Student- Athlete Code of Conduct

The following Student Athletic Code of Conduct shall govern all student spectators/participants in the District’s athletic programs and/or activities. These rules must be read and signed by all student athletes and their parent/guardian, signifying an agreement to abide by such Code of Conduct, and returned to the Athletic Director.

ATHLETIC PROGRAM

Welcome to the Fallsburg Central School Interscholastic Athletic Program. This information has been prepared to be used as a reference by our student-athletes and their parents/guardians in an effort to define responsibilities as they pertain to the rules and regulations, as well as the policies and procedures for participation in our interscholastic athletics program.

The Fallsburg Central School Interscholastic Athletics program is governed by the regulations of the New York State Commissioner of Education and the Fallsburg Board of Education’s basic code for extra class athletic activities. In addition, Fallsburg is a member of the Orange County Interscholastic Athletic Association (OCIAA), Section 9 (Sullivan, Orange, Dutchess, and Ulster Counties), and the NY State Public High School Athletic Association (NYSPHSAA).

The Mission Statement of our Interscholastic Athletic program is to foster the quest for excellence, through maximum participation, by creating an educational and competitive experience within an atmosphere for sportsmanship. We strive to develop individual and team potential by promoting high standards of competence, character, civility and citizenship.

We are excited to have you become a part of the Fallsburg Athletic Program. It should be understood by all students/athletes and their parents/guardians that it is a privilege to participate on an interscholastic team. With this privilege comes the responsibility of making a commitment to all rules and regulations. This information will acquaint you with some specific policies/rules that are necessary for a well-organized, safe athletic program.

Please feel free to contact the Athletic Office if you have any questions concerning the Fallsburg Athletic Program or this information. We look forward to working with you and hope that you take advantage of the tremendous opportunities that athletics provides.

Educational Outcomes of Fallsburg Central School District Interscholastic Athletic Program

Competence

A student athlete in Fallsburg athletics will become competent in terms of:

• Skill Development
• Knowledge of the Game/Strategies
• Fitness/Conditioning/Healthy Behavior

Character

A student athlete in Fallsburg will demonstrate:

• Responsibility
• Accountability
• Dedication
• Trustworthiness/Fair Play

Civility

A student athlete in Fallsburg will demonstrate civility towards others, showing:

• Respect
• Fairness
• Caring

Citizenship

A student athlete in Fallsburg will demonstrate citizenship through actions showing evidence of:

• Loyalty/Commitment
• Teamwork
• Role Modeling

Philosophy

Fallsburg Central School District understands that interscholastic athletics are a significant part of the educational process. The combination of academics and athletics enhance the quality of students’ lives and expands their options for learning and personal growth. Athletics provide an educational opportunity in which students can learn essential life lessons beyond those that can be learned in an academic classroom. General Douglas MacArthur understood this when he spoke to a West Point graduating class in the middle of the 20th century and said: “On the fields of friendly strife are sown the seeds which on other days and other fields will bear the fruits of victory”.

This reflects our belief that the essential requirement for teamwork, the mental and physical challenges of training and competition, and the experience of winning and losing graciously and respectfully are important life lessons in every student’s developmental experience. These lessons will serve students well in their future endeavors.
Developing good character habits require time and effort. Coaches, parents and other community members can help students develop such habits by continually discussing, modeling and reinforcing the desired attitudes and beliefs over time.

We also understand that participation on the athletic team or teams demands a commitment that involves both dedication and sacrifice. This is required of not only student athletes but also coaches and parents.

Overall Athletic Program Goals

The primary goals of the Fallsburg Central School District Athletic program are to:

- Offer students an enjoyable experience.
- Provide the greatest opportunity for students to participate.
- Promote personal improvement in skills, physical condition and knowledge of the sport.
- Promote programs of excellence, which will accomplish the above, and lead to success on and off the playing field.

Expectations

We desire a program of excellence and strive to win. Central to the goals are outcomes of Fallsburg Central School District is the belief that interscholastic athletics can and should enhance the character of our youth. What follows are the positive expectations we hold for coaches, parents, supporters and athletes.

Coach’s Code

We understand that the Athletic Director and Coaches are leaders, and are dedicated to more than the X’s and O’s of competition. As a professional educator, leader and role model for students, the coach or Athletic Director will:

- Exemplify the highest moral character as a role model for young people.
- Recognize the individual worth and reinforce the self-image of each team member.
- Establish a realistic team goal or vision for each season and communicate that to athletes and parents.
- Encourage and assist team members to set personal goals to achieve their highest academic potential.
- Create training rules for athletes that reflect the positive values of abstaining from the use of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs.
- Strive to develop the qualities of competence, character, civility and citizenship in each team member.
- Provide a safe, challenging and encouraging environment for practice and competition.
- Gain an awareness of the importance of prevention, care and treatment of athletic injuries.
• Respect the integrity and judgment of the game official.
• Teach and abide by the rules of the game in letter and in spirit.
• Strive for excellence in coaching skills and techniques through professional improvement.
• Build and maintain ethical and professional relationships with coaches and administrators.
• Promote personal fitness and nutrition.
• Be modest in victory and gracious in defeat.

