

# WEBUTUCK ATHLETIC HANDBOOK



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HOME OF THE WILDCATS

Webutck High School and Eugene Brooks Intermediate School

Department of Athletics

Handbook

Home of the Wildcats

Revised as of August 1, 2023

The Webutuck Central School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, disability, or for any reason under any circumstance.

## FORWARD

The Webutuck Athletic Department Handbook is a reference guide for coaches, student-athletes, and parents/guardians. The purpose of this document is to state the policies that govern interscholastic athletics for our school district, student-athletes, and coaches in accordance with the rules, laws, and bylaws of the Mid-Hudson Athletic League (MHAL), Section IX, and the New York State Public High School Athletic Association (NYSPHSAA). The rules and regulations stated in this document are intended to help facilitate the organization and administration of all teams for club, modified, junior varsity, and varsity levels. Flexibility and discretionary power is provided to the district administration, including the director of physical education and athletics, athletic director, and for all coaches at all levels.

The athletic mission of the Webutuck Athletic Department remains indispensable to the structure provided in this handbook. Coaches, student-athletes, and parents/guardians should view this handbook as the foundation and guiding resource for understanding district, section, and state policies. It is also the blueprint for expectations regarding etiquette, conduct, and the various responsibilities each party is required to adhere to while representing the Webutuck Wildcats in any capacity or role. Sound reasoning, good judgment, and compliance to the school's core values are the standard by which circumstances outside these stated regulations are both honored and evaluated.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph Lasaponara – Athletic Director

Matthew Pascale – Director of Physical Education and Athletics

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## STATEMENT OF PURPOSE:

### PHILOSOPHY -

The Webutuck Central School district strongly supports the commitment to interscholastic athletic programs and acknowledges athletic participation and sports teams as a critical educational component. Amateur athletics provide a wonderful and unique platform, for those students who seek this privilege, as a key building block of student life at Webutuck. Secondary school educators have long recognized the educational value in balancing academics with clubs, activities, and athletics. High school sports are conducted in all 50 states in a variety of formats for teams and individuals. For the participants, sports provide the conduit for individuals to develop skills and abilities essential to becoming well-rounded and finding success in life – all while exploring the principles of competition, commitment, and responsibility. Athletic participation, when given the proper support, undoubtedly develops and enhances many values that are beneficial to the physical and mental wellbeing of our children. Young men and women develop physically, mentally, emotionally, and socially through voluntary participation in properly organized interscholastic athletic programs.

Specifically, the improvement of character and physical skills, along with the opportunities for success and the development of behaviors that pursue excellence, both individually and collectively, are all advantages associated with athletic participation.

The Webutuck Athletic Department parallels the district goals of seeking the highest standards of growth, achievement, and accomplishment across all disciplines. The athletic programs and coaching staff seek to create an environment in which students can cultivate themselves individually as athletes and collectively as components on various teams. Webutuck coaches seek to challenge and develop our student-athletes within this environment utilizing positive coaching techniques, personalized praise, and careful, considerate assessments of both growth and deficiencies. In return, Webutuck student-athletes are expected to demonstrate that a pursuit of excellence in athletics is fully compatible with the pursuit of excellence in the classroom, and that a combination of the two endeavors lends itself to a more complete educational experience.

The Webutuck Athletic Department supports a comprehensive menu of athletic activities and encourages all students to participate regardless of their level of athletic ability. By learning to think critically, withstand pressure, develop respect of self and others, adapt to change, respect authority, and hold ourselves and others to high ethical and educational standards, student-athletes and coaches often accomplish the more difficult task: discovering a fundamental worth that transcends athletic performances.

The Webutuck Central School District encourages the active involvement of the greater Amenia, Milleton, and Wassauc communities to be supportive and active participants of the Webutuck Wildcats. The excitement generated through sporting events has the ability to create a bond between our school and the community that is truly important and unique. We want every community member to be proud of our school, the student-athletes, and coaches who represent Webutuck and local communities throughout our conference and throughout the state.

The ultimate goal of the athletic program is to strive for excellence, not perfection. We cannot ask our student-athletes to be perfect, but we ask them to strive to perform to the best of their abilities displaying honor, class, and integrity, while setting the standard for good sportsmanship. The true reward of participation in sports are entirely intrinsic and do not require trophies or accolades to be displayed or rewarded. The student-athlete will find the reward within himself or herself by fully engaging in the experience of competitive, team sports.

### CORE VALUES:

The Webutuck Athletic Department believes in the following:

- Student-athletes should aim for both academic and athletic excellence each day, one day at a time.
- Learning experiences are not restricted to the classroom.
- Confidence is built through learning and achievement by positive reinforcement *and* constructive criticism.
- We teach, coach, learn, and perform to the fullest extent of our abilities *and* acknowledge our errors.
- All individuals deserve to be treated with dignity and respect.
- Taking initiative should be encouraged for all student athletes *and* includes the important component of self-reflection and assessment.
- Individuals should take responsibility for their actions with moral courage *and* personal integrity while maintaining discipline and composure.

#### MISSION STATEMENT:

The Webutuck Athletic Department is fully devoted to the academic mission of our school district. The athletic programs are a unique privilege and an extension of the classroom. It is not a right of students to participate nor is athletics a diversion or excuse from academic obligations. With this in mind, our athletic program abides by the following guidelines:

All members of the Webutuck Wildcats will aim for excellence in academic endeavors. We recognize that fostering a climate that promotes intellectual, social, and emotional growth is the shared responsibility of students, faculty, administrators, support staff, parents and the community-at-large. We challenge all members of our school community to practice self-discipline, exhibit respectful behavior, celebrate achievements, and demonstrate a commitment to learning as a lifelong process.

#### RISK FACTOR IN SPORTS:

Participation in sports involves a certain degree of risk for injury. Before going out for a team, students should be aware of the risk so each will be better able to reduce chances for injury. Preseason conditioning, learning the skills and techniques, and knowledge of rules and safety factors aid students toward having a healthy season. Sustaining injuries are also reduced by staying active throughout the year. Webutuck offers various sports over three different seasons. Students who are more active in conditioning, open-gym sessions, and engaged in athletics from one season to the next physically increase muscle growth as well as athletic skill development.

#### SPORTS AT WEBUTUCK:

Complete list of all sport for each of the three seasons at all levels of play -

##### **Fall offerings**

- Cross Country (Varsity and Modified) – Boys and Girls
- Golf (Varsity) – Boys and Girls
- Soccer (Varsity, Junior Varsity, and Modified) – Boys and Girls (No JV for Girls)

- Volleyball (Varsity and Modified) Girls

Please note: → Modified programs are for grades 7 & 8

→ Junior Varsity programs are for grades 9 & 10.

