



Athletic Code

*for Participation in the River Valley School District
Athletic Program*

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
I. DISTRICT PHILOSOPHY	3
II. THE GOAL OF THE ATHLETIC PROGRAMS	3
A. Goal	3
B. Expectations	3
III. WIAA RULES & REGULATIONS (Athletics and Cheerleaders)	3-4
IV. RIVER VALLEY ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS	4-5
A. Academic Eligibility	4
B. At-Risk Status	5
C. Other Eligibility Requirements	5
V. CODE OF CONDUCT OF STUDENT-ATHLETES	6-11
A. What Constitutes Proof of Misconduct	6
B. Unlawful, Illegal or Specifically Prohibited Acts for all Categories Listed in the Handbook	6-8
C. "Guilt by Association" Clause	8-9
D. Breach of Conduct	9-10
E. Procedure Relating to the Athletic Code Violations	10-11
F. Carry Over of Suspension Terms/Conditions/Violations are Cumulative	11
G. Regulations of the River Valley Athletic Program	11
VI. POLICY #112 – NONDISCRIMINATION	11
VII. CAPTAINS POLICY	11-12
VIII. OUT OF SEASON PARTICIPATION PHILOSOPHY	12
IX. TRANSPORTATION	12-13
X. ATHLETE AND PARENT/GUARDIAN CONCERNS AND COMPLAINTS	13-14
A. Informal Process for Concerns and Complaints	13
B. Formal Complaint Process	13-14
XI. HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION BULLETIN	15-20
XII. PARTICIPANT/PARENT AGREEMENT TO ABIDE BY RIVER VALLEY ATHLETIC CODE	21



I. DISTRICT PHILOSOPHY

It is the view of the River Valley School District and its Athletic Programs that participation is a privilege, not a right. The River Valley School District athletic programs operate on the philosophy that the student's participation in athletic activities help the students grow as individuals, so they become better people both on and off the field. Participation in athletic activities has a critical role in producing a positive impact on student achievement. Because of this strong correlation, good competition is promoted, however "winning" is not the primary goal of the Athletic Program. RVSD strongly supports athletic programs where coaches use their sport as a vehicle to teach an athlete to be a better person and strives to ensure that their programs have a positive impact on athletes.

II. THE GOAL OF THE ATHLETIC PROGRAMS

A. Goal

1. To provide the opportunity for our students to develop their physical abilities and personal character;
2. To honorably represent their school and community in athletic activities; and
3. To continuously "raise the bar" of academic expectations and achievement over the course of their school career.

B. Expectations

In doing so, all student-athletes are required to:

1. Exhibit good sportsmanship and fair play in both practice and competition;
2. Conduct themselves in an exemplary manner at all times, both on and off the playing field, performance arena;
3. Accept victory or defeat in a mature and emotionally balanced manner;
4. Understand that participation in athletic activities is a privilege that involves a great deal of personal responsibility; and
5. Understand that their conduct and performance in the arena of athletics cannot be viewed separately or in isolation from their conduct and performance in the classroom.

III. WIAA RULES AND REGULATIONS (Athletics and Cheerleaders)

- A. Student athletes will be subject to WIAA rules and regulations, including any amendments thereto. This code includes a summary of relevant provisions, but all WIAA rules and regulations are incorporated into the requirements of this code. This athletic code is to be interpreted in a manner that is consistent with the WIAA rules and regulations. Any ambiguity or conflict between this code and the WIAA rules and regulations will be resolved in favor of compliance with the rules of the WIAA.
- B. The student-athlete must follow his/her school's code of conduct on a year-round basis. (See Section V. Code of Conduct of Student Athletes.)



- C. Every student-athlete must have a record of a medical examination filed in the school office before he or she can compete in a practice or a contest in any sport. The exam must be completed on an every-other-year basis, starting with the first year of participation in sports. In those years when a physical is not required, the student must complete and return an alternate card, signed by the student's parents or guardian, stating that the student has not been hospitalized or suffered serious injury or illness since the most recent physical exam. This card is provided by the WIAA and can be picked up in the front office or Activities director's office.
- D. The student-athlete must be under the age of 19 as of August 1 of any given school year.
- E. The student-athlete must be carried on the attendance rolls, for the purposes of state aid, as a student in grades 7-12.
- F. The student-athlete is eligible only in the school district in which his/her parents or legal guardian are legal (physical) residents or through acceptable WIAA provisions (i.e. open enrollment).
- G. The student-athlete must be an amateur in order to be eligible for school athletics.
- H. The student-athlete in a given sport may not participate in that same sport in activities outside of the school - either as a team member or as an individual or as an independent entry - during the same time that he or she is participating with the school team.

