



Peru Central
School

**Interscholastic
Athletic
Handbook**

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References

- Olean System
- School Law 29th Edition
- NYSPHSAA

PERU SCHOOL DISTRICT Interscholastic Athletic Handbook

Dear Parents/Guardians and Student-Athletes:

Welcome to the Peru Indians Interscholastic Athletic program. This handbook has been prepared to use as a reference by our student-athletes and their parents/guardians in an effort to define responsibilities as they pertain to the rules and regulations, as well as the guidelines for participation in our interscholastic athletics program.

Upon entering middle and secondary school, students are exposed to many new opportunities and challenges. An important part of the educational experience at this level is the extra-curricular programs available to all students, in particular, the interscholastic athletic program. Nationwide, studies have shown that students involved in extra-curricular programs such as interscholastic sports, achieve better grades, manage their time more effectively, have less discipline problems and stay in school.

I am very pleased that you have shown an interest in this phase of our school program. It is my belief that participation in athletics is a privilege and honor that provides an opportunity for developing life-long skills not always available in the academic classroom. Our goal is to provide a “first class” experience that promotes team and individual growth in a safe and healthy environment.

When a student chooses to participate in our athletic program, he/she has committed his/herself to certain responsibilities and obligations. This handbook will acquaint you with some of the specific policies/rules that are necessary for a well-organized program of interscholastic athletics.

The Peru Interscholastic Athletic program is governed by the regulations of the New York State Commissioner of Education’s basic code for extra-class athletic activities. In addition, Peru is a member of the New York State Public High School Athletic Association (NYSPHSAA) Section VII and competes in the Champlain Valley Athletic Conference.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns regarding the Peru athletic program. I look forward to working with you to ensure that you take advantage of the tremendous opportunities athletics can provide.

Sincerely,



Cathy L. Phillips
Director of Physical Education Health Education,
Athletics & Health Services/Education

PERU SCHOOL DISTRICT PHILOSOPHY OF INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS

The Peru School District believes that a dynamic program of student activities is important to the educational development of all students. Therefore, interscholastic athletics is an integral part of the total education process. Athletics should be a broadening experience in which harmony of mind-body functions is created through striving for physical and mental excellence. A well-coordinated program is vitally important to the moral of the school and our community.

Young people learn a great deal from participation in interscholastic athletics. Athletics serve as a miniature model of life in that they 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 victory. However, the number of victories is only one criterion when determining success. Developing the will to win and attaining maximum potential are 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.

(*It is also important to note, that at no time will our program place the education academic curriculum secondary in emphasis to Interscholastic Athletics.)

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC PROGRAM

Our Goal:

The experience of participation in athletic contests and activities should reflect the total educational goals of our district.

Our Specific Objectives:

1. To develop an understanding and appreciation of the place where interscholastic sports and activities occupy within our culture and by developing sound education attitudes toward 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 meeting ground and enthusiasm which is 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 a student to learn to handle winning and losing and make decisions that affect themselves and 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 (GRADE 7, 8 & 9)

This program is available to all students in the 7th, 8th and 9th grades between the ages of 12 to 15. A student reaching age 16 during a sport season may complete that season and must play junior varsity or varsity the next sport season. Sport activities offered are determined by existence of leagues, student interest, and relationship to the high school program and board approval. At this level the focus is on learning athletic skills and game rules, fundamentals of team play, socio-emotional growth, physiologically appropriate demands on the adolescent body and healthy competition. This program is designed to offer students the opportunity to engage in a more highly organized competitive experience than what is found in intramural or recreation programs, but not as involved as those found on varsity and junior varsity interscholastic competition. An attempt will be made to give all team members an equal amount of contest participation over the course of a season. Contest participation is considered only if students have fulfilled their practice/game obligations.

JUNIOR VARSITY (JV)

This program is intended for those who display the potential of continued development into productive varsity level performers. Team members vary according to the structure of each sport, but sophomores and freshman occupy the majority of the roster positions. In certain situations, juniors who are expected to make contributions at the varsity level will be considered for JV participation. Also, 7th and 8th graders who have satisfied all selection classification requirements may be included. At this level increased emphasis is placed upon elements and strategies of team play, physical conditioning, refinement of fundamental skills and socio-emotional development. The JV program works towards achieving a balance between continued team and player development and striving for victory. The outcome of the contest becomes a consideration at this level. An attempt will be made to play all participants, however, equal playing time is never guaranteed nor is it required. With the goal of becoming a varsity athlete clearly in sight, a high level of dedication and commitment is expected at the junior varsity level.

