

**AUGUSTA SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**2026 - 2027**  
**ACTIVITIES CODE HANDBOOK**



*"Where education and opportunities unite"*

## **ACTIVITIES PHILOSOPHY**

Interscholastic sports, clubs, and activities are vital programs at the middle and high school levels that support students' personal growth and development. These opportunities promote essential values such as teamwork, hard work, loyalty, and dedication. They also encourage goal-setting while fostering strong principles of sportsmanship and fair play, which directly reflect our core values of respect, responsibility, and integrity. Within this framework, winning and losing are secondary to how participants conduct themselves. Students are expected to demonstrate dignity, respect, and grace, especially in the face of adversity. Likewise, the final score is secondary to the level of effort each individual contributes. While students may perform at different skill levels, maximum effort, steadfast commitment, and a positive attitude are expected from every participant.

## **STUDENT NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY**

It is the policy of the Augusta School District that no person shall be denied participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be discriminated against in any curricular, extracurricular, pupil service, recreational, or other district program or activity. This protects individuals from discrimination on the basis of sex, race, color, religion, national origin (including Limited English Proficiency), ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital or parental status, sexual orientation, or physical, mental, emotional, or learning disability.

All middle school-aged children residing within the district's boundaries are eligible to participate in middle school athletics, provided they meet all eligibility requirements outlined in this document.

## **RESPONSIBILITY OF THE STUDENT**

Participation in activities is a privilege in the Augusta School District. In order to maintain this privilege, students must accept certain responsibilities. The greatest responsibility each student has is to be a credit to themselves, their parents, the school, and the community. Students are the most visible representatives of our school and are expected to reflect the quality and character of Augusta students. They should demonstrate the highest standards of social behavior and show respect for those in positions of authority, including teachers, coaches, advisors, administrators, officials, and other school personnel, as well as fellow participants and competitors.

- Always remember that you are students first.
- Every participant has the responsibility to serve as a positive role model for other students and children in our community.
- Students who participate in school-sponsored activities are held to higher behavioral expectations.
- Students should read and understand the expectations outlined in this Activities Code and only sign it if they believe they can meet those expectations.

## **RESPONSIBILITY OF THE COACH/ADVISOR**

Coaches and advisors are among the most influential individuals in the Augusta School District. Their methods and the performance of their teams or groups are often visible to the public and discussed whenever their students perform. In many cases, the attitude, effort, and spirit displayed by a team or group reflect the same qualities demonstrated by the coach or advisor. Because of this influence, it is essential that coaches and advisors maintain the proper attitude and perspective.

- Always remember that you are teachers first. Your primary responsibility is the growth and development of each student in your program, both during the season and throughout the entire year.
- Coaches and advisors are expected to model the standards and expectations set for the students in their programs.
- They must also know, understand, and consistently enforce the expectations outlined in this Activities Code, regardless of the impact it may have on the team or group.

## **RESPONSIBILITY OF THE PARENT**

Parents are the greatest role models for a young person. The Augusta School District seeks parental assistance to help develop outstanding young men and women who possess the self-discipline and motivation to make a difference in the world. The administration, faculty, staff, and coaches ask that parents be supportive of the programs and personnel at Augusta School District and demonstrate that support by respecting the decisions and efforts of the coaches/advisors who work with the young people of Augusta. Parental assistance is also requested in enforcing this activities code so that a fair and healthy environment will exist for all students.

## **CHAIN OF COMMAND**

To ensure concerns are addressed respectfully and efficiently, all participants and families are expected to follow the established Chain of Command when discussing questions or concerns related to activities. Following this process helps ensure that issues are handled in an appropriate, timely, and orderly manner.

Students and parents should begin by addressing concerns at the lowest appropriate level before moving to the next step if the concern is not resolved.

The Chain of Command is as follows:

1. Student and Coach/Advisor/Director
2. Student, Coach/Advisor/Director, and Parent/Guardian
3. Student, Coach/Advisor/Director, Parent/Guardian, and Athletic Director/Activities Director
4. Student, Coach/Advisor/Director, Parent/Guardian, Athletic Director/Activities Director, and Principal
5. Student, Coach/Advisor/Director, Parent/Guardian, Athletic Director/Activities Director, Principal, and Superintendent
6. Student, Coach/Advisor/Director, Parent/Guardian, Athletic Director/Activities Director, Principal, Superintendent, and Board of Education

Concerns should be brought forward promptly and discussed respectfully at each level before progressing to the next step.

