

WHITMORE LAKE MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL (6-12)

7430 WHITMORE LAKE ROAD

WHITMORE LAKE, MI 48189

(734) 449-4461 ext. 3005



2023-2024

ATHLETIC HANDBOOK

Introduction

Athletics is part of the total educational program of the Whitmore Lake Public Schools. Its purpose is to make positive contributions to the development of participants, spectators, school, and community.

The objective of the athletic program is to promote a series of athletic contests with other schools for the purpose of friendly rivalry, new friendships, improved playing skills, better community relations, and good sportsmanship.

Athletics is an integral part of any school program. Whitmore Lake Public Schools is extremely proud of our athletic teams and their past accomplishments. We need the cooperation of parents, community, staff and students with the implementation of the district's athletics policies to ensure continued success.

We consider being an athlete at Whitmore Lake a privilege, not a right, and expect our athletes to be good representatives of our community.

Athletics, like all other aspects of the Whitmore Lake Public School District, is governed by the Board of Education.

Any questions involving individual sports should be directed to the coach of the sport first and if more information is needed, then contact the athletic department:

Brad McCormack at (734) 449-4461 ext. 3005 or brad.mccormack@wlps.net

Whitmore Lake Interscholastic Program

Whitmore Lake High School (9-12) is a member of the Michigan Independent Athletic Conference (MIAC) consisting of the following schools: Southfield Christian, Plymouth Christian, Charyl Stockwell, Inter-City Baptist, Lutheran Northwest, Lutheran Westland, Novi Christian, The Roeper School, Clarenceville, Parkway Christian, Huron Valley Lutheran, Oakland Christian. A championship team trophy and individual medals are awarded by the conference each year to the championship team in all league-sanctioned varsity sports.

Whitmore Lake Middle School (6-8) is a member of the Michigan Independent Athletic Conference (MIAC) consisting of the following schools: Southfield Christian, Plymouth Christian, Charyl Stockwell, Inter-City Baptist, Lutheran Northwest, Lutheran Westland, Novi Christian, The Roeper School, Clarenceville, Parkway Christian, Huron Valley Lutheran, Oakland Christian.

Whitmore Lake is a member of the Michigan High School Athletic Association. This governing body determines the rules and regulations for all our interscholastic sports (6-12) and sponsors high school (9-12) tournaments at the end of each session.

Whitmore Lake High School (9-12) Interscholastic Programs

Boys Fall Sports

Cross Country
Football

Girls Fall Sports

Cross Country
Volleyball
Sideline Cheer*
Swimming

Boys Winter Sports

Basketball
Bowling
Swimming
Wrestling
Ice Hockey

Girls Winter Sports

Basketball
Bowling
Competitive Cheer
Wrestling
Ice Hockey*

Boys Spring Sports

Baseball
Track
Golf

Girls Spring Sports

Softball
Track
Golf (with boys' team)

MIAC league-sanctioned sports are in bold

Per MIAC Constitution, two-thirds of the member schools must participate in the sport for it to be sanctioned by the league.

*Not sanctioned by the MHSAA but recognized by Whitmore Lake Public Schools.

Whitmore Lake Middle School (6-8) Interscholastic Programs

Boys Fall Sports

Cross Country
Football

Girls Fall Sports

Cross Country
Volleyball
Sideline Cheer

Boys Winter Sport

Basketball

Girls Winter Sports

Basketball
Competitive Cheer

Boys Spring Sports

Track
Baseball

Girls Spring Sports

Track
Softball

Participation Fee:

To encourage participation at the middle school level, there is no pay-to-participate fee. There is a \$125 fee to participate on high school athletic teams. All fees must be paid prior to the first contest of each season (Fall, Winter, Spring). Fees will be waived for all student-athletes that qualify for the free/reduced lunch program. Beginning in the 2023-2024 school year, there will be an individual pay-to-participate cap of \$250 and a family cap of \$500.

Enrollment

A student must be enrolled in our school in the semester in which they compete.

Age

A student who competes in any interscholastic contest must be under nineteen (19) years of age, except those students whose nineteenth (19th) birthday occurs on or after September 1 of a current school year is eligible for the balance of the school year.

Physical Examinations

No student shall be eligible to represent a high school if there is not on file with that school a physician's statement for the current school year (after April 15 of the previous school year) certifying that the student has passed an adequate physical examination and that, in the opinion of the examining physician, the student is fully able to compete in athletic contests.

Health Insurance

The Board of Education for Whitmore Lake Public Schools recognizes the need for health insurance coverage for injuries to students caused by accidents occurring in the course of attendance at school and participation in the athletic and co-curricular programs of the school district. Per the **Student Accident Insurance Policy** a signed statement of insurance coverage on the part of the student's parent or guardian is a **required** prerequisite for student registration in any school activity having a potential for personal injury.

