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Imperative
Doing What's Right for Children

Mission
Our mission is to provide a learning community that inspires character, service, knowledge and wisdom.

Vision
Active Learning in a Supportive, Respectful Environment

Philosophy of Interscholastic Athletics and Extracurricular Activities

The Board of Education recognizes that athletics and extra-curricular activity programs are an integral part of the educational process. Athletics and extra-curricular programs are an extension of the school curriculum. Athletic and Extracurricular participation is a privilege that carries with it responsibilities to the school, to the team, the student body, to the community, and to the student. They occupy a position in the curriculum comparable to that of other subjects or activities and play an important role in the total development of each student and in promoting excellent student morals.

The Board of Education supports a competitive athletic program and a varied extra-curricular program, which emphasizes educational values such as sportsmanship, health, and scholastic attainment. The Extracurricular and Athletic Handbooks provide students and parents with important information and will remain in effect during the entire calendar year and throughout the student’s educational career at Williamson Central. Students and parents/guardians will be required to review the Handbooks and sign a statement each year.

All students involved in interscholastic athletics or extracurricular activities need to abide by expectations outlined in the District Code of Conduct and the specific guidelines delineated within the Athletic and Extracurricular Activities Handbooks.

These expectations and consequences for students participating in Extracurricular Activities are in ADDITION to the rules and consequences listed in the District’s Code of Conduct.
OUR GOAL
To help develop our student athletes into productive members of our community.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

- The student-athlete shall learn teamwork. The nurturing of the idea that the team and its objectives are placed at a higher level than personal desires. In order to be successful in life one must learn to work with others in search of mutual goals.
- Development of the concept of accountability. The student athlete will learn that they are responsible for their behavior and the results of consequences that are attached to them. Positive behaviors bring about positive responses.
- Sportsmanship. To accept success and defeat like a true sportsman, knowing we have done our best. Student athletes must learn to treat others as they would have others treat them. We must develop desirable social traits, including emotional control, honesty, cooperation and dependability.
- Success. Not strictly in the view of wins and losses. An individual becomes successful by continually striving to win. This objective helps to develop a desire to excel. The level of desire exhibited measures success.
- Development of positive personal health habits. Student athletes will not only obtain but will learn how to develop a high degree of physical fitness through regular exercise and good health habits. It is also our objective to develop the desire to maintain a high level of fitness in the student athlete’s future years.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE WCS ATHLETE

Being a member of a WCS athletic team is a fulfillment of an ambition for many students. The attainment of the goal carries with it certain traditions and responsibilities. Over the past years, WCS teams have won many league and sectional titles. Many of our athletes have received All-County honors, while a few have also received regional and All-American recognition as well. A great athletic tradition has been built over the years. As a member of a WCS athletic team, you have inherited a wonderful tradition, a tradition you are challenged to uphold. This tradition involves winning with honor. We desire to win, but only with honor to our athletes, our school, and our community. Only through this approach may the proud tradition of WCS athletics be carried forward.

It is not always an easy task to contribute and add to such a proud tradition. In competing for your school, you will have to say no and walk away from many “pleasures” an athlete cannot afford. When one wears the school colors of WCS, we assume that you not only understand our tradition, but you are willing to assume the responsibilities that go with them. These contributions you will make should be most satisfying to you and your family.
Responsibilities to yourself: The most important of these responsibilities is to develop your strength of character. One should try to get the greatest possible good from their high school experiences. A high school student best prepares themselves for adult life through their studies, athletics, and other positive extra-curricular activities.

Responsibilities to your school: When an individual in athletics participates to the best of their abilities, they contribute to the reputation of their school. WCS cannot maintain its position of an outstanding district without the help and cooperation of its student athletes.

An athlete within the WCS program automatically assumes a leadership role. The student body, as well as the citizens of the community, knows you. In turn, your conduct and attitude, both on and off the playing fields judge our school. Make Williamson proud of you, and your community proud of your school!

Responsibilities to others: As a squad member, you bear a heavy responsibility to many other individuals. Other team members and coaches require and expect your total commitment to your sport if the team is to reach a level of excellence. When you know that you have lived up to all training rules, that you have practiced to the best of your abilities everyday, and that you have given your best during your contest, then you can help your self-respect and your teammates respect as well.

The younger students of WCS are constantly watching you. In many ways, they will want to copy you—provide them with a good example! Don’t let them down.
PRIDE in Athletics...

