

OSSEO-FAIRCHILD SCHOOL DISTRICT

MIDDLE / HIGH SCHOOL



2023-2024

ACTIVITIES CODE HANDBOOK

The mission of the Osseo-Fairchild School District, in partnership with your community, is to Motivate, Educate and Empower students for successful living.

Superintendent
Lori Whelan

Principal
Eric Young

Activities Director
Andy Jepsen

Educational Philosophy

The mission of the Osseo-Fairchild Middle/High School is to create an environment that prepares all students for lifelong learning by developing the personal, social and intellectual skills needed to be responsible, productive citizens.

Goals

Students shall:

- demonstrate proficiency of academic standards
- accept responsibility for their own actions and learning
- demonstrate respect for self, others and environment
- demonstrate ability to work as part of a team
- be an effective communicator
- be a lifelong learner
- have a career plan
- establish a lifelong wellness program and appreciation for the arts
- demonstrate higher level thinking and problem solving
- be a contributing member of society
- be a quality worker

Respect Standards

Our students and staff worked together to develop a set of guidelines concerning the relationships that exist within our building. All of the adults and students are committed to promoting a positive, healthy environment that supports the needs and rights of all people. Core to that desire is the need to be respectful of others thoughts, actions, and property. To aid in the promotion of a respectful school environment the following standards have been established as the basis of our expectations of each other:

- Accept people for who they are and how they act, not for whom they are with.
- Show respect for all and expect it from all.
- Behaviors are judged through the eyes of others, your actions should not be seen as ridiculing, embarrassing, or poking fun at another person, their ideas or feelings.
- Treat all people fairly, expect more from yourself and be willing to forgive more from others.
- Standards of behavior apply to everyone; what we expect of others we must demand of ourselves.
- Own your actions; apologize if you have offended another, never blame others or try to excuse your poor behavior.
- Every action adds to or subtracts from the respect you have earned; encroaching on someone's personal space, misusing others property or violating another's trust will lead to a loss of respect.

Activities Philosophy

The Osseo-Fairchild School District recognizes the importance of extra/co-curricular activities as an integral part of the total educational program. We believe participation in school sponsored activities is vital to the development of socially active and responsible young men and women. Involvement will provide each student with the opportunity to learn useful skills; the awareness of the importance of teamwork, sportsmanship, and fair play; and the realization that a positive attitude and hard work are essential ingredients for success in life. In order to receive these benefits, each student must meet certain expectations for the privilege of participating in activities at Osseo-Fairchild School District.

Core Beliefs

- Participation in athletic or co-curricular activities is a privilege.
- The purpose of the activities program is to complement the academic opportunities and enhance the overall educational experience for students at Osseo-Fairchild.
- Academic success is the cornerstone of our educational program, and therefore the primary responsibility of all

student-participants is to achieve and maintain a positive academic record.

- Osseo-Fairchild strives to provide every student with meaningful experiences through its activities programs.
- Success in athletic and co-curricular programs is defined by the development of the individual students' intellectual, personal, and social skills, which are necessary to become responsible, productive citizens.
- The activities program provides real-life opportunities for students to learn about themselves and to measure their development as a person in a wide array of circumstances. When outcomes become more important than the learning process, the program fails to meet its goals.

The activities code, along with any other rules set forth by the school or by coaches/advisors, establishes expectations for student conduct as they represent the Osseo-Fairchild School District.

Any student representing the students and schools of the School District of Osseo-Fairchild as a member of an extra/co-curricular activity must conform to and abide by the Osseo-Fairchild Activities Code. Any student who violates the activities code shall be denied the privilege of representing the school in extra/co-curricular activities.

Before any student may participate in any extra/co-curricular activity, the student shall be provided access to the activities code and shall have signed a statement of acceptance of the requirements of the code as printed on the Activities Agreement Form. The signed statement of acceptance shall be on file with the activities director of the school.

Responsibility of the Student

Participation in activities is a privilege at Osseo-Fairchild School District. In order to keep this privilege, students must accept certain responsibilities. The greatest responsibility each student has is to be a credit to himself/herself, to his/her parents, to the school and to the community. Students are the most visible representatives of our school, so they are expected to be fine examples of the quality of Osseo-Fairchild School District students. They are expected to display the highest standards of social behavior and respect for those in authority, including teachers, coaches, advisors, administrators, officials and other school personnel, as well as fellow participants and competitors.

- Always remember you are students first.
- Every participant has the responsibility to be a role model for other students and children in our community.
- There are higher behavioral expectations for students who participate in school-sponsored activities.
- Know and understand the expectations of this Activities Code and only sign it if you believe you can meet those expectations.

Responsibility of the Coach/Advisor

Coaches/advisors are some of the most influential people in the Osseo-Fairchild School District. Their methods and results are a matter of public record and discussion each time their group performs. In most cases, the attitude, desire, and spirit possessed by the group are a reflection of these same qualities in the coach/advisor. Coaching demands that the proper attitude and perspective be maintained.

- Remember you are always teachers first and therefore your primary responsibility is the development of each student you work with in your program both during the season and throughout the year.
- Model the expectations listed above for the students in your program.
- Know, understand and enforce the expectations of this Activities Code regardless of the impact it may have on your team.

