

ELLSWORTH COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL

ATHLETIC CODE

August, 2012

PHILOSOPHY

Ellsworth Community High School believes athletic participation is an important part of the high school curriculum. Athletics provide important experiences that are not entirely duplicated in other school activities. Athletics help prepare young adults for the highly competitive adult world they will enter upon completion of their high school careers.

OBJECTIVES

1. To help develop the minds and bodies of young students.
2. To present the opportunity to develop, practice and observe good sportsmanship.
3. To teach the importance of cooperation.
4. To show students the value of hard work, self-discipline, and dedication.
5. To provide students with competitive situations.
6. To teach responsibility.
7. To develop and improve school morale.
8. To provide athletes with professional instruction in all sports.
9. To provide the community with athletic teams worthy of its respect and support.

Ellsworth Community High School realizes not all student athletes will achieve all of the objectives outlined above. We do believe that all of the young men and women who participate in the athletic program will benefit substantially from their interscholastic experiences.

It is the policy of the Ellsworth Community School District not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or handicap in its educational programs or activities as required by Title IX of the 1972 Education Amendments and Section 504 of the 1973 Rehabilitation Act.

This high school athletic code shall cover all students in Grades 9, 10, 11, and 12 who participate in interscholastic athletic competition as an athlete, dancer, manager, statistician and any other athletic team student position.

It is a widely known and accepted fact that athletic participants generally represent his/her school more often and have more contact with other communities than any other part of the student body. It is not the intent of this athletic code to punish, but rather to guide and inform the athlete of his/her responsibilities and privileges. By intelligent choice, it is up to the individual to become and to remain an athletic participant.

If the athlete has any questions which deal with eligibility requirements that need clarification, the athlete should see the coach of the particular sport, the athletic director, the building principal, or appropriate designee. They are qualified to answer such questions.

ACTIVITIES

Covered by this code are:

Men's: Baseball, Basketball, Cross Country, Football, Golf, Tennis, Track and Field, Wrestling

Women's: Basketball, Cross Country, Golf, Softball, Tennis, Track and Field, Volleyball, Cheer, Dance

In addition to: student Athletic Managers and Statisticians; as well as any other activity which may be added to the athletic program.

ATHLETIC CODE

Interscholastic athletic participation is a privilege of every student in Ellsworth Community High School. This privilege will be revoked or suspended, however, if any athlete fails to follow the rules and regulations outlined in this code. Student athletics is designed in part to develop good citizenship, good leadership, good fellowship, and good sportsmanlike behavior. The rules and regulations in this code apply to all student athletes, statisticians, managers, and dancers, including all those students involved in Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletics Association sanctioned sports, tournaments, invitational events, and post season events.

REQUIREMENT TO PARTICIPATE

Before a student can participate in interscholastic sports, they must provide the school with an Examination Permit card (physical card) attesting to (a) parental permission, and (b) current physical fitness as determined by a licensed physician, no less than every other school year. A physical is good for two years. On alternate years of physicals, a student must provide an alternate year card. In addition to parental permission and physical examinations, a student must also have on file (c) signed agreement to the athletic code, (d) signed agreement to the WIAA code, and (e) signed agreement to the concussion information.

ELIGIBILITY

A student athlete must be in attendance the *full day* of school, or have the approval of the principal or assistant principal for that absence to be eligible for practice or competition. If there is an absence, the athlete must show evidence of a doctor's appointment or previously arranged doctor, dentist, or chiropractic appointment to allow them to practice or compete. This also pertains to mornings after a school activity. Unexcused absences will result in the athlete not being eligible to practice or compete.

Students suspended from school or from a class by the principal are not eligible to compete, practice, attend, or participate in any activity on school grounds until fully reinstated.

