

# Addison Central School District Athletics

## Athletic Code of Conduct



Participation & Procedures for Students & Interscholastic  
Athletics

## Forward

This Athletic Code of Conduct was produced by the Code of Conduct Review Committee which consisted of school administration, the Athletic Director, parents, and coaches.

While we feel that this Code of Conduct is fair and comprehensive, no document or group can address or foresee all situations. Thus, this document will be open for review on a regular basis. The committee recommends that parents, coaches, and student-athletes thoroughly read the Code of Conduct and make themselves familiar with the expectations explained within.

We wish all persons involved in Addison's extra-curricular programs success.

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## **A. District Philosophy**

The Addison School District believes that athletics is an integral part of a well balanced educational program. Therefore, the Board supports within its resources a broad sports program with equal access for both males and females, with emphasis on maximum participation, through interscholastic and intramural activity.

The interscholastic athletic program shall conform to the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education as well as the established rules of the New York State Public High School Athletic Association and the State Education Department. (7420)

The following policies will be enforced throughout the course of each season.

## **B. Selective Classification/Levels of Play**

The Board approves the use of the selective classification process for all secondary school interscholastic team members. The Board directs the Superintendent to implement the procedures and maintain a file of those students deemed eligible as a result of those procedures. (7420)

Selective classification is a process by which ***exceptional athletes*** are allowed to test up for JV and Varsity sports. This is not for all 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> graders. Selective classification requires that all athletes must do the following:

- A physical maturity test along with a sports physical given by the school physician.
- Pass a rigorous physical fitness test.
- Upon recommendation of the coaches only, selective classification will occur for 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> graders.
- Try out and make the team - each sport has different requirements and different qualifications.

The intent of selective classification is to provide students in grades 7-12 a mechanism allowing them to participate safely at an appropriate level of competition based upon readiness rather than age and grade. Students do not mature at the same rate; a tremendous range of developmental differences may exist between students of the same age.

### **Levels of Play for Athletes**

#### **Modified:**

This level of play is primarily for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. Ninth grade students may play on a modified team if it is appropriate for the student to play at this level. The size of the team shall be determined by the Coach and Athletic Director.

The purpose of the Modified programs is to have:

1. Sportsmanship promoted as a function of the athletic experience;

2. Coaches teaching the fundamentals of the sports, and the experience for the athlete of learning the game;
3. Participation being promoted, with all athletes expecting playing time which may not necessarily be equal for all;
4. The experience of competing, and exploration of the sport being more important at this level than winning the contest.

**Junior Varsity:**

This level of play is primarily for students in 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade. Juniors who are not capable of varsity play may be recommended by the Varsity coach to play JV. Teams may be limited in size as determined by the Coach. When appropriate, the team may include students from other grade levels, consistent with the aforementioned guidelines. The purpose of the JV Programs is to have:

1. Sportsmanship promoted as a primary goal of the program;
2. An emphasis on individual and team development;
3. Participation based on competition for playing time. (While adequate playing time for all is a goal, team members may not receive equal playing time);
4. An increased emphasis on winning;
5. Preparation of the athlete and the team for Varsity play.

**Varsity:**

This level of play is primarily for students in 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade. Students in grades 9 and 10 are also eligible and may be selected for a Varsity team if their level of play is consistent with the expectations of the Varsity Coach.

The purpose of a Varsity program is to have:

1. Sportsmanship displayed at all times;
2. Playing time that is earned, not granted;
3. Winning as one of the goals;
4. Athletes showing a commitment to the team, and teamwork expected from varsity athletes. These athletes serve as role models for younger athletes.

**C: To the Parents/Families**

It is expected that all parents/families will adhere to the following Code of Ethics to optimize the athletic experience within the Addison Central School District.

**N.Y.S.P.H.S.A.A., Code of Ethics**

1. To emphasize the proper ideals of sportsmanship, ethical conduct and fair play.
2. To eliminate all possibilities which tend to destroy the best values of the game.
3. To stress the values derived from playing the game.
4. To show cordial courtesy to visiting teams and officials.
5. To establish a positive relationship between visitors and hosts.
6. To respect the integrity and judgment of the sports officials.
7. To achieve a thorough understanding and acceptance of the rules of the game and standards of eligibility.
8. To encourage leadership, use of incentive, and good judgment by the players on the team.
9. To recognize that the purpose of athletics is to promote the physical, mental, moral, social, and emotional well-being of the individual players.
10. To remember that an athletic contest is only a game...not a matter of life or death for player, coach, school, official, fan, community, state or nation.