Responsibility of the Parent

Parents are the greatest role models for a young person. The Osseo-Fairchild School District seeks parental assistance to help develop outstanding young men and women who possess the self-discipline and motivation to make a difference in the world. The administration, faculty, staff, and coaches ask that parents be supportive of the programs and personnel at Osseo-Fairchild School District and demonstrate that support by respecting the decisions and efforts of the coaches/advisors who work with the young people of Osseo-Fairchild. Parental assistance is also requested in enforcing this activities code so that a fair and healthy environment will exist for all students.

Sportsmanship Statement

While spectators, at any extra/co-curricular events, either at Osseo-Fairchild or any other site, parents and all other adults are expected to display sportsmanlike behavior. An individual or group who displays an act of violence, boisterous conduct, threatening language, or unsportsmanlike conduct toward coaches, players, or officials, or disobeys board policies or administrative rules may be removed from the event and may be prohibited from further attendance for a period of up to six weeks. Individuals prohibited from attendance may follow the established grievance procedure.

High School Academic Eligibility

- A student is required to be a full time student.
- Students in the Alternative Education Program at Osseo-Fairchild High School must successfully complete six weeks of that program before they are allowed to participate or compete in a sports program or team.
- A student will become ineligible from competition for 15 school days if he/she has received any failing grades at the end of each trimester.
- The suspension will begin immediately at the start of the next trimester.
- The activities director or his designee will notify the student and/or parents.
- The student will remain ineligible from competition, but will be required to participate in all practices during the period of ineligibility but not allowed to suit up for competition.
- The student will not be allowed to leave school early with the team if said team is scheduled to be released early.
- At the end of the ineligibility period, the student is required to circulate a grading sheet to all of his/her teachers and return it to the activities director.
- If the student's grades are not at a passing level, the student will become ineligible from all forms of participation until all grades are at passing level.
- Students will be monitored at mid-trimester. Any student who is failing one or more classes will be ineligible from competition and not allowed to suit up for games until they are once again passing.
 - The activities director or his designee will notify the student, parents and coaches.
 - If the student is not passing all classes after 1 week, they will be ineligible from competition and practice until they are once again passing.
- Fall sports will have suspensions assessed from the prior academic year grades, and will be 1/3 of the maximum allowed competitions for that activity which includes scrimmages if it is on the regular season schedule.

A student who is enrolled in any state-approved special needs program, including EEN or 504, and who receives no usual grading for such courses, may be eligible if he/she is making satisfactory progress in his/her total school program as indicated by his/her I.E.P. or E.P.

Although students are ultimately responsible for maintaining their academic status, opportunities for academic support exist at school. Coaches/Advisors and other school personnel will actively monitor student academic standing throughout the year and recommend academic support when necessary.

Middle School Academic Eligibility

- Middle School athletes will be monitored at mid trimester and at the end of the trimester with regard to academic and behavioral progress.
- At the end of the **trimester**, a student who receives one (1) or more failing grades becomes ineligible for a minimum of one week of competition and not allowed to suit up for competition but is still able to practice. The student may regain their eligibility by having all teachers sign a form stating the student is once again doing passing work and turn the form into the athletic office. Once the student notifies the athletic office that he/she is once again passing, they can resume participation.
 - If the student is not passing all classes after 1 week, they will remain ineligible from competition, practice and traveling with the team. The student may regain their eligibility by having all teachers sign a form stating the student is once again doing passing work and turn the form into the athletic office. Once the student notifies the athletic office that he/she is once again passing, they can resume participation.
- **At mid-trimester**, any Middle School Students who are failing one or more classes will become ineligible from competition until they are once again passing.
 - If the student is not passing all classes after a week, they will be ineligible from competition, practice, and traveling with the team until all grades are passing. Once the student notifies the athletic office that he/she is once again passing, they can resume participation.
- Suspensions will begin after all grades are posted.
- The activities director or his designee will notify the student, parents and coach of failing grades.
- Fall eligibility for Middle School will be based on the third trimester from the previous school year.
- Middle School athletes participating in **winter and spring** sports must be passing all classes in order to be eligible for competition but will be allowed to practice. If the student is not passing all classes after a week, they will be ineligible from competition, practice and traveling with the team until all grades are passing. Once the student notifies the athletic office that he/she is once again passing, they can resume participation.
- Any Middle School Student Athlete will miss a minimum of 1 game for classroom behavioral referrals which result in an in-school or an out-of-school suspension.

Attendance

1. Students must be in school and participate in class the entire day to be eligible for the day's performance/ competition/ practice/meeting. Students are not allowed to miss any classes because they arrived home late in the evening from an activity the night before.
2. Students **with excused appointments** or family emergencies may participate in the day's activity if the principal or the activities director excuses their absence. **Written verification, from a medical provider of the appointment, will be required for all appointments.** The following are the only excused appointments:
 - Medical, dental, chiropractic, optometric or other valid professional appointments
 - College / Technical School visits
 - Driver's license examinations
 - Wisconsin Deer Gun Season
 - Family emergencies are those events, which require a student to be away from school, and are unforeseeable. The activities director or the principal may only grant participation in an activity on the day of an emergency.
3. If a student is **suspended**, (out of school) the suspension will include any performance, competition, practice, or meeting that occurs that day. Middle school athletes who received an out of school suspension will also be suspended for a minimum of one contest. High school students who receive an out of school suspension will be considered in violation of the Code of Conduct.
4. Attendance at practice is mandatory unless the school or the coach has excused the participant prior to practice. The consequence for missing practice will be left to the discretion of the coach/advisor.