VARSITY

The varsity level of interscholastic athletic competition is the culmination of the high school athletic program. Normally, seniors and juniors

make up the majority of the roster; however, gifted sophomores and sometimes freshman may be included. It is also possible for a 7th or 8th grader, who has met the selection classification requirements to be included on a varsity roster. This occurs more in sports commonly classified as “individual” (track, swimming, golf, etc.). Team play, sportsmanship, individual physical ability, motivation and mental attitude are very important aspects of competition at this level. While participation over the course of the season is desirable, a specified amount of playing time is never guaranteed. It is vital that each team member has a role and knows its importance. Preparing to win and striving for victory are goals of a varsity level team. The varsity coach is the leader of his/her sport program and is responsible for communication and program development among each level.

SELECTION CLASSIFICATION

The Selection Classification program is a process for screening student-athletes in 7 and 8 grades to determine their readiness to compete at a higher level of competition (Varsity and JV) than their current grade level. It is based on readiness rather than grade level. This program has been designed to assess a student-athlete’s physical maturation, physical fitness 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 Director of Physical Education before a student may try out for a team. Considerations that must be met include:

1. Recommendations for inclusion in this process from the Peru varsity coach.
2. Parental permission.
3. Medical examination and approval by the school physician with the development or maturity level determined by the school physician in accordance with established guidelines for the level of a particular sport.
4. The six-item athletic performance test must be administered by a physical education teacher selected by the Director of PE. The athlete must meet or exceed the criteria established for the level of participation desired.
5. The individual’s prior experience and skill level is judged on the demands of the sport at this level of play at which the student is seeking to qualify.

**PERU SCHOOL DISTRICT
ATHLETIC RULES AND REGULATIONS**

RISK FACTOR IN SPORTS

Participation by a student in athletic activities involves a certain degree of risk of physical injury. Such physical injury can occur in any type of activity, be it a “contact” or a “non-contact” sport. Furthermore, many injuries are truly accidental in nature and by volunteering to participate in a school-sponsored athletic activity, a student and his/her parents/guardians assume the risks for injuries to occur.

STATEMENT INTRODUCTORY

The purpose of these rules is to help an interscholastic athletic participant become a better citizen by seeking to demonstrate proper behavior and 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 to enable the individual to achieve maximum physical and/or mental performance in athletics. The individual is required to make a commitment to the community, school, team, coach and him/herself by adhering to the established rules and regulation, a condition that must be fulfilled for satisfactory participation in any sport. Obeying the rules is a matter of honor to each individual who makes this commitment. Enforcement of the rules and adjudication of any violations is the responsibility of the coach, athletic director, administration, and parents.

PURPOSE

The Athletic Code of Conduct and Chemical Awareness program of the Peru School Athletic Department are:

- a. To emphasize concerns for the health and safety of the students while participating in activities.
- b. To enforce awareness of the long-term physical and emotional effects of chemical use on student athletes’ health.
- c. To promote a sense of order and discipline among student athletes.
- d. To confirm and support existing state laws which ban the use of drugs and alcohol, tobacco products, non-prescription steroids, and/or any performance-enhancing drugs.
- e. To establish standards of conduct for those students who may be leaders among their peers.
- f. To assist students who want to resist the peer pressure which may direct them to the use of mood-altering chemicals.
- g. To assist students who should be referred for assistance or evaluation regarding their use of mood-altering chemicals.
- h. To create the awareness of the nature and scope of drug/alcohol/tobacco, steroids and performance enhancing drugs for parents and

student athletes.

- i. To increase the awareness of prevention and intervention skills which contribute to solutions to these problems.
- j. To emphasize to student athletes the importance of academics.

RULES GOVERNING CODE OF CONDUCT

a. There will be no use or possession of any tobacco products, 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.

b. A student athlete shall not use or possess alcoholic beverages or drugs (except by physician's prescription) during the athletic sport season. In addition, a student athlete shall not be present at any bar or private party where alcoholic beverages or drugs are being used or consumed during the athletic sport season, unless the student's parent(s) or guardian(s) is present with the student athlete. Under no circumstances would an exception apply to the prohibition on the use, possession or consumption of alcoholic beverages or drugs by a student athlete.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF A PERU ATHLETE

Being a member of a Peru athletic team is a privilege and honor. To many athletes, it is the fulfillment of an early ambition. The attainment of this goal carries with it certain traditions 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 squad at Peru you have inherited this great tradition. Your actions will reflect not only on those who you are associated with now, but those who have contributed so much to our school in the past.

Many of our student-athletes have gone on to participate at the collegiate level. Also, many have achieved league, section and state honors. Because of this fine tradition a challenge is set for you to work hard and make sure that your actions reflect the standards that are set up by the athletic department. **For the privilege of participation in athletics, all student-athletes must realize that more is expected of them than other students in our school.** As an athlete at Peru you will be expected to make many sacrifices. In today's society you will be asked to make

sacrifices that will benefit yourself, your team and your school. Never before has the pressure of peer groups been so strong. In the long run, by saying "NO" to these pressures, you and your family will be proud of the sacrifices and dedication that you have put forth to be a member of our athletic program. If you take this opportunity to make yourself a better individual, it will be truly a gratifying educational experience. The highs and lows of athletic competition are achieved through hard work, dedication and discipline and are rewarded with the development of fond memories and personal achievements.

