



The School District of  
**North Fond du Lac**  
**Co-Curricular Handbook**

**2020-2021**

Board Approved July 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2020

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**CONCUSSION-ImPACT INFORMATION, PARENT-ATHLETE AGREEMENTS, TRANSPORTATION  
RELEASE FORM, AND PHYSICAL CARDS**

**\*\*\*Upon signing the Emergency Treatment/Parental Permission you agree to follow all the rules in the HMHS Student Handbook and Co-Curricular Handbook\*\*\***

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*The following information has been prepared for the benefit of the participants, parent/guardian(s) and the directors, advisors, and coaches in an effort to keep the extracurricular program a contributing and worthwhile part of the total school program. Careful reading and discussion of the material by the student and parent/guardian(s) is highly encouraged.*

**The School District of North Fond du Lac believes the following to be true:**

1. All extracurricular activities are a privilege made available to students who abide by our districts rules. Involved students have an obligation to present a positive image to fellow students and the public in general.
2. Extracurricular activities are secondary to academics and should be made available only if the student is achieving passing grades in the classroom and has a 1.50 Grade Point Average. **Athletic eligibility is based only on quarter's 1-3 grades and 2<sup>nd</sup> semester grade.**

**I. ATHLETIC PHILOSOPHY**

The North Fond du Lac interscholastic program shall be conducted in accordance with existing Board of Education policies, rules, and regulations. At all times the athletic program must be conducted in such a way as to justify it as an educational activity.

- Goal – The student athlete shall become a more productive citizen in a democratic society.
  - Objectives – The student athlete will learn to:
    - Work with others – The team and its objectives must be placed higher than personal desires.
    - Be successful – We do not always win, but we succeed when we continually strive to do so.
    - Develop sportsmanship – To accept any defeat like a true sportsman, knowing we have done our best, we must learn to treat others, as we would have others treat us.
    - Improve – One should constantly strive to better one-self in the pertinent skills and those characteristics set forth as being desirable.
1. The School District of North Fond du Lac conduct standards for co-curricular eligibility will be enforced 24 hours per day, 365 days each year, for a student's entire high school career. These rules begin when a student participates in any of the included extracurricular activities for the first time and remain in effect until that student graduates. Each head coach or advisor will develop written expectations similar across all sports and provide a copy of those to each participant.
  2. Participants in all athletic activities are expected to:
    - Adhere to the highest standards of moral and social behavior and sportsmanship. Conduct in and out of the school shall be such as to bring no discredit to the co-curricular participant, his/her parent(s)/guardian(s), activity or team.
    - Show proper respect for authority at all times in school and within the community. Insubordination or disrespect to any teacher or coach/advisor will not be tolerated.
    - Abide by the School District of North Fond du Lac's Board Policies and individual school rules.

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- The number of code conduct violations on a student's record is reset to zero at the completion of grade 8. A student's high school record of code conduct violations begins on August 1 before they begin high school.
- Failure to adhere and meet the expectations of the Co-Curricular Code's Philosophy could result in code violations.

## **II. RESPONSIBILITIES**

Participating in recognized extracurricular activity is a privilege extended to all students. Parents and athletes must recognize a variety of factors that determine the sports and levels presented by the District. Being a small district causes us to "share" athletes among our various sport seasons and it also causes our numbers of athletes out for a sport to, at times, be minimal. Small numbers out for a sport, student participation decisions and academic eligibility all affect the availability of JV and/or frosh level teams.

### **Student – Athlete Expectations:**

1. Display high standards of social behavior.
2. Exhibit outstanding sportsmanship.
3. Exemplify all attributes of a student-athlete and be a leader of your team.

## **III. PROCEDURES**

- All participants in the extracurricular program shall, with their parent/ guardian(s), read, discuss and sign a pledge to follow the rules of the district prior to any participation. No athlete may participate in practice until his/her WIAA physical examination card are signed and returned through the appropriate coach to the athletic director.
- Extracurricular participants shall include the following:
  - a. All team members
  - b. Mascots
  - c. Managers
  - d. Cheer & Stunt Team
  - e. Forensics
  - f. Trap
- All athletes are subject to WIAA rules. Participants in other activities are subject to rules established by their respective state or regional organization.
- The athletic director shall review the rules established by this code, including the appeal process procedure, to ensure a complete understanding of what is expected of all participants.