Parent’s Code

We understand that parents play a vital role in the development of student athletes and the success of our program. Therefore we encourage parents to:

• Be a positive role model through your actions to make sure your child has the best athletic experience possible.
• Be a “team” fan, not a “my kid” fan.
• Weigh what your children say; they will tend to slant the truth to their advantage.
• Show respect for opposing players, coaches, spectators and support groups.
• Be respectful of all officials’ decisions.
• Don’t instruct your children before, during or after the game, because it may conflict with the coach’s plans and strategies.
• Praise student-athletes in their attempt to improve themselves as students, as athletes and as people.
• Gain an understanding and appreciation for the rules of the contest.
• Recognize and show appreciation for an outstanding play by either team.
• Help your child learn that success is experienced in the development of their skills and they can feel good about themselves win or lose.
• Take time to talk to coaches in an appropriate manner, including proper time and place, if you have a concern. Be sure to follow the designated chain of command.
• Please reinforce our alcohol, tobacco and other drug-free policies by refraining from the use of any such substance before and during athletic contests.
• Remember that a ticket to a school athletic event is a privilege to observe the contest.

Supporter’s Code

We understand that the school community has an interest and investment in the success of our athletic program. These adults and members of the student body can play a key role in reinforcing the educational outcomes of our program. Therefore we encourage these important program supporters to:

• Remember that a ticket to a school athletic event is a privilege to observe the contest.
• Be a positive role model through their behavior at athletic contests.
• Show respect for opposing players, coaches, spectators and support groups.
• Be respectful of all officials’ decisions.
• Praise student-athletes in their attempt to improve themselves as students, as athletes and as people.
• Gain an understanding and appreciation for the rules of the contest.
• Please reinforce our alcohol, tobacco and other drug-free policies by refraining from the use of any such substance before and during athletic contests.

Athlete’s Code

High school athletics provide a unique opportunity for the development of not only physical conditioning and skill but also character traits essential for success in life. We challenge every athlete to strive for the following:

Competence – *the necessary level of knowledge and skill to sufficiently train and compete*

• Develop the skills necessary to participate competently in the game.
• Demonstrate knowledge of the rules and conventions of the game.
• Demonstrate knowledge of the strategies of the game.
• Demonstrate a level of physical conditioning and fitness sufficient to participate competently in the game.
• Demonstrate knowledge of healthy behaviors, including nutritional issues.
• Understand the necessity of abstaining from the use of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs in order to achieve the positive benefits of interscholastic athletics.

Character – *the pattern of beliefs, attitudes and therefore behavior that relates to moral strength, constitution and essential qualities that embrace the positive values of the Fallsburg Central School District community*

• Dependable in fulfilling obligations and commitments.
• Accept responsibility for consequences of actions; doesn’t make excuses or blame others.
• Strives to excel.
• Is committed.
• Perseveres (gives 100% effort; doesn’t give up in the face of setbacks).
• Demonstrate truthfulness.
• Play by the rules of the game and not cheat.
• Control anger and frustration; refrain from displays of temper and bad language
• Accept losing/winning gracefully, to congratulate opponents, not sulk or display other negative behaviors.

Civility – *to demonstrate behavior that exemplifies appropriate respect and concern for others*

• Practice good manners on and off field.
• Refrain from trash talk and other put-downs of opponents or teammates.
• Treat all persons respectfully, regardless of individual differences.
• Show respect for legitimate authority (e.g., officials, coaches, and captains).
• Be fair and treat others as one wishes to be treated.
• Listen to and try to understand others.
• Be sensitive and compassionate to others.
• Actively support teammates and others.

Citizenship – *social responsibility as part of a “community.”*

• Faithful to the ideals of the game, including sportsmanship.
• Keep commitments to team (e.g., is diligent about practice and following training rules).
• Show team spirit (encourages others, contributes to good morale).
• Put the good of the teammates to achieve team goals.
• Accept responsibility to set a good example for teammates, younger players, fans, and school community.