## **Health and Medical**

1. All athletes must have a completed Medical Treatment for Minors form on file with the school Nurse.
2. Athletes must report all injuries to their coach and school nurse immediately.
3. In case of an emergency at either a home or away contest when parents cannot be contacted, a signed Medical Treatment for Minors form will be used to secure medical services/treatment for the student-athlete. The coach, nurse, Athletic Director, or Administrator of the Addison School District will exercise their judgment as to the case & treatment of an emergency.
4. Concussion Management - In order for students to participate in the athletic program at Addison Middle-High School, all student athletes must undergo a baseline examination for cognitive ability using the ImPACT system to be eligible to play any sport.

## **Communication**

Understand that there is a proper time and way to address concerns about athletics.

Follow the proper sequence for addressing any concerns:

1. Athlete must approach coach with questions/concerns.
2. Parent approaches coach with questions/concerns after a practice.
3. Parent may then contact the Athletic Director with questions/concerns.
4. Parent may contact the Principal with questions/concerns, if needed.
5. Parent may then contact the Superintendent with questions/concerns, if needed.

## **D: To the Student**

### **Team Membership**

Team members will attend all activities unless excused by the coach. Members are expected to follow all rules as outlined in this document and/or the district's Code of Conduct. Also, coaches may establish additional rules specific to their activity.

### **Student/Athlete Rules of Conduct**

The Addison Athletic Code of Conduct is based on guidelines set forth by the New York State Public High School Athletic Association, Section V, and the Steuben County League, then approved by the Addison Board of Education. Many of the following rules are identified in the Addison Code of Conduct. Athletes are expected to abide by the Code of Conduct throughout the year. Athletes should note that they are to dress appropriately and positively represent Addison Middle-High School at all times in all locations.

### Criteria for Athletic Eligibility

To be eligible for an interscholastic sports team, a student must:

- Be a bona fide student of the Addison School District (registered and enrolled in appropriate courses, grades 7-12).
- Be of appropriate age for the activity, grades 7-12.
- Have had an approved sports physical from a physician on file with the high school nurse's office.
- Have proper inoculations for entry into school.
- Have a signed authorization for Medical Treatment for Minors form available for coaches.
- Return a signed Code of Conduct form with a student and parental/ guardian signature.
- Be a student in good academic standing i.e. not be on the current ineligibility list.
- A completed Concussion Management Baseline Assessment.

### Sportsmanship

Addison Central School is committed to teaching the ideals of good sportsmanship, fair competition and ethical behavior. Our athletes, coaches, parents and spectators must strive to attain these ideals at all levels and at all times. Sportsmanship is the ability to win without gloating, lose without complaining and treat your opponents, officials, and coaches with respect.

The reputation of the Addison Central School District is formed through our athletes' interactions with coaches, opponents, officials, adults, game personnel, and many others.

### Attendance

Athletes must be in school at least ½ day (8:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. or 11:30 a.m. to the end of the school day) to participate in practice or play that day, unless they have a legal excuse for being absent. Excused absences (doctor appointments, college visits, etc) will be left to the discretion of the coach and/or Director of Athletics. Upon arrival to school the absence will be considered excused if a note from the appropriate party (doctor, recruiter, etc.) is presented. Any athlete who is truant or leaves school without permission will not be allowed to practice or compete that day. (7410)

### Transportation

All student-athletes will ride to and from all activities in transportation provided by the school. Parents or their designee must sign the student out with the Coach at the event or have a written note prior to the contest that their child will be riding home with another parent. Special arrangements must be made prior to the contest with the athletic director and/or administration.

1. Parents wishing to transport their own child home with them may do so if:  
They have the coach's/ advisor's permission, or they have given the

coach/advisor a signed note approved by the appropriate program principal or his/her designee.

2. Parents wishing another parent of a participant in the same group to bring their child home may if: They have the coach's/ advisor's permission, or they have given the coach/ advisor a written signed note approved by the Principal.
3. Parent makes telephone contact with the Principal to approve child's ride home. This must be done by 3p.m. the day of the activity. No student may be transported to or from any event by another student.

Students are expected to conduct themselves in an orderly, responsible manner on the school bus as they would if in a school classroom. Students are required to comply with the bus driver's requests. All students will be made familiar with emergency bus procedures through school bus drills. Team members who do not conduct themselves appropriately will be disciplined.

