

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF THE MENOMONIE AREA

370-Rule(4)

HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC CODE

This code applies to all athletes and managers of sports teams sponsored by the district and to members of cheerleading and dance squads. Participation in athletics is a privilege granted to eligible students who represent the high school, district and community in an appropriate manner.

A. ELIGIBILITY

To determine eligibility, participation shall be based on the previous grading term and not on a cumulative basis.

To be a member of an athletic team in Grades 9-12, a student shall:

1. Be under age 19 before August 1 for the following school year.
2. Be in attendance in high school for up to nine semesters.
3. Participate only on a district team during a particular sports season.
4. Be enrolled full-time in a school-approved program or have parents/guardians who are legal (physical) residents of the school district or be students approved for enrollment by the school district under the open enrollment law.
5. Have been enrolled in school during the preceding semester.
6. Be an amateur in all high school sports.
7. Be covered by an insurance plan that includes athletic injuries.
8. Be passing ALL courses at the end of each grade-reporting period. A student regains eligibility immediately if incompletes are made up within two weeks after a grade-reporting period.

Fall Sports

The minimum ineligibility period shall be the lesser of: 1) 21 consecutive calendar days beginning with the date of the earliest allowed competition in a sport; or 2) one-third of the maximum number of games/meets allowed in a sport (rounded up if one-third results in a fraction).

Winter/Spring Sports

A student who becomes academically ineligible may regain eligibility on the 16th scheduled school day by meeting the academic standard, following a period of 15 scheduled school days and nights of ineligibility.

A student may erase ineligibility status following the last grade-reporting period of the school year through summer school courses (including correspondence courses and pre-approved independent study courses) at the same or some other school, provided the course(s) made up are equivalent to the one(s) that caused the ineligibility. The summer school grade will be averaged with the courses from the last grade-reporting period of the school year.

9. Have on file in school office written evidence from parents/guardians granting permission to participate and noting understanding of this policy.
10. Have on file in school office a signed statement agreeing to abide by the rules and regulations set

forth in this code.

11. Have on file in school office written evidence from a licensed physician attesting to physical fitness to participate.
12. Have on file in school office a signed statement agreeing to abide by the rules and regulations established by the WIAA for athletic eligibility.
13. Pay a student activity fee as established by the Board of Education.

Exceptions to numbers 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 above may be granted to 9-12 graders by the Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association (WIAA).

B. RULES

To remain a member in good standing of an athletic team in the district during all 12 months of the year a student shall:

1. Keep from using, possessing, selling or intending to sell, purchasing, transferring or transmitting alcoholic beverages or look-alike alcoholic beverages, or being under the influence of alcohol.
2. Keep from using (including chewing) or possessing, selling or intending to sell, purchasing, transferring, or transmitting tobacco or look-alikes (e-cigarettes).
3. Keep from using, possessing, selling or intending to sell, purchasing, transferring or transmitting a controlled substance not prescribed for the student or look-alike drug or drug-related paraphernalia; or being under the influence of a controlled substance.
4. Keep from using, possessing, selling or intending to sell, purchasing, transferring or transmitting non-prescribed performance-enhancing substances.
5. Keep from stealing or vandalizing athletic equipment, school property or clothing or property of other students or schools.
6. Keep from violating any other criminal law.
7. Abide by such other training and team rules established by the coach of the activity, provided: (a) such additional rules are approved by the high school administration and given, in writing, in advance, to participating students and their parents/guardians, and (b) there shall be no enhanced penalty codes established by any coach relating to academic eligibility, substance abuse violations, property violations or other criminal violations.

C. VIOLATIONS

1. Staff members, parents/guardians and students shall report violations of rules to the coach or high school administration. The coach shall assist the director of student activities or principal in investigating violations and counseling students. High school administration shall assess the penalty called for below to the student who violates any of the rules in B above.
 - a. Violations shall be counted separately within the middle and high schools.
 - b. Violations within each category for violation (substance abuse violations, property violations, other criminal violations) shall be cumulative for grades 9 through 12.
 - c. Each category of violation (substance abuse violations, property violations, other criminal violations) shall be totally separate from the others for accumulation purposes.
2. The term "contest" shall include a competition or performance. Any suspension that would include a portion of the contest shall include the entire contest. The term "contest" shall also include any and all performances or contests occurring on the same calendar day.

