

Athletic Code

375 Rule

Philosophy/ Preface

The Fall Creek School District recognizes the importance of athletic activities as an integral part of the total educational process of our student/athletes. We believe participation in school-sponsored activities provides a forum for developing traits necessary for teamwork including sportsmanship, accountability, commitment, trust, goal setting, perseverance, dedication to team needs and decisions and achieving common objectives shared by teammates and coaches.

Participation in athletics is entirely voluntary, depending upon adherence to both the Fall Creek Athletic Code and WIAA eligibility requirement. In order to receive the aforementioned benefits, each student/athlete must meet certain expectations for the privilege of participating in athletics sponsored by the Fall Creek School District. This athletic code, along with other rules set forth by the WIAA, the school and/or the coaches, establishes the expectations for student/athlete conduct while representing the Fall Creek School District.

The code shall apply to the following interscholastic athletics for grades 6-12 sponsored by the Fall Creek School District:

- Fall—dance team, cross country (boys and girls), football, volleyball
- Winter—basketball (girls and boys), dance team
- Spring—baseball, golf, softball, track and field (boys and girls)

Every student/athlete and a parent/guardian must sign a pledge card each year agreeing to the terms of this code and return the signed pledge card to the athletic office prior to any participation in athletics. There will be a mandatory code meeting for all participants. This includes fall, winter and spring sports. Every student/athlete and a parent/guardian must attend. If unable to attend said meeting the student/athlete and a parent/guardian must view a webcast of said meeting at the school and sign a pledge card prior to any participation.

Student participation in athletics is a privilege, not a right, and the continued participation of any student/athlete in school-sponsored athletic programs is ultimately reserved to the discretion of the school administration.

Responsibilities

- Student: participation in athletics is a privilege at Fall Creek. In order to keep this privilege, students must accept certain responsibilities. The greatest responsibility each student has is to be a credit to herself/himself, his/her parents, the school and community. Students are the most visible representatives of our school, so they are expected to be examples of the high quality of Fall Creek School District students. They are expected to display the highest standards of social behavior and respect for those in authority. This includes teachers,

coaches, administrators, officials and other school personnel, as well as fellow participants and competitors.

- Coach: these are some of the most influential people in the Fall Creek School District. Their methods and results are a matter of public record and discussion each time their team performs. In most cases, the attitude, desire and spirit possessed by the group is a reflection of these same qualities in the coach. Coaching demands that the proper attitude and perspective be maintained.
- Parent/Guardian: are the greatest role models for a young person. The Fall Creek School District seeks parental assistance to help develop outstanding young men and women who possess the self-discipline and motivation to make a difference in the world. The administration, faculty, staff and coaches ask that parents/guardians be supportive of the programs and personnel at the Fall Creek Schools and demonstrate that support by respecting the decisions and efforts of the coaches who work with our young people. Parental assistance is also required in enforcing this athletic code so that a fair and healthy environment will exist for all students.

While spectators, at any athletic event, whether at Fall Creek or any other site, parents/guardians are expected to display good sportsmanship. An individual or group who willfully interferes with or interrupts the proper order or management of a school-sponsored athletic event by any act of violence, boisterous conduct, inappropriate gestures, threatening language, or unsportsmanlike conduct toward coaches, player or officials, or disobeys school board policies or administrative rules may be removed from the event and may be prohibited from further attendance.

Scholastic Eligibility

1. Every student/athlete will be enrolled in a full time, school board approved, program. A full time student is defined as having 2.5 credits or 5 classes each day, or the equivalent as approved by the building principal.
2. Any student/athlete enrolled in a school board approved program, which receives no usual grading, will be eligible if she/he is making satisfactory progress as decided by the instructor in charge of said program.
3. If, at the end of any nine-week grading period or Trimester at the middle school, a student/athlete is failing one course, said student/athlete shall be ineligible for 10% of the current season's regularly scheduled contests. The student/athlete may regain eligibility following the ineligibility period by presenting written documentation from instructors that he/she is passing all courses. This sheet must be filled out on a weekly basis until mid-quarter grades are made available. The necessary form is obtained in the principal's office. This form must be presented to the coach prior to regaining eligibility. The student will then be allowed to participate on a probationary status until mid-quarter grades are made available.

Once the mid-quarter grades are available, if the student/athlete is passing all of his/her classes, he/she will be removed from probationary status, but if the student is found to still be failing any course, he/she will be ineligible until the end of the quarter.

4. If, at the end of any nine-week grading period, a student/athlete is failing two or more courses, she/he is ineligible until the end of the next nine-week grading period.
5. Incompletes will be treated as failures. The student/athlete will be ineligible until such time as he/she can document that the incomplete has been changed to a passing grade.
6. The above rules apply to each of the four, nine-week, grading periods. Any student/athlete who fails one fourth quarter course shall be ineligible for 15 practice days and nights during the first nine-week grading period of the next school year AND 10% of the current season's regularly scheduled contests, or the next season in which he/she is participating, including the WIAA tournament series, if applicable. If the student-athlete has an "F", eligibility may be regained if she/he shows documentation of passing said course in summer school.
7. Academic Integrity (cheating) If a student/athlete has been found to be cheating in any class, they will serve an additional 10% of the current season's regularly scheduled contests, or the next season in which he/she is participating, including the WIAA tournament series, if applicable.