### Equipment

1. Athletic uniforms are to be worn only at scheduled games or practices. They may also be worn to school as part of team spirit events or with a coach's permission.
2. Athletes may not loan any part of a school issued uniform or equipment to any person at any time.
3. Students may not wear or loan school issued athletic apparel for physical education class. This includes, but is not limited to: uniforms, practice jerseys, or warm-ups.
4. Squad members are responsible for all equipment issued to them and must return all items promptly at the end of the season or at a coach's request. Any athlete who fails to return issued equipment may not participate in another school activity and may be placed on the ineligible list until the items are returned. Furthermore, athletes will be responsible for lost or damaged items. Also, if an individual loses such equipment he/she may be responsible for restitution.

### Criteria for Letter/Award

1. The coach will provide the Athletic Director with their program criteria for earning a letter. i.e. attendance/ participation at practices, and or games. The criteria will be explained to the team at the beginning of each season.
2. The 'Policies & Procedures for the Athletes' Code of Conduct must be followed. Any violation of these policies may result in forfeiture of a letter.
3. Athletes must finish the season to be eligible for a letter. In cases of injury or illness, or other special circumstances, an athlete may be awarded a letter at the coach's discretion.

## General Behavior

During the length of a sport season, no Addison athlete will engage in any of the listed behaviors at any time **whether on or off school grounds**. Violations may result in disciplinary action such as suspension or dismissal from the team.

- A - Disruptive or disorderly behavior which includes, but is not limited to: misbehavior in locker areas, trespassing, failing to comply with reasonable requests of coaches, officials, administrator(s), etc.
- B - Insubordinate behavior which includes, but is not limited to: failing to comply with reasonable directives of coaches, officials, chaperones, bus drivers, or other staff.
- C - Violent behavior which includes, but is not limited to: hitting, kicking, punching, scratching another student, teacher, administrator, other school staff, spectators, or officials; possessing, using or threatening to use a weapon of any kind.
- D - Behavior that endangers the safety morals, health or welfare of another person which includes, but is not limited to: Lying, stealing, defamation, discrimination, harassment, intimidation, vulgar/ abusive language, and/or hazing and/or any behavior inconsistent with the Dignity for All Students Act.
- E - Unexcused absences from practices or games. Any athlete failing to provide prior notice to his/her coach concerning an absence from practice or a game will be subject to disciplinary action.
- F - Athletes shall not interfere with officials' performance of addressing abusive opponents during game play. Under no circumstance shall an athlete provoke or otherwise engage in verbal or physical confrontations outside the rules of the game. Athletes who do not abide by this rule shall suffer disciplinary action.

## Violation of Code of Conduct

Athletes who are found to have violated the District's Code of Conduct may be subject to one or more of the following disciplinary procedures.

1. Conference with the athlete.
2. Conference with the athlete's parent(s)/ guardian.
3. Suspension from practice(s) or contest(s).
4. Dismissal from the team.
5. Other appropriate action(s) as needed.

The building Principal/ Athletic Director has the final responsibility and authority for the interpretation of rules and the administering of disciplinary action(s).

### Substance Use/Violations

Any athlete who is involved in possessing, consuming, using, purchasing, selling, distributing, exchanging, or under the influence of alcoholic beverages, tobacco, or other controlled substances, or any other substances identified in the Addison Middle-High School Code of Conduct on or off school grounds shall face suspension or dismissal from the team. The Addison Central School District will reserve the right to conduct random drug testing.

While Addison Central School district's efforts are mainly targeted at prevention programs, students must know of the potential legal consequences of their behavior. To initiate either intervention or discipline without the other is to inhibit students from understanding that their actions bring both personal and legal consequences.

Social Gatherings – An athlete that enters a social gathering where drugs or alcohol are illegally present must leave the situation within a reasonable amount of time after learning that alcohol and/or other drugs are present. Any athlete, who remains present at a party where drugs and/or alcohol beverages are being illegally consumed by minors, may be subject to the consequences below.

### First Offense

The athlete will receive 1/3 of the season suspension based on the maximum number of contests established by NSPHSAA (sport specific). Consequences will be carried over to the next athletic season that the athlete participates in and be recalculated using the percentage remaining at the conclusion of the season. At the discretion of administration and/or the Athletic Director, a drug and alcohol assessment and/or instruction specific to the violation may be recommended prior to the athlete returning to the athletic team. Further, law enforcement authorities, medical, and/or social agencies will be contacted when necessary.

### Honesty Clause:

A suspension period may be reduced by 50% for any student-athlete who admits to violating the athletes' Code of Conduct and voluntarily participates in a professional alcohol/drug and/or other assessment with a written report released to the school. The school may cover the cost of this initial evaluation. After the assessment the athlete may be allowed to continue to practice with the team, but shall not be allowed to participate in contests (the number of contests that the student is suspended from will be determined using the guidelines specific to the number of violations and the contests for each sport). Athletes must adhere to all recommendations coming out of the assessment to be eligible to continue participation with their team.

### Second Offense

The athlete will receive a 1/2 of the season suspension based on the maximum number of contests established by NSPHSAA by sport. Consequences will be carried over to the next athletic season that the athlete participates in and be recalculated using the percentage remaining at the conclusion of the season. At the discretion of administration and/or the Athletic Director, a drug and alcohol assessment or instruction specific to the needs of the student may be recommended prior to returning to the athletic team.

Further, law enforcement authorities, medical, and/or social agencies will be contacted when necessary. The school may cover the cost of this initial evaluation.

Third Offense

The athlete will receive a one year suspension from athletic participation and/or suspension from athletic participating for the remainder of their school experience, at the discretion of Administration and the Athletic Director. Law enforcement authorities, medical, and/or social agencies will be contacted if necessary.

The athlete must demonstrate that significant changes in behavior have occurred to justify restoration of the privilege of participation in interscholastic sports.

Before imposing discipline, the Principal, Athletic Director, and/or coach will first have an informal conference with the athlete and, if they choose to attend, the athlete's parent(s)/ guardian(s). The athlete and the parents/guardians may be accompanied by a representative of their choice. The athlete will be informed of the nature of the charges against him/her and be given an opportunity to respond before the Principal, Athletic Director, or coach takes any disciplinary action.

Appeals Process

Athletes and/or their parents/guardians may choose to appeal a disciplinary decision. Appeals will follow the chart below. Athletes are responsible for initiating the appeals process.

<u>Decision maker</u>		<u>Appealed to</u>
Coach		Athletic Director
Athletic Director		High School Principal/ Designee
Building Principal/ Designee		Superintendent/ Designee
Superintendent/ Designee		

Participation

Any athlete who quits or is dismissed from a team during the season cannot participate on another team in any sport for the remainder of that season. If an athlete wishes to rejoin the team that they quit, they may do so if the coach, parent, and Athletic Director agree.

Any athlete wishing to change sports during the season must obtain permission from the present coach as well as the prospective coach. The Athletic Director must be made aware of the athlete's desire to change teams and will approve or deny the change. The athlete must then complete the required number of practices before being eligible to compete.

Academic Ineligibility

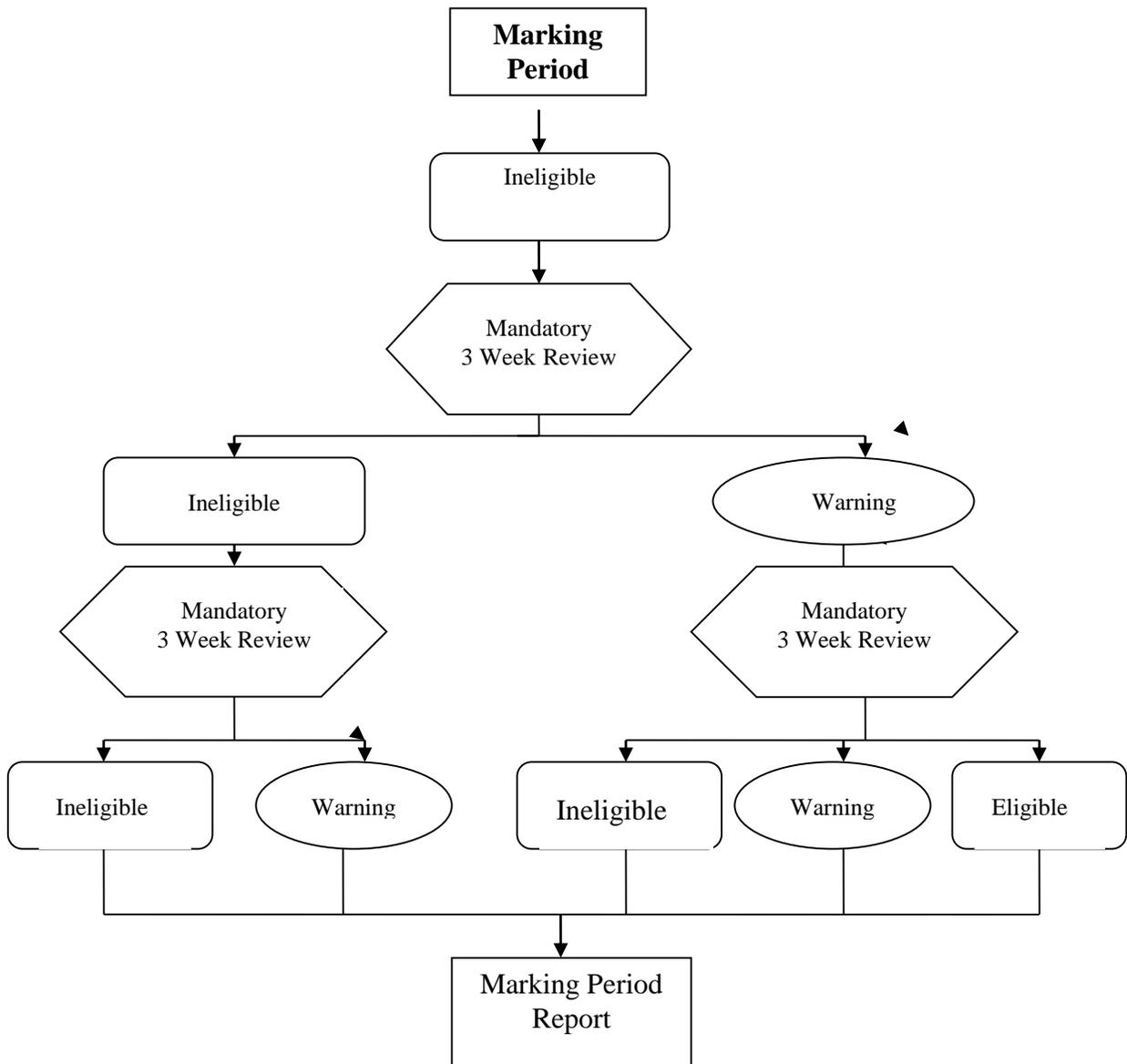
Warning List – A student who is on the warning list may practice and play in athletic contest with his/her team.

Ineligible List – A student who is on the ineligible list may not practice and play in an athletic contest with his/her team but may attend a board of review after three weeks for an opportunity to improve his/her status to warning and become eligible to play.

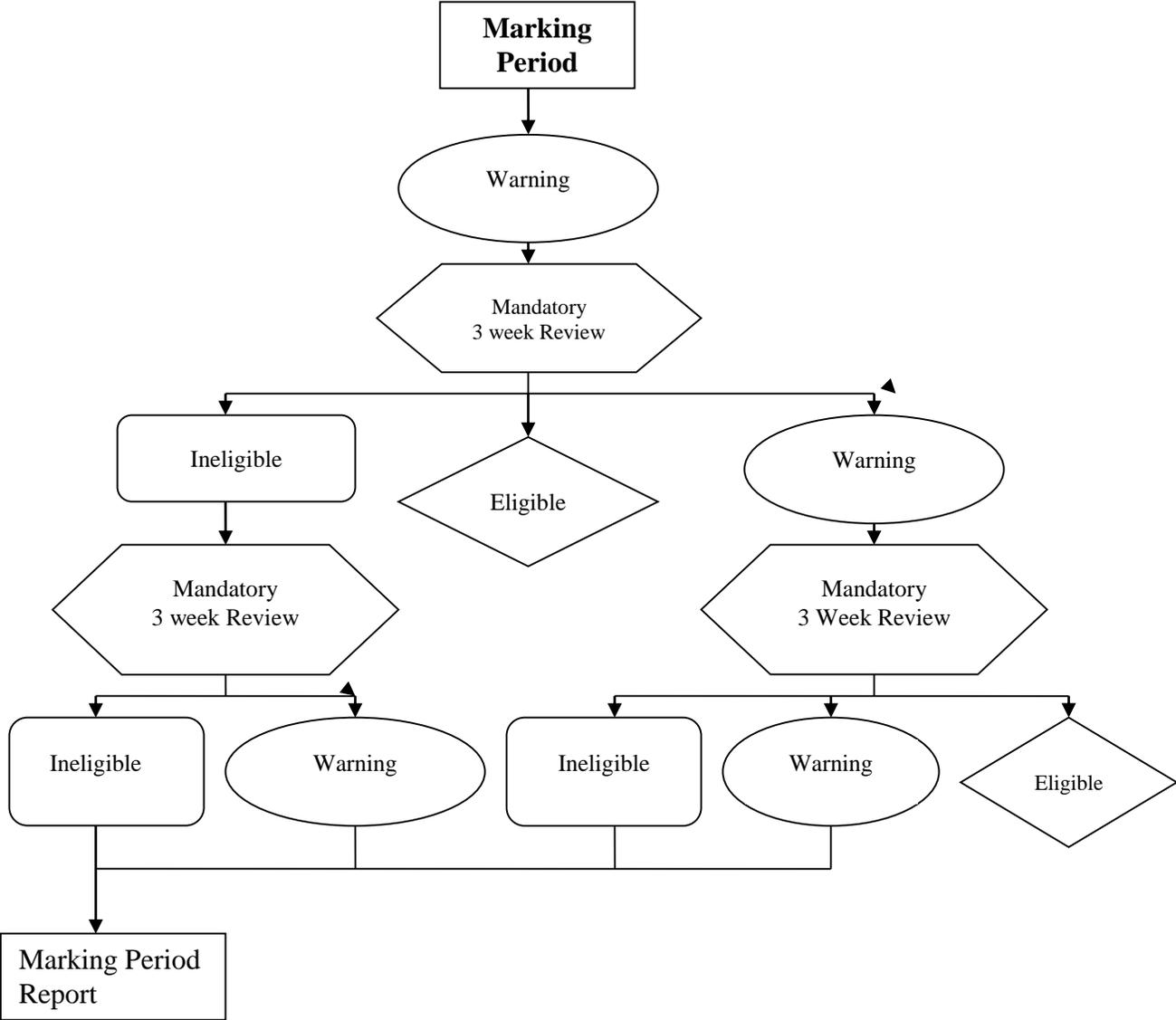
1. If you are on the warning list and have improved, you become eligible and do not have to participate in a board of review during the next three week cycle.
2. If there is no improvement; If the athlete remains on the warning list, they may practice, play and participate. However, the athlete must go to the board of review in 3 more weeks and coordinate opportunities with coaches and teachers to improve grades.
3. If the athlete declines and/or does not participate in the board of review, they will become ineligible and may no longer practice, play or participate. However, if the athlete wishes to improve his/her status to warning they must go to the board of review in 3 more weeks.
4. If the athlete is on the ineligible list and improves, they will move to the warning list and can practice, play or participate. The athlete must then go to the board of review in 3 weeks.
5. If the athlete is ineligible and does not improve, the athlete will not be allowed to practice, play or participate. However, if they wish to improve their status to warning, the athlete must go to the board of review in 3 weeks.

Students must maintain an eligibility coefficient of 2.26 or higher to remain off the ineligible list. Students on the ineligible list will not be allowed to attend school dances, plays, or other extra-curricular activities.(see flow charts below)

# Ineligible Status Flow Chart



# Warning Status Flow Chart



## **Addison Central School District Athletic Code of Conduct**

**NOTE:** This form must be completed and returned to the coach **BEFORE** the athlete will be permitted to participate.

### Athletic injury warning statement

Participation by a student in athletic activities involves some degree of risk of physical injury. Such physical injury can occur in any type of sports activity, be it a 'contact' or a 'non-contact' sport. Further, many injuries are truly accidental in nature and involve no negligence by anyone, including a student. By volunteering to participate in a school-sponsored athletic activity, a student and his/her parent(s)/ guardian assume the risk for injuries which may occur.

### Consent and Agreement

I, the student athlete, have read/reviewed the preceding document and agree to abide by the policies set forth. By signing below I indicate that I understand the possible consequences for failure to comply with the above policies.

Student name: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

I, the Parent/Guardian of the above student athlete, give my consent to allow my son/daughter to participate in the Addison Central School District Athletic program. I have also read/reviewed the preceding document and agree to support the policies set forth. I understand that failure to abide by the above policies may result in disciplinary action of my son/daughter.

Parent name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_