



Yakama Nation Tribal School Student Athletic Handbook 2024-2025

Dear Students, Parents, Yakama Nation Community Members:

We are asking for your support in providing positive role-modeling for our student-athletes. The involvement of our students in athletics and activities contributes to the development of their values system. Trustworthiness, citizenship, caring, fairness, and respect are lifetime values that are taught through interscholastic activities and are principles of good sportsmanship and character. With these principles, the spirit of competition thrives, fueled by honest rivalry, courteous relations, and grateful acceptance of the results.

The information below outlines the expectations of students, parents, and all spectators/fans. Please review and remember this information so that we represent our school community in a positive manner at all times. Sportsmanship is winning without gloating – losing without complaining – and treating your opponent and the officials with respect. It is one of the biggest reasons these games exist. Remember, nothing beats good sportsmanship!

We have made a commitment to promote good sportsmanship by student-athletes, coaches, and spectators at all athletic events. Profanity, degrading remarks, and intimidating actions directed at officials or competitors will not be tolerated and are grounds for removal from the event site. Thank you for your cooperation in the promotion of good sportsmanship!

Go Eagles!

Joseph Leary, Dean of Students/Athletic Director
William Barker, HS Principal
Raynel Begay, YNTS Superintendent

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YNTS Athletic Mission Statement

Yakama Nation Tribal School Athletic Department is dedicated to providing student-athletes the opportunity to learn important life skills through co-curricular activities. Yakama Nation Tribal School Athletic Department fosters teamwork, leadership, commitment, and fair play.

Enforcement of Yakama Nation Tribal School Athletic Rules and Regulations

This athletic handbook has been constructed to clarify the rules and attitudes that govern your conduct as a student athlete.

If you do not abide by these rules, regulations, and procedures you may be placed on probation, or in the case of violation – suspended. If you are suspended, you will refrain from all athletic participation (practice or competition) for an indefinite period of time. You will be ineligible for any sport season until your name has been removed from the suspension list. **To be reinstated, an athlete who has been suspended must obtain the approval of the head coach and the athletic director, except when suspended for violations other than athletic rules.** An athlete may appeal his/her suspension through the chain of command:

Athletic Chain of Command

Superintendent
Principal
Athletic Director
Head Coach/ Assistant Coach

Method to Address a Concern

Step 1: The athlete speaks with the coach (coaching staff will be present during this conference). Parent should help child prepare discussion.

Step 2: If the meeting between the athlete and coach is not resolved, parent should schedule a meeting with the coach (**PLEASE DO NOT APPROACH A COACH DURING OR AFTER A CONTEST**). If coach is not able to be reach, please contact the athletic director to arrange a meeting.

Step 3: If the meeting between the coach and parent is not resolved, a meeting with the athletic director will be arranged.

Step 4: If the meeting with Athletic Director does not resolve the issue, the parent must submit the issue in writing to the school Principal. A meeting with the school principal will then be arranged.

YNTS Athletic Expectations of Participation

1. No smoking/drinking/possession/sale of tobacco, alcohol or illicit drugs including anabolic steroids. This includes the concept of “constructive possession”. Meaning, if you are at a party or an unsupervised event where drugs and or alcohol is present, you have an obligation to leave. Training rule violations can be found on page 8.
2. To be in attendance at all practices.
3. To maintain conduct, effort and attitude becoming to an athlete.
4. Maintain eligibility to participate in extracurricular activities as outlined above.
5. To be personally responsible for all school equipment checked out to them and to return same in good condition and on time. School uniforms and equipment shall not be used as personal items of clothing, except on days of competition and then at the discretion of the

individual coach. **Equipment lost or misplaced will be paid for by the student athlete and clearance for all other activities will not be given until payment has been received.**

6. To travel to and from all athletic contests by authorized school district transportation. Athletes will only be allowed to travel with a parent or guardian from a contest with written permission from parent or guardian that has been given to supervising coach. If student athletes will be traveling with anyone other than a parent or guardian then there needs to be written permission from both parties, prior approval from athletic director and direct communication to supervising coach.