→ Varsity programs are for grades 11 & 12.

\*\* Students in grades 7 or 8 who meet the Athletic Placement Process (APP) may play up at the Junior Varsity or Varsity levels; this is also applicable for older students in grades 11 & 12 who seek to qualify for placement at the JV level only. The vast majority of APP requests, however, are cases applied toward students in grades 7 or 8 who seek to play up at the JV or V level. The APP process is an option for all athletic seasons in all athletic offerings. (For the NYSPHSAA rule book regarding the APP, please go to the following link: <http://www.nysphsaa.org/Resources/Handbook> and scroll to page 12.)

### **Winter Offerings**

- Basketball (Varsity, Junior Varsity and Modified) Boys and Girls (No JV for Girls)
- Cheer (Varsity) Co-Ed
- Track – Indoor (Varsity) Boys and Girls

### **Spring Offerings**

- Baseball (Varsity and Modified) – Boys
- Softball (Varsity and Modified) – Girls
- Track – Outdoor (Varsity and Modified) – Boys and Girls

\*\* Any athletic offering that does not have a competitive equivalent may have a student-athlete request a Mixed Competition approval. Mixed Competition is a process for reviewing the ability of a male or female to compete on a team that does not have an equivalent. One of the more common examples in Section IX would be a female wanting to play football or lacrosse or a male wanting to play field hockey or volleyball. (For the NYSPHSAA rule book regarding Mixed Competition, please go to the following link: <http://www.nysphsaa.org/Resources/Handbook> and scroll to page 11.)

GOVERNING BODIES:

NEW YORK STATE PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION (NYSPHSAA) governs The Webutuck Central School District, and is a unit member of Section IX and the Mid-Hudson Athletic League (MHAL). As a full member of this state association we are governed by the rules and regulations set forth by NYSPHSAA and the MHAL.

About the NYSPHSAA -

The New York State Public High School Athletic Association Inc. is a non-profit, voluntary, educational service organization composed of public, parochial, and private schools dedicated to providing equitable and safe competition for the students of its member schools. Membership is open to secondary schools providing interschool athletic activities for boys and girls in grades 7-12.

The Association serves as a central organization through which its member high schools in the state may cooperate to:

- Encourage as many pupils as possible to participate in athletic games
- Promote sportsmanlike conduct in all athletic contests
- Maintain essential minimum standards of eligibility
- Provide means to settle disputed athletic contests amicably and authoritatively
- Conduct appropriate athletic meets and tournaments
- Cooperate with the State Education Department in fostering educationally sound athletic programs
- Adapt rules governing sports contests to the particular conditions governing high school competition
- Continually seek data to support rule changes leading to greater safety for high school athletes

About Section IX and the MHAL -

A united and concerted action on the part of all school members to Section IX is necessary to have a successful program of Interscholastic Athletics. Section endeavors are geared to provide all children in the athletic community with an inspiration and an environment best adapted to wholesome growth and development, stressing our belief in the democratic way of life and encouraging mental and physical alertness and independent thinking. It is thus the philosophy of the section that we attempt through athletics to provide an educational experience to assist students in becoming contributing members of society.

Compatible with this philosophy, it is the firm belief of Section IX and New York State Public High School Athletic Association, that:

1. All students are important, and meeting the needs and interests of all students is the challenge to all within the educational community.
2. To appropriately meet the needs and interests of the many public schools of our section, we must provide activities that are coordinated, serviced, and controlled by our schools, leagues and section.
3. All schools appreciate that all cannot be totally satisfied on any given issue; however, all schools through an active system of representation and cooperation can assist in developing sound educational policies for athletic activities.



4. It is of primary importance of the section to organize responsibility and authority within this complex program. Also, it is the effectiveness of such organization that contributes to establishing a pattern for a "statewide" program of interscholastic activities.

#### CERTIFICATION OF A TEAM MEMBER:

#### REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICIPATION -

A student must be eligible according to NYSPHSAA Eligibility Rules and those of the Webutuck Central School District in order to be a candidate for a modified, junior varsity, or varsity team. The head coaches of all programs will conduct a preseason meeting with all team candidates and parents/guardians to communicate expectations, team rules, and responsibilities. The following documents must be on file with the athletic department before participation on any athletic team is allowed (including tryouts (when applicable and practices):

- Documentation of a current physical exam performed by a physician, physician's assistant or nurse practitioner must be on file. While participating on an interscholastic athletic team, a student must maintain a current physical at all times. Once a student's physical exam is older than thirteen months, the physical is considered to be out of date and the student is no longer eligible to participate even if the physical expires during the middle of the season. You may check with the school nurse to see if there is a current physical on file.
- Registration for athletics is required before the season begins. Go to <https://www.familyid.com/organizations/webutuck-athletics> to register for athletic teams.

#### ELIGIBILITY:

These standards are the rules of the New York State Public High School Athletic Association, Inc. Athletes must meet all standards of eligibility for practice and competition. "All schools agree to abide by the minimum eligibility rules adopted by the Central Committee in all interscholastic competitions." – NYSPHSAA, Inc., Constitution, Article II. (2).

1. AGE AND GRADE - Regulation of the Commissioner of Education A student shall be eligible for interschool competition in grades 9, 10, 11 and 12 until his/her nineteenth birthday. If the age of nineteen years is reached on or after July 1, the student may continue to participate during that school year in all sports. NOTE: Students may be eligible regardless of age or grade if they have been approved through the State Education Department's Athletic Placement Process. The 15-year-old below the 9th grade needs only to meet the Athletic Placement Process maturity standards to be eligible at the high school level. (Duration of Competition #8) Reporting Procedure: All violations shall be reported to the League and Section.

2. AMATEUR: - a. A student who represents a school in an interscholastic sport shall be an amateur in that sport. An amateur is one who engages in athletic competition solely for the pleasure of the activity and for the physical, mental, and social benefits derived from participation. When competing in non-NYSPHSAA sponsored events, an athlete forfeits amateur status in a sport by: 1. Competing for money or other compensation (allowable entry fees, travel, meals, and lodging expenses may be accepted.) 2. Receiving an award or prize of monetary value which has not been approved by this Association. NOTE: Only awards or prizes having a monetary value of two hundred fifty dollars (\$250) or less per competition will be approved by the Association. When honoring student-athletes for success in NYSPHSAA sponsored championship events, Boards of Education are encouraged to approve limited awards that are appropriate to high school level competition. 3. Capitalizing on athletic fame by receiving money or gifts of monetary value (scholarships to institutes of higher learning are specifically exempted). 4. Signing a professional playing contract in that sport. b. Instructing, supervising, or officiating in any organized youth sports

program, recreation, playground, or camp activities will not jeopardize amateur standing. Receiving compensation for officiating shall not affect amateur standing. c. A student who violates the above rule may apply to the league or to the designated body within that section for reinstatement one year from the date of the latest violation. Reporting Procedure: All violations shall be reported to the League and Section.