## SPORTSMANSHIP

### Be a Positive Voice for Sportsmanship

- Always show respect toward opponents, coaches, officials and fans
- Speak up when you witness unsportsmanlike behavior
- Remember you represent your team, school, family and community
- Accept officials' decisions respectfully, even when you disagree

Remember: Sportsmanship isn't just about avoiding negativity—it's about building a positive, supportive environment where all student-athletes can thrive. When you see something positive, say something about that too

## HIGH SCHOOL ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY

- A student is required to be a full-time student.
- Eligibility for students in the Alternative Education Program will be taken on a case-by-case basis. Students need to be making satisfactory academic progress to be eligible.
- A student will become ineligible from competition for 15 school days if they have received any failing grades at the end of each quarter.
  - The suspension will begin immediately after quarter grades are posted or the start of a new sports season.
  - The Principal/Athletic Director or the advisor will notify the student, parents and coaches.
  - The student will remain ineligible from competition, but will be required to participate in all practices during the period of ineligibility.
  - A student who failed 1 or more classes at the end of a quarter and then starts a new sports season will be required to fulfill the 15 school day suspension.
  - An ineligible student will not be allowed to suit up for competition.
  - The ineligible student will not be allowed to leave school early with the team if said team is scheduled to be released early.
- Students will be monitored at mid-quarter. Any student who is failing one or more classes will be ineligible from competition and not allowed to suit up for games until they are once again passing.
  - The Principal/Athletic Director or the advisor will notify the student, parents and coaches.
  - If the student is not passing all classes after 1 week, they will be ineligible from competition *and practice* until they are once again passing.
- Academic suspensions for fourth quarter grades will be assessed during the subsequent fall sports season. Ineligibility will be 1/4 of the maximum competitions for the activity (scrimmages are included if on the regular season schedule).

A student who is enrolled in any state-approved special needs program, including EEN or 504, and who receives no usual grading for such courses, may be eligible if they are making satisfactory progress in their total school program as indicated by his/her I.E.P. or E.P.

Although students are ultimately responsible for maintaining their academic status, opportunities for academic support exist at school. Coaches/Advisors and other school personnel will actively monitor student academic standing throughout the year and recommend academic support when necessary.

## **MIDDLE SCHOOL ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY**

Augusta Middle School assesses students' level of understanding through Standards Based Grading in grades 6, 7, and 8 using a 1, 2, 3, 4 scale.

Eligibility and participation status will be based on attendance, behavior, and academic progress (including missing assignments) during each grading period. Academic progress will be reviewed at mid-quarter and end-of-quarter reporting periods as indicated below.

- If a student is not meeting academic expectations in one or more classes, the student may become ineligible for competition but will still be allowed to practice with the team for up to one week while working to improve academic progress.
  - If after one week, the student is still not making satisfactory academic progress then the student may become fully ineligible, which includes competition, practice, and traveling with the team, until academic expectations are being met.
- If teachers have concerns about in-season participants, they must communicate with the participant, guardians, athletic director, and principal regarding their concerns. Once communication has been made to all parties, a determination will be made regarding the participant's eligibility status.
- The participant may be subjected to at least one competition/performance suspension until attendance, behavior, and/or academic progress improves. A participant may be suspended multiple times during the course of a season if concerns continue.
- The Principal/Athletic Director or advisor will notify the student, parents/guardians, and coach when a student is not meeting eligibility expectations.

## **ELEMENTARY (YOUTH) ELIGIBILITY**

For elementary school students participating in youth activities, eligibility and participation will be based primarily on school attendance and appropriate behavior.

Students are expected to attend school regularly, participate in class, and follow school behavior expectations in order to participate in practices, performances, and competitions.

The Elementary Principal, in consultation with the Youth Director and classroom teacher(s) when appropriate, may determine a student's eligibility if concerns arise regarding attendance or behavior.