Responsibilities to Yourself:

The most important of these responsibilities is to broaden yourself and develop strength of character. You owe it to yourself to strive for the greatest possible good from your high school experiences. Your studies and your participation in other school activities, as well as in athletics, prepare you for life as an adult.

– Character Counts –

Responsibilities to Others:

You have a responsibility to your parents/guardians to always do the best you can. When participating in athletics, we sometimes feel that we have failed if we have not won. By trying the best that you can and following all rules set up by your squad, you can feel justifiably proud of yourself no matter what the win/loss record dictates. Younger students look to you and it is your responsibility to set a good example for them. They will copy a lot of things that you do just to be a member of your group. They need attention and guidance, so always take a few minutes to encourage them in whatever way possible.

CONDUCT OF AN ATHLETE

The conduct of an athlete is closely observed in many areas of life, in particular, on the field, in the classroom and in the community. Take pride in yourself, your team and your school. You should always project a positive image. Winning or losing is not as important as your reaction to winning or losing. Your reaction is what people will remember, not the score.

Unsatisfactory citizenship on the part of a student-athlete (in or out of season) could result in the student-athlete being dismissed from a team or being deemed ineligible from participation in all interscholastic athletic

competition for the school. Good sportsmanship and citizenship are required of all student-athletes. A student-athlete's conduct is to be guided by the following principles:

- ↑ To have respect for the rights and feelings of others
- ↑ To behave in a manner that reflects positively on yourself, your family, your team, your school and your community

On the Field/Court – In the area of athletic competition, a student-athlete does not use profanity, trash talk or illegal tactics and learns fast that losing is part of the game and that you should be gracious in defeat and modest in victory. It is always courteous to congratulate the opponent on a well-played game after the contest whether in defeat or victory. Game officials will always be treated with respect and sense of understanding the critical role they play.

- *Win or Lose – Do it with “CLASS”* –

Off the Field/Court – Student-athletes are expected to conduct themselves at all times in a manner which will reflect positively on their team, our school and themselves. Any inappropriate behavior (including accusation, involvement with police and/or arrests) will result in a disciplinary review and be subject to suspension or dismissal from the team.

- *Character is who you are when no one is watching* –

In the classroom and academic area, a good athlete becomes a good student. A person cannot be a classroom laggard and think he/she can be an outstanding athlete. If you are lazy in class, you will be lazy on the practice field or court and never reach your full potential. As an athlete, you must plan your schedule so that you give sufficient time and energy to your studies to insure acceptable grades. Plan ahead and be organized. In addition to maintaining good scholarship, an athlete should give respectable attention to classroom activities and show respect for other students and faculty/staff at all times. Horseplay and disrespect are not approved habits of behavior.

- *Academics + Athletics = Success* –

Therefore;

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 that is not to be abused by un-sportsman-like conduct.
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.

Remember that the use, abuse and resulting negative influence of drugs, including alcohol, tobacco, and performance-enhancing supplements is detrimental to the game and its participants.

SECTION VII & DISQUALIFICATION POLICY

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 School have instituted the following policy to ensure the development of 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 Director, the Section VII office and the League Sportsmanship Chairperson. A conference between the player or coach and the Athletic Director will take place before the student-athlete or coach is eligible to return.

SPORTSMANSHIP GUIDE

The Peru Schools Interscholastic Athletic program is committed to promoting the proper ideals of sportsmanship, ethical conduct and fair play at all sports activities. Good sportsmanship is defined as those qualities of behavior which are characterized by generosity and genuine concern for others. The concept of “sportsmanship” must be taught, modeled, expected and reinforced in the classroom and in all competitive activities. Sportsmanship is good citizenship in action. Perhaps a quote from Knute Rockne says it best, *“One man practicing good sportsmanship is better than fifty others preaching it.”*

We are further committed to the belief that schools participating in interscholastic athletic activities should be held responsible for the conduct of their players, coaches, staff member and spectators. Conduct, which is detrimental to the educational value of athletic activities, could result in appropriate disciplinary action by the school.

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 visiting teams or individual players.
3. Show appreciation of good play by both teams.
4. Learn the rules of the game in order to be a better-informed spectator.
5. Treat all visiting teams and spectators as guests and show respect.
6. Accept the judgment of coaches and officials.
7. Encourage all spectators to participate in the spirit of good sportsmanship.
8. Avoid the use, abuse and resulting negative influence of drugs, including alcohol and tobacco.

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 price.