RULES

1. Any student athlete found in violation of the state or federal statutes, i.e. crimes against life and physical well being, or crimes against property, shall be referred to the Principal. Due to the wide variation of offenses that could occur, each offence will be considered independently of any previous violations. The maximum penalty will be one year of ineligibility. It is not necessary for a student to have received a ticket to be considered in violation.
2. Under WIAA rules a student is required to follow this code on a year round (12 Month) basis. Once an Athlete signs the athletic code he/she is under that code for 365 days a year. He/She has established his/her status as an athlete in the school. He/She is under the athletic code until he/she graduates. A student athlete cannot pick and choose when they want to be under the athletic code.
3. Any student subject to this code shall not:
 - a. Violate any of the Wisconsin Criminal Statutes as listed by chapter dealing with:
 1. alcoholic beverages
 2. crimes against life and body
 3. crimes against health and safety
 4. crimes against property
 5. sexual morality
 6. crimes against government
 7. disorderly conduct
 8. crimes against animals

- b. Possess, use, or consume cigarettes, cigars, or chewing tobacco.
- c. Use illegal drugs or other controlled substance.
- d. Violate Wisconsin Traffic Statutes dealing with
 - 1. operating under influence of intoxicant/other drug
 - 2. absolute sobriety
 - 3. minor transport
 - 4. open intoxicant by driver/occupant

- 4. Any student athlete may not be involved or participate in harassment, bullying or hazing.
 - a. Hazing refers to any person intentionally or recklessly engaging in acts which endanger the physical health or safety of a student for the purpose of initiation, admission, or maintaining status of affiliation to any organization operating in the connection with a school. Under these circumstances, prohibited acts may include any activity that humiliates, degrades or risks emotional and/or physical harm, regardless of the person's willingness to participate.

GUIDELINES FOR CONDUCT

As specified in the WIAA handbook, a student shall also be disciplined for conduct judged unacceptable to the ideals and standards of Ellsworth Community High School and/or the WIAA. Judgment of this conduct will be the duty of the Athletic Director and School Administrators. The following guidelines may prove helpful to the athlete, and will be used as sample guidelines by school officials:

- 1. Any student who finds himself/herself at a party or student gathering where alcohol or controlled substances are present must remove himself/herself from that situation immediately. Students who are proven to have not removed themselves will be penalized.
- 2. Attendance at such logical events as family weddings, graduation parties and other similar occasions would be acceptable. The athlete can attend these events with parent supervision, but can not consume alcohol or drugs.
- 3. An athlete will not knowingly enter a car which is transporting alcoholic beverages unless he/she is under the direct supervision of his/her parents or legal guardian.
- 4. An athlete will not enter premises licensed for sale of intoxicating liquor or fermented malt beverages unless accompanied by his/her parent(s) or legal guardian. This rule is not meant to include presence in establishments excluded in Wis. Stat. 125.07.
- 5. Students subject to the code shall not engage in behavior contrary to the ideals, principles and standards of the school.
 - A. Willful and persistent disrespect or behavior which is disruptive to or interferes with the learning environment may result in ineligibility.
 - B. Violation of contest or game regulations as established by the WIAA which causes ejection from an athletic contest will result in missing one additional interscholastic contest.

PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS

Number of contests will be determined by WIAA maximums for each sport---0 to 4 – rounds down and 5 to 9 round up.

The Ellsworth Community School District School Board authorizes the administration to impose a penalty consistent with the severity of the offense up to one calendar year, including, but not limited to, the following:

1. **FIRST OFFENSE:** Suspension from the team for a minimum of 25% of the WIAA scheduled games, meets, tournaments, pre and post season play, etc. If that number of events does not remain to be played, the penalty shall extend into the season of the next sport in which the offender participates.

Counseling concerning the problems inherent in the infraction may be provided to the student found in violation of the rule. This counseling may be delegated to the coach, athletic director, guidance counselor, school nurse, building principal, or any person the athletic director feels is the best qualified to counsel the student on the particular matter.

SELF-REFERRAL (First Offense Only): When an athlete confesses to breaking a rule addressed by the Athletic Code, a suspension of 10% of the scheduled events will take place. Self-referral must be made to the coach, athletic director, or principal within 48 hours of the code violation.

