

# IRONWOOD AREA SCHOOLS

## LUTHER L. WRIGHT MIDDLE-SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

### ATHLETIC CODE



## MISSION OF THE IRONWOOD AREA SCHOOLS

The Ironwood Area Schools and Community strive to educate, motivate and inspire each other everyday  
THE WRIGHT WAY!

### TOUCHSTONE

We Honor our Heritage with Respect  
We Live Each Day with Positive Attitudes  
We Embrace our Future with Responsibility  
It is Our Way . Everyday

THE WRIGHT WAY!

## LUTHER L. WRIGHT PHILOSOPHY OF ATHLETICS

The athletic policy of Luther L. Wright High School should be an extension of the Mission for the Ironwood Area Schools. The following standards should apply to our interscholastic athletic program so that our goal of preparing student athletes to be successful in their area of excellence. The athletic program should:

1. Build good physical health and well-being of the athlete.
2. Promote a positive mental attitude for the athlete.
3. Require that the program instill the qualities of good sportsmanship in the athlete.
4. Develop team loyalty and honesty in the athlete.
5. Promote responsibility and self-discipline.
6. Establish rules by which the athlete will abide and the penalties to be imposed for breaking these rules. The athlete should be aware of the damage done to himself, his teammates, school, parents and city when rules are violated.
7. Should promote both academic and athletic excellence.
8. Provide the opportunity for the greatest amount of involvement in athletics that it can for the student.
9. Keep winning in perspective. Proper leadership will produce young people who accept responsibilities, who accept others, and accept themselves.
10. Be enjoyable to the student and make every effort to reward the athlete for attitude, good work, and ability.

## TO THE ATHLETE

While all students are special in the eyes of Ironwood High School, you are in a unique situation. You are expected to tolerate in good humor the rigors of practices and the pressure of athletic contests while doing your best in the classroom. You are a model to young people who, in many cases, will pattern much of their behavior after you. This is a significant responsibility and your very highest nature must prevail. While other students may leave right after school, you have to stay for practices. While other students enjoy late nights out, you will have to abide by a curfew set by the coaching staff. Never lose sight of the fact you are always on display and a model to others.

When performing in public contests, you are Ironwood High School. Never perform in such a way that will reflect unfavorably on yourself, your family, your community, or your school.

What is required of you is not without reward. You will acquire traits that will be retained for life and aid in further successes and learning. You will learn great self-discipline, poise, and the rudiments of leadership, for only through first following can one become a leader. You will earn the praise and respect of fellow students, adults in the community, and the media. Your school experience will be richer than the student who chooses not to make the sacrifices of participation. Most of all, you will feel good about yourself.

"Do you know what my favorite part of the game is?

The opportunity to play."

-Mike Singletary

*"Failing to prepare is preparing to fail."*

-Wayne Gretzky

"Sports creates a bond between contemporaries that lasts a lifetime. It also gives your life structure, discipline and a genuine, sincere, pure fulfillment that few other areas of endeavor provide."

-Bob Cousy

## GENERAL REGULATIONS

### 1. Eligibility:

The current eligibility rules of the MHSAA will be in effect and enforced at all times. The single exception to these rules is the student-athlete with more than one "F".

This student-athlete shall not be academically eligible to compete in any athletic contest. Grades will be checked weekly, quarterly and at the end of each semester.

If an athlete has two (2) or more "F's" on the weekly checklist, that athlete will be academically ineligible for one week.

If an athlete has two (2) or more "F's" on a quarterly report, that athlete will be put on academic probation, but will be eligible to compete.

If the athlete is failing one (1) or more classes after the 4-week probation period, the athlete is academically ineligible for the next 9 weeks- and for the remainder of the that quarter of school if they are failing any one (1) class.

If an athlete fails two (2) classes on the semester grade report, that athlete will be ineligible for a period of one (1) quarter.

If an athlete fails three (3) or more classes on the semester grade report, that athlete will be ineligible for a period of one (1) semester of school.

2. Forms: An athlete must have on file in the athletic directors office:

- a. a yearly physical examination card. The physical examination had to occur after April 15 of the previous school year.
- b. a form with signatures of both the athlete and parent indicating that both have read and understand that the school district will enforce the Athletic Code.

3. Letters: An athlete must be a member of the squad in good standing at the end of the season to earn a letter.

4. Absence: No athlete shall report for practice or competition if they have been absent from school on that day except with the permission of the principal or designee. This includes half-days or full-days absences.

5. School Rules: The athlete will also be disciplined in accordance with the Policies on Suspension and Expulsion for the general student body if they apply.

6. Competition During Suspension: Any athlete suspended from athletics may participate in practice at the discretion of the coach. Suspended athletes may travel with the team at the discretion of the coach. Suspended athletes shall not participate in a contest in any form.