D. PENALTIES

SUBSTANCE ABUSE VIOLATION: 1) keep from using, possessing, selling or intending to sell, purchasing, transferring or transmitting alcoholic beverages or look-alike alcoholic beverages, or being under the influence of alcohol; 2) keep from using (including chewing) or possessing, selling or intending to sell, purchasing, transferring or transmitting tobacco or look-alikes (e-cigarettes); 3) keep from using, possessing, buying, selling or intending to sell, transferring or transmitting a controlled substance not prescribed for the student or look-alike drug or drug-related paraphernalia; or being under the influence of a controlled substance; 4) keep from illegally using, possessing, buying, transferring or selling performance-enhancing substances; and 5) keep from illegally using or possessing mood-altering substances.

Mood-altering substances include, but are not limited to, illegal drugs, inhalants, anabolic steroids, synthetic drugs (such as K2, Spice), and prescription and non-prescription medications. A prescription medication becomes a mood-altering substance when it is: a) used contrary to a physician's instructions; b) used by a person for whom it is not prescribed or intended; c) used at a time when the medical condition for which it was prescribed does not exist; and/or d) used contrary to the official labeling of the product.

1st Violation

Restriction from athletic participation for a period of 50% of the contests based on the regular season of that sport. Any remaining percentage of the suspension not served shall be recalculated and applied toward the next sport in which the student participates. A student disciplined for the first violation shall participate in all practices with his/her team and shall sit on the bench in street clothes at home games only. However, he/she cannot sit on the bench at home or away events in uniform. The athlete shall not travel with the team unless the head coach requests the exemption with the director of student activities. All training rules and requirements of the sport team must be followed by the suspended athlete.

If the suspension prevents further participation that season, the disciplined athlete will not practice nor travel with the team, however; the remaining provision of the paragraph above will still apply.

Any student who voluntarily turns him/herself into the student activities director for the first violation only, shall have the penalty reduced by one contest of the original amount specified by the code.

2nd Violation

Restriction from athletic participation for a period of 100% of the contests of that sport including tournaments. Any remaining percentage (based on the regular season of that sport) of the suspension not served shall be recalculated and applied toward the next sport in which the athlete participates. All training rules and requirements of the sport team must be followed by the suspended athlete. Travel with the team will not be allowed.

3rd Violation

Suspension from all athletic activities for a 12-month period. Practice and game association with the team will not be allowed. All training rules must be followed by the suspended athlete.

4th Violation

Permanent suspension from all high school athletic activities forever.

For ALL substance abuse violations in which an athlete is found to be in violation, he/she shall go through a chemical assessment evaluation by the school social worker OR a trained AODA counselor (at parent expense) and follow the counselor's recommendations. Failure to comply with the assessment and all recommended follow-up shall result in a permanent suspension from all athletic activities until the student is in compliance therewith.

E. PROPERTY VIOLATION

Keep from stealing or vandalizing athletic equipment, school property or clothing or property of other students or schools.

Appropriate authorities shall be called depending on the severity of the incident.

1st Violation

Suspension from one contest or performance in sports which have one to 10 contests or suspension from two contests in sports which have 11 or more contests, plus full restitution. A student disciplined for the first violation shall participate in all practices with his/her team and shall sit on the bench in street clothes at home games. However, he/she cannot sit on the bench at home or away events in uniform. All training rules and requirements of the sport team must be followed by the suspended athlete. The disciplined student shall not travel with the team to away contests or sit on the bench without special exemption from the director of student activities. The same restriction for season-ending suspension followed for substance abuse violations will apply.

2nd Violation

Restriction from participation in a sport for a period of 50% of the contests (based on the regular season of that sport). The suspension will carry over in appropriate proportion to the next season of participation, as in the substance abuse violation provisions, plus full restitution. A student disciplined for the second violation shall participate in all practices with his/her team and shall sit on the bench in street clothes at home games. However, he/she cannot sit on the bench at home or away events in uniform. All training rules and requirements of the sport team must be followed by the suspended athlete. The same restriction for season-ending suspension for substance abuse violations will apply.

3rd Violation

Twelve-month suspension from athletic activities, plus full restitution.