Athletic Department Procedures

General Eligibility

• Each student will participate under the eligibility requirements, rules and regulations of the NYS Commissioner of Education, the NYS Public High School Athletic Association and the Fallsburg Central School District Board of Education.
• For each team of which a student is a candidate, an athlete will return, signed, forms:
  o A-1 Agreement of Code of Conduct
  o A-2 Acknowledgement of Risk
  o H-3 Emergency Notification/Consent (gold card)

• Equal opportunity to participate in interscholastic competition will be afforded to all bona fide students of Fallsburg Central School District as outlined in the Commissioner’s Regulations and regulations of the NYSPHSAA.

• Upon entry into the 9th grade, a student is eligible for competition in a sport for four consecutive years until their 19th birthday (prior to July 1st) or graduation.

• Each student must be enrolled and participating in a physical education class during the sport season. If a student is ineligible or chooses not to participate in a PE class, they are ineligible for that day’s practices/or contests.

Health & Safety

• Sports physicals are available free of charge to Fallsburg Students through the High School Nurse’s Office. These are scheduled throughout the school year. It is required by NYSPHAA that all students have a sports physical examination prior to participating in the sports program. The sports physical shall cover one calendar year; however, a sport interval update form must be completed and approved by the
school nurse. Athletes will receive a pass (pink slip) from the nurse that indicates they are eligible to participate. The coach will be considered negligent if he or she allows a student to participate without this form in his/her possession.

- The athlete must report all injuries, no matter how minor, to the coach, as soon as possible.
- If a student requires the attention of a physician, either as a result of an injury received in practice, game or from an injury that takes place somewhere else; a medical release must be submitted to the nurse before the athlete can resume competition.
- If a student is to be medically excused for more than one day, a copy of the medical excuse should be sent to the nurse for his permanent record.
- NO student who has seen a physician can resume practice until the physician releases that student in writing. The release should be attached to the “return to play from” and sent to the health office. The nurse will forward a copy to the athletic director, coach and PE teacher. This must be done immediately so that the student can be reinstated in physical education class.
- If a student is out of practice for more than five days due to injury or illness he/she can return only with written permission of a physician. The school doctor will then give final approval. It should be noted that any student changing the dates on a physical card would be automatically suspended from participation. For the protection of the coach and the school, all of the above procedures must be done in writing through the proper channels.

- Click here for Concussion Management Information for parents and students.

**Academic Eligibility**

- All student-athletes must realize that their main purpose for attending school is to receive a solid academic education. Fallsburg schools are committed to providing and supporting all its students in academic need. The school provides academic intervention, remediation and tutorial services each day. To monitor student progress, academic progress reports are issued every five weeks. If, according to the progress report, or quarterly report card, a student-athlete is failing two or more subjects the following will occur:
  - The players will be informed by the AD, coach or guidance counselor of their status.
  - The players must attend tutorial each day for two school weeks, (Monday-Thursday) for at least 40 minutes each session. Attendance in the after-school program may count toward fulfilling this obligation.
  - If at the end of the two weeks of tutorial, they are no longer required to attend, they may resume game play.
  - Players are encouraged to attend practices with their team each day after the tutorial session has ended.
  - At the end of the two week period, the player must submit a signed grade tracker form (available from coach, AD or guidance office) to their guidance counselor. Players are to obtain signatures to verify attendance at all tutorial
sessions. The guidance counselor will notify the coach and the player will be permitted to return to game play.

○ If they are still failing two or more subjects after the two-week period, they are suspended from the team, until they are passing all subjects.

• A player on the ineligible list twice in one sports season is cut from the team for the remainder of the season.

○ Fall Season: 5 week, 1st Qtr.

○ Winter Season: 15 week, 2nd Qtr.

○ Spring Season: 35 week, 3rd Qtr.

• Players who skip tutorial are suspended from the team until they are passing all subjects.

• When the team has an early dismissal for a game, or early practice, the player must attend tutorial.

• If available, sports participants will be allowed to attend tutorial before or during the school day and after practice.

• The athletic director, after consulting the child study team, may review the circumstances of those students enrolled in AP courses, college courses or other “weighted” courses.

Attendance

• An athlete must be in school the day of the contest prior to 10:00 a.m. and must also attend school the day before going to any special tournament or out-of-state contest.

• If an athlete is illegally absent, truant, suspended in or out of school, or excused from any part of the school day due to illness, he/she may not participate in a sport activity that day, whether it is practice or a game. An athlete is expected to report on time for school each day.

Note: Absences that are approved by the office enabling students to participate include but are not limited to educational reasons (e.g. field trips), college visitations, doctor and/or dentist appointments, and funerals.