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<th>Perseverance</th>
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<td>Learn from mistakes</td>
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<td>Always try your best</td>
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<td>Don’t give up</td>
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<td>Take care of the equipment</td>
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<td>Be on time</td>
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<td>Communicate with others</td>
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<td>Practice self-discipline</td>
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<td>Take accountability for choices and actions</td>
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<td>Take pride in team and individual accomplishments</td>
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<td>Own your behavior</td>
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<td>Be honest</td>
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<td>Represent our school and community with pride</td>
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<td>Respect our opponents, officials, fans, coaches, teammates and equipment</td>
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<td>Represent our school, facilities, and community in a positive way.</td>
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<td>Strive to achieve your best</td>
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<td>Work hard everyday</td>
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Athletic Philosophy by Level

Modified Philosophy
Our Modified program is a time for students to learn and grow in their capacity as athletes without added pressures of performance or contest outcomes. At this level, student-athletes should learn basic skills, rules, and obtain an introduction to the goals of the sports program. Academics, sportsmanship, and social/emotional growth along with commitment and dedication are key elements student athletes will focus on at this level. An attempt will be made to play all modified level sports participants.

Junior Varsity Philosophy
The Junior Varsity level of athletic competition places an increased emphasis upon team play, physical conditioning and refinement of basic sport skills. The goal of this level of competition is to prepare student athletes for the varsity level. Student athletes should be taught how to cope with game situations and how to win and lose with respect and dignity. An attempt should be made to play all participants, however equal play is not necessary in each game.

Varsity Philosophy
The Varsity level of athletic competitions is the culmination of each sport’s program. At the varsity level of competition, team play, sportsmanship, individual physical ability, motivation, and mental attitude are very important. The goal at the varsity level is to be competitive and prepare to win. Student athletes will be taught life-long lessons through situations that arise throughout the season. A continued emphasis on academics, sportsmanship, and community service is to be expected at this level. It is to be understood that dedication and commitment is needed to participate on a varsity team.
REQUIREMENTS PRIOR TO PARTICIPATION

1. Medical clearance by the school. It is required by state law that each student athlete be medically cleared and approved by the school physician. The school will provide each student the opportunity to be examined by the school’s physician at no cost. A student may choose to be examined by his/her own physician but must assume any expense incurred. The school physician, in any case, has final authority in ruling on a student’s medical clearance.

2. Clearance of previous equipment/uniform obligations. It is the responsibility of every WCS student athlete to return all equipment, uniforms, etc., issued to them during a sports season in decent condition. Students who do not return such materials will be ineligible for future competition until it is returned or restitution is made.

3. Eligibility requirements have been satisfied. The New York State Public High School Athletic Association, Inc. sets down basic eligibility standards which all schools must abide by. A list of the most basic requirements may be found towards the end of this handbook.

4. Completed waiver signed by student and parent. Parents must register athletes by accessing FamilyID (https://www.familyid.com/organizations/williamson-central-school-district-athletics). Parents and students must read and acknowledge the WCS Code of Ethics and Rules for Athletes when registering on FamilyID. In addition, a statement regarding the Assumption of Risk during participation in athletics is included. This waiver must also be completed using FamilyID. At the beginning of each sports season, coaches will host a family meeting to review these expectations, as well as any sports specific expectations that may exist. Parents/Guardians and students are required to attend these meetings.
CONFLICTS IN EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

An individual student who attempts to participate in too many extra-curricular activities will, undoubtedly, be in a position of a conflict of obligations. The Athletic Department recognizes that each student should have the opportunity for a broad range of experiences in the area of Extra-curricular activities, and to this end, will attempt to schedule events in a manner so as to minimize conflicts.

Students have a responsibility to do everything they can to avoid continuous conflicts. This would include being cautious about belonging to too many activities where conflicts are bound to happen. It also means immediately notifying coaches and advisors involved when a conflict does arise. Coaches and advisors will get together and try to work out a solution.

ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY POLICY

The WCS administration and staff have recognized academic performance as the top priority of our school district. A copy of the most current Academic Eligibility Policy may be found at the end of this handbook. This policy and the procedures included within it will be strictly adhered to and enforced.
All Student athletes will abide by the rules of the

I. CODE OF ETHICS AND RULES FOR ATHLETES

WILLIAMSON CENTRAL SCHOOL

The expectations and consequences for student athletes listed below are in ADDITION to the rules and consequences listed in the District’s Code of Conduct.

The Board of Education and coaching staff recognize the value of strict conduct and training regulations of our athletes. The rules and regulations found here will be strictly enforced and student athletes will be subject to the listed penalties and consequences.

A. Controlled Substances

Student athletes shall not use, sell possess or be in the presence of controlled substances or the illegal consumption of alcohol during the sports season. A sport season is defined as the first day of practice through the final game, including tournament play.

