



**Spencer High School**

**Athletic Code**

**2024-2025**

[375-Rule](#)

LEGAL REFERENCE: Sections 118.13 Wisconsin Statutes  
120.13(1)

CROSS REFERENCE: 373-Rule  
Athletic Code  
WIAA Handbook

APPROVED: July 17, 2024

## SPENCER HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC CODE

### I. PHILOSOPHY

Spencer High School is happy to have you participate in its athletic program. Its primary purpose is to assist students in growing and maturing into responsible members of the school and community.

This belief has resulted in the establishment of certain standards for students. These include standards of behavior in the area of school attendance, academic achievement and proper conduct. We believe that participants must recognize the value of good physical health and conditioning be followed at all times. The enforcement of such rules are important to our athletic program.

### II. INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this athletic code is to provide parents and student participants with a reference to the responsibilities and expectations for those participating in the athletic program. Participation in this program is considered a "privilege" not a "right."

- THE SPENCER ATHLETIC CODE SHALL BE FOLLOWED BY **ALL** PARTICIPANTS OF INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS, CHEERLEADERS. The athletic code will apply AT ALL TIMES (throughout one's athletic career), IN-SEASON AS WELL AS OUT-OF-SEASON. VIOLATIONS of this code are ACCUMULATIVE OVER THE STUDENT'S SENIOR HIGH CAREER. Once a student has gone out for a sport and has signed the Athletic Code, they are obligated to follow the rules of the code until they graduate and complete spring athletics that continue on after graduation.

The rules of eligibility are established by the Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association (WIAA) and are supplemented by the Spencer School District rules. Athletes planning to participate in high school athletics must abide by the WIAA rules of eligibility as well as those rules established by the Spencer School District.

### III. ELIGIBILITY

#### A. Participation Pre-requisites

1. A senior high student must be under the age of 19 before August 1 of each school year. (Per WIAA rule)
2. A student may not participate in a sport outside of school at the same time as they are participating in that sport in school. (Per WIAA rule)
3. Before an athlete can participate in any sport season, he/she must have the following on file in the high school office:
  - WIAA physical card (every two years) or alternating year card when physical not required. (Physical card valid for two years if completed after April 1<sup>st</sup>.)
  - Emergency Card
  - Athletic Code Pledge Agreement
  - Concussion Forms
  - Participation fee must be paid (\$25.00/season/student - \$100.00 Family Maximum)

#### B. Academics

1. A student taking six classes or less class periods for credit and having one or more failures per quarter, or a student taking 7 or 8 class periods for credit and having two or more failures per quarter shall be ineligible for competition for a period of 15 school days which will begin on the first day of the next grading period. A student may be reinstated if at the end of the ineligible period he/she is passing all classes. If after the 15 school days the athlete is not eligible for competition he/she will remain ineligible for the remainder of the quarter.

2. Grade checks will be done every three weeks. If a student is failing any classes they will be placed on academic probation for athletics. Over the next three weeks they must improve their grades or make reasonable progress as assessed by the principal, athletic director, or school counselor or they may become temporarily ineligible for competition. Eligibility for the three week grade checks can be reinstated at any point by the principal or their designee.
3. Student's fourth quarter grades will be used to determine eligibility for the first quarter of the following school year. Quarter grades determine eligibility.
4. EEN (Exceptional Educational Needs) students will be expected to obtain passing grades for classes in which they are mainstreamed. Satisfactory progress toward IEP (Individual Education Plan) objectives shall be considered passing in classes for which EEN students are not mainstreamed.
5. Students are responsible for any school work missed due to athletic activities. They are expected to make every effort to contact the instructor prior to the absence.

### **C. Attendance**

1. A student's primary responsibility is academic attendance.
2. A student who misses any portion of a day for illness or unexcused absence shall not be permitted to compete in practice or a scheduled contest on that day.
3. Excused absences for death in family, religious holiday, prior excused or a medical note for a medical/dental appointment or pre-excused absences will allow students to participate or compete.
4. An athlete who is suspended or expelled from school shall be ineligible for all athletic competition and practices during the period of the suspension or expulsion. They shall be eligible for athletic competition when they are readmitted to school, unless the reason for suspension or expulsion was based on a violation of the athletic code.

## **IV. CONDUCT**

### **A. Expectations**

1. It is expected that the high school athlete will abide by the ATHLETIC CODE throughout the calendar year (January 1 – December 31).
2. Athletes shall refrain from conduct or habits that would reflect unfavorably on the athlete or the school. This may include (but not limited to) suspension from school, insubordination towards faculty/staff, harassment, hazing, discrimination, or other acts prohibited by Wis. Law. Such actions may result in athletic code violations and suspensions will be determined by the school's athletic board not to exceed the first violation of any sport. This will not be considered as a 1<sup>st</sup> offense of the substance abuse violation of the athletic code.
3. An athlete shall be subject to disciplinary action at any time for violations involving the use, possession, buying or selling of alcohol, tobacco, tobacco related products/devices, electronic cigarettes and other drugs, attendance at events/parties where drugs and/or alcohol are being consumed and/or taken by minors.
4. An athlete shall be in violation of the athletic code if he/she is in attendance at an unsupervised function where alcohol/drugs are being consumed. (Unsupervised to mean the lack of **ADULT** supervision.)

### **B. Procedure for Violations:**

1. Upon receipt of a report of a violation, the Principal and Athletic Director will meet with the student involved to determine the validity of the report. Upon determination that a student has committed a violation, the school's Athletic Board, consisting of the Principal, Athletic Director, a head coach, will convene. The Athletic Board will make a final decision and so inform the parents by telephone or mail regarding the decision. The date of the decision will represent the initial day of suspension.
2. Disciplinary action for in season code violations will begin at the time of the athletic board's decision.
3. Disciplinary action for an out of season violation will begin with practice in the first sport that the athlete participates in following the violation.

### C. Consequences for violation of rules

- Suspended number of contests is determined by the sport the athlete or cheerleader was involved in at the time of violation or if out of season the next sport he/she will be involved in.

	<u>FIRST VIOLATION</u>	<u>SECOND VIOLATION</u>
Football	2	4
Volleyball	3	7
Cross-Country	3	6
Basketball	5	10
Wrestling	3	6
Baseball	5	10
Track	3	6
Softball	5	10

#### 1. **First violation**

- The athlete will be suspended for the appropriate number of contests which will be extended into another season or year until served.
- In order for a suspension to be completed, an athlete must begin a season within the first week of scheduled practice and remain on the team for the entire season.
- All suspensions must be served before further participation in games or contests.
- The suspension, for a 1<sup>st</sup> violation may be reduced by one contest if the athlete agrees in writing to participate in the Brief Intervention Counseling program. Reduction of suspended games will be at the discretion of the Athletic Board. This program would include, but not limited to:
  - Two counseling sessions, or as deemed appropriate.

#### 2. **Second Violation:** See consequences on previous page

#### 3. **Third violation**

- Suspended from athletic activities for one calendar year.

#### 4. **Fourth violation**

- Suspended from athletic competition for the remainder of his/her High School eligibility.
- If any suspension carries into the WIAA (Wisconsin Inter-scholastic Athletic Association) tournament competitions, it will result in disqualification for the remainder of the tournament series as in accordance with WIAA regulations.
- A student disqualified from a contest for flagrant or unsportsmanlike conduct is suspended from interscholastic competition for the next competitive event. (Per WIAA rule)

### V. ALL CONFERENCE NOMINATIONS

In order to be nominated for an All-Conference honors (1<sup>st</sup> Team or 2<sup>nd</sup> Team, Honorable or Special Mention) to be voted on by coaches, athletes must satisfy the eligibility requirements concerning grades and code of conduct for all games, conference and non-conference, for the entire season involved. Nominees need not play, but must be eligible to play in each game. Excused absences do not disqualify athletes from nomination. Athletes involved in an ineligibility period which overlaps two seasons, may be considered for nomination in the second season.

