

ATHLETIC CODE

Grades 6-8
Washington Middle School
Oconto Falls, Wisconsin

Revised: June 2007

This code shall cover all students in grades 6-8 who participate in athletic competition as a participant or manager.

It is widely known and accepted that extra curricular participants represent their school and have more contact with other communities than any other part of the student body. The school will provide the opportunity for the student to become a member of any athletic program. It is the student's choice to determine the part he/she intends to give to the program.

It is the intent of this code to guide and inform the student of her/her responsibilities and privileges. It is up to the individual participant, by intelligent choice, to become and remain an active participant. If there are any questions dealing with eligibility requirements that the student needs clarified, please see the coach/advisor of the particular activity, the athletic director, or the building principal.

ACTIVITIES

Grade 6-8 athletic activities covered by this code include: Football, Cross Country, Volleyball, Basketball, Wrestling, and Track.

This code shall also cover any other athletic activity that is incorporated into the 6-8 grade extracurricular program during the course of the year.

THE OCONTO FALLS SCHOOL DISTRICT DOES NOT DISCRIMINATE AGAINST PUPILS ON THE BASIS OF SEX, RACE, NATIONAL ORIGIN, ANCESTRY, CREED, PARENTAL STATUS, PHYSICAL, MENTAL, OR EMOTIONAL HEALTH, LEARNING DISABILITIES, OR HANDICAP IN ITS EDUCATION PROGRAMS OR ACTIVITIES. FEDERAL LAW PROHIBITS DISCRIMINATION IN EMPLOYMENT ON THE BASIS OF AGE, RACE, COLOR, NATIONAL ORIGIN, SEX OR HANDICAP.

OCONTO FALLS MIDDLE SCHOOL ATHLETIC HANDBOOK

PHILOSOPHY AND OBJECTIVES

The development of the young adolescent's self-esteem, citizenship, responsibility, and skills in cooperative and leadership behaviors are positive outcomes of appropriate middle-level athletic programs. These programs should be enjoyable, vigorous, and safe and should occur in a positive climate with appropriate adult leadership and support.

Middle level athletic activities are an essential part of the total educational process and an excellent opportunity for the home, school, and community to work together.

Basic objectives of our programs for grades 6-8 are:

1. Emphasis should be on individual skills and cooperative group behaviors.
2. Reinforce learning from academic areas while improving social, emotional, and physical skills.
3. Team sports build character by teaching the importance of effort, sportsmanship, teamwork, and how to deal gracefully with both winning and losing.
4. Programs should promote behaviors that include cooperation, sportsmanship, and personal improvement. Winning is not the primary goal of the program. "Winning isn't the only thing, but striving to win is." Winning is less important than preparing to win. Losing should not be the same as failure, nor success the same as winning.
5. Total participation –by this we mean everyone should play or have the opportunity to participate on a team or in intramurals.
6. The emphasis should not be on winning but on the values of fun and participation.

Being a participant in an athletic program does not guarantee that the student will take advantage of the opportunities presented to him/her. It does, however, offer each student the opportunity to participate. In fact some students do not react to the above philosophy and objectives in such a way that they will be beneficial to the student. Rather, they tend to break training rules, to hurt the image of the program rather than help it. Every effort should be made to show and to teach the students that the above objectives are the goals that can be beneficial to them.

GENERAL TRAINING RULES

These training rules are established for the best interest of the athlete and the school. Any boy or a girl who complies with these rules demonstrates his/her desire to improve himself/herself. Therefore, the following training rules shall be observed by all athletic participants twelve months of the year.

1. ATTENDANCE

A student can only participant in practice and/or competition providing the student has been in attendance at school a minimum of a half-day prior to the practice or competition. A half school day is defined as three school periods. Exceptions include death in the family, a doctor or dental appointment. An exception will not be allowed for either sickness or family planned activities such as a trip. All exceptions must be approved by the building principal. Students not following this exception will not be allowed to participate.

2. TRANSPORTATION

An athlete must ride the school bus to athletic contests. All athletes must return on the bus unless a written note from the parent/guardian is given to the coach/advisor prior to bus departure, allowing the participant to ride with his/her parent/guardian. Any other transportation arrangements **MUST** be **pre-approved** by the building principal, and submitted in writing to the coach/advisor.

Late transportation is provided for students participating in co-curricular activities. This service is not available after athletic contests or competitions. Late Transportation is a privilege that may be withdrawn for inappropriate behavior. Each late transportation participant will be given the late transportation rules and regulations at the beginning of each athletic season and these rules and regulations will be explained to them. All late transportation riders must have these rules and regulations signed and returned to their coach.