First offense—Suspension from participation in competitions and performances equal to 25% of total contests for season. The school administrator, Director of Athletics or coaching staff will determine if the student can attend or participate in practices while serving their suspension. Student must complete four hours of community service before returning to the team competition.

Second offense—Suspension from participation in competition and performances for the remainder of that sport season AND 25% of next season, 15 hours community service before returning to competition.

Third offense—Suspension from participation in competitions, meetings and performance for the remainder of the students career at Williamson Central. **A committee comprised of an administrator, athletic director, a coaching staff member, a school counselor, a building safety committee member, and a parent will review each case. This committee can terminate eligibility or set condition for readmission to interscholastic program must include mandatory counseling and/or treatment (at the students expense) as prescribed by the committee.**

** Any community service hours are to be in ADDITION to those required for graduation.
** All requirements must be fulfilled prior to reinstatement

** If a middle school athlete violates the substance use guidelines, he or she will get a clean slate upon entering the High School, unless he or she was participating in JV or varsity level athletics when the infraction occurred.

B. Smoking/Vaping

There will be no smoking, vaping products or use of tobacco substances during the sports season. A sports season is defines as the first day of practice through the final game, including tournament play.

Violation of the rule will result in the following:

First offense: suspension from the team for four athletic contests. If the season does not have four athletic contests remaining, the suspension will carry over into the athlete’s next sports season.
**Second offense:** suspension from the team, loss of eligibility for 15 weeks (10 weeks for junior high) for participation in the next athletic season, loss of letter, if there are not 15 school weeks left in the season the suspension will carry over into the athlete’s next season.

**Note:** Carry over rule: if the suspension is a carry over, from one season to the next, the athlete is allowed a 3-day try-out period for the next season’s sport and then the suspension continues until its completion, also, a suspension will be carried over from one school year to another (spring season to fall season).

**C. Conduct**

Any student who is suspended from school (in-school or out) for any reason will not be allowed to participate in extracurricular events, including practices, contest, games, during the period of suspension.

An action unbecoming to an athlete of team during a sports season, including, but not limited to, initiating a fight, unsportsmanlike conduct, gestures to officials, crowds, coaches, malicious, mischief, etc., is subject to the following penalties:

**First offense:**
Minimum: one game suspension and practices included therein.
Maximum: four game suspension and practices included therein.

**Second Offense:**
Minimum: four game suspension and practices included therein
Maximum: suspension from the team, loss of eligibility for 15 school weeks (10 for junior high) for participation in the next athletic season, loss of letter.

All infractions will be reported to the athletic director. The reports should include:

- a) Name of student
- b) Team
- c) Date of infraction
- d) Eligibility date
- e) Signature of coach

The athletic director will give notification to the athlete of punishment. In addition to notifying the athlete, the athletic director will notify the parent/guardian by telephone and written communication regarding the infraction and the accompanying disciplinary action imposed.

Students and/or parent/guardians who have a question or concern(s) regarding infractions of the rules and the accompanying disciplinary action may request to meet with the building principal, the athletic director and the involved coach.

**NOTE:** All instances of bullying and/or harassment MUST be reported to the appropriate building level DASA coordinator.
II. DRESS

On the days of contests, it is recommended the players will be dressed in attire as recommended by the coach.

III. PRACTICES AND ATTENDANCE

All team members will attend all practices and games unless excused by the coach or athletic director. Unexcused absence may result in loss of participation in the next contest.

All team members will be in attendance at school by the start of forum to be eligible to play or practice. The student must attend school the entire time classes are in session. Unexcused absence will result in loss of participation in the next contest.

**Note:** Students who are not allowed to practice for a prolonged period of time may be required, at their coach’s discretion, to attend a number of practices before they are allowed to participate in their next contest.

Student athletes needing to leave the building during the day must bring a note from home, which is to be turned into the nurse **BEFORE HOMEROOM that morning** and must be signed by either the principal or assistant principal. Any student leaving or coming into the building during the day must sign out and in at the attendance desk in the foyer.

- Failure to follow this procedure will result in the student athlete being ruled ineligible to participate in that day’s schedule game or practice.
- Continued violations (including school suspensions, long term academic suspensions, etc.) may lead to removal from the team, loss of letter and 15 school weeks of suspension from all athletics (10 weeks for Junior High).

In the event that the student athlete must be legally excused at the start of the school day, this process must be completed the day **prior to absence**. Failure to follow this procedure will result in the student athlete being ruled ineligible to participate in that day’s schedule game or practice.

Continued violations (including school suspensions, long term academic suspensions, etc.) may lead to removal from the team, loss of letter and 15 school weeks of suspension from all athletics (10 weeks for Junior High).