## **IV. REQUIREMENTS FOR SPORTS PARTICIPATION**

- Physical Examination – A bi-yearly examination is required with Alternate Year Card on the off years unless there is a serious illness or injury requiring medical attention. Then a new physical examination is required. The physical card must be completed by a physician and submitted to the athletic director prior to any practice or contest participation. **The physical covers all sports for the entire two-year period provided the examination occurred after April 1.**

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- Emergency Medical Authorization/Pledge Form/Liability Form/Sports Fee – Each athlete’s parent/guardian(s) shall complete an Emergency Medical Authorization Card for each sport season, giving permission for treatment by a physician or hospital when the parent or guardian is not available.
- Each parent/guardian(s) shall read all of the enclosed materials and certify that they understand the material by signing the pledge form. Only one form needs to be signed for each school year (see form in back of this handbook). The forms are kept on file in the athletic director’s office and a copy will always travel with the team.
- Insurance – Parent/guardian insurance is the primary coverage for all athletic injuries. If you do not have adequate coverage, additional student insurance may be purchased through a very reasonable plan offered to all students in their fall enrollment packet. It is the parent/guardian’s responsibility to file with their insurance company.
- Academic Eligibility – See Section V
- Rules Meeting – All student athletes must attend a rules meeting with the coach, athletic director and/or the building principal or his/her designee, before s\he can practice or participate in any sport. Students who miss the rules meeting will be required to complete and additional written activity to ensure their understanding of the handbook.
- Parent/athlete concussion agreement signed.
- ImPACT test completed every two years and all new student-athletes to the District.

**All required cards, paperwork and fees must be turned in before an athlete is allowed to practice. A sports participation fee of \$30.00 (per sport) must be paid before an athlete begins practice. *There is a family cap of \$150 for sport fees per school (BAMS and HMHS are different schools).* The fee is non-refundable beyond the date of the first scheduled contest of the season.**

## **V. ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY**

Academic eligibility for extracurricular activities shall be determined according to the following:

- A student who has a failing grade for the last completed quarter or who is below a 1.50 GPA for that quarter will be placed on academic probation. S/he will be allowed to practice but not participate in scheduled contests or scrimmages and may be assigned to after-school study time with teachers, coaches or a school approved tutor. All eligibility for the fall extracurricular season will be based on the previous school year’s second semester grades (NOT fourth quarter grades). For students who fail a semester course the option to make up the credit in summer school is available.
- After a minimum of 15 days of instruction (count begins the day grades are due in the office) -per WIAA rules, the student on probation may obtain his/her grades on a school-issued grade check form available from the athletic director’s office. If the student is passing all classes and meets a minimal GPA of 1.50, the student may return to full activity

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participation. If failing, subsequent grade check slips may be circulated at the athlete's discretion.

- Students who become ineligible due to the previous school year's second semester (not fourth quarter) grades or GPA will serve their academic probation in the fall per WIAA regulations unless participation in approved summer classes renders them eligible.

## **VI. RULES VIOLATIONS and CONSEQUENCES**

Athletic rules are in effect 24 hours per day, 365 days each year, for a student's entire high school career. These rules begin when a student participates in any of the included extracurricular activities for the first time and remain in effect until that student graduates.

Each head coach, or advisor will develop written expectations similar across all sports and provide a copy of those to each participant.

### **Conduct Violations Tiers**

A three-tiered system of offense levels will be used in determining conduct violation penalties. Each tier has examples of included offenses, as well as a range of penalties for both athletic and non-athletic penalties. (The offenses are examples, and are not meant to be an all-inclusive list.)

### **Tier-One Conduct Violations**

#### **Behavior Types/Examples:**

1. inappropriate displays of affection.
2. address code violations (including backpacks and cell phones in class)
3. inappropriate language
4. disruption to the school environment
5. defiance toward school staff
6. disrespect toward school staff
7. physical contact
8. loitering or wandering the hallways during class time
9. technology misuse (i.e. cell phone out in class)
10. dishonesty with school staff
11. insubordination to school staff
12. unexcused tardiness to school
13. property misuse
14. parking violations

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## **Violation Defined**

A tier-one violation consists of **three** referrals for the same individual behavior in the **same quarter**.

## **Athletic Penalty**

The penalty for a tier-one violation for athletic participation is a suspension from the next .5 to 2 contests. Provisions for community service may be offered in place of a game suspension at the discretion of the Athletic Director.

## **Tier-Two Conduct Violations**

### **Behavior Types/Examples:**

1. technology violations
2. inappropriate language (directed at school staff)
3. academic dishonesty/plagiarism
4. harassment/discrimination/bullying
5. truancy
6. property damage
7. vandalism
8. fighting/physical aggression
9. poor displays of sportsmanship
10. inappropriate use of social media
11. in-school or out-of-school suspension

## **Violation Defined**

A tier-two violation consists of a **single** offense of a tier-two type behavior.

## **Athletic Penalty**

The penalty for a tier-two violation for athletic participation is a suspension from the next 1 to 5 contests.

## **Tier-Three Conduct Violations**

### **Behavior Types/Examples:**

1. drug/alcohol/tobacco/illegal substance offense (see Section VII)
2. attendance at a party (see Section VII)
3. weapons violation
4. bomb threat/false alarm
5. arson

## **Violation Defined**

A tier-three violation consists of a **single** offense of a tier-three type behavior.

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### **Athletic Penalty**

The penalty for a tier-three violation first offense for athletic participation is a suspension from a minimum of 25% of the season-scheduled contests. The penalty for a tier-three violation second offense for athletic participation is a suspension from a minimum of 50% of the season-scheduled contests. The penalty for a tier-three violation third offense for athletic participation is a full season of events.

