



Indiana School for the Blind and Visually Impaired Athletics

Athletic Handbook

2025 - 2026

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ISBVI SPORTSMANSHIP CODE

The ISBVI Athletic Community (athletes, coaches, spectators, volunteers, and athletic administration) will exhibit a high standard of sportsmanship. We define sportsmanship as respect; respect for ourselves, our school, our opponents, and the officials.

Our Athletic Community will:

- Exercise self-control at all times regardless of the outcome
- Commit to fair play and the observance of all rules
- Interact with officials in a dignified and respectful manner
- Accept the responsibility of representing our school in a positive manner

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

A student is on academic probation if:

- He/she has 2 or more failing grades at the end of the quarter in any scheduled subject area
- He/she has any poor (P) from the citizenship grade

Students on academic probation at the midterm will be required to attend a minimum of thirty (30) minutes extra study time above and beyond the required one hour study time but will be allowed to continue to participate and travel with the team upon verification of attendance in extra study time. Students on academic probation as a result of a quarter grade, may come off probation at mid-term if passing all classes. In this case, the student will continue with extra study time until grades are reviewed at the end of the quarter. Students with one or more D's will not be considered on academic probation but will be required to attend the extra thirty (30) minutes study time in addition to the mandatory one-hour study time. NOTE: ISBVI does not retain students based on a student's athletic performance.

**** Coaches may choose to have more stringent requirements (subject to Principal and Superintendent approval) but, these previously mentioned requirements are the bare minimum. Coaches can check progress of students by talking with teachers, issuing periodic grade checks and checking grade cards at the end of the grading periods. It is the policy of the athletic department to work closely with the academic progress of each participant.****

PHYSICAL EXAMINATIONS

Every student-athlete is required by The Indiana School for the Blind and Visually Impaired and the IHSA to have an **annual** physical examination completed and on file with the health center *before* practicing or participating in organized team activities. Physical exams are the responsibility of the student-athlete and his/her parents. ***Exams are in effect for the next school year ONLY if the exam is taken after May 1st.***

INSURANCE

The Indiana School for the Blind and Visually Impaired does not provide insurance coverage for student-athletes. The Indiana School for the Blind and Visually Impaired administrators and coaches are safety conscious and are trained to instruct athletes in the safe and proper techniques of their individual sport(s). Due to the nature of athletic activity, however, injury may occur. While the school provides the opportunity for such participation, the parent/legal guardian retains the right of denial of such participation and must carry the responsibility for providing medical care and insurance coverage for their son or daughter. Parents/legal guardians are encouraged to have a family

insurance policy to cover athletic injuries and the cost of treatment. IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT NEITHER THE IHSAA NOR INDIANA SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED IS OBLIGATED TO CARRY ANY KIND OF FIRST DOLLAR MEDICAL INSURANCE FOR ATHLETIC INJURIES.

CODE OF CONDUCT

The following Indiana School for the Blind and Visually Impaired (ISBVI) athletic rules are in accordance with the Indiana High School Athletic Association Constitution. The conduct of participants in athletics at The Indiana School for the Blind and Visually Impaired, in or out of school, shall be such as: 1) not to reflect discredit upon our school, and: 2) not to create a disruptive influence on the discipline, good order, moral or educational environment in our school. Any such misconduct violating these principles shall be subject to disciplinary measures.

Enforcement of the Code of Conduct

The Principal shall enforce all rules and regulations as described in the Code of Conduct (hereafter, the Code) for student-athletes. All rules regarding behavior and/or training as outlined in IHSAA regulations apply. The Code will be reinforced by the coach of each sport during the year. The student-athlete is subject to disciplinary measure should he/she violate the Code.

Any alleged violation of the Code shall be reported to the Principal. The Principal will then immediately inform the Superintendent. Violations may be followed by an investigation by any or all of the following people...coach, sponsor, athletic director, Principal or his/her designee.

