

Woodbury Athletic Association Policy on Prayer and Religious Expression

Purpose

The Woodbury Athletic Association (WAA) is committed to respecting the religious freedom of all participants while ensuring that athletic activities remain inclusive, neutral, and free from coercion. This policy provides guidance regarding prayer and religious expression within WAA-sponsored programs.

Guiding Principles

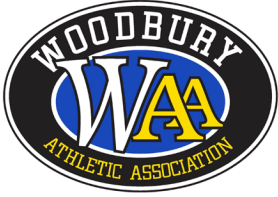
- WAA does not endorse or oppose any religion.
- Participation in WAA activities must remain voluntary, inclusive, and non-coercive.
- All policies are designed to comply with applicable federal and state laws regarding religious expression in youth athletics.

Player-Initiated Prayer

- **Permitted:** Players may engage in prayer or other religious expression individually or in groups, provided that:
 - The prayer is entirely player-initiated.
 - Participation is voluntary.
 - No player is pressured, encouraged, or required to participate.
- Player-led prayer may occur before, during, or after practices or games, so long as it does not disrupt activities or exclude others.

Role of Coaches, Officials, and Volunteers

- **Prohibited Conduct:** Coaches, officials, team staff, and WAA volunteers may not:
 - Initiate, lead, organize, suggest, or encourage prayer or religious activities.
 - Direct players to pray or participate in religious expression.
 - Use their position of authority to influence players' religious choices.



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Non-Participation and Inclusion

- No player shall be penalized, excluded, or treated differently for choosing not to participate in prayer or religious activities.
- Team activities must proceed regardless of whether prayer occurs.

Enforcement

- Violations of this policy may result in disciplinary action consistent with WAA's code of conduct, which may include warnings, suspension, or removal from coaching or officiating duties.