5. No student shall miss a performance without the consent of the coach/advisor. The consequence(s) will be at the discretion of the coach/advisor.

Code of Conduct

1. All students involved in activities at Osseo-Fairchild School District are expected to exhibit conduct, which reflects the ideals, principles, and standards of the Osseo-Fairchild School District. Any behaviors that are outside of commonly held expectations of students representing our school in activities, which may involve actions or disciplinary measures not specifically covered by the Code of Conduct, Student Handbook, or W.I.A.A. policy, may be classified as conduct unbecoming and may be considered a violation of the activities code. High school students who receive an out of school suspension will be considered in violation of the Code of Conduct.
2. The Osseo-Fairchild School District recognizes the use of mood altering chemicals as a significant health problem for many adolescents, resulting in negative effects on behavior, learning, and the total development of the individual. So, regardless of quantity, a student, regardless of age, shall not use or possess a beverage containing alcohol, tobacco or tobacco like substances (in any form), street drugs and performance enhancing substances (PES) or any substance defined by law as a drug or drug like substances or its look alike. It is not a violation for students to possess and use drugs specifically prescribed for their use. It is a violation for a student to miss-use prescription or over the counter drugs.
3. The student shall abstain from illegal activities. This provision includes but is not limited to those activities, which are illegal because of the age of the student. Presence in bars and attendance at parties where the drinking of alcoholic beverages or the use of illegal drugs is occurring are prohibited. If a student is found to have been at a bar or in attendance at a party where alcoholic beverages or other illegal drugs were being used and does not **LEAVE IMMEDIATELY** they will be in violation of this Code of Conduct. This is not meant to prohibit presence in establishments that are primarily eating-places, or presence at bars or parties with parents, or presence at family functions where there is adult supervision. Parent's presence does not allow students to violate the above rule number 2 or 3.
4. If a student has received a truancy notice, it will be considered a Code of Conduct violation.
5. Conduct Contrary to ideals, principles, and standards of the school district and the WIAA, including but not limited to criminal behavior, as defined by state or federal statutes.
6. To protect the privacy of the District's students, parents, and other residents of the community, that may utilize the locker room facilities, no person may use a cell phone, or any recording device to capture, record, or to transfer a representation of a person in the locker room (Board Policy 9151).
7. The Osseo-Fairchild School District will not permit, nor will any student-athlete participate in any type of hazing or "initiation ceremony". *The National Federation of State High School Associations defines hazing as "any humiliating or dangerous activity expected of a student to belong to a group regardless of their willingness to participate"*. It is not a defense of one's actions that the person against whom the hazing is directed has consented or acquiesced. Harassing behavior, that fits the Osseo-Fairchild District's definition of bullying through social media venues is a code of conduct violation.

Violations of this Code of Conduct

First Violation – the student/athlete will be suspended from competition for 33% the current season's regularly scheduled contests or the next season in which he/she is participating, including the WIAA tournament series, if applicable. If the current season ends before the penalty, the penalty will be carried over into the next season with a pro-rated number of contests. Self-referral will drop the suspension to 10%. Self-referral can only be used on a first violation.

Second Violation - the student/athlete will be suspended from competition for 50% of the current season's regularly scheduled contests or the next season in which he/she is participating, including the WIAA tournament series, if applicable. If the current season ends before the penalty, the penalty will be carried over into the next season with a pro-rated number of contests. If the violation is for drugs and alcohol the student/athlete will undergo AODA assessment and counseling, at their expense and be required to provide the athletic director written certification of compliance with recommendations prior to any reinstatement of participation in competition.

Third Violation - the student/athlete will be suspended from competition for one (1) calendar year from the date of the violation. If the violation is for drugs and alcohol, the student/athlete will undergo AODA assessment and counseling, at their expense and be required to provide the athletic director written certification of compliance with recommendations prior to any reinstatement of participation in competition.

Fourth Violation – the student/athlete is suspended from participation for the remainder of their time at Osseo-Fairchild Schools.

Upon being charged or convicted of a felony, a student will be ineligible for all participation in **WIAA activities** until the student has satisfied all of the requirements ordered by the court in declaring a sentence served, including probation, community service and any other court orders. Any Osseo-Fairchild Athlete convicted of a felony would be ineligible for sports for a **minimum** of one (1) calendar year from the date the original suspension began, if the court ordered sentence served, including probation, community service and any other court orders is less than 1 year.

IN ADDITION – any student athlete under suspension due to a code violation

1. Will be required to practice with his or her team and finish the season in GOOD STANDING.
2. Must address their coaches to admit their violation, ask to come back to the team and recommit to the Activities Code by re-signing it in front of their current coaches.
3. In order to fulfill their code violation, the student athlete must complete the season in good standing.

Note: The WIAA penalty for training violations occurring during WIAA tournaments is disqualification for the entire tournament series in that sport.

Disciplinary Action for Co-Curricular Activities

Art Club	FCCLA	Music (non-graded)	Spanish Club
Drama/Musical	FFA	NHS	Student Council
FBLA	Forensics	Skills USA	TADD

- All Other school sponsored clubs/activities

Students involved in both athletics and co-curricular activities at the same time will be required to meet the requirements of the athletic suspension which will also validate the suspension for an activity under the discretion of the Principal, Athletic Director and Dean of Students.

First Offense The student will satisfactorily perform 10 hours of community service* OR miss 25% of scheduled contests. Scheduled contests must be verified by the Principal or Dean of Students.