4. Recognize that the participants in individual or team sports are young men and women with human frailties and limitations, 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 un-sportsmanlike behavior.
7. Avoid behavior that will incite players, opponents or spectators.
8. Avoid and eliminate negative comments to radio, TV and newspaper reporters.
9. Remember that the use, abuse and resulting negative influence of drugs, including alcohol, tobacco, and performance-enhancing supplements is detrimental to the game and its participants.

THEREFORE;

STUDENT-ATHLETE CODE OF BEHAVIOR/ETHICS:

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 that is not to be abused by un-sportsman-like conduct.
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. **Remember that the use, abuse and resulting negative influence of drugs, including alcohol, tobacco, and performance-enhancing supplements is detrimental to the game and its participants. To participate in athletics at Peru, there will be no use of these substances.**

ELIGIBILITY

Each athlete will participate under the eligibility requirements, rules and regulations set forth by the New York State Commissioner of Education

and the New York State Public High School Athletic Association, as well as the Peru School District Board of Education. Each student-athlete and his/her parent/guardian will be required to sign and submit to the respective coach a parent and student athletic code of conduct agreement. The coach will then forward this form on to the athletic office. A student-athlete will not be permitted to participate until this requirement is completed.

HEALTH AND MEDICAL

1. **WARNING:** Participation in athletics does involve some risks. Physical injury can occur in any type of sport activity. By volunteering to participate in a school sponsored athletic activity, a student and his/her parents/guardians acknowledge the potential risk for physical injury to occur.
2. Sports physicals are scheduled at various times during the school year. Every student-athlete must pass a physical exam and be approved by the school district physician prior to practice or participation in any interscholastic sport. The student is responsible for reporting to the physical examination at the scheduled time.
3. The athlete is to report all injuries, no matter how minor, to the coach. The athlete will report to the nurses office to complete an accident form.
4. Medical expenses resulting from any athletic injury must first be submitted to the parents/guardians insurance carrier. Any remaining balance may then be submitted to the school district's insurance carrier by processing a claim form through the District Office, 643-6000. The school district's insurance provides only supplemental coverage according to a schedule of benefits.
5. A health history update, done by the school nurse, is required for each sport season of participation.

ATHLETIC/ ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY

Students must accept responsibility for their academic performance. Athletes, by choosing to participate in a sport, assume an added responsibility. While athletics are recognized as an integral part of the student's education, academics remains the first responsibility of a scholar-athlete. To aid scholar-athletes in achieving both academic and athletic excellence, this policy has been implemented.

****The success of this policy rests on the integrity of district school personnel, parents administrators, and scholar-athletes alike; all must be willing to abide by and to uphold the aforesaid contract.****

Academic Ineligibility (Criterion)

- Within a week following commencement of practices, coaches are responsible for compiling lists of participants and giving that list to the Director of Athletics. This list will be continually revised to reflect additional athletes and/or athletes no longer participating.
- The following criterion will deem a scholar-athlete academically ineligible:
 - Disruptive behavior in class (teacher discretion)
 - A lack of effort in class –
 - Missing Homework
 - Consistent lack of preparation for class
 - Failure to respond to teacher notification of poor grades

***Note:** *A scholar-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 Director of Athletics.*

ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY (Warning Procedure)

If a scholar-athlete is in danger of being declared academically ineligible, the following procedure will be implemented:

- A teacher will issue a **warning notification** form, giving one to the student, retaining a copy, and sending additional copies to the Director of Athletics. 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 10th period
 - Peer mentoring
 - Demonstration of preparedness for class
 - Demonstration of cooperation/improved effort in class

***Note:** *The issuance of a warning notification form indicates a danger of*

being ineligible to participate in athletics.

- The scholar-athlete is given one week in which to raise his/her grade or to demonstrate effort deemed acceptable by the scholar-athlete's teacher. This one-week period will run Monday to Monday.

***Note:** *Upon being deemed ineligible, the scholar-athlete will receive status reports from his/her teacher until considered eligible.*

UPON BEING DECLARED INELIGIBLE:

If the plan is not adhered to as agreed upon, the scholar-athlete becomes ineligible the following Monday. The period of ineligibility, the scholar athlete is:

*Allowed to practice with his/her team.

- **Not Allowed to:**
 - **Play or dress for any game**
 - **To travel/participate in team activities if this participation interferes with the plan of improvement.**
- Repeated Offenses:
 - Upon renewed eligibility, if a scholar-athlete is again declared ineligible, the period of suspension will increase to two weeks. Upon a third offense, a scholar-athlete will be declared ineligible for the rest of the season. Following this third offense, a scholar-athlete is no longer able to practice, play or engage in any activities with his/her team.
 - Consequences will run season to season through any given school year. 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 while playing a winter sport, and throughout the spring season.

This warning will not, however, be applicable at the commencement of his/her junior year.

