

WAUSAU SCHOOL DISTRICT

STUDENTS ACTIVITIES

5610

High School Athletic Code

I. PURPOSE OF THE HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC CODE

The Athletic Code of the Wausau School District is established to provide clear and consistent expectations for student-athletes and others participating in District sponsored programs. The Code is intended to assist student-athletes in identifying unacceptable behaviors and informing them and their parent(s)/guardian(s) of penalties that will be enforced for violations of its rules. Taken together with the Coach's Expectations, the Code is intended to define for those it governs the ideals of good citizenship, fair play, and responsibility for one's individual actions.

II. PROCESS TO FOLLOW TO BECOME INVOLVED IN HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC PROGRAMS

Before a student-athlete may participate in a contest, the student-athlete and parent(s)/legal guardian(s) must:

- A. Annually attend one general High School Athletic Code presentation that is held prior to the beginning of each season and at which:
 1. Copies of the High School Athletic Code will be distributed;
 2. The High School Athletic Code and the Coach's Expectations will be explained and reviewed;
 3. 3. Substance abuse and ATODA issues will be reviewed;
 4. 4. The Board Policy on Bullying and Hazing will be distributed and reviewed;
 5. 5. Parent(s)/legal guardian(s) and student-athletes will take the High School Athletic Code and the Coach's Expectations home for further review.
- B. Sign the High School Athletic Code annually and must sign the Coach's Expectations of the sport in which the student-athlete is participating and submit them to the head coach when the student-athlete and parent(s)/legal guardian(s) agree to make the commitment as described, including responsibility and accountability.
- C. Complete the WIAA examination and permit card and submit it to the head coach.

(Section Note: A signed High School Athletic Code, Insurance Notice, Coach's Expectations, and WIAA examination and permit card must be submitted prior to issuance of athletic equipment and/or participation at practice.)

III. PHILOSOPHY OF THE ATHLETIC CODE

Athletics and the student-athlete are an integral part of the Wausau School District. Participation in athletics is a privilege, not a right, that provides opportunities, recognition,

and increased responsibilities. The opportunities provided for our student-athletes are among the most diversified in the state of Wisconsin and all student-athletes who complete an athletic season will be recognized with some type of award and/or certificate of participation. The athletic program is designed with regulations that promote an effective experience without an unreasonable suppression of individual rights.

IV. REGULATIONS OF THE HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC CODE

The student-athlete must be a full-time student and is required to follow the conditions set forth in the High School Athletic Code on a year-round (12 month) basis, and they must make a commitment to the following:

A. Attendance

The student-athlete must be in a full-day of attendance to be able to participate in practice and/or a game on that day. The only exceptions to this requirement are:

1. Excused absences not to exceed one-half of the student's scheduled classes;
2. Family emergencies such as funerals;
3. Prior administrative approval.

B. Scholarship

The student-athlete may not have more than one failing grade and/or incomplete in the same quarter grading period. A student-athlete not meeting this criteria will be ineligible for interscholastic competition for fifteen (15) consecutive scheduled school days and nights. The ineligibility will begin on the fifth (5th) scheduled school day following the end of the first (1st), second (2nd), or third (3rd) quarter. Eligibility for activities that begin on or before the first (1st) quarter of the new academic year shall be based on the previous fourth (4th) quarter grades. To regain eligibility, a student-athlete must complete a grade check review of all courses with the Activities/Athletic Director fifteen (15) school days and thirty (30) school days after ineligibility. A student athlete who is ineligible for a minimum of fifteen (15) school days may not return to competition until the SCHOOL DAY FOLLOWING the fifteen (15) day ineligibility period.

C. Training Rule

A student-athlete may participate in interscholastic athletics for the Wausau School District as long as that student-athlete meets all WIAA requirements and refrains from:

1. Any acts involving use, possession, purchase, or sale of alcohol, tobacco, or any controlled substance as defined by law;
2. Consumption of all beer or wine beverages, including those with reduced alcohol percentages such as non-alcoholic or low-alcohol products (an exception is the use of alcohol in a formal religious ceremony);
3. Violation of Board Policy #5706, Prohibition Against Harassment and Discrimination;

4. 4. Confirmed violations of the Wisconsin Criminal Code;
5. Other serious misconduct violations per administration discretion.

V. CONSEQUENCES OF VIOLATIONS OF THE HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC CODE

Student-athletes who make a commitment to accept the responsibilities listed in the High School Athletic Code will have the privilege of full participation in the interscholastic athletic program. Consequences of High School Athletic Code violations shall be cumulative beginning with and throughout the student-athlete's participation during their freshman, sophomore, junior, and senior years.

A. Violation of "Training Rule":

Violations of the responsibilities described in the "Training Rule" will be dealt with in the following manner:

1. When administration is made aware of a possible violation, the administration and/or Activities/Athletic Director will investigate the violation. If there is evidence of a violation administration will contact the student-athlete and parent(s)/legal guardian(s) to review the alleged violation. If administration determines that there is sufficient proof that a violation has occurred, the suspension for the violation will be implemented by the Activities/Athletic Director. Any suspension shall be confirmed in writing and shall state the reason(s) for the suspension. This contact must be completed within the first week of suspension.
2. A "season" is defined as beginning with the official starting date for the season through the last day of the individual's official competition in that particular sport.

A violation will result in the loss of any recognition/award for that in-season sport if the offense occurs before the awards are presented. An in-season violation will remove that individual from nomination for all conference and post-season awards should the violation be confirmed prior to the nomination deadline. A violation will eliminate that individual from attending their end-of-season awards banquet or program.

3. 3. Per WIAA regulations, if a student transfers to a different school, the consequences for a violation of an Athletic Code transfer with them.
4. 4. First Offense or Violation:
 - a) a) The student-athlete will be suspended for the remainder of the current sport season, or 50% of their next season of participation if the violation occurs at a time the student-athlete is not participating in a sport. However, the student-athlete must attend all practices of the next sport during this suspension.
 - b) b) If the violation occurs during the last two (2) weeks of the regular season, the suspension will be for the remainder of that sport season plus 50% of

the regular scheduled contests of the next sport in which the student-athlete chooses to participate. However, the student-athlete must attend all practices of the next sport during this suspension.

- c) c) The student-athlete and parent(s)/legal guardian(s) may choose to participate in a school-approved Assessment/Counseling Plan as an alternative to a First Offense Violation (V.A.4.(a)). Participation in this plan involves:
 - (i) (i) Suspension for 25% of the season's contests which may be carried into the next season in which the student-athlete participates.
 - (ii) (ii) Completion of a minimum of two (2) sessions of the Assessment/Counseling Plan prior to a return to probationary eligibility.
 - (iii) (iii) Continued probationary eligibility will be dependent upon participation and completion of the Assessment/Counseling Plan.
 - (iv) (iv) Completing the Plan in addition to, or in concert with, other outside voluntary counseling plans in which the student-athlete may become involved.

5. 5. Second Offense or Violation:

- a) a) The student-athlete will lose eligibility for all sports for one (1) calendar year from the date the suspension begins. However, the student-athlete will be allowed to begin practicing with a team two (2) weeks before the suspension ends in order to allow the student-athlete to be eligible to play at the end of the suspension.
- b) b) If the offense occurs in-season, the student-athlete will lose any recognition/awards for that sport season (see V.A.2.).
- c) c) The student-athlete and parent(s)/legal guardian(s) may opt for early reinstatement of eligibility by completing the appropriate counseling program, with District counseling staff, designed for each type of violation under the following rules:
 - (i) (i) The student-athlete who chooses the counseling option will be ineligible to compete again until the completion of the program. All of the counseling programs are a minimum of eight (8) weeks in length.
 - (ii) (ii) The student-athlete with an alcohol or drug violation will complete the "Prime for Life" counseling program.
 - (iii) (iii) The student-athlete with a tobacco violation will complete the "NOT" (Not on Tobacco) counseling program.
 - (iv) (iv) The student-athlete with a violation of the Wisconsin Criminal Code or other violations will complete a decision-making counseling program structured to specifically address the violation.
 - (v) (v) The student-athlete will also be suspended for 50% of their next sport season following the imposed suspension, but within the one year total timeframe.
 - (vi) (vi) At the discretion of the head coach and Activities/Athletic Director, the student-athlete may practice with a team while completing the program.

- (vii) (vii) Upon completion of the appropriate counseling program, and suspension period, eligibility will be reviewed and reinstatement will be made by the Activities/Athletic Director.

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- (viii) (viii) The student-athlete who begins, but does not complete the entire plan, has no opportunity to regain eligibility for one (1) calendar year from the original suspension date.
- (ix) (ix) The student-athlete will be responsible for any costs associated with participation in the counseling program.

6. 6. Third Offense or Violation

The student-athlete is ineligible for further participation for the remainder of their high school career.

VI. COACH'S EXPECTATIONS

- A. A. In addition to the training rule listed in the High School Athletic Code, coaches will establish in writing other expectations approved by the administration for all student-athletes in the sport. These expectations will include definitions of unacceptable conduct, which are identified in the Coach's Expectations. The coach may discipline in areas identified in these expectations for unacceptable conduct. Any discipline, which involves suspension or dismissal from the sport, will be established by the coach and Activities/Athletic Director. The coach will contact the student-athlete and parent(s)/legal guardian(s) if a suspension or dismissal is in order. Violations of the Coach's Expectations are cumulative ONLY during each completed season of participation.
- B. Penalties for violation of the Coach's Expectations may vary from a verbal reprimand to the loss of eligibility for the remainder of the current season.

VII. PARENT(S)/LEGAL GUARDIAN(S) OR STUDENT-ATHLETE SELF-REFERRAL

A student-athlete or his/her parent(s)/legal guardian(s) may seek help, if needed, through a school counselor. The school counselor will work with the student-athlete in strict confidence and may make an appropriate referral. Nothing will be communicated to the coach or administration. The student-athlete will be allowed to continue to participate in practices and contests while in an assistance program. However, if the coach or administration independently learns of a violation, penalties will be imposed.

VIII. PROCEDURE FOR APPEALING DISCIPLINARY ACTION

The suspended student-athlete and parent(s)/legal guardian(s) shall have the right of appeal as outlined below:

- A. Appeals shall be made in writing and be received by the principal within seven (7) days after written notice of the suspension is received. The appeal shall include a statement of reason for the appeal.

- B. The principal shall, by registered mail within five (5) days of the receipt of the appeal, advise the appellant of the time, date, and place of the hearing. The letter shall include a statement of the incident from which the discipline arose and the degree of the discipline imposed.

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- C. A meeting on the appeal will be conducted by the Board of Secondary School Principals or their designee(s) within fourteen (14) days after the Notice of Appeal is received by the principal. Prior to the meeting of the Board of Secondary School Principals, the principal shall conduct a hearing where the coach, Activities/Athletic Director, or administrator shall explain the reasons for the suspension and/or the penalty. At this hearing the student-athlete, parent(s)/legal guardian(s), and representative may, if they so desire, present their evidence and argument. Written documents from this hearing with the principal will be reviewed by the Board of Secondary School Principals or their designee(s) and they shall make a decision and mail said decision to the appellant within two (2) working days after the meeting. Appeals to the Board of Secondary School Principals will only be considered if there are disputed facts about the incident leading to the disciplinary action or if there is a question that established procedures were not followed. During the appeal process the student-athlete is ineligible to participate in any athletic competitions.
- D. The student-athlete and the parent(s)/legal guardian(s) may appeal the decision to the Superintendent of Schools within seven (7) days upon receiving the decision from the Board of Secondary School Principals or their designee(s). This appeal must be made in writing by registered mail to the Superintendent of Schools stating the grounds for the appeal.

A meeting on the appeal will be conducted by the Superintendent of Schools within fourteen (14) days of the receipt of the written request for an appeal. Notice of the meeting shall be mailed to the appellant no less than seven (7) days before the meeting. The student-athlete, the parent(s)/legal guardian(s), and a representative of their choosing if they so desire, may present evidence and argument at such meeting. The appropriate coach, Activities/Athletic Director, administrator, and a representative of their choosing, if they so desire, shall have the opportunity to present evidence and argument. The Superintendent of Schools shall make a decision and mail such decision to the appellant within two (2) working days after the meeting. The Superintendent's decision shall be final.

Cross Ref.: Board Policy 5706, Prohibition Against Harassment and Discrimination

Adopted: August 8, 1983

Revised and Adopted: December 12, 1988; August 10, 1992; August 12, 1996; April 14, 1997

Revised and Adopted: August 10, 1998; February 11, 2002; April 19, 2004; January 24, 2004

Revised and Adopted: June 27, 2005

WAUSAU SCHOOL DISTRICT
HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC CODE
ADMINISTRATIVE RULE

COACH'S EXPECTATIONS

The High School Athletic Code states that each coach will establish in writing his/her expectations, which are to include student-athlete behavior. This supplement is developed to identify unacceptable student-athlete conduct which is contrary to the ideals, principles, and standards of the school and District. Although the major portion of this supplement deals with expectations as a member of this team, your behavior as a member of our community and within our school society will be recognized. If your behavior is considered unacceptable, you will be disciplined as stated in the final paragraph of this supplement.

Areas of expectations are as follows, but are not limited to:

1. Practice Rules
2. Locker Room Rules
3. Game Conduct
4. Transportation Conduct
5. Equipment Care
6. Unacceptable Language
7. Dress Code
8. Training Hours
9. 9. Conduct which could be a violation of the Wisconsin Criminal Code
10. 10. Tardiness/Absences/PE Participation
11. 11. Attitude
12. 12. Other

Because the expectations referred to above cover a multitude of possible violations with a varying degree of severity, the consequences may also be very broad. It is the intent to apply appropriate consequences to violations. These consequences may vary from a verbal reprimand to the loss of eligibility for the remainder of the current season.

ADMINISTRATIVE RULE

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Student-Athlete's Name: _____ Grade: _____ Sport(s): _____

Student-Athlete and Parent/Guardian Commitment to Abide by the High School Athletic Code

- I. I agree to abide by the High School Athletic Code and realize that any violation on my part will result in the restrictions and penalties set forth in the Code. I will also have integrity to inform my coach and Activities/Athletic Director if I ever violate this code while under its rules.
- II. I recognize the importance of following the coaches' instructions regarding playing techniques, training, and other team rules, and I agree to obey such instructions.

Student-Athlete Signature: _____ Date: _____

As the parent(s)/guardian(s) of a student-athlete participating in the Wausau School District Athletic program, I/we support our child's commitment to abide by all of the rules as stated in the High School Athletic Code.

To demonstrate my/our support, I/we pledge to:

- I. Be aware of our child's academic status, behavior, and social habits.
- II. Not cover-up or provide alibis if rules are broken. We will hold our child responsible and accountable for their actions and will inform the Activities/Athletic Director or school Administration if he/she violates the High School Athletic Code, or will avail ourselves to Section VII and make a self-referral to a school counselor. We will communicate our intentions to our child at the beginning of the season so he/she will be aware of what the consequences will be should a violation occur.
- III. Realize the consequences of the High School Athletic Code violations are cumulative throughout the student-athlete's high school career. We further recognize that the District expects that, when a High School Athletic Code violation occurs, the parent(s)/guardian(s) will work cooperatively by sharing information with the Activities/Athletic Director or confidentially with the counseling department.

Parent(s)/Guardian(s) Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent(s)/Guardian(s) Insurance Notice

I/We hereby give permission for the above named student-athlete to compete in sports or sport-related activities in a program sponsored by the Wausau School District with the knowledge that he/she is only covered by their own personal/family health insurance benefit plan or other insurance I/we may have secured. I/We recognize that the District does not carry independent insurance coverage for my/our son/daughter in the event of injury.

Parent(s)/Guardian(s) Signature: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

NOTE: THIS PAGE MUST BE SIGNED AND RETURNED BEFORE A STUDENT-ATHLETE MAY DRAW EQUIPMENT OR SUPPLIES OR PARTICIPATE IN ANY ATHLETIC PRACTICES OR CONTESTS.