3. ASSUMED NAME - Participating under an assumed name in any athletic contest shall make the student/athlete ineligible for the remainder of that sport season. The Section may extend the period of ineligibility in that sport to one year from the date of violation. The coach responsible for the student's participation will be ineligible to coach for the remainder of the season and furthermore, the Section may extend the period of ineligibility as deemed appropriate.

4. BONA FIDE STUDENTS - Regulation of the Commissioner of Education - A contestant must be a bona fide student of the high school represented and must be taking at least four subjects including Physical Education. A foreign exchange student may be considered a bona fide student if all of these eligibility rules are satisfied. A student in an education program in two schools may represent only the home school. NOTE: A student in shared services, part-time or full-time program, taking the equivalent of four subjects including Physical Education, is considered as being registered in the home school. Exceptions for special cases must be approved by League and Section. A student who satisfies all eligibility standards, enrolled in the equivalent of three requirements for graduation, may be enrolled in one or more college courses for advance placement. The student must be earning a minimum of three high school credits and Physical Education to be eligible. For assistance in determining the eligibility of students enrolled in a GED program, please contact the NYSPHSAA office.

In addition to meeting the rules put forth by NYSPHSAA, students must also meet the district standards:

1. he/she is under 19 years old as of July 1 of the school year.
2. he/she is passing a minimum of academic credits.
3. he/she has not been ejected from a contest by an official more than once during the current season.
4. he/she has not violated athletic rules, including NYSPHSAA rules and individual team rules presented by the coach to his or her players.
5. he/she has met other school obligations, such as serving after-school detention or academic work sessions prior to attending the athletic event for that day.

You are not eligible:

1. If you are not a student currently enrolled in the Northeast Central School District.
2. If you do not currently live with your legal parent(s)/ guardian.
3. If you transferred from one high school to another, you are ineligible to participate in any interscholastic athletic contest at any level for a period of one year in all sports in which you participated at any level during the one year period preceding the transfer.
4. If you were "persuaded" or influenced to transfer to your present school by a coach, athletic director, principal, or other person connected with the school.

5. If you were disqualified from a competition, including a scrimmage, you may not participate in the next scheduled interscholastic competition that is part of their regular season schedule, or in tournament play. The disqualified student athlete is ineligible to participate in any contest at the same level of play in that sport until the next contest.

6. If you physically assault an official, you are ineligible in all sports for one year.

7. If you willfully, flagrantly, or maliciously attempt to injure an opponent, you will be immediately excluded from participation in that sport for one year. Waiver of certain NYSPHSAA Eligibility Rules may be submitted, allowing a student-athlete to participate. Students who wish to apply for a waiver of an eligibility rule should meet with the athletic director several weeks prior to the start of the season in question. The violation of any eligibility rule may result in forfeiture of a game won or tied. If, in your opinion, there is any doubt concerning your eligibility, consult the athletic director. The rules apply to all teams and both to boys and girls sports. The Eligibility Committee of Section IX will resolve all questions on eligibility as well.

#### ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY:

##### **Grades**

##### **Eligible**

Students who are passing all courses on their reports are considered eligible student athletes. They are able to fully participate in all extra-curricular activities without restriction.

##### **Probationary**

Students who are failing one course (5 week Report or Report Card) are considered to be on Probationary Status. These students may continue to participate in all team activities including games and practices given the expectation that a Weekly Eligibility Card is submitted once a week over a two week period. Weekly Eligibility Cards will be available in the WHS, EBIS, or Athletic Office. This Weekly Eligibility Card serves as a check in on the student's grades. After two cards have been submitted indicating that the student is in good academic standing, the probationary status will be lifted and the student will return to eligible status. The card must be given to the coach who will then submit it to the Athletic Director or Building Principal.

##### **Restricted**

Students who are failing two or more courses on their report(s) are considered to be on Restricted Status. Student-athletes are not permitted to participate in **ANY** team activities for a two week period. During this two week period, students need to complete a Daily Eligibility Card that represents their daily participation and work completion from each class. Should the student-athlete not be in good standing at the conclusion of the two week period, they will be removed from the team roster for the remainder of the season. If, however, the student-athlete is failing one class at the end of the two week period they will be reverted back to Probationary Status.

##### **Ineligible**

If a student fails three or more courses, he/she will be removed from the roster for that season and will not be permitted to try out for another team until the ineligible status has been lifted through good academic status.

**Daily Attendance, Homeroom, Class Cuts** - Students are expected to attend all scheduled periods during the school day. Athletes must be in school and report to all periods in order to practice or play on that day. Exceptions such as doctor's appointments and college visits must be cleared by the athletic director AND coach in advance, whenever possible, or with an appropriate school administrator. Student-athletes who skip classes will be disciplined by the building principal and will be ineligible for the athletic event on that day.

**Absence and Tardy** - Any student absent from school for any reason may not participate in a practice or a contest on the day of the absence, unless approved in advance by the principal or athletic director. Tardy students must be in school no later than 11:00 AM in order to be eligible for a practice or game the day of the late arrival. Coaches will make every attempt to check the daily school attendance of their student-athletes. The principal or athletic director determines eligibility and may review absences, dismissals, and tardiness for reasons other than medical. Planned absence requests should be submitted at least twenty-four hours in advance to the athletic director. Students absent on a Friday will be not be eligible to compete during the weekend unless they have obtained approval in advance from the athletic director. The athletic director will decide the athlete's eligibility for a practice or contest. The athletic director's decision may be appealed to the principal or other school administrators. The athletic department reserves the right to remove a student from a team for excessive cuts or truancy and may reinstate the student upon sufficient evidence of improvement. High school students who are authorized to sign themselves out and leave campus *without* authorization from the director or athletics, athletic director or principal, *will not* be eligible to participate for that day, be it a practice or game.

**Time Spent in the School Health/Nurse's Office** - Students who spend excessive time in the nurse's office during the school day due to illness may not be allowed to participate in athletic activities on that day. A member of the athletic department will check the nurse attendance log daily.