Expected Standards of Conduct for Student Athletes

- All ISBVI student-athletes must comply with the standards of the athletic code of conduct and school rules or be subject to disciplinary action or dismissal from a team as determined by the rules, coaching staff, athletic director, and/or Principal of the Indiana School for the Blind and Visually Impaired. The good of the team is first and foremost.
- No player(s) will ever employ illegal tactics to gain an undeserved advantage. All players will devote themselves to being true sportsmen.
- All student-athletes will care for all school issued equipment as though it was their own personal property.
- If equipment is destroyed through repeated use, it will be replaced by the school. If equipment is lost or stolen, the student-athlete(s) will fulfill their responsibility by paying for the replacement of item(s).
- All student-athletes will obey the specific training and practice rules of their team as given to them by the coaching staff.
- Student-athletes should not engage in the following: Drinking alcohol, taking controlled drug substances that have not been prescribed by a licensed physician or in excess of the prescribed amount, illegal drugs or "look alike" drugs, using tobacco products, using profanity and being disobedient or harmful to athletes and their team.
- Student-athletes and support students of the team must pass five credits each grading period to be eligible to participate in athletics. This does not include the school-to-work program.
- Student-athletes should be a positive influence in all they attempt to do. They are to work for the betterment of ISBVI and set a good example by doing what is right and good.
- Officials deserve courteous respect. Officials do not lose a game or contest. They are there for the purpose of insuring both teams have a fair contest.
- Student-athletes should appreciate that coaches, teachers and school officials have the best interests of all athletes in mind as they equip, schedule and conduct the athletic program.

ANTI-HAZING POLICY

The Indiana School for the Blind is committed to providing the best learning atmosphere for our students. Hazing activities are inconsistent with our educational mission and will not be tolerated in the athletic department. The Indiana Code defines hazing as “forcing or requiring another person (1) with or without the consent of the other person and (2) as a condition of association with a group or organization; to perform an act that creates a substantial risk of bodily injury.” The *American Heritage Dictionary, Fourth Edition*, defines hazing as: “To persecute or harass with meaningless, difficult, or humiliating tasks. To initiate by exacting humiliating performances from or playing rough practical jokes upon.” The ISBVI Athletic Department will not tolerate actions by student-athletes that recklessly or intentionally endanger the mental or physical health or safety of a student. This includes, but is not limited to, paddling, beating, branding, exposure to the elements, forced consumption of food or drink, “swirlies”, forced conduct resulting in extreme embarrassment, or any other conduct which could adversely affect the mental health or dignity of another individual. Disciplinary action will be taken against student-athletes who plan, encourage, or engage in hazing activities. Athletic department employees who permit, encourage, condone or tolerate hazing will be subject to discipline.

OVERNIGHT TRIP

Students who travel represent the school, their team, their community, their family and themselves. The following guidelines, procedures and processes will be in effect at all times. Students are expected to conduct themselves in an exemplary manner. The following list is not all inclusive.

- All school rules and school board policies are in force during the entire duration of the trip.
- Luggage is subject to search by school personnel or school appointed chaperones at any time before, during or after the trip.
- The room the student stays in is subject to search by school personnel or school appointed chaperones at any time before, during or after the trip.
- The student is expected to report any violation of rules, policies or state/federal law to school personnel or a chaperone.
- The student is expected to obey all state and federal laws.

****An athlete who is in violation of any of the above is subject to disciplinary action.**

Rules of the Code of Conduct

The following rules are specific examples of conduct that would violate the Code of Conduct set forth above. Rule violations may be subject to additional consequences above and beyond what is listed based on the nature and severity of the offense. Conduct that is not covered by these specific examples but that violate the principles of the Code of Conduct is subject to disciplinary measures.