• Each athlete must make every effort to be in school the day following athletic events by 10:00 a.m. If a pattern of absence develops following athletic events, the coach will take appropriate disciplinary action. That action may range from a warning to suspension from participation for a period of time.
If an athlete is cut from one sport and wishes to try out for another sport, this may be done if the second sport has had no formal cuts to determine their squad and the coaches of the second sport are receptive to this procedure.

Players who choose to quit a team during the try-out period are expected to tell the coach in person. They will be allowed to play another sport that season with the approval of both coaches. Any athlete who quits after the mid-point of the season and has passed will be ineligible to compete during the following season.

Transportation to and from away Contests or Off-Site Practices

- All athletes must ride to away contests and off-campus practices on scheduled school transportation, unless the parent through the athletic director and coach has made prior arrangements. Permission must be in writing, by the parent and submitted to the coach before the contest or practice.
- Coaches and the bus driver are responsible for student-athlete behavior. Their orders are not negotiable. Final authority rests with the coach.
- There will be no loud noise on the bus, or shouting, whistling, or throwing objects out the windows.
- No student is to ride in the last seat of either row in the bus.
- All persons are to remain seated when the bus is in motion.
- Cleats or spikes are not to be worn on the buses or inside school buildings.
- No food or beverages will be allowed on the bus unless the coach or bus driver grants permission.
- Parents can take their son/daughter home after away contests. The coach of that sport will make available a permission form that needs to be signed by the parent. Athletes will not be permitted to ride home with other students.
- Under special circumstances, coaches may request that all athletes ride home on the bus. This will occur if safety is a concern.

Equipment

- Student equipment and/or uniforms issued to the student athlete are his/her responsibility. He/she is expected to keep it clean and in good condition. Loss of any equipment is the athlete’s financial obligation. Failure to replace or return the items will result in the student being ineligible for any future athletic participation or awards. The student will be billed and transcripts and grades will be held until all accounts are settled.

Awards

At the conclusion of each sports season an awards assembly will be held to recognize the accomplishments of our student-athletes. All players who complete the season in good standing will be eligible for awards.

- Modified Certificate
Athletic Department Code of Conduct

Athletes are expected to exemplify good citizenship in both the school and community at large. When a student athlete chooses one of the following behaviors, listed below, the consequences will result in any one or more of the following:

- Verbal warning
- Suspension from team
- Cut from team
- Lost eligibility for a sports season
- Lost eligibility for the school year or career
- Any student serving a full day of ISS/Character Education cannot participate in after-school practices or games.
- Any student serving a full day of ISS/Character Education on Friday cannot participate in a contest held on Saturday or Sunday.

Hazing

“Hazing” includes any action or situation, which recklessly or intentionally causes embarrassment to a student, endangers the student’s mental or physical health, or involves the forced consumption of food or other matter, alcohol, or drugs by a student for the purpose of initiation into or in association with an organization or team.

Tobacco Use

Any athlete who is caught smoking and/or using tobacco products such as chewing tobacco or snuff will be suspended from that sport for one-third of the season. At the coach’s discretion, practice time may be required to re-condition an athlete prior to returning to competitive play. A second infraction will result in dismissal. An athlete is in violation of the smoking policy if he or she is in possession of a lit cigarette.

Controlled Substance Use

Any athlete in possession of, using, or distributing any controlled substance (drugs, alcoholic beverage) will be suspended a minimum of one-half of the season. At the coach’s discretion, practice time may be required to re-condition an athlete prior to returning to competitive play. Counseling will be expected during the suspension. The period of ineligibility to participate in another sports activity will begin from the date of the dismissal. Violations and all subsequent penalties will carry over from year to year. The student-athlete may ask for the administrative team to review and recommend alternative consequences. During this time, the athlete is not permitted to participate until the administrative team has rendered a decision on this request.
Present at illegal parties

Any athlete who remains present at a party where minors are illegally consuming drugs and/or alcoholic beverages will be subject to discipline under the athletic and/or school District disciplinary code. Remaining present would be determined by the individual becoming aware or reasonably should have been aware that alcohol or drugs were being consumed and that he/she failed to leave the party.

Steroids

The use of steroids is specifically prohibited. Any student using steroids is subject to the same penalties as in use of any other controlled substance.

Insubordination

Any athlete who is insubordinate in school or during any practice session or game will be subject to disciplinary action by the team coach.

Violating Penal Law

Receiving a conviction, having been arrested, or issued an appearance ticket resulting from a violation that results in a misdemeanor or felony offense, including violation of §1192 of the Vehicle and Traffic Law, be it a youthful offender adjudication or not, may be prima facie evidence of a violation of the athletic Code of Conduct. A student will be suspended from the sport until the matter is resolved.