IV. RIVER VALLEY ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

A. Academic Eligibility

To maintain athletic eligibility in the River Valley School District a student in grades 7-12 must meet all of the following criteria. The following eligibility requirements will be determined at the end of each quarter grading period. The quarter grading period preceding a sport season will determine initial eligibility. Conversely, the quarter grading period ending during a sport season determines ongoing eligibility for the season. **At end of each quarter grading period, students who do not have a 2.0 GPA will be placed on an At-Risk status.**

1. The student must not receive more than one failing grade (F) in the current grading period;
2. The student must maintain a minimum 2.0 grade point average; and
3. The student must be considered a full time student. Full time students must be enrolled in the equivalent of six classes. If part of these six classes is a work experience/apprenticeship/youth options, this must be approved by administration.

Any student who does not meet all of the above criteria (1, 2, and 3) will be automatically ineligible for either 21 consecutive calendar days (fall sports season) or 15 scheduled school days, in accordance with WIAA rules and school policy.

All ineligible students will be allowed to practice at the discretion of their coach during this time, but they will not be allowed to participate in scheduled events.



B. At-Risk Status

All ineligible students who seek eligibility will be put on a week-to-week At-Risk Status during the time of their ineligibility.

If at the end of the 21- or 15-day ineligibility period, a student secures teacher verification that they have improved their grades to meet the above stated criteria, the student will then become eligible for participation.

The At-Risk Status (teacher verification) that determines eligibility will be monitored by the activities director on a weekly basis (each week after the initial 21- or 15-day period). The athletic director will inform coaches of students eligibility.

Eligibility for At-Risk/Special Education students will be determined by their academic capabilities as identified in their Individualized Educational Plans (IEPs) or Building Intervention Plans (BIP).

C. Other Eligibility Requirements

To be eligible for practice or competition in an athletic activity, the student-athlete must:

1. Have on file in the Activities director's office:
 - a) The proper WIAA card
 - b) An emergency medical card.
2. Be cleared from any equipment/uniform responsibility incurred from participation in a previous sport.
3. Have a signed statement on file in the activities director's office stating that the student-athlete and his or her parents or guardian understand and agree to abide by all of the provisions contained in the Athletic Code.
4. Have paid the user fee by no later than 12:00 noon on the day of the first scheduled contest.
 - a) Grade 9 User Fee: \$60 (regardless of level of play)
 - b) Grades 10-12 User Fee: \$80 (regardless of level of play)
 - c) Grades 9-12 Hockey User Fee: \$475 (Sauk Prairie Co-Op - regardless of level of play)
5. ALL required concussion testing and documentation completed AND on file (per state law).



V. CODE OF CONDUCT OF STUDENT-ATHLETES

Student-athletes in the River Valley School District are expected to set an example of excellence of both conduct and sportsmanship for their fellow students. These behaviors, as well as all matters of conduct described below, are expected of the student-athlete *year-round*, not only during the school year or athletic season.

All student-athletes are strongly advised to avoid any activities or circumstances that may result in an accusation against them or that may otherwise endanger their eligibility.

A. What Constitutes Proof of Misconduct?

A detailed report of misconduct (on the part of an athletic participant) by a credible witness will be considered sufficient evidence for the disciplinary actions described above if any one of the following applies:

1. The reporting party is a law enforcement official;
2. The reporting party signs, or otherwise gives permission to use, his or her name to the testimony given;
3. Lacking such signature or permission, if another independent, credible party corroborates the testimony of the reporting party and gives permission to use his/her name; or
4. Lacking such signature or permission, the Activities director/Principal/Dean of Student's judges that the evidence presented is sufficient.