A student may be temporarily withheld from participation in activities if:

- The student has unexcused absences or frequent tardiness
- The student receives repeated behavioral referrals or disciplinary consequences
- The student's behavior is determined to be disruptive or unsafe during the school day or activity

The principal may require the student to demonstrate improved attendance or behavior before returning to participation. The length and conditions of the restriction will be determined by the principal based on the situation.

The goal of this process is to support positive behavior and responsible participation while allowing students the opportunity to remain involved in youth activities.

## **ATTENDANCE**

Students must be in attendance for the entire school day and participate in their scheduled classes in order to be eligible for that day's practice, meeting, performance, or competition. Students are not permitted to miss classes due to arriving home late from a school activity the night before.

Students who have excused appointments or family emergencies may be allowed to participate in the day's activity if the absence is approved by the principal or athletic director. Written verification from the appropriate provider will be required for all appointments.

The following are considered excused appointments:

- Medical appointments
- Dental appointments
- Chiropractic appointments
- Optometric appointments
- Other valid professional appointments
- College or technical school visits
- Driver's license examinations

Family emergencies are defined as unforeseen events that require a student to be absent from school. Participation in activities on the day of an emergency may only be approved by the principal or athletic director.

If a student receives an out-of-school suspension, the suspension includes all practices, meetings, performances, and competitions scheduled for that day.

Attendance at practices is mandatory unless the absence has been approved in advance by the school or the coach/advisor. Consequences for missing practice will be determined at the discretion of the coach or advisor.

Students may not miss a performance or competition without prior approval from the coach or advisor. Consequences for unexcused absences will be determined at the discretion of the coach or advisor.

## CODE OF CONDUCT

1. All students involved in activities in the Augusta School District are expected to exhibit conduct that reflects the ideals, principles, and standards of the Augusta School District. Any behavior that falls outside the commonly accepted expectations of students representing Augusta in school activities may be considered conduct unbecoming.
2. Actions or disciplinary issues not specifically covered by the Activities Code, Student Handbook, or Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association (WIAA) policies may still be addressed under this provision and may be considered a violation of the Activities Code. High school students who receive an out-of-school suspension will also be considered in violation of the Activities Code of Conduct.
3. The Augusta School District recognizes the use of mood-altering chemicals as a significant health concern for adolescents, often resulting in negative effects on behavior, learning, and overall development. Therefore, regardless of quantity, students participating in school activities shall not use or possess the following:
  - i. Alcohol or beverages containing alcohol
  - ii. Tobacco or tobacco-like substances in any form
  - iii. Illegal drugs or controlled substances
  - iv. Performance-enhancing substances (PES)
  - v. Any substance defined by law as a drug or drug-like substance, including look-alike substances
4. Students may possess and use medications specifically prescribed for them by a licensed medical professional. However, misuse of prescription or over-the-counter medications is considered a violation of this code.
5. Students participating in activities must abstain from illegal activities, including those that are illegal due to the student's age. This includes, but is not limited to, being present in bars or attending parties where alcohol or illegal drugs are being used. If a student is present in such a situation and does not leave immediately, the student will be considered in violation of the Activities Code.
6. This policy is not intended to prohibit students from:
  - a. Being present in establishments that are primarily restaurants
  - b. Attending family gatherings or events where adults may consume alcohol
  - c. Being present in establishments with their parents or guardians

**However, parental presence does not permit students to violate the rules regarding alcohol, drugs, or tobacco use or possession.**

7. A truancy notice will be considered a violation of the Activities Code of Conduct.
8. Conduct that is contrary to the ideals, principles, and standards of the Augusta School District or the WIAA, including but not limited to criminal behavior as defined by local, state or federal law, will be considered a violation of the Activities Code.
9. To protect the privacy of students, parents, and community members using locker room facilities, no

person may use a cell phone or recording device to capture, record, or transmit images or video in locker rooms in accordance with Board Policy 9151.

10. The Augusta School District will not permit, nor will any student participant engage in, any form of hazing or initiation ceremony. The National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) defines hazing as *“any humiliating or dangerous activity expected of a student in order to belong to a group, regardless of the student’s willingness to participate.”* Consent from the individual being hazed is not a defense for such behavior.
11. Harassing behavior, including conduct that meets the Augusta School District’s definition of bullying, including actions carried out through social media or other electronic communication, will be considered a violation of the Activities Code.