IV. QUITTING THE TEAM

If a player quits or is dropped from the team by the coach after making the team or after the first week, he/she will be ineligible for 10 weeks to participate in another sport and will lose his/her letter award.

**Exception:** upon written request, a player may be given special consideration by the coach and athletic director.
V. TRANSPORTATION
All athletes must ride to and from all athletic contests on school furnished transportation. Athletes will be transported directly to the appropriate building upon return. Students will not be dropped off in route. Players may ride with parents/legal guardians if the parent /guardian has made a request in person and signs the student out with the coach.

VI. EQUIPMENT
All players will be responsible for equipment issued to them and will make restitution if not returned at the close of the season. Lost or misused equipment will be billed to the parent at the end of the sports season and participation in further sports will not be allowed until return of equipment or restitution is made.
Team uniforms are not to be worn except for athletic contests.

VII. INJURIES
All athletic injuries are to be reported to the coach immediately!

An athlete or parent must report all injuries to the school nurse on the next day of school attendance. Failure to do so may compromise the claim for reimbursement under the student insurance program.

If a player is absent from school because of sickness or injury, or is unable to be on the squad for a period of longer than five days, a doctor’s permission to return is required. (STATE LAW)

All coaches will inform all participants of the rules and be certain each athlete is aware of said rules (the athlete’s and parents’ signatures are required).

Injured athletes should take advantage of the Athletic Trainer whenever possible.
BASIC NYSPHSAA ELIGIBILITY RULES

You are eligible:

1. If you are a high school student in regular attendance in grades 9, 10, 11 or 12.
2. Between entry into ninth grade and your 19th birthday.
3. If your parents and the school doctor approve.
4. If you enrolled during the first 15 days of this semester.
5. Two weeks after transferring from another school.
6. For four consecutive sport seasons beginning with the season in which you entered grade 9.
7. If you have undivided loyalty to your high school team, i.e., if you participate only in inter-school competition during the season in that sport (except in bowling, golf, revelry, skiing, tennis).
8. If you have not violated the all-star game rule.
9. If you have not played or practiced with a college team.
10. If you are an amateur, having never used your athletic skill for gain, and if you have never competed under an assumed name.
11. If you are familiar with the rules of the game and the standards of sportsmanship.

This is a brief summary of the Rules and Regulations in the official NYSPHSAA, Inc. HANDBOOK. These rules are intended to protect you and to provide fair competition. Ask the athletic director or principal if there are any questions regarding these or additional rules.

You can find the full handbook at: http://www.nysphsaa.org/Resources/Handbook
AWARD REQUIREMENTS
Williamson Central School

I. QUALIFICATIONS

A. General
Athletes must comply with all rules as set down in the Code of Ethics and Rules for Athletes. Additionally, athletes must complete the sport season (defined as the first day of practice through the final game, including competition) in good standing.

B. Playing Qualifications

Soccer - play in one-half of the total quarters/halves of regularly scheduled games.
Basketball - play in one-half of the total quarters/halves of regularly scheduled games.
Volleyball - play in one-half of the total quarters/halves of regularly scheduled games.
Softball/ Baseball - play in one-half of the total innings of regularly scheduled games.
Tennis - play in one-half of the regularly scheduled matches.
Cross Country/Indoor/ Outdoor Track - Compete in at least six competitions and qualify for sectionals.
Wrestling - wrestle in three-quarters of the bouts and full participation in all matches and tournaments.
Cheerleading - cheer at three-quarters of the scheduled games/contests

C. Exceptions

1) Baseball pitchers may not reach enough innings. It will be left to the discretion of the coach.
2) Seniors who have met all the qualifications except playing time, and were on the team the previous year shall be awarded their letter.
3) Regular members of a varsity team winning the sectionals will be awarded varsity letter awards.
4) Regular members of a team who show loyalty, good sportsmanship, attendance, good work habits, and positive team attitude.

II. ATHLETIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Any athlete who has earned 8 varsity letter awards is eligible to receive a trophy in recognition of this accomplishment.