Eligibility Requirements/Academic Requirements/Participation Rules:

Extracurricular activities may be defined as those activities that occupy a student's time outside regular school hours on a regular basis. Furthermore, any course, class, or club that would require a student to be away from school for more than one school day in succession is regarded as extracurricular.

1. All students participating in extracurricular activities under the jurisdiction of the Washington Interscholastic Activities Association (WIAA) must meet all of the association's eligibility requirements. In addition, all students shall be held accountable to the academic requirements of Yakama Nation Tribal School.

Eligibility:

1. Student shall be enrolled and in regular attendance within the first fifteen (15) school days in a semester at the start of the current semester in order to participate in interscholastic contests during the current semester. Guideline interpretation has been given to equate a ration greater than 1 absence to 6 attendances is irregular attendance. *Note: Regular attendance definition is the WIAA Handbook Scholarship Rule (23.14). A student must be in attendance fifteen (15) weeks during an eighteen (18) week semester (10 of 12 for a semester). The Scholarship Rule states that the student must maintain passing grades to be eligible for interscholastic participation.*
2. A high school player shall be under 20 years of age on September 1 for the fall sports season, on December 1 for the winter sports season, and on March 1 for the spring sports season.
3. As an athlete the student is ineligible to participate in any sport until the following forms are properly completed and on file in the athletic office and the athlete has been issued an **Athletic Clearance Form**, which includes the following:
 - **Physical Status Form** – Every player who participates in interscholastic athletics must pass a physical examination from a licensed medical physician every two years. The participating student enrolled must have on file a statement (or prepared form) from the examining physician certifying that the student's condition is adequate for the activities in which he/she is participating.

Academics:

For eligibility requirements pertaining to minimum number of graded courses, dropped classes, incomplete courses, final record, Yakama Nation Tribal School Staff expectations, or student appeal process please refer to the Yakama Nation Tribal School Student Handbook.

1. A student athlete at Yakama Nation Tribal School must be passing all classes while participating on an athletic team. Student athlete's grades will be checked each week on

Thursday at 3 p.m.), to identify participants who have not maintained academic eligibility standards. *The ineligibility will begin the Sunday following the grade check to the next Sunday. Please note that teachers are under no obligation to correct tests or assignments that are turned in at the last minute. Students who have not maintained academic eligibility standard prior to Christmas and Spring break will be ineligible for the duration of the break. Upon return from the break, all student athletes will be eligible for participation until the next eligibility check.*

2. Academic Ineligibility – students who are not passing all classes is considered to be academically ineligible and cannot participate in contests. In addition: The ineligible student athlete will not sit on the bench during the contests and will not travel with the team while he/she is academically ineligible. The participant will be required to attend all practices during his/ her disciplinary action unless prior arrangements have been made.
3. Passing – “Passing” is interpreted to mean at least a grade of “D.”
4. At the end of the term, any student athlete that has failed 1 or more classes will be ineligible for participation in contests or games for five weeks of the next term, to begin on the first day of the quarter and not the first day of practice.
 - A. **Student athletes not maintaining academic standards at grade check (failing 1 or more classes) will be ineligible for contests or games (but may practice with the team or squad).**
 - B. **Students with failing classes are encouraged to attend after school tutoring and/or work with their teachers when possible.**
5. Appeals of action resulting from implementation of this policy and procedures shall follow the steps outlined below. The period of ineligibility shall remain in full force during the appeal process. Families/ student athletes have five school days from being notified to submit an appeal.

Step 1: Appeal in writing through an appeal form to the Athletic Director.

Step 2: Appeal in writing to the Building Principal.