**In order for a suspension to be regarded as successfully completed, the suspended student must complete the season during which the suspension was initiated. If the student does not complete the season, or is otherwise dismissed from the activity for any reason, the suspension will not be served and will be transferred in full to the next activity employed.**

## **VII. DEFINITIONS OF VIOLATIONS**

### **Alcohol, Tobacco, and Controlled Substances**

The School District of North Fond du Lac is a Drug-Free School District. These rules have been established for the best interest of the student and the activity. By complying with these rules, a student demonstrates the desire to reach his or her full potential and to enhance the best interest of fellow teammates, participants, coaches, and the school. No student may use, possess or be under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs, drug paraphernalia, mood altering substances, tobacco, nicotine, or controlled substances. No student may be in possession of or use steroids or any drug, medicine or food supplements solely for the purpose of performance enhancement. A student may not use look-alike-drugs to include non- alcoholic beer and other beverages, intoxicant look-a-like, vaping or e-cigarettes. In addition, students may not manufacture, sell, buy, or intend to sell or transfer alcohol, look-a-likes, and illegal or prescription drugs. The School District of North Fond du Lac adheres to the WIAA banned substances, available on the WIAA website.

### **Attendance at a Party**

- A party, defined as an event/party/gathering/establishment where drugs/alcohol are being used/consumed and/or taken by individuals under the age of twenty-one (21), is strictly prohibited.
- No student may have a gathering at his/her home or property or attend/associate at an event, party, gathering, or establishment where drugs and/or alcohol are being used, consumed and/or taken by individuals in violation of state law. **Upon the realization that drugs, tobacco, and/or alcohol (or other substances mentioned in Section II.D) are being illegally consumed, the expectation is that the student leave in a timely manner.**

**\*\*A student who is the host of a party, as defined in this section, will be held to a penalty of double the consequences. \*\***

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### **Attendance at Public Gathering Where Alcohol is Being Served**

Students are not prohibited from attending weddings, reunions, anniversaries or other ceremonial functions with their parent(s)/guardian or with his/her parent(s)/guardian's permission where alcohol is served. However, students may **not** consume alcohol or be in possession of alcoholic beverages even though they have parental permission to do so.

- Parental permission does not override the provisions of this code.
- Travel to other countries and/or other states where drinking/drugs is/are legal for the age of the co-curricular participant does not override the provisions of this code.

### **Social Media**

Acts of inappropriate use of electronic devices, such as "sexting", viewing pornography, cyber bullying, harassment, hazing, and other similar acts will be considered code violations. If an incident becomes illegal, police involvement will occur when a student is in violation of any federal or Wisconsin law.

### **Other**

- Any student who has been charged with violating or violates Federal or Wisconsin law, any municipal or county ordinance, or law of any other jurisdiction in conformity with the Wisconsin Criminal Statutes may be found in violation of the Co-curricular Code. Parking and speeding tickets are exceptions to this prohibition.
- Theft of any kind will not be tolerated. This includes illegal possession of school equipment (North Fond du Lac or any other schools).

## **VIII. REPORTING VIOLATIONS**

### **GENERAL**

- Any person may report a violation of the co-curricular code. When appropriate, anonymity of the informant will be maintained. The violation must have been documented to have occurred within the last sixty days. Court and police reports can be used as the sole basis for disciplinary action. Any person may report a violation of the co-curricular code on the Code Violation Report Form. Persons under the age of 18 may report directly to an advisor/coach/director, staff member or administrator who will then file a report if the information warrants such action. If a staff member witnesses or has knowledge of a violation of the co-curricular code, he/she is expected to report the violation.
- Reported violations cannot be processed as self-reported violations. Violations reported by a third party eliminate the opportunity for a student to self-report.

### **SELF-REPORTING**

- A student(s) may self-report to any North Fond du Lac coach or advisor, faculty member or school administrator and receive a reduced penalty if it is his/her first violation of the co-curricular code. If self-reporting, the "first violation" penalty for a tier-three violation will be reduced from twenty-five percent (25%) to ten percent (10%) of the regular scheduled interscholastic game or meets from the time the violation occurs. The one time self-reporting option applies only when a violation results from the self-report.
- A student who has the gathering at his/her home or property at which drugs and/or



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alcohol are being used, consumed and/or taken by individuals in violation of state law is not eligible for the self-reporting penalty reduction.

**Upon receipt of information of an alleged violation, the witness will be asked to submit in writing a signed statement to the principal or athletic director. It is the expectation of the Board of Education that all employees, board members, students, parents, and fans report violations in writing to the school administration.**

## **IX. GENERAL RULES**

### **Extracurricular Practices**

- All practices must be scheduled and posted in advance.
- No Sunday, legal holiday, or early morning practices (during the academic year) will be permitted without prior approval of the building principal or athletic director.

### **Injuries**

- Any injury must be reported to the coach, advisor, or director. The coach, advisor, or director of the activity will report the injury to the principal or athletic director, using the proper form, within twenty-four hours of any injury. Parents are to be notified as soon as possible under the circumstances.
- If a doctor is seen, a release form from the doctor must be filed in the athletic director's office before participation is resumed.

