

Fallsburg Student- Athlete Code of Conduct

**Contact Information: Director of Athletics/Athletic Office: 845-434-6800 x2212 Athletic
Fax: 845-434-0046**

The following Student Athletic Code of Conduct in conjunction with the general student code of conduct shall govern all participants in the District's athletic programs and/or activities. A signed copy of these expectations and guidelines must be returned by all student athletes and their parent/guardian, signifying an agreement to abide by such Codes of Conduct.

ATHLETIC 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 IX (Sullivan, Orange, Dutchess, and Ulster Counties), and the NY State Public High School Athletic Association (NYSPHSAA). Fallsburg athletics abides by league, section and state rules and policies, including the drone policy and transgender policies, unless otherwise noted.

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.

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.

Educational Outcomes of the 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 enhances 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.

It is 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 requires 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 health, 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

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:

1. **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.
2. **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.
3. **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.

4. **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 first to achieve team goals.
 - Accept responsibility to set a good example for teammates, younger players, fans, and school community.

Athletic Department Procedures

General Eligibility specific to athletic participation

- 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.
- Students must submit the following completed forms prior to tryout or practice with any team or coach prior to submitting the following forms: an interval medical form/physical medical form that must be signed by the parent/guardian and school nurse, with a signed concussion information form, and a signed student athlete code of conduct risk and responsibilities acknowledgement.
- 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.
- All Fallsburg student athletes are expected to change, be prepared and participate in all Physical Education activities and classes. Any student athlete in violation of this policy is ineligible for practice and/or games that day. Physical Educators will contact athletic coaches when an athlete does not meet the above expectations.

Health & Safety

- Sports physicals are available free of charge to Fallsburg students through the School Nurse’s Office. These are scheduled throughout the school year. It is required by NYSPHSAA 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 each season and be approved by the school nurse. Athletes will receive a signed form from the school nurse that indicates they are medically eligible to participate. The athlete must give the completed interval form to the coach. The coach will be considered negligent if he or she allows a student to participate without this form in his/her possession.
- **Concussion Management: Each student must have a valid ImPACT baseline on file prior to the student trying out for any team/program. Parents/guardians can select to not have their child participate in ImPACT testing by completing the attached OPT OUT form. If a student would like to participate in interscholastic athletics a completed valid ImPACT baseline must be on file prior to the student trying out for the team/program.**

- A student athlete must report all injuries, no matter how minor, to the coach, as soon as possible. The coach must complete and submit an accident report within 24 hours from the injury to the school nurse as well as notify the athletic director in writing.
- If a student requires the attention of a physician, either as a result of an injury received in practice, in a game or from an injury that takes place somewhere else, a medical release must be submitted to the school nurse before the athlete can resume participation.
- If a student is to be medically excused for more than one day, a copy of the physician's medical excuse must be sent to the school nurse for his permanent record.
- A student that is under the care of or has seen a physician can resume participation upon the receipt of a written physician releases note indicating that student's release. This must be sent immediately to the school nurse by the physician or parent/guardian to disrupt the educational process as little as possible.
- After the midpoint of the season, if a student's continued participation creates a safety concern, the student will be removed from the program without penalty as deemed by the head coach and/or athletic director.
- Click on the link below for Concussion Management Information for parents and students.
<https://www.cdc.gov/headsup/>

Academic Eligibility and Attendance

Refer to the general eligibility document included in the Student Code of Conduct.

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/or school administration has made prior arrangements. Permission must be in writing by the parent and submitted to the school district before the contest or practice. The athletic director, school administration or office clerical staff will provide documentation to the coach if alternative transportation has been approved for the individual student.
- Coaches and the bus driver are responsible for student-athlete behavior. Their orders are not negotiable. Final authority rests with the coach and athletic director.
- Parents can take their child home after away contests. The coach of that sport will make available the permission form that needs to be signed by the parent each date that the student is being picked up. 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.
- Spectators are not permitted to ride school transportation unless the spectator through the athletic director and/or school administration has made prior arrangements. Permission must be in writing by the parent/guardian and submitted to the school district before the event. The athletic director, school administration or office clerical staff will provide documentation to the coach if the transportation request has been approved for the spectator. Spectators include but are not limited to: students not on the roster, past graduates, children of school employees, school staff or community members not BoE appointed to the program.