Transferring Students

After registering with, attending, or participating with a middle level or high school, students changing enrollment to/from one school district to another school district or from one high school to another high school within a multiple high school district shall be considered transferring students. In order to be eligible for varsity competition, transferring students must meet the transferring student requirements of 18.11.1, 18.11.2, 18.11.3, or be granted a waiver under 18.13.0 and 18.26.3. This section shall also apply to those students receiving home-based instruction. NOTE: Refer to Article 3.1.1 for the status of a private school district. 18.11.1 A student who is ineligible in a member school may not become immediately eligible at another member school without completing the conditions of ineligibility. 18.11.2 The following students who are attending a member school shall be deemed to meet the residence rule requirement and transferring student rule requirements:

- A. A student whose transfer is based on a bona fide change of residence to a new school (district) due to an actual physical relocation of and with the entire family unit to a different residence and preceded by termination of all occupancy of their previous residence.

- B. A student attending a school outside of his/her residence district for one (1) calendar year or more is eligible thereafter at that school provided the enrollment/attendance is continuous.
- C. A student whose parent(s) or legal guardian(s) reside at different abodes as the result of a divorce or court approved legal separation is allowed one (1) transfer between parents or guardians after entering the ninth (9th) grade without being restricted to sub-varsity competition for one (1) year.
- D. A student who is under commitment to the Department of Social and Health Services, a student who is on juvenile parole status and a student who has been adjudicated as a ward of a juvenile court where residence is the result of assignment by the government entity charged with his/her care.
- E. A student who has a residence change because of the death of a member of the family unit or military deployment in order to reside with a relative.
- F. A seventh (7th) and/or eighth (8th) grade student who transfers to a school without a corresponding change of residence by his/her family unit and who meets all other conditions of eligibility shall be eligible at the new middle school when properly enrolled. High school eligibility is subject to the transfer rule and one (1) year of continuous enrollment.
- G. A student, except F-1 Visa students to a private school, upon enrollment to the initial first level of a private school within a 50-mile radius of the family residence from his/her public school of residence or his/her public school of residence from a private school within a 50-mile radius of the family residence. If either the public or the private school declares its ninth (9th) graders as junior high athletes, the window of transfer is between the ninth (9th) and tenth (10th) grade years; if the school declares its ninth (9th) graders as high school athletes, the window of transfer is between the eighth (8th) and ninth (9th) grade years.
- H. CHILDREN OF “MISSION OR KEY AND ESSENTIAL” MILITARY PERSONNEL – Military personnel deemed by the Department of defense as “mission or key and essential” and who is further required to live within the boundaries of the military base, may upon arrival, enroll his/her child(ren) in a school district the family chooses. Such child(ren) shall be considered immediately eligible provided all other WIAA eligibility rules are met. Should the child(ren) change schools, all WIAA eligibility rules, including transfer rules, must be met.

For more information regarding a transferring please refer to: <https://www.wiaa.com/>

Attendance Requirements

Student-Athletes are required to attend all practices/competitions and stay through completion (unless otherwise specified by the coaching staff). Student-athletes are also required to travel to away contests with the team (unless an approved alternate transportation form is executed prior to the event). Daily attendance for practices/contests shall be taken by the coach in charge of the team. Students that accrue four (4) unexcused absences from a sport within a season shall be removed from the team. A student-athlete that has been removed from the team has 48 hours (or two school days, whichever is greater) to appeal the removal to the Athletic Director's Office in

writing. A student removed from a team is not eligible to join another sports team in the same season.

Consequences - Unexcused Absence(s)

- 1st offense – Athlete/ parent meets with coaching staff (playing time at coaches' discretion)
- 2nd offense - Athlete shall sit out of the next upcoming contest.
- 3rd offense - Athlete shall sit out of the next 2 upcoming contests.
- 4th offense - Athlete shall be removed from the athletic team during that season.

To understand that school attendance is important, student athletes should attend school all day on the day of athletic contest or practice. Penalty: If an athlete receives an unexcused absence for any portion of the day, including advisory, the athlete shall be ineligible to participate in contest or practice on that day. If excused, the athlete may participate if he/she was in attendance for one half the day or more.