PARENT-REFERRAL (First Offense Only): When a parent reports his/her child breaking a rule addressed by the Athletic Code a suspension of 10% of the scheduled events will take place. Parent-referral must be made to the coach, athletic director, or principal within 48 hours of the code violation.

2. **SECOND OFFENSE:** Suspension from competing in events for one sport season. Suspensions occurring during a season result in the violation being applied immediately and carried over into the next season. To become eligible for competition an athlete must do one of the following options:
 - a. Make an agreement with the coach to participate in the full sport season and practice with no competition. If this is agreed on, the athlete must start and finish the entire season in good standing at the coach's discretion. The athlete would then be eligible to compete in the next sport season.
 - i. Example: violation occurs in the middle of the fall season, the athlete would have to complete the fall season, in good standing with the coach, and then the athlete would have to start the winter season, as agreed on with the coach, and serve the remaining penalty. The athlete would have to finish the entire winter season in good standing with the coach. The athlete would then be eligible to compete in the entire spring sport season.
 - b. If option (a) is not chosen, the athlete must sit out for the next sport they have participated in the past. The athlete must meet with the athletic director prior to the start of the season to fulfill the requirement. If the athlete is a freshman, the sport will be based on what was participated in at the middle school level.
 - i. Example: violation occurs in the middle of the fall season, at the time of violation and after meeting with the athletic director, the athlete would not have any involvement with the team for the remaining part of the fall

season. The athlete would then meet with the athletic director prior to the start of the winter season to sit the remaining part of the penalty for the winter sport that they have went out for in the past. After the penalty has been served, the athlete would be eligible to play what is left in the winter season and/or be eligible for the full spring season.

- c. Single Sport Athlete Option: sit out for one calendar year from the date of the violation.
 - i. Example: violation occurs in the middle of the fall season, athlete would have to complete the fall season, in good standing with the coach, then the athlete would have to start the following fall season, as agreed on with the coach, and serve the remaining penalty in the fall season, making the athlete eligible to compete for the remaining part of the fall season.

OR

- ii. Example: violation occurs in the middle of the fall season, at the time of violation and after meeting with the athletic director, the athlete would not have any involvement with the team for the remaining part of the fall season. The athlete would then meet with the athletic director prior to the start of the following fall season to sit the remaining part of the penalty. After the penalty has been served, the athlete would be eligible to compete for the remaining part of fall season and/or be eligible for the full winter season.

- 3. THIRD OFFENSE: Suspension from all competition for one complete calendar year.
- 4. SENIOR VIOLATION: During the course of a senior's season where an athlete has a violation that caused them to be ineligible for competition at the end of the season, was not able to complete the season, or the violation occurred at the seasons end, the individual would not be able to letter or attend the athletic end of season banquet. If an underclassman received this violation it would be at the coach's discretion if they are to letter and/or attend the athletic banquet.

STATE TOURNAMENT VIOLATIONS

Under article XXVII of the WIAA general rules, a violation of this code during an association sponsored tournament will result in immediate disqualification of the student for the remainder of the total tournament series in that sport.

INDIVIDUAL SPORT RULES AND REGULATIONS.

In all violations it is a decision of the coach whether the athlete who is being disciplined shall continue to practice or not. Each coach's practice policy will be on file with the athletic director prior to the season. Head coaches in all interscholastic sports at Ellsworth Community High School have the right to set up rules and regulations not covered by this code. For example, they may wish to enforce training hours, practice attendance, or playing suspension. Each head coach will be responsible to see that a copy of his/her individual rules and regulations are on file with the athletic director. Each young man or woman participating in a sport must receive a written copy of the rules and regulations he or she is expected to follow.

PROCEDURE OF DETERMINING PENALTY

Where the violation is denied by the student, and an accuser has charged that a violation has occurred, the athletic director and/or school administration:

1. Hear the evidence from both accused and accuser.
2. Determine innocence or guilt.
3. If found guilty, determine the penalty according to the preceding elements of the code.