**Early Dismissal** - Certain away games will require early dismissal from classes. A list of these dismissal times and bus departure times will be available to all teams on the "schedules" link on the website. Final permission to leave classes for early dismissal rests with the principal. It is essential that the teams are prepared to leave on the early buses at the scheduled time(s). Students should have all essential equipment with them and proceed directly from class to the locker room. The athletic director will submit a list of players to be dismissed to the office for the daily bulletin or email distribution to teachers and other staff members. Coaches will update team rosters as necessary. Students are responsible for turning in and collecting all school related work assignments to teachers *prior* to leaving campus.

#### IN-SEASON ELIGIBILITY:

At Webutuck student-athletes are expected and encouraged to maintain the highest level of scholastic achievement possible. They are also expected to maintain the highest level of citizenship. To promote these goals the following policies are in effect:

#### APPEALS PROCEDURES FOR SUSPENSIONS/DISCIPLINARY MEASURES:

If a student-athlete receives a suspension and/or discipline related to conduct during a school-sanctioned athletic event or for conduct that violates the District's Code of Conduct, a student-athlete can appeal their suspension to the "Appeals Committee" of the District. The Appeals Committee will be composed with three (3) individuals, the Director of Physical Education & Athletics, the Athletic Director, and a teacher of the District.

First, to begin the appeals process, a student-athlete must submit a written appeal to a member of the Appeals Committee. Second, the Appeals Committee will have up to three (3) days to complete a thorough and proper

investigation of the facts surrounding the suspension and the written appeal submitted by the student-athlete. Third, the student-athlete and his/her parents or guardians have the option of having an in-person hearing in front of the Appeals Committee, on the date following the conclusion of the investigation, or the soonest practicable date after the conclusion of the investigation, to state their reasons why the Committee should reduce or lift the student-athlete's suspension/discipline. At the hearing, the Appeals Committee can issue a decision immediately, or may make a final decision within two (2) days after the in-person hearing. The Appeals Committee within its discretion can reduce or lift the suspension of the student-athlete, but can also deny the appeal and uphold the suspension. During the length of the appeal, the student-athlete may be suspended from all athletic contests and/or practices, subject to the discretion of the Appeals Committee.

#### SCHOOL DISCIPLINE/ACADEMIC OBLIGATIONS:

A student-athlete with a school disciplinary obligation is expected to fulfill the disciplinary obligation before reporting to an athletic practice and/or game. This supports the NYSPHSAA Good Citizen Rule. "Student-athletes may not represent their school if they are on in-school or out-of-school disciplinary suspension. A suspended student is ineligible for practice or competition for at least the number of days equal to the number of days of the suspension." Students cannot expect, and should not request, disciplinary action to be postponed or canceled for any athletic reason. The athletic department reserves the right to remove a student from a team for excessive disciplinary problems or character/citizenship issues and may reinstate the student upon sufficient evidence of improvement. It is expected that our athletes be model citizens both in and out of school; they will be held to high standards and should set a positive example for all students. Student-athletes with academic obligations reserve the right to attend after school sessions without facing punishment. Coaches should be informed as soon as reasonably possible when academic obligations may interfere with scheduled practices or games.

#### PHYSICAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENT:

Athletics is an outgrowth of the physical education program. The wide range of activities in physical education gives the students an excellent background in physical fitness, lifetime sports, and team sports. Because of the importance of physical education, all athletes will be required to participate in physical education throughout the year. ***There is no exemption from Physical Education classes because of participation on a team sport.*** Athletes who do not participate in physical education class will not be permitted to attend practices or games on the day of the absence.

#### ATHLETIC TEAM TRYOUTS:

Tryouts for programs are open to all students providing they have met the standards for participation. During the tryout period the coach must explain his/her expectations and the criteria they will use to select players for the team. It is the student-athlete's responsibility to demonstrate that they understand the information and can meet the criteria. It is the responsibility of each coach to evaluate and communicate with each student-athlete during the tryout period (a tryout should be no less than 3 and no more than 5 days) and decide which students will be placed on the team. In certain sports, more students try out than can be kept on a team. When this situation occurs coaches will cut players for whom a position on the team has not been secured. Cutting students is a difficult process and all coaches should realize that sensitivity and communication are essential when releasing a student-athlete from the final roster. Students who do not make the team should be informed in person by the coach. Coaches have discretionary authority in choosing their teams. Students cut from one team will be encouraged to try out for another team that does not hold tryouts, if one is available, during that same season.

#### SELECTIVE CLASSIFICATION:

The intent of this process is to provide “safe” and suitable participation in an appropriate level of competition for pupils in grades 7 and 8. In order to participate in high school sports as a middle school student, successful completion of the selective classification process mandated by NYSPHSAA is necessary.

Only the exceptional athlete should be considered for advancement. Selection Classification should not be used to fill out the roster of a varsity or a junior varsity team. The coach or physical education staff will recommend only exceptional athletes. The following procedures shall be employed: 1. All students will be informed of the Selective Classification via announcements at EBIS one month prior to the beginning of the high school sports season. 2. Letters and permission slips to participate in the process will be distributed by the athletic department through the school nurse. 3. Only those students who return permission slips will be scheduled for physicals prior to the administration of the Selective Classification Test. The school nurse will coordinate physicals. 4. Students who have a successful physical examination can then participate in the Selective Classification test, which will be administered by the athletic director or the athletic trainer. Students who do not pass all aspects of the Selective Classification test cannot participate in high school sports. 5. The athletic director will then notify those students who are eligible to try out for varsity teams. 6. Once an athlete passes the Selection Classification test, and makes the team on the high school level, he or she cannot go back to the modified team once the decision is made to participate on the high school team.

#### ATHLETIC TEAM SELECTION:

It is reasonable to expect that varsity teams will be comprised of the best players. It is also important to recognize that student-athletes who work hard and can contribute to a team’s success should also be given the opportunity to be on a varsity team. The athletic department must, therefore, work to balance desire and talent through a sincere effort to include as many student-athletes as possible within the varsity experience.

Players who have participated as members of junior varsity teams should be given every consideration to be on varsity the following season. However, a coach must evaluate that player’s attitude and effort against all other candidates for the team. Each season marks a new opportunity for all players, regardless of *prior performances*. Varsity and junior varsity team membership is an earned privilege, not a guaranteed entitlement for student-athletes who *participated the previous year*. Modified teams allow student-athletes to experience the privilege of playing organized team sports for the Webutuck Wildcats and team selection and participation are inclusive of all participants each season. Once a team has a final roster, coaches will be responsible for submitting active rosters to the athletic director and maintain the status of team members throughout the season.