Excused Absences / Tardies include (but are not limited to):

- An illness that prevents a student from attending school (a note from a parent/guardian shall be submitted to the school attendance/athletic office upon return to school). The coach of the sport shall be notified by the athlete during the school day (using school email) when they are not in school and cannot attend practice.
- Making up a test and/or receiving additional academic instruction or tutoring...INCLUDING ATHLETIC REMEDIATION. (The student shall have their teacher sign a note stating the excused rationale and the athlete shall bring the note to practice that day. Students shall make every attempt to receive additional instruction or make up work outside of practice times).
- An athletic injury occurring during the course of participation in a YNTS sanctioned event.
- Illnesses which manifested themselves after the student reported to school.
- Medical or dental appointments which cannot be scheduled outside school/practice hours.
- Driver's tests with verification of appointments.
- Emergency absences sanctioned at the Athletic Director's or Principal's direction.
- Funeral attendance or bereavement.
- Taking an ACT or SAT test.
- Religious reasons

Gender-Inclusive Schools

The Yakama Nation Tribal School Board believes in fostering an educational environment that is safe and free of discrimination for all students, regardless of gender expression, gender identity, or sex. To that end, the board recognizes the importance of an inclusive approach toward transgender and gender-expansive students with regard to key terms, communication and the use of names and pronouns, student records, confidential health and education information, communication, restroom and locker room use and accessibility, sports and physical education, dress codes, and other school activities, in order to provide these students with an equal opportunity for learning and achievement.

This policy is a component of the district's responsibility to create and maintain a safe, civil, respectful and inclusive learning community and will be implemented in conjunction with comprehensive training of staff and volunteers. Specific training requirements are included in the accompanying procedure. The superintendent will appoint a primary contact to receive copies of all formal and informal complaints and ensure policy implementation. The name and contact information for the compliance officer will be communicated throughout the district. The district

compliance officer will participate in at least one mandatory training opportunity offered by OSPI.

This policy and its procedure will support that effort by facilitating district compliance with local, state and federal laws concerning harassment, intimidation, bullying, and discrimination.

Tobacco/Alcohol/Drug Rule Violation

1. The head coach will impose all suspensions of athletes who break training rules.
2. All suspensions may be appealed by the alleged violator by appearing before the appeals board.
3. All suspensions for violators of training rules will start at the beginning of the freshman year and will accumulate through the senior year.
4. Appeals must be submitted to the Athletic Director no later than five school days after being notified.
5. The appeal board will consist of 3 Building Staff Members named by the Athletic Director.

First Violation:

1st Violation - A participant shall be immediately ineligible for interscholastic competition in the current interscholastic sports program for the remainder of the season. Ineligibility shall continue until the next sports season in which the participant wishes to participate unless the student accesses the assistance program outlined in B (below.)

An athlete who is found to be in violation of the Legend drugs and controlled substances rule shall have two options.

- A. The athlete will be ineligible for participation in contests for the remainder of that interscholastic sports season and must meet the school's requirements in order to be eligible to compete in the next interscholastic sports season. The school principal will have the final authority regarding the student's participation in further interscholastic sports programs.
- B. The athlete may choose to seek and receive help for a problem with use of legend drugs or controlled substances. Successful utilization of school and or community assistance programs may allow him/her to have eligibility re-instated in that athletic season, pending recommendation by the school.

2nd Violation - A participant who again violates any provision of RCW 69.41.020 through 69.41.050 or of RCW 69.50 shall be ineligible for interscholastic competition for a period of one (1) calendar year from the date of the second violation.

3rd Violation - A participant who violates for a third time RCW 69.41.020 - 69.41.050 or of RCW 69.50 shall be permanently ineligible for interscholastic competition.

A. Behavior Health/ Youth Treatment Programs:

Behavior Health/ Youth Treatment Program shall give the students assistance in receiving help for treatment of tobacco/alcohol/illegal drug problems. The student shall follow all guidelines set forth by the Care Team/Substance Abuse Counselor or shall revert back to the 20% suspension policy.