***Note:** *a scholar-athlete who is dismissed from a team for academic reasons is ineligible to receive any awards / honors for that season.*

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

TRAINING RULES

As a candidate for participation in the interscholastic athletic program of the Peru Schools, it is our hope that you will soon be a member of our solid program. It is very important that the student-athlete and the parents/guardians understand, agree to, abide by and reinforce the essential policies in regard to athletic training rules. These regulations have been established for the benefit of those who participate in our program, as players, students and representatives of our school and community.

It is the overwhelming opinion of educators and teachers/coaches that athletes perform best when they follow intelligent training rules, which include abstinence from tobacco, alcohol and drugs. Medical research clearly substantiates the fact that the use of tobacco, alcohol and any mood modifying substances produce harmful effects on the human body. Additionally, significant findings along with publicity surrounding deaths and arrests of professional, college and high school athletes, have most certainly pointed out the undesirability of using chemicals (tobacco, alcohol, marijuana, cocaine, steroids, any performance enhancing food supplement –e.g. creatine- and any other controlled substance), especially at the teenage level. Unfortunately, education and reasoning alone are not always sufficient to deter the use or experimentation of these chemicals and controlled substances. Therefore, in an attempt to fight this battle, the Peru Athletic Department will require all of its participants to agree to and abide by the student-athlete training code.

It is the Peru Central School District and the Athletic Department policy to prevent and prohibit the possession of and/or use of any amounts of

alcoholic beverage, tobacco products, or unauthorized use of drugs (controlled chemicals or substances) by all student-athletes during the school year.

This training rule policy will be in effect in school and out of school for the entire sport season of participation (from the first legal practice of the season and ending with the team awards gathering). *Ideally, student-athletes are athletes the whole year and are encouraged to abide by training rules both in and out of season.*

PUBLIC CONDUCT ON SCHOOL DISTRICT PROPERTY

The Peru Central School District Board of Education recognized that the primary purpose of the district is to provide an atmosphere conducive to learning and education. Any action by an individual or group aimed at disrupting, interfering or delaying the education process or having such effect, is hereby declared to be in violation of district policy.

The school board also recognizes its responsibility to protect school property and declares its intent to take appropriate legal action to prevent damage or destruction of school property. The Board will also seek restitution from, and prosecution of, any person who willfully damages school property.

It is not the intent of this policy to limit freedom of speech or peaceful assembly. The school board recognizes that free inquiry and free expression are indispensable to the objectives of a school district. The purpose of the rules and regulations is to prevent abuse of the rights of others and to maintain public order, not to prevent or restrain controversy or dissent.

These rules govern the conduct of students, faculty and other staff, licensees, invitees, and all other persons, whether or not their presence is authorized, upon district property, and also upon or with respect to any other premises or property under the control of the district and used in its teaching programs and activities, and in its administrative, cultural, recreational, athletic, and other programs and activities.

Prohibited Conduct

No person, either alone or with other, shall:

1. Willfully injure any person or threaten to do so;
2. Willfully damage or remove district property;
3. Disrupt the orderly conduct of classes, school programs or other school activities;
4. Distribute or wear materials on school grounds which appear obscene, which advocate illegal action, discriminate against race, nationality or religion, appear libelous, disruptive to the school program or obstruct the rights of others;
5. Intimidate, harass, or discriminate against any person on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, age or disability;
6. Enter upon any portion of the school premises without authorization or remain in any building or facility after it is normally closed;
7. Obstruct the free movement of any person in any place to which these rules apply;
8. Violate the traffic laws, parking regulations or other restrictions in vehicles;
9. Possess, consume, sell, distribute or exchange alcoholic beverages, tobacco products, controlled substances, or be under the influence of either on school property or at any school-related function;
10. Possess or use of firearms and/or other weapons including air guns, pistols, rifles, shotguns, ammunition, explosives, box cutters, knives, gas canisters, pepper spray or other noxious spray in or on school property (except in the case of law enforcement officers or except as specifically authorized by the school district);
11. Loiter on or about school buildings or grounds;
12. Gamble on school premises;
13. Refuse to comply with any lawful order of an identifiable school district official acting in the performance of his/her duties;
14. Willfully incite others to commit any of the acts herein prohibited; and/or
15. Violate any federal or state statute, local ordinance, or Board policy.

Penalties and Procedures

A person who violates any of the provisions of these rules shall be subject to the following penalties and procedures:

1. If a licensee or invitee, his/her authorization to remain upon the grounds or other property shall be withdrawn and he/she shall be

directed to leave the premises. In the event of failure to do so, he/she shall be subject to ejection.

2. If a trespasser or visitor without specific license or invitation, he/she shall be subject to ejection.
3. If he/she is a student, he/she shall be subject to immediate ejection and to disciplinary action as the facts of the case may warrant, including suspension, probation, loss of privileges, reprimand or warning as prescribed by section 3214 of the Education Law, so long as the provisions pertaining to notice and hearing have been met.
4. If a tenured faculty member, he/she shall be subject to immediate ejection, and to warning, reprimand, suspension and/or other disciplinary action as prescribed by and in accordance with section 2030-a of the Education Law.
5. If a staff member in the classified service of the civil service, he/she shall be subject to immediate ejection and to the penalties and procedures prescribed in section 75 of the Civil Service Law.
6. If a staff member other than one described in subdivisions 4 and 5, he/she shall be subject to immediate ejection and to dismissal, suspension without pay or censure.