## **DISCIPLINARY ACTION FOR ATHLETICS**

### **First Offense**

The student-athlete will be suspended from 25% of the current season’s regularly scheduled contests, including the WIAA tournament series, if applicable. If the current season ends before the penalty is completed, the remaining suspension will carry over to the next season in which the student participates, with the number of contests prorated.

A self-referral based on honesty, along with the completion of a restorative plan developed by a school administrator, may reduce the suspension to 10% of the season’s contests. Once the restorative plan is completed and approved, the athlete may rejoin the team. Failure to complete the restorative plan will result in the original 25% suspension being reinstated. Self-referral may only be used for a first violation.

### **Second Offense**

The student-athlete will be suspended from 50% of the current season’s regularly scheduled contests, including the WIAA tournament series, if applicable. If the current season ends before the penalty is completed, the remaining suspension will carry over to the next season in which the student participates, with the number of contests prorated.

If the violation involves drugs and/or alcohol, the student-athlete will be required to complete an AODA (Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse) assessment and counseling, at the family’s expense. Written certification verifying compliance with recommended treatment must be provided to the Activities Director before the student may return to competition.

### **Third Offense**

The student-athlete will be suspended from all competition for one (1) calendar year from the date of the violation.

If the violation involves drugs and/or alcohol, the student-athlete must complete an AODA assessment and counseling, at the family’s expense, and provide written verification of compliance with all recommendations to the Activities Director prior to reinstatement.

### **Fourth Offense**

The student-athlete will be suspended from participation in all activities for the remainder of their time at Augusta School District.

### **Felony Charges or Convictions**

Any Augusta student-athlete charged with or convicted of a felony will be ineligible to participate in all WIAA activities until all court-ordered requirements are satisfied. This includes, but is not limited to, probation, community service, fines, or other court orders.

Any Augusta student-athlete convicted of a felony will be ineligible for athletic participation for a minimum of one (1) calendar year from the start of the original suspension, even if the court-ordered sentence is completed in less than one year.

### **Additional Expectations During a Suspension**

A student-athlete serving a suspension due to an Activities Code violation must:

- Continue to practice with the team and complete the season in good standing in order for the suspension to count toward the penalty.
- Meet with their coach(es) to acknowledge the violation, request to rejoin the team, and recommit to the Activities Code by re-signing it in the presence of their current coach(es).

### **WIAA Tournament Rule**

According to WIAA regulations, training rule violations that occur during a WIAA tournament series will result in disqualification from the remainder of that tournament series in that sport.

## **DISCIPLINARY ACTION FOR CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

**Co-curricular activities include any school-sponsored activities that are not governed by the WIAA or WIHSEA.**

Students who are participating in both athletics and co-curricular activities simultaneously will be required to fulfill the athletic suspension requirements if a violation occurs. The suspension may also apply to co-curricular participation at the discretion of the principal, athletic director, dean of students and advisor.

### **First Offense**

The student will be required to complete 10 hours of approved community service *or* miss 25% of scheduled performances, contests, or events. Scheduled events must be verified by the principal or their designee.

### **Second Offense**

The student will be required to complete an additional 15 hours of approved community service *or* miss 50% of scheduled performances, contests, or events. Scheduled events must be verified by the principal or their designee.

If the violation involves drugs and/or alcohol, the student will be required to complete an AODA (Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse) assessment and counseling, at the family's expense, and provide written certification of compliance with recommended treatment to the principal before reinstatement.

### **Third Offense**

The student will be required to complete 20 hours of approved community service.

If the violation involves drugs and/or alcohol, the student must also complete an AODA assessment and counseling, at the family's expense, and provide written certification of compliance with all recommendations to the principal prior to reinstatement.

### **Community Service Requirements**

Community service is defined as unpaid work performed for the benefit of the community through a nonprofit organization.

- The student is responsible for developing a community service plan and schedule.
- The plan must be approved by the principal before the service hours begin.
- The organization supervising the service must provide documentation verifying duties performed and hours completed.
- This documentation must be submitted to the principal for final approval.
- These hours are not allowed to count towards the graduation requirements.