1. Parents or guardians must be involved in this process.
2. If a student voluntarily comes forward and admits to a problem with drugs/alcohol/tobacco (if not defensive, based on P.S.I. test), it would be

considered a guidance problem and not a discipline problem. The student would be referred to the Care Team/Substance Abuse Program and must follow recommendations of the Care Team/Substance Abuse Counselor Program. Eligibility would not be affected.

Second Violation:

The student will be excluded from all interscholastic athletics for 365 days from the date of infraction. The student will also participate in six (6) weeks of the Care Team/Substance Abuse Counselor Program. Or follow recommendations of Yakama Nation Youth Treatment program.

Third Offense:

The student shall be permanently prohibited from participation in any W.I.A.A. or District Interscholastic sports program.

For more information regarding tobacco, alcohol and drug violations please refer to:
<https://www.wiaa.com/>

Legend Drugs and Anabolic Steroids Rule Violation

Penalties of violation of legend drugs including anabolic steroids possession, sale, and/or use shall be considered a violation of the eligibility code and standards and shall subject the student to disciplinary actions. The following penalties will be administered:

First Offense:

The student athlete shall be immediately ineligible for interscholastic competition in the current interscholastic sports program for the remainder of the season.

1. Ineligibility shall continue until the next sport season in which the student athlete wishes to turn out. In order to be eligible to participate in the next interscholastic sports season, the student athlete shall meet with the school eligibility board, consisting of coaches and administrators selected by the principal to request approval to participate. The school eligibility board will recommend to the principal appropriate action to be taken in the student athlete's case. The school principal shall have the final authority as to the student athlete's participation in the interscholastic sports program.
2. A student athlete who seeks and receives help for a problem with use of legend drugs shall be given the opportunity for assistance through the school and/or community agencies. In no instance should participation in a school and/or community approved assistance program excuse a student athlete from subsequent compliance with this regulation. Successful utilization of this opportunity by the student athlete may allow him/her to participate in the athletic program, pending recommendation by the school eligibility authority.

Second Offense:

A student athlete who again violates any provision of RCW 64.41.020 through 69.41.050 shall be ineligible and prohibited from participation in any WIAA member school interscholastic sports program for a period of one calendar year from the date of the second violation.

Third Offense:

A student athlete who violates for a third time RCW 69.41.010 – 69.41.050 shall be permanently prohibited from participation in any WIAA member school athletic program.

Inclement Weather/Cancellation Policies

In the event of inclement weather, the administrative team at Yakama Nation Tribal School will make a decision whether or not to hold practice or to play the game. The administration has the authority to cancel activities, events, practices and competitions in the event of inclement weather. Coaches or other school officials do not have the discretion to change these instructions.

Yakama Nation Tribal School typically, but not always, will mirror decisions made by local school districts when it comes to the cancellation of events due to inclement weather. Yakama Nation Tribal School also complies with decision made by Yakama Nation Administration.

Activities will be automatically cancelled if school is cancelled. In the case of a cancellation, the following actions will be taken to communicate the cancellation:

1. The coach will use his/her primary mode of communication to pass on information about the cancellation to the athletes (FinalForms)
2. The athletic department will send an email notifying parents of the cancellation (FinalForms)
3. The school calendar will be updated with the cancellation

Make-Up Policy: It is at the discretion of the head coach to consult with the athletic department to schedule any extra practices to make up for practice time lost due to cancellation. It is a priority of the athletic department to reschedule cancelled games. However, due to many circumstances, make-up games are not always possible and, therefore, are NOT guaranteed.

Official Spectator/Fan Code of Conduct

Yakama Nation Tribal School, in association with the Washington Interscholastic Athletic Association (WIAA), promotes interscholastic events and sportsmanship. Sportsmanship is an essential part of any athletic competition and is expected from athletes, coaches, officials, and fans. As a spectator/fan (student or adult) of Yakama Nation Tribal School, we expect you to be an example of positive encouragement while supporting our athletes, coaches, and game officials. Our behavior should be positive, respectful, and encouraging of the athletes, coaches, officials, and the game itself.