B. Unlawful, Illegal, or Specifically Prohibited Acts for all Categories Listed in the Handbook

1. Violations

When there is sufficient evidence that a student athlete has committed an unlawful, illegal, or specifically prohibited act, including but not limited to the following, the violation will constitute a code violation:

- a. Theft
- b. Vandalism
- c. Assault
- d. Battery
- e. Sexual assault of any degree
- f. The possession, use, or selling of alcoholic beverages or controlled substances (drugs).
- g. The possession or use of tobacco in any form
- h. The possession or use of electronic smoking devices, defined as any electronic device containing or delivering nicotine or any other substance intended for human consumption that an individual may use to simulate smoking by inhaling vapor or aerosol from the device, regardless of whether the device is manufactured, distributed, marketed, or sold as an "ecigarette," "e-cigar," "e-pipe," "e-hookah," or "vape pen" or under any other product name or descriptor.
- i. Disorderly conduct

NOTE: "Holding" an alcoholic drink, tobacco product, electronic smoking device, or illegal drugs shall also be considered a violation of the Athletic Code.



NOTE: Consequences for violations under this portion are spelled out under each category listed in this handbook.

2. Disciplinary Action

a. 1st Offense

- 1) Immediate suspension from competition for 1/3 of the current season (or for 1/3 of the upcoming season if the infraction occurs in the off-season). (See Section V.E. Procedure Relating to the Athletic Code Violations).
- 2) Mandatory attendance at practice for the duration of the suspension.
- 3) In order for students to be eligible for court election (Homecoming, Prom, Snowball/Winter Dance) no violation may have occurred within 30 school days preceding the court election. Any violations between the time of election to the court and the coronation will result in removal from the court.
- 4) The activities director will refer the student to the correct person(s). The student will then be enrolled in the school's Student Assistance Program and required to successfully complete the assigned number of classes based on the recommendations made by the Program Designee. Successful completion of an outside program may be required if deemed necessary by the Program Designee.
- 5) In cases of theft, vandalism, etc., appropriate restitution (return or repayment of value) and/or reparation (making amends) for the infraction.

NOTE: On a first offense, eligibility for letter and awards will not be affected.

In the event that the first offense is an act that maliciously injures another person, directly and immediately endangers the life of another person (e.g. assault and battery or driving while intoxicated), or is otherwise determined to be a serious act of misconduct, the student-athlete may be disciplined at a level greater than a 1st offense.

b. 2nd Offense

- 1) Suspension from competition for 2/3 of season.
- 2) Loss of letter and awards for the current season or seasons involved.
- 3) Students are not eligible for court (Homecoming, Prom, Snowball/Winter Dance) if a second violation has occurred within 45 days prior to the election. Any violations between the time of election to the court and the coronation will result in removal from the court.
- 4) The Activities director will refer the student to the correct individual. The ATODA Program Designee and Activities director will then hold an administrative meeting with the student and parent(s). Based on the results of this meeting a plan will be developed for the student to follow and complete. Successful completion of an outside program may be required if deemed necessary by the ATODA Program Designee.
- 5) Appropriate restitution and/or reparation.



c. 3rd Offense

- 1) Suspension for one full season.
- 2) Must fulfill the five steps of the Reinstatement Policy (See Reinstatement Policy).

d. 4th Offense

- 1) Suspension for one full calendar year.
- 2) Must fulfill the five steps of the Reinstatement Policy (See Reinstatement Policy).

In all offenses listed above, an athlete must start and successfully complete a season during which a suspension is being served before becoming eligible for a subsequent sports season.

3. Reinstatement Policy for Category Violations

A participant who has lost eligibility as a result of a 3rd or 4th offense under Category One may formally petition the Athletic Council (See Procedure Relating to Athletic Code Violations) for reinstatement. In order to be considered for reinstatement the participant must have:

- a. Proof that appropriate and timely restitution and reparation have been made for the infraction.
- b. No disciplinary referrals since the date of suspension.
- c. No unexcused absences since the date of suspension.
- d. At least three staff recommendations attesting to noticeable positive improvements in the student's behavior, attitude, and effort over the course of the term of suspension.
- e. For offenses related to ATODA (alcohol or drug abuse), certified completion of a school-approved assessment and treatment program. In addition to the assessment and recommendations, the student must complete the items listed below:
 - 1) Meetings between the student and the ATODA Program Designee.
 - 2) One administrative meeting with the parents/guardian, the student, and the ATODA Program Designee.
 - 3) Failure to follow the recommendations will cause the student to become ineligible for participation until such time as all recommendations have been successfully completed.