### **School Attendance**

Students who are involved in any extracurricular activity and who are absent from school more than 4 hours of the day of an event or practice will not be eligible to participate on that day or evening. Athletes who are not in attendance for the last two periods of the school day will not be eligible to practice or play on that day or evening. Students who are not in attendance the entire school day immediately following an event will not be eligible for the next contest. Exceptions are professional appointments, pre-anticipated absences, college visitations, and others cleared by a building principal. Each head coach or advisor will be responsible to monitor their students and to ensure full compliance of these regulations.

### **Travel Regulations**

In the interests of building and maintaining team cohesiveness and in minimizing district liability, all extracurricular participants must ride to and from contests in transportation provided by the school district. Parents may transport **just THEIR athlete** from athletic contests, but only after transportation release form has been submitted to the office and direct person-to-person contact with the coach at the contest. Failure to comply with this rule will be considered a rules violation and participant will be suspended from the next contest.

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### **Dropping and Changing Extracurricular Activities**

- If a participant decides to quit an activity during the season, the student should meet with the head coach.
- If a participant decides to change activities during a season, the student shall obtain written permission of both coaches involved in the transfer and submit such permission to the athletic director. A participant shall be considered 'out for an activity' when he/she has returned all required cards and paperwork and has paid the sport fee for that activity.
- Only one transfer will be permitted during a season.

### **College Recruitment Policy**

In the event an extracurricular participant should be personally contacted by a college recruiter, s/he has an obligation to work through their coach, advisor, or director and the activities department. Inform your coach, advisor, or director as soon as possible. NCAA standards are available in the activities department.

### **Conflict in Other Extracurricular Activities**

Students have the responsibility to do everything they can to avoid continuous conflicts between other extracurricular activities. When a conflict does arise, the coach, advisor, or athletic director will work out a solution. If a solution cannot be found, the building principal, will make the decision based on the following:

- The relative importance of each event.
- The importance of each event to the student.
- The relative contribution the student can make.
- How long each event has been scheduled.
- Talk with parent

Once a decision has been made the student will not be penalized in any way by the coach, advisor, or director.

### **Vacation Policy**

Vacations by extracurricular participants during a season are discouraged – you've made a commitment to the team. In the event of an absence due to a vacation is unavoidable, an athlete must:

- contact the head coach/advisor/director prior to the vacation.
- practice one day for each practice or contest day missed prior to resuming competition at the coach's discretion.
- be willing to assume the consequences related to his/her status on that squad

### **Cutting Policy**

Choosing the members of extracurricular squads is the sole responsibility of the coach, advisor, or director of those squads. Prior to trying out, the coach, advisor, or director shall provide the following, in writing, information to all potential members:

- Extent of try-out period
- Criteria used to select team
- Number of members to be selected

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- Practice commitment
- Game/event/contest commitment
- WIAA or other agencies regulations

When a squad cut becomes a necessity, the student will be personally informed of the cut by the coach, advisor, or director including the reason for the cut.

### **Driving to Extracurricular Practices and Games/Contests/Events**

Extracurricular participants are not allowed to drive to practices and/or games, contests, events that are held outside of the high school building. Violation of this rule will be considered a rules violation. For extracurricular practices/games/contexts/events that take place where the district does not provide transportation, then parents must submit a release form to the high school office.

## **X. ATHLETIC AWARDS AND VARSITY LETTERING POLICY**

All awards earned by the athlete are the property of the school until the athlete has graduated from the high school. It is the reserved right of the school to obtain their return in the event the athlete uses the awards in an improper manner.

A varsity letter and all other team awards shall be presented to an extracurricular participant who satisfies the participation requirements established by the coach, advisor, or director.

### **Letter Requirements are as follows:**

Completion of the season in good standing and:

**Football:** Participation in 40 % of the regularly scheduled quarters; coach's discretion.

**Volleyball:** Participation in 60% of the regularly scheduled matches; coach's discretion.

**Soccer:** Participation in 35% of the available minutes of regularly scheduled games; coach's discretion.

**Cross Country:** Participation in 40% of scheduled meets; coach's discretion.

**Basketball:** Participation in 50 % of the regularly scheduled quarters; coach's discretion.

**Wrestling:** Earn 15 team points through dual or tournament meets scoring; represent the team with honor at all times; coach's discretion.

**Base/Softball:** Participate in 40% of the regular season innings; coach's discretion.

**Golf:** Participation in 40% of the scheduled meets; coach's discretion.

**Cheer/Dance:** Participation in 80% of the scheduled dances for a given season; coach's discretion.

**Hockey:** Must play a regular shift in at least 10 varsity games or be on the team at least two seasons and be a senior. There can be extenuating circumstances that may cause an adjustment.