Where the student has admitted the violation to one or more school administrative officials, including his/her coach, athletic director, or the principal:

1. The athletic director shall be presented with such admission.
2. The penalty shall be imposed immediately and the student notified of the suspension.
3. If a game or event is scheduled or played during the period before review by the athletic director, the student shall be deemed suspended from such play or participation. The student may request a hearing by the Athletic Council to consider alternate penalties within two school days of his/her notification of the suspension.

If a student is accused of violating the rules and regulations of this athletic code, he/she can expect the following procedure:

1. The athletic director must present his/her complaint to the principal of the alleged incident.
2. The athletic director will inform the student and his/her parents of the charges being brought against him/her.
3. At the request of the student, the proceedings will not be open to the public.
4. The student will have an opportunity to contest the charges.
5. The student will be informed within 24 hours of the accusation of the athletic director's decision.

APPEALS

The athletic council (determined at the beginning of the school year) will enforce this code whenever a student or parent appeals the imposed penalty. The council shall be made up of two coaches, two non-coaching faculty representatives, the assistant principal, an E-Club representative, and a Student Council representative. The athletic director shall preside but will be a non-voting member. The athletic director will appoint the coaches and faculty representatives on the council. All members will have one vote, and the majority opinion will be the council's decision. A tie vote will mean the student is not guilty.

The athletic director will present the charge to the athletic council. The student's parent(s) or legal guardian may also be present at this time.

Decisions of the athletic director may be appealed by doing the following:

1. After a ruling of ineligibility resulting in suspension from athletics has been made, or such suspension has been imposed, the athlete or his/her parents may formally appeal the decision in writing to the athletic council providing the appeal is received within seven days from the first day such ineligibility shall take effect. The first day of ineligibility is the day the suspension is imposed, not the day of the next succeeding athletic event.
2. The athletic council shall review the proceedings of the athletic director and shall render judgment within three days as to whether the athletic director's decision will stand or not.

3. If the athlete and/or parents are not satisfied with the findings of the appeal to the council, they may appeal in writing to the Board of Education. The superintendent must receive in writing, a request for a hearing before the Board of Education within fourteen days of the notice of the decision of the first appeal. Proceedings of the hearing, including the decision, will be put in writing and a copy will be provided for the athlete and his/her parents.
4. An Athlete shall be deemed ineligible while the appeal process is taking place.

ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY

Scholastic achievement should be the prime concern of the student; therefore, students participating in interscholastic athletics grades 9-12 must maintain a passing grade in all of their subjects. Subjects are all classes for credit in which the student is enrolled during a grading period. Eligibility for fall sports shall depend upon grades earned at the end of the fourth term.

- A. If the student fails to meet this academic standard, he/she will be subject to the following consequences: (during each of the ineligible periods the student must attend all practice sessions as required by the coach. Each unexcused practice extends the penalty by one interscholastic contest). Ineligibility due to failure will start the day after the report cards are distributed to the student body.

FALL ONLY---If there are any contests held before the school year starts for the students, ineligibility would take place at that time. After serving the initial ineligibility, the student would become eligible, but academic progress would be checked during the second week of school to determine continued eligibility.

Number of contests will be determined by WIAA maximums for each sport---0 to 4 – rounds down and 5 to 9 round up.

1. Failure in one (1) subject after the completed term, deems athlete ineligible for 10% of the interscholastic schedule with a minimum of 1 contest. After the suspension has been served, a student must be passing all classes, or demonstrating progress to passing the failed classes, or ineligibility continues. Checks will be made weekly.
2. Failure in two (2) subjects after the completed term, deems athlete ineligible for 25% of the interscholastic schedule with a minimum of 2 contests. After the suspension has been served a student must be passing all classes, or demonstrating progress to passing the failed classes, or ineligibility continues. Checks will be made weekly.
3. Failure in three (3) or more subjects after the completed term, deems athlete ineligible to practice or participate for the remainder of the sports season or a minimum of 15 school days in the next sport they participate in.
4. Incompletes will not figure into ineligibility unless they are changed to a grade of F.
5. When a student has accumulated two failures in one grading period, he/she must meet with the athletic director to set up an academic plan. This plan will require the student athlete to receive weekly progress reports from his/her teachers. Any negative reports (behind in work, assignments, or not passing the class) will result in ineligibility for the next seven days. Reports will be submitted to the athletic director each week.
6. Penalties for this portion of the code are independent of other penalties—any suspension would be added to existing suspension.