Enforcement Program

1. The superintendent shall develop and maintain a district protocol that designates personnel who are authorized to take action in accordance with such rules when required or when it is appropriate to carry them into effect.
2. In the case of any apparent violation of these rules by such persons, which, in the judgment of the Superintendent or his/her designee, does not pose any immediate threat of injury to person or property, such school official may make reasonable effort to learn the cause of the conduct in question and to persuade those engaged therein to desist and to resort to permissible methods for the resolution of any issues which may be presented. In doing so such school official shall

warn such persons of the consequences of persistence in the prohibited conduct, including their ejection from any district properties where their continued presence and conduct is in violation of these rules.¹

¹ Based substantially on, and used with permission from, New York State School Boards Association's School Policy Encyclopedia.¹

TRANSPORTATION OF STUDENTS

The mission of our transportation department is to provide an effective, safe and efficient system of transportation for students to and from school and on extra-curricular activities and field trips for which such transportation has been budgeted and approved. The transportation department is to comply with applicable laws, regulations and policies established by federal, state and local authorities.

The district will provide transportation to and from any 'away' games, athletic events, exhibitions and performances that have been previously requested by the Principal and/or Athletic Director, and subsequently identified and approved by the Superintendent of Schools as essential to adequately maintain the integrity of the school's academic, artistic and athletic programs.

The districts transportation department does not provide transportation for 'home site' practices, exhibitions, games or performances. 'Home' is defined as the facility and location where a particular school club, team or group has been assigned to meet on a regular basis for rehearsals, practices and 'home' games. It will be the responsibility of each student's parent/guardian to provide for the prompt arrival of that student to the home site and for the prompt departure from the home site of that student.

The Board of Education recognizes that in particular circumstances, the Athletic Director or Principal or designee may authorize transportation of students in private vehicles to transport a student or students to a hospital or other medical facility, in the event of a medical emergency.

Students participating in an 'away' game or athletic event are expected to use district-provided transportation. Students are not allowed to transport themselves to or from the event, nor may any student transport another

student in such circumstances. A parent/guardian may transport their own child only if the coach or other supervising staff member is informed that the student is being transported by the parent/guardian.

The parent/guardian must sign their student out with the coach/supervisor.

The Superintendent of Schools is charged with guiding Principals and the Athletic Director in establishing and regularly reviewing administrative protocols associated with pre-approved exceptions and waiver forms for parents/guardians to transport their own children to or from 'away' games, athletic events, exhibitions and performances when students are being provided school transportation. Parents/guardians who want their child to be transported in a private vehicle from school or school sponsored events by an adult other than that child's parent/guardian must complete, sign and submit in advance to the Principal or Athletic Director a district-approved waiver form.

NOTES

Unanticipated emergency or safety conditions identified by the Principal, Athletic Director, coach, advisor or other school employee with overall 'on-site' supervision responsibility for that event may be considered in extraordinary circumstances to allow for a parent/guardian to complete, sign and submit 'on the spot' the district's waiver form. No individual other than the student's parent or guardian may waive that student's use of district-provided transportation to and from that event.

The principal, Athletic Director, coach, advisor or other school employee with overall 'on site' supervision responsibility for that event is authorized to disallow implementation of a previously approved transportation waiver if that school employee believes an unanticipated emergency or safety condition warrants transportation of that student via the transportation department rather than a private vehicle.

ATHLETE/PARENT/COACH RELATIONSHIP & COMMUNICATION

Both parenting and coaching are extremely difficult vocations. By establishing an understanding of each position, we are better able to accept the actions of the other and provide a greater benefit to children. As parents, when your children become involved in our program, you have a right to understand what expectations are placed on your child.

This begins with clear communication from the coach of your child's program.

COMMUNICATION YOU SHOULD EXPECT FROM YOUR CHILD'S COACH

1. Philosophy of the coach
2. Expectations the coach has for our 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.
5. Procedure should your child be injured during participation.
6. Discipline that results in the denial of your child's participation.

COMMUNICATION COACHES EXPECT FROM 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.

As your children become involved in programs at Peru High School, they will experience some of the most rewarding moments of their lives. It is important to understand that there also may be times when things do not go the way you or your child wishes. At these times, discussion with the coach is encouraged.

APPROPRIATE CONCERNS TO DISCUSS WITH COACHES

1. The treatment of your child, mentally and physically
2. Ways to help your child improve
3. Concerns about your child's behavior

It is very difficult to accept your child's not playing as much as you may hope. Coaches are professionals. They make judgment decisions based on what they believe to be the best for all students involved. As you have seen from the list above, things such as those on the following page 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

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 issue of concern.

