Middle School Athletic Code

STATEMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

Participation in athletic activities is a privilege and should elicit great pride in both the student and his/her family. Athletic activities provide unique opportunities for students to promote their mental, physical, social, and emotional development. By providing strong athletic experiences the Eau Claire Area School District extends the privilege of enriching the mind and body to any student meeting district, and any applicable governing body's requirements. Participants who comply with this code of conduct demonstrate a desire to dedicate themselves to self-improvement as well as to enhance the best interests of fellow teammates, coaches and school. If accepted, this privilege carries certain responsibilities, and this athletic code presents these responsibilities.

GOALS

Athletic activities are an integral part of the middle school experience. They are an extension of the school day and provide learning experiences beneficial to the student athletes participating. ECASD athletic activities have the following goals:

1. To develop leadership skills and responsibility.
2. To show team spirit, encourage others and contribute to positive morale.
3. To be fair and treat others as one wishes to be treated.
4. To keep commitments to team.
5. To offer an outlet for a wide variety of students' abilities and interests.
6. To treat all persons respectfully regardless of individual differences; to show respect for legitimate authority (e.g... Coaches, Officials, Captains).
7. To accept responsibility to set a good example for teammates, peers, younger students, fans, and school community.
8. To help student athletes realize that participation in interscholastic athletics is a privilege with accompanying responsibilities.
9. To generate a sense of pride and unity in athletic programs for students, staff and community.

ELIGIBILITY

These Rules of Eligibility are established by the Eau Claire Area School District (ECASD) rules.

1. Enrollment in the ECASD
2. A current physical exam form or alternate year card to participate in athletic activities as determined by a licensed physician. The physical exam form must be completed every two years.
3. An emergency medical form must be completed every year.
4. Athletic code of conduct contract signed by the student and parent/guardian.
5. Payment of all required athletic fees prior to the first competition.

RESPONSIBILITIES

It is important to understand that participating in athletic activities is a privilege and not a right. You are also expected to share in the responsibility for such an opportunity that is provided, that shall include:

Responsibilities to You: The most important of these responsibilities is to broaden and develop strength of character. You owe it to yourself to derive the greatest benefit from your school experience, to live a healthy lifestyle and to respect your health both physically and mentally at all times.

Responsibility to your Academic Studies: Your academic studies and your participation in athletics prepare you for your life as an adult. Athletics, while very important to young people, is only a small part of life.

Responsibility to your School: Another responsibility you assume as a team member is to your school. Other students and faculty are watching you. They know who you are and what you do. Make them proud. Be an example. Do not do anything to let them down.

Responsibility to your Community: The community and school tax monies make your athletic experience possible. For that reason, we must remember that we hold a clear and paramount responsibility to our community. You assume a leadership role when you are involved in an athletic activity. The student body and citizens of the community know you. You are very visible with a spotlight on you. The student body, community, and other communities judge our schools by your conduct and attitude, both on and off the field or court. Because of this leadership role, you can contribute significantly to school spirit and community pride.

Responsibility to Others: As a team member you also bear a heavy responsibility to your home. If you never give your parents anything to be ashamed of, you will have measured up to that ideal.
When you know in your heart that you have lived up to all of the training rules, that you have practiced to the best of your ability every day and that you have participated in the activity “all out”, you can keep your self-respect and your family can be justly proud of you, win or lose.

Behavior and Conduct: Respect, courtesy, manner, and good sportsmanship are basic to good citizenship and shall form the basis for all behavior. Since student-athletes represent the school in public, their behavior frequently determines the opinion outsiders have of the school and community. It is expected that the conduct of student-athletes will be exemplary at all times. Below is a list of some examples that are considered behavior unbecoming of a student-athlete.

- Academic dishonesty
- Theft
- Bullying/Cyberbullying/Harassment
- Vandalism or property destruction
- Poor sportsmanship including name calling, obscene gestures, and/or fighting.
- Being suspended from school
- Hazing/Initiation ceremony.
- Engaging in or being an accomplice to any other immoral or unacceptable conduct contrary to District policy, the philosophy of the athletic code, or the ideals, principles and standards of the ECASD.

SCHOLASTIC ELIGIBILITY

The marking periods that will be used to determine eligibility related to grades are:

- 1st Quarter
- 2nd Quarter
- 3rd Quarter
- 4th Quarter

1. If a student receives a grade of F in a course during a marking period, the student will be ineligible for 10% of the total scheduled activities or contests. If the suspension begins during the season, it will not carry over to the next season. The student will start his/her suspension on the Monday following the posting of grades and the suspension will be served consecutively.

    - Ineligible student-athletes shall practice with the team (including scrimmages) but shall not participate in any competitions; they shall travel with the team and sit on the team bench in street clothes. Ineligible student-athletes **may** practice with the team (including scrimmages) but shall not participate in any competitions; they shall not travel with the team. For home events they may sit on the team bench in street clothes.

    - **For marking period grades of F**: Students, with approval and in consultation with their teacher(s) will have two-weeks, starting on the Monday following the posting of grades, to improve their grade. During or at the conclusion of the two-weeks, based on the determined grade(s), the athlete will either regain immediate eligibility or be subject to applicable code language in points a or b above.

    Virtual Programs and Virtual School

    - Students participating in the Eau Claire Virtual School may participate in athletics or co- curricular activities at their resident school.

    - District codes of conduct, fees, dress, and athletic codes pertain to virtual program students in the same manner as traditional school students. Other rights and privileges will be defined in the school handbook and Board of Education policies.

ATTENDANCE ELIGIBILITY

All student-athletes are expected and required to attend class. Students are expected to report to school prior to the start of 3rd hour to be eligible to participate in any practices, contests, or events scheduled for that day. Individual exceptions such as documented family emergencies, pre-arranged family trips, medical or dental appointments, school field trips, college visits, or other absences that are pre-excused by the administration are accepted.

SUSPENSION/EXPULSION FROM SCHOOL

Any athlete who is suspended or expelled from school shall be ineligible for all athletic participation including practices during the period of 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.

CODE VIOLATIONS

All violations will be enforceable for the student-athlete's career on a year-round basis. Any information or evidence considered to be relevant, valid, and accurate by any person(s) reviewing an alleged violation shall be considered. Parties who provide anonymous information will be asked to provide specific names, dates, times, and infractions. If hearsay evidence cannot be substantiated based on subsequent investigation, it will be treated as rumor.

Type of Violation:

1. ATOD (Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drugs)

   Any student-athlete involved in the use or possession of alcohol or tobacco or the use, possession, buying or selling of illegal drugs or banned performance enhancing substances shall be suspended from athletic competition.

- This includes, but not limited to the following: Individuals involving alcohol, controlled substances, tobacco, e cigs or e cig product (even if not nicotine), vaping, anabolic-androgenic steroids, or any look-a-like products. This includes being present and/or knowing that there is consumption/use of alcohol, controlled substances, tobacco, e-cigs or e-cig products (even if not nicotine,) anabolic-androgenic steroids or look-a-like products.

  It is recognized that under certain circumstances high school student-athletes may legally enter places where beer or liquor is served. Since the intent of this code is not to punish student-athletes for association with friends or family or to curtail wholesome entertainment or employment, the following explanations are offered in an attempt to show the code's intent. It is fully recognized that these are only illustrative examples and each case involving like situations will, of necessity, have to be judged on its individual merits.

It shall be considered an ATOD violation of the athletic code when a student-athlete:

- Is present at a party or gathering where alcohol and/or drugs (see description ATOD 1a) are being illegally consumed or dispensed and the student-athlete does not **LEAVE IMMEDIATELY**.

  There may be a greater consequence for a student-athlete who is **involved** in the organization, facilitation, promotion, or hosting of any gathering or social event where alcohol or drugs were known to be available or used.

- Violates any state law or local ordinance regarding the possession, purchase, sale or consumption of alcohol, tobacco, or other illegal substance.

2. Criminal

- Any student charged and/or convicted of a crime shall, upon the filing of the 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.).

3. Other (behavior unbecoming of a student athlete)

- Student-athletes are responsible for information contained in written or electronic transmission (e.g., e-mail) and any information posted on a public domain (e.g., internet, Instagram, Facebook, You Tube, Twitter, Snapchat). Student-athletes are not precluded from participation in such online social network sites; however, any student-athlete that is identified on a social networking site which depicts illegal or inappropriate behavior may be considered in violation of the athletic code.

- Since there is no way to establish a timeframe for when or location of where the image was taken, it shall be a responsibility that the student-athlete must assume. It must be noted that there may be persons, who would attempt to implicate a student-athlete, by taking such images, to place them in a situation where they might be in violation of this code standard. This is our rationale for demanding that our student-athletes not place themselves in such environments.

  Examples include but not limited to;

  - Unexcused absences.
  - Academic dishonesty.
  - Bullying/Cyberbullying/Harassment.
  - Vandalism or property destruction.
  - Poor sportsmanship including name calling, obscene gestures, and/or fighting.
  - Being suspended from school.
  - Hazing/Initiation ceremony. Our school will not permit, nor will any student-athlete participate in any type of ‘initiation ceremony” or hazing for any student at any time and on any level. This prohibition includes locker/shower pranks, etc.
  - Engaging in or being an accomplice to any other immoral or unacceptable

conduct contrary to the philosophy of the athletic code, the regulations within WIAA, or the ideals, principles and standards of the ECACD.

- Possession and/or use of any “look alike” tobacco, vaping, drugs, paraphernalia or weapons. This includes being present and/or knowing that “look alike” tobacco, e-cigs or e-cig products, vaping, drugs, paraphernalia, or weapons are being consumed, used, or dispensed.

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. Not be deceptive or untruthful.
4. Shall be cooperative.

Also, during the questioning process, a student may not attempt to mislead or misrepresent himself/herself, which may impede the investigation. If a student’s answer is subsequently found to be untrue, the disciplinary action/penalty will be doubled. (Example: a half season suspension will become a full season).

CODE VIOLATION SUSPENSIONS

When a suspension is assessed the athletic director or building administrator shall send a letter to the parent(s)/guardian(s) informing them of the decision and the basis for it. The appeal process will be included. In addition, a hard copy is provided to the building principal, guidance counselor, and to the coaches of the sport he/she participates in. The guidelines below are recommended timeframes for athletic suspensions. Depending on the severity of the incident school officials reserve the right to adjust the length of the suspension to a longer time period if determined appropriate.

In-Season Violation:

Suspensions shall begin immediately upon determination that a violation has occurred.

Out-of-Season Violation:

A suspension must be served in the next sport he/she chooses to participate in. The athlete must complete that sport season in good standing as determined by the Head Coach in that sport. Failure to complete the entire season in good standing will result in the full suspension carrying forward into the next sport season.

1. **First Violation**

   Violator will be suspended from athletic competition for 25 percent of the regular season scheduled contests in that sport (rounded up). .

   Student-athletes will continue to practice with the team during the suspension period. If less than 25 percent of the contests remain on the schedule, the remaining percentage of the suspension will carry over into the contests of the next sport in which the athlete participates.

   Ineligible student-athletes shall practice with the team but shall not participate in any competitions including scrimmages; they shall not travel with the team. For home events only, they shall sit on the team bench in street clothes.

2. **Second Violation**

   Violator will be suspended from further athletic competition for 50 percent of the total number of the regular scheduled dates (rounded up) in which he/she is participating.

   Student-athletes will continue to practice with the team during the suspension period. If less than 50 percent of the contests remain on the schedule, the remaining percentage of the suspension will carry over into the contests of the next sport in which the athlete participates.

   Ineligible student-athletes shall practice with the team but shall not participate in any competitions including scrimmages; they shall not travel with the team. For home events only, they shall sit on the team bench in street clothes.

3. **Third and Subsequent Violations**

   The student-athlete will remain ineligible until one calendar year from the date of the imposition of the consequence.

APPEAL PROCESS FOR ATHLETIC CODE VIOLATIONS IN EAU CLAIRE MIDDLE SCHOOLS

1. If the student-athlete or his/her parent(s)/guardian(s) are dissatisfied with the decision rendered by the athletic director or administrator, they may appeal the decision by contacting the school within five (5) school days after receipt of the letter.

2. The athletic director or building administrator and, if appropriate, the head coach of the sport involved, shall schedule a meeting as soon as possible to discuss the issue. The student-athlete must attend and may be accompanied by parent(s) or guardian(s) at the meeting with the athletic director or administrator and coach. The student-athlete will have an opportunity to present evidence and challenge evidence presented against him/her at this meeting.

3. The athletic director or building administrator shall notify the student-athlete and his/her parent(s)/guardian(s) of the decision following this meeting.

   At this meeting the student-athlete will be provided the opportunity to present evidence on his/her behalf and to challenge evidence that has been presented. A summary of

   the meeting, including the decision made, will be put in writing by the person conducting the meeting and a copy sent to the athlete and his/her parents within three (3) school days after the meeting has been held.

4. The school shall consider this decision final.

SUSPENSION PENALTY CHART (ROUNDED UP)

Number of Contests in Season	Number of Ineligible Contests			
	10 %	20 %	25 %	50 %
1	1	1	1	1
2	1	1	1	1
3	1	1	1	2
4	1	1	1	2
5	1	1	2	2
6	1	2	2	3
7	1	2	2	4
8	1	2	2	4
9	1	2	2	5
10	1	2	3	5
11	2	3	3	6
12	2	3	3	6
13	2	3	4	7
14	2	3	4	7
15	2	3	4	8
16	2	4	4	8
17	2	4	5	9
18	2	4	5	9
19	2	4	5	10
20	2	4	5	10
21	3	5	6	11
22	3	5	6	11
23	3	5	6	12
24	3	5	6	12
25	3	5	7	13
26	3	6	7	13