Rule 1

Student-athletes (hereafter student managers, forensics participants, and cheerleaders are included in the term ‘student-athletes’) shall not knowingly possess, use, transmit or be under the influence of any narcotic drug, hallucinogenic drug, stimulant, depressant, anabolic steroids, marijuana, counterfeit caffeine pills or possess, controlled drug substances that have not been prescribed for them by a licensed physician or in excess of the prescribed amount, illegal drugs or “look alike” drugs, or use/transmit paraphernalia for use of such substances. (Use of an authorized drug as prescribed by a registered physician and taken per the prescribed amount shall not constitute a violation of this rule.)

***Consequence:**

1st Offense: Student-athletes will not be able to participate in the rest of the current athletic season plus the next athletic season they compete. For example, student-athlete participates in track, goalball, and swimming. Student-athlete violates the rule during track season, the student-athlete would miss the rest of track season and goalball and would be eligible for swimming if no other discipline occurs.

2nd Offense: Student athlete will not be able to participate in practice or competition for (1) calendar year (12 months) from the date of the incident. For example, student-athlete is caught October 10, 2022. The student-athlete will not be able to compete until October 10, 2023.

3rd Offense: Student athlete is no longer able to participate in athletics while at ISBVI.

Rule 2

Student-athletes shall not partake in any degree or be in possession of alcoholic beverages or tobacco products.

***Consequence:**

1st Offense: Student-athletes will not be able to participate in competition for the next 4 meets. For example, student-athlete competes in track, goalball, and wrestling. There are 4 scheduled meets for track and student-athlete is caught drinking after the 2nd meet. The student-athlete would miss the last 2 track meets plus the first 2 goalball meets.

2nd Offense: Student-athletes will not be able to practice or participate for that current season and the next two seasons that the athletes participate in. If a student athlete participates in one sport a year, then at the end of the current year the punishment will end and not carry over to the next year.

3rd Offense: Student-athlete will not be able to participate in practice or competition for (1) calendar year (12 months) of incident.

4th Offense: Student-athlete will not be able to participate in athletics while at ISBVI.

Rule 3

Student-athletes shall not commit felonies, misdemeanors, acts of delinquency, or status offenses.

***Consequence-** Any student-athlete arrested or detained as a juvenile on such a charge will be suspended from participation pending investigation of the incident. Conviction of any of the offenses outlined in rule three at any time shall exclude the student-athlete from athletic participation for one full year (12 months) from day the violation is confirmed.

Rule 4

Student-athletes shall not commit acts of disrespect, vandalism, and/or theft.

***Consequence-** The first offense will result in automatic suspension from participation in athletics and from the athletic squad or team for 25% of the contests for such team or squad. Practice for the student-athlete is at the discretion of the coach. Second offense will result in athletic suspension for a minimum of one (1) calendar year (12 months) from the day the violation is confirmed.

Rule 5

Any student-athlete who is in violation of school rules such as truancy, suspension, classroom disruption, or other punishable acts will be disciplined by the already-established school rules. The student-athlete may further be dealt with within the structure of each coach's rules for their sport. If a student-athlete is suspended out-of-school for any reason, they will be ineligible for all contests during the term of his/her suspension.

Rule 6

Specific team rules may be set forth by the coach of each sport, subject to Principal and Superintendent approval. These rules and the penalties for breaking them will be given to the student-athletes by the coach at the first meeting or practice of that sport. These written regulations will be on file with the Athletic Director.

ATHLETIC SEASON DEFINED

The athletic season is defined as commencing with the first practice and ending with the final event for that sport. Penalties for violations take effect immediately upon verification of any violation and will include games in succession, i.e., season schedule, tournaments and state series (for wrestling), in order of competition.

FORFEITURE AWARDS

If the violation of the Code occurs in the last one-third (1/3) of the sport season, the student-athlete will not be considered in good standing and therefore will forfeit all letters and awards for that sport season.