AWAY TRIPS

Players are required to ride the team bus home after away games. Under extenuating circumstances a player may be granted permission to ride home with parents/guardians. A written request will be required. To ensure student safety, under no circumstances are players to ride home with anyone other than their parents/guardians. The parent/guardian providing a ride must speak with the coach in person prior to leaving with their child.

CARE AND MAINTENANCE OF EQUIPMENT

Student athletes shall be held responsible for the care, maintenance and return of all equipment they are issued. Any equipment lost or willfully abused must be paid for by the student to whom it was issued.

AGE OF MAJORITY DISCLAIMER

Ellsworth Community High School realizes that a small percentage of its student athletes have reached the age of majority. It is not the intent of Ellsworth Community High School to deny these students their constitutional rights. However, in order to maintain consistency in our athletic programs it shall be the intent of Ellsworth Community High School to enforce all the rules and regulations of the athletic code for all student athletes regardless of age.

INVALIDITY

The failure to file any report, rule, or document required by this code shall not be cause for unenforceability of any rule or decision provided the student has received notice of the report, rule, document, or decision.

PARENT / ATHLETE / COACH EXPECTATIONS

Parenting and coaching are extremely difficult vocations. By establishing an understanding of each other's expectations, we are better able to accept the actions of both parties and provide greater benefits to the student/athlete. When a child becomes involved in a co-curricular activity, parents and coaches have a right to understand what EXPECTATIONS are going to be placed on the athlete and on each other. This begins with clear communication from the athlete, parent, coach, and athletic department.

COMMUNICATION AND EXPECTATIONS PARENTS AND ATHLETES SHOULD EXPECT FROM THE COACHES:

1. The expectations the coaches have for their athletes and all team members.
2. Location and times of all practices.
3. Team requirements, fees, special equipment, game dress, off-season opportunities.
4. The policy dealing with excused and unexcused absences.
5. The Ellsworth Community School District and WIAA requirements for eligibility.
6. Team rules beyond the Athletic Code.
7. The lettering requirements.
8. The coaches act as a role model for good sportsmanship, use of appropriate language, promoting a healthy environment and safe teaching techniques.
9. Well-planned practices.

COMMUNICATION AND EXPECTATIONS COACHES SHOULD EXPECT FROM THE ATHLETE AND PARENTS:

1. Notification of any scheduled conflicts that may occur, in advance of the season. (Vacations, etc.)
2. Special concerns regarding coaching expectations. (Practice requirements)

3. Support for the Athletic Code and all team rules.
4. If the athlete has a concern, the parents should encourage their son/daughter to speak with the coach or coaching staff.
5. Support for all team members and the coaching staff.
6. Positive support at games for their son/daughter, their teammates and the coaching staff.
7. Exhibit good sportsmanship and appropriate language by the athlete and parents at games and/or practices.
8. A great work ethic at practices and in games.

APPROPRIATE CONCERNS ATHLETE / PARENT MAY ADDRESS WITH COACHING STAFF:

1. Ways to help the athlete improve his/her performance and skill level.
2. Concerns about the athletes' behavior in school/practices/games.

AREAS THAT ARE NOT APPROPRIATE FOR PARENTS TO DISCUSS WITH COACHES:

1. An individual's playing time.
2. Team strategy.
3. Play selections.
4. The make-up of the team and the decision as to who plays on a particular team.
5. Other members of the team, other parents, and other coaches.

THE PROPER METHOD TO ADDRESS A CONCERN:

STEP ONE:

- a. The athlete speaks with the coach. (Would suggest the coaching staff be involved/present when this conference takes place)

STEP TWO:

- a. The parent asks for a conference with the coach and the athlete. If the coach cannot be reached, the parent should contact the athletic director and it will be arranged for the coach to contact the parent.

