

Interscholastic Athletics/Activities

Coach's Duties

In accordance with district policy and the coach's job description, the coach has the duty to:

Instruct Participants - The coach should employ the latest methods or proper instruction using sound progression in presenting motor skills. If an injury occurs while using an improper instructional method, negligence may be present.

Warn Participants - The coach should inform all athletes and their parents of the inherent risks involved in participation in the particular sport. The coach must describe, using a variety of methods, the catastrophic and common non-catastrophic injuries unique to the sport.

Supervise Participants - The daily plan should show how the coach plans to conduct general supervision of the sport, and how he/she will supervise specific drills and other components of the daily practice. Adequacy of supervision should be reviewed in terms of quality and quantity. Factors to consider include, but are not limited to: the age of the students, the size of the students, the equipment involved, the maturity level of the students, the first aid equipment and training available, the appropriate certification of supervisors where required, and the safety training of the personnel involved.

Provide Safe Equipment and Facilities - Equipment should be properly fitted and maintained. Athletes should be instructed on how to conduct a daily inspection. Facilities should be free of hazards and inspected regularly with the maintenance supervisor.

Maintain Records of Injuries - A student accident report should be completed for each accident. Injury reports should be maintained for a period of five years after the student's 21st birthday.

Evaluate Fitness of Participants - The coach has a duty to, be aware of any medical condition, and the skill level of athletes. Failure to evaluate and maintain records of those evaluations may be cause for negligence should an injury occur involving fatigue or lack of skill.

Provide Equal Protection and Due Process - While participation in co-curricular activities is a privilege, a participant who allegedly violates the conduct code must be afforded the opportunity of a fair hearing.

Transport Athletes Safely - A coach has a duty to see that athletes are safely transported to and from contests and to and from practices if practices are held at sites other than the school grounds.

Group Participants - The coach has the duty to employ a recognized system of grouping for participants in a particular sport that will avoid unequal and unsafe participation, based upon skill level, age, maturity, sex, size and experience.

Foresee Danger - A coach should be able to reasonably anticipate foreseeable dangers that may occur if the activity is continued in a facility, or with equipment, or in a situation, and take precautions protecting the children in his/her custody from such dangers.

Protect from Loss – A coach should ascertain and record that a participant is covered by an accident policy. Blanket catastrophic no fault insurance provides coverage for serious injuries. A coach shall inform a participant of coverage options available to them (Policy 2151 Section K).

The duties listed above are not meant to be comprehensive. In carrying out the duties of the assignment a staff member is expected to act as a reasonable professional would have acted under similar circumstances. A staff member who supervises a sports activity is expected to know the intricacies of the activity that he/she is leading.

Advisor's Duties

In accordance with district policy and the advisor's job description, the advisor has the duty to:

Transport Students Safely – An advisor has a duty to see that students are safely transported to and from events or performances that are held at sites other than school grounds.

Foresee Danger – An advisor should be able to reasonably anticipate foreseeable dangers that may occur if the activity is continued in a facility, or with equipment, or in a situation, and take precautions protecting the children in his/her custody from such dangers.

The duties listed above are not meant to be comprehensive. In carrying out the duties of the assignment a staff member is expected to act as a reasonable professional would have acted under similar circumstances. A staff member who supervises an activity is expected to know the intricacies of the activity that he/she is leading.

Summer Sports Activities/Clinics

Rules governing out-of-school and/or out-of-season student sports participation are as follows:

- A. A practice is defined as a teaching phase of a sport to any present, past or future squad member while a student in grade 7-12 during the school year or during the summer. The school may not sponsor, promote or direct activities which resemble out-of-season practices or contests during the school year or summer.

A school staff member, who sponsors, promotes or directs such activities during the summer vacation shall clearly indicate that he/she is operating independent of the school district. As such, the school district shall be free of liability associated with the activity.