In all cases of ATODA screening or assessment, the River Valley School District Activities director/Administration and the ATODA Program Designee shall be authorized by the student to receive information about the recommendations made by the treatment provider. The above shall be additionally authorized to monitor the student's participation in the treatment program and the student's observance of the treatment program recommendations.

The Council reserves the right to set additional requirements for reinstatement at its discretion. After the student-athlete has presented his or her case before the Athletic Council, the Council will have seven days in which to investigate the case and to render its decision. A decision not to reinstate will be final.

C. "Guilt by Association" Clause



The River Valley School District has chosen to adopt a “guilt by association” policy for student-athletes who place themselves in compromising or questionable situations. For student-athletes who admit or are found to be in a situation where drugs and/or alcohol are present although they may not have been consuming, the consequences listed under the Association portion of each category in this handbook will apply:

1. 1st Offense - Warning.
2. 2nd Offense - 1 game suspension.
3. 3rd Offense and Thereafter – Suspension for one full calendar year.

NOTE: The rule is not meant to include presence in an establishment that is primarily an eating place or presence in such places with parents, or to prevent being employed at such places. It also is not meant to include presence in places like golf course clubhouse where alcoholic beverages are served or in situations where a student-athlete has a legitimate reason to be there. Attendance at family gatherings, sponsored by parents, where use of alcohol is occurring will not be considered a violation. (This does not allow use of these products.) These exceptions would include such logical events as family weddings, graduation parties, and other similar occasions student-athletes should avoid acts of impropriety or the appearance of impropriety.

D. Breach of Conduct

1. Violations

Violation of any following will constitute a Breach of Conduct:

- a. The student-athlete will abide by all the rules of conduct and behavior as set forth in the school handbook.
- b. The student-athlete will respectfully accept the judgment and decision of all officials and judges. Ejection or removal from a contest either as a participant or a spectator will incur the appropriate disciplinary action described below.
- c. The student-athlete will not engage in **negative** conduct – including, but not limited to fighting, and verbal or physical intimidation – at any time within or outside of the event area.
- d. The student-athlete will commit no act of insubordination or show any disrespect to any school staff member or coach.
- e. The student-athlete will not engage in harassment of any kind or degree.
- f. The student-athlete will not engage in activities that are unbecoming of a student-athlete.

2. Disciplinary Action

The Activities director and/or Athletic Council reserves the right to impose harsher penalties for severe offenses and/or repeat offenders.

INDIVIDUAL COACHES MAY ESTABLISH ADDITIONAL RULES AND ESTABLISH HARSHER PENALTIES. These rules must be submitted in writing and approved by the Activities director before the season. The rules must be presented in writing and signed by the athletic participant.



- a. 1st Offense results when one has accumulated 3 discipline referrals, or given an out of school suspension.
 - 1) Suspension for one regularly scheduled athletic event.*
 - 2) Mandatory practice.
- b. Based on the severity of the offense, any subsequent referrals or suspensions may result in:
 - 1) Suspension for two regularly scheduled athletic events.*
 - 2) Mandatory practice
- c. All Subsequent Violations
 - 1) Suspension for at least four regularly scheduled events* and possible dismissal from the athletic activity.
 - 2) Mandatory practice.

**“Regularly scheduled athletic event(s)” will mean the first such event(s) immediately following the violation, unless otherwise determined by the Activities director.*

NOTE: Any offenses not served by the conclusion of the school year will be carried over to the next season.