7. When Rules Apply: The athletic code applies to all student-athletes attending Luther L. Wright Middle/High School. This is a twelve (12) month policy. The first violation will result in a minimum suspension of 20% of the current season or into the next season of competition if the student athlete does not currently participate in a sport. The second violation will result in a minimum suspension of 40% of the current season or the next season of competition if the student athlete does not currently participate in a sport. Any third violation will result in a minimum suspension of one-year (12 months) from all athletic participation. This is a cumulative policy. Violations and/or suspensions may carry over from one year to the next. Any student athlete free of any violations for a one-year (12 month) period will have previous violations expunged.

8. Violations and Penalties: Under this policy, any combination of listed violations will result in enforcement of appropriate penalties.

Example:       1st Violation - Smoking  
                  Penalty - Suspended 20% of the season  
                  2nd Violation - Drinking  
                  Penalty - Suspended 40% of the season

Violations do not have to occur under the same heading. After any 1st Violation a meeting between the athlete, parents, and school officials must be scheduled to discuss rule violation and the athletic code. Athlete will not resume playing in any competition until this meeting has been scheduled and conducted.

A. Coaches Discretion: The coach has the authority to set his or her own rules concerning their sport that are not covered by or inconsistent with the athletic code. These include but are not limited to attendance at team functions, curfew, etc. Maximum penalty can be up to two weeks or two contests. The coach's rules must be approved by the athletic director before the season starts. Players must be given a copy of the rules at the start of the season.

B. Tobacco: Student-athletes shall not use or be in possession of any tobacco or tobacco product in any form.

1. The first violation will result in a suspension of 20% of the current season or into the next season of competition if the student athlete does not currently participate in a sport. The student-athlete shall forfeit all post-season awards (such as all-conference, all U.P., team MVP, senior athlete of the year, etc.) for that athletic year. In addition, it is recommended that the athlete participate in tobacco cessation counseling.
2. The second violation will result in a suspension of 40% of the current season or into the next season of competition if the student athlete does not currently participate in a sport.
3. The third violation will result in a one-year (12 month) suspension from all athletic participation.

C. Chemicals : Student-athletes shall not use or be in possession of any alcohol, illegal chemical substances, or analogue drugs. A substance may be considered an analogue drug if the chemical structure is similar to any controlled substance and falls under the auspices of Michigan Law: MCL 33.7212 (l) (m-r). A synthetic and/or analogue drug will be treated in the same manner by which the Ironwood Area School District currently deals with any other controlled substance(s).

1. The first violation will result in a suspension of 20% of the current season or into the next season of competition if the student athlete does not currently participate in a sport. The student-athlete shall forfeit all post-season awards (such as all-conference, all U.P., Team MVP, senior athlete of the year, etc.) for the athletic year. In addition, it is recommended that the athlete participate in an evaluation for possible chemical abuse.

2. The second violation will result in a suspension of 40% of the current season or into the next season of competition if the student athlete does not currently participate in a sport.

3. The third violation will result in a one-year (12 month) suspension from all athletic participation.

4. Student-athletes shall not be in the company of other minors who are in possession of alcohol or illegal chemical substances. This includes but is not limited to parties, keggers, etc.

a. The first violation will result in a suspension for 20% of the current season or into the next season of competition if the student athlete does not currently participate in a sport. The student-athlete shall forfeit all post-season awards for that athletic year.

b. The second violation will result in a suspension of 40% of the current season or into the next season of competition if the student athlete does not currently participate in a sport.

c. The third violation will result in a one-year (12 month) suspension from all athletic participation.

D. Serious Misconduct: such as the willful destruction of property, stealing, conviction of a crime, etc. School officials shall investigate allegations of serious misconduct. An ad hoc committee consisting of but not limited to the high school principal, athletic director, coach of the sport, and two other head coaches shall meet to review the said allegations and assess any penalties if warranted.

1. The first violation shall result in minimum suspension of 20% of the season.
2. The second violation shall result in a minimum suspension of 40% of the season.
3. The third violation may result in the suspension of the athlete for the remainder of their high school career.

9. Due Process: Prior to the application of penalties for smoking, chemicals and serious misconduct, the athlete will get written notification of the charges against them, the opportunity to tell their side of the story, the right to face their accuser, and the parents and/or guardian will be notified. The coach of the sport may impose these penalties immediately if they are the eyewitness.

10. Appeal Process: (Note: The coach of the athlete must be informed of the status of all appeals.)

A. For those decisions concerning separation or suspensions made by the coach: Parents may appeal the decision of the coach to the athletic director (AD). Requests for appeal shall be made within three school days of the coach's decision. The AD shall affirm or modify the actions of the coach within two school days from the date of the appeal. The AD's decision is not appealable.

