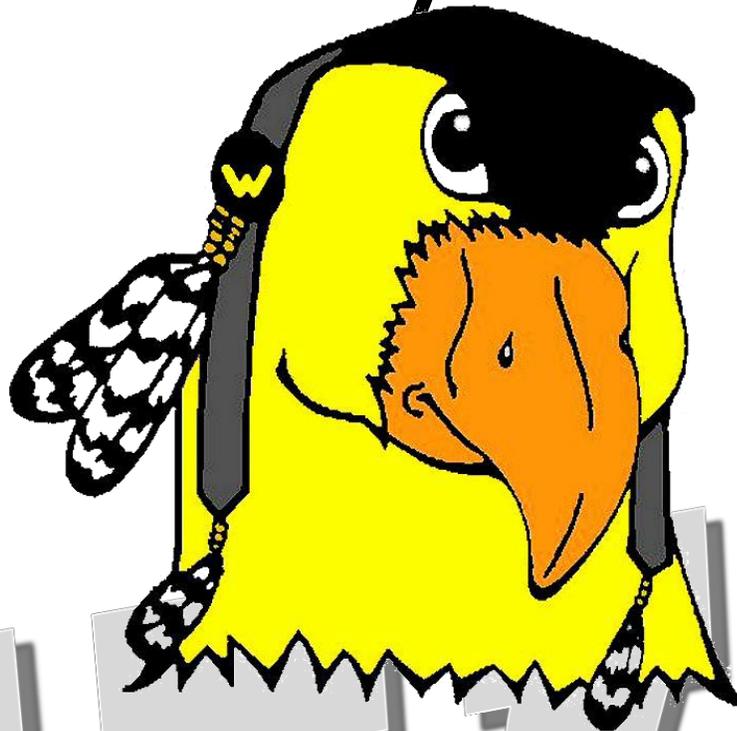


# **Wolsey-Wessington**

## **MS/HS**



# **Warbird Athletic**

## **Handbook**

### **2019-20**

## Welcome

On behalf of the Wolsey-Wessington School, we welcome you to Warbird Athletics. We are very proud of our Warbirds and are excited to have your children as part of our Program. Our athletic programs focus on developing lifelong skills of self-discipline, teamwork, perseverance, a strong work ethic, and respect for self and others.

## Why Athletics?

The School believes the interscholastic athletic and activities programs are an important and integral part of the total school program and shall be open to participation by all students who meet Board and South Dakota High School Activities Association (SDHSAA) requirements.

Research indicates a student involved in extracurricular activities has a greater chance for success in adulthood. For this reason, these programs have been established and encouraged. Many of the character traits required to be a successful participant are exactly those that will promote a successful life after high school. We hope the information provided within this handbook helps to make the Wolsey-Wessington Athletic program as enjoyable as possible for you and your child.

Athletics assists the education process by instilling and developing the skills necessary for future success. Such skills are: Leadership, Communication, Goal Setting, Organization, Work Ethic, Self-Discipline, Perseverance, Cooperation, Loyalty, Honesty, Relationships.

## Parents and Sportsmanship

The following are just a few reminders of the important role parents play in modeling behaviors when involved in athletic programs.

1. You are a fan and spectator – that is your role; play it well.
2. You are not a player – so let the players play the game.
3. You are not a coach – so let the coaches coach.
4. You are not an official – so let the referees officiate.
5. You are the host for all visiting teams – treat them with respect and dignity.
6. Cheer for our team – not against the opponent.

Remember: you are a role model for your child and others who are part of the team and overall program – how do you want to be remembered?

## Parent's Creed

As parents you are an invaluable part of your child's educational and athletic development. Your attitudes and actions have the most impact upon the outcome of your child's learning in the athletic arena. Therefore, it is important that you see athletics for what it can do to help your child's development.

