season. We realize that some team members are unfamiliar with certain sports and may desire to drop out after trying the sport. They may do so without penalty if they drop out prior to the first game. Players who quit will not be eligible for any potential refund of club dues. Any exceptions to this rule are subject to review by the Watchung Hills Ice Hockey Program President and League Director.
7. Sportsmanship: Any athlete who exhibits excessive unsportsmanlike behavior shall be ineligible to participate in the next regularly scheduled game. Repeat offenders may be removed from the team for the entire season. The Coach and League Director will be involved in extenuating circumstances.
8. If a team member is not functioning with a positive attitude and becoming a disruption to the team, a formal meeting will be held with the coach/league director and the player to correct the situation. The coach/league director may suspend the player for a period of time. If the condition continues, the individual may be terminated from the team.
9. Alcohol and Substance Abuse: The use, possession, sale or distribution of tobacco, tobacco products, alcoholic beverages, illegal drugs or performance enhancing substances, or drug paraphernalia is a violation of the Watchung Hills Ice Hockey Program Athletic Code of Conduct. This policy is consistent with the Watchung Hills Regional High School Student Handbook and with the exception that the Watchung Hills Ice Hockey Program Code extends to all student activities on and off school property while in season. The loitering of a student athlete in the vicinity where alcohol or drugs are used, possessed, sold or distributed illegally is also a violation of the Code of Conduct. Players that find themselves in a compromising situation with regard to this section of the Code shall immediately remove themselves from the situation. On ice performance will only be degraded through the use of these substances and violations will not be tolerated.

SELF-ADMITTANCE – A Student-athlete may self-admit a substance violation incident to the League Director/Coach and face no penalty. This is a onetime offer only and may not be used to avert a penalty that has been or will be discovered through “normal” occurrences, i.e. the police have already made an arrest or citation. Once the athlete has come forward, the student-athlete will call a team meeting prior to the next scheduled practice or game. Student-athlete will explain why the Code violation occurred and his reasoning for the violation. The student – athlete will commit to his teammates and coach that another event will not occur. If, another event occurs, the event will be treated as a second offense with stern consequences. The self-admittance program is designed to offer to the student-athletes a tool to help foster good decision making throughout their life and to be accountable for their actions.

10. **Community Representation:** Athletes are role models who should represent their team, the Watchung Hills Ice Hockey Program, Watchung Hills Regional High School, and community in a positive manner. Consequently, any inappropriate or unlawful action committed by an athlete on or off school property is subject to penalty. Such penalties may include suspension from the team. If in the discretion of a coach or director a student’s citizenship or image is extremely poor, a conference will be held with the student, his/her parents, Club officials if applicable. Consideration will be made at that time to the student’s future participation on Watchung Hills Ice Hockey Program teams. It is expected that these conferences will rarely occur.
11. **Academic ineligibility:** Philosophy- All parties (school personnel, parents, and student’s and fans of Watchung Hills Ice Hockey Program) acknowledge that academic endeavors have priority over athletics and extra-curricular activities. Participation in these activities is an honor and a privilege. The Watchung Hills Ice Hockey Program recognizes that while extra-curricular activities provide opportunity for personal improvement, contribution to the school, self-realization of potential, and education of the whole person, participation in these activities cannot take precedence over academic pursuits. Every effort must be made to keep grades stable or improving.

I have read, understand, and support the rules and expectations governing my participation in the Watchung Hills Ice Hockey Program. In signing this contract, I am agreeing to abide by the rules and regulations set forth in Watchung Hills Regional High School Student Handbook (High School players) and the Watchung Hills Ice Hockey Program Athletic Code of Conduct. I further agree to abide by any approved training rules set forth by my coach. In signing this contract, I understand that my signature as well as those of my parents will be valid for the current season which I choose to participate in the Watchung Hills Ice Hockey Program.

Student Signature _____ Date _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