Yakama Nation Tribal School encourages:

- Enthusiastic support of your team
- Good sportsmanship
- Family friendly atmosphere
- Commitment to safety
- Welcoming attitude to all fans and visitors

All Yakama Nation Tribal School students MUST present the current year school issued student identification card at the time of admittance to the game. No school ID card, no admittance, no exceptions.

Yakama Nation Tribal School respectfully asks that no food or drink be brought into the gym at any time.

Unacceptable behaviors:

- Disruptive or unruly behavior
- Foul or abusive behavior or obscene gestures
- Rudeness to fellow fans or Yakama Nation Tribal School personnel
- Spectators are not allowed on playing surfaces at any time.
- Use of alcohol or tobacco at Yakama Nation Tribal School athletic events
- Any disrespectful or vulgar behavior towards YNTS students and staff

Fans who display unacceptable behaviors will be subjected to sanctions, including refusal of admittance, removal, and arrest.

First Offense – The spectator will schedule to meet with the Athletic Director with a resulting action that may include a written/ verbal warning with the possibility of being removed from the next two athletic contests of the same sport. A letter will be sent by the Athletic Director and Principal to the spectator in question notifying them of the ejection and the dates of ejection (if necessary).

Second Offense – The spectator will be removed from all home athletic contests and other school events and activities for the remainder of the school year of the infraction. A letter of ejection will be sent from the office of the Principal notifying the spectator of the remainder of the school year ejection.

Third Offense – The spectator will be removed from all home Yakama Nation Tribal School athletic contests and other school events and activities for a one-year period. A letter of ejection will be sent from the office of the Superintendent notifying the spectator of the ejection. Any athletic official, including but not limited to, contest officials, Athletic Director, Principal, Assistant Principals, game site supervisors, and anyone else in an administrative role on the site, may uphold enforcement of an ejection.

While the Spectator/Fan Code of Conduct encompasses behavior expectations and consequences for both student and adult fans, Yakama Nation Tribal School administrators may apply further consequences to a student ejected from a contest due to the student violating the Student Handbook.

Fans who display unacceptable behavior must meet with the Athletic Director and Principal before being permitted back on Yakama Nation Tribal School property.

Facility Responsibilities

1. All coaches are expected to assist, along with their team members, in the preparation and care of the athletic facilities and equipment. “Normal” setup requirements should be arranged with the custodians, if particular, or should be handled by the coaching staff. “Special” setup needs (that would be difficult or impossible for the coach) should be discussed with the athletic director so arrangement can be made for those items.
2. Many of the athletic facilities also serve as teaching facilities for physical education classes. Consult with and be considerate of the physical education teacher in the use of the facilities and equipment. This includes the equipment storage rooms. Please leave these rooms in such a condition that they do not create additional work for the P.E. teacher or coaches.
3. When facilities are used by several teams during the same seasons, the athletic director will develop a “facilities use schedule” with the input of varsity coaches. Be considerate and cooperative in situations of high demand.

Evaluations

1. Coaching evaluations will be completed near the conclusion of each season by the athletic director. Evaluation may be used as partial basis for retaining or releasing coaches.
2. All coaches under evaluations must arrange for a time to meet with the athlete director to review the evaluation results. Results will be kept on file in the athletic office.
3. Athletic Director evaluations will be completed by the school Principal following the end of each school year.
4. Athletic Director must arrange for a time to meet with the school principal to review the evaluation results. Results will be kept on file in the principal's office.
5. All evaluations may be subjected to review by the administration or school board.

The interscholastic athletic programs offered by the Yakama Nation Tribal School are a privilege and optional experience that our students may or may not choose to participate in. By electing to participate in these programs, the student-athlete will then be held to a higher standard and expectations must expect certain requirements are to be made certain standards are to be met.