**Track:** Be the number one or two athlete in your event.

- Place in a scoring position at the conference meet
- Participate four years on the track team
- Participate in 60% of the varsity meets
- Be in good standing (good attendance at practices and meets, good behavior, & show respect for coaches and other athletes)
- Meet all WIAA guidelines and Coach's discretion

**Trap Shooting:** Developing

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**Powerlifting:** 90% attendance at weightlifting sessions, attendance at all technique practices, and participation in three meets at the varsity level

### **Year-End Medals:**

For accumulated letters across one's athletic career, one will receive a bronze medal for 4 – 6 letters, a silver medal for 7 – 9 letters, and a gold medal for 10 or more letters. These medals will be awarded in the year in which they are earned at the end-of-year Awards Assembly.

### **Senior Award Plaque**

This award will be given to those senior athletes who fulfill the following requirements:

1. An athlete must have completed at least four sport seasons in their four years of high school.
2. The athlete must be completely free of athletic suspension above the coach level.
3. The athlete must compete as a senior in a sport.

## **XI. WARNING OF INHERENT RISK IN SPORTS PARTICIPATION**

The North Fond du Lac School District advises both student-athletes and their parents or guardians that a risk of injury, potentially serious, is inherent to participation in sports. The risk of serious injury includes, but is not limited to, sprains, fractures, ligament and/or cartilage damage which could result in a temporary or permanent, partial or complete, impairment in the use of one's limbs: brain damage; paralysis; or even death. Athletic participation must be entered into with full knowledge and understanding of the risk of serious injury to which an athlete exposes themselves by participating in athletics.

- It must be further acknowledged that FOOTBALL, WRESTLING, HOCKEY, BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL are PHYSICAL CONTACT SPORTS involving even greater risk of injury than other sports.
- In sports in which an athlete may use a protective helmet, it must be understood that no helmet can prevent all head or neck injuries a player might receive while participating. A protective helmet should not be used to butt, ram or spear an opposing player. This is a violation of the rules within sports and such use can result in severe head or neck injuries, paralysis, or death to oneself and possible injury to an opponent.
- It must be also understood that the North Fond du Lac School District strongly encourages the use of appropriate equipment and protective gear.

## **XII. APPEAL PROCESS PROCEDURE**

If the student and their parent(s)/guardian wish to appeal the violation and/or the consequences being dispensed, a written request must be made to the Principal within three (3) days' time from verbal notification of the suspension. The appeal process recognizes the rights of the individual. **The process outlines the student's recourse in the event he/she feels that the code violation did not occur or that the proper procedures were not followed.** The appeal procedure outlined hereafter is the process the student and his/her parent(s)/guardian(s) are to follow in appealing the findings of the investigation into the code violation. **A student and his/her parent(s)/guardian(s) may not appeal the imposed sanctions; rather, they may only appeal**

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**the findings of the investigation or process.** Any imposed sanctions will take effect during the time of the appeal process. The Activity Appeal Panel will consist of the principal or designee (non-voting member), athletic director (non-voting member), 2 noncurrent coaches, and 1 teacher.

1. The Appeal Panel will strive to meet within three days upon receiving the written appeal. Until the hearing is scheduled, the original decision of the Interview Team shall stand.
2. Both the student and their parent(s) / guardian are encouraged to attend. The student will be provided with an opportunity to speak and present other evidence on his/her behalf at the hearing.
3. A written notice of the findings of the Activity Appeal Panel will be mailed to the student and/or their parent(s)/guardian. The Appeal Panel is not limited in their actions and may modify the original consequence, as they deem necessary. Until the appeal is ruled upon, the original decision shall stand.
4. If the student and his/her parent/guardian(s) are not satisfied with the findings of the hearing, a second hearing may be requested on procedural grounds only before the Board of Education. The principal must receive in writing a request for such a second hearing within fourteen days of the mailing of the outcome of the original hearing. The appeal shall be heard at a special board meeting within thirty days. **The decision of the Board of Education will be final.**

Sport (*Non-WIAA)	MAX Games	10%	25%	50%
Baseball	26	3	7	13
Basketball	22	3	6	11
Cross Country	11	2	3	6
Football	9	1	3	5
Golf	15	2	4	7
Soccer	24	3	6	12
Softball	26	3	7	13
Track	20	2	4	10
Volleyball	15	2	4	8
Wrestling	14	2	4	7
*Power Lifting	4	1	1	2
*Cheer Team Competition	4	1	1	2
*Trap (Maybe)	6	1	2	3
*Forensics	8	1	2	4

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### **XIII. HIGH SCHOOL ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION**



WISCONSIN INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 267, Stevens Point 54481

Your high school is a member of the Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association. The following rules and regulations are developed by the member schools of the WIAA and govern the participation by boys and girls in school athletics and in some instances, impact upon sports activities outside the school.

This information bulletin is a **summary** of the WIAA OFFICIAL HANDBOOK as it pertains to those rules and regulations. Both student-athletes and their parents should have an understanding of these requirements. Equally important is that student-athletes and/or parents talk to their principal or athletic director if they have any question about these regulations. For additional information on Rules of Eligibility see the WIAA Handbook, or visit the WIAA website at [www.wiaawi.org](http://www.wiaawi.org).

This bulletin does not discuss specific penalties for all violations. The reason is that penalties vary depending upon the nature of the violation. In addition, schools often have established penalties or periods of ineligibility which are greater than the minimum prescribed by WIAA rules.