### **Parent's Creed**

*I will be the positive role model my child needs to become a successful adult. In victory, I will be gracious, humble, and thankful. In defeat, I will be strong, honest, and accepting.*

## Parent – Coach Communication

### PARENT/COACH RELATIONSHIP

We are very pleased that your son/daughter has chosen to participate in the Wolsey-Wessington Athletic program. We will do all we can to provide a positive experience for him/her. Possibly the most important ingredient to achieve this outcome is to ensure that lines of communication are developed to allow for free and easy resolution of questions before they become conflicts. As a parent, you have a right to know what expectations are placed on your son/daughter. This section is intended to spell out all levels of communication so that parents, coaches, and athletes are aware of the steps they have available to resolve anything they think is or might become an issue.

#### **COMMUNICATION YOU SHOULD EXPECT FROM YOUR CHILD'S COACH**

1. Philosophy of the Coach
2. Expectations the coach has for your child
3. Practice and game schedules
4. Team requirements, i.e., fees, equipment, off-season conditioning, etc....
5. Emergency procedures in case of injury
6. Code of conduct and/or discipline plan
7. Notification of lost or outstanding equipment at the end of the season.
8. Changes in schedule due to weather, etc.

#### **ISSUES NOT APPROPRIATE TO DISCUSS WITH COACHES**

1. Playing time
2. Team strategy
3. Play calling
4. Matters concerning other student-athletes

It is very difficult to accept the fact that your child is not playing as much as you would want. Coaches are professionals. They make judgment decisions based on what they believe to be best for all students involved. Certain topics can be and should be discussed with your child's coach. Other things, such as these listed above, must be left to the discretion of the coach.

#### **THE NEXT STEP**

What a parent can do if the meeting with the coach did not provide a satisfactory resolution:

1. Call and set up an appointment with the Athletic Director to discuss the situation.
2. At this meeting the appropriate next step can be determined.

Wolsey-Wessington follows the chain of command listed below. We ask that you observe it if you elect to pursue any concern you may have regarding the athletic program.

1. **Assistant Coach (if applicable)**
2. **Head Coach**
3. **Athletic Director**
4. **Principal/Superintendent**

#### **APPROPRIATE CONCERNS TO DISCUSS WITH COACHES**

1. The treatment of your child, mentally and physically
2. Ways to help your child improve
3. Concerns about your child's behavior

These are situations that may require a conference between the coach and the parents. It is important that both parties involved have a clear understanding of the other person's position. When these conferences are necessary, the following procedures should be followed to help promote a resolution to the issue of concern.

If you have a concern to discuss with a coach, please follow the procedure below:

1. Contact the coach via school email or by calling the school at 883-4221.
2. If the coach cannot be reached after a reasonable time, call the Athletic Director. The A.D. will arrange the appointment for you.

#### **COMMUNICATION COACHES EXPECT FROM PARENTS**

1. Concerns expressed **directly** to the coach.  
**Encourage the athlete to discuss issues with the coach first.**
2. Notification of any schedule conflicts well in advance.
3. Specific concerns in regard to a coach's philosophy and/or expectation.

As your child becomes involved in the various programs at Wolsey-Wessington School, he/she will experience some of the most rewarding moments of his/her life. It is important to understand that there may be times when things do not go the way you or your child wish. At these times discussion with the coach may be desirable to clean up the issue and avoid any misunderstandings.

Please do not attempt to confront a coach before, during, or after a contest or practice. These can be emotional times for both the parent and the coach. Meetings of this nature do not promote resolution and even exacerbate the issue.

## **School Policies**

### **Dress Code**

Your appearance serves as an important indication of your attitude, personality, and self-image. It is important that your dress reflects not only your wishes, but also those of your parents and your school. Inappropriate clothing would include:

- have explicit or implicit sexual connotations
- profanity, expressed or implied
- graphic violence/derogatory messages
- midriff showing
- skirts and shorts of an inappropriate length
- undergarments showing
- clothes with excessive holes
- mesh tops or clothes deemed too revealing

### **Travel to and from Out of Town Activities**

Student-athletes are expected to ride the team bus to and from athletic events. In the instance that a student-athlete has an appointment, he/she may ride with a parent to the activity. Coaches will have a sign-out sheet for parents to sign if they wish to have their child/children ride home with them. If a parent is not present at the game and a student-athlete is to ride home with someone other than a parent, written notification must be received by the head coach from the parent. Without written notification from a parent, the child will ride the bus.