STEP THREE:

- a. If the conference between the parent/athlete and coach does not resolve the concern, there will be a meeting set up by the athletic director. The Athletic Director will moderate the conference.
- b. The conference will deal with the specific issues that the parent/athlete has. Both parties will be allowed to speak in an uninterrupted manner. The conference will be in a non-threatening environment.

PARENT-STUDENT AGREEMENT

I have read the athletic code of the Ellsworth High School. I understand that violation of any of the WIAA or Ellsworth Community High School regulations will result in action as prescribed. Furthermore, any act in violation of the athletic code that occurs outside the school setting that is brought to the attention of school authorities, will be prosecuted under the athletic code following standards of fairness. Further, we understand that participation in school sponsored extra-curricular activities is a privilege and that all such participation is voluntary.



2016-2017 High School Athletic Eligibility Information Bulletin

To: Student-Athletes and Their Parents
From: Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association and Ellsworth Schools

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.

These are WIAA eligibility rules, which are **current for the 2016-2017 school year**:

AGE

A student shall be ineligible for interscholastic competition if he/she reaches his/her 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 schools requirements prevail and must be applied as written.

ATTENDANCE

A student-athlete is eligible for interscholastic competition at a member school if he/she is 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 and the three consecutive years starting with Grade 10, unless there are documented extenuating circumstances and a waiver has been provided.
- B. A student is ineligible if he/she has graduated from a school offering studies through Grade 12 or its equivalent.
- C. A student who graduated in May or June retains eligibility for (a) any portion of a spring athletic schedule not completed by the end of the academic year and (b) the school's summer athletic schedule.
- D. A student is ineligible if he/she has 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 his/her 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 his/her 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, he/she 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, he/she becomes eligible.
- H. A student-athlete will not be eligible if his/her 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 he/she transfers to another school.
- J. Except in situations involving transfer after a student's fourth 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 fourth 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 after the sixth consecutive semester following entry into Grade 9 shall be ineligible for competition at any level for one calendar year, but may practice, unless the transfer is made necessary by a total 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. Open enrolled and/or tuition paying 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. Open enrolled and/or tuition paying students entering 11th grade are restricted to nonvarsity opportunities for one calendar year.
- D. Open enrolled and/or tuition paying students entering 12th grade as transfer students are ineligible to compete at any level for one calendar year, but may practice.
- E. 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.
- F. 10th or 11th 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).
- G. 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. In situations involving transfer after the sixth consecutive semester following entry into grade 9 the student is ineligible to compete at any level for one calendar year, but may practice.
- H. District policies with respect to intra-district transfer do not supercede WIAA transfer rules in situations involving post-sixth semester transfers. Intra-district transfers occurring after the sixth consecutive semester following entry into grade 9 result in the student being ineligible for competition at any level for one calendar year (365 days beginning with first day of attendance at the new school), but may practice.
- I. Unless transfer, including an accompanying change of parents' residence, is effective at the outset of a semester, a student cannot establish eligibility at his/her new school until the fifth calendar day of such transfer.
- J. If within the first four consecutive semesters following entry into grade 9, 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. In situations involving transfer after the sixth consecutive semester following entry into grade 9 the student is ineligible to compete at any level for one calendar year, but may practice.
- K. 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 move.
- L. 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 his/her new school for the same period as decreed by the former school.
- M. 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 he/she 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 his/her school's code of conduct (training rules) on a year-round basis.