#### LOYALTY TO THE TEAM:

##### BONA FIDE TEAM MEMBERS -

A bona fide member of the school team is a student who is *consistently* present for, and *actively* participates in all team sessions. (This includes, but is not limited to, tryouts when applicable, practices, games, community service, etc.) Bona fide members of a school team are prohibited from missing a practice or competition in order to participate in a non-school athletic activity/event in any sport recognized by NYSPHSAA or Section IX. This is applicable to any AAU, travel, club, town, or other outside groups and organizations. Coaches reserve the right to disciplinary measures if a student-athlete knowingly and willingly violates this policy. First Offense: Student-athlete may be suspended up to 25% of the season. Second Offense: Student-athlete may be suspended for an additional 25% of the season, and may be deemed ineligible for league and sectional play immediately upon confirmation of the violation.

## SPORTSMANSHIP/BEHAVIOR –

Student-athletes who chose to participate in athletics represent themselves as players, as members of a team, and the Webutuck Central School District. In order for good sportsmanship to prevail, coaches, student-athletes, parents and fans must display respect, fairness, civility, honesty, and responsibility. These values and actions are expected to be exhibited before, during, and after all athletic contests by student-athletes and coaches. We encourage student athletes to enthusiastically support their team, recognize outstanding performance of opponents, and always exhibit good sportsmanship in their words and actions. Profanity, derogatory comments, racial or ethnic slurs, intimidating words or actions directed at officials, other student-athletes, coaches, team representatives, or other spectators that are hurtful and discriminatory will not be tolerated and are grounds for immediate disciplinary actions. Student-athletes are expected to foster an environment of unity within all program offerings at Webutuck. While the athletic department recognizes that sports can bring about intense exchanges and, at times, dissention within a team, it is up to the department and the coaches to set the standard for student-athletes to model. The department also encourages team captains and veteran players to exhibit positive sportsmanship at all times to teammates, teachers, school staff members and the greater community at all times.

## DAILY/WEEKLY COMMITMENT -

During tryouts and after team selections, the head coach will explain expectations related to practice times, locations, and game schedules. Student-athletes at the varsity level are expected to make at least a six-day, two- to three-hour daily commitment to the team each week. Poor, inconsistent attendance will have an impact on playing time, and may extend to membership on the team. At the junior varsity levels most teams do not regularly practice or play on weekends, but student-athletes may expect practices or games during the school week. Junior varsity athletes should expect that, from time to time, practices or games may have to be played on the weekend depending on scheduling or other unforeseen circumstances. Normally, daily practices will consist of an average of two hours of team activity per day taking place sometime between 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. The preparation times before and after practices or games can bring the average total time to three hours per day. At the varsity level, weekend and/or evening practices and games are more commonplace, and student-athletes should expect scheduling during these times. Because many of our teams share facilities practice and game hours may vary considerably; weather is always a factor to consider as well. Coaches will provide a schedule of all levels, in all sports, of practices and games. Student-athletes may be expected to provide their own transportation to and from practices when bus transportation is unavailable, especially weekend practice sessions. Transportation to away contests will always be provided by the district.

## PLAYING TIME:

There are many benefits to be gained by participation in athletics at the high school level. Young people learn the values associated with discipline, performing under stress, coping, teamwork, sacrifice, commitment, effort, accountability, citizenship, sportsmanship, confidence, leadership, organizational skills, participating within the rules, physical well-being, and striving toward excellence. Although there are many measures of success in the minds of each participant, perhaps the most emotional is "playing time" during contests. Playing time at the varsity and junior varsity levels is not guaranteed. At the junior varsity level, however, coaches are encouraged to play all rostered athletes as regularly as possible. Student-athletes not satisfied with playing time should request to meet with the coach. After meeting with the coach a student-athlete will then have the option of requesting a meeting with an administrator from the athletic department if he/she remains unsatisfied.

## MODIFIED AND JUNIOR VARSITY TEAMS -

At the modified level the emphasis is on participation. The emphasis on a junior varsity team is balanced between participation and winning, but there is no correlation of the two at the modified level. Coaches will make a conscious effort to play all team members for as much time as practical in all contests. There are many factors that govern an individual's playing time but perhaps the most important are practice attendance, quality of effort, attitude, commitment, and response to instructions.

#### VARSITY TEAMS -

While coaches at the varsity level will make an effort to play all team members, the emphasis at the varsity level shifts toward fielding competitive teams with the goal of winning as many games as possible, culminating in league, section, or state titles. This emphasis may result in uneven playing time among the student-athletes, with some not playing in every game. The coach makes the often-difficult decisions of who starts, who plays and for how long. Note: When the coach feels that the winning or losing of a particular contest is not in doubt, the coach shall make every effort to insert as many players as possible, especially those who typically see less playing time. As with the modified and junior varsity levels, playing time at the varsity level will be based on practice attendance, quality of effort, attitude, commitment, and response to instructions. Athletic abilities are also a factor of consideration at the varsity level.

#### SCHOOL/FAMILY VACATIONS, EXTENDED ABSENCES, CONFLICT WITH SCHOOL EVENTS:

Every team member is expected to be present for all team practices and contests. Due to scheduling parameters teams, at times, practice and/or play during scheduled school vacations and/or holidays. Although extended absences are discouraged, the athletic department recognizes that certain circumstances do require them. Student-athletes who anticipate being absent from team activities for an extended period of time due to family vacation plans, religious obligations, school sanctioned activities or college visitations are expected to contact their coaches to discuss absences *before* making plans. If the student-athlete contacts the coach and the coach feels an absence is excused, they can expect to return from such absences as a team member in good standing. It is the discretion of the coach whether or not the status of the student-athlete, with respect to playing time, changes as a result of the absence. Although practices may be conducted on religious or school holidays, athletic practices are not mandatory on religious holidays and games are rarely scheduled. There will be no penalty for missing practice on a religious holiday. Coaches should be notified in advance if a student-athlete will not be at a practice or game due to a religious commitment. Sometimes student-athletes are involved in many school-sanctioned activities and sometimes these activities conflict with their athletic commitment. Student-athletes who recognize that such a conflict may exist should also notify their coach well in advance of any absence. If the student-athlete, parent, and coach cannot reach a satisfactory agreement concerning extended absences due to school-sanctioned activities in advance of the absence, please refer to the section on Conflict Resolution for guidance.

#### COMMUNICATION:

Both parenting and coaching are extremely challenging responsibilities. By establishing an understanding of each position, we are better able to accept the actions of the other and provide greater benefit to our student athletes. For the Webutuck Athletic Department to be successful, communication is vital. This requires involvement, dedication, and commitment from parents, student-athletes, and coaches.