E. Procedure Relating to the Athletic Code Violations

1. After a decision of ineligibility due to code of conduct violations has been determined by the Activities director, the Activities director will notify in writing and in a timely manner the parents or guardian of the student-athlete. This written notification must be sent by certified mail. The student and/or parents may formally appeal the decision in writing if they feel they have been falsely accused of the offense to the Activities director or if they feel the Activities director has otherwise failed to follow the code. This appeal must be received within seven calendar days from the date of notification.
2. After an appeal has been received, the Activities director will set a meeting date and will notify the student-athlete, the parents, and the athletic council. The meeting shall be set at the earliest possible date and not to exceed seven calendar days following receipt of the appeal. Every effort will be made not to exceed five school days.
3. The Athletic Council will be assigned by the Activities director or building principal and will comprise:
 - a. The building principal or designee
 - b. Two head coaches (not including the involved coach)
 - c. Two staff members



The Athletic Council decision will be reached by each member of the Council casting one vote by secret ballot. It is not the job of the council to debate on reducing the suspension, but to determine if there was a false accusation and whether the code was properly followed.

The decision will be put in writing and mailed to concerned parties.

4. The student-athlete will be provided the opportunity to speak and present evidence on his/her own behalf at the meeting of the Council.
5. If the student-athlete and/or the parents of the student-athlete are not satisfied with the decision of the council, they may request a second meeting to be held with the district administrator or a party designated by the district administrator. This request must be made in writing within seven days of the decision of the council. This second meeting shall be set at the earliest possible date and not to exceed five school days following receipt of such request.

F. Carry Over of Suspension Terms/Conditions/Violations are Cumulative

All of the terms and conditions of an individual's suspension will carry over from one athletic season to the next in which he or she is a participant, even if this involves a change of school or school year. All violations are cumulative, that is they carry over in sum from one season or year to the next. Violations that occur during the summer immediately following an 8th grade's school promotion will become subject to all provisions for 9-12th grade students.

G. Regulations of the River Valley Athletic Program

1. Attendance at School

To be eligible to participate in a game or practice, the athletic participant must be in school for the **ENTIRE DAY** unless given prior permission by the Principal, Dean of Students or Activities director.

Any student participant missing school two or more times any part of the day following an event will be disciplined by the coach and/or Activities director.

VI. POLICY #112 NONDISCRIMINATION

The River Valley School District is committed to a policy of nondiscrimination on the basis of race, color, sex, national origin, handicap or disability, or any other factor provided for by state and federal laws and regulations.

Complaints regarding the interpretation or application of this policy shall be referred and processed in accordance with established procedures.

VII. CAPTAINS POLICY

The choosing of captains is the coaches responsibility, however if any of the following occur, an athlete is ineligible to be a captain or may be stripped of a captainship:

1. The athlete is suspended for not meeting River Valley High School's academic standards.



2. The athlete is suspended for a violation of our athletic code due to use of illegal substances, conduct unbecoming of an athlete, chronic truancy, or 3 or more discipline referrals.

We believe that being a captain is a privilege, not a right. Captains are asked to be leaders of the sports program in which they have been appointed captains, they need to be the team members that hold others accountable and lead by example.

VIII. OUT OF SEASON PARTICIPATION PHILOSOPHY

It is the belief of the athletic department of River Valley High School, that our high school athletes should be dissuaded from participating in out of season sports during the natural season of a school sponsored sport. It is our belief that we need our student athletes to participate in multiple sports at the high school level and not specialize. Due to this need, we feel that running leagues, clubs, and camps during the season of another high school sport is putting too much of a strain on our student athletes who already need to balance academics and the in-season sport. We feel that it is unacceptable to ask students to participate year-round in a sport, in order to get playing time the next season. We are trying to produce well rounded individuals who have had a chance to experience and be successful in many different activities in high school.

That being said our philosophy is that summer is open to participation in all sports. Coaches are encouraged to sit down and designate certain days that will be set aside for certain sports. We want to allow athletes the chance to participate and improve in all activities that they participate in, during the school year in the summer. Summer participation may not be mandatory, but may be recommended.