If a student fails to complete the required community service, they will remain ineligible to participate in any activities until the obligation has been fulfilled.

Students participating in co-curricular activities that include performances or events must continue to attend practices, but they will remain ineligible for performances or events until all community service hours have been satisfactorily completed.

- All Activities Code violations at Augusta Middle School are cumulative throughout a student's middle school career.
- All Activities Code violations at Augusta High School are cumulative throughout a student's high school career.

## **CONDUCT OF UNBECOMING**

Students who participate in athletics and co-curriculars are visible representatives of the District and serve as role models within the school and community. The behavior of individual participants reflects on their team, coaches, school, and community. Therefore, in addition to complying with all established activity rules, students are expected to demonstrate responsible citizenship at all times.

Below are unbecoming conduct but are not limited to.

- **Inappropriate Behavior in Public Setting:** Students may also be subject to "conduct unbecoming" consequences for inappropriate behavior in out-of-school settings. This includes, but is not limited to: violations of local laws or ordinances, disruptive or disorderly conduct in public settings, vandalism of community property, harassment or intimidation of others, misuse of social media that negatively

impacts the school's reputation, or any behavior that reflects poorly on the student and their role as a representative of the school.

- **Inappropriate School Behavior:** Students may also be subject to "conduct unbecoming" consequences for inappropriate behavior at school. This includes, but is not limited to: suspension for any reason, disrespect toward staff, insubordination, vandalism, cheating, truancy, or accumulating 10 or more tardies within a single quarter.

Inappropriate behavior also includes bullying, harassment, or discriminatory conduct, including social media posts directed at other students, student-athletes, coaches, or staff. These situations will be reviewed and addressed in accordance with applicable laws and student free speech rights under the United States and Wisconsin Constitutions.

### **Consequences for Conduct Unbecoming**

Students will receive an appropriate consequence (such as a game suspension and/or community service) following an investigation conducted by the principal, athletic director, or coach/advisor. Consequences will be communicated to the student and their parent(s)/guardian(s).

Violations under this provision are handled separately and do not count toward the Four-Step Offense System. However, a third violation will be considered a Step 1 offense under the Disciplinary Actions.

## **HONESTY CLAUSE**

If the high school administration has a reasonable suspicion that a specific student-athlete may have violated the district's code, he/she may question that student about a possible violation. In responding to any such questioning about his/her personal actions, it is expected that the student shall:

1. Be truthful.
2. Be forthcoming with information.
3. Shall be cooperative.

## **ADDITIONAL RULES BY COACHES/ADVISORS**

Nothing in this Activities Code limits a coach or advisor from establishing additional rules regarding student conduct during a season or activity. Any additional rules must be provided in writing and shared with the student participants, their parents/guardians, and the Athletic Director prior to the official start of the activity.

Students are expected to cooperate with and follow all team or activity rules established by the coach or advisor in order to maintain eligibility for participation. All team or activity rules must be consistent with the Augusta School District Activities Code and all other district policies.

A coach or advisor may recommend the suspension or removal of a student from a team or activity if the student is considered a demoralizing influence or detrimental to the goals and expectations of the program. If a coach or advisor requests an in-season removal, the decision must be reviewed and approved by the Athletic Director and the Principal before the action takes place.

## ENFORCEMENT AND DUE PROCESS POLICY

### Investigation of Alleged Violations

The Principal, in consultation with the Athletic Director and the coach, advisor, or activity director, will investigate any alleged violation of the Activities Code of Conduct.

The individual reporting the violation may be required to meet with the Principal to provide information. The student accused of the violation will be given the opportunity to meet with the Principal, Athletic Director, and coach/advisor to respond to the allegation. The student's parent(s) or guardian(s) will be notified and may participate in the meeting.

After reviewing the information, the Principal will determine whether a violation occurred and what penalties, if any, will be imposed.

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### **Athletic and Activities Council**

A student may appeal a violation decision to the Athletic and Activities Council.

The Council will consist of the following members:

- School Administrator
- School Counselor
- Head Coach or Advisor from a different program
- One teacher
- One additional staff member designated prior to the hearing

A minimum of **five (5) members** must be present for the Council to hear an appeal.

