Western New York Maritime Charter School
2219 South Park Ave
Buffalo, New York 14220
(716) 842-6289

Western New York Maritime Charter School

ATHLETIC CODE OF CONDUCT

(For Middle & High School Cadet/Candidate Athletes)

The Western New York Maritime Charter School (WNYMCS) recognizes athletics as an important part of a cadet/candidate athlete's total development. The athletic program is curricular in nature and helps cadet/candidate athletes develop traits such as:

• Good character • Sportsmanship • Goal setting • Commitment • Fitness • Respect

• Social skills • Dedication • Teamwork • Self-discipline • Self-confidence

• Good citizenship

Participation is a privilege and an honor that carries responsibilities on and off school property, and during and between seasons.

PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS

• Tryouts: All cadet/candidate athletes may try out; selection to a team is a privilege and may be revoked for violations of the Code.

• Agreement: Cadet/candidate athletes and parent(s)/guardian(s) must sign the Athletic Code of Conduct agreement before participating.

• Physicals: A valid athletic physical is required. Physicals must be conducted by the school district physician on scheduled physical dates unless otherwise authorized. Physicals are valid for 12 consecutive months.

• Emergency consent: Parent(s)/guardian(s) must provide consent for emergency transportation and treatment.

ATTENDANCE & AVAILABILITY

• Cadet/candidate athletes must attend all meetings, practices, and games unless legally excused by the coach and/or school official.

• Excused absences include:

• Coach's permission

• Family emergency

• Administrative permission

• Legal absence from school

• Notification: Cadet/candidate athletes must notify their coach in advance if they cannot attend.

• Suspensions: Cadet/candidate athletes suspended from school on the day of a meeting, practice, or game are not eligible to participate. Cadet/candidate athletes suspended on a Friday are not eligible for Saturday activities.

• School-day attendance: To participate in after-school activities on a given day, cadet/candidate athletes must attend the entire school day. If a cadet/candidate athlete has a doctor's appointment during the day, a note from the medical office must be provided to the coach to be allowed to participate.

• P.E. requirement: All cadet/candidate athletes must attend scheduled Physical Education on the day of a practice or game if they are enrolled in it. Cadet/candidate athletes excused from P.E. by a medical release may not participate in practice or contests.

• Review of exceptions: The Commandant and/or Athletic Director may review unusual circumstances.

ATTENDANCE: An athlete must be in school on the day of the contest

1.) **If an athlete is illegally absent, truant, suspended in or out of school, he/she may not participate or be a spectator at a sports activity that day, whether practice or game.**

2.) If an athlete is excused from any part of the school day due to illness, he/she may not participate in a sports activity, whether practice or game. An athlete is expected to arrive at school on time each day. Absence for any of the above reasons on the day prior to a contest will exclude the participant from that contest.

3.) A student athlete is required to attend a half day (3 ½ hours) of school in order to participate in any athletic event that same day (practice, game, and/or tournament). The athletic department recognizes that unforeseen circumstances arise that create special situations requiring the Athletic Director and Administration to review.

4.) An athlete should be in school the day prior to a weekend or holiday contest. An athlete absent the day before a weekend or a holiday must bring a signed statement to the coach from the parent or guardian stating that the athlete is physically able to participate. It is recommended that the coach call the parent regarding the absence.

5.) Each athlete is expected to be in school the day following athletic events. If a pattern of absence develops following athletic events, the sports coach will take appropriate disciplinary action. That action may range from a warning to suspension from participation for a period of time.

6.) If a player becomes ill during the day and cannot practice, it is his/her responsibility to notify the coach involved.

ACADEMIC STANDARDS

To remain eligible for participation in the district's interscholastic athletic program, student-athletes must maintain satisfactory academic standing as determined by the administration.

Any person failing in more than two subjects will receive, in writing, a warning that he/she has five (5) school days in which to correct the deficiency or be suspended. (An individual may continue participation in any activity with one deficiency.**)**
Exception: Students under the supervision of the Committee of the Handicapped with multiple deficiencies will be dealt with on an individual basis through a committee consisting of: The student's special education teacher, the athletic director, the head coach, and either the school psychologist or guidance counselor.

a.) If, after five days, the deficiencies are not taken care of, the student shall be suspended until all deficiencies are taken care of but one (1).

b.) It shall be the coach's responsibility to notify the athlete who is deficient in more than one (1) subject. This should be done as soon as the coaching staff receives the eligibility list from the principal's office.

c.) Incomplete grades will be included on the failure list and treated as a deficiency to be addressed to maintain eligibility.