IX. Transportation

- A. If parents/guardians provide transportation to, or allow another adult or their son/daughter to provide transportation to or from scheduled interscholastic events, including practices, they must be aware that the following policies are in effect:
- a. Where a parent/guardian provides transportation to their son/daughter to or from a scheduled event, including practices, the parent/guardian shall assume all resulting liability, and the school shall assume no liability.
 - b. Where a parent/guardian, or another adult designated by a parent/guardian transports students other than their own to or from a scheduled event, including practices, the parent/guardian or designated adult transporting the students shall assume all resulting liability, and the school shall assume no liability.
 - c. I further understand that as an adult student or as the parent/guardian of a student participating in this sport, it is my responsibility to make sure the student has safe transportation for these contests and/or practices, and when the District does not provide transportation, any District duty of supervision is limited to the duration of the contest/practice itself.
 - d. If transportation is provided back to the District school site, students must also return to school via the same mode of transportation unless parent(s) request permission to take the student home in their private vehicle. Said request must be in writing (includes electronic communication). Only the legal parent(s) or guardian(s) will be given this prerogative.
 - i. Legal parent(s) or guardian(s) may request permission to have his/her student ride home with the parent/guardian of another student. This request must



be made in writing (includes electronic communication), and only the legal parent(s) or guardian(s) will be given this prerogative.

B. Information related to District vehicle use and the use of private vehicles to transport students can be found in the School Board Policy manual.

a. Reference policies 751 and 752

X. ATHLETE AND PARENT/GUARDIAN CONCERNS AND COMPLAINTS

A. INFORMAL PROCESS FOR CONCERNS AND COMPLAINTS

The Board encourages athletes or parents/guardians to discuss their concerns and complaints through an informal conference with the appropriate coach. Concerns should be expressed as soon as possible to allow early resolution, however, parents/guardians shall adhere to the 24-Hour Rule (below), except in extenuating circumstances affecting a student-athlete's health or safety.

The 24-Hour Rule

Because of the highly emotional nature of any athletic related conversation, the District has a 24 hour rule for all discussions between parents and coaches. Parents/guardians are not allowed to confront a coach, team or league official to discuss any game or practice situation with the coaching and management staff until at least 24 hours has passed from the completion of the game or practice. This is to provide a 24 hour cushion for both parents/guardians and coaches to reflect and to be able to calmly address any problems.

If an informal conference regarding a complaint fails to reach the outcome requested by the athlete or parent, the athlete or parent/guardian may initiate the formal complaint process. Depending on the circumstances, parents may also be directed to another complaint process (e.g., bullying complaint), which may supersede this complaint process.

B. FORMAL COMPLAINT PROCESS

Areas That Are Not Appropriate for Formal Complaint Process

1. Team strategy
2. Play calling
3. Other student athletes

Even after initiating the formal complaint process, athletes and parents/guardians are encouraged to seek informal resolution of their concerns. An athlete or parent/guardian whose concerns are resolved may withdraw a formal complaint at any time. The District will determine whether another complaint process should supersede this complaint process. If so, the District may require the athlete to pursue the complaint under an alternative process and may not proceed under this process.

Level One

An athlete or parent complaint shall be filed with the activities director. Upon receiving the formal complaint, the activities director will set up and facilitate a meeting with the coach and parent/guardian of the athlete within ten working days. It is strongly encouraged that the athlete is involved with this meeting. The activities director will issue a decision to the athlete and parent within ten (10) working days, unless special circumstances require additional time.

Level Two



If the athlete or parent/guardian did not receive the relief requested at Level One, the athlete or parent may request a conference with the building principal to appeal the Level One decision. The appeal must be filed in writing, within ten (10) days of the date of the written Level One response, or, if no response was received, within ten (10) days of the Level One response deadline. The building principal will issue a decision to the athlete and parent within ten (10) working days, unless special circumstances require additional time.

Level Three

If the athlete or parent/guardian did not receive the relief requested at Level Two, the athlete or parent/guardian may appeal the decision to the District Administrator. The appeal must be filed in writing within ten (10) days of the date of the written Level Two response, or, if no response was received, within ten (10) days of the Level Two response deadline. The District Administrator will issue a decision to the athlete and parent within ten (10) working days, unless special circumstances require additional time. This decision will be final.

Level Four

If the athlete or parent/guardian did not receive the relief requested at Level Three, the athlete or parent/guardian may appeal the decision to the School Board. The appeal must be filed in writing within ten (10) days of the date of the written Level Three response, or, if no response was received, within ten (10) days of the Level Three response deadline.



XI. HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION BULLETIN

(Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association - PO Box 267 Stevens Point, WI 54481)

TO: Student-Athletes and their Parents

FROM: Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association and River Valley High School

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 activities 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 activities 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, then sign it and have their signature statement (attached) on file at their school prior to practicing and competing.