Attendance

1. Students must be in school and participate in class the entire day to be eligible for the day's performance/competition/practice/meeting.
2. A student who is ill or absent for part or all of the day will be ineligible for the day's performance/competition/practice/meeting. Students are not allowed to miss any classes because they arrived home late in the evening from an activity the night before.
3. Students with medical appointments or family emergencies may participate in the day's activities if their absence is excused by the principal or the athletic director. Written verification from a physician or dentist may be required.
4. If a student/athlete is suspended the suspension will include any contest, practice or meeting that occurs for the duration of said suspension.
5. Student/athletes with office-assigned detention(s) must serve said detention(s) prior to participating in any practice, meeting, or contest.

6. Attendance at practice is mandatory unless the school or coach has excused the student/athlete prior to practice. The consequence for missing practice is left to the discretion of the coach.

Athletic Injuries

Any student/athlete who is injured during an athletic practice or contest must report the injury to the coach at once.

1. If the injury is serious enough to require medical assistance, the coach must report the accident to the athletic director's office as soon as the student/athlete is able to return to school and before returning to practice.
2. Should an injury be discovered after the student/athlete has returned home, the coach should be notified at once.
3. The coach or team trainer, under the supervision of the coach, will handle minor first-aid treatments.
4. In the event of a serious injury, the nearest emergency medical service will be obtained.

Code Violations

1. Any student/athlete involved in the use, possession or distribution of alcohol, tobacco, anabolic steroids and other performance enhancing substances or other controlled substances, (including look-alikes) in any quantity, shall be suspended from athletic competition. Attendance at any gathering where alcohol or other illegal substances are present, regardless of use, without leaving said premises within a reasonable time, is a violation of this code.
2. Any student athlete who commits a criminal act or non-criminal civil ordinance violation (including any actions with weapons), other than minor traffic offenses, shall be suspended from athletic competition.
3. Please also see the miscellaneous section for further expectations.

Penalties (Alcohol & Drug)

Consequences:

Note: Discipline action steps may be skipped or repeated depending on the severity of the offense.

1. 1st violation: the student athlete will be suspended from competition for ~~10%~~ 20% of the current season's regularly scheduled contests, or the next season in which he/she is participating, including the WIAA tournament series, if applicable. Fractions will be rounded to the next full contest. If the current season ends before the penalty, said penalty carries over into the next season

with a pro-rated number of contests. If the violation is for drugs, alcohol, etc. the school recommends that the student/athlete undergo AODA assessment and fulfill any follow-up recommended by the assessor.

2. 2nd violation: the student/athlete will be suspended from competition for 50% of the current season's regularly scheduled contests, or the next season in which she/he is participating, including the WIAA tournament series, if applicable. Fractions will be rounded to the next full contest. If the next season ends before the penalty, said penalty carries over into the next season with a pro-rated number of contests. If the violation is for drugs, alcohol, etc. the student/athlete will undergo AODA assessment and counseling, at their expense and be subjected to random drug testing, at their expense, for the remainder of their athletic career at Fall Creek Schools.
3. 3rd violation: the student/athlete will be suspended from competition for one calendar year from the date of the violation. The above requirements detailed in violation #2 with regard to drugs, alcohol, etc. apply here as well.
4. 4th violation: the student/athlete is suspended from competition for the remainder of their time at Fall Creek Schools.
 - a. As regards the number of contests for suspension: the highest level of team competition (9th grade, JV or varsity) for which any student/athlete has competed during the current season will determine the "team" they play for and the number of contests they will be suspended from.

Process

1. Step one: any allegation of a code violation will be brought to the athletic director and/or principal. The student/athlete and a parent/guardian will be notified of the allegation and investigation in writing. The athletic director and/or principal will investigate the allegation, affording the student/athlete due process and the opportunity to be heard and/or present any relevant evidence on their behalf. If there is adequate proof that a violation occurred the student/athlete and their parent/guardian will be notified, in writing, of the penalty. Step one will be completed within three school days.
2. Step two: if the student/athlete or parent/guardian is dissatisfied with the results of step one, they may appeal the decision, in writing, to the athletic director and/or principal, to the Athletic Code Committee within 14 calendar days. This committee is comprised of three Fall Creek Mid-School or High School staff members, who have volunteered to participate in such appeals. They will provide a forum for the student/athlete to be heard and present any relevant evidence they choose. They will provide a decision within five school days of said appeal.
3. Step three: if the student/athlete or parent/guardian is dissatisfied with the results of step two they may appeal the decision to the school board, in writing, to the

board clerk within 14 calendar days. The school board will hear the appeal and provide a decision within 30 calendar days.

If during step one, the student/athlete is found in violation of this code she/he is ineligible during the appeal process.

Penalties (Criminal/Noncriminal)

The student must refrain from socially unacceptable behavior that is discrediting in nature to the ideals, principles, and