Whitmore Lake School District offers parents/guardians the opportunity of applying for a voluntary insurance policy through Student Assurance Services, Inc. at the expense of the parents/guardians.

Limited Team Membership

Per MHSAA, a student who, after practicing with or participating in an athletic contest or scrimmage as a member of a high school athletic team, participates in any other athletic competition not sponsored by his or her school in the same sport season, shall become ineligible for a minimum of the next three contests and a maximum of the remainder of that season in that school year. (Check with the athletic department for exemptions).

Transfer Students

Eligibility for transfer students is governed by the MHSAA. A student who has transferred to Whitmore Lake Middle and High School (6-12) needs to check with the athletic department for the most up-to-date information regarding MHSAA transfer rules.

Michigan High School Athletic Association Academic Eligibility

Students must be passing 66% of a full class load with a D- minimum in the marking period prior to the semester of participation. A student must also be passing 66% of a full class load during each marking period.

Whitmore Lake's High School (9-12) & Middle School (6-8) Athletic Academic Eligibility

Students must pass four (4) classes (full credit classes) with a D- minimum in the semester prior to the semester of participation. A student must also be passing four (4) classes during each semester.

Each Friday, an eligibility survey will be conducted by representatives of the athletic department. A student deemed ineligible as a result of the survey will remain ineligible for the entire week until the next survey is conducted. A student deemed ineligible will not be allowed to compete or leave early to travel with their team until the following Friday's grade check and the eligibility standard is met. A student who remains ineligible for more than three consecutive weeks may be removed from a team at the administration's discretion.

Athlete Attendance

An athlete must be in school for at least a ½ day (three hours) to practice and all day to participate in a competition. Attendance is required on Friday for a Saturday competition. Exceptions to this policy are extremely limited and must be approved by the athletic department. Documentation will be required.

Daily Practice Attendance

It is expected that once an athlete commits themselves to a sport, they will not interrupt this responsibility by going on vacation. Practices for some sports may be held on holidays, during school vacation breaks or on the day of prom. We attempt to minimize these conflicts, but circumstances beyond our control do not allow us to eliminate team responsibilities during those time periods. All athletes are expected to be at all practices deemed necessary by the coach. Missed practices may result in suspension from practices or games and expulsion from the team.

School Cancellations

Middle School (6-8): If school is cancelled, all practices and games are cancelled for that day.
High School (9-12): If school is cancelled, a determination regarding games and practices will be made later in the day.

ATHLETE RESPONSIBILITIES

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 athletic coaching staff feel strongly that high standards of conduct and citizenship are essential in maintaining a sound program of athletics. The welfare of the student is our major consideration. All athletes shall abide by a code of ethics that will earn them the honor and respect that participation and competition in the interscholastic affords. Any conduct that results in dishonor to the athlete, the team, or the school will not be tolerated. Athletes will be expected to conduct themselves in an orderly, well-behaved manner. This includes classroom behavior as well as when representing the school in athletics. The athlete must follow the established WLPS Student Code of Conduct. An athlete that is suspended from school (OSS or ISS) will be suspended from all athletic activities while the school suspension is in effect. Acts of unacceptable conduct, such as but not limited to theft, vandalism, disrespect, immorality, or violation of the law, tarnish the reputation of everyone associated with the athletic programs and will not be tolerated. The athletic department reserves the right to suspend an athlete if their behavior while participating and/or representing the school in athletics warrants such action.

Suspensions

Any athlete who is suspended In-School (ISS) or Out-of-School (OSS) will not be allowed to participate in practice or any scheduled contests.

Substance Abuse Policy (Tobacco, Alcohol/ Drug use, Abuse, Possession or Impairment)

WLPS believes that participation in interscholastic sports is a privilege and not a right. We also believe that at no time and under no circumstances is the use of any illegal or unauthorized medicines, drugs and drug paraphernalia narcotics or "look-alike" substances, including but not limited to alcohol, marijuana, heroin, cocaine, LSD, inhalants, barbiturates, amphetamines, and drugs manufactured for use of animals by any student-athlete to be tolerated. We also believe that it is a part of our educational/coaching mission to encourage and provide opportunities to our student offenders of the Student Code of Conduct to rectify their mistakes and to enable them to restore their good standing in the Whitmore Lake Community. This policy will be in effect 12 months a year; from the first day of involvement in interscholastic athletics (6th-12th grades) until the conclusion of the student's athletic career or graduation from WLHS, whichever occurs later. These violations are cumulative throughout a student-athlete's middle/high school career. WLPS administration will work closely with local law enforcement agencies on criminal cases.