### **Out of town activities**

Students attending out of town activities at which Wolsey-Wessington students are participating are required to act in accordance with school policy. Students not doing so will be subject to discipline by the school.

Remember, you are representing your school and community and most importantly yourself. Many people do not see us play, and the only impression they have of us is when we pass through their town. Your dress on road trips should always be sharp and fashionable for the occasion. Dress appropriately and take pride in your appearance.

## **ISS/OSS and Absence from School Guidelines**

If a student is in ISS or OSS, they will not be allowed to practice or compete on the day(s) of the suspension. All ISS or OSS obligations must be completed prior to participation in any practice, competition, performance, or activity. In order to practice or compete on a given day, participants must be present in school three consecutive periods prior to dismissal or at the discretion of the principal, superintendent, or athletic director. The coach and principal will monitor attendance.

### **Inclement Weather Situations**

When school is dismissed early due to inclement weather, no practice or open gym will be conducted. All students will go home. When the school start time is delayed due to inclement weather no AM practice or open gym schedule will be held. When school is cancelled due to inclement weather, no practice or open gym will be held.

### **Requirements of Student-Athletes**

Student-athletes entering grades 7, 9, and 11 will be required to have a physical and must take the IMPACT Concussion Baseline test before the first day of practice. Both of these requirements must be met every two years. IMPACT tests are given at the school and administered by school staff. If an athlete sustains a concussion, he/she must pass the post injury test and be released to return to play by a medical provider (athletic trainer, doctor, or CNP).

All student-athletes in grades 7-12 must complete the annual paperwork required by our school and SDHSAA. The paperwork is available at the school and on the school website under the Athletics tab.

## Warbird Athletics

1. Varsity sports are games of skill that require athleticism
2. There is no substitute for skill, but hard work comes the closest.
3. There is **NOT** time in the busy season to hone all personal skills. That is done by individual players, outside of practice, through personal commitment.
4. Players who desire to get better can always find the time.
5. No player has ever played a perfect game; no official has ever officiated a perfect game; no coach has ever coached a perfect game; and no fan will ever watch a perfect game
6. When each player gets a little better, teams get a lot better
7. For best results:
  - a. Take care of injuries
  - b. Communicate with coaches and teammates
  - c. Eat right
  - d. Sleep right
  - e. Be on time!
8. Everyone makes a contribution to the team. No one makes the same contribution.
9. Excuses are **NOT** reasons.
10. If you did not work on your game in the off-season, rest assured you are no better than you were last year. Adjust your expectations accordingly.
11. **Everyone** has the opportunity to practice. Those who perform best at practice earn the chance to play.
12. Winning teams PRACTICE like winning teams.
13. Attitudes are contagious. Is yours worth catching?
14. Keep your priorities in proper order!
15. Successful players most often cite (in order below) the following reasons for their success:
  1. Personal commitment
  2. The encouragement and commitment of parents and family
  3. The encouragement and commitment of teammates
  4. The encouragement and commitment of coaches
  5. Support of fans and community

## The Key Commandments for Athletic Parents

1. I will make sure my child knows I love them in the thrill of the victorious moment and the period of agony brought on by defeat.
2. I will accept my child's strengths and weaknesses as they are - and focus on helping them to just do their best.
3. I will let the coaches coach - my role is to support, encourage, and motivate progress on a daily, weekly, monthly, and yearly basis.
4. I will teach them to enjoy the thrill of competition - the fulfillment of just being part of it all - and the satisfaction of having done your very best.
5. I will not re-live my athletic career through my children in any way.
6. I will not compete with the coach - together we will be a team to work toward the improvement of my child as a person, student, and athlete.
7. I will never compare and contrast the skills, courage, or attitude of my child with that of their teammates, or opponents, in a negative manner.
8. I will temper my reactions towards my child's tales of woe or heroism - we all tend to inflate reality to make it kinder to our personal standing.
9. I will take the time to know my child's coach in a way that allows me to understand his/her philosophy, ethics, knowledge, goals, aspirations, and responsibilities.
10. I will prioritize the agenda that drives my interest in the athletic program or any individual sport: the team agenda comes first- my personal agenda follows.
11. I will NOT allow the sport or game my child is part of the take on a life of its own.