Second Offense The student will satisfactorily perform 15 additional hours of community service* OR miss 50% of scheduled contests. Scheduled contests must be verified by the Principal or Dean of Students. If the violation is for drugs and alcohol the student/athlete will undergo AODA assessment and counseling, at their expense and be required to provide the athletic director written certification of compliance with recommendations prior to any reinstatement of participation.

Third Offense The student will satisfactorily perform 20 hours of community service*. If the violation is for drugs and alcohol, the student/athlete will undergo AODA assessment and counseling, at their expense and be required to provide the athletic director written certification of compliance with recommendations prior to any reinstatement of participation.

***Community service** is defined as work done by a person for the **benefit of the community** without receiving payment for work performed. Community Service must be done with or for organizations that have a non-profit status.

The student will be responsible to create a plan and schedule all community service hours. The Principal or Dean of Students must approve the plan prior to performing the service hours. A sheet or certificate must be obtained from the organization from which the community service was performed stating duties and hours worked and turned into the Principal or Dean of Students for final approval. If the student fails to meet his/her obligations, he/she will be ineligible to be involved in any activity until the community service hours are completed. Students in co-curricular activities that include a performance are required to participate in practice but will remain ineligible for performance until all community service hours have been satisfactorily fulfilled.

All violations of the activities code at the Osseo-Fairchild Middle School are cumulative throughout the student's middle school career. All violations of the activities code at the Osseo-Fairchild High School are cumulative throughout the student's high school career.

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. 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).

Additional Rules by Coaches/Advisors

Nothing in this document shall be deemed as to limit a coach or advisor from establishing additional rules concerning student conduct during the season. Any rules established by the coach or advisor must be in writing and handed out to the student, their parents, and the activities director prior to the established starting date for the activity. Student cooperation with and adherence to any rules designed by the coach or advisor are required to maintain eligibility in that specific activity. These rules must be in accordance with the activities code and all other district policies.

It shall be the coach's/advisor's prerogative to suspend any student from a squad whom they consider a demoralizing influence or a detriment to the objective of the activity. If a request is initiated by the advisor/coach, approval by the activities director and principal will be necessary for the suspension if an in-season cut is to occur.

Enforcement Procedure & Due Process Policy

1. Violations of the activities code will be based on the following:
 - A. Violations reported to the school by law enforcement officials with corroborating evidence
 - B. Violations reported by teaching or coaching staff members, parents, students, or members of the community
 - C. Self-Admission
 - D. Evidence from web sites or other technological devices may be used during an investigation
 - E. **Witness Complaint Form** – Any witness, wishing to report a code violation of a student athlete, either through visual or photographic means, must completely fill out and sign a Witness Complaint Form that explains the violation in detail

- F. **Pictures-** Any pictures turned in with a completed and signed Witness Complaint Form will be subject to investigation by school administrative personnel and may serve as grounds for athletic or co-curricular violation and suspension. Only pictures originating within the last 120 days will be subject to violation. Anonymously turned in picture(s) from a witness unwilling to sign a Witness Complaint Form will not be accepted. Once picture(s) have been accepted, the Osseo-Fairchild School District will have ten school days to investigate and levy a suspension if the administration deems the pictures to be seemingly genuine. The burden or cost of proving picture(s) to be fake or “doctored” lies with the accused. Any student-athlete wishing to challenge the validity of a picture(s) must do so within five school days of receiving notification of the violation. After the five-day waiting period, athletic or co-curricular suspension will begin unless picture authenticity has been reversed. However, any student-athlete who chooses to challenge a picture unsuccessfully will be eligible for double the suspension originally levied. In addition, students may not be suspended for multiple pictures submitted that originated from the same incident.
2. Reports of violations must occur within 120 days of the violation unless referred by the judicial system or social services.
 3. Upon receiving, a report of a violation the principal or activities director shall conduct an investigation, as soon as is feasibly possible, which shall include an interview with the accused, to determine whether or not the student has violated the activities code. A parent may be contacted in the investigation process.
 4. If after the investigation, it has been determined by the principal or activities director that the student has violated the activities code, the student and his/her parents will be notified of the violation and consequences will begin immediately and will continue to be enforced throughout any appeal process. Parents will be notified of an infraction by letter and telephone.
 5. Parents and students will be informed by the principal or activities director that any challenge or complaint can be taken to the superintendent if they are dissatisfied within 5 calendar days of dated letter. The student and parents will be asked to put their challenge or complaint in writing.
 6. The superintendent will review the situation, and make a decision as to whether the code was followed properly and to the meaning and intent of the code. The superintendent shall confirm or reject the decision within 5 days from the date the student and parents contacted the superintendent. The superintendent’s decision will be communicated verbally and in writing.
 7. If the parents and student would like to continue the appeal based on extenuating circumstances, the superintendent will convene a committee consisting of the high school principal, activities director, two coaches (preferably head coaches and coaches of a sport the student does not play), a parent, and a board member. The decision of this committee will be reported to the superintendent and will be final.

The activities director shall keep a record of all violations.

Sign Up Policy

Students interested in participating in a sport should contact the Middle/High School office or the coach. Athletes are to have all forms turned into the athletic office **a minimum of one week** prior to the first day of practice in order to participate on the first day. Required forms include:

*** Physical and/or Alternate Year Card * HIPPA *Activities Agreement Form * Concussion Survey**

Students who want to join a team after the first day of practice can do so only within the first two weeks from the start date of that sport, provided that all forms are turned in. Extenuating circumstances may be considered for those wishing to join after the first two weeks and will be evaluated by the Activities Director on a case by case basis.