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CADET/CANDIDATE ATHLETE EXPECTATIONS — CONDUCT & BEHAVIOR

All cadet/candidate athletes are expected to follow school and athletic department rules and to display conduct consistent with competence, civility, good citizenship, and good character at all times, in and out of season. Examples of prohibited conduct include, but are not limited to:

• Consumption or possession of alcoholic beverages

• Use or possession of tobacco or tobacco-related products (including e-cigarettes)

• Use or possession of illegal drugs

• Misuse or possession of prescription drugs for non-intended use

• Being in the presence of illegal drugs or alcohol

• Vandalism

• Stealing or possession of stolen property

• Sexual harassment

• Hazing or initiation activities

• Violent or aggressive behavior

• Unsportsmanlike behavior, including taunting

• Acts of insubordination

• Endangering the safety of others

• Verbal or physical abuse

Cadet/Candidate athlete responsibilities include:

• Demonstrating self-control and respect for teammates, coaches, opponents, officials, and spectators

• Respecting others' property

• Accepting responsibility to be a positive example in the community

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VIOLATIONS — INVESTIGATION & SANCTIONS

• Any cadet/candidate athlete found to have violated rules or regulations will be investigated and sanctioned accordingly.

• School District Administration uses internal standards for investigation and is not bound by the burden of proof used in courts.

• Sanctions may include (but are not limited to): warnings, suspension from participation, removal from the team, requirement to attend counseling or educational programs, restitution for damages, and referral to law enforcement where appropriate.

• The Athletic Director or Commandant may determine additional or alternative penalties based on circumstances.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE

• No cadet/candidate athlete may use, possess, sell, or distribute alcohol, illegal drugs, synthetic cannabinoids, or drug paraphernalia. Misuse of prescription or over-the-counter medication is also prohibited.

• Cadet/candidate athletes who exhibit behavior or physical signs of impairment will be taken to a safe location while parent(s)/guardian(s) are contacted and further evaluation is arranged.

HAZING & HARASSMENT

• Hazing: Any activity that recklessly or intentionally endangers the mental or physical health or safety of a cadet/candidate athlete is prohibited. All hazing is presumed coerced even if the cadet/candidate athlete appears to consent. No cadet/candidate athlete, coach, volunteer, or employee shall plan, encourage, or permit hazing.

• Harassment: Harassment based on actual or perceived race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practice, disability, sexual orientation, gender, or sex will not be tolerated. Harassment includes conduct, threats, intimidation, or abuse that creates a hostile environment or causes a cadet/candidate athlete to fear for their safety. Harassment can occur in person, via social media, or in written form.

• Reporting: Cadet/candidate athletes are encouraged to report harassment to coaches, teachers, parents, or administrators.

CONCUSSION INFORMATION

• What is a concussion? A concussion is a brain injury caused by a blow or force to the head or body that causes the brain to move rapidly inside the skull. It may or may not involve loss of consciousness and can result from falls, collisions, or other impacts.

• Signs & symptoms may affect thinking, physical functioning, mood, or sleep. Common signs include:

• Thinking/Remembering: difficulty thinking clearly, concentrating, or remembering new information

• Physical: headache, dizziness, nausea, vomiting, balance problems, sensitivity to light/noise, blurred vision, feeling tired

• Emotional/Mood: irritability, sadness, nervousness, crying more, changes in mood

• Sleep: sleeping more or less than usual

• Action: If a cadet/candidate athlete displays any signs/symptoms, they should inform their parent(s)/guardian(s), coach, or athletic trainer immediately. Parents should notify the school.

• When to be urgent: Seek immediate adult assistance if headache worsens, repeated vomiting, loss of control of body movements, slurred speech, or progressive deterioration.

• Post-concussion care: If a head injury is suspected, the cadet/candidate athlete must be evaluated by a physician. The doctor's note with diagnosis and clearance for return-to-play must be submitted to the school before resuming athletics. Returning to play too early increases risk of further injury and prolonged recovery.

REPORTING & REVIEW

• Coaches, staff, cadet/candidate athletes, and parents should report suspected violations, harassment, hazing, or injuries to the coach, Athletic Director, or Commandant.

• The Athletic Director and/or Commandant will review and respond to reports. Appeals or requests for review of sanctions should be directed to the Athletic Director in writing within the timeline set by the Athletic Department.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT & SIGNATURE

(Each cadet/candidate athlete and parent/guardian must review and sign. Return this page to the coach.)

Cadet/Candidate athlete name: _____

Sport: _____ Coach: _____

Grade: _____ Date: _____

By signing below, I acknowledge that I have read, understand, and agree to abide by the Western New York Maritime Charter School Athletic Code of Conduct, including the concussion policy and participation requirements. I understand participation is a privilege that may be revoked for violations.

Cadet/Candidate athlete name (print): _____

Cadet/Candidate athlete signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian name (print): _____

Parent/Guardian signature: _____ Date: _____

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Emergency contact name: Phone: _____

Primary physician: Phone: _____

Medical/physical clearance:

• Athletic physical completed: Yes / No Date of physical: _____

• Physical valid through: _____

• Doctor's note required for return after head injury: Yes

Additional coach-specific rules acknowledged: Yes / No

(If yes, the coach will provide written rules.)

Athletic Department use only:

Coach signature: _____ Date: _____

Athletic Director/Commandant signature: _____ Date: _____

Athletic Department — Western New York Maritime Charter School