WALL HIGH SCHOOL COACHING PHILOSOPHY

- Participation in Interscholastic Athletics is considered a privilege rather than a right.
- Individuals who participate in these activities have the honor of representing their school and community before the public. The school has the obligation to see that students exhibit the type of behavior and responsibility befitting this privilege.
- Athletic achievement requires sincere commitment from all athletes, parents, coaches, and administrators. For all of us to be successful, effective communication must occur.
- The school administration and athletic department believe strongly in being accessible to parents and supportive of the coaching staff.
- We are continually attempting to improve communication with students and parents. For our programs to be truly successful, it is necessary that everyone understand the focus and direction of the program.

ATHLETIC PROGRAM

Fall Season
Cross Country (Boys & Girls), Field Hockey, Football, Girls Tennis, Gymnastics, Girls Volleyball, Sideline Cheerleading, Soccer (Boys & Girls), and Surf Club

Winter Season
Basketball (Boys & Girls), Bowling (Boys & Girls), Chess, Competitive Cheerleading, Ice Hockey, Indoor Track (Boys & Girls), Swimming (Boys & Girls), and Wrestling

Spring Season
Baseball, Boys Tennis, Lacrosse (Boys & Girls), Boys Volleyball, Golf (Boys & Girls), Softball, and Track (Boys & Girls)

PROGRAM GOALS
1. To develop good citizenship and respect for rules and authority.
2. To promote and contribute to the goals of the total education program.
3. To develop physical excellence and understanding of the value of competition in our society.

ELIGIBILITY CHECKLIST FOR SPORT PARTICIPATION

a. A student who wants to be a member of a high school team must be registered in the 9th, 10th, 11th or 12th grade. A 13-year old is not eligible to play on a team unless the student’s birthday is on or after the first (1st) of September.

b. No athlete will be permitted to tryout or practice with any team unless there is a current Pre-participation Physical Evaluation on file in the school health office.

c. Students must meet conduct and academic eligibility requirements (see below for credit requirements).

d. Students and parents must register each season via the *FamilyID online registration system and sign/agree to the NJSIAA Steroid Policy Consent, Anti-Substance Use and Student Conduct Agreement, the Concussion Policy Acknowledgement and the Sudden Cardiac Death in Young Athletes Pamphlet that are included in the online registration system.

Links to the Pre Participation Physical Evaluation Form and the Family ID online registration system can be found on our webpage under “Athletics” at hs.wall.k12.nj.us

SPORT LIMIT

A student may not participate in more than one “strenuous” sport in any season.

ATHLETIC ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for athletic competition during the first semester (Sept. 1 – January 31) a high school pupil must have passed 30 credits during the immediately preceding academic year. A pupil who attends summer school and corrects his/her deficiencies shall be eligible. To be eligible for athletic competition during the second semester (Feb. 1 - June 30) a pupil must have passed 15 credits at the close of the preceding semester (January 31). If a student is ineligible for participation in a spring sport, the student must wait until May 1st when their credit status will be reexamined (using third marking period and interim report grades). A student can reestablish eligibility in September, February, and May only. In addition, a student must be in good standing in relation to the school's demerit/merit system to be eligible to practice and/or participate in games.

Additional Team/Sport Regulations: In addition to the school rules, coaches may have additional regulations pertaining to their sport. These regulations will be discussed with the athlete at the beginning of each sport season. The student must adhere to these regulations, as well as the general school and athletic department regulations.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

A student who attends school after the start of Block 3 will not participate in after-school activities that day.

- The athlete must be in attendance at school on days of practice or scheduled contests.
- A student is expected to attend all practices and contests including those scheduled for vacation periods.
- If an athlete is tardy for a practice/game he/she must personally speak to a member of his/her team’s coaching staff prior to that practice/game.
- A student athlete who has been absent from school all day may not practice or compete in a sport after school. Extenuating circumstances will be given special consideration by School Administration.

- All players will sit with their own team during the entire game.
- No athlete may leave the athletic activity without permission from the coach.

PLAYER EVALUATION AND TEAM SELECTION TRYOUT POLICY PHILOSOPHY

The high school athletic department is sensitive to the needs of the athletes during the tryout period. It is the school’s desire to see that as many student athletes as possible are involved in the program during the athletic season. Unfortunately, due to facility space, time constraints, numbers of equipment, and additional factors, limitations are placed on sizes of teams for each individual sport. The athletic department recognizes these concerns and is striving to maximize the options available for student athletes in the athletic arena as participants or supporters of the program.

TRYOUT POLICY PROCEDURES

1. Choosing the members of the various athletic teams is the responsibility of the coach.
2. Before tryouts begin, coaches will provide team information to all candidates at a meeting. Such information should include:
   a. Length of tryout period.
   b. Approximate number of team members that will be selected and criteria involved in selection-positions needed, etc.
   c. Distribution of practice and competition schedule. The coach will explain the commitment necessary to join the team.
   d. Clear notification that tryouts are based on the performance during the selection period. Tryouts are not based on summer participation or coaching camps the athletes participated in previous to selections.
3. Students who have any concerns or are cut from a team are encouraged to speak directly to the team's coach.