#### COMMUNICATION EXPECTED FROM COACHES

- Philosophy of the coach



- Expectations the coach has for student-athletes
- Locations and times of practices and contests
- Team requirements including special equipment needed, user fees, consent forms, team rules, practice organization and out-of-season conditioning
- Procedure followed should a student-athlete be injured during practice or games
- Any discipline that may result in denial of participation

#### COMMUNICATION COACHES SHOULD EXPECT FROM PARENTS

- Concerns expressed directly to the coach (see Conflict Resolution below)
- Notification of any scheduling conflicts well in advance
- Specific concern in regard to a coach's philosophy and/or expectations

#### CONFLICT RESOLUTION:

As student-athletes become involved in the athletics at Webutuck, they will experience some of the most rewarding moments of their lives. It is important to understand that there also may be times when things do not go as anticipated. Issues concerning team selection, playing time or award recognition can become highly emotional. It is important to address these issues as soon as possible and in appropriate fashion.

#### THE FIRST COURSE OF ACTION -

As a general rule, if a student-athlete has a conflict or concern, he/she should request a meeting between the student-athlete and the coach. This promotes responsibility, independence and self-reliance.

#### THE NEXT STEP -

If the meeting between the coach and student-athlete does not result in a satisfactory resolution to the problem a conference between the coach and the parent is encouraged. The following procedure should be followed to promote resolution: 1. Call the Athletic Department to set up an appointment. 2. If the coach cannot be reached, speak to the athletic director to arrange a return call from the coach or to set a meeting. 3. The athletic director will sit in, if necessary, to help mediate a resolution. 4. Don't call a coach at home unless he/she has clearly made a telephone number available. 5. Please do not attempt to confront a coach before, during, or after a contest or practice. A 24 hour rule will allow both parties to spend time reflecting on any conflict or issue prior to communication taking place. These can be emotional situations for both the parent and the coach. Meeting or confrontations under these circumstances do not promote resolution.

#### APPROPRIATE CONCERNS TO DISCUSS WITH A COACH -

- Treatment by the coach toward your student-athlete
- Suggestions on better interactions
- Concerns about behavior of your student-athlete

#### ISSUES INAPPROPRIATE TO DISCUSS WITH A COACH -

It is very difficult to accept a student-athlete not playing as much as anticipated. Coaches are professionals. They make judgment decisions based on what they believe to be best for all students involved. The following list is left to the discretion of the coach and is not appropriate to discuss:

- Playing time at the varsity level
- Team strategy
- Play calling
- Other student-athletes

#### GAME DAY EXPECTATIONS

The Webutuck Central School District expects all parties attending a contest to display the highest possible level of sportsmanship. Players, coaches, parents, and spectators should treat opponents, game officials and visiting spectators with respect. Cheer for your team, **never** against the opponent. The NYSPHSAA reserves the right to "warn, censure, place on probation, or suspend up to one calendar year any player, team, coach, game or school official, or school determined to be acting in a manner contrary to the standards of good sportsmanship." Webutuck, in turn, reserves the right to impose the same penalties on spectators displaying poor sportsmanship at any of our contests, home and away, who represent Webutuck.

#### HAZING:

Hazing is prohibited by NYSPHSAA and is forbidden at the Webutuck Central School District. Hazing is defined as "...any conduct or method of initiation into any student organization...which willfully or recklessly endangers the physical or mental health of any student or other person. Examples of hazing include, but are not limited to, beating, branding, forced calisthenics, exposure to weather, forced consumption of any food, liquor or beverage, drug or other substances or any other brutal treatment or forced physical activity which physically endangers someone or subjects them to extreme mental stress..." Incidents of hazing or suspected incidents of hazing must be reported to an administrator as soon as possible.

#### SEXUAL HARASSMENT/DISCRIMINATION

All coaches are required to be DASA (Dignity for All Students Act) certified by New York State Education. Link for DASA information - <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/dignityact/> DASA prohibits any form of harassment or discrimination and the Department of Athletics at Webutuck will strictly enforce all regulations mandated by DASA.

#### CHEMICAL HEALTH:

**Student (and Coach) Eligibility** – (Chemical Health/Alcohol/Drugs/Tobacco) From the earliest fall practice date through the end of the academic year or final athletic competition of the year, whichever is later, a student shall not, regardless of the quantity, use, consume, possess, buy/sell, or give away any beverage containing alcohol; any tobacco product (including "e-cigarettes" or vaping devices of every kind); marijuana; steroids; or any controlled substance as defined by federal law. 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

primary care physician or other administering medical professional. A student who is found to be in the presence of illegal substance use is also subjected to this rule and may violate athletic eligibility with Webutuck subject to a conclusive investigation. If a student in violation of this rule is unable to participate in interscholastic sports due to injury or academics, the penalty will not take effect until that student is able to participate.

#### STUDENT-ATHLETE LEADERSHIP:

**TEAM CAPTAINS** - Coaches decide how team captains are selected. Captains may be elected by the team or appointed by the coach. Coaches may elect captains at the end of a season, or sometime prior to the first contest of the following season. Captains may also be elected or appointed on a game-by-game basis. The coach will inform the team as to how captains will be selected. It is expected that team captains be leaders of their team and be ready to assume duties as outlined by the coach. They are expected to be well aware of the team rules and all student-athlete responsibilities. Captains are expected to communicate with the coach, team, and the athletic director in the event any problems may manifest or affect the team or its members. Captains may be asked to meet with the athletic director during the school year to discuss the athletic program. Out of season "captain's practices" are a violation of NYSPHSAA Rules and not sanctioned by the Webutuck Central School District or Section IX. Captains of teams may be relieved of their position for violation of team, department, school or district rules. All captains are required to watch the Captain's Club video on the NYSPHSAA website and attempt to adopt the core values therein: <http://www.nysphsaa.org/Educational-Programs/Student-Leadership>

#### ATHLETIC AWARDS:

Coaches, under the guidance of the athletic department, will establish the criteria for athletic awards. The criteria are sport specific. Student managers are eligible for varsity letters. Students who participate in athletics at Webutuck may qualify for a variety of awards such as certificates, plaques, and trophies.

#### TYPES OF AWARDS:

Trophies/Plaques: Every varsity team has three awards that may be given to individuals at the conclusion of each season. Sportsmanship, Unsung Hero/Most Improved, and Most Valuable Player are the type of awards players are honored with for each varsity team. Awards are given out at the conclusion of each season. The coach of each team is responsible for designating which student-athlete receives each award.