Procedure to follow to discuss a concern with a coach:

1. Call the secretary in the Peru Athletic Department at 643-6420, to set up an appointment with the coach.
2. If the coach cannot be reached, call Cathy Phillips, Director of Athletics. She will arrange the meeting with you.
3. **Please do not attempt to confront a coach before or after a contest or practice. These can be emotional times for both the parent and the coach. Meetings of this nature do not promote resolution.**

What can a parent do if the meeting with the coach did not provide a satisfactory resolution?

1. Call athletic secretary to set up an appointment with the Director of Athletics, Cathy Phillips. The parent/guardian, coach and Director will meet to discuss the problem.
2. At this meeting, the appropriate next step can be determined.

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

By following this procedure, your child's experience with the Peru Central High School Athletic Programs will be less stressful, more enjoyable, as well as rewarding.

PROCEDURE FOR REPORTING VIOLATION OF CONTRACT

- a. A school staff member, administrator, parent, or community

member who knows or believes that an athlete has violated the Peru Athletic Code of Conduct should immediately report the alleged incident to the Director of Athletics.

- b. Upon notification of alleged incident, the Director of Athletics will verbally report the incident to the coach of the seasonal sport in which the student is participating.
- c. The athlete involved will be requested to explain the particulars of the alleged incident to the coach and/or the Director of Athletics, possibly in concert with at least one adult member of the Athletic Steering Committee.
- d. The athletes may request his/her coach and/or parent (s) to be in attendance at the meeting described in C) above.
- e. If an athlete has violated the Code of Conduct, the Director of Athletics 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 athlete will notify his/her parents/guardian or may request the Director of Athletics, Steering Committee Member, or the coach to notify his/her parent/guardian. No matter which method is chosen, the parent/guardian will be required to contact the Director of Athletics to verify that notification.
- f. The Director of Athletics, upon investigation, may find it necessary to notify other coaches by letter or in person that additional athletes may have violated the contract by being involved in a reported incident.
- g. The Director of Athletics will record in writing any incident that involves an investigation.

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 Code of Conduct agreement, that student will have a choice of either Option A or Option B. If it is determined that a student is not truthful about an incident, the Director of Athletics and/or the code of Conduct Committee will place additional consequences.

FIRST VIOLATION

After confirmation of the first violation, the athlete may choose either Option A or Option B.

Option A

- The student shall lose eligibility for at least the next two (2) consecutive interscholastic events or at the next two (2) weeks of the season in which the student is participating, which is even greater.
- The student must still practice with the team during his/her loss of eligibility.
- The student becomes a participant in a chemical dependency program, treatment program, and/or educational instruction; whichever is deemed necessary by Champlain Valley Family Services personnel or the assessing agency selected by the parents. (Parents are responsible for the costs incurred from any agency other than CVFS)
- 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 Option A, student will automatically receive Option B.

Option B

After confirmation of the second violation while under the Athletic Code of Conduct:

- The student will immediately receive eight (8) weeks 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/academic team at the end of the sport season.

SECOND VIOLATION

After confirmation of the second violation while under the Athletic Code of Conduct:

- The student will lose eligibility from athletics for the current sport season and the next two (2) consecutive sport seasons.
- Students will 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 seasons
- 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.

*****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 member and parent/guardian of these rules. Penalties for violation of these established team rules will be administered by the coach.**

PHYSICAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENT

Athletics is an outgrowth of the Physical Education Program. Those students demonstrating outstanding skills, attitude and effort are those encouraged 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. Because of the importance of physical education, all athletes will be required to participate in physical education classes throughout the year. 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. **The NYSPHSAA regulations state that a student must be enrolled in physical education to participate in athletics.**

INTRAMURALS

The program will generally meet 6-8 weeks. Program is primarily set up to give students an opportunity to stress the rules and strategies of the game and be an active participant. Learning to play the game and stressing sportsmanship will be the focus of the program. All participants will have the opportunity to play. Individuals running the program will be allowed a home and away play day with another school if approved by the Director of Athletics.

PRACTICES AND CONTESTS

Each athlete is required to attend all practices and/or contests unless excused by the coach. An 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 Director of Athletics to withdraw or he/she will be ineligible to participate in the next sport season.