VARSITY LETTER AND TEAM CAPTAIN CRITERIA

Varsity letter criteria will be established by the varsity head coach of each sport. Wall High School only bestows varsity letters for school sponsored programs. The head coach will also establish criteria and procedures for selecting captains or a captain to represent their team if that head coach wishes to have team captains or a team captain.

DROPPING/CHANGING A SPORT

On occasion, an athlete may find it necessary to drop/change a sport for a good reason. If this occurs, the following procedure must be followed:

a. Talk with your immediate coach and then the head coach.

b. Report to the Equipment Manager and check in all equipment issued.

c. Go onto Family ID and re-register under that new sport.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR CONFLICTS

An individual who attempts to participate in too many extra-curricular activities will, undoubtedly, be in a position of a conflict of obligations. The athletic department recognizes that each student should have the opportunity for a broad range of experiences in the area of extra-curricular activities. However, students have a responsibility to do everything they can to avoid continuous conflicts. It also means notifying the faculty members involved immediately when a conflict does arise.

STEROID TESTING POLICY/NJSIAA

The NJSIAA will test certain randomly selected individuals and teams that qualify for a state championship tournament or state championship competition for banned substances. The result of all tests shall be considered confidential and shall only be disclosed to the student, his or her parents, and his or her school. No student may participate in NJSIAA competition unless the student and the student’s parent/guardian consent to random testing. An up-to-date list of these banned substances can be found under “Athletics” at hs.wall.k12.nj.us

SUBSTANCE ABUSE/STUDENT CONDUCT AGREEMENT

Information explaining the terms and condition of the policy will be made available to students in the following manner:

a) By the sport specific coach and/or advisor
b) In the student policy and procedure handbook

c) Student-Athletes and Parents/Guardians will be required to sign via the Family ID online registration system an the Anti-Substance Use and Student Conduct Agreement & Extracurricular Activities Involvement Form prior to trying out for any athletic team.

CONCUSSION POLICY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND SUDDEN CARDIAC DEATH IN YOUNG ATHLETES PAMPHLET

The NJSIAA requires that all student athletes and their parents become aware of the signs and symptoms of a concussion and the health dangers of participating in a sport when concussion symptoms are present. Information was developed by the NJSIAA to make parents aware of heart diseases/abnormalities that can lead to sudden cardiac death in young athletes. As a result, all student athletes and their parent/guardians will read about and acknowledge these dangers when completing the Family ID online registration system.
The conduct of an athlete is observed closely in many situations in high school. His/her conduct is a reflection of the total educational institution he/she represents. It is important for an athlete to dress appropriately while attending away contests.

a. On the Field: An athlete does not use profanity or illegal tactics and must learn that losing is part of the game, and that he/she must be gracious in defeat and modest in victory. There will be no tolerance for negative statements or actions between opposing players or coaches. This includes taunting, baiting, berating opponents, or “trash talking” or actions which ridicule or cause embarrassment to them. It also includes verbal, written, or physical conduct related to race, ethnicity, and gender. The student-athlete is always courteous and congratulates the opponent on the well-played game after winning or losing.

b. In the Classroom: As an athlete, you must plan your schedule so that you give sufficient time and energy to your studies to assure acceptable grades. In addition to maintaining good scholarship, an athlete should give attention to classroom activities and show respect for other students and faculty members at all times. Athletes should be leaders and act accordingly both in and out of school.

c. Appropriate Dress: Each athlete is responsible for dressing appropriately while attending away competitions. See your coach or athletic director if you are concerned about specific attire. Please take pride in your appearance and your team.

d. Behavior During Contest (Disqualification) An athlete who displays unsportsmanlike conduct, physical or verbal, will be disqualified from the next two regularly scheduled games/meets, with the exception of football, which will carry a one game disqualification. Disqualification is a judgment call by the official and the decision is final and may not be appealed. A disqualified player may not be present at any contest in that sport during the period of disqualification (not to be present in the locker room, on the bus, on the sidelines, or in the stands, or any place associated with the school). Any player/coach in violation of this provision will be cause for the immediate disqualification of those players and coaches. Any player disqualified a second time during a 365 day period from the first disqualification will have the penalty doubled. On the third offense, the player will be suspended indefinitely, and must apply, in writing, to the NJSIAA through the office of their Principal for reinstatement (NJSIAA REGULATIONS).