1st Violation: Any student-athlete found in violation of the substance abuse policy will be suspended from all athletic competitions for a period of no less than 50 school days, beginning at the date the student receives written notice of their suspension. If the student-athlete voluntarily seeks an assessment for substance abuse from an approved

agency and follows the recommendation and/or programs for treatment, and provides written confirmation of successful completion of the recommended program, then the penalty will be reduced to no less than 25 days.

2nd Violation: Any student-athlete found in violation of the substance abuse policy will be suspended from all athletic competitions for a period of no less than 100 school days, beginning at the date the student receives written notice of their suspension. If the student-athlete voluntarily seeks an assessment for substance abuse from an approved agency and follows the recommendation and/or programs for treatment, and provides written confirmation of successful completion of the recommended program, then the penalty will be reduced to no less than 50 days.

3rd Violation: Termination from participation in all athletics for the remainder of the student-athlete's high school career.

Note: An athlete whose suspension will be completed before the end of a given season will practice with the team and attend all team functions and contests but must wear street clothes according to the coach's appearance policy (i.e. no school uniforms, jerseys, or warm-ups). An athlete whose suspension is active at the end of a season will be ineligible for any team awards.

Appeal Procedures: All athletic disciplinary appeals will follow the same district policy procedures in the WLHS Student Handbook.

Definition of Terms:

First Day of a Sports Season- defined as the first day of practice established by the MHSAA or the Whitmore Lake Athletic Department if later than the MHSAA regulations.

Last Day of a Sports Season- defined as the day the last contest occurred for the team or any individual team member.

A Day of Suspension- defined as days from Monday-Friday (including vacation days, teacher in-service, parent/teacher conference days, and snow days). Saturdays will be counted as a "day of suspension" only if a contest or a scrimmage with another team occurs on that day. Sundays, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day will not count as a "day of suspension."

Next Sports Season- the sports season that immediately follows the season in which the violation occurs (i.e., if a second offense occurs in the fall season, the student would be ineligible to compete during the winter season. Likewise, if the violation occurred in the spring season, the student would be ineligible to compete during the next fall season.)

Practice Days- regularly scheduled practice, team meetings, scrimmages, or contests.

Ineligible to Participate- the student is permitted to attend meetings, practices and attend contests as a team member but cannot participate/dress for contest(s).

Sportsmanship

Any athlete, who shows an excessive display of temper, loses self-control or uses obscene gestures will not be tolerated. A first offense will result in the athlete being removed from the contest by the coach, and may result in a suspension from the next interscholastic game. Any further incidents of un-sportsman-like conduct will be reviewed by the athletic department and coach.

Transportation

1. All athletes must ride the team bus to away games. Any exception must be approved by the athletic department.
2. All athletes will board the bus together and only when the coach is present.
3. All WLPS rules regarding behavior on the bus will be adhered to.
4. The coach/athletic department will determine if the team will stop to eat.
5. Athletes may ride home with a parent after a contest. Parents must sign out their athletes with a coach.

Equipment

1. All athletes shall be responsible for the care and maintenance of all equipment assigned to them.
2. All equipment will be issued and recorded by the head coach. Lost or stolen equipment remains the responsibility of the athlete. Athletes are encouraged to lock up all equipment at all times.
3. The athlete must maintain issued equipment in a clean manner. Coaches will determine the procedure for cleaning uniforms.
4. Any athlete who has any school equipment in their possession that does not belong to him/her shall forfeit it immediately to the coach requesting it.
5. Any equipment not returned by an athlete must be paid for. This also applies to damaged and stolen equipment. Any athlete turning in equipment must turn it in to their coach. Any athlete paying for lost equipment must pay in the office of the athletic department. The athletic department will give the athlete a receipt for the payment.
6. Uniforms are only to be worn during contests. They are not to be worn in practice or at any other time outside of competition. To promote school spirit, coaches may allow athletes to wear game jerseys to school on days of competition.

Athletic Awards

1. All athletes (6-12) receive certificates of participation per sport.
2. An athlete will receive one varsity athletic letter, "WL" during high school (9-12). Varsity coaches determine the criteria for awarding varsity awards.
3. Each athlete receiving a varsity award gets a pin each season and one chevron per year (no matter how many varsity awards.)
4. An athlete that participates for all four years of high school (9-12) in the same sport will receive a plaque recognizing their commitment.
5. Athletic awards are given to athletes at our seasonal (Fall, Winter, Spring) award nights. No awards are given to students who have not returned all issued equipment.
6. All athletes that participate in three (3) or more sports will receive additional recognition from the athletic department.

Team Rules

The individual coaches will be responsible for specific team rules regarding practice policies and will coordinate practice times.