- B. Students shall be advised that participation in a commercial summer camp or clinic or other similar type of activity shall not begin until the conclusion of the final WIAA state tournament of the school year. Participants in a fall school sports program may not attend any summer camp/clinic in that sport after August 1 until the first fall sports turnout. The

school should announce by school bulletin that summer sports camp/clinic is neither endorsed nor sponsored by the district.

- C. A coach (contracted or volunteer) may not sponsor, promote, coach or direct activities which resemble out-of-season practices or contests in the sport they coach to any of their squad members or future squad members (grades 7-12) until after the school year's final WIAA state tournament.
- D. The use of the school bulletin board, public address system or school newspaper for promotional purposes to announce sports clinics/camps shall fall within the same guidelines as applied to other commercial endeavors.
- E. School facilities to be used for summer activity and/or sports camps may be rented consistent with the rates, rules and regulations applicable for other commercial uses. A user shall hold the district free and without harm from any loss or damage, liability or expense that may arise during or be caused in any way such use of school facilities. Authorization for use of school facilities shall not be considered as endorsement of or approval of the activity group or organization nor for the purposes it represents.

Athletic/Activity Code

The opportunity to participate in interscholastic extra-curricular activities programs is a privilege granted to all students of the district. A primary goal is to encourage participation. Participants in these voluntary programs are expected to conform to specific conduct standards established by the principals and athletic coaches and activity advisors. A student who is found by a district staff member to be in violation of any of these rules is subject to suspension from the team or performing at non-graded events. Repeated violations or extreme misconduct may result in a student's removal from the team. Student consequences and discipline shall conform to school board policy. Provision is made for a student who has allegedly violated one or more of the conduct rules to appeal a disciplinary action as specified in this code.

(See Policy and Procedure 2121 – Substance Abuse Program.)

The following rules shall be applicable for a sports season or grading period for co-curricular activities:

- A. **Minimum Grade Point Average** – Incoming 7th graders are automatically eligible to participate in interscholastic activities until their first report card. All other students must meet the WIAA standards plus have achieved a minimum 2.00 GPA in the previous grading period. Those students who fail to meet this standard will be allowed to participate on a probationary status only if they attend a supervised study table that will be held each day. Students must attend and participate in a full session at least three days each week and make satisfactory academic progress. At the end of the grading period if the student has achieved the minimum 2.00 GPA they will no longer be on probation. Students who fail to meet the minimum 2.00 GPA will be kept on study table for the remainder of the season and must attain the minimum 2.00 GPA before participating in

any interscholastic activities. WIAA rules state that students must also pass 5 of 6 subjects at the high school or 6 of 7 subjects at the junior high school. Any student who is failing a non-elective class will attend study table and be expected to make satisfactory academic progress.

The superintendent or designee will establish procedures for the study table and/or additional interventions. These interventions are intended to provide support for students in extra-curricular programs who are struggling academically or “at risk” of academic hardship which could affect their academic standing and eligibility.

- B. Students are required to abide by the classroom honor code and demonstrate academic integrity.

Violations: The coach or activity advisor will be notified of the violation and at the discretion of the coach or advisor more than one sanction may be imposed. Sanctions for violations may be imposed independent of any action taken by other school authorities, including classroom teachers. Loss of privileges for a specified period of time may include, but not be limited to participation in student activities, practice times, athletic events, and drama or music performances.

- C. Use and/or Possession of Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco and/or Possession of Illegal Chemical Substances or Opiates.

A student who is found to have used or is in possession of alcoholic beverages, tobacco in any form, or any illegal chemical substances or opiates will be immediately ineligible for interscholastic competition in the current athletic/activity program for the remainder of the season, or quarter of co-curricular activities, in which the student is participating at the time of the violation. This provision also applies to a student who voluntarily remains in the vicinity of another person who is unlawfully in possession or using any of the aforementioned substances. Ineligibility shall continue until the next sports season in which the student athlete wishes to turn out or the end of the quarter of co-curricular activities providing the exclusion is for a minimum of four and one-half (4-1/2) weeks.

In order to be eligible to participate in the next athletic/activity program, or quarter of co-curricular activities, the student will be required to meet with the school eligibility board, selected by the principal, in order to request approval to participate in the next sport season or next quarter of co-curricular activities.

The school eligibility board will recommend to the principal appropriate action to be taken in each individual case. The student shall be offered assistance in arranging an assistance program through school or any community resources available. Opportunities for assistance will be provided through school or community agencies. Successful participation in that program may allow the student to continue in the next sport season, at the discretion of the principal.

A second violation of these rules will cause the student to be ineligible and prohibited from participating in any school interscholastic program for a period of one calendar year from the date of the second violation.

Should a student self report, or truthfully admit to a violation of Substance Abuse, the student may choose the option of immediate suspension and accepting the recommendations of an approved assessment program. After meeting all assessment requirements and a minimum suspension of two interscholastic events or two (2) weeks of a season, whichever is greater, or non-graded performances, and six (6) hours of approved community or school service, the student shall be reinstated. Should the student refuse this option, deny the violation and subsequently be found in violation, or fail to follow recommended treatment, they will immediately be ineligible and prohibited from participating in any school interscholastic program for a period of one (1) calendar year from the date of the violation.

A third violation of these rules will cause the student to be permanently prohibited from participation in any school interscholastic or activities program.

- D. Unsportsmanlike Conduct. A student shall exhibit appropriate conduct in practices and/or contests.

First offense: verbal warning. Repeated offense: removal from activity for five (5) school days.

- E. Attendance at School. A student shall attend school for all day on the day of an athletic contest or extra-curricular activity. Penalty: If a student receives an unexcused absence for any portion of the day, the student shall be ineligible to participate in contest or performance on that day. If excused, the student may participate if he/she was in attendance for one half day or more.
- F. Absence from Practice. An athlete is expected to be in attendance at all team practices unless excused for illness or by prior approval
- G. Violation of Criminal Law - There will be no violations of criminal laws equal to a gross misdemeanor or higher. Students, who have been arrested and charged with a criminal offense, will meet with the Athletic Board to present their position on the arrest. The board will make recommendations as to how best to deal with the situation pending its final resolution in court.
- H. Repeated Offenses. If a student repeatedly violates one of the above rules, he/she may be removed from the team for the remainder of the sports season.

Appeal Process for Disciplinary Action

When infractions occur within the athletic or extra-curricular activities programs, the following process may be followed:

- A. Upon the imposition of penalty for infraction(s) of said rules or regulations, any aggrieved student and parents of said student shall have the right to an informal conference with the activities director to request that they refrain from enforcing the decision of the coach or advisor or ask the coach or advisor to reconsider. If the students and parents do not make a written request for this informal conference within five (5) school days of the action grieved, they will have waived their right to the conference and appeal procedure. The informal conference is to be held within three (3) school days of the request.
- B. If the parties are unable to agree at the informal conference with the activities director, the aggrieved party may appeal to the building principal. The aggrieved party and the coach(es) or advisor shall be available as a resource.
- C. The building principal will hear the case in detail and will render a decision within three (3) school days after hearing the case.
- D. The aggrieved party may appeal to the superintendent of schools or his/her designee within three (3) school days of the appeals decision. The superintendent of schools, after hearing the case in detail, shall render a decision within ten (10) school days of the hearing.
- E. The aggrieved party may appeal the superintendent's decision to the board of directors within three (3) school days. The board of directors, after hearing the case in detail, shall render a decision on the case within ten (10) school days of the hearing. This decision shall be final.

Reinstatement Process

For a student to be reinstated following being declared ineligible for a disciplinary action, or violation of the Student Activities Contract, the following process shall be followed:

- A. The student must appeal for reinstatement to the Building Eligibility Committee. The committee will consist of three (3) non-involved coaches or teachers, the activities director, and building principal.
- B. The student must appear in person and present their case. The student may invite other teachers or others to act as character references if desired.
- C. The student's parents will be invited and encouraged to attend.