No Quit Policy

Members of performance organizations are expected to remain in their activities once they join. If they quit, they will not be allowed to join a different performance organization that season. However, a new participant to an activity will be given a two-week grace period. Quitting an activity after two weeks will result in suspension from joining other performance organizations for the rest of that season. Exceptions include the following:

1. Failure to continue because of injury or illness.
2. Coach/advisor consents due to unforeseen personal problems.

Equipment

One of the values taught through participation in school sponsored activities is that of responsibility. This applies to the care of school equipment and property. The school district hopes that every student will take pride in the facilities and equipment that is provided by the Osseo-Fairchild taxpayers.

The school attempts to provide the students of Osseo-Fairchild with the best and safest equipment money can buy, so it is expected that each student will take excellent care of all equipment. The original equipment issued any student must be returned at the end of the activity. The student will be held financially responsible for any lost, misplaced, or deliberately mutilated equipment and will be ineligible from further participation in all activities until all equipment is returned or paid for.

Transportation

Transportation is provided for all contests. Students are expected to ride to and from any activity on school provided transportation. If a student is not riding school provided transportation, he/she may ride with his/her parents/legal guardians and only if the parents/guardians meet the following conditions:

1. Parents must notify the coach in writing.
2. The request must be given to the coach/advisor prior to at the event.

Parents requesting to have someone other than themselves provide transportation to or from a school sponsored activity must submit a **Transportation Request** in person a minimum of 4 hours prior to the time school transportation is to leave.

Wisconsin weather can prove challenging for travel. It is with much deliberation amongst Osseo-Fairchild Administration and Administration from hosting schools whether to hold or cancel a contest. Therefore, it is the right of parents/guardians to refuse to allow their child from attending a contest due to weather conditions they deem inappropriate for travel.

There are activities offered in the Osseo-Fairchild District that practice/perform off site. As a participant in one of these activities, the student and/or parent/guardian may be responsible for transportation to and from practice.

Insurance

Osseo-Fairchild School District does NOT purchase insurance for any of its students. Athletes still should report injury to the coach as soon as possible. If the athlete goes to the doctor or dentist, the injury must be reported to a coach or another authorized person.

Student Nondiscrimination Policy

It is the policy of the Osseo-Fairchild School District that no person be denied participation in, the benefits of, or be discriminated against in any curricular, extra-co-curricular, pupil service, recreational, other program or activity on the basis of their sex, race, color, religion, national origin (including LEP-Limited English Proficiency), ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital or parental status, sexual orientation, or physical, mental, emotional or learning disability or handicap.

All middle school aged children living within the School District's boundaries may participate in middle school athletics and must meet all eligibility requirements as stated in this document.

Home-Based Private Education Student Participation

Per Wisconsin Statute 118.133 Students who are enrolled in a home-based private-educational program may participate in interscholastic athletics and/or extracurricular activities **in their school district** on the same basis and to the same extent that it permits pupils enrolled in the school district to participate.

The home-based private education student who lives within the Osseo-Fairchild School District must apply, must meet state law, and must follow the same rules and requirements on the same basis and to the same extent as full-time Osseo-Fairchild Students. Once these school board requirements are fulfilled, full-time students and other based on state statute are eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics.

Home-based private education students must be participating in a program that provides a sequentially progressive curriculum of fundamental instruction in the following subjects: **Reading, Language Arts, Mathematics, Social Studies, Science, Health, and/or Electives**. The Osseo-Fairchild Activities Codebook requires a student to be passing all courses in order to participate in athletics or co-curricular activities. Parents/Guardians will need to provide grading information to our school's Athletic Director at the end of each of the school district's grading periods regardless of whether or not your child is currently active in an athletic or co-curricular activity.

Validation Code

Upon completion of this Activities Code Handbook, add the Meeting Validation Code number to the Activities Agreement Form.

[23/24ThunderSports](#)

Any concerns regarding the Osseo-Fairchild Activities Codebook can be directed to the Athletic Office. The Activities Codebook is reviewed and/or revised on a yearly basis. Comments or suggestions will be reviewed at that time.



2023-2024 High School Athletic Eligibility Information Bulletin

To: Student-Athletes and Their Parents

From: Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association and Osseo-Fairchild School District.

Your high school is a member of the Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association. The following rules and regulations are developed by the member schools of the WIAA and govern the participation by boys and girls in school athletics and in some instances, impact upon sports activities outside the school.

This information bulletin is a **summary** of the WIAA OFFICIAL HANDBOOK as it pertains to those rules and regulations. Both student-athletes and their parents should have an understanding of these requirements. Equally important is that student-athletes and/or parents talk to their principal or athletic director if they have any question about these regulations. For additional information on Rules of Eligibility see the WIAA Handbook, or visit the WIAA website at www.wiaawi.org.

This bulletin does not discuss specific penalties for all violations. The reason is that penalties vary depending upon the nature of the violation. In addition, schools often have established penalties or periods of ineligibility, which are greater than the minimum prescribed by WIAA rules.

There also are exceptions and other permissive provisions in some rules. Student-athletes and their parents should discuss all athletic eligibility related situations with the school principal or athletic director who, if necessary, will get a decision, interpretation, or opinion from the WIAA office.

