

End. 15.3  
July 12, 2012

HORSEHEADS CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT INTERSCHOLASTIC SPORTS  
ELIGIBILITY RULES AND CONSEQUENCES

2. TOBACCO, CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES, ALCOHOL AND STEROIDS/PERFORMANCE ENHANCING DRUGS

Conduct	Consequence or Action Required
<p><b><u>ILLEGAL POSSESSION OR USE OF:</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Tobacco Products</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Controlled Substances</u></b></p> <p>Alcohol</p> <p>Steroids</p> <p>Performance Enhancing Drugs</p> <p><b><u>OTHER OFFENSES:</u></b></p> <p>Knowingly remaining at an event where drugs and/or alcohol are being illegally consumed</p> <p>Illegally selling or distributing any of the above substances</p> <p>Cyber/Image Documentation of any of the above (reference Cyber/Image Policy - this page)</p>	<p><b><u>1<sup>st</sup> Offense</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▫ The consequence for 1<sup>st</sup> offense will be a 10 school-week suspension from any athletic participation. The suspension period will be reduced by 50% to 5 school weeks if the student-athlete admits to violation <del>within 24 hours</del> <b>when</b> of first being questioned by the coach or school administrators (<del>excluding weekends and holidays</del>). During a five-week suspension, the athlete must continue to practice with the team, but shall not be allowed to participate in contests. In addition, the athlete must attend an initial screening/assessment session with a prevention counselor and must complete a drug-alcohol awareness program offered by Trinity <b>of Chemung County</b>. Any cost incurred will be paid by the student-athlete or his/her parents.</li> </ul> <p>Note: If the above conditions are not met, the suspension will revert to 10 school weeks.</p> <p><b><u>2<sup>nd</sup> Offense</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▫ The consequence for a 2<sup>nd</sup> offense will be a 20 school-week suspension and participation in a mandatory intervention program mutually agreed to by the athlete's Parent(s)/Guardian(s) and the school administration.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>3<sup>rd</sup> Offense</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▫ The consequence for a 3<sup>rd</sup> offense will be a 1-year suspension from any athletic participation.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Restoration</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▫ After any violation, before once again being allowed to participate in the athletic program, the student athlete must address the Athletic Director and coaches, admit to the violation and show remorse. The student athlete must recommit to the provisions of the Eligibility Rules and Consequences and Codes of Conduct by re-signing them in front of the Athletic Director and coaches.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Reinstatement</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▫ After serving a one-calendar year suspension (for 3<sup>rd</sup> offense), a suspended athlete must apply for reinstatement before once again being allowed to participate in the athletic program. The athlete must demonstrate that sufficient changes in behavior have occurred to justify restoration of the privilege of participation in interscholastic sports. Application for reinstatement will be made to the Athletic Director who will convene the Athletic Council. The Council will make the decision whether or not to approve reinstatement.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Other guidance</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▫ Athletes whose 10 school-week, 20 school-week or 1 year suspension carries over into a subsequent sport season may try out at the beginning of the next sports season in which they would be eligible providing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The eligibility to return after suspension falls within the first half of that season (based on the number of weeks in the statewide sports season). Athletes whose suspension ends in the second half of the sports season are not eligible for that season.</li> <li>○ They sign the code of conduct for the entire sports season.</li> <li>○ They attend all team practices and games, and participate in all practices but not games (until the suspension is over).</li> </ul> </li> <li>▫ A chemical test may be requested for reasonable suspicion of <b><u>Controlled Substances</u></b>. The chemical test will be arranged, <u>and</u> paid for, by the School District. The failure of a student to submit to a chemical test will result in the athlete being removed from the team.</li> <li>▫ If a violation occurs out of season, the penalty begins at the start of the athlete's next sports season.</li> </ul>
	<p><b><u>Cyber/Image Policy</u></b></p> <p>The above consequences also apply if, after thorough review, any identifiable image, photo or video establishes that a student/athlete was either using, possessing, distributing or selling tobacco products, controlled substances, or alcoholic beverages or was at an event where drugs and/or alcohol were being illegally consumed.</p>

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**3. CITIZENSHIP, BEHAVIOR AND CONDUCT**

Conduct	Consequence or Action Required
Poor <u>Citizenship</u>	Warning, suspension or dismissal from the sports team, as determined by the Athletic Director.
Physical Altercations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▫ Any athlete participating in a physical altercation <u>with a fellow student</u>, and is referred to the school office, may be subject to disciplinary action which may range from a warning, suspension from participating or dismissal from the sports team.</li> <li>▫ If an athlete is determined to be an active participant in a physical altercation <u>with a school district employee</u>, the athlete will immediately be dismissed from the team he/she is participating on for the remainder of the current season.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Beginning from the date of dismissal, the athlete will be ineligible to participate in any interscholastic sports activity for a period of 10 school-weeks in the case of the first incident and ineligible for 20 school-weeks following the second incident.</li> <li>○ If the athlete's suspension carries into the following sports season, the athlete will not be eligible to participate in the next sports season.</li> <li>○ For an athlete to be eligible to participate in the next sports season, the athlete must have completed an Anger Management program offered through the Horseheads Village Youth Bureau.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Vandalize school property	Suspension from participation, or dismissal from the sports team.
Unauthorized possession of school athletic equipment	Any athlete in unauthorized possession of school athletic equipment or uniforms will not be permitted to participate in another interscholastic sports activity until all equipment or uniforms have been returned.
Stealing or possession of stolen items	<del>Dismissal from the sports team.</del> <b><i>Warning, suspension, or dismissal from the sports team, as determined by the Athletic Director.</i></b>
Arrest or Police appearance ticket	Athlete may be suspended from the sports team until the Athletic Director investigates the infraction, and a decision is made on participation
Criminal Activity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▫ The Athletic Director, after notifying the student of the charge and allowing the athlete to provide an explanation, determines that the student did in fact engage in criminal activity, which makes participation on a team inappropriate.</li> <li>▫ Athlete engaging in criminal activity prior to the commencement of an athletic season may be barred from participation for the upcoming season the athlete wishes to participate.</li> </ul>