## **VI. CHANGING SPORTS**

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

## **VII. DUAL PARTICIPATION**

An athlete may compete in more than one sport during a given season only by agreement of the coaches involved.

## **VIII. TRAVEL**

Athletes must use a mode of transportation pre-approved by the athletic director or principal. An athlete who travels to a site with a school team must return with the team. The only exception to this rule is that if the athlete's parent/guardian personally requests, he or she may request that the athlete return with a parent/guardian. This request must be made in person to the coach in charge.

## **IX. EQUIPMENT**

- Any school equipment that is issued to an athlete must be returned or paid for before the athlete may participate in his/her next sport, or receive any award.
- School issued uniforms and equipment is not to be used for physical education classes or personal use.

## **X. ATHLETIC APPEAL PROCEDURE**

1. An appeal may be made concerning any penalty imposed by the Athletic Board. The appeal procedure is:
2. The appeal shall be in writing and be received by the Principal within five (5) days after the penalty is imposed.
3. The Principal shall, by certified mail within five (5) days of receipt of the appeal, advise the athlete/parents of the time, date and place that the appeal will be heard.
4. A hearing on the appeal will be conducted by the Athletic Board within seven (7) days after the letter is mailed. The athlete and parents may give their statements and arguments at such a hearing. The Athletic Board shall make a decision and mail such a decision to the athlete/parents within two (2) school days of the hearing.
5. If not satisfied with the findings of the hearing, a second hearing may be requested before the Board of Education. The Superintendent of Schools must receive in writing a request for such a hearing within five (5) days of the mailing of the outcome of the appeal in paragraph "c" above.
6. A hearing on the appeal will be conducted by the Board of Education within fourteen (14) days of the receipt of the written request for an appeal. The athlete, parents and representatives of their own choosing, if they so desire, may give their arguments and statements at such a hearing. The Board of Education shall make a decision and notify the parents/athlete of this decision within two (2) school days after the hearing.

\*\*\*All decisions of the Board of Education shall be final.\*\*\*

## **XI. COMPLAINT PROCEDURES**

If a parent or student has issues every effort should be to first resolve parties directly involved. If a solution can not be reached it should be taken to the building principal. On the school web site [www.spencer.k12.wi.us](http://www.spencer.k12.wi.us) click Board of Education on the left then board policy folder on the right to find the proper procedures for complaints information can be found under policy 411, 411rule, 870, 870rule.

## **XII. PLEDGE AGREEMENT OF ATHLETES AND PARENTS**

For the majority of you, the agreement you are about to make will become the first contract you will have entered into. Our expectations of you are high, but not impossible. They are, however, necessary in order for our teams, your teams, to be competitive and the best possible.

What we ask for on your part is a dedicated commitment to your fellow student athletes and to your team and coach. In return you will be extended the privilege of representing your school and for some to be able to receive school, conference and state awards and recognition.

On behalf of the Spencer Board of Education, Administration, Coaching Staff, and the greater Spencer community, we ask that you enter into this contract in good faith and fully live up to all responsibilities and rules herein.

***The Athletic Board***

**PLEDGE AGREEMENT**

I **AGREE** to abide by all rules and regulations set forth in the pages of this athletic code and all others established by the coaches of my sport.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Athlete's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

I **AGREE** to pay for any equipment which I may lose, misplace, or damage through carelessness or intent. I further agree to assume full responsibility for all equipment issued to me and to confine the use of that equipment to practice, games or meets.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Athlete's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

I/WE, AS PARENT(S)/GUARDIAN(S) of \_\_\_\_\_ have received and have read the rules and policies set forth for athletic participation and give our son/daughter permission to participate under these conditions. We will do our part in seeing that he/she follows these rules and regulations.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent(s)/Guardian(s)

**COMPLETE THIS FORM AND RETURN WITH THE COMPLETED WIAA PHYSICAL CARD.**

This Pledge Agreement is to be signed before participation can start. Parents/guardians are encouraged to keep this copy of the Athletic Code for personal reference to share with your children.