Student-athletes, as well as parents are asked to read this bulletin, and then sign it and have their signature statement (attached) on file at their school prior to practicing and competing. Reading and signing this form is a condition of participating in interscholastic athletics at WIAA member schools. It does not guarantee a student-athlete's athletic eligibility nor does it give rise to any contractual rights, direct or indirect, to student-athletes or their parents.

These are WIAA eligibility rules, which are **current for the 2023-2024 school year**:

AGE

A student shall be ineligible for interscholastic competition if they reach their 19th birthday before August 1 of any given school year.

ACADEMICS

A student-athlete must meet school and DPI requirements defining a full-time student and have received no more than one failing grade (including incompletes) in the most recent school issued grade reporting period. Note: Some member schools adopt code and academic policies and other participation requirements which are more stringent than WIAA minimum requirements. In those instances, the school's requirements prevail and must be applied as written.

ATTENDANCE

A student-athlete is eligible for interscholastic competition at a member school if they are carried on the attendance rolls as a duly enrolled full-time Grade 9, 10, 11 or 12 student in that member school. (Subject to satisfying all other eligibility requirements.)

Note: A full-time student is further defined as one where the member school is responsible for programming 100% of the student's school day. The student is eligible for like or similar awards, privileges and services as all the other students and meets all obligations and responsibilities as other students, without exception.

- A. A student must complete eligibility in the four consecutive years starting with Grade 9, unless there are documented extenuating circumstances and a waiver has been provided.
- B. A student is ineligible if they have graduated from a school offering studies through Grade 12 or its equivalent.
- C. A student who graduated in May or June retains eligibility for any portion of a spring athletic schedule not completed by the end of the academic year. Mid-year graduation ends athletic eligibility on the last day of attendance.
- D. A student is ineligible if they have not been enrolled in some school by the 17th day of a semester or trimester, except upon request of a school in special cases involving sickness, accident, military service, social services assignment, e.g.
- E. A student-athlete may not participate in school sports in more than four different years, and a student-athlete may not participate in the same sport more than one season each school year.

DETERMINING RESIDENCE FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS

A full-time student, whether an adult or not, is eligible for varsity interscholastic competition only at the school within whose attendance boundaries their parents reside, within a given school district, with these additional provisions:

- A. Board of Education approved full-time student(s), paying their own tuition and residing full time with parents in their primary residence shall be afforded eligibility. Transfer students are subject to provisions outlined in the transfers section of this document and in the Senior High Handbook.
- B. The residence of a student's guardians shall determine eligibility in cases where both parents of a student are deceased. The execution of guardianship papers in situations where one or both parents are living does not by itself make a student eligible.
- C. In the event of a divorce or legal separation, whether pending or final, a student's residence at the beginning of the school year shall determine eligibility, except in situations involving transfer after the fourth consecutive semester following entry into grade 9. For the purpose of this rule, attendance at one day of school and/or attendance at one athletic practice shall determine 'beginning of school year.' Under this rule, a student who transfers after the beginning of the school year shall be ineligible at the new school unless approval is granted by the Board of Control in accordance with the transfer and/or waiver provisions as described in the WIAA HS Handbook.
- D. A student whose tuition is paid by the school within whose attendance boundaries parents reside or by the state and is enrolled in a district approved program may be eligible at either school (first priority to school of residence) but (a) may not participate at both schools in the same year and (b) academic ineligibility accompanies student upon transfer. Transfer restrictions may also apply.
- E. A student whose tuition is paid by the school within whose attendance boundaries parents reside or by the state or who is participating full time in a legislated open enrollment option must meet all statutory timeline requirements. This provision extends the opportunity to decline attendance at the new school and continue at their school of residence. If the student begins the school year at the new school and then transfers back to school of residence after attending one or more days of school or one or more athletic practices, they shall be subject to transfer provisions as outlined in the transfer Section of this document.
- F. A student may continue being eligible in the same school even though parent(s) and/or student move from within that school's attendance boundaries, provided enrollment is continuous (unbroken in that school).
- G. After a student-athlete has not participated and/or has had their eligibility restricted for one calendar year due to reasons relating to residence and/or transfer, they become eligible.
- H. A student-athlete will not be eligible if their attendance at a particular school resulted from undue influence (special consideration because of athletic ability) on the part of any person.
- I. A student-athlete who has been declared ineligible at a school for disciplinary reasons, academic reasons or due to another State Association's provision retains that ineligibility status if they transfer to another school.
- J. Except in situations involving transfer after a student's sixth consecutive semester, a full-time student whose residence in a given district and attendance at a member school does not conform with any of the provisions outlined above shall be eligible for nonvarsity competition only, for one calendar year, unless a waiver is provided as outlined in the WIAA HS Handbook under Waivers. Transfer students are subject to transfer provisions as outlined in the transfer section of this document and in the Senior High Handbook.