OUT OF SUSPENSION FROM SCHOOL

A student-athlete who is suspended from school (including in-school suspension) by school authorities shall incur a suspension from his/her squad equal in duration to the period for which the individual is out of school. The principal will notify the athletic director, who will notify the coach of the suspension. **Student-athlete will be responsible to notify the coach of the suspension. Failure to do so will result in additional days of team suspension.**

IN SCHOOL SUSPENSION

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

SCHOOL TARDINESS AND ATTENDANCE

Repeated tardiness and absence will affect eligibility as determined by the administration. Students must be in school by 9:00a.m. at the latest in order to practice or participate in an athletic contest. Any extenuating circumstances should be approved by the Director of Athletics. **The day following a game a student-athlete must be in at the start of school.**

VIOLATION/ARRESTS OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL

An athlete arrested in a court of law for a crime will be in violation of the Athletic Code. Athlete will serve consequences outlined in handbook.

CHANGING SPORTS

It is important that the student-athlete try to go out for the right sport, particularly at the varsity and JV levels. A student-athlete may not

change from one sport to another once a team has been selected, without permission from the Director of Athletics. If he/she has been cut from one team, it is legitimate to try out for another sport. The athlete must understand that practices are sport specific and cannot count from one sport to another.

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, to this end, will attempt to schedule events in a manner so as to minimize conflict. The athlete and parent/guardian must realize that many times schedules cannot be changed because of league or section regulations or facility usage. Students have a responsibility to do everything they can to avoid continuous conflicts. This would include being cautious about belonging to too many activities where conflicts are bound to happen. It also means notifying the coaches involved immediately when a conflict arises, not the day of the conflict.

SPECIALIZATION / RECRUITMENT

The Peru School District encourages students to participate in a variety of sports. As such, the Athletic Department does not endorse in principle or practice the concepts of specialization or recruitment. Specialization occurs when a student-athlete involves him/herself in one athletic activity over a period of time, forsaking other athletic endeavors of interest. Recruitment occurs when a student-athlete who is involved in more than one sport is encouraged by a coach that it is in his/her best interest to compete in only one sport.

EQUIPMENT

All athletic equipment must be returned at the end of the season to the coach or athletic office. A student-athlete will not be eligible to participate in another sport until all equipment is returned. In addition, the student-athlete will be financially responsible for any unreturned equipment.

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 condition-

ing. 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.

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. There will be many circumstances where a student should not participate in an outside activity due to the possible effect on the team. Always check with your Athletic Director.

DRESS AND GROOMING

A member of an athletic team is expected to be well-groomed. "You look good- you feel good – you play well." Appearances, expression and actions always influence people's opinions of athletes, the team and the school. Team members are expected to dress presentable at all times and especially on away trips. Sloppy dress and sloppy grooming leads to sloppy attitudes, which leads to sloppy play. Only uniforms issued by the athletic department should be worn for contests.

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.

HAZING –INITIATION CEREMONY

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.

NO SMOKING POLICY

To comply with Federal and State Law and to acknowledge the health hazards associated with smoking, particularly in an environment where children are present, the Peru Board of Education prohibits the use of tobacco products, including but not limited to smoking and chewing tobacco in all school facilities on all school grounds.

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 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)

APPEALS PROCESS

An athlete who wishes to appeal a penalty decision should notify the Director of Athletics, in writing, within two (2) 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 athlete and his/her parent/guardian.

- a. Upon receipt of the written appeal, the following will occur:
 1. Director of Athletics 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 athlete may be represented by witnesses, parents/guardian, etc. All questioning will be done solely by the Director of Athletics with the Athletic Steering Committee in attendance.
 4. The committee, upon hearing the information, will meet

- privately to determine their decision.
5. The athlete will be informed in writing by the Director of Athletics within two (2) school days relative to the Athletic Steering Committees decision.
 6. Until such time as there has been a decision by the Steering Committee, the athlete may not continue to participate.

PROCESS STEP FOR RECRUITMENT OF COACHES

1. Post openings with Peru Association of Teachers. If no interest, advertise in Press Republican. Peru Association of Teachers has first priority for openings, which is consistent with state guidelines.
2. Director of Athletics along with current and/or past Varsity Coach interviews candidates.
3. Director of Athletics does reference checks.
4. Director of Athletics makes recommendation to Superintendent.
5. Superintendent formulates a recommendation to the Board of Education.

Selection of Athletic Code of Conduct Committee and the Athletic Steering Committee

Every school year the Director of Athletics will send a memo to each member of the Athletic Code of Conduct Committee asking if the member would like to remain on the committee. If a staff vacancy should occur the Director of Athletics will notify all the staff (7-12) of the opening. If a student vacancy occurs, the same procedure will follow. If a parent vacancy occurs, the Director of Athletics will advertise in the local media, and District Newsletter. The Athletic Steering Committee consists of staff volunteers who also serve in the Athletic Code on Conduct Committee.

The Ten Indian Commandments

Remain close to the great spirit

Show great respect for your fellow beings

Give assistance and kindness wherever needed

Be truthful and honest at all times

Do what you know to be right

Look after the well being of mind and body

*Treat the earth and all that dwell thereon
with great respect*

Take full responsibility for your actions

Dedicate a share of your efforts to the greater good

Work together for the benefit of all mankind