#### COMMUNITY SERVICE:

The Webutuck Department of Athletics identifies the significance student-athletes contribute to any community. In a desire to seek self-improvement across every aspect of athletics, part of that growth is, inevitably, channeled through service to others. Each team will be required to perform a community service project or event. These projects will be the initiative of the players. Team captains are required to bring forth ideas for approval to the department of athletics within the first two weeks of each season. The role of the coach(es) will be to carve out one day away from the routines of practices and drills to provide the time for the project to be completed. The idea behind community service aligns itself to the district requirement for all seniors to complete 50 hours of service prior to graduation from the high school. True service to others does not necessitate an elaborate or expensive plan. Rather, it is the giving of time and energy to others that matters most. Whether a team wants to spend time with or make a meal for a community member who might be ill or they offer tutoring services to younger students, or they hold a car wash and donate the proceeds to a locally approved organization, the return dividends of community service are innumerable.

#### TRANSPORTATION TO AND FROM CONTESTS:

The school provides bus transportation, or a suitable substitute, to away contests. For safety reasons, all team members are expected to travel to and from these contests using the school-provided transportation. Exceptions to this policy must be requested in writing to the coach and athletic director by a student-athlete's parent or designated guardian prior to the contest. Reasonable requests will be honored. Student-athletes may only be transported by parents/guardians unless a written or verbal request is made and approved by appropriate district administrators. Non-team members may occasionally be allowed to ride team transportation if room exists, the coach in charge has given approval, and prior written parent permission has been given to the coach or athletic director.

#### COLLEGE/CAREER GUIDANCE:

One of the most important decisions facing high school student-athletes is what to do with their lives after they graduate. The athletic director is able to assist all student-athletes with this extremely important decision. The athletic director may be able to answer questions, contact schools and/or coaches, send videotapes, if available, and write letters of recommendation on behalf of student-athletes. If a student-athlete's goal is to compete athletically at the collegiate level it is very important to be aware of the ever-changing National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) regulations. Copies of the latest NCAA regulations are available online at [www.ncaa.org](http://www.ncaa.org). The guidance department also has a wealth of information and experience on this topic. Please be familiar with these regulations and seek assistance as needed. The NCAA Clearinghouse is a central repository for information on high school curricula. The NCAA maintains this information to conduct evaluations of incoming college freshmen. The NCAA evaluates high school graduates' academic records in light of current NCAA initial-eligibility requirements. A prospective collegiate athlete needs to apply and receive a final certification by the Clearinghouse in order to participate in college athletics at the Division I or II levels. A student athlete does not need to apply if he or she will attend a junior college, NAIA or NCAA Division III institution. Students may get valuable information and forms at the NCAA website listed above.

#### ATHLETIC EQUIPMENT ISSUANCE:

The coach of the sport is responsible for the proper dissemination and collection of all equipment to the team members.

#### CARE OF EQUIPMENT:

Coaches will instruct their team members on the proper storage and care of all issued equipment with great emphasis on cleanliness. Equipment that is washable is to be taken home by the student to be laundered at least once a week. Coaches will enforce the rule that issued equipment is to be worn by students only at practices and games, not as an article of clothing for personal use. The Webutuck Central School District has invested a great deal of money in athletic equipment and care is an essential responsibility by coaches and student-athletes.

#### PLAYERS LEAVING TEAM:

If a player leaves the team during the season (injury, dropped from the team, quits the team, etc.) the player must return any equipment or uniform issued by the athletic department to the coach within 24 hours.

#### LOST/MISSING EQUIPMENT:

Student-athletes have an obligation and responsibility to properly care for and return of all issued equipment. Student-athletes failing to turn in all issued equipment, or returning equipment damaged through misuse, are responsible for the replacement cost for such equipment. Payment is required at the time of the loss. Payment must be received prior to the next season of athletic involvement, or graduation; whichever comes first. Student-athletes may not be allowed to try out for a team if they have an equipment obligation. The cost of lost items will be the sum of money to replace them (face value). Only a check will be accepted in payment of lost equipment. Checks are to be made out to Northeast Central Schools and provided to the athletic director. A receipt for payment will be issued.

#### END OF SEASON:

The coach is responsible for seeing that all items of equipment issued are turned in when appropriate. The athletic director will direct and assist the coach in the administrative procedures necessary to ensure proper distribution and collection of equipment, inventory and budgeting of all items will be properly executed at the end of each season.

#### ATHLETIC FACILITIES:

**LOCKER ROOMS** - Once team rosters are set, if not before, each team member will be expected to use an athletic locker. Students are expected to lock all personal items and team equipment in their own athletic lockers at all times. Students should never give their locker combination to anyone else. Experience has shown that most losses are due to lockers left open or unlocked. On road trips, when lockers are not available, it is highly recommended that students leave valuables at home or give them to parents for safekeeping at the game site. Students should avoid bringing large amounts of cash or other valuable personal items to school. Should a situation make these recommendations unavoidable, students are obligated to secure all items. On away trips, student-athletes should also avoid leaving personal valuables on the bus.

#### CARE OF FACILITIES -

Students are expected to treat all facilities, both home and away, with proper care. The Webutuck Central School District prides itself in the quality facilities that have been provided by taxpayers for use by our student-athletes. Only proper care and respect will keep our grounds and facilities in quality condition. Vandalism is cause for dismissal from a team and further disciplinary action by school administration. Teams are responsible for cleaning up the area around their bench and the locker room before leaving the premises after practice and games. Be especially vigilant about picking up water bottles from gyms and fields. All teams need to "police" areas prior to, and after, each use of any facility. The mindset must be to leave all areas in an excellent condition. Please do not leave water bottles or any snack bags, or other food items, anywhere other than a trash receptacle. **Athletic Shoes:** At no time should shoes with cleated soles be worn inside the building. Serious injury can occur from slipping on cement or tiled surfaces. **Weight Room:** The weight room is available to student-athletes with the supervision of their coach or other district approved personnel. Student-athletes wishing to use the weight room should coordinate a time with their coach or have approval from the athletic director. Engaging in a weight training and conditioning program is very much encouraged by the athletic department. Research and data clearly illustrate that appropriate weight training reduce the number of injuries while also fortifying an athlete's overall condition; specifically the endurance that is needed to compete over the course of an entire game and season.

#### ATHLETIC TRAINING SERVICES -

The Athletic Trainer (AT) works under the direction of the athletic department. The AT also acts as a liaison between athletes, coaches, parents, the athletic director, the school nurse, and many other medical professionals involved in

the overall medical care of our student-athletes. The hours vary seasonally, but are usually from 1:00 P.M. until the end of the last home practice session or home contest. The athletic training room is located in weight room near the entrance of the EBIS School. At certain times, the AT and facility are extremely busy. Access to the athletic training room and its services is limited to athletes who are there for care only. No cleats, food or drink, bags or coats are allowed in the athletic training room and appropriate behavior and language is expected. The athletic training program exists to help both rehabilitate and treat injuries, but also to prevent injuries as well; please take advantage of this outstanding service.