EQUIPMENT

All student-athletes will care for all equipment as though it were their own personal property. If equipment is destroyed through practice, it will be replaced by the school. If equipment is lost or stolen, the student-athlete(s) will fulfill their responsibility by paying for replacement of item(s). Remember that stealing or wearing stolen equipment is a violation of the Code of Conduct and punishable by suspension from athletics. Equipment may not be worn during the school day, at

home, or on the streets without approval of the coach of that sport. All issued equipment and uniforms remain the property of the Indiana School for the Blind and Visually Impaired and must be returned at the conclusion of the season. Any missing items will be charged to the student-athlete. Graduation or next year's registration will be affected until all fees are paid.

LETTERING STANDARD

A student athlete must meet 3 of the 5 criteria in order to receive a varsity letter.

1. **Attendance** –Athletes must be at all scheduled practices and contests. Illnesses are excused absences but can only be excused by the health center. Other absences must be preapproved by coach. **Dorm outings are not excused absences!!**
2. **Attitude** – Athletes must follow all team rules and expectations that the coach and athletic department have set forth. Athletes must be good ambassadors for our school and show a positive attitude no matter the outcome of the contest.
3. **Ability** – Athletes must show a good knowledge of the sport in which they are competing in and based on coaches' observations throughout the season.
4. **Conference** – If a student is on the roster and competes during a NCASB Conference Championship the athlete will meet one of the criteria in order to receive a letter.
5. **Coaches/Athletic Director Decision** – If an athlete meets two of the criteria and are close to meeting the third criteria, then it will be the coaches and athletic director's decision to determine whether the athlete will get a letter for that sport.

Lettering Breakdown

1st letter- Gold Bar

2nd letter-Gold Bar

3rd letter- Gold Bar

4th letter- Gold Bar

5th letter- Letter Jacket

6th through 11th letter- Sport Pin and Gold Bar

7th grade- athletes will receive a silver medal for the sport that he or she competed in

8th grade- athletes will receive a gold medal for the sport that he or she competed in.

2025 – 2026 ATHLETIC SCHEDULE

| Track and Field | | |
|-----------------|--------------|--------------------|
| 9/4/25 | at Illinois | Day Meet |
| 9/17/25 | at Indiana | Day Meet |
| 9/26/25 | at Tennessee | Weekend Conference |

| Goalball | | |
|----------------------|--------------|--------------------|
| 10-24/25 to 10/26/25 | at Minnesota | Weekend Meet |
| 10/29/25 | at Illinois | Day Meet |
| 11/7/25 to 11/9/25 | at Missouri | Weekend Conference |

| Wrestling and Cheer | | |
|---------------------|--------------|-----------------|
| 12/5/25 to 12/7/25 | at Tennessee | Weekend Meet |
| 12/11/25 | at Wisconsin | Day Meet |
| 12/17/25 | at Kentucky | Day Meet |
| 1/8/26 | at Indiana | Day Meet |
| 1/9/26 to 1/11/26 | at ISD | Weekend Meet |
| 1/23/26 to 1/25/26 | at Kentucky | Conference Meet |

| Bowling | | |
|------------------|-------------|-----------------|
| 2/12/26 | at Kentucky | Day Meet |
| 2/19/26 | at Illinois | Day Meet |
| 2/26/26 | at Illinois | Day Meet |
| 3/6/26 to 3/8/26 | at Illinois | Conference Meet |

| Swimming/Forensics | | |
|--------------------|--------------|--------------------|
| 3/20/26 to 3/22/26 | at Illinois | Weekend Meet |
| 4/14/26 | at Wisconsin | Day Meet |
| 4/24/26 to 4/26/26 | at Ohio | Weekend Conference |

WEEKEND ATHLETIC EVENTS

Through the course of the school year, there are weekends scheduled with athletic events. *Students who participate on athletic teams may be required to stay to attend these events based on availability and the ability to provide supervision.* Written permission from the student's parent or guardian is required for the student to participate in these events. All permission forms must be turned in at least one week prior to the event.