Two Junior Varsity awards may be substituted for one varsity letter in one situation only. This award will be presented at the end of the athlete’s senior year.
III. **LETTER AWARDS**

A. **Junior Varsity Awards:**
   - Freshmen: numeral of graduating year
   - Sophomores, Juniors, Seniors: 4” letter

B. **Varsity Awards:** (first)
   - 6” letter with the appropriate metal sport award emblem

C. **Varsity Awards:** (additional)
   - Service bar

D. **Managers** (no distinction is made between managers of JV or Varsity teams)
   - 1st year: Junior Varsity award
   - 2nd year (same sport): JV award
   - 3rd year (same sport): Varsity award

E. **Captains** (varsity teams only)
   - Captain metal award emblem

F. **Award Certificate**
   - An award certificate is given to each athlete who earns a Junior Varsity or Varsity award.
The Williamson Central School District strives to offer its students a comprehensive program that enables each to develop into a successful, well-rounded individual. In doing so, it is recognized that the fundamental purpose of any educational program is to focus on maximizing academic achievement. The district also recognizes that extra-curricular activities for students provide additional opportunities for growth and success; and, therefore is a desirable component of the districts overall program. The extra –curricular experience should enrich, not detract from or compromise a student’s academic achievement. It is the expectations of the board of education that parents, administrators, coaches, teachers, and students must share in the responsibility to ensure that each student involved in extra-curricular activities work to his/her academic potential.

**Activities covered under this policy**

Any extra curricular activity that extends beyond the school day on and on-going basis is covered under this policy. Student groups that meet during school hours are exempt from coverage under the eligibility policy, as well as one time activities of clubs that extend beyond the school day. For student government positions, the student must be eligible at the time of the election for school drama or musical productions, if the student actor, director, etc. is eligible four weeks prior to the production, he/she remains eligible through the end of the production as long as the student attends the assigned academic support classes. During sectional play, the student athlete remains eligible as long as the athlete attends the assigned academic support classes.

**Eligibility Guidelines**

At each interim or marking period checkpoint, eligibility is determined. There are three levels - full participation, probation, and contest/game ineligible. Students continue in that category until the next interim or marking period checkpoint.

All students will be eligible during tryouts or auditions regardless of their eligibility status.

**Incompletes**

Incompletes will be considered failing grades for the purpose of academic eligibility. Once completed, an incomplete count as a grade immediately, and, if passing, is taken out of the eligibility system.

**Full participation**

Students who are passing all classes are allowed to participate fully. Incompletes will be considered failing grades for the purpose of academic eligibility.

**Probation**

A student who is failing one class at the interim or marking period (progress report or report card) will be eligible to participate if they meet the following requirements.
Contest/Game Ineligible

- A student who is failing two or more classes at the interim or marking period grade
- Fail the same class for more than one quarter

Weekly signature sheet

High School students will need to obtain satisfactory feedback from the teachers whose classes she/he is failing in order to play during the following week. In the case that a student is marked unsatisfactory in an area, the student will receive specific feedback so she/he can make the necessary changes to obtain a satisfactory rating the following week. If there are any unsatisfactory marks given, the student may continue to practice, as long as they meet the requirement of attending the academic support class.

These sheets must be turned in every Friday for the full five weeks during the period of ineligibility to the main office. If a teacher is absent, sheets may be turned in by the end of the students lunch period on the Monday of the following week. If the teacher is still absent on Monday, the building principal and activity director (Athletic Director for sports) will make the decision on eligibility.

STUDENT ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY POLICY
WILLIAMSON MIDDLE SCHOOL

1. Objective:
- Extracurricular activities are important in developing well rounded students.
- Encourage student effort and accountability for academic success.
- Be fair, equitable and consistent for all groups, sports, extracurricular clubs or activities.
- Encourage communication between parents, teachers, coaches, activities leader and student supporting academic achievement.
- Athletic competition/musical extracurricular activities are a privilege and hold specific responsibility.
- Promote appropriate conduct as representatives of Williamson Central School District.

2. Eligibility to Participate:
All students enrolled at Williamson Middle School are able to participate in extended day extracurricular activities (i.e. school play, athletics).

Students participating in these activities will be subject to an academic review at the interim period (5, 15, 25 weeks) and the quarterly report card period (10, 20, 30 weeks). Students will be identified as “at risk” academically if they are below proficiency (grades of a 74 or below) and work habits (1 or 2) in two or more classes.

Example:
Math 72 WH 2
ELA 64 WH 1

Students determined to be “at risk”, will be identified and will attend a daily 10th period supportive academic study hall and complete a run around sheet (only for those classes in which they are not-proficient).

Students must comply with the completion of the run around sheet and attend the supportive study hall in order to continue to participate in the activity.

At the next quarterly or interim review, if a student who shows improvement on both academics and work habits, the student would be considered no longer “at risk”.

At the next quarterly of interim review, if a student has not demonstrated academic improvement, he/she
could become ineligible for full participation at the discretion of the school administration. Ineligibility includes loss of practice time and/or not able to participate in games, matches or events.

Coaches will be contacted by the administration as to inform them of student’s progress.

Teachers will be notified of student’s eligibility status by the administration every five weeks.

