

ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION

Washington School for the Deaf should strive to provide opportunities to uphold and present a well-balanced athletic program as determined by student needs and interests, availability of staff and facilities, and within financial abilities of the student bodies. Athletic participation can serve to develop the whole student and to prepare him/her for a better understanding of himself/herself and others. It is believed, further, that:

1. Athletics should be regarded as an integral part of the total educational program and should be so conducted that is worthy of such regard.
2. Athletics are a potential educative force of great power whose effectiveness can be greatly enhanced through proper leadership.
3. The experience of participation in athletics should be part of the experience of all students and that every possible means should be provided for this experience.
4. Cooperation and competition are important components of American life and that participation in athletics can help teach the values of cooperation as well as the spirit of competition.
5. Participation in a sound athletic program helps develop the following qualities in a person: health and happiness, physical skill, emotional maturity, social competence, moral values, security, belonging, participating, recognition and respect for the rules and authority.
6. Developing skills and attitudes in athletics will carry over into worthwhile and desirable leisure time endeavors.
7. Staff is urged to encourage broad participation by all students.

The conduct of a student athlete is closely observed by many elements in our society and it is important that this behavior always be exemplary. The Superintendent will develop procedures outlining the appropriate code of conduct for student athletes, in compliance with the Washington Interscholastic Athletic Association (WIAA). The Superintendent will develop procedures regarding this policy.

References: Washington Interscholastic Athletic Association

Adoption Date: 12/11/03