DETERMINING RESIDENCE FOR NONPUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS

A full-time student, whether an adult or not, is eligible for varsity interscholastic competition only if the student is residing full time with parents in their primary residence with these additional provisions:

- A. In the event of a divorce or legal separation, whether pending or final, a student's residence at the beginning of the school year shall determine eligibility except in situations involving transfer after a student's fourth consecutive semester. For the purpose of this rule, attendance at one day of school and/or attendance at one athletic practice shall determine 'beginning of school year'. Under this rule, a student who transfers after the beginning of the school year shall be ineligible at the new school unless approval is granted by the Board of Control in accordance with the waiver provisions as described in the WIAA HS Handbook under Waivers. Transfer restrictions may also apply.
- B. Residing full time with guardians shall determine eligibility in cases where both parents of a student are deceased. The execution of guardianship papers in situations where one or both parents are living does not by itself make a student eligible.
- C. A student may continue being eligible in the same school even though parent(s) and/or student move from within that school's traditional attendance area, provided enrollment is continuous (unbroken in that school).
- D. A student who has been in attendance in a nonpublic, self-contained school (i.e. grades K-12 or 7-12) for at least one complete school year prior to reaching Grade 9 and has not broken enrollment during that time is eligible in that nonpublic school upon entering Grade 9.
- E. Except in situations involving mid-year transfer and/or transfer after the fourth consecutive semester students attending member residential schools shall be eligible at the member school provided they reside at the school or reside full time with parents in their primary residence.

- F. Except in situations involving transfer after a student's sixth consecutive semester, a full-time student attending a nonpublic school but not residing in accordance with any of the provisions outlined above shall be eligible for nonvarsity competition only, for one calendar year, unless a waiver is provided as outlined in the WIAA HS Handbook under Waivers.

TRANSFERS

A full-time student may be afforded up to eight consecutive semesters of interscholastic eligibility upon entry into Grade 9. **Transferring schools at any time may result in restrictions being imposed on eligibility, or in some cases a denial of eligibility.** For the purpose of this rule, attendance at one day of school and/or attendance at one athletic practice shall determine 'beginning of school year.' These additional provisions relate to transfer cases:

- A. A student who transfers from any school into a member school will be subject to the transfer rules for one calendar year, unless the transfer is made necessary by a total and complete change in residence by parent(s). [The calendar year (365 days) will be determined from a student's first day of attendance at the new school.]
- B. Students entering 9th and/or 10th grade at the beginning of the school year and who are within the first four consecutive semesters of high school will be afforded unrestricted eligibility provided all other rules governing student eligibility are met.
- C. Students entering 11th and 12th grade are restricted to nonvarsity opportunities for one calendar year. [The calendar year (365 days) will be determined from a student's first day of attendance at the new school.]
- D. 9th grade students who transfer after the beginning of the school year and with written consent from both schools directly involved shall be restricted to nonvarsity opportunities for the remainder of the school year. Restrictions are removed upon entering 10th grade.
- E. 10th, 11th or 12th grade students who transfer after the beginning of the school year and with written consent from both schools directly involved shall be restricted to nonvarsity opportunities for one calendar year (365 days beginning with first day of attendance at the new school).
- F. In the event of divorce or legal separation, whether pending or final, residence at the beginning of the school year shall determine eligibility for students entering 9th and/or 10th grade.
- G. District policies with respect to intra-district transfer do not supersede WIAA transfer rules.
- H. Unless transfer, including an accompanying total and complete change of parents' residence, is effective at the outset of a semester, a student cannot establish eligibility at their new school until the fifth calendar day of such transfer.
- I. A student who transfers more than once in any given school year shall be ineligible for all interscholastic competition for the remainder of that current school year and will be eligible for nonvarsity opportunities only for the balance of the calendar year. [The calendar year (365 days) will be determined from a student's first day of attendance at the new school.]
- J. A student may not have eligibility in more than one member school at the same time. A parent or parents who move from a primary residence within one school's attendance boundaries, to a secondary residence within another school's attendance boundaries, may be required by the Board of Control to provide evidence of a total and complete move.
- K. A student who transfers from any school, whether or not a member school, with a status of ineligibility for disciplinary reasons, academic reasons and/or as a result of another State Association's regulation or sanction, retains such status at their new school for the same period as decreed by the former school. A student who transfers due to expulsion or removal for disciplinary reason from the previous school is ineligible for the length of the expulsion as determined by the previous school's Board of Education. Note: A student who does not serve a penalty for violation by leaving the state and competing in another state, will be ineligible for the balance of the suspension upon return to the state.
- L. No eligibility will be granted for a student whose residence within a school's attendance boundaries, with or without parents, or whose attendance at a school has been the result of undue influence (special consideration due to athletic ability or potential) on the part of any person, whether or not connected with the school.

PHYSICAL EXAMINATION and PARENT'S PERMISSION

A student-athlete whether an adult or not, must have written permission of parents to participate in school athletics, an emergency information form, and they must have a physical examination (signed by a licensed physician, physician's assistant or advanced practice nurse prescriber) every other school year.

A physical examination taken April 1 and thereafter is valid for the following two school years. Physical examination taken before April 1 is valid only for remainder of that school year and the following school year.

TRAINING and CONDUCT

A student-athlete must follow their school's code of conduct (training rules) on a year-round basis.