3. School Attendance/Behavior:
The following concerns will affect student opportunities to participate in extracurricular activities:
Repeated and unexcused absences and tardiness.
Disciplinary referrals for inappropriate or disruptive behavior that lead to suspension.

**NOTE:** Any Middle School student playing at the Varsity Level will abide by the High School Eligibility Policy.

**Academic Support Classes**
The student will also attend an academic support class(es) daily throughout the period of ineligibility (that is until the next interim or marking grades are published) and present a daily pass to the activity director or coach to participate in the game or practice that day. The amount of academic support will be a minimum of tenth period daily.
If a student is failing more than two classes, additional restricted study halls may be assigned during the school day.

**Appeal Process**
A board of appeal shall rule on the following issues:
If a student or the student’s parent/guardian requests a review of the ineligibility classification.

The board shall be made up of the following individuals:

- Assistant Principal
- School Counselor
- Student Representative
- Faculty Representative
- Parent Representative

The Board will be appointed annually by the Building Principal. A simple majority vote is needed to rule on any one case.
Dignity for All Students Act (DASA)

We will treat each other with dignity.

Discrimination, harassment, bullying (including cyberbullying) against any student by employees or students that occur (i) on school property or (ii) at a school function or (iii) off school property where such acts create or would foreseeably create a risk of substantial disruption within the school, environment, where it is foreseeable that conduct, threats, intimidation or abuse might reach school property is strictly prohibited. This includes conduct that creates a hostile environment by conduct or by threats, intimidation or abuse of such a severe nature that it: (1) has or would have the effect of unreasonably and substantially interfering with a student’s educational performance, opportunities of benefits, or mental, emotional and/or physical well-being, including conduct, threats, intimidations or abuse that reasonably causes or would reasonably be expected to cause emotional harm or (2) reasonably causes or would reasonably be expected to cause physical injury to a student or to cause a student to fear for his or her physical safety. Such conduct shall include, but is not limited to, threats, intimidation or abuse based on a person's actual or perceived race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practices, disability, sexual orientation, gender, or sex. (see District Code of Conduct for more information).

Cyber-bullying: Any action using an electronic device, the Internet or social media that involves harassment, intimidation or threats is considered bullying and is potentially subject to disciplinary action.

Harassment: Conduct such as verbal threats, intimidation or abuse that reasonably causes or would reasonably be expected to cause a student to fear for their safety. No student shall be subjected to discrimination based on their actual or perceived: race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practice, disability, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity or sex.

Physical bullying: Conduct such as hitting, pushing, shoving, kicking, pinching, holding down.

Sexual bullying: Sexual bullying is often referred to as sexual harassment, which includes unwanted sexual attention or comments, gender-demeaning remarks and jokes, using sexually offensive names, circulating pornography, touching the private parts of another student's body, molestation, assault and rape.

Verbal bullying: Threatening, taunting, intimidating, insulting, sarcasm, teasing, ridiculing, making faces, rolling eyes and other gestures.

Hazing: Intentionally or recklessly engaging in conduct during the course of another person’s initiation into or affiliation with any organization, which creates a substantial risk of physical injury to such other person or a third person and thereby causes such injury (Penal Law §120.16). It is also considered hazing even when physical injury does not occur but there was a substantial risk of physical injury to such other person or a third person (Penal Law §120.17).
Reporting Procedures:

- Tell a teacher or another adult at school
- Utilize the Bullying/Harassment Complaint Report Form available in the school’s counseling office and main offices.
- **School employees** who witness harassment, bullying, etc. must orally notify the coordinator or designee no later than one school day after such employee witnesses or receives a report of such act.
- A counselor or administrator will review and investigate the report and take prompt action.

Should an act of harassment or bullying/cyberbullying against students occur by employees or students the school will take appropriate actions to respond and remediate which incorporates a progressive model of student discipline. Such discipline may include but is not limited to:

- Warning
- Corrective consequences
- Supportive intervention
- Behavioral assessment or evaluation
- Behavioral management plans
- Student counseling and parent conferences
- Suspension/removal from the team or activity

Each school building will contain a minimum of one Dignity Act Coordinator who is trained to handle reported incidents of harassment and discrimination. The district has developed and adopted a confidential complaint mechanism located on our website, in the main office and the counseling office. This form can be completed to report incidents of harassment and discrimination to each school’s Dignity Act Coordinator. Additional Information regarding DASA is available in the District’s Student Code of Conduct.
CONCUSSION PROTOCOL, GUIDELINES, AND PROCEDURES

Education
Concussion education should be provided for all administrators, teachers, coaches, school nurses, athletic trainers and guidance counselors. Education of parents should be accomplished through preseason meetings for sports and/or information sheets provided to parents. Education should include, but not be limited to the definition of concussion, signs and symptoms of concussion, how concussions may occur, why concussions are not detected with CT Scans or MRI’s, management of the injury and the protocol for return to school and return to activity or interscholastic athletics. The protocols will cover all students returning to school after suffering a concussion regardless if the accident occurred outside of school or while participating in a school activity.