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### Appeals Process

#### Step 1 – Athletic and Activities Council

A student may appeal a violation within five (5) school days or ten (10) calendar days, whichever is less.

The student may present evidence, respond to the allegations, and be represented by a parent, guardian, or representative. The Principal or Athletic Director will coordinate and chair the meeting.

After reviewing the information, the Council will make a determination regarding the appeal.

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#### Step 2 – Board of Education

If the student wishes to appeal the Council's decision, a written request must be submitted to the District Administrator within seven (7) calendar days.

The Board of Education will schedule a hearing within seven (7) days of receiving the request. The Board will

review the information presented by both the school and the student and make a final determination.

The Board's decision is final.

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### Participation During an Appeal

A student appealing a violation may continue to practice and attend team or activity meetings, but may not participate in competitions or performances until the appeals process is complete.

## SIGN - UP POLICY

Students interested in participating in a sport should contact the Athletic Director or the coach. Athletes are to have all forms turned into the athletic office a minimum of one week prior to the first day of practice in order to participate on the first day.

Required forms include:

- ☐ Registration
- ☐ Physical (Every 2 years)
- ☐ HIPAA
- ☐ Activities Agreement
- ☐ Concussion Information

Students who want to join a team after the first day of practice can do so only within the first two weeks from the start date of that sport, provided that all forms are turned in. Extenuating circumstances may be considered for those wishing to join after the first two weeks and will be evaluated by the Athletic Director on a case by case basis.

## NO QUIT POLICY

Members of performance organizations are expected to remain in their activities once they join. If they quit, they will not be allowed to join a different performance organization that season. The intention of this policy is that participants are not joining/quitting activities to serve consequences or because they are unhappy with coach/advisor decisions. Exceptions include the following:

- Failure to continue because of injury or illness.
- Coach/advisor consents due to unforeseen adverse circumstances.

## EQUIPMENT

One of the core values taught through participation in school-sponsored activities is responsibility, which extends to the care of school equipment and property. The school district hopes that every student will take pride in the facilities and equipment provided by Augusta School District.

The school strives to provide Augusta students with the best and safest equipment available, and we expect each student to treat it with excellent care. The exact equipment issued to a student must be returned at the end of the activity. Students will be held financially responsible for any lost, misplaced, or intentionally damaged items. Furthermore, students will be ineligible for participation in any future activities until all issued equipment is either returned or paid for in full.

## **TRANSPORTATION**

Transportation is provided for all contests and students are expected to ride to and from events using school-provided transportation. A student may only ride with their parent(s) or legal guardian(s) if they complete the alternative transportation form. Alternative transportation forms must be completed at least four hours prior to dismissal.

Wisconsin weather can make travel challenging. Augusta administration and host school officials deliberate carefully before deciding whether to hold or cancel a contest. However, parents/guardians always reserve the right to withhold their child from attending an event if they feel weather conditions are unsafe for travel.

Some Augusta School District activities take place off-site. For these events, students or their parents/guardians may be responsible for providing transportation to and from practices and competitions.

## **HOME-BASED PRIVATE EDUCATION STUDENT PARTICIPATION**

Per Wisconsin Statute 118.133, students enrolled in a home-based private educational program may participate in interscholastic athletics and extracurricular activities in their resident school district on the same basis and to the same extent as enrolled pupils.

Home-based students residing within the Augusta School District must apply for participation, comply with state law, and follow the exact same rules and requirements as full-time Augusta students. Once these School Board requirements are fulfilled, eligible home-based students are approved to participate.

To maintain eligibility, home-based private education students must:

- Participate in a program providing a sequentially progressive curriculum of fundamental instruction in Reading, Language Arts, Mathematics, Social Studies, Science, Health, and Electives.
- Meet the academic standards set by the Augusta Activities Codebook, which requires all students to pass all courses to participate in athletics or co-curricular activities.

To verify academic eligibility, parents/guardians must provide grading information to the school's Athletic Director at the end of every district grading period. This documentation is required regardless of whether the child is currently active in a sport or activity at that specific time.



