

ATHLETIC CODE OF CONDUCT

Participation in a sound athletic program contributes to a student's health and happiness. Athletics, also, teach the value of cooperation and the spirit of competition. Sheboygan Falls High School (Falcons) has a year round program in athletics. The school is a member of the Eastern Wisconsin Conference. Varsity sports include football, boys' and girls' cross country, boys' and girls' tennis, boys' and girls' wrestling, boys' and girls' basketball, boys' and girls' soccer, boys' and girls' golf, boys' baseball, boys' and girls' track, girls' volleyball, girls' softball, and girls' swimming.

I. PHILOSOPHY AND OBJECTIVES

- A. We consider interscholastic athletics to be an important part of our total school program. Through our athletic program an athlete should have an opportunity to develop physically and emotionally; gain specific sport skills; learn sportsmanship, cultivate a wholesome competitive spirit; and acquire the ability to work closely together.

II. RULES OF ELIGIBILITY

- A. An athlete must be eligible as per WIAA residency standards; have parent's/guardian's consent; a physical examination card on file; a concussion protocol form; a signed Athletic Code on file; and all rental/athletic fees paid.
- B. Must not reach the age of 16 before August 1st of any given school year to participate on a junior middle team or have reached the age of 19 before August 1st to participate on a high school team.
- C. Must have completed all course work below grade nine to participate in a high school sport.
- D. Student-athletes may participate in more than one school-sponsored athletic activity (including dance & cheerleading) during any given season, only after a meeting of and unanimous approval by: advisors/coaches, athlete, athlete's parents, and athletic director.
- E. An athlete cannot compete for more than four years in a given sport on the high school level.
- F. An athlete must retain his/her amateur status in all recognized sports sanctioned by the WIAA and if the athlete; accepts for participation, reimbursement in any for (a) salary, (b) cash, (c) merchandise or any kind or amount or (d) share of game or season proceeds (complete rules on amateur status may be found in the WIAA handbook). It is important that the athlete or his/her parents check with the school or the WIAA if there are any questions of participation in fun runs or non-sanctioned school participation.
- G. Students are required to attend all classes the day of a practice or contest with the exception of a pre-arranged/ approved appointment and a family emergency.**
- H. Students receiving detention during the regular school day must resolve their detention obligation before attending a practice or contest.
- I. Students under suspension from school may not participate for the period of that suspension.
- J. An athlete must meet the following academic eligibility standards:
 - 1. At the beginning of each sport season, and again at the end of each quarter, coaches shall check on the grade status of each of their athletes. **Any athlete failing two or more courses shall immediately become ineligible for the remainder of the new grading period.** A

student's eligibility will be determined when teachers have verified grades and an "F" list has been completed. The only exception to this rule would be first quarter freshmen, who will be allowed to continue practicing with their teams with the requirement of monitoring academics through the counseling office, weekly progress reports, and coaches monitoring grades as well. **Game participation can only occur when all grades are brought to a passing level. Any athlete failing one course will be on probation and must have all of his/her grades to a passing level by the 3rd week into the quarter (15 days from the end of the last grading period) and the 6th week into the quarter (30 days from the end of the last grading period) to remain eligible. Students on probation must submit a progress report to the athletic director at the 3rd and 6th week into the quarter. An athlete who is still carrying an F at the grade check dates will be ineligible to compete in contests or matches until the next grade check date. The athlete may continue to practice with the team. For the purpose of this section, the academic grades for the 1st and 3rd quarters and the semester grades at the end of the 2nd and 4th quarters shall apply.**

2. Athletes who have lost their eligibility status for sports participation may regain eligibility by achieving all passing grades at the end of the next or any subsequent quarter.
3. A student who is (unexcused absence) truant from school one or more periods on a given day while a participant in an inter-scholastic athletics shall be ineligible to compete in the next contest in that activity. The penalty shall repeat for each day on which such truancy occurs.

III. TRAINING RULES

- A. Coaches may provide athletic codes to each sport participant and will review the rules contained within during the first week of each sport session.
- B. The following list of WIAA/School District training rules will be in effect:
 1. No use or possession of tobacco products, contraband, or paraphernalia. This includes but is not limited to: e-cigarettes, vaporizers, rolling papers, makeshift pipes, etc...
 2. No use or possession of alcoholic beverages
 3. No unauthorized use of drugs or controlled substances
 4. A student athlete that supplies a banned substance or knowingly supplies a place (House, Property, Car) to consume a banned substance will receive an athletic suspension of one half of a sports season and one sports season for the second violation. The student does not have to be consuming the banned substance.
 5. No violations of a Wisconsin state statute, with the exception of a traffic violation.
 6. Training rules will be enforced on a 12-month basis
 7. Once signed, this code shall remain in effect until the athlete graduates, or signs off under B.10.
 8. General conduct in and out of school shall be such so as to bring no discredit to the athlete,

school, or team. Such conduct includes but is not limited to: conduct within the classroom, social media posts, media appearances, law-enforcement incidents, and behavior within the community.