B. For decisions concerning separation or suspensions made by the athletic director:

1. Parents may appeal the decision to the principal. Requests for appeal shall be made within three school days of the athletic director's decision. The principal shall affirm or modify the terms of the AD's actions within two school days from the date of the appeal.
2. If the parent does not agree with the decision of the principal, they may appeal the decision to the superintendent of schools. Requests for appeal shall be made within three school days of



the principal's decision. The superintendent shall affirm or modify the terms of the principal's actions within two school days from the date of the appeal.

3. The superintendent's decision may be appealed to the Board of Education within five school days of such decision.

4. The board of education shall schedule a hearing within ten school days and shall notify the parents that said hearing shall be conducted under the following rules and procedures:

- a. Written notice shall be given of the time, date and place of the hearing.
- b. The student or parent may be represented by an attorney or other advisor of their choosing.
- c. Witnesses may be present at the hearing and student or his representative may question witnesses testifying against the student.
- d. The hearing is not a court proceeding, and court rules of evidence shall not be enforced at such hearing.
- e. There may be present at the hearing the principal, the Board of Education's attorney, and such resource persons as the president of the Board of Education deems essential to the proper adjudication of the case.
- f. The Board of Education shall render a written opinion of its determination within two school days from the date of the hearing. Such written opinion shall be forwarded to all parties concerned.

C. For decisions concerning separation or suspensions made by the athletic council:

1. If the parent does not agree with the decision of the athletic council, they may appeal the decision to the superintendent of schools. Requests for appeal shall be made within three school days of the superintendent's decision. The superintendent shall affirm or modify the terms of the athletic councils action within two school

- days from the date of the appeal.
2. The superintendent's decision may be appealed to the Board of Education within five school days of such decision.
  3. The Board of Education shall schedule a hearing within ten school days and shall notify the parents that said hearing shall be conducted under the following rules and procedures:
    - a) Written notice shall be given of the time, date and place of the hearing.
    - b) The student or parent may be represented by an attorney or other advisor of their choosing.
    - c) Witnesses may be present at the hearing and the student or his representative may question witnesses testifying against the student.
    - d) The hearing is not a court proceeding, and court rules of evidence shall not be enforced at such hearing.
    - e) There may be present at the hearing the principal, the Board of Education's attorney, and such resource persons as the president of the Board of Education deems essential to the proper adjudication of the case.
    - f) The Board of Education shall render a written opinion of its determination within two school days from the date of the hearing.

11. Revision of the Athletic Code: The Athletic Code will be reviewed yearly during the last month of school for the next school year by the coaches and the athletic director. Any school group or organization that wishes to make recommendations to the coaches for revisions for the next year should be present or submit in writing their recommendations for change. The coaches will affirm, modify or reject the proposals, but a copy of the organizations requests will be forwarded to the board. The coaches' recommendations will be presented to the board for their consideration by the athletic director.

Warning: The Ironwood Area Schools wishes parents and athletes to understand that participation in athletics could result in serious injury.

## NEW POLICY: Athletes Moving from One Sport to Another Sport

The following procedures should be followed by student athletes in the Ironwood Area Schools:

1. If a student athlete decides to quit one sport to join a different sport, the student athlete must meet with the Athletic Director before practicing in the second sport.
2. If you are coaching a sport and approached by an athlete that may have quit another sport – the name of that athlete must be turned into the Athletic Director as soon as possible.
3. If you are coaching a sport that is currently in progress and have a student ask to join your team – the name of that student must be turned into the Athletic Director as soon as possible.
4. If a conflict occurs between two different sports and one athlete – a meeting between the high school principal, the Athletic Director, and the two coaches involved in this situation will take place as soon as possible.

The purpose of this meeting will be to get all facts about the situation on the table through discussion.

The student's best interest will be regarded in the decision making process.

## NEW POLICY: Athletes Deciding to Quit the Team They Have Been a Member of During a Particular Season

The following procedures should be followed by all coaches in the Ironwood Area Schools regarding our student athletes:

1. If a student athlete decides to quit the team you are coaching – the name of that athlete must be turned into the Athletic Director as soon as possible.
2. The Athletic Director will attempt to schedule a meeting with the student athlete, parent/guardian, and the coach of that sport.

The purpose of the meeting will be to get all facts about the situation on the table through discussion.

The student's best interest will be regarded during this process.