**V. HAZING**

1. New York State law strictly forbids hazing in any form. It is understood that hazing of any kind is not allowed on this campus or in athletics. It is further understood that we have a duty to report any acts of hazing we see, or know of, to a coach or administrator. Participation in, or failure to report, any hazing will result in disciplinary review and possible suspension and/or dismissal from their athletic team.
2. In the Horseheads School District engaging in "HAZING" in any form by an athlete prior to, during school, or during any setting outside regular team activities is unacceptable and prohibited. It shall be considered a violation of the Interscholastic Sports Eligibility Rules and Consequences Contract as well as dangerous, compromising to an athlete's well being and counter-productive to a team's positive growth.
3. Hazing shall be defined as any intentional action; situation created; group conduct or method of intimidation to/by a group (or individual) that is designed to deny (or results in denying) a person her/his rights within the school society or as a member of the team.
4. This shall also include any action that seriously impacts or compromises an athlete's physical or psychological safety, (demeaning by nature) by inflicting mental anguish, physical discomfort/pain, severe embarrassment, harassment, hurtful pranks, psychological pressure, intimidation, ridicules or endangers another person whether in public or private.
5. This definition shall also include any action or coercion that typically pressures an individual to agree to be involved in a humiliating action/task(s) that suggests the athlete will be more fully accepted into a group/team irrespective of team status or playing time.
6. The Horseheads Interscholastic Athletic Program teaches respect for all athletes and this policy embraces this lesson.

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**VII. VIOLATION AND APPEALS PROCEDURES**

1. The community, school administrators, school staff and the coaching staff all value the maintenance of a sound program of athletics. It is our intent to establish rules that provide for the health and safety of the individual and for the orderly conduct of athletics. The welfare of the athlete is our major consideration. What happens to them is of primary importance.
2. In the event an athlete is found in violation of these standards, the coach will initiate a written conduct report. A copy will be forwarded to the Athletic Director. It will be the responsibility of the coach to inform the Parent(s)/Guardian(s) of the violation. Violations will result in penalties ranging from a warning, to suspension, to dismissal from the team as listed in section IV GENERAL RULES OF CONDUCT.

Procedure	Action Required
Reporting Violations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▫ Reports of alleged violations of the eligibility rules coming from the individuals listed below must be investigated: Reports should be made in writing to the Athletic Director within three school days of the actual occurrence of the incident, or within three school days of the incident being reported to any one of the individuals below:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Any district employee or school board member.</li> <li>○ Any adult acting as a chaperone or assisting with a school activity at the request of a district employee.</li> <li>○ Any law enforcement officer or agency.</li> <li>○ Parent(s)/Guardian(s) of the athlete involved.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▫ Reports of alleged violations from persons other than those mentioned above must be made by a person who has first hand knowledge of the incident. These reports must be investigated if it is determined that the allegation has merit.</li> <li>▫ Investigations include pictures and images from cell phones, cameras, 'Facebook' or any other means.</li> </ul>
Investigative Procedure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▫ The Athletic Director receives a written <i>or verbal</i> report of a <i>potential</i> violation from one of the <i>any</i> individual listed <i>outlined</i> above.</li> <li>▫ <b><u>The Athletic Director will conduct an investigation, interviewing any relevant individuals and reviewing any applicable materials.</u></b></li> <li>▫ The athlete is given an opportunity to explain his/her involvement in the violation to the Athletic Director and, when possible, the head coach or his/her designee.</li> <li>▫ <b><u>An athlete may be suspended from participation in athletics until the completion of the investigation.</u></b></li> <li>▫ <del>Parent(s)/Guardian(s) of students under investigation will be notified by the Athletic Director that an investigation is taking place, no later than the evening of same day that their child is interviewed.</del></li> <li>▫ <del>Following the meeting with the athlete, other individuals may be interviewed by the Athletic Director.</del></li> <li>▫ <b><u>Upon completion of the investigation, the Athletic Director will notify the athlete and the Parent(s)/Guardian(s) of his/her findings and outline any disciplinary action. Consideration in determining the action(s) to be taken will be given to the type of violation and previous involvement in other violations by that particular athlete.</u></b></li> <li>▫ <del>The Parent(s)/Guardian(s) and building principal will be notified of the athlete's response, the results of the investigation and what, if any, penalty will be given in accordance with the guidelines established by the Eligibility Rules. The Athletic Director will allow at least 24 hours to elapse between the time of the last student interview and subsequent parental notification, and the notification of results and distribution of suspension letters, if any. This is to ensure that all students involved have 24 hours in which to admit to the violation and, thereby, receive a reduced suspension.</del></li> <li>▫ <b><u>Parent(s)/Guardian(s) will also be notified of the appeal procedures.</u></b></li> </ul>
Disciplinary Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▫ The Athletic Director, with input from the respective coach, will use the information from the athlete's interview(s) and the investigation to determine appropriate disciplinary action.</li> <li>▫ Consideration in determining the action(s) to be taken will be given to the type of violation and previous involvement in other violations by that particular athlete.</li> <li>▫ The respective building principal will be informed of each violation and will be given the opportunity for input.</li> </ul>