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.

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 portion of the day of OSS/ISS/Character Education, with the exception of lunch detention, cannot participate in after-school practices or games.
- Any student serving a portion of the day of OSS/ISS/Character Education, with the exception of lunch detention, 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 or students, endangers the student’s mental or physical health, or involves the forced consumption of food or other matter, alcohol, or drugs by a student or group of students 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, vape devices or snuff will be suspended from that sport for one-third of the season from the date of the infraction. At the coach’s and/or athletic director’s discretion, practice time may be required to recondition an athlete prior to returning to competitive play. A second infraction will result in dismissal. An athlete is in violation of the smoking policy as outlined in the student code of conduct, 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, etc.) will be suspended a minimum of one-half of the season from the date of the infraction. At the coach’s and/or athletic director’s discretion, practice time may be required to recondition an athlete prior to returning to competitive play. Counseling will be expected and provided during the suspension. The period of ineligibility to participate in another sports activity will begin from the date of the suspension and may carry into the next athletic season. 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 suspended a minimum of one-half of the season from the date of the infraction. 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. At the coach's and/or athletic director's discretion, practice time may be required to recondition an athlete prior to returning to competitive play. The period of ineligibility to participate in another sports activity will begin from the date of the suspension and may carry into the next athletic season. Violations and all subsequent penalties will carry over from year-to-year. The student-athlete and/or parents/guardian may utilize the appeal process. During this time, the athlete is not permitted to participate until the administrative team has rendered a decision on this request.

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, and/or athletic director, in addition to any school consequences.

Violating Penal Law

“Violating Penal Law” refers to receiving a conviction, having been arrested, or being 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.

Ejected From a Contest

A student ejected from a contest will be suspended a minimum of two additional contests or longer as determined by the athletic director. The suspended student will NOT be permitted to be physically present at those contests. If the suspended student attends an athletic contest of the team they are suspended from, another game suspension will be added and/or carried over to next season or year.

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, not following team dress code on game day, stealing or in possession of stolen property, vandalism, leaving the site of an athletic event without school permission, any unsportsmanlike 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 of 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 athletic program 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 athletic director and when available the head coach of that particular sport. Due Process will be afforded the student and parent/guardian.

Determination of Consequences

The Athletic Director, in consultation with the coach, 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 must be notified by the student's parent/guardian in writing within 10 calendar days from the date of the incident and a meeting of the Administration Team will be scheduled. Appeals of the decision of the Administration Team may be heard within 10 calendar days from the date of the initial appeal meeting by the Superintendent of Schools. The Superintendent's decision is final. Students requesting an appeal are not eligible to participate until the decision is rendered.

****In the absence of the athletic director, the titles of Principal or Assistant Principal may be substituted for athletic director****

**Interscholastic Sports Offered at Fallsburg Central Schools
(dependent upon athletic enrollment/participation numbers)**

FALL:

- Boys' Soccer.....Varsity, JV, Modified
- Girls' Soccer.....Varsity, JV, Modified
- Girls' Volleyball.....Varsity, JV, Modified
- Football.....Varsity, JV, Modified
- Game Day Cheerleading.....Varsity
- Girls Tennis.....Varsity
- Cross Country.....Varsity, Modified

WINTER:

- Boys' Basketball.....Varsity, JV, Modified
- Girls' Basketball.....Varsity, JV, Modified
- Boys' & Girls' Alpine Skiing.....Varsity
- Competitive Cheerleading.....Varsity
- Wrestling.....Modified

SPRING:

- Baseball.....Varsity, JV, Modified
- Softball.....Varsity, JV, Modified
- Girls' Golf.....Varsity
- Boys' & Girls Track.....Varsity, Modified

Sites of Contests

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

Modified, JV and Varsity Softball games are played 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 Tarry Brae Golf Course.

Girls' Golf is played at Lochmor Golf Course.

Schedules and directions to away contests may be found online at <https://www.sectionixny.org/public/genie/1336/school/197/>