EAU CLAIRE
AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

High School Athletic Code

2025-26

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Philosophy and Purpose

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, Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association (WIAA), and any applicable governing body's requirements. Participants who comply with this code of conduct want to dedicate themselves to self-improvement and 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 high 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 understand the necessity of abstaining from the use of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs in order to achieve the positive benefits of interscholastic athletics.
9. To help student athletes realize that participation in interscholastic athletics is a privilege with accompanying responsibilities.
10. To generate a sense of pride and unity in athletic programs for students, staff and community.

Teams/Programs

Since participation in athletics is a privilege, when a student-athlete signs the code he/she is indicating their knowledge, understanding, and agreement to these Eau Claire Athletic Code standards which apply in and out of season for the remainder of his/her high school career. The following athletic teams/programs fall under the definition of "student-athlete" as referenced in this code:

Fall	Winter	Spring
Cheer	Boys/Girls Basketball	Baseball
Boys/Girls Cross Country	Dance	Boys Golf
Football	Gymnastics	Girls Soccer
Girls Golf	Boys/Girls Hockey	Softball
Boys Soccer	Boys Swim and Dive	Boys Tennis
Girls Swim and Dive	Boys/Girls Wrestling	Boys/Girls Track & Field
Girls Tennis		
Girls Volleyball		

Eligibility

These Rules of Eligibility are established by the Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association (WIAA) and are supplemented with Eau Claire Area School District (ECASD) rules.

1. Enrollment in the ECASD as a full-time student or an approved home school program.
2. A current physical exam form to participate in athletic activities as determined by a licensed physician. The physical exam form must be completed every 2 school years, with April 1st as the earliest day of the examination.
3. An emergency medical form must be completed every year.
4. Athletic code of conduct contract signed by the student and parent/guardian on the ECASD online portal.
5. Payment of all required athletic fees prior to the first competition.
6. Receipt of WIAA health and safety related information.

A. Attendance

1. **All student-athletes are expected and required to attend class.** Students are expected to report to school prior to the start of 1st 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.

2. Any student-athlete, while their respective sport season is in session as scheduled by the WIAA, who is marked ***unexcused*** for any period(s) of the school day, will have three (3) school days to clear the unexcused absence ***if he/she feels that a mistake has been made in the attendance procedure*** *(*see Appendix A for ECASD attendance policy).

If you feel a mistake has been made regarding an unexcused absence:

3. *The first way an unexcused absence may be cleared:*

The student-athlete must see an Attendance Secretary in the attendance office the next school morning to determine the teacher who marked him/her unexcused. The student athlete is then responsible for clearing the unexcused absence with the teacher (within three (3) school days following the day of the unexcused absence). The teacher will then call the Attendance Office to let them know that the absence has been cleared.

4. *A second way an unexcused absence(s) may be cleared:*

A parent/legal guardian may call the Attendance Secretary, within three (3) school days, in the attendance office and verbalize to the attendance secretary the legitimate excuse for the student-athlete's absence.

If the student-athlete has not had the unexcused absence(s) cleared after three (3) school days, the head coach will be notified by the Athletic

Department. ***The student- athlete who does not get an unexcused absence(s) cleared within three (3) school days will then be ineligible for the next day of competition.***

- IF a medical excuse is mandated by the administration (for excessive absences), a medical excuse will be needed within the three (3) school days to clear ***any*** (not just an unexcused) absence for an in-season athlete.
- Student-athletes will be considered "in-season" on the WIAA start date for their respective sport. Cheer/Spiritline will be on the same time frame as football in the fall. Cheer/Spiritline and Dance will be on the same time frame as the earliest starting basketball season in winter.

The discovery of a violation of any of these attendance/eligibility rules after the contest or event will result in suspension from participation on the next event or contest date.

B. Scholastic

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

- 1st Quarter
- 1st Semester
- 3rd Quarter
- 2nd Semester

1. If a student receives a grade of F or an I (incomplete) in **one** course during a marking period, the student will be ineligible, for 20% 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 unless this requires an early release from classes.

2. If a student receives a grade of F or an I (incomplete) in **two or more** courses during a marking period, the student will be ineligible for 50% of the total scheduled contests. If the suspension begins during the season, it will not carry over into 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.

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.

For marking period grades of I (Incomplete): Students, 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.

Summer School credit attainment may substitute for a second semester failure ("F"). Note: Not all courses eligible for substitution are offered during summer school. In the event a class is not offered during the summer, the second semester failure will result in the athlete being ineligible to start the fall season.

Student-athletes with Disabilities: Student-athletes with disabilities will be expected to earn passing grades in all general education classes in which they are enrolled. For all other classes, they will be considered to be passing if they

are making satisfactory progress toward achieving the goals identified in their Individual Education Plan (IEP).

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. Students participating in virtual programming may participate in the school in which they are enrolled and are registered as full-time students taking a minimum of five classes. All WIAA eligibility rules must be followed.

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. For the athletic code, Scholastic Eligibility is determined by the benchmarks identified below. If the student is currently in a sport, the ineligibility begins immediately.

- Fall Season: Final grades from the previous school year
- Winter Season: Course progress/grades beginning the first day of tryouts or practice
- Spring Season: Course progress/grades beginning the first day of tryouts or practice

C. 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.

Investigation Procedure

The Athletic Director and/or building administrator will determine whether violations of the Code have been committed. Any student alleged to have engaged in conduct which is in violation of the Code will be subject to the following procedures:

- The students' participation is expected. Refusal to answer questions pertaining to the alleged violation may be used as a basis for presumption that the student committed the violation.
- The investigating administrator may obtain information in regard to alleged violations of the code in any reasonable manner, including an interview of the student and others that may have information about the incident.
- A student will be determined to have a violation if any of the following have occurred:
    - The student admits there was a violation
    - The investigating administrator obtains information, which in their judgement, demonstrates a preponderance of evidence that the student engaged in conduct constituting a violation.