Concussion Management Team
The District will assemble a concussion management team (CMT). The CMT will consist of the Athletics Director, the District’s Athletic Trainer, a School Nurse and the School Physician.

The District’s CMT should coordinate training for all administrators, teachers, coaches and parents. Training should be mandatory for all coaches, assistant coaches and volunteer coaches that work with these student athletes regularly. In addition, information related to concussions should also be included at parent meetings or in information provided to parents at the beginning of sports seasons. Parents need to be aware of the school district’s policy and how these injuries will ultimately be managed by school officials.

Training should include: signs and symptoms of concussions, post concussion and second impact syndromes, return to play and school protocols, and available area resources for concussion management and treatment. Particular emphasis should be placed on the fact that no athlete will be allowed to return to play the day of injury and also that all athletes should obtain appropriate medical clearance prior to returning to play or school.

The CMT will act as a liaison for any student returning to school and/or play following a concussion. The CMT will review and/or design an appropriate plan for the student while the student is recovering.

*School district CMT’s can utilize the NYSPHSAA website as well as www.keepyourheadinthegame.org for information related to the signs and symptoms of concussions and the appropriate return to play protocols. A handout describing the Concussion Management teams is also available on the NYSPHSAA website. A Concussion Management Check List that has been approved and recommended by NYSPHSAA is available on this site.
Concussion Management Protocol

Return to play

Return to play following a concussion involves a stepwise progression once the individual is symptom free. There are many risks to premature return to play including: a greater risk for a second concussion because of a lower concussion threshold, second impact syndrome (abnormal brain blood flow that can result in death), exacerbation of any current symptoms, and possibly increased risk for additional injury due to alteration in balance. These NYSPHAA current returns to play recommendations are based on the most recent international expert opinion.* No student athlete should return to play while symptomatic. Students are prohibited from returning to play the day the concussion is sustained. If there is any doubt as to whether a student has sustained a concussion, it should be treated as a concussion. Once the student athlete is symptom free at rest for 24 hours and has a signed release by the treating clinician, she/he may begin the return to play progression below (provided there are no other mitigating circumstances).

Day 1: Light aerobic activity
Day 2: Sport-specific activity
Day 3: Non-contact training drills
Day 4: Full contact practice
Day 5: Return to play

Each step should take 24 hours so that an athlete would take approximately one week to proceed through the full rehabilitation protocol once they are asymptomatic at rest and with provocative exercise. If any post concussion symptoms occur while in the stepwise program, then the student should drop back to the previous asymptomatic level and try to progress again after a further 24-hour period of rest has passed.

[These NYSPHAA current return to play recommendations are based on the most recent international expert opinion.*]
SUBJECT: Academic Eligibility for Extra-Curricular Activities

The Williamson Central School District strives to offer its students a comprehensive program that enables each to develop into a successful, well-rounded individual. In doing so, it is recognized that the fundamental purpose of any educational program is to focus on maximizing academic achievement. The District also recognizes that extra-curricular activities for students provide additional opportunities for growth and success; and, therefore, is a desirable component of the District's overall program. The extra-curricular experience should enrich, not detract from or compromise a student’s academic achievement. It is the expectation of the Board of Education that parents, administrators, coaches, teachers, and students must share in the responsibility to ensure that each student involved in extra-curricular activities work to his/her academic potential.

Activities covered under this policy

Any extra curricular activity that extends beyond the school day on an on-going basis is covered under this policy. Student groups that meet during school hours are exempt from coverage under the eligibility policy, as well as one time activities of clubs that extend beyond the school day. For student government positions, the student must be eligible at the time of the election. For school drama or musical productions, if the student actor, director, etc. is eligible four weeks prior to the production, he/she remains eligible through the end of the production as long as the student attends the assigned academic support classes. During sectional play, the student athlete remains eligible as long as the athlete attends the assigned academic support classes.

Eligibility Guidelines

At each interim or marking period checkpoint, eligibility is determined. In addition, the High School will implement a 2½ checkpoint beginning in September 2010. There are three levels - full participation, probation, and contest/game ineligible. Students continue in that category until the next interim or marking period checkpoint.

All students will be eligible during try outs or auditions regardless of their eligibility status.