F. OTHER CRIMINAL VIOLATIONS

Keep from violating any other criminal law. (Felonies and misdemeanors, except minor traffic tickets).

Suspension from one contest or performance to 12-month suspension from athletic activities, plus full restitution. Such suspension shall be assessed based upon a review by the director of student activities or principal as to, among other things, the nature of the offense(s) committed, evidence as to commission of prior criminal offenses by the student, whether there have been prior violations of any other conduct code rules and whether previous sanctions were imposed for violating any conduct code rules.

G. CONDUCT INAPPROPRIATE FOR AN ATHLETE REPRESENTING MHS

Represent Menomonie High School to the community and general public in a manner that displays respect for self and others and reflects the standards of the school and community, including, but not limited to, inappropriate use of social media and knowingly hosting and/or remaining at a location where violations of the athletic code are evident.

Suspension from one contest or performance to 12-month suspension from athletic activities. Such suspension shall be assessed based upon a review by the director of student activities or principal as to, among other things, the nature of the offense(s) committed, evidence as to commission of prior criminal offenses by the student, whether there have been prior violations of any other conduct code rules, and whether previous sanctions were imposed for violating any conduct code rules.

H. HAZING

All acts of hazing will lead to dismissal from the team and will be referred to law enforcement. Hazing is defined by Wisconsin Statute.

Wisconsin State Statute 948.51 Hazing:

1. In this section "forced activity" means any activity which is a condition of initiation or admission into or affiliation with an organization, regardless of a student's willingness to participate in the activity.
2. No person may intentionally or recklessly engage in acts which endanger the physical health or safety of a student for the purpose of initiation or admission into or affiliation with any organization operating in connection with a school, college or university. Under those circumstances, prohibited acts may include any brutality of a physical nature, such as whipping, beating, branding, forced consumption of any food, liquor, drug or other substance, forced confinement, or any other forced activity which endangers the physical health or safety of the student.
3. Whoever violates sub. (2) is guilty of:
 - a. A Class A misdemeanor if the act results in or is likely to result in bodily harm to another.
 - b. A Class E felony if the act results in great bodily harm or death to another.

I. SUSPENSION NOTICE AND APPEAL

Written notice of suspension shall be provided to parents/guardians by the high school administration within five (5) school days once the violation is determined to have occurred. An appeal of the suspension by the athlete or parent/guardian may be made to the activities director if a request for appeal and the reasons thereof are delivered in writing to the activities office within 10 days of the date of the notice of suspension. The appeal will be heard by the high school board of review, which is comprised 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 five (5) business days of the date of their decision. An appeal of the written decision by the board of review may be made by the student or parent/guardian to the board of education if a request for appeal and the reasons therefore are delivered in writing to the district office within 10 days of the date of the decision of the board of review. The board of education will respond in writing within five business days of their decision. NOTE: If the athlete has adult status with the school, all written notices will be provided to the student.

J. OTHER ITEMS

Any absence during the school day of a scheduled practice or contest (except absences due to scheduled appointments or family emergencies) shall prohibit a student from participating in the practice or contest. NOTE: If a student is tardy more than 10 minutes, it is considered an absence.

1. A student may not quit one sport and try out for another sport during the same sport season, except with the approval of the director of student activities and after conferring with the coaches involved.
2. To be eligible for any WIAA postseason competition, an athlete must be eligible to compete at the start of the first post-season contest.
3. For calculation purposes, contests are regular season (not scrimmages or WIAA post-season competition), and include both conference and non-conference. When a partial season suspension results in a fraction, this number is "rounded down" to the next whole number.
4. Post Season Awards. The written lettering procedure for each sport/activity shall be applied as written for each sport. Participation in year-end award banquets/events shall be at the discretion of the head coach/advisor.

IF the activities director becomes aware of a code violation that occurred prior to the end of the regular season AND the student athlete has completed their final high school sport/activity, making application of the Athletic Code impossible, THEN the activities director may remove any/or all awards associated with the season in which the violation occurred.

APPROVED: February 8, 1999

REVISED: July 8, 2002
August 8, 2005
July 17, 2006
July 16, 2007
August 11, 2008
May 11, 2009
July 25, 2011
July 25, 2016