- A. A student-athlete who violates his/her 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. A student-athlete who violates his/her 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.
- D. 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.
- E. A student-athlete, disqualified from a contest for flagrant or unsportsmanlike conduct, is also suspended from the next competitive event.
- F. 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.
- G. A school must provide an opportunity for the student to be heard prior to a penalty being enforced. If a student appeals a suspension, according to the schools appeal procedure, the student is ineligible during the appeal process.
- H. 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 cash or merchandise such as shoes, shirts, jackets, sweaters, sweatshirts, jerseys, warm-ups, equipment, balls, duffel bags, backpacks, watches, rings, billfolds, coupons, gift certificates, regardless of their value 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 awards for school achievement which are symbolic (non utilitarian) in nature – badges, certificates, trophies, medals, banners, ribbons, pictures, plaques, event T-shirts, event hats, game balls, unattached emblems, letters, season highlight DVD or video, e.g.
- 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. This includes receiving free and/or reduced rates on equipment, apparel, camps/clinics/instruction and competitive opportunities that are not identical for any and all interested students.
- D. 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.
- E. A student-athlete may not participate in school athletics or in sports activities outside the school under a name other than his/her own name.

SPORTS ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL

Athletes may compete in not more than two non-school competitions with 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).

- 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 his/her parents must pay 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 his/her 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.

CONCUSSION INFORMATION

When in Doubt, Sit Them Out!

- Before a student may participate in practice or competition: At the beginning of a season for a youth athletic activity, the person operating the youth athletic activity shall distribute a concussion and head injury information sheet to each person who will be coaching that youth athletic activity and to each person who wishes to participate in that youth athletic activity. No person may participate in a youth athletic activity unless the person returns the information sheet signed by the person and, if he or she is under the age of 19, by his or her parent or guardian.
- An athletic coach, or official involved in a youth athletic activity, or health care provider shall remove a person from the youth athletic activity if the coach, official, or health care provider determines that the person exhibits signs, symptoms, or behavior consistent with a concussion or head injury or the coach, official, or health care provider suspects the person has sustained a concussion or head injury.
- A person who has been removed from a youth athletic activity may not participate in a youth athletic activity until he or she is evaluated by a health care provider and receives a written clearance to participate in the activity from the health care provider.

<p>These are some SIGNS concussion (what others can see in an injured athlete):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dazed or stunned appearance Change in the level of consciousness or awareness Confused about assignment Forgets plays Unsure of score, game, opponent Clumsy Answers more slowly than usual Shows behavior changes Loss of consciousness Asks repetitive questions or memory concerns 	<p>These are some of the more common SYMPTOMS of concussion (what an injured athlete feels):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Headache Nausea Dizzy or unsteady Sensitive to light or noise Feeling mentally foggy Problems with concentration and memory Confused Slow
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Injured athletes can exhibit many or just a few of the signs and/or symptoms of concussion. However, if a player exhibits any signs or symptoms of concussion, the responsibility is simple: remove them from participation. "When in doubt sit them out."

It is important to notify a parent or guardian when an athlete is thought to have a concussion. Any athlete with a concussion must be seen by an appropriate health care provider before returning to practice (including weight lifting) or competition.

RETURN TO PLAY

Current recommendations are for a stepwise return to play program. In order to resume activity, the athlete must be symptom free and off any pain control or headache medications. The athlete should be carrying a full academic load without any significant accommodations. Finally, the athlete must have clearance from an appropriate health care provider.

The program described below is a guideline for returning concussed athletes when they are symptom free. Athletes with multiple concussions and athletes with prolonged symptoms often require a very different return to activity program and should be managed by a physician that has experience in treating concussion.

The following program allows for one step per 24 hours. The program allows for a gradual increase in heart rate/physical exertion, coordination, and then allows contact. If symptoms return, the athlete should stop activity and notify their healthcare provider before progressing to the next level.

STEP ONE: About 15 minutes of light exercise: stationary biking or jogging

STEP TWO: More strenuous running and sprinting in the gym or field without equipment

STEP THREE: Begin non-contact drills in full uniform. May also resume weight lifting

STEP FOUR: Full practice with contact

STEP FIVE: Full game clearance

118.293 Concussion and head injury.

(1) In this section:

(a) "Credential" means a license or certificate of certification issued by this state.