3. UNEXCUSED ABSENCES

Each athlete is required to attend each practice. Every unexcused practice results in the participant forfeiting one contest. If the participant has three unexcused absences he/she will be dismissed from the activity. If the student needs to be absent, the coach/advisor must be notified prior to practice.

If the student is injured, he/she is still required to attend practice, unless the injury prevents them from doing so. All injuries must be reported to the building principal.

ELIBIBILITY RULES

I. Scholastic Achievement:

Students participating in athletic programs must maintain a passing grade in all their subjects. Grades will be monitored at all progress report times (Core & Exploratory), end of exploratory rotations, and quarter grading periods. The student's "game status" will be affected only when the stated times fall during the time frame of the sport in which the student is participating. It is the responsibility of the coach to provide a roster for the teachers. If a student fails to meet this academic standard, he/she will be subject to the following consequences:

- Students receiving a failing grade in any class will be able to practice, but not able to participate in one contest (game) for each failing grade.
- Students that do not raise their failing grade(s) to a passing grade(s) will not be allowed to participate in contests (games) until they receive a passing grade in the affected subjects.

Student Responsibility: It is the responsibility of the student to obtain a note with a signature from their teacher(s) verifying a passing grade.

II. Athletic Cards:

A. For a student's first year in athletics, a student must have on file in the school's office a "green" physical examination card. It must be signed by the parent/guardian **and** a physician.

B. For a student' second year in athletics, a student must have on file in the school office a "white" alternate year athletic permit card. It need only be signed by the parent/guardian.

III. Student Conduct-Behavior:

Realizing that the community is observing the young people in these athletic activities, they should do their best to act and speak in a manner which will not discredit the school, parents, or other participants.

Violations will include:

- A. An athlete will refrain from any use or possession of alcoholic beverages, tobacco (including chewing tobacco and snuff), marijuana, hallucinogens, inhalants, or other illegal drugs.
- B. Loitering at an unlawful assembly where alcohol or illegal drugs are present.
- C. Possession of any athletic equipment or school property that was not specifically issued to the co-curricular participant. This includes equipment from other schools. Any equipment/school property in the participant's locker will be considered to be in his/her possession.
- D. Willful and persistent insubordination by the athlete to the coach, advisor, teachers, or administrators.
- E. Vandalism of school property.
- F. A student charged or convicted of a felony is not eligible to participate.

TRAINING RULES VIOLATIONS

First infraction of training rules A through F will result in a two contest suspension. Practice upon coach's discretion/approved by Building Administrator.

Second infraction of training rules A through F will result in the student being dismissed from the team.

DUE PROCESS

A student is entitled to due process during the administration of this Code. This means the student:

- 1. Must be informed of the provisions allegedly violated.
- 2. Must be given sufficient opportunity to give his/her version of the alleged violation and to call a witness.
- 3. At all levels of the appeal the student has the right to have his/her legal guardian present.
- 4. Must not be judged by a person whose mind is already made up before the student gives his/her version.

Levels of authority for appeal:

- 1. Coach/advisor
- 2. Assistant Principal/Principal
- 3. Athletic Board of Control [3 parents, 2 coaches, 2 teachers, 2 students, 2 administrators (Principal, Assistant Principal, Athletic Director)]

SIGNATURE

Signing the athletic code states that you agree and will adhere to the rules and policies set forth in the athletic code. An unsigned document implies forfeiting the right to participate.

PLEDGE SHEET

I agree to abide by all the rules and regulations set forth in the pages of the Washington Middle School Athletic Code. I agree to assume full responsibility for all equipment, supplies and/or school property issued to me, and to confine the use of that equipment to practice, games, or meets. I further agree to pay for any and all equipment, supplies, and/or school property which I may lose, misplace, or damage through carelessness or intent.

Participant's Signature

Date

Parent Role Models

Studies find that it is usually parents, not coaches/advisors who apply the wrong kind of pressure to young participants in athletic activities. Parents are especially prone to projecting their fantasies onto their adolescents. There is nothing wrong with being proud of your adolescent's accomplishments, in sports or any other activity. Just be sure you aren't forcing the adolescent into something he or she doesn't enjoy.

Parents play a big part in their children's athletic experience. Many have genuine concern and interest, but it's not a secret that some parents put too much pressure on their children and behave inappropriately at games. We ask that you as a parent mold and influence our young adolescents, by being a positive role model.

I, as a parent/guardian of _____ have read the rules and regulations set for the athletes at Washington Middle School (Oconto Falls), and give my son/daughter permission to participate under these conditions. If my son/daughter does not follow these rules, he/she forfeits his/her eligibility and will be placed on probation or dismissed from the team/activity depending upon the infraction.

NOTE: I understand that my son/daughter must ride the school bus to and from athletic contests unless there are extenuating circumstances.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date