## Information and Updates

- Student-athletes are responsible for all uniforms and equipment they are issued during the sport in which they participate. If any such items are not returned, are damaged and are not in proper condition at the time in which the student-athlete has finished in the sport, replacement costs will be charged, with an expectation of payment.
- The Ironwood Area School District stands by the policy whereby a student-athlete may only be transported home from a sporting event or extra-curricular activity by a parent or legal guardian. Failure to comply with this policy shall result in a suspension from that particular sporting event or contest. It is expected that all student-athletes ride in school transportation to a sporting or extra-curricular event, unless proper arrangements have been made with the administration ahead of time.

## Activities Participation Policy

The Ironwood Area School District provides opportunities for students to participate in many different activities. Each activity is important. In order for these activities to be fully effective, it is necessary that students be required to attend on a regular basis. There are times that conflicts do occur between activities. The purpose of this policy is to establish the procedure that will be followed when two different activities which a student participates in are scheduled at the same time.

Since students have a responsibility to other students participating in the activity and to the coaches/sponsors of the activity, it is the responsibility of the student to notify the coaches/sponsors of the conflicting activities of the conflict at least two weeks in advance of the conflict. The notification should be done before the two weeks if the student is aware of the conflict before the two weeks.

After the coaches/sponsors of the activities have been notified of the conflict, they should meet to try to resolve the conflict. If they can't resolve the conflict, it will be turned over to the High School Principal. The Principal will arbitrate the disagreement. The Principal will consider the following items: who has the greater need, performance vs. practice, curricular vs. extra-curricular,

coaches/sponsors wishes, student wishes, which activity was scheduled first, etc. Once the Principal arbitrates the decision, the student will not be penalized.

If the student has knowledge of a conflict and does not follow the time guidelines, the student could be penalized. If the activity is curricular, the student's grade could be lowered. If the activity is extra-curricular, the student could be suspended for up to one quarter of the season.

If a scheduling change is made by a coach/sponsor within the two week period, it will be the coaches/sponsors responsibility to check the conflicts.

## Appendix A

### SENIOR ATHLETIC AWARDS

#### John Jarvi, Jr. Scholarship

Presented annually to the top senior cross country performers planning on attending college to further their education.

#### Charles J. Lewinski Scholarship

Presented annually to the outstanding senior girls basketball player planning on attending college to further their education.

#### Kraemer Award

Presented annually to the outstanding senior male basketball player.

#### Little "i" Award

This award is given annually to the senior volleyball player who best exemplifies the concept of team first.

#### Theron Peterson Scholarship

Presented annually to the top senior skier planning on attending college to further their education.

#### James R. Brown Sportsmanship and Total Achievement Award

Presented annually to a senior hockey player. The criteria for this award include sportsmanship, dedication to the game of hockey, and academic standing.

#### Cy Justinak Award

Presented annually to the most improved senior hockey player.

#### Tyson Family Scholarship

Presented annually to the outstanding senior golfer planning on attending college to further their education.

#### Wendy M. Carlson Award

Presented annually to the outstanding senior female track athlete.

#### Tom Doman Award

Presented annually to the outstanding senior male track athlete.

#### John Krznarich Award

Presented annually to the outstanding senior baseball player.

#### Bob Miklesh Award

Presented annually to the outstanding senior pitcher.

#### Scholar Athlete Award

Each year we take the time to recognize those athletes that also excelled in the classroom. The Red Devil Booster Club is the proud sponsor of this award. Athletes earning a varsity letter this year and carrying an overall Grade Point Average of 3.20 or better qualify for this honor.

#### Sec J. Violetta Athletic Scholarship

This \$1,000 scholarship is given annually to an outstanding senior athlete who plans on attending Gogebic Community College.

Athletics was a major part of Sec Violetta's life and provided the sense of fairness, team play, and discipline that guided his life. He was never the tallest, the strongest or the fastest player, but was always the one with the biggest heart. It is in this spirit that the Sec J. Violetta Athletic Scholarship is given.

#### Booster Club Scholarships

Each year the Ironwood Red Devil Booster Club recognizes a number of our senior student athletes planning on attending college to further their education.

#### Bernie Krause Scholarship

Presented annually to the most dedicated female and male senior athletes.

#### J.R. Ostrom Award

Presented annually to the outstanding senior female athlete.

Ironwood Area Schools  
L.L. Wright Middle-High School

ATHLETIC CODE

Understanding and Participation Form

We have read, understand and will follow the Ironwood Area School District 's ATHLETIC CODE participation rules and regulations.

We are responsible for the information contained in this hand-book. We realize that the school district is obligated to enforce these rules and regulations for the safety of all concerned.

The student-athlete and parent(s) or legal guardian(s) are required to sign this sheet prior to participation in practices, contests or meetings of any school-sponsored activities.

Parent-Legal Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please print)

Parent-Legal Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Student-Athlete: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Home or Cell Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Sport(s) of Participation: \_\_\_\_\_

Please sign and return immediately to the Principal's Office.