STUDENT ADMISSION POLICY FOR ATHLETIC EVENTS

All elementary and intermediate age children (grades K-8) must be accompanied by an adult in order to be allowed admission to athletic contests. Unsportsmanlike conduct shall include but not be limited to the following: Any person (athletic department staff member, student athlete, or a fan or a coach associated with a member school) who:
1. strikes or physically abuses an official opposing coach, player, or spectator.
2. intentionally incites participants or spectators to violent or abusive action.
3. uses obscene gestures, bias, profane or unruly provocative language or action towards officials, opponents or spectators.
4. Any profanity or comments of a racial, ethnic, or sexual nature directed to athletes, officials, team representatives, or other spectators will not be tolerated and are grounds for removal.

Special awards The Athletic Department offers two special awards. Each can only be bestowed once during a student’s time at Wall High School. These awards are specially ordered; therefore a student must be in residence at Wall High; never mock or boo opponents. Be considerate of opposing players and coaches. Treat visitors as invited guests. Accept decisions made by officials. Be gracious in victory, sportsmanlike in defeat. Good sportsmanship is learned. Support our cheerleaders positively. Remember that all school rules of behavior apply to athletic contests. Unsportsmanlike conduct shall include but not be limited to the following: Any person (athletic department staff member, student athlete, or a fan or a coach associated with a member school) who:
1. strikes or physically abuses an official opposing coach, player, or spectator.
2. intentionally incites participants or spectators to violent or abusive action.
3. uses obscene gestures, bias, profane or unruly provocative language or action towards officials, opponents or spectators.
4. Any profanity or comments of a racial, ethnic, or sexual nature directed to athletes, officials, team representatives, or other spectators will not be tolerated and are grounds for removal.

Congress recognizes that the good name of the school is more valuable than any game won by unfair play. Any spectator who continually violates the principles of good sportsmanship, either as a participant or spectator, will be cited and asked to leave the athletic contest. Depending on the severity of the incident, you may be barred from attending future contests.

SPECTATOR CONDUCT

Attendance at Games: Become familiar with the spirit and rules of the game. Cheer for Wall High; never mock or boo opponents. Be considerate of opposing players and coaches. Treat visitors as invited guests. Accept decisions made by officials. Be gracious in victory, sportsmanlike in defeat. Good sportsmanship is learned. Support our cheerleaders positively. Remember that all school rules of behavior apply to athletic contests. Unsportsmanlike conduct shall include but not be limited to the following: Any person (athletic department staff member, student athlete, or a fan or a coach associated with a member school) who:
1. strikes or physically abuses an official opposing coach, player, or spectator.
2. intentionally incites participants or spectators to violent or abusive action.
3. uses obscene gestures, bias, profane or unruly provocative language or action towards officials, opponents or spectators.
4. Any profanity or comments of a racial, ethnic, or sexual nature directed to athletes, officials, team representatives, or other spectators will not be tolerated and are grounds for removal.

Posters, signs, artificial noise makers, banners and other devices shall be barred from all contests.

Recognize that the good name of the school is more valuable than any game won by unfair play. Any spectator who continually violates the principles of good sportsmanship, either as a participant or spectator, will be cited and asked to leave the athletic contest. Depending on the severity of the incident, you may be barred from attending future contests.

EQUIPMENT

Returning Equipment: Failure to comply with this responsibility will result in disciplinary action/loss of extra-curricular privileges. The student will be billed for the replacement value of the equipment. An athlete will not be allowed to participate in another interscholastic athletic program nor will he/she receive an athletic award until all equipment/uniforms have been returned and all financial obligations have been settled. In the event of a senior, graduation will be denied until retribution has been made.

CONFlict PROCEDURE

Should a concern arise regarding athletic department procedures or policies, please be advised of the following steps to resolve any issue:
1. Procedure to follow if you have a concern to discuss with a coach. Make an appointment with the coach.
2. If a coach cannot be reached, call the Athletic Office and the coach will be given the information and return a call ASAP so that you can either talk on the phone or set up a meeting.
3. It is inappropriate to discuss with a coach:
   a. Playing time
   b. Team strategy and/or
   c. Other student athletes
4. If you have not had all your questions answered at this level, please contact the appropriate head coach. If this meeting does not result in a resolution to the problem, you have the right to call the Athletic Director, Mr. Thomas Ridoux at (732) 556-2064, to set up an appointment to discuss the situation.

SPECIAL AWARDS

The Athletic Department offers two special awards. Each can only be bestowed once during a student’s time at Wall High School. These awards are specially ordered; therefore a student must submit paperwork (available in the Athletic Office) at least three weeks before the season’s Sports Awards Night in order to be honored. If the paperwork is submitted late, the student will be acknowledged at the next season’s Sports Awards. The two special athletic awards are:
1. Scholar Varsity Athlete Letter Award - To be eligible you must:
   1) Be at least a junior
   2) Have earned a varsity letter in at least two sport seasons
   3) Have achieved one of the following:
      • accumulated a current GPA of 3.50 or higher
      • be in the top 20% of your class
      • been accepted as a member in the National Honor Society
2. Tri-Athlete Varsity Letter Award - To be eligible you must:
   1) Be at least a sophomore
   2) Have received a varsity letter in three different sports

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