Ejected From a Contest

A student ejected from a contest will be suspended a minimum two additional contests. They will be required to NOT be physically present at those contests.

Misconduct

Misconduct includes, but is not limited to, violating specific team rules, fighting, harassment of any kind, profanity, cutting practices or classes, unexcused absence from practice or game, violating team curfew, dressing inappropriately on game day, stealing or in possession of stolen property, vandalism, leaving the site of an athletic event without school permission, any un-sportsmanlike behavior.

Disciplinary Process

The importance of enforcement of all regulations should be apparent. A firm and fair policy of enforcement is necessary to prevent a travesty being made of regulations. Due Process will always be carried out. The community, school administrators, and coaching staff feel strongly about maintaining a sound program of athletics. It is our intent to preserve rules that reasonably pertain to the health and safety of the individual and to the
orderly conduct of sports. We do not wish to establish arbitrary personal preferences to ensure absolute uniformity. The welfare of the students is our major consideration. What happens to them is a primary importance. In the event an athlete is found in violation of these necessary standards, a written conduct report will be initiated by the coach. A copy will be forwarded to the Athletic Director. It will be the responsibility of the coach to inform the parent of the violation. Violations will result in penalties ranging from suspension to dismissal from the squad as listed in the general rules of conduct.

Reporting of Violations

Reports of alleged violations of eligibility rules coming from the individuals listed below must be investigated.

These reports should be made in writing to the Athletic Director, within three days of the incident in question.

- Any District employee or school Board member
- Any adult acting as a chaperone or assisting with a school activity at the request of a District employee
- Any law enforcement officer or agency
- A parent/legal guardian of the student involved

Procedure of Investigation

- Once a written report of a violation has been received, the student and parent will be notified that an investigation is taking place.

- The student will be given an opportunity to explain his/her involvement in the violation. This will be done with the head coach of that particular sport and the Athletic Director. Due Process will be afforded the student and parent/guardian.

Determination of Consequences

The coach and Athletic Director will use all information from the investigation to make a decision on the penalty. Consideration determining the penalty will be given to the type of violation and the previous involvement in other violations by that particular student. The respective building Principal will be informed of each violation and be given the opportunity for input.

Notification of Penalty

The student and the parent will be notified within 24 hours of the determination of any suspension or dismissal, and also inform them of the appeal procedure.

Appeal of Decision
If an appeal is to be made by the student, the Athletic Director should be notified and a meeting of the Administration Team will be scheduled. Appeals of the decision of the Administration Team may be heard by the Superintendent of Schools, and ultimately, the Board of Education. Students requesting an appeal are not eligible to participate until the decision is rendered.

Interscholastic Sports Offered at Fallsburg Central Schools

**FALL:**

- **Boys’ Soccer**................................................................. Varsity, JV, Modified
- **Girls’ Soccer**............................................................... Varsity, JV, Modified
- **Girls’ Volleyball**.......................................................... Varsity, JV, Modified
- **Girls’ Tennis**................................................................. Varsity
- **Football**....................................................................... Varsity, JV, Modified
- **Cheerleading**................................................................. Varsity
- **Cross Country**............................................................... Modified

**WINTER:**

- **Boys’ Basketball**.......................................................... Varsity, JV, Modified
- **Girls’ Basketball**.......................................................... Varsity, JV, Modified
- **Boys’ & Girls’ Skiing**..................................................... Varsity
- **Cheerleading**................................................................. Varsity, JV
- **Wrestling**...................................................................... Varsity, JV, Modified

**SPRING:**
Baseball................................................................. Varsity, JV, Modified

Softball................................................................. Varsity, JV, Modified

Girls’ Golf............................................................... Varsity

Boys’ Golf.............................................................. Varsity

Boys’ & Girls Track.................................................... Varsity, Modified

Affiliations

Fallsburg is a member of the Orange County Interscholastic Athletic Association and Section IX of the New York State Public High School Athletic Association.

Sites of Contests

Modified, JV and Varsity Soccer games are played at both the High School and at BCES.

Alpine Skiing is at Holiday Mt. and Belleayre (additional sites may be used)

Modified, JV and Varsity Football is played at the Town of Fallsburg’s Morningside Park field, or at Fallsburg High School.

Boys’ Golf is played at Terry Brae Golf Course.

Girls’ Golf is played at Lochmor Golf Course.

All home contests are played at Fallsburg High School, except varsity, JV and modified softball, which are played at Cosor Elementary. Directions to away contests may be found online at http://ociaa.ouboces.org.

Clink on the link marked “site directions.”

Contact Information

Athletic Office: 845-434-6800 x2212

Athletic Fax: 845-434-0046

Schedules: http://ociaa.ouboces.org