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.

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.

Honesty Clause

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.

Student-athletes who self-report their athletic code violation to their coach or administration may have their suspension reduced at the discretion of the Athletic Director. This honesty reduction is available on the first ATOD offense only. The honesty reduction may not apply when school officials would have been made aware of the violation through another source.

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).

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:

a. 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.

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

AODA Consequences

- **First Violation**

  Violators will be suspended from athletic competition for 25 percent of the regular season scheduled contests in that sport (rounded up). A contest is defined according to the WIAA standard for maximum allowable contests (see Appendix B for suspension penalty chart). The athlete must undergo an initial Alcohol or Other Drug Abuse (AODA) screening performed by an AODA specialist. This may involve an expense on the part of the student-athlete.

  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.

- **Second Violation**

  The 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. The student-athlete must undergo, at his/her expense, an AODA assessment performed by a community-based health organization/AODA treatment agency, along with any recommendations for a treatment or education program, which is prescribed by the assessors to confront the behaviors of use/abuse. The student-athlete will provide the athletic director written certification of compliance with recommendations prior to any reinstatement of participation.

  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.

- **Third and Subsequent Violations**

  The student-athlete must undergo, at his/her expense, an AODA assessment performed by a community-based health organization/AODA treatment agency, along with any treatment program, which is prescribed by the

assessors to confront the continued behaviors of use/abuse. The student-athlete will provide the athletic director with written certification of completion of these steps prior to any reinstatement of participation. The student-athlete will remain ineligible until one calendar year from the date of the imposition of the consequence.

Student-athletes who want assistance with ATOD concerns may self-refer to a school counselor who will facilitate arrangements confidentially for initial screening with appropriate personnel.

2. Criminal Violations

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 his/her debt to society and the courts consider the sentence served (including probation, community service, etc.).

Criminal Consequences

- The suspension for criminal violations shall be determined by school officials. Subsequent violations of any section of the athletic code may be subject to additional consequences.

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.

Other (behavior unbecoming of a student athlete) Consequences

- The suspension for behavior unbecoming of a student athlete shall be determined by school officials.
- Inappropriate use of social media allows for additional consequences. Any violation for conduct unbecoming of a student athlete via the inappropriate use of social media results in at least a 10% suspension penalty of total scheduled activities and contests and it will not carry over to the next season.

- Student athletes removed from spectating a contest, whether by event personnel or an official, will be ineligible to participate in the next contest of their own sport.
- Subsequent violations of any section of the athletic code may be subject to additional consequences.

Additional Expectations

Travel Expectations

- Inappropriate behavior is unacceptable and will carry suitable consequences. If the inappropriate behavior becomes a significant problem and the student athlete is not cooperating with expectations, the parent/guardian may be asked to come to the venue and pick up their child. This includes overnight trips.

Signing Day Expectations

- A student athlete that has one or more code violations may be prohibited from participating in a Signing Day Ceremony. This decision will be made by coaches and building administration.

Captaincy Expectations

- A student athlete that has one or more code violations may be prohibited from being a captain at any level. This decision will be made by the coaches and building administration.

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.

Appeal Process

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 appeal will be heard by the high school board of review, comprising of one high school administrator, two out-of-season coaches, one club advisor, and one teacher (non-coach/non-advisor). The board of review shall issue a written decision on the appeal within 5 business days of the date of the decision. NOTE: If the athlete has adult status with the school, all written notices will be provided to the student.
3. The school shall consider this decision final following the appeal.

Appendix A

Compulsory School Attendance | ECASD Policy 431

In accordance with Eau Claire County ordinances and state law, all children between six (6) and eighteen (18) years of age must attend school full time until the end of the term, quarter, or semester in which they eighteen (18) years of age, unless they have a legal excuse, fall under one of the exceptions outlined in the state statutes, or have graduated from high school.

Absences | 431-Rule (2)

The school attendance officer is empowered to approve a legal excuse to any student for the following reasons:

1. Evidence that the student is not in proper physical or mental condition to attend school or an educational program. The district may request the parent or guardian to obtain a written statement from a physician or licensed practitioner as proof of the physical or mental condition of the student. Such excuse shall be made in writing, shall state the period of time for which it is valid, and shall not exceed 30 days.
2. An illness in the immediate family which requires the absence of the student because of family responsibilities.
3. Medical, dental, chiropractic, optometry or other valid professional appointments. Parents or guardians are requested to make their appointments during non-school hours.
4. A death in the immediate family or funerals for close relatives.
5. Religious holidays.
6. Family trips that can be taken only during the normal school term. The intent of this statement is to provide opportunity for students to accompany their parent(s)/ guardian(s) on a vacation which cannot be scheduled when school is not in session A parent/guardian shall be required to notify the school attendance officer prior to leaving on vacation of the pending absence for the purpose of reviewing the student's attendance record and overall performance record. Student

vacations or trips without parent/guardian accompaniment are not excused absences.

7. A court appearance or other legal procedure which requires the attendance of the student.
8. A quarantine as imposed by a public health officer.
9. Attendance at special events of educational value as approved by the school attendance officer.

10. Approved school activities during class time.
11. Special circumstances that show good cause which are approved in advance by the school attendance officer.
12. Parent/Guardian provides a prior written request for absence from school not to exceed 10 days during the school year. Course work missed during this absence must be completed.

All other student absences from school will be recorded as truancies.

School Attendance Enforcement | WI State Law 18.16

"Habitual truant" means a pupil who is absent from school without an acceptable excuse under sub. (4) and s. 118.15 for part or all of 5 or more days on which school is held during a school semester.

Appendix B

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