#### ATHLETIC INJURY -

In the event of an athletic injury, the AT is the primary responder and directs the course of action unless a physician is present. At away contests, if the AT is not present, the host school medical personnel, if present, should be given deference. If no medical personnel are present, members of the coaching staff are instructed to act within the scope of their first aid education and, if warranted, call for emergency care. After an injury, a student-athlete may not return to competition without clearance by the athletic trainer and/or doctor. The athletic department requires that the AT be informed of all injuries and conditions that may affect an athlete's ability to participate. If an athlete has been referred to an emergency room or to a physician, the athlete is required to bring any and all written medical clearance notes from the doctor that states he/she is cleared to return to play. Coaches need to know, acknowledge, and respect any student's health condition, e.g., asthma, diabetes, allergies (especially anaphylaxis type reactions) and be prepared. This information will be noted on FamilyID and coaches must seek out and engage the school nurse with any questions. They also need to know appropriate treatment protocols and procedures if a student-athlete is cleared but limitations have been set on exertion levels. Finally, the coach or representative staff member needs to complete a student accident injury report form as soon as possible after the injury occurs and submit the completed form to the Health Office.

#### MEDICAL AND HYDRATION:

The coaching staff for each individual sport is responsible for obtaining a properly stocked first aid kit and any coolers, cups, water bottles, ice chests, etc. from the athletic trainer or athletic director based on team needs. These items should be available at all games and practices. The kit should be inspected frequently by the coach and depleted items re-supplied through the athletic trainer at the request of the coach. It is each team's responsibility to provide water for hydration.

#### SOCIAL MEDIA:

Students with parental/guardian permission to utilize social media are encouraged to always exercise caution when participating in any form of social media or online communications, both within the school community and beyond. Students who participate in online interactions must remember that their content reflects upon the entire Webutuck school community and, as such, are subject to the same behavioral standards set forth in the Student Handbook. While accessing applications such as Face Book, Twitter, SnapChat, Instagram, Kik, etc. through cellular devices may be possible, students and parents are reminded the need to be mindful of an in compliance with the Webutuck School District policy on social media and technology. In addition to the regulations found within the handbook of each building, student-athletes at Webutuck are expected to abide by the following:

- To protect the privacy of Webutuck students and faculty, students may not, under any circumstances, create digital still photos, digital video, or audio recordings of other students, student-athletes, coaches, teachers, administrators or staff members on campus for online publication or distribution without the knowledge and consent of those being recorded or photographed.

- Students may not use social media sites to publish disparaging or harassing remarks about Webutuck faculty and staff members, athletic or academic school rivals, or any individual, organization, or entity.
- Students who choose to post editorial content to websites or other forms of online media must ensure that their submissions adhere to all aspects of the conduct code set forth by the district. Standards in this handbook for appropriate conduct apply to students who subscribe to and/or participate in social media networks such as Facebook, Twitter, Snapchat, Instagram or any other public or private internet site or application. If a student is found on any website or application to have represented himself/herself or the school in a manner that is deemed inappropriate or in violation of school standards, he/she may be subject to disciplinary action. Students should not initiate or accept social media relationship requests (also known as “friend” or “contact” requests) with faculty or staff members.

#### REPORTING ABUSE:

Due to the fast-paced nature of social media, participants are encouraged to immediately report any posts they deem inappropriate to appropriate school personnel. Please contact the athletic director with any concerns so that the issue may be dealt with in a timely fashion. A detailed description of the location of the post will be required. The following applies to all coaches and student athletes:

- It is imperative for student-athletes to be mindful of the social media policy that Webutuck has established for all students. Violation of the social media policy will result in corrective actions by the athletic department, or administration, when deemed necessary.
- Think before you press send to whatever site or application. Once a post, tweet or photo/video etc. is out there, it is out there for the entire world to see – forever.
- Coaches – please refrain from using social media in any manner that would be inappropriate with student-athletes. Remember, we should be friendly to our student-athletes; however, they are not our friends, peers, or associates. As such, social media should never be utilized to engage in unprofessional/personal communications with student-athletes.
- If social media and/or texting players and parents is to be used as a platform for communication, the content must remain in a professional, relevant context. (i.e. changes in times for scheduled practices or games, changes in venues, calling for a meeting, etc.) Coaches shall never negatively critique individual players or collective teams over social media. Such interactions should always occur in person and with appropriate members of the athletic department, or administration, when necessary.
- Coaches who violate these standards or misuse social media may be suspended from coaching or dismissed from coaching responsibilities after a complete investigation by district administration.
- Coaches need to be mindful and cognizant of what is posted to personal sites as well. It is vital to understand that, while freedom of speech and expression is granted, posts that include inappropriate content could be subject to corrective actions by the athletic department, or administration, if necessary.

#### CLOSING STATEMENT:

Twenty-plus pages of information may seem like a lot; and, frankly, it should be for our student-athletes. Not every student will choose to participate in athletics at Webutuck and it is an honor to wear the Wildcat name and colors. We have great expectations for our student-athletes and have every confidence those who decide to be a Wildcat will do so with great pride and inspiration. In almost every area of life, in all professions, and at every level, former athletes hold great positions of leadership. Athletics instills a variety of tremendous values; values that extend far beyond the time spent during these brief school years. Among these values, learning about what success necessarily embodies is at the top of the list. We define successes and measure achievements differently. Championships, awards, and other accolades do not delineate success. We are Wildcats, we are champions, and we are victorious because we are emboldened to always improve our efforts in every facet of life, modeling excellence and displaying compassion and integrity.

***“I've missed more than 9000 shots in my career. I've lost almost 300 games. 26 times, I've been trusted to take the game winning shot and missed. I've failed over and over and over again in my life. And that is why I succeed.” (Six-time NBA Champion and Basketball Hall of Famer, Michael Jordan)***

***“Sports teach you character; it teaches you to play by the rules, it teaches you to know what it feels like to win and lose. It truly teaches you about life.” (Former Number 1 ranked female tennis player, winner of 39 Grand Slam Titles and Tennis Hall of Famer, Billie Jean King)***

***“The way a team plays as a whole determines its success. You may have the greatest bunch of individual stars in the world, but if they don't play together, the club won't be worth a single dime.” (Seven-time World Series Champion and Baseball Hall of Famer, Babe Ruth)***

***“The world of sports knows no religious, racial or political differences. Athletes, from whatever land they come, speak the same language. The lessons of competition are***



*lessons for life.” (Former US Senator and United States Attorney General, Robert Kennedy)*

## **WELCOME TO THE WILDCAT FAMILY**