9. All athletes are required to travel to and from out-of-town contests with their teams. Exemptions may be approved by the coach for legitimate reasons. An Agreement and Release form must be on file prior to the exceptions occurrence.
10. Senior athletes who have completed their sports career will no longer be responsible for following training rules provided they certify in writing to the athletic director that they no longer intend to participate in high school sports.

C. Penalties

1. **1st Violation - One quarter of the season**
2. **2nd Violation - One half of the season**
3. **3rd Violation - One sports season**
4. **4th Violation - Remainder of High School career**

A "Contest" is defined as any game, meet, invitational, or event.

Interscholastic scrimmages, regardless of the size or importance of the event, may be counted if used as a regular season contest as defined by the WIAA.

Definition -- One quarter of the season

- 8-11 game season - 2 meets or games**
- 12-15 game season - 3 meets or games**
- 16-19 game season - 4 meets or games**
- 20+ game season - 5 meets or games**

One half of the season

- 8-9 game season - 4 meets or games**
- 10-11 game season - 5 meets or games**
- 12-13 game season - 6 meets or games**
- 14-15 game season - 7 meets or games**
- 16-17 game season - 8 meets or games**
- 18-19 game season - 9 meets or games**
- 20+ game season - 10 meets or games**

1. A student athlete is not allowed to be a captain within a season in which they have to serve an athletic code suspension.
2. A student athlete will not be nominated for all-conference honors for a season in which they have served an athletic code suspension.
3. The student under suspension shall attend all practice sessions unless otherwise specifically told not to by the head coach.
4. A student that receives a second athletic code violation for substance abuse can reduce their suspension from one half a sports season to one quarter of the season if they enroll themselves into a counseling / treatment program and supply official documentation of attendance. This is optional and not funded by the district.
5. In the event a violation is unusually severe, i.e. felony, occurs under aggravated situations or brings notable discredit to the school or the athletic program, the administration reserves the right to impose additional penalties deemed appropriate by the severity of the infraction.

6. If a portion of an athlete's suspension is to be fulfilled during the WIAA tournament series, then by WIAA rule, that athlete is suspended for the remainder of the tournament series.
7. Should a third suspension become necessary, the period of the suspension shall be one sport season. If the athlete is in mid-season, the carry-over of the suspension shall be served during the next sports season in which the athlete participates. When two sports seasons are involved, the percentage of the number of contests from each season will be used to define the length of suspension.
8. Suspension not fulfilled with the sport season where the violation occurred, must be fulfilled in the next sport season the athlete participates. The unfilled portion of the suspension will be fulfilled in proportion to the length of the next sport season based on the number of games or contests in that season.
9. Suspensions are to be served at the earliest possible opportunity. They may also be served in a sport in which an athlete has not previously participated provided that sport is not already in season. The athlete must complete the entire season, and the coach will determine that the athlete's actions have been sincere.
10. Any disciplinary action taken by the Extra-Curricular Council will result in a letter from the athletic director being sent to the parent/guardian of the student stating the Council's decision.

IV. EXTRA CURRICULAR COUNCIL & HEARING PROCESS

- A. **Appeals Procedure** – Athletes may appeal Athletic Code Violations only. If an Athlete feels the Athletic Code was misapplied the Athlete may appeal the decision of the Athletic Director and will remain suspended during the appeal process. There is a 2-step appeals process:
 - Step A – Extra Curricular Council Appeal** – hearing may be requested with the Principal and the Extra-Curricular Council. **This request must occur within 5 days of any disciplinary action.** *Appeal hearing process is detailed in IV.C.*
 - Step B – Secondary Appeal** – If the student-athlete is unsatisfied with the decision of the Extra-curricular Council the student-athlete may make a written appeal to the District Administrator. This secondary appeal's scope is to review if the code was applied properly with the information available at the time of the original decision and if the student-athlete was afforded due process. No new evidence may be considered. The decision of the District Administrator is final. *Appeal hearing process is detailed in IV.C.*
- B. The Extra Curricular Council will be composed of the following members for athletic hearings; Principal serving as chairman, and three faculty members appointed by the Principal.
- C. Hearing Process – Agenda for Extra-Curricular Council Appeal and Secondary Appeal
 1. Summation of Actions and Findings by Athletic Director
 2. Presentation of Appeal by Student-Athlete
 3. Appeals deliberation and decision
- D. Should the athlete and/or his/her parent(s) or guardian(s) disagree with that decision,

they may appeal in writing within seven (7) days to the school district superintendent.

VI. ATHLETIC EQUIPMENT

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Athletes are responsible for any uniforms and/or equipment issued to them. It is the responsibility of the athlete to return the uniform and/or equipment to their coach at the end of the season. Athletes will be financially responsible for any lost, stolen, or damaged uniform and/or equipment that are issued to them.