## WISCONSIN INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

### 2025-2026 High School Athletic Eligibility Information Bulletin

To: Student-Athletes and Their Parents

From: Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association

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, and then sign it and have their signature statement (attached) on file at their school prior to practicing and competing. Reading and signing this form is a condition of participating in interscholastic athletics at WIAA member schools. It does not guarantee a student-athlete's athletic eligibility nor does it give rise to any contractual rights, direct or indirect, to student-athletes or their parents.**

These are WIAA eligibility rules, which are current for the 2025-2026 school year:

#### AGE

A student shall be ineligible for interscholastic competition if they reach their 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 school's requirements prevail and must be applied as written.

#### ATTENDANCE

A student-athlete is eligible for interscholastic competition at a member school if they are 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, 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, unless there are documented extenuating circumstances and a waiver has been provided.
- B. A student is ineligible if they have graduated from a school offering studies through Grade 12 or its equivalent.

- C. A student who graduated in May or June retains eligibility for any portion of a spring athletic schedule not completed by the end of the academic year. Mid-year graduation ends athletic eligibility on the last day of attendance.
- D. A student is ineligible if they have 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 their 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 must meet all statutory timeline requirements. This provision extends the opportunity to decline attendance at the new school and continue at their 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, they 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, they become eligible.
- H. A student-athlete will not be eligible if their 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 they transfer to another school.
- J. Except in situations involving transfer after a student's sixth 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 nonvarsity 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 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).
- D. A student who has been in attendance in a nonpublic, self-contained school (i.e. grades K-12 or 7-12) for at least one complete school year prior to reaching Grade 9 and has not broken enrollment during that time is eligible in that nonpublic school upon entering Grade 9.
- E. 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.
- F. Except in situations involving transfer after a student's sixth 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 nonvarsity 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 will be subject to the transfer rules for one calendar year, unless the transfer is made necessary by a total and complete 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.]

Unrestricted eligibility may be afforded at a new school at the time of a complete family move. Any student who delays enrollment after a family move is subject to the transfer rule.

- B. 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. Students entering 11th and 12<sup>th</sup> grade are restricted to nonvarsity opportunities for one calendar year. [The calendar year (365 days) will be determined from a student's first day of attendance at the new school.]
- D. 9th grade students who transfer after the beginning of the school year and with written consent from both schools directly involved shall be restricted to nonvarsity opportunities for the remainder of the school year. Restrictions are removed upon entering 10th grade.
- E. 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> grade students who transfer after the beginning of the school year and with written consent from both schools directly involved shall be restricted to nonvarsity 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.

- G. District policies with respect to intra-district transfer do not supersede WIAA transfer rules.
- H. Unless transfer, including an accompanying total and complete change of parents' residence, is effective at the outset of a semester, a student cannot establish eligibility at their new school until the fifth calendar day of such transfer.
- I. 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 nonvarsity opportunities only for the balance of the calendar year. [The calendar year (365 days) will be determined from a student's first day of attendance at the new school.]
- 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 and complete 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 their new school for the same period as decreed by the former school. A student who transfers due to expulsion or removal for disciplinary reason from the previous school is ineligible for the length of the expulsion as determined by the previous school's Board of Education. Note: A student who does not serve a penalty for violation by leaving the state and competing in another state, will be ineligible for the balance of the suspension upon return to the state.
- 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, an emergency information form, and they must have a physical examination (signed by a licensed physician, physician's assistant 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 their school's code of conduct (training rules) on a year-round basis.

- A. A student-athlete who violates their 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.
- C. Any student charged and/or convicted of a felony shall, upon the filing of felony charges, become ineligible for all further participation until the student has paid their debt to society and the courts consider the sentence served (including probation, community service, etc.).
- D. A student-athlete who violates their 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.
- E. A student-athlete who violates any part of the school or WIAA's code of conduct resulting in suspension for any portion of WIAA-sponsored tournament competition must be immediately declared ineligible for the remainder of tournament series in that sport. During the WIAA Tournament, an ineligible athlete may not suit up.