Incompletes
Incompletes will be considered failing grades for the purpose of academic eligibility. Once completed, an incomplete counts as a grade immediately, and, if passing, is taken out of the eligibility system.
SUBJECT: Academic Eligibility for Extra-Curricular Activities (Continued)

Full Participation
Students who are passing all classes and have no incompletes are allowed to participate fully.

Probation
A student who is failing one class at the interim or marking period checkpoint (progress report or report card) will be eligible to participate fully in activities and in contests but is considered to be on probation.

Contest/Game Ineligible
The following process applies to students who:
- Fail two or more classes at the interim or marking period
- Fail the same class for more than one quarter

Weekly Signature Sheets
High School students will need to obtain satisfactory feedback from the teachers whose classes she/he is failing in order to play during the following week. In the case that a student is marked unsatisfactory in an area, the student will receive specific feedback so that he can make the necessary changes to obtain a satisfactory rating the following week. If there are any unsatisfactory marks given, the student may continue to practice, as long as they meet the requirement of attending the academic support class.

These sheets must be turned in every Friday during the period of ineligibility to the Main Office. If a teacher is absent, sheets may be turned in by the end of the student’s lunch period on Monday of the following week. If teacher is still absent on Monday, the building principal and activity director (Athletic Director for sports) will make the decision on eligibility.

Middle School signature forms will be handled by the Building Principal who will meet with teachers and obtain the necessary feedback.

Academic Support Classes

The student will also attend an academic support class(es) daily throughout the period of ineligibility (that is, until the next interim or marking grades are published) and present a daily pass to the activity director or coach to participate in the game or practice that day. The amount of academic support will be a minimum of tenth period daily.
SUBJECT: Academic Eligibility for Extra-Curricular Activities (Continued)

If a student is failing more than two classes, additional restricted study halls may be assigned during the school day.

**Appeal Process**

A board of Appeal shall rule on the following issues:

- If a student or the student’s parent/guardian requests a review of the ineligible classification.
- If a student is deemed as having a handicapping condition.

The Board shall be made up of the following individuals:

- Assistant Principal
- School Counselor
- Student Representative
- Faculty Representative
- Parent Representative

The Board will be appointed annually by the Building Principal. A simple majority vote is needed to rule on any one case.

Approved: Board of Education
July 22, 2009

Approved: Board of Education
July 21, 2010

Approved: Board of Education
January 30, 2013

Approved: Board of Education
June 15, 2016
WILLIAMSON MIDDLE SCHOOL
ELIGIBILITY POLICY

1. **Objective:**
   A. Extracurricular activities are important in developing well rounded students.
   B. Encourage student effort and accountability for academic success.
   C. Be fair, equitable and consistent for all groups, sports, extracurricular clubs or activities.
   D. Encourage communication between parents, teachers, coaches, activities leader and
      student supporting academic achievement.
   E. Athletic competition/musical extracurricular activities is a privilege and hold specific
      responsibility.
   F. Promote appropriate conduct as representatives of Williamson Central School District.

2. **Eligibility to Participate:**
   A. All students enrolled at Williamson Middle School are able to participate in extended day
      extracurricular activities (i.e. school play, athletics).
   B. Students participating in these activities will be subject to an academic review at the
      interim period (5, 15, 25 weeks) and the quarterly report card period (10, 20, 30 weeks).
      Students will be identified as “at risk” academically if they are below proficiency (grades
      of a 74 or below) and work habits (1 or 2) in two or more classes.
      Example: Math 72 WH 2
               ELA 64 WH 1
   C. Students determined to be “at risk”, will be identified and will attend a daily 10th period
      supportive academic study hall and complete a run around sheet (only for those classes
      in which they are not-proficient).
   D. Students must comply with the completion of the run around sheet and attend the
      supportive study hall in order to continue to participate in the activity.
   E. At the next quarterly or interim review, if a student who shows improvement on both
      academics and work habits, the student would be considered no longer “at risk”.
   F. At the next quarterly of interim review, if a student has not demonstrated academic
      improvement, he/she could become ineligible for full participation at the discretion of the
      school administration.
   G. Ineligibility includes loss of practice time and/or not able to participate in games,
      matches or events.
H. Coaches will be contacted by the administration as to inform them of student's progress.
I. Teachers will be notified of student's eligibility status by the administration every five weeks.

3. **School Attendance/Behavior:**
The following concerns will affect student opportunities to participate in extracurricular activities:
   A. Repeated and unexcused absences and tardiness.
   B. Disciplinary referrals for inappropriate or disruptive behavior that lead to suspension.
Initial Team Meeting Notes: