

# **Peru CSD Athletic Handbook**

## **Peru Central School District** ***Philosophy of Interscholastic Sports***

The Peru Central School District believes that a dynamic physical activity program for student-athletes is important to the overall development of all students. Therefore, interscholastic athletics is an integral part of the total education process. Athletics provides a broadening experience in which harmony of mind-body functions is achieved through the pursuit of physical and mental excellence. A well-coordinated interscholastic program is of vital importance to the social-emotional health of the school community as a complement to the intellectual advancement of its students.

Young people learn a great deal from participation in interscholastic athletics. Athletics serve as a real life model. Athletics provide opportunities for students' regard to responsibility, fair play, cooperation, concern for others, leadership, respect for authority, good citizenship, loyalty, and tolerance.

It is the nature of athletic competition to strive for success. The number of victories is, however, only one criterion in determining success. The development of a will to persevere through set-backs, to pull together as a team in the face of adversity, and to attain our maximum potential represent the ultimate goals. To this end, the coaching staff must teach student-athletes to prepare their minds and bodies in order to reach maximum potential, and then to be modest in victory and steadfast in defeat.

At no time will the goals of interscholastic athletics conflict with, overshadow, or attempt to supplant the mission of the District's curricular program or student pursuit of his or her academic success.

### **GOALS AND OBJECTIVES OF INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS**

#### **PERU CSD GOAL:**

The experience of participation in athletic contests and activities will reflect and support the overall educational goals of our District.

#### **OUR SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES:**

1. To understand and value the place that interscholastic sports and activities occupy within our culture by developing sound educational attitudes towards them.
2. To educate the student body in the appreciation of sports and activities and the best way to enjoy them from the point of view of good sportsmanship.
3. To serve as a focal point for the morale, spirit, and loyalty of students by providing a common ground, respect for one another, and enthusiasm shared by all.
4. To allow for the development of physical growth, mental alertness, and emotional stability for all those who participate in athletics.
5. To provide the opportunity for students to learn to handle both winning and losing and to make decisions that affect themselves as well as other members of their team.
6. To learn to develop, through hard work and dedication, a feeling of self-confidence and self-esteem in all participants.

**CODE OF ETHICS**  
**NYSPHSAA, Inc.**  
**(New York State Public High School Athletic Association)**

It is the duty of all concerned with High School Athletics:

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 fairly.
4. To show cordial courtesy to visiting teams and officials.
5. To establish a happy relationship between visitors and host.
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 the standards of eligibility.
8. To encourage leadership, use of initiative and good judgment by 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, fan or community.

**PHILOSOPHY BY SPORT LEVEL**

**MODIFIED PROGRAM**

At the Modified level of athletics, there is an emphasis placed on basic skill introduction, team building, and proper sportsmanship. The Modified level of competition is used to teach the game and have the student-athletes learn necessary skills of the sport. Athletic participation is justified by a number of factors, as determined by the coaching staff. Characteristics that will affect an individual's playing time include, but are not limited to: a positive character, adequate athletic ability, proficient athletic skill, strong dedication, solid academic standing, punctuality, hustle, exceptional attitude, etc. Student-athletes at the Modified level can assume they will play in every game, provided circumstances that would prohibit play are not present, i.e. injury, poor academic standing, missing practice, etc. There is **no** assumption that all playing time will be equal should these circumstances arise. The coach will strive to find equal playing time, but equal playing time is not guaranteed, should the aforementioned circumstances arise. Every attempt will be made to keep as many athletes as possible. This will be determined by budget, (i.e. officials, uniforms, equipment) space and/or coach availability.

## JUNIOR VARSITY (JV)

At the Junior Varsity level of athletics, there is still an emphasis placed on winning and being a competitive team, but teaching fundamentals and participation come to the forefront. Athletic participation is justified by a number of factors, as determined by the coaching staff. Characteristics that a student-athlete can exhibit to increase playing time are: a positive character, superior athletic ability, athletic skill, great dedication, solid academic standing, punctuality, hustle, exceptional attitude, etc. An individual's playing time shall be reflected by one's ability to maximize his/her attention to the aforementioned criteria. If the circumstances of the game allow the coaching staff to enter a maximum number of athletes into the contest, that practice will be adhered to as opposed to the significance of the contest's outcome.

## VARSITY

At the Varsity level of athletics, there is a greater emphasis placed on winning and being a competitive team. Athletic participation is justified by a number of factors, as determined by the coaching staff. The characteristics shown by a student-athlete that will dictate playing time are: overall character, athletic ability, athletic skill, dedication, a solid academic standing, punctuality, hustle, attitude, etc. An individual's playing time shall be reflected by one's ability to maximize his/her attention to the aforementioned criteria.

	<b>Modified</b>	<b>Junior Varsity</b>	<b>Varsity</b>
<b>Win</b>	<b>Lower Emphasis</b>	<b>Equal Emphasis</b>	<b>Higher Emphasis</b>
<b>Teach</b>	<b>High Emphasis</b>	<b>Equal Emphasis</b>	<b>Lower Emphasis</b>

## **NYSED ATHLETIC PLACEMENT PROCESS (APP)**

The Athletic Placement Process (APP) is a process for screening student-athletes in 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade to determine their readiness to compete at a higher level of competition (JV or Varsity) than their current grade level would otherwise indicate. It is based on physical maturity, mental readiness, and overall athleticism rather than grade level. This program has been designed to assess a student-athlete's physical fitness, physical maturity, and skill. This program is intended for the **exceptional few** in each school who would be better served by playing on a higher level than age and grade might indicate. Information must be collected and evaluated by the Peru Athletic Coordinator before a student may try out for a team. Once permission of the Athletic Coordinator is granted to test a student-athlete, arrangements by the Athletic Coordinator will be coordinated with the representing coach. All APP tests will be administered by the Athletic Coordinator, separate from the coach. Student-athletes will be provided no more than two attempts to meet APP criteria during any one season.

## **PERU SCHOOL DISTRICT ATHLETIC RULES AND REGULATIONS**

### STATEMENT INTRODUCTORY

The purpose of these rules is to help an interscholastic athletic participant become a better citizen, to demonstrate proper behavior, and exhibit a good attitude at all times. The following rules and regulations have been established by the athletic department and are supported by our administration and Board of Education. These rules are designed to instill pride, discipline, and team spirit in the individual and enable the individual to achieve maximum physical and mental performance in athletics. Each individual is required to make a commitment to the community, school, team, coach, and him or herself by adhering to the established rules and regulations, a condition that must be fulfilled for satisfactory participation in any sport. Obeying the rules is a matter of honor to each student-athlete who makes the commitment. Enforcement of the rules and adjudication of any violation is the responsibility of the coach, Athletic Coordinator, administration, and parents.

### RESPONSIBILITIES OF A PERU ATHLETE

Being a member of a Peru athletic team is a privilege and honor. To many student-athletes, it is the fulfillment of an earlier ambition. The attainment of this goal carries with it certain expectations and responsibilities that must be attained. A solid athletic tradition has been developed by the hard work of many people over the years. As a member of an athletic team at Peru CSD, students-athletes inherit these great traditions. Their actions will reflect not only on those they are associated with now, but those who have contributed so much to our school in the past.

### RESPONSIBILITY TO SELF

The most important of these responsibilities is to broaden oneself and develop strength of character. Every student-athlete owes it to him or herself to achieve the greatest possible benefit from his or her high school and junior high school experiences. One's academic commitments, participation in other school activities as well as athletics, prepare each young student-athlete for life as an adult.

***Character Counts!***

### RESPONSIBILITY TO OTHERS

Student-athletes have a responsibility to their family to always do their best. When participating in athletics, we sometimes feel that we have failed if we have not won. By trying the best that one can and following all rules set up by the team and coaches, one can feel justifiably proud no matter what the win/loss record indicates. Younger student-athletes will look to older role models, and it is our collective responsibility to set a good example for them. They need attention and guidance, so always take a few minutes to encourage them in whatever way possible.

## EXPECTATIONS OF COACHES, STUDENT-ATHLETES AND PARENTS

### STUDENT-ATHLETE CODE OF BEHAVIOR/ETHICS

It is the responsibility of the student-athlete to:

1. Demonstrate self-control and respect for others at all times, be they officials, spectators or other athletes.
2. Remember that participation in athletics is a privilege.
3. Deal with opponents with respect. Shake hands after the competition and congratulate them on their performance.
4. Respect the integrity and judgment of the officials.
5. Remember that improper behavior while in uniform in school or in our community reflects poorly upon yourself, your family, your team, your school and your community.
6. Understand and abide by the rules and regulations of the game.
7. Accept victory with grace and defeat with dignity and class.
8. The use, abuse and resulting negative influence of drugs, including alcohol, nicotine products, and performance-enhancing supplements are detrimental to the game and its participants. **The use of these substances is prohibited and will be punished.**

### COACHES CODE OF BEHAVIOR/ETHICS

It is the responsibility of the coach to:

1. Promote good sportsmanship, set a positive example while coaching.
2. Respect the integrity and judgment of the sports officials.
3. Approach competition as a healthy and constructive exercise, not as a life and death struggle that requires victory at any cost.
4. Recognize that the participants in individual or team sports are young men and women with human frailties and limitations, and who are capable of making mistakes.
5. Refrain from the use of crude or abusive language with players, opponents, officials or spectators.
6. Instruct the players in the elements of good sportsmanship, and remove players from the competition who demonstrate unsportsmanlike behavior.
7. Avoid behavior that will incite players, opponents or spectators.
8. Avoid and eliminate negative comments to radio, TV and newspaper reporters.
9. Communicate that the use, abuse and resulting negative influence of drugs, including alcohol, nicotine products, and performance-enhancing supplements is detrimental to the game and its participants.

### BREACH OF BEHAVIOR/ETHICS CODE

The Athletic Coordinator, along with the Building Level Administrator, will conduct an investigation into the breach.

1. The Athletic Coordinator and Building Level Administrator will address issues and findings with the coach in question.
2. A course of action will be determined to rectify the situation.
3. In egregious circumstances, termination or suspension of duties could occur.

## PARENT/GUARDIAN/SPECTATOR CODE OF BEHAVIOR/ETHICS

It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian/spectator to:

1. Keep cheering positive. No profanity or degrading language/gestures.
2. Avoid actions which offend teams or individual players.
3. Treat all teams and spectators as guests and show respect.
4. Accept the judgment of coaches and officials.
5. Prohibit the use, abuse and resulting negative influence of drugs, including alcohol and nicotine products.
6. Restrain from creating or attempting to create a disturbance among fans.

## BREACH OF BEHAVIOR/ETHICS CODE

The Athletic Coordinator, along with the Building Level Administrator, will conduct an investigation into any reported breach.

1. The Athletic Coordinator and Building Level Administrator will address issues and findings with the parent/guardian/spectator in question.
2. A course of action will be determined to rectify the situation.
3. In egregious circumstances, a ban from sporting events and/or Peru campus will be enforced.

## COMMUNICATION PARENTS EXPECT FROM THE COACHES

1. Philosophy of the coach.
2. Expectations the coach has for your child as well as all the players on the squad.
3. Locations and times of all practices and contests.
4. Team requirements, i.e., fees, special equipment, off-season equipment, etc.
5. Procedures should your child be injured during participation.
6. Discipline that result in the denial of your child's participation.
7. Communications should be received in a timely manner, depending on the circumstances of the situation. Communications from coaches could be in a number of forms: voice call, email, conference, text message, etc.
8. Numerous items of interest concerning athletic programs can be viewed on the Peru Athletics website.

\*\*\*While it is our intention to keep parents/guardians as well informed as possible, it is the nature of athletics that some changes are made in a moment's notice. We are trying to raise a sense of responsibility and effective communication with our student-athlete so we ask that parents hold them to a high standard when we ask them to relay important information such as dates/times of practice/games.

## COMMUNICATION COACHES EXPECT FROM THE PARENTS

1. Concerns expressed directly to the coach.
2. Notification of any schedule conflicts well in advance.
3. Specific concern in regard to a coach's philosophy and/or expectations.

It is very difficult to accept that your child's not playing as much as you may have hoped. Coaches are professionals. They make judgment decisions based on what they believe to be the best for all students-athletes involved. As you have read from the list above, issues such as those that follow must be left to the discretion of the coach.

## ISSUES NOT APPROPRIATE TO DISCUSS WITH COACHES

1. Playing time
2. Team strategy
3. Play calling
4. Other student-athletes i.e. discipline issues involving teammates, teammates playing time, etc.

There are situations that may require a conference between the coach and the parent. These are to be encouraged. It is important that both parties involved have a clear understanding of the others' position. When these conferences are necessary, the following procedure should be followed to help promote a resolution to the area of concern.

## PROCEDURES TO FOLLOW WHEN DISCUSSING A CONCERN WITH A COACH

1. The student-athlete should address the coach with their concern.
2. If the conflict is not resolved after the student-athlete and coach have met, then the parent should ask to speak to the coach. Attempt to contact a coach after the initial stress of the situation has been lessened (i.e., 24 hours after the issue, after having contacted the coach to set up a meeting). Meetings of this nature tend to promote a much better resolution to the situation.
3. At this point, the coach should contact the Athletic Coordinator and brief him/her on the situation and provide any pertinent background on the situation.
4. If the issue is still unresolved, then the Athletic Coordinator should be contacted to mediate a meeting with the student-athlete, parent, coach, and Building Level Administrator.
5. Coaches should not be contacted until 24 hours after a contest regarding player or contest issues. This allows for both coach and parent to deescalate and go into a conversation with a clear state of mind.
6. It is ultimately at the coach's discretion to meet with a parent after a contest.

Parents/Guardians are encouraged to discuss issues and problems with the Athletic Coordinator. However, if a parent/guardian has specific complaints regarding a coach, then the coach must have the opportunity to be present to meet with the parent.

## **REGULATIONS AND STANDARDS FOR STUDENT-ATHLETES**

### I. BEHAVIORAL EXPECTATION STANDARDS

This handbook shall apply to all student-athletes for their entire athletic year, from the date the acknowledgement is signed, both in and out of a particular sports season, and on and off the field of competition. The following are considered MAJOR OFFENSES:

- A. Sportsmanship is an integral and vital ingredient of any interscholastic athletic program. The National Federations of High School Athletics, the New York State Public High School Athletic Association, Section VII and the Champlain Valley Athletic Association have targeted the area of sportsmanship for a major emphasis. Section VII and Peru Central School have instituted the following policy to ensure the development and the understanding of the importance of proper sportsmanship and fair play.

Any Peru student-athlete, coach or spectator who is ejected/disqualified from a contest will be automatically suspended for a minimum of one game. The game(s) is to be the next regularly scheduled contest(s) and may be carried over to the next season. Ejections/disqualification incident reports must be submitted to the Athletic Coordinator, the Section VII office and the League Sportsmanship Chairperson. A conference between the player or coach and the Athletic Coordinator will take place before the student-athlete or coach is eligible to return.

- B. The Peru Athletic Department interprets hazing as any act whether physical, mental, emotional, or psychological, which subjects another person, voluntarily or involuntarily, to anything that may abuse, mistreat, degrade, humiliate, harass, or intimidate the person, or which may in any fashion compromise the inherent dignity of the person. In addition, any requirements by a member which compels another member to participate in any activity which is against school policy or state/federal law will be defined as hazing.

Any report of a hazing violation will go directly to the Athletic Coordinator and Building Level Administration for a review of the incident and to determine the consequences.

#### LEVELS OF HAZING

1. Bystander- was present during the incident but did nothing to encourage or discourage actions.
2. Active Observer- was present during the incident and actively promoted the continuation of the incident, i.e. chanting, filming, taunting, etc.
3. Active Participant- was the initiator/perpetuator of the hazing incident. Their actions resulted in physical, mental, emotional, or psychological harm.

Depending on the circumstances surrounding the incident, it is plausible to have the consequence supersede the penalty for the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, or 3<sup>rd</sup> violation. Please see section on SUSPENSIONS.

- C. A student-athlete shall not use or possess alcoholic beverages, drugs, or nicotine products (except by physician's prescription). There will be no use or possession of nonprescription steroids or mood mind-altering drugs, during the athletic sport season which is defined as beginning with the first day of practice and ending with the Peru Central School athletic awards night of that season.
- D. VIOLATION/ARRESTS OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL/PHOTO/VIDEO. If a student-athlete is arrested for a crime, the Athletic Coordinator and another administrator will review the actions giving rise to the arrest, and determine if the conduct constitutes a violation of the Athletic Handbook. Athletes will serve consequences outlined in the handbook. Any identifiable image, photo, video, etc. which implicates a student athlete to have been in possession or presence of drugs or alcohol; portrays actual use, out-of-character behavior or crime, shall be confirmation of a violation of the handbook. Student-athletes should not place themselves in compromising situations or environments (including, but not limited to, cyber space, camera phones, blogs, cell phones, video cameras, etc.).

## II. ACADEMIC EXPECTATION STANDARDS

- A. Students must accept responsibility for their academic performance; academics remain the first responsibility of a student-athlete. Within a week following commencement of practices, coaches are responsible for compiling lists of participants and giving that list to the Athletic Coordinator. This list will be continually revised to reflect additional athletes and athletes no longer participating.
- B. Academic ineligibility will be based on the following criterion: disruptive behavior in class (teacher discretion), a lack of effort/participation in class, missing/late homework, failure of the student-athlete to respond to a teacher's notification of poor grades.

*\*Note: A student-athlete may not drop a class that he/she is failing to avoid being declared ineligible without the written consent of a parent, guidance counselor, teacher and the Athletic Coordinator.*

- C. **WARNING PROCEDURE:** A teacher will issue a warning notification form, giving one to the student, retaining a copy, and sending additional copies to the Athletic Coordinator. This warning notification form will detail a procedure agreed upon by both student and teacher designed to raise the level of the student's academic achievement. This procedure may include but is not limited to: *additional instruction 10<sup>th</sup> period, peer mentoring, improved preparedness, cooperation, and effort for class.* The teacher gives the student-athlete one week in which to raise his/her grade or to demonstrate effort deemed acceptable. This one-week period will run 7 days from the warning date (ex: Monday to Monday).

### STEPS FOR BEING DECLARED ACADEMICALLY INELIGIBLE

1. The student-athlete is issued an academic warning from the teacher.
  2. The teacher turns in the academic warning to the Athletic Coordinator
  3. The Athletic Coordinator meets with the student-athlete to inform them that they have a week to improve the grades and/or behavior.
  4. If the grades/behavior does not improve then the student-athlete is declared academically ineligible and the parents of the student will be notified by the Athletic Coordinator.
- D. Upon being declared academically ineligible, the student- athlete is:
1. Allowed to practice with his/her team. They are **not allowed** to: play or dress for any game, or to travel/participate in team activities if this participation interferes with the plan of improvement.
  2. Repeated Offenses: Upon renewed eligibility, if a student-athlete is again declared ineligible, the period of suspension will increase to two weeks. Upon a third offense, a student-athlete will be declared ineligible for the rest of the season. Following this third offense, a student-athlete is no longer able to practice, play or engage in any activities with his/her team.
  3. Consequences will run through the entirety of that given season. These same consequences will not be transferred from a previous year. For example, a student-athlete who receives one warning during football season his/her junior year will carry that warning throughout the fall season. This warning will not, however, be applicable to the following sports seasons.

*Due process is available to all student-athletes whom believe that the Athletic/Academic Eligibility Policy has not been administered impartially. If so, student-athletes retain the right to appeal before the Athletic Steering Committee.*

### III. STUDENT – ATHLETE EXPECTATION STANDARDS (School & Team)

#### A. ATTENDANCE AND SCHOOL TARDINESS

Repeated tardiness and absence will affect eligibility as determined by the administration. Students must be in school by the completion of 2<sup>nd</sup> period, at the latest, in order to practice or participate in an athletic contest. An exception to this would be if a student-athlete has late arrival to school. Student-athletes will not be permitted to leave school due to sickness and then return for a contest later in the day. The Athletic Coordinator will approve any extenuating circumstances. The day following a contest, a student-athlete must attend school by the completion of 2<sup>nd</sup> period.

#### B. PRACTICES AND CONTESTS

Each student-athlete is required to attend all practices and contests unless excused by the coach. A student-athlete who is injured or ill but still able to attend school is also required to attend practice even though they will not be actively participating. Any student-athlete failing to abide by this policy will be subject to appropriate disciplinary action. Disciplinary action could range from a warning, to suspension, to dismissal from the team. Remember, once you have been placed on a team roster, you are making a commitment to that team for the full season. Any student-athlete who considers quitting a team must receive permission from the Athletic Coordinator to withdraw or he/she will be ineligible to participate in the next sport season.

#### C. PHYSICAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENT

The NYSPHSAA regulations state that a student must be enrolled in physical education to participate in athletics. The wide range of activities in physical education gives the students an excellent background in physical fitness, lifetime sports and team sports. Athletes who are illegally absent from or do not participate in physical education classes will not be permitted to attend practices or games on the day of the absence. Athletics is an outgrowth of the Physical Education Program.

#### D. IN SCHOOL SUSPENSION (ISS)

On the day a student-athlete is placed in ISS, they will not be allowed to attend a practice or game on that day. Student-athletes must notify the coach immediately. Failure to do so will result in additional days of team suspension.

#### E. OUT OF SCHOOL SUSPENSION (OSS)

A student-athlete who is suspended from school (including in-school suspension) by school authorities shall incur a suspension from his/her team equal in duration to the period for which the individual is out of school. The Building Level Administrator will notify the Athletic Coordinator, who will notify the coach of the suspension. The student-athlete will also be responsible for notifying the coach of the suspension. Failure to do so will result in additional days of team suspension.

## F. CONFLICTS

Any individual student who attempts to participate in too many 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 school activities and will attempt to schedule events in a manner so as to minimize conflict. The student-athlete and parent/guardian must realize that many times schedules cannot be changed because of league/ section regulations or facility usage. Students have a responsibility to notify the coaches involved immediately when a conflict arises, not the day of the conflict.

A student-athlete may compete in more than one sport per season. This is usually a daunting task for athletes that attempt to accomplish this.

- a. Student-athletes need to get permission from the Athletic Coordinator before attempting to compete in two sports.
- b. Coaches from both sports need to be made aware of and agree upon the student-athletes desire to participate in both sports.
- c. The student-athlete must declare, in writing with the Athletic Coordinator, a primary sport. This is a final decision; there will be no opportunity to change priority of sports. This is needed to resolve conflicts if both sports should have practice, contests, etc. on the same day.
- d. Should a conflict arise the student athlete must take part in the activity they deemed as “the primary sport” or they will not compete in either activity.
- e. The student-athlete must complete all required contests to be eligible for sectionals, end of the year awards, etc.

## G. DROPPING/CHANGING A SPORT

A student-athlete **may not** drop or change from one sport to another once a team has been selected, without permission from the Athletic Coordinator. If he/she has been cut from one team, the student-athlete may gain permission to try-out for another team, provided there were not cuts on the team they wish to join.

## H. EQUIPMENT

It is the expectation that all athletic equipment will be returned at the conclusion of the current sports season to the coach or Athletic Office. If a student-athlete has joined a sports team at the conclusion of the previous season without returning equipment from that previous season, they will be restricted from participating in contests until that equipment is returned or deemed lost by the Athletic Coordinator. When the equipment is deemed lost, the student-athlete may be financially responsible for any unreturned equipment. If the equipment is deemed lost, the student **will not** be restricted from contests.

## I. FAMILY VACATIONS

When parents/guardians and student-athletes choose to take their family vacation during sport seasons, it must be understood that the time missed by the student-athlete can affect team chemistry and personal conditioning. Student-athletes who miss practices or competitions for any reason may have their position or playing time adjusted. Coaches shall make every effort to inform parents/guardians and student-athletes of the season’s schedule as far in advance as possible.

#### J. OUTSIDE PARTICIPATION

The NYSPHSAA allows outside participation (AAU, Travel, Club, etc.). Peru athletes must understand that commitment to the school team comes first and outside participation should not be detrimental to an individual or to a Peru team. Always check with your coach and Athletic Coordinator prior to committing to an off campus team.

#### K. SQUAD SELECTIONS

In accordance with our philosophy of athletics and our desire to see as many students participate in the athletic program as possible, we encourage coaches to keep as many athletes as they can without unbalancing the integrity of their sport. The final decision on squad size will be left up to the varsity coach.

#### L. TRYOUTS

In the case of tryouts, where a “cut process” occurs, it is essential that the student-athlete attends the tryout. Without the tryout procedure the coach cannot adequately determine the student-athletes skills compared to the other student-athletes that are trying out. If the student-athlete is unable to attend the tryout he or she may still be able to participate on the team in a manager/practice player capacity. If a student-athlete is a returning player; the circumstances surrounding the missed tryout and the athlete’s body of work in the sport will be examined and an appropriate course of action will be determined by the Athletic Coordinator. Family vacations are not a valid reason to miss tryouts.

#### M. CUT PROCESS

While it is the goal of our athletic teams to keep as many student-athletes as possible, it is inevitable that cuts will have to be made when the number of athletes is greater than the total capacity of the team roster. Cuts will be done in a fair and objective manner. Appendix A contains a generic rubric for the cut process. Each sport will have a sport specific form that the evaluator will complete. Coaches will meet with individual players to make them aware of their status with the team, inform them of their strengths and weaknesses regarding their tryout, and suggest ways of improvement. If a student-athlete is cut, there may be other capacities they could be used in to maintain their affiliation with the team, i.e. manager, practice player, etc. The coach and Athletic Coordinator will determine if this is a viable option for the student-athlete.

## PROCEDURE FOR REPORTING A VIOLATION OF THE ATHLETIC HANDBOOK

**Major violations can include, but are not limited to: repeat of minor violations, possession or use of alcohol, tobacco, other illegal substances; attendance at a party where alcohol is served; sale or distribution of nicotine products, alcoholic substances, drug paraphernalia, non-prescription or controlled substances; felony arrest, or large scale breaches of the Athletic Handbook.**

1. A school staff member, administrator, parent, or community member who knows or believes that a student-athlete has violated the Peru Athletic Handbook should immediately report the alleged incident to the Athletic Coordinator and/or the Building Level Administrator.
2. Upon notification of alleged incident, the Athletic Coordinator will verbally report the incident to the coach of the sport in which the student-athlete is participating.
3. The student-athlete involved will be requested to explain the particulars of the alleged incident to the coach, the Athletic Coordinator, the Building Level Administrator and in concert with at least one adult member of the Athletic Steering Committee.
4. The student-athlete may request his/her coach and/or parent (s) to be in attendance at the meeting.
5. If an athlete has violated the Athletic Handbook, the Athletic Coordinator and/or the Building Level Administrator will record the violation in writing, including an explanation of the consequences that will occur as a result of the infraction, as a matter of record. The parent or guardian of the student-athlete will be notified of the consequences.

### HONOR CODE

*School district personnel agree that to have an honor system for student-athletes is a reasonable expectation.* If a student, when first questioned about an incident, admits to a breach of the Athletic Handbook agreement, and this is their first violation they will be given a one week suspension. If it is determined that a student is not truthful about an incident, the Athletic Coordinator, Administration, or the Code of Conduct Committee will place additional consequences.

### VOLUNTARY INFORMATION

Student-athletes who voluntarily admit to an Athletic Handbook violation prior to being questioned by the Athletic Coordinator, coach, or Administration will receive a one week suspension and retain any awards they may receive.

*\*It is important to note that this option will be available to each student only ONCE during his/her Peru athletic career.*

### FIRST VIOLATION

Following an investigation and confirmation of the first violation while under Athletic Contract:

- The student will lose eligibility for at least the next two (2) consecutive interscholastic events or the next two (2) weeks of the season in which the student is participating, whichever is greater.
- The student must still practice with the team during his/her loss of eligibility.
- If the student is captain of a team, he/she will lose the privilege for the remainder of the season.
- The student will not be eligible for any school athletic award or be nominated by coaches for conference all-star/all-academic team at the end of the sport season.
- If the student violates any part of the consequences of the first violation, the student will automatically receive the consequences for a second violation.

## SECOND VIOLATION

Following an investigation and confirmation of the second violation while under Athletic Contract:

- The student will immediately receive a four (4) week suspension from all sports activities.
- If the student is captain of a team, he/she will lose this privilege for the remainder of the season.
- The student will not be eligible for any school athletic award or be nominated by coaches for conference all-star/all-academic team at the end of the sport season.
- Students may be required to become a participant in chemical dependency program or treatment program.

## THIRD VIOLATION

Following an investigation and confirmation of the third violation while under Athletic Contract:

- The student will lose eligibility from athletics for the current sport season and the next sport season.
- Students may be required to become a participant in chemical dependency program or treatment program.
- If the student is captain of a team, he/she will lose this privilege for the remainder of the season
- Student will not be eligible for any school athletic award or be nominated by coaches for conference All-star/All-academic team at the end of the sport season.

## FOURTH VIOLATION

Following an investigation and confirmation of the fourth violation while under Athletic Contract:

- The student will lose eligibility from athletics for the current sport season and the entire next school year of sport seasons.
- Students may be required to become a participant in chemical dependency program or treatment program.
- If the student is captain of a team, he/she will lose this privilege for the remainder of the season
- Student will not be eligible for any school athletic award or be nominated by coaches for conference All-star/All-academic team at the end of the sport season.

## SUPERCEDING the FIRST, SECOND, and THIRD VIOLATION

After confirmation of a severe violation the Athletic Coordinator, Building Level Administration, and/or Superintendent of Schools will convene to determine appropriate consequences for said violation. Circumstances surrounding the loss of eligibility will be taken into consideration, i.e. duration of the season, current point of the season, play-off/ regular season games, law enforcement involvement, etc.

## SUSPENSIONS

It is plausible to have an individual, individuals, and/or a whole team suspended depending on the infraction that has occurred and the time it takes to complete the investigation.

**\*\*\*Please note – Individual coaches may establish additional rules and regulations for their respective sport. It is the responsibility of the coach to clearly inform team members and parent/guardians of these rules. Penalties for violation of these established team rules will be administered by the coach.**

## APPEALS PROCESS

A student-athlete who wishes to appeal a penalty decision should notify the Athletic Coordinator, in writing, within two (2) 7:30 AM - 2:45 PM school days of the disciplinary action. The letter should include the reason(s) why he/she should not be disciplined as outlined, and signatures of both the student-athlete and his/her parent/guardian.

Upon receipt of the written appeal, the following will occur:

1. Athletic Coordinator will notify the Athletic Steering Committee.
2. The entire committee will convene or, if this is not possible, a majority of the Athletic Steering Committee will review the appeal. This meeting will take place no later than two (2) school days following receipt of the formal appeal.
3. The athlete meets with the Athletic Steering Committee for a special hearing. The student-athlete may be represented by witnesses, parents/guardian, etc. All questioning will be done by the Athletic Coordinator and members of the Athletic Steering Committee in attendance.
4. The committee, upon hearing the information, will meet privately to determine their decision.
5. The student-athlete will be informed in writing by the Athletic Coordinator within two (2) school days relative to the Athletic Steering Committee's decision.

Until a decision is made by the Athletic Steering Committee, the athlete will not continue to participate.

### FORMAT OF THE APPEAL MEETING

1. The student-athlete will have 3 minutes to address the Athletic Steering Committee.
2. The student-athlete will verbally answer a set of questions from the Athletic Steering Committee.
3. The student-athlete will have 2 minutes for closing remarks.

The format of the Appeals Meeting could vary depending on the circumstances surrounding the appeal.

### APPEAL TO THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

1. A student-athlete who wishes to appeal the process in which the decision made by the Athletic Steering Committee must notify the Superintendent of Schools, in writing, stating specific procedural concerns in the determination process. The intent to appeal to the Superintendent must be made within 2 school days (7:30 AM - 2:45 PM) of the decision made by the Athletic Steering Committee. The Superintendent will confer with the Athletic Steering Committee prior to rendering a decision.
2. Until such time as there has been a decision by the Superintendent, the athlete will not continue to participate.
3. The decision rendered by the Superintendent of Schools will be final.

### PROCESS FOR SELECTION OF ATHLETIC STEERING COMMITTEE

The Athletic Coordinator will recruit members for this committee. The committee will be comprised of the Athletic Coordinator, two coaches, a student, and a parent. There may be alternates if the number of members enables this to occur. The committee will be assembled before the Fall sports season begins.

## PROCESS FOR RECRUITMENT OF COACHES

1. Post openings internally at Peru Central School. If there is a lack of interest within the Peru CSD, then coaching vacancies will be posted with outside agencies.
2. The Athletic Coordinator will conduct interviews, check references, and recommend qualified candidates to the Superintendent.
3. The Superintendent will formulate a recommendation to the Board of Education.

## ATHLETIC AWARD SYSTEM

Each coach will establish the criteria for earning a Varsity Letter in his/ her sport. This award is not given for participation and attendance alone. Student-athletes unable to complete a season due to injury, illness or other such circumstances may earn a letter if the coach feels it is justified. Athletes must finish the season and be in good academic standing to be eligible for an award.

- Participation Certificates (all athletes-each season)
- Letters – Varsity (1/athlete for high school career)
- Pins – Varsity only (1/athlete/sport)
- NYSPHSAA Scholar/Athlete Team Award Program (varsity only)
- League and Section Awards (presented each sport season)

In keeping with the NYSPHSAA Chemical Health guidelines, anyone attending athletic functions (i.e.; award banquets, team building activities), are expected to refrain from consuming alcohol.

## TEAM CAPTAINS

With the introduction of the Peru Leadership Academy, captains will be required to attend this Academy if they desire to be considered to be a captain on their JV and Varsity teams. Each modified team choosing captains for their teams should take into consideration the character, the body of work, the leadership traits, the work ethic, the behavior, the dedication, etc. of the student-athlete that is chose for the role of captain of the team. **The choice of CAPTAINS is NOT a POPULARITY CONTEST.**

## BOOSTER CLUB PARTICIPANTS

Booster clubs are formed to supply athletic teams with additional funds to that of which the school provides. Teams that desire to have a booster club must follow all Peru District fundraising policies, as outlined in the Fundraising Policy passed by the Board of Education. If a person desires to be part of the booster club they should speak with the Head Varsity coach to obtain information on how to become a member or an officer. Typically, all levels of a sport are asked to fundraise but the majority of the fundraising should be done by the Varsity and JV level teams.

APPENDIX A (GENERIC)



# Peru Central School District

## Player Evaluation Rubric

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

What position(s) are you trying out for? \_\_\_\_\_

What is Your Playing Experience? \_\_\_\_\_

**Below Are The Traits That You Will Be Assessed On During Tryouts:**

<b>Attitude</b> Toward your peers, coaches, and yourself	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Hustle</b> Speed isn't everything, but work ethic is – Do you push yourself to the limit?	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Offense Skills</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Defense Skills</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Overall Knowledge</b> Rules of the game, positions on the field, knowledge of drills	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Coachability</b> Encompasses a positive attitude, takes advice and strives to be better, overall team player, strong leadership	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>** Total Points = 30**</b>	<b>/30</b>				

1 = Below Average    2 = Needs Improvement    3 = Average    4 = Above Average    5 = Excellent