These are WIAA eligibility rules:

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 non varsity 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. Except 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.

E. 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 non varsity 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 fourth consecutive semester following entry into Grade 9 shall be ineligible for practice and competition for one calendar year, 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 and/or 12th grade as transfer students are ineligible to practice and/or compete for one calendar year.

D. 9th grade students who transfer after the beginning of the school year and with written consent from both schools directly involved may be provided non varsity opportunities for the remainder of the school year. Restrictions are removed upon entering 10th grade.

E. 10th grade students who transfer after the beginning of the school year and with written consent from both schools directly involved may be provided non varsity 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. In situations involving transfer after the fourth consecutive semester following entry into grade 9 the student is ineligible to practice and compete for one calendar year.

G. District policies with respect to intra-district transfer do not supercede WIAA transfer rules in situations involving post-4th semester transfers. Intra-district transfers occurring after the fourth consecutive semester following entry into grade 9 result in the student being ineligible for practice and competition for one calendar year (365 days beginning with first day of attendance at the new school).

H. 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.

I. 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 non varsity opportunities only for the balance of the calendar year. In situations involving transfer after the fourth consecutive semester following entry into grade 9 the student is ineligible to practice and compete for one calendar year.

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 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 his/her new school for the same period as decreed by the former school.

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 and he/she must have a physical examination (signed by a licensed physician 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 of WIAA-sponsored tournament competition must be immediately declared ineligible for the remainder of tournament series in that sport.

E. A student-athlete, disqualified from a contest for flagrant or unsportsmanlike conduct, is also suspended from the next competitive event.

F. 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.

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 shirts, jackets, sweaters, sweatshirts, jerseys, warm-ups, equipment, balls, duffelbags, 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. This includes receiving free and/or reduced rates on reduced rates on equipment, apparel, camps/clinics/instruction and competitive opportunities that are not identical for all other participants.



D. A student-athlete may not be identified 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

A student-athlete in a given sport may not compete in that same sport outside of school either as a team member or an individual or independent entry during the same time he/she is participating with the school team.

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 in any nonschool games, including scrimmages against other teams.

- (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) 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, a student-athlete may participate in sport activities outside of school with these restrictions:

- (1) A student-athlete must not participate in nonschool programs, activities, camps, clinics and/or competition that is limited to individuals who are likely to be candidates for the school team in that sport in the following season.
- (2) Nonschool activities in which students are engaged may not resemble in any way a school team practicing or competing out-of-season.
- (3) Nonschool team rosters may not include more than the following number of participants from the same school: Volleyball, Hockey, Basketball – 3; Soccer – 6; Baseball, Softball – 5; and Football -4.

C. In the summer nonschool roster restrictions are not in effect and members of a schools team may voluntarily assemble with their teammates (without school and/or school coach involvement) at their own discretion.

D. A student-athlete or his/her parents must pay the fee for specialized training or instruction such as camps, clinics, and similar programs.

E. 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. The sports of baseball, cross country, golf, gymnastics, softball, swimming, tennis, track & field, and wrestling 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.

F. 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 Activities director to be certain.



**XII. PARTICIPANT / PARENT AGREEMENT
TO ABIDE BY RIVER VALLEY ATHLETIC CODE**

Athletic Participant

I agree to abide by the River Valley Athletic Code and realize that any violation on my part will result in the restrictions set forth in the Code. I will also have the integrity to inform my coach and activities director if I ever violate this Code in the future.

Participant's Signature

Grade

Date

Parent

As a parent(s)/guardian(s) of a student participating in the River Valley Athletic Program, I/we support our child's agreement to abide by all of the rules as stated in the River Valley Athletic Code as well as the WIAA High School Athletic Eligibility Information Bulletin.

To demonstrate my/our support, I/we pledge to:

1. Be aware of our child's academic status, behavior, and social habits.
2. Not cover up or provide alibis if rules are broken. We will hold our child responsible and accountable for his/her actions and will inform the activities director if he/she violates the River Valley Athletic Code. We will communicate our intentions to our son/daughter at the beginning of the athletic season so he/she will be aware of what the consequences will be should a violation occur.

Parent's/Guardian's Signature

Date

Parent's/Guardian's Signature

Date