- A. A student-athlete who violates their school's code of conduct during the season of a sport (start of practice to final game) must be suspended from competition for a period of time specified in the code (minimum of one meet) if the violation involves (a) possession and/or use of alcohol, (b) possession and/or use of tobacco, including chewing tobacco and (c) use, possession, buying or selling of controlled substances, street drugs and performance enhancing substances (PES).
- B. The member school will determine minimum penalties for violation of any other provisions of its code of conduct, including out of season offenses and for any other unacceptable conduct contrary to the ideals, principals and standards of the school and this Association including but not limited to criminal behavior.
- C. 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 their debt to society and the courts consider the sentence served (including probation, community service, etc.).
- D. A student-athlete who violates their school's code of conduct at times other than during the actual season of a sport must be disciplined by the school, the nature of such discipline to be determined by the school as indicated in its code of conduct.
- E. A student-athlete who violates any part of the school or WIAA's code of conduct resulting in suspension for any portion of WIAA-sponsored tournament competition must be immediately declared ineligible for the remainder of tournament series in that sport. During the WIAA Tournament, an ineligible athlete may not suit up.
- F. A student-athlete, disqualified from a contest for flagrant or unsportsmanlike conduct, is also suspended from the next competitive event at the same level of competition as the disqualification.
- G. Any player who in the judgment of the official, intentionally spits on, strikes, slaps, kicks, pushes or aggressively physically contacts an official at any time shall be immediately ineligible for competition a minimum of 90 calendar days from the date of the confrontation. In addition, the player is ineligible to compete for the first 25% of the next season in that same sport.
- H. A school must provide an opportunity for the student to be heard prior to a penalty being enforced (except for felony charges). If a student appeals a suspension, according to the school's appeal procedure, the student is ineligible during the appeal process.
- I. Schools/individuals are prohibited during the regular season and the WIAA tournament series from practicing for regional, sectional, and state tournament preparation at sites and facilities hosting WIAA tournaments.

AMATEUR STATUS

A student-athlete must be an amateur in all recognized sports of this association in order to compete in any WIAA sport.

- A. A student-athlete may not accept, receive or direct to another, reimbursement in any form of salary, cash (including gift cards) or share of game or season proceeds for athletic accomplishments, such as being on a winning team, being selected for the school varsity team, or being a place winner in an individual tournament, e.g.
- B. A student-athlete may receive: a medal, cup, trophy or plaque from the sponsoring organization regardless of cost; school mementos valued not more than \$200; an award valued not more than \$100 retail for participation in an athletic contest in a WIAA recognized sport; and may retain non-school competition apparel worn by the student as part of the team uniform.
- C. A student-athlete may not receive compensation or benefit, directly or indirectly, for the use of name, picture, and/or personal appearance, as an athlete because of ability, potential and/or performance as an athlete.
- D. A student-athlete may not receive free and/or reduced rates on equipment, apparel, camps/clinics/instruction and competitive opportunities that are not identical for any and all interested students.
- E. A student-athlete may not be identified (with or without permission) as an athlete, provide endorsement as an athlete or appear as an athlete in the promotion of a commercial/advertisement and/or profit-making event, item, plan, or service.
- F. A student-athlete may not participate in school athletics or in sports activities outside the school under a name other than their own name.

SPORTS ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL

Athletes may compete in not more than two non-school competitions with prior school approval during each regular sport season. The contest(s) will not count against the individual maximum for the athlete in that sport. Nonschool competition will not be allowed during the respective WIAA tournament series in a sport. Violation of this rule results in loss of eligibility for the remainder of the season (including the WIAA tournament series) and forfeiture of the two non-school opportunities.

- A. WIAA rules do not prevent athletes from practicing with nonschool teams or from receiving private skills instruction during the school season. However, they may not participate officially or unofficially (including "banditing") in more than two nonschool competitions or races, including scrimmages against other teams (with school approval).
 - (1) This restriction applies to normal nonschool games as well as "gimmicks," such as reduced numbers competition (3-on-3 basketball, 6 player soccer, e.g.), specific skill contests (punt, pass, and kick, shooting contests, free throws, 3 point, e.g.), fun runs, etc.

- (2) During the season, athletes may participate in a skills contest with approval of the school. Specific skill contests (punt, pass, and kick, shooting contests e.g., free throws, 3 point, drive, chip and putt) isolate separate skills outside of the traditional competition setting. The skill contest may not include physical contact or extreme fatigue as the actual sport competition. Fun runs are not considered skills contests. There can be no school coach involvement. All other eligibility rules including amateur status apply.
- (3) A student who was a member of a school team during the previous year may not delay reporting for the school team beyond the school's official opening day of practice in order to continue nonschool training and/or competition.
- B. During the school year before and/or after the school season of a sport and in the summertime, members of a school's team may voluntarily assemble with their teammates (without school and/or school coach involvement) at their own discretion.
- C. A student-athlete or their parents must pay 100% of the fee for specialized training or instruction such as camps, clinics, and similar programs.
- D. A student-athlete may not be instructed except during the school season of a sport and approved summer contact days by the person who will be their coach in that sport in the following school season. All sports except football are exempt from this rule, BUT only (a) during the summer months and (b) if the program involved is not limited to individuals who are likely to be candidates for the school team in that sport in the following season.
- E. A student-athlete must not participate in an all-star game or similar contest except for summertime activities (a) within the same league or program (e.g., softball game between divisions of same league) or (b) in which a team is selected to represent a league in post-season play (e.g., Babe Ruth league team). Some post-season all-star opportunities may be permitted for 12th graders who have completed high school eligibility in a particular sport. Check with your Athletic Director to be certain.
- F. Schools/individuals are prohibited during the regular season and the WIAA tournament series from practicing for regional, sectional, and state tournament preparation at sites and facilities hosting WIAA tournaments.

USE OF STUDENT IMAGE

The participation of student-athletes in school and WIAA tournaments may result in the use of student-athlete images in promotion of school and WIAA events.

In order to facilitate good communication, all questions regarding athletic participation at your school should be addressed to your athletic administrator.

5/2023