



WAUSAU SCHOOL DISTRICT
ATHLETIC AND ACTIVITIES
CODE OF CONDUCT
20222024-20232025



1. PHILOSOPHY OF CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

The Wausau School District believes that co-curricular activities are a vital component of the District's educational program. Activities should be a positive learning experience, allowing students to achieve their greatest potential in their chosen activity. In addition, selection to a team or co-curricular activity is both an honor and privilege and, as such, carries responsibilities and the expectation that students will demonstrate leadership in that activity. As leaders, students are visible representatives of the Wausau School District and its programs. This position means they must demonstrate the highest personal standards of excellence, determination, integrity, and self-discipline.

Wausau School District students will be recognized for their achievements in co-curricular activities. Behaviors that are detrimental to themselves or those they represent will not be acceptable. Dishonesty, unsportsmanlike behavior, and use of controlled substances or conduct unbecoming of a student-athlete/activity member cannot and will not be tolerated by the Wausau School District. The Student Activities Code will be administered fairly and without exception for students participating in co-curricular activities.

2. PURPOSE OF ACTIVITIES CODE

The Activities Code of the Wausau School District is established to provide clear and consistent expectations for students participating in District sponsored activities and as required by the Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association (WIAA). Taken together with the

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Coach's/Advisor's Expectations, the Code is intended to define for those it governs the ideals of good citizenship, fair play, and responsibility for one's individual actions. This Handbook has been prepared for students for informational purposes only. None of the statements, policies and procedures, rules, or regulations contained herein constitute a contract, express or implied, or create any right or benefit. The District has the discretion to change its policies or practices at any time with or without notice, including as to any specific issue that may arise within the scope of this Handbook.

3. PROCESS TO FOLLOW TO BECOME INVOLVED IN ACTIVITIES PROGRAMS

Before a student may participate in an activity, the student and parent(s)/legal guardian(s) must:

A. Annually attend one general High School Activities Code presentation that is held three times throughout the year at which:

1. The High School Activities Code will be explained and reviewed.
2. District policies relevant to activities participation will be reviewed.
3. Co-curricular activities will be presented.
4. Annually, sign and return the Activities Code and insurance waiver.
5. Sign and return the Coach's/Advisor's Expectations and emergency medical card.
6. Pay user fee before the first contest/event, if applicable.
7. Athletics:

- WIAA physical examination and permit card (signed by a licensed physician/physician assistant or advanced practice nurse prescriber) must be submitted every other school year.

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- In alternate years, the alternate year card must be signed and submitted.
- A signed WIAA eligibility form must be submitted.
- Parents/guardians and students must attend a mandatory coach's meeting prior to the first competition.

8. Activities:

- Parents/Guardians and students may be required to attend an advisor's meeting.

4. REGULATIONS OF HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES CODE

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Commented [BG1]: I didn't see a signing sheet attached to this Code. It is fine for this form to be separate, I just didn't want it to be missed as part of the process.

Commented [BG2]: Is this due prior to tryouts or prior to first day of practice?

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

A. Attendance

The student must be in a full day of attendance (not including in-school suspension) to be able to participate in any activity that day. Students leaving school for illness may not participate in any activities that same day. The only exceptions to this requirement are:

1. Excused absences not to exceed one-half of the student's scheduled classes;
2. Family emergencies (such as funerals) approved by the Activities Director;
3. ~~Absences with Administrative~~ administrative approval;

~~4. Habitual Truancy:~~ Students that are cited for habitual truancy shall be suspended from participation in co-curricular activities. Students may earn reinstatement by having (15) days free of unexcused absences. Further unexcused absences will cause additional suspension from co-curricular activities. **HABITUAL TRUANT** is defined under Wisconsin Statutes as "a pupil who is absent from school without an acceptable excuse under sub. (4) s.118.15 for part or all of five (5) or more days on which school is held during a school semester".

Commented [BG3]: I don't think this is an "exception" to the above

B. Academic

In order to be academically eligible, a student must have no failing quarter grades. A student not meeting this criterion will be ineligible for activities for fifteen (15) consecutive scheduled school days and nights. The ineligibility will begin on the fifth (5th) scheduled school day following the end of the first (1st), second (2nd), or third (3rd) quarter. Eligibility for activities that begin on or before the first (1st) quarter of the new academic year shall be based on the previous fourth (4th) quarter grades. Opportunities may exist to regain eligibility through summer school courses. ~~Student who are ineligible due to fourth quarter grades, may restore eligibility by taking and successfully completing the same number of courses, in the same academic area, which caused ineligibility over summer school. Summer school grades may be substituted for fourth (4th) quarter failures provided they are in the same academic area as the failed class. Summer school is to be considered an extension of the school year it follows.~~

Commented [BG4]: Is this sufficient time for grades to come in? Otherwise, you could change it to 5th day after grades are do following each quarter.

Grade changes and removal of an incomplete grade must be completed within two weeks of the date grades are posted. Students will remain ineligible until the grade is changed or the incomplete is removed.

Commented [BG5]: The WIAA doesn't require this, but you can be stricter if you would like.

To regain eligibility, a student must complete a grade check with the Activities Director on the fifteenth (15th) school day after the declaration of ineligibility to ensure passing grades in all

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classes. To maintain eligibility, the student must complete a second grade check on the thirtieth (30th) school day after the declaration of ineligibility to ensure continued passing grades in all classes. A student who is ineligible due to failing grades, will continue to practice, may attend home games but not travel with the team to away events, and may not return to competition - until the SCHOOL DAY FOLLOWING the fifteen (15) day ineligibility period. For fall activities, the period of ineligibility is the lesser of twenty-one (21) calendar days beginning with the date of earliest allowed competition in an activity or one-third of the maximum number of games/meets allowed in an activity. Students who withdraw-fail ~~at~~ during first or third quarter will be academically eligible for the fifteen (15) day ineligibility period and cannot return to competition until after this 15 day period. The student will not become ineligible for the same class when 2nd or 4th quarter grades are posted.

C. Conduct Rule

The Code of Conduct is subject to and superseded by the requirements and limitations imposed on the school by Department of Education regulations promulgated under Title IX relating to how schools must respond to allegations of sexual harassment.

The following conduct rules are established in the best interest of the student and the school. Students who comply with these rules demonstrate their desire to dedicate themselves to self-improvement. These conduct rules apply year-round (12 months), in and out of school.

1. A student shall not violate Board Policy #5517.01 – Bullying, #2260 Prohibition Against Harassment and Discrimination.
2. Steal or possess stolen articles.
3. Buy, sell, use or possess illegal drugs, controlled substances, street drugs, or performance enhancing substances (PES).
4. Buy, sell, use or possess tobacco products, including vapes, e-cigarettes, etc.
5. Buy, sell, use or possess alcohol products, non-alcoholic beer, wine, or look-alikes.
6. Violation of the law; including remaining at a gathering where illegal substances or alcohol is present and not making an effort to remove yourself from the situation immediately.
 - a. A student participating in a WIAA sponsored sport who is 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 his/her debt to society and the courts consider the sentence served (including probation, community service, etc.).
7. Any other conduct contrary to the rules of the school, conference, and the WIAA or other governing body, including, but not limited to, criminal behavior. Examples include inappropriate behavior could include but are not limited to, profanity, repeated refusal to

Commented [BG6]: I think this revision provides more clarity to students than the classic, but vague, “conduct unbecoming” standard.

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~~follow school rules, insubordination to staff and coaches, fighting and skipping classes. Conduct themselves in a manner unbecoming a student representing Wausau School District. This may include, but is not limited to, a.) disrespect for school authorities; b.) inappropriate use of social media; c.) violation of school rules.~~

Note: *Except for conduct violations under felony charges, the school must provide an opportunity for the student to be heard prior to any penalty being enforced. If a student appeals a suspension, according to the school's appeal procedure, the student is ineligible during the appeal process.*

5. CONSEQUENCES OF ACTIVITIES CODE VIOLATIONS

Students who make a commitment to accept the responsibilities listed in the High School Activities Code will have the privilege of full participation in the co-curricular activities program. Consequences of High School Activities Code violations shall be cumulative beginning with and continuing throughout the student's participation during his/her freshman, sophomore, junior, and senior years.

Activities Council

The Joint Wausau East and Wausau West Activities Council will be composed of the following: The Principals, the Activities Directors, the head coach/advisor involved with the student, and one coach and/or one advisor from each school. If the violation being examined involves a student in athletics, the member of the Council will be an athletic coach. If the violation being examined involves a student in activities, the member of the Council will be an advisor. If the violation being examined involves a student in both athletics and activities, both members will serve. As long as a majority of the Activities Council can attend a meeting, it may take action regarding an appeal. A majority vote of those members in attendance shall be controlling on the appeal.

The Activities Council shall meet as often as necessary and will take action in a fair and impartial manner. Minutes of the meeting will be recorded and kept by an Activities Director. If the Activities Council cannot meet prior to the activity or awards night the student will be participating in, the Activities Director or Principal may suspend the student from participation or receiving any award. The student and/or parent/guardian will be notified prior to the event. Any activity suspensions that occur prior to the date the Activities Council meets will be included in the total suspension the student is required to serve.

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In all cases, the student shall be provided due process to include:

1. The student and parent(s)/guardian(s) will be informed of the alleged violation and will be provided an opportunity to meet with the Activities Director to discuss the alleged violation and potential consequences. Additionally, parents may submit a written statement to be provided to all Activities Council members.
2. The Activities Council will meet to discuss the information gathered on the alleged violation and will determine appropriate action and consequences in accordance with the Activities Code.
3. In the event that conditions exist which are otherwise unpredictable and that have a district-wide impact over an extended period of time, or create a serious disruption of the athletic and/or activities schedules, the Activity Council may choose to amend a code violation consequence. The amended consequence supersedes any previous consequences and must be in alignment with WIAA rules and regulations.
4. The student and parent(s)/guardian(s) will be informed in writing of the decision of the Activities Council.

A. Violation of Conduct Rule:

Violations of the responsibilities described in Section IV C. will be dealt with in the following manner:

1. When Administration is made aware of a possible violation, the Administration and/or Activities Director will investigate the violation. If there is evidence of a violation, the Administration will contact the student and parent(s)/guardian(s) to review the alleged violation. If the Administration determines there is sufficient proof that a violation has occurred, it will be referred to the Activities Council to determine potential consequences.
2. A "season/activity" is defined as beginning with the official starting date for the season/activity through the last day of the individual's official competition/participation in that particular activity. A violation will result in the loss of any recognition/award for that activity if the offense occurs before the awards are presented. In-season violations will remove that individual from nomination for or receipt of any awards for that activity.

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3. A first code violation will result in the loss of, or eligibility to hold, any elected or appointed leadership position (e.g. team captain/club officer) in any activity for no less than the next six (6) months of the school calendar from the date of written confirmation.

4. A second code violation will make the student ineligible to hold any elected or appointed leadership position during the remainder of his/her high school career.

5. A suspension from athletics must be served in athletics. A suspension from a non-athletic activity must be served in a non-athletic activity.

6. Per WIAA regulations, if a student transfers to a different school, the consequences for a violation of an Activities Code and academic ineligibility transfer with him/her.

6. SUSPENSIONS

A. Conduct unbecoming:

For violations of conduct Rule 7, a student shall be subject to disciplinary action from the high school administration, athletic office, or from the team expectations.

A. First Offense or Violation (other than Rule 7):

1. The violator will be suspended from athletic competition for 25% of the regular season scheduled contests in that sport (rounded up, minimum of one competition which will carry over into the next activity in which the student participates). A contest is defined as an interscholastic competition, played under rules, with officials (not a scrimmage). The number of game suspensions will be determined as 25% of scheduled games at the time the schedule is published. Athletic Directors have the discretion to recommend a harsher punishment, subject to review by the Activities Council.

2. If the violation is the result of alcohol, tobacco or other drug related offenses, the student-athlete must undergo an AODA assessment performed by a community-

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based health organization/AODA treatment agency. The student must follow the recommendations made by the agency. The cost of the assessment will not be covered by the school and is the responsibility of the student/parent. The student will provide the athletic director written notification of progress made through the counseling process prior to any reinstatement to participate.

3. If the violation is not an alcohol or drug related offense, the student will meet with a high school counselor. This plan will require:

- ~~Suspension for not less than 25% of the activities' regular scheduled games/performances, which may be carried into the next activity in which the student participates.~~
- Completion of two (2) to three (3) risk management sessions with a high school counselor. If the school counselor feels the violation rises to a high-need level, recommendation-referral will be made to a community- based counselor.
- ~~Following the recommendations of the agency, probationary eligibility will be determined by reported progress in the program by the counseling agency. The school counselor can grant the student probationary eligibility if appropriate, subject to the student continuing to comply with any requirements imposed by the school or outside counselor.~~
- The student will be responsible for any costs associated with participation in the counseling program.

4. Students will continue to practice with the team during the suspension period but will not suit up or travel. Students are expected to attend home events. They are required to be in street clothes on the bench with their team. If less than 25% of the contests remain on the schedule, the remaining percentage of the suspension will carry over into the post-season and/or the contests of the next sport in which the athlete participates.

If suspension carries over into the postseason, the student is ineligible to participate in all post season play per WIAA Rules. NOTE: Regardless of how many postseason games are played, only one (1) game (the first postseason game) is credited toward satisfying the violation penalty.

5. ~~For an in-season suspension, the student will continue to practice but will be suspended from participating in contests/performances as determined by the~~

~~Activities Council. The maximum allowable penalty for an in-season first offense will be all contests/performances for the remainder of the current activity. If the violation occurs at a time the student is not participating in an activity, the student will be suspended from participating in contests/performances in his/her next activity of participation, as determined by the Activity Council. The maximum penalty allowable for an out-of-season first offense will be all contests/performances for the next activity of participation.~~ During a suspension, the student must participate for the entire activity/season and finish in good standing in order for the suspension to be satisfied.

Commented [BG7]: This is covered in number 4 above.

6. If the offense occurs in-season, the student will lose any recognition/awards for that activity.

~~7. If the violation occurs during the last two (2) weeks of the regular scheduled activity, the suspension may carry over to the next activity in which the student chooses to participate; however, during this suspension the student must participate for the entire season in the next activity and finish in good standing in order for the suspension to be satisfied.~~

Commented [BG8]: This is covered in number 4 above.

NOTE: A freshman who receives a Code Violation may have that violation erased if there are not further violations before the start of their junior year. The student will provide a written explanation to the Activities Council before such violation is removed.

B. Second Offense or Violation:

1. The student will lose eligibility for not less than 50% of the games/performances for that activity (rounded up, minimum of 1) up to one (1) calendar year for all activities, from the date the suspension begins.

2. If the violation is the result of alcohol, tobacco or other drug related offenses, the student-athlete must undergo an AODA assessment performed by a community-based health organization/AODA treatment agency. The student must follow the recommendations made by the agency. The cost of the assessment will not be covered by the school and is the responsibility of the student/parent. The student will provide the athletic director written notification of progress made through the counseling process prior to any reinstatement to participate.

3. If the offense occurs in-season, the student will lose any recognition/awards for that activity.

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4. If the violation is not an alcohol or drug related offense, the student will meet with a high school counselor. This plan will generally require:

- a. Referral for community-based counseling.
- b. Agency Intake - signed release of records.
- c. Following the recommendations of the agency.

~~• The school counselor can grant the student probationary eligibility if appropriate, subject to the student continuing to comply with any requirements imposed by the school or outside counselor. Probationary eligibility will be determined by reported progress in the program by the counseling agency.~~

- d. The family is responsible for financial responsibilities

5. The student and parent(s)/guardian(s) may opt for reduced suspension by completing the school-approved Assessment/Counseling Plan, with District counseling staff, designed for each type of violation under the following rules. If the violation is an alcohol or drug related offense, the student will miss a minimum of one competition.:

- a. The student who chooses the counseling option will be ineligible to compete in games/performances again until completion of the plan. All counseling programs are a minimum of eight (8) sessions in length.
- b. At the discretion of the head coach/advisor and Activities Director, the student may practice while completing the Plan.
- c. Upon completion of the school-approved Assessment/Counseling Plan and suspension period, eligibility will be reviewed and reinstatement may be made by the Activities Director.
- d. The student who begins but does not complete the entire Plan, has no opportunity to regain eligibility through early reinstatement.
- e. The student will be responsible for any costs associated with participation in the Assessment/Counseling Plan.

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C. Third Offense or Violation

The student is ineligible for further participation in any activity for the remainder of his/her high school career with the following exception:

A student may request an Activities Council review after one full calendar year from his/her last code violation if, during the time of suspension, the student has remained free from any additional activities code violations. The Activities Council may grant eligibility if it determines the student and situation warrants it.

D. Fourth Offense or Violation

The student is ineligible for further participation in any activity for the remainder of his/her high school career.

7. COACH'S/ADVISOR'S EXPECTATIONS

The High School Activities Code states that each coach/advisor will establish in writing his/her expectations. The expectations are to include student behavior. This supplement is developed to identify unacceptable student conduct that is contrary to the ideals and standards of the District's and our community. If a student's behavior is considered unacceptable, he/she will be disciplined as stated in the final paragraph of this supplement.

Areas of expectations are, but are not limited to:

1. Practice/Meeting Conduct and Rules
2. Locker Room/Dressing Room Conduct and Rules
3. Game/Performance Conduct
4. Use of Social Media in a manner that violates the rules of the school, the conference, the WIAA, or any other governing body
5. Transportation Conduct
6. Equipment Care
7. Unacceptable Language
8. Dress Code
9. Training Hours
10. Tardiness/Absences/Classroom Behavior
11. Attitude

Commented [BG9]: Social media might constitute speech protected under the First Amendment, so you need to provide more structure for coaches to potentially discipline due to student social media use. Even as drafted, caution should be taken before imposing discipline.

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12. Other expectations as identified by the coach/advisor

Because the expectations referred to above cover a multitude of possible violations with a varying degree of severity, the consequences may also be broad. It is the intent to apply appropriate consequences to violations. These consequences may vary from a verbal reprimand to the loss of eligibility for the remainder of the current season. The coach/advisor will contact the student and parent(s)/guardian(s) if a suspension or dismissal is in order. Any coach's/advisor's decision to dismiss will be made in concert with the Activities Director. Violations of coach's/advisor's expectations are cumulative only during each season of participation.

8. OTHER PROVISIONS

In alignment with ~~Wisconsin Act 279~~ and WIAA policy, victims of sexual assault and bystanders who do one or more of the following cannot be issued a code of conduct violation:

- report a sexual assault
- request emergency assistance
- cooperate with and assist law enforcement
- stay on the scene of the incident
- encounter law enforcement at a medical facility at which the victim is being treated.

-The victim or bystander must meet the State Amnesty Law Requirements. The victim may not falsely claim amnesty knowing the situation that he or she reports does not exist.

Commented [BG10]: Technically, this law only applies to colleges, but the WIAA recognizes this exception.

9. CHANGING SPORTS/MULTIPLE SPORTS PARTICIPATION

A. An athlete may not quit one sport and begin another during the same sport season except by agreement of the coaches involved and/or the Activities Director.

B. An athlete may participate in multiple sports (maximum two) per season with the approval of both coaches involved. However, the athlete must declare his/her primary sport prior to participation in either sport. Once the athlete has declared their primary sport, they must participate in all scheduled competitions for that declared sport unless it is mutually agreed by both coaches involved.

10. AWARDS

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A. Credit for earning a letter will be established by the coach or advisor in each activity. Written copies of these criteria will be on file in the office of the Activities Director and the building principal.

B. All awards for each activity are given only on the recommendation of the coach or advisor of that activity.

C. A student must be in good standing at the end of the activity's season to receive his or her awards.

11. STUDENT ACCIDENT INSURANCE

The Wausau School District DOES NOT provide student accident insurance to cover medical costs to any of our student/athletes. However, it is recommended that all students participating in Wausau School District activities be insured by their parent/guardian.

The WIAA does provide insurance coverage for concussion treatment to all athletes participating in a WIAA sponsored sport at a member school. It does not cover open gyms, cheer, dance, or club sports. Details may be found on the WIAA website, wiaawi.org.

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