(b) "Health care provider" means a person to whom all of the following apply:

1. He or she holds a credential that authorizes the person to provide health care.
2. He or she is trained and has experience in evaluating and managing pediatric concussions and head injuries.
3. He or she is practicing within the scope of his or her credential.

(c) "Youth athletic activity" means an organized athletic activity in which the participants, a majority of whom are under 19 years of age, are engaged in an athletic game or competition against another team, club, or entity, or in practice or preparation for an organized athletic game or competition against another team, club, or entity. "Youth athletic activity" does not include a college or university activity or an activity that is incidental to a nonathletic program.

(2) In consultation with the Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association, the department shall develop guidelines and other information for the purpose of educating athletic coaches and pupil athletes and their parents or guardians about the nature and risk of concussion and head injury in youth athletic activities.

(3) At the beginning of a season for a youth athletic activity, the person operating the youth athletic activity shall distribute a concussion and head injury information sheet to each person who will be coaching that youth athletic activity and to each person who wishes to participate in that youth athletic activity. No person may participate in a youth athletic activity unless the person returns the information sheet signed by the person and, if he or she is under the age of 19, by his or her parent or guardian.

(4) (a) An athletic coach, or official involved in a youth athletic activity, or health care provider shall remove a person from the youth athletic activity if the coach, official, or health care provider determines that the person exhibits signs, symptoms, or behavior consistent with a concussion or head injury or the coach, official, or health care provider suspects the person has sustained a concussion or head injury.

(b) A person who has been removed from a youth athletic activity under par. (a) may not participate in a youth athletic activity until he or she is evaluated by a health care provider and receives a written clearance to participate in the activity from the health care provider.

(5) (a) Any athletic coach, official involved in an athletic activity, or volunteer who fails to remove a person from a youth athletic activity under sub. (4) (a) is immune from civil liability for any injury resulting from that omission unless it constitutes gross negligence or willful or wanton misconduct.

(b) Any volunteer who authorizes a person to participate in a youth athletic activity under sub. (4) (b) is immune from civil liability for any injury resulting from that act unless the act constitutes gross negligence or willful or wanton misconduct.

(6) This section does not create any liability for, or a cause of action against, any person.

**Media Release Form
Ellsworth Community School District
Parent Acknowledgement of Risk and Release**

We/I, (the parents and student athlete), do hereby acknowledge that we/I have been fully advised, cautioned, and warned by the proper administrative and coaching personnel of the Ellsworth Community School District that our/my child named above, may suffer serious injury, including but not limited to sprains, fractures, brain damage, paralysis, or even death, by participating in Ellsworth Community High School Athletics, notwithstanding such warnings, and with full knowledge and understanding of the risk and serious injury to our/my child named above which may result, we /I give our/my consent to our child participating in these sports.

We hereby release, discharge, and/or otherwise indemnify the Ellsworth School District, and their employees against any claim by/or on behalf of the registrant as a result of the registrant's participation in sports.

We further acknowledge that by providing permission to my/our student to participate in athletics, that the school may take photographs and other reproductions of the activity and my use those reproductions in school newsletters, promotional materials, on its website, or may otherwise disseminate said photographs including identification of the students depicted. This authorization is provided notwithstanding any opt-out election made with respect to student directory date.

**ELLSWORTH SCHOOL DISTRICT
ATHLETIC FEES**

HIGH SCHOOL

Individual Fee per Sport	\$75.00
Individual Cap (3 sports)	\$225.00
Middle/High School District Family Cap	\$425.00

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Individual Fee per Sport	\$50.00
Individual Cap (3 sports)	\$150.00
Middle School Family Only Cap	\$250.00
Middle/High School District Family Cap	\$425.00

Possible Information Sheets on Concussions:

Parents

www.wiaawi.org/Portals/0/PDF/Health/ConcussionParents.pdf
www.wiaawi.org/Portals/0/PDF/NFHSParentGuide.pdf

Athletes

www.wiaawi.org/Portals/0/PDF/Health/ConcussionAthletes.pdf

Order CDC materials

wwwn.cdc.gov/pubs/ncipc.aspx#tbi4