There also are exceptions and other permissive provisions in some rules. Student-athletes and their parents should discuss all athletic eligibility related situations with the school principal or athletic director who, if necessary, will get a decision, interpretation, or opinion from the WIAA office.

**Student-athletes, as well as parents are asked to read this bulletin, then sign it and have their signature statement (attached) on file at their school prior to practicing and competing.**

These are WIAA eligibility rules:

#### **AGE**

A student shall be ineligible for interscholastic competition if he/she reaches his/her 19th birthday before August 1 of any given school year.

#### **ACADEMICS**

A student-athlete must meet school and DPI requirements defining a full-time student and have received no more than one failing grade (including incompletes) in the most recent school issued grade reporting period. Note: Some member schools adopt code and academic policies and other participation requirements which are more stringent than WIAA minimum requirements. In those instances the schools requirements prevail and must be applied as written.

#### **ATTENDANCE**

A student-athlete is eligible for interscholastic competition at a member school if he/she is carried on the attendance rolls as a duly enrolled full-time Grade 9, 10, 11 or 12 student in that member school. (Subject to satisfying all other eligibility requirements.)

Note: A full-time student is further defined as one where the member school is responsible for programming 100% of the student's school day. The student is eligible for like or similar awards,

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privileges and services as all the other students and meets all obligations and responsibilities as other students, without exception.

- A. A student must complete eligibility in the four consecutive years starting with Grade 9 and the three consecutive years starting with Grade 10, unless there are documented extenuating circumstances and a waiver has been provided.
- B. A student is ineligible if he/she has graduated from a school offering studies through Grade 12 or its equivalent.
- C. A student who graduated in May or June retains eligibility for (a) any portion of a spring athletic schedule not completed by the end of the academic year and (b) the school's summer athletic schedule.
- D. A student is ineligible if he/she has not been enrolled in some school by the 17th day of a semester or trimester, except upon request of a school in special cases involving sickness, accident, military service, social services assignment, e.g.
- E. A student-athlete may not participate in school sports in more than four different years, and a student-athlete may not participate in the same sport more than one season each school year.

**DETERMINING RESIDENCE FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS**

A full-time student, whether an adult or not, is eligible for varsity interscholastic competition only at the school within whose attendance boundaries his/her parents reside, within a given school district, with these additional provisions:

- A. Board of Education approved full-time student(s), paying their own tuition and residing full time with parents in their primary residence shall be afforded eligibility. Transfer students are subject to provisions outlined in the transfers section of this document and in the Senior High Handbook.
- B. The residence of a student's guardians shall determine eligibility in cases where both parents of a student are deceased. The execution of guardianship papers in situations where one or both parents are living does not by itself make a student eligible.
- C. In the event of a divorce or legal separation, whether pending or final, a student's residence at the beginning of the school year shall determine eligibility, except in situations involving transfer after the fourth consecutive semester following entry into grade 9. For the purpose of this rule, attendance at one day of school and/or attendance at one athletic practice shall determine 'beginning of school year.' Under this rule, a student who transfers after the beginning of the school year shall be ineligible at the new school unless approval is granted by the Board of Control in accordance with the transfer and/or waiver provisions as described in the WIAA HS Handbook.
- D. A student whose tuition is paid by the school within whose attendance boundaries parents reside or by the state and is enrolled in a district approved program may be eligible at either school (first priority to school of residence) but (a) may not participate at both schools in the same year and (b) academic ineligibility accompanies student upon transfer. Transfer restrictions may also apply.
- E. A student whose tuition is paid by the school within whose attendance boundaries parents reside or by the state or who is participating full time in a legislated open enrollment option

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must meet all statutory timeline requirements. This provision extends the opportunity to decline attendance at the new school and continue at his/her school of residence. If the student begins the school year at the new school and then transfers back to school of residence after attending one or more days of school or one or more athletic practices, he/she shall be subject to transfer provisions as outlined in the transfer Section of this document.

- F. A student may continue being eligible in the same school even though parent(s) and/or student move from within that school's attendance boundaries, provided enrollment is continuous (unbroken in that school).
- G. After a student-athlete has not participated and/or has had their eligibility restricted for one calendar year due to reasons relating to residence and/or transfer, he/she becomes eligible.
- H. A student-athlete will not be eligible if his/her attendance at a particular school resulted from undue influence (special consideration because of athletic ability) on the part of any person.
- I. A student-athlete who has been declared ineligible at a school for disciplinary reasons, academic reasons or due to another State Association's provision retains that ineligibility status if he/she transfers to another school.
- J. Except in situations involving transfer after a student's fourth consecutive semester, a full-time student whose residence in a given district and attendance at a member school does not conform with any of the provisions outlined above shall be eligible for non-varsity competition only, for one calendar year, unless a waiver is provided as outlined in the WIAA HS Handbook under Waivers. Transfer students are subject to transfer provisions as outlined in the transfer section of this document and in the Senior High Handbook.

**DETERMINING RESIDENCE FOR NONPUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS**

A full-time student, whether an adult or not, is eligible for varsity interscholastic competition only if the student is residing full time with parents in their primary residence with these additional provisions:

- A. In the event of a divorce or legal separation, whether pending or final, a student's residence at the beginning of the school year shall determine eligibility except in situations involving transfer after a student's fourth consecutive semester. For the purpose of this rule, attendance at one day of school and/or attendance at one athletic practice shall determine 'beginning of school year'. Under this rule, a student who transfers after the beginning of the school year shall be ineligible at the new school unless approval is granted by the Board of Control in accordance with the waiver provisions as described in the WIAA HS Handbook under Waivers. Transfer restrictions may also apply.
- B. Residing full time with guardians shall determine eligibility in cases where both parents of a student are deceased. The execution of guardianship papers in situations where one or both parents are living does not by itself make a student eligible.
- C. A student may continue being eligible in the same school even though parent(s) and/or student move from within that school's traditional attendance area, provided enrollment is continuous (unbroken in that school).



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- D. Except in situations involving mid-year transfer and/or transfer after the fourth consecutive semester students attending member residential schools shall be eligible at the member school provided they reside at the school or reside full time with parents in their primary residence.
- E. Except in situations involving transfer after a student's fourth consecutive semester, a full-time student attending a nonpublic school but not residing in accordance with any of the provisions outlined above shall be eligible for non-varsity competition only, for one calendar year, unless a waiver is provided as outlined in the WIAA HS Handbook under Waivers.

### **TRANSFERS**

A full-time student may be afforded up to eight consecutive semesters of interscholastic eligibility upon entry into Grade 9. **Transferring schools at any time may result in restrictions being imposed on eligibility or in some cases a denial of eligibility.** For the purpose of this rule, attendance at one day of school and/or attendance at one athletic practice shall determine 'beginning of school year.' These additional provisions relate to transfer cases:

- A. A student who transfers from any school into a member school after the fourth consecutive semester following entry into Grade 9 shall be ineligible for practice and competition for one calendar year, unless the transfer is made necessary by a total change in residence by parent(s). The calendar year (365 days) will be determined from a student's first day of attendance at the new school.
- B. Open enrolled and/or tuition paying students entering 9th and/or 10th grade at the beginning of the school year and who are within the first four consecutive semesters of high school will be afforded unrestricted eligibility provided all other rules governing student eligibility are met.
- C. Open enrolled and/or tuition paying students entering 11th and/or 12th grade as transfer students are ineligible to practice and/or compete for one calendar year.
- D. 9th grade students who transfer after the beginning of the school year and with written consent from both schools directly involved may be provided non-varsity opportunities for the remainder of the school year. Restrictions are removed upon entering 10th grade.
- E. 10th grade students who transfer after the beginning of the school year and with written consent from both schools directly involved may be provided non-varsity opportunities for one calendar year (365 days beginning with first day of attendance at the new school).
- F. In the event of divorce or legal separation, whether pending or final, residence at the beginning of the school year shall determine eligibility for students entering 9th and/or 10th grade. In situations involving transfer after the fourth consecutive semester following entry into grade 9 the student is ineligible to practice and compete for one calendar year.
- G. District policies with respect to intra-district transfer do not supersede WIAA transfer rules in situations involving post-4th semester transfers. Intra-district transfers occurring after the fourth consecutive semester following entry into grade 9 result in the student being ineligible for practice and competition for one calendar year (365 days beginning with first day of attendance at the new school).

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- H. Unless transfer, including an accompanying change of parent's residence, is effective at the outset of a semester, a student cannot establish eligibility at his/her new school until the fifth calendar day of such transfer.
- I. If within the first four consecutive semesters following entry into grade 9, a student who transfers more than once in any given school year shall be ineligible for all interscholastic competition for the remainder of that current school year and will be eligible for non-varsity opportunities only for the balance of the calendar year. In situations involving transfer after the fourth consecutive semester following entry into grade 9 the student is ineligible to practice and compete for one calendar year.
- J. A student may not have eligibility in more than one member school at the same time. A parent or parents, who move from a primary residence within one school's attendance boundaries, to a secondary residence within another school's attendance boundaries, may be required by the Board of Control to provide evidence of a total move.
- K. A student who transfers from any school, whether or not a member school, with a status of ineligibility for disciplinary reasons, academic reasons and/or as a result of another State Association's regulation or sanction, retains such status at his/her new school for the same period as decreed by the former school.
- L. No eligibility will be granted for a student whose residence within a school's attendance boundaries, with or without parents, or whose attendance at a school has been the result of undue influence (special consideration due to athletic ability or potential) on the part of any person, whether or not connected with the school.

**PHYSICAL EXAMINATION and PARENT'S PERMISSION**

A student-athlete whether an adult or not, must have written permission of parents to participate in school athletics and he/she must have a physical examination (signed by a licensed physician or advanced practice nurse prescriber) every other school year.

A physical examination taken April 1 and thereafter is valid for the following two school years. Physical examination taken before April 1 is valid only for remainder of that school year and the following school year.

**TRAINING and CONDUCT**

A student-athlete must follow his/her school's code of conduct (training rules) on a year-round basis.

- A. A student-athlete who violates his/her school's code of conduct during the season of a sport (start of practice to final game) must be suspended from competition for a period of time specified in the code (minimum of one meet) if the violation involves (a) possession and/or use of alcohol, (b) possession and/or use of tobacco, including chewing tobacco and (c) use, possession, buying or selling of controlled substances, street drugs and performance enhancing substances (PES).
- B. The member school will determine minimum penalties for violation of any other provisions of its code of conduct, including out of season offenses and for any other unacceptable conduct contrary to the ideals, principals and standards of the school and this Association including but not limited to criminal behavior.

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- C. A student-athlete who violates his/her school's code of conduct at times other than during the actual season of a sport must be disciplined by the school, the nature of such discipline to be determined by the school as indicated in its code of conduct.
- D. A student-athlete who violates any part of the school or WIAA code of conduct resulting in suspension of WIAA-sponsored tournament competition must be immediately declared ineligible for the remainder of tournament series in that sport.
- E. A student-athlete, disqualified from a contest for flagrant or unsportsmanlike conduct, is also suspended from the next competitive event.
- F. A school must provide an opportunity for the student to be heard prior to a penalty being enforced. If a student appeals a suspension, according to the schools appeal procedure, the student is ineligible during the appeal process.

**AMATEUR STATUS**

A student-athlete must be an amateur in all recognized sports of this association in order to compete in any WIAA sport.

- A. A student-athlete may not accept, receive or direct to another, reimbursement in any form of cash or merchandise such as shirts, jackets, sweaters, sweatshirts, jerseys, warm-ups, equipment, balls, duffle bags, backpacks, watches, rings, billfolds, coupons, gift certificates, regardless of their value for athletic accomplishments, such as being on a winning team, being selected for the school varsity team, or being a place winner in an individual tournament, e.g.
- B. A student-athlete may receive awards for school achievement which are symbolic (non utilitarian) in nature – badges, certificates, trophies, medals, banners, ribbons, pictures, plaques, event T-shirts, event hats, game balls, unattached emblems, letters, season highlight DVD or video, e.g.
- C. A student-athlete may not receive compensation or benefit, directly or indirectly, for the use of name, picture, and/or personal appearance, as an athlete. This includes receiving free and/or reduced rates on equipment, apparel, camps/clinics/instruction and competitive opportunities that are not identical for all other participants.
- D. A student-athlete may not be identified as an athlete, provide endorsement as an athlete or appear as an athlete in the promotion of a commercial/advertisement and/or profit-making event, item, plan, or service.
- E. A student-athlete may not participate in school athletics or in sports activities outside the school under a name other than his/her own name.

**SPORTS ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL**

A student-athlete in a given sport may not compete in that same sport outside of school either as a team member or an individual or independent entry during the same time he/she is participating with the school team.

- A. WIAA rules do not prevent athletes from practicing with nonschool teams or from receiving private skills instruction during the school season. However, they may not participate in any nonschool games, including scrimmages against other teams.

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- (1) This restriction applies to normal nonschool games as well as “gimmicks,” such as reduced numbers competition (3-on-3 basketball, 6 player soccer, e.g.), specific skill contests (punt, pass, and kick, shooting contests, free throws, 3 point, e.g.), fun runs, etc.
  - (2) A student who was a member of a school team during the previous year may not delay reporting for the school team beyond the school’s official opening day of practice in order to continue nonschool training and/or competition.
- B. During the school year before and/or after the school season of a sport, a student-athlete may participate in sport activities outside of school with these restrictions:
- (1) A student-athlete must not participate in nonschool programs, activities, camps, clinics and/or competition that is limited to individuals who are likely to be candidates for the school team in that sport in the following season.
  - (2) Nonschool activities in which students are engaged may not resemble in any way a school team practicing or competing out-of-season.
  - (3) Nonschool team rosters may not include more than the following number of participants from the same school: Volleyball, Hockey, Basketball - 3; Soccer - 6; Baseball, Softball - 5; and Football - 4
- C. In the summer nonschool roster restrictions are not in effect and members of a schools team may voluntarily assemble with their teammates (without school and/or school coach involvement) at their own discretion.
- D. A student-athlete or his/her parents must pay the fee for specialized training or instruction such as camps, clinics, and similar programs.
- E. A student-athlete may not be instructed except during the school season of a sport and approved summer contact days by the person who will be his/her coach in that sport in the following school season. The sports of baseball, cross country, golf, gymnastics, softball, swimming, tennis, track & field, and wrestling are exempt from this rule, BUT only (a) during the summer months and (b) if the program involved is not limited to individuals who are likely to be candidates for the school team in that sport in the following season.
- F. A student-athlete must not participate in an all-star game or similar contest except for summertime activities (a) within the same league or program (e.g., softball game between divisions of same league) or (b) in which a team is selected to represent a league in post-season play (e.g., Babe Ruth league team). Some post-season all-star opportunities may be permitted for 12th graders who have completed high school eligibility in a particular sport. Check with your Athletic Director to be certain.