- F. A student-athlete, disqualified from a contest for flagrant or unsportsmanlike conduct, is also suspended from the next competitive event at the same level of competition as the disqualification.
- G. Any player who in the judgment of the official, intentionally spits on, strikes, slaps, kicks, pushes or aggressively physically contacts an official at any time shall be immediately ineligible for competition a minimum of 90 calendar days from the date of the confrontation. In addition, the player is ineligible to compete for the first 25% of the next season in that same sport.
- H. A school must provide an opportunity for the student to be heard prior to a penalty being enforced (except for felony charges). If a student appeals a suspension, according to the school's appeal procedure, the student is ineligible during the appeal process.
- I. Schools/individuals are prohibited during the regular season and the WIAA tournament series from practicing for regional, sectional, and state tournament preparation at sites and facilities hosting WIAA tournaments.

### **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 salary, cash (including gift cards) or share of game or season proceeds 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: a medal, cup, trophy or plaque from the sponsoring organization regardless of cost; school mementos valued not more than \$200; an award valued not more than \$100 retail for participation in an athletic contest in a WIAA recognized sport; and may retain non-school competition apparel worn by the student as part of the team uniform.
- C. A student-athlete may not capitalize on athletic fame by receiving money, compensation, endorsements or gifts of monetary value in affiliation or connection with activities involving the student's school team, school, Conference or WIAA (scholarships to institutions of higher learning are specifically exempted).
- D. A student-athlete is not restricted from participating in a Name, Image and Likeness (NIL) commercial endorsement provided there is no school team, school, Conference or WIAA affiliation. Prohibited NIL activities are identified as follows:
  - (1) The student shall not appear in the uniform of the student's school and does not utilize the marks, logos, etc. of the school team, school, Conference or WIAA as part of any endorsement.
  - (2) The student shall not promote activities nor products associated with the following: gaming/gambling; alcoholic beverages, tobacco, cannabis, or related products; banned or illegal substances; adult entertainment products or services; weapons (i.e. firearms).
  - (3) The compensation is not contingent on specific athletic performance or achievement (i.e. financial incentives based on points scored).
  - (4) The compensation is not provided by the school or persons associated with school as an inducement to attend a particular school ("recruiting") or to remain enrolled at a particular school.
  - (5) The NIL activities do not interfere with a student-athlete's academic obligations, and the student does not miss athletic practice, competition, travel, or other team obligations in order to participate in NIL opportunities.
  - (6) A student cannot utilize representation or contract an agent. High schools or its employees are not allowed to help facilitate deals for student-athletes.
- E. A student-athlete may not participate in school athletics or in sports activities outside the school under a name other than their own name.

### **SPORTS ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL**

Athletes may compete in not more than two non-school competitions with prior school approval during each regular sport season. The contest(s) will not count against the individual maximum for the athlete in that sport. Nonschool competition will not be allowed during

the respective WIAA tournament series in a sport. Violation of this rule results in loss of eligibility for the remainder of the season (including the WIAA tournament series) and forfeiture of the two non-school opportunities.

- 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 officially or unofficially (including “banditing”) in more than two nonschool competitions or races, including scrimmages against other teams (with school approval).
- (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) During the season, athletes may participate in a skills contest with approval of the school. Specific skill contests (punt, pass, and kick, shooting contests e.g., free throws, 3-point, drive, chip and putt) isolate separate skills outside of the traditional competition setting. The skill contest may not include physical contact or extreme fatigue as the actual sport competition. Fun runs are not considered skills contests. There can be no school coach involvement. All other eligibility rules including amateur status apply.
  - (3) 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 and in the summertime, members of a school’s team may voluntarily assemble with their teammates (without school and/or school coach involvement) at their own discretion.
- C. A student-athlete or their parents must pay 100% of the fee for specialized training or instruction such as camps, clinics, and similar programs.
- D. 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 their coach in that sport in the following school season. All sports except football 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.
- E. 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.
- F. Schools/individuals are prohibited during the regular season and the WIAA tournament series from practicing for regional, sectional, and state tournament preparation at sites and facilities hosting WIAA tournaments.

#### USE OF STUDENT IMAGE

The participation of student-athletes in school and WIAA tournaments may result in the use of student-athlete images in promotion of school and WIAA events.

***In order to facilitate good communication, all questions regarding athletic participation at your school should be addressed to your athletic administrator.***