# Wolsey-Wessington School District Activity Rules

School activity participants are expected to demonstrate behavior that reflects positively on the individual, school, and community. The rules governing participation in school activity events are in force from the first day of fall practice until the last day of the State Track Meet. The chart below summarizes district policy and state laws regarding school activities.

During the school year and the season of practice, play or rehearsal, regardless of the quantity, a student shall not: 1. Use a beverage containing alcohol, 2. Use tobacco, 3. Or use or consume, have in possession, buy, sell or give away marijuana, or any controlled substance. It is not a violation for a student to be in possession of a legally defined drug specifically prescribed for the student's own use by her/his doctor.

## DEFINITIONS

**SCHOOL ACTIVITY**—School activities include but are not limited to athletics, band, cheerleading, clubs, drama, National Honor Society, oral interpretation, royalty candidates, student council, vocal, and any other student activities.

**SCHOOL ACTIVITY EVENT**—A public presentation, performance, competition, or trip associated with participation in a school activity.

**SUSPENSION PERIOD**—The suspension period for an activity rules violation begins on the date of the next school activity event in which the student is involved. The suspension period for a drug conviction is for twelve calendar months from the date of the conviction.

District Policy		State Law	
<b>Violation:</b> Possession, sale, use, or distribution of tobacco, or a controlled or mood-altering substance. Crime against person or property.		<b>Violation:</b> Drug conviction, adjudication, diversion, or suspended imposition of sentence.	
<b>First Violation</b>	<b>Consequence</b> After confirmation of the first violation, the student shall lose eligibility for the next two consecutive interscholastic events or two weeks of a season in which the student is a participant, whichever is greater. If a student and parent participate in counseling sessions with our school counselor or a drug/alcohol counselor, the loss of eligibility will be one week or one game, whichever is greater.	<b>First Violation</b>	<b>Consequence</b> Suspension from participation in school activity events for 12 calendar months <b>Alternative</b> Suspension reduced to 60 school days if student participates in an assessment with a certified chemical dependency counselor and completes an accredited intensive prevention or treatment program.
<b>Second Violation</b>	<b>Consequence</b> After confirmation of the second violation, the student shall lose eligibility for the next six consecutive inter-scholastic events in which the student is a participant, or six weeks, whichever is greater.	<b>Second Violation</b>	Permanent suspension from participation in school activity events
<b>Third Violation</b>	<b>Consequence</b> After confirmation of the third or subsequent violations, the student shall lose eligibility for the next twelve months.	<b>Record of Violations</b> Violations accumulate for one year in middle school (grades 6-8). After 12 calendar months, a middle school student starts over with a clean record. Violations accumulate for four years in high school (grades 9-12). For example, if a student has a violation as a ninth grader, the violation is on record for four years. If a middle school student participates in high school activities, violations accumulate starting when the student's participation begins. For example, if an eighth grade student participates in high school activities and has a violation, that violation stays on record for five years. <b>Clean record provision</b> Students who have one violation then remain violation-free for 12 consecutive months start over with a clean record. This opportunity applies only once during a student's high school career. (Provision does not apply to suspension for a drug conviction, adjudication, diversion, or suspended imposition of sentence.) <b>No Penalty Provision</b> Students are encouraged to seek help for chemical dependency problems. Students with no identified violations will not be penalized if they voluntarily enter a treatment program and abstain. (If, while in the program, students violate the rules, they will be penalized the same as other students.)	

## PROCESS:

- 1 The principal or Athletic Director must inform the student of the rule, regulation, or policy that has allegedly been violated.
  - 2 The student will be given an opportunity to answer the charges and present evidence on his or her behalf.
  - 3 The principal shall render a decision as soon as possible after reviewing the case.
- Upon suspending a student, if possible, the principal shall provide oral notice of the suspension to the student's parents or guardian. The principal shall also provide written notice to the parents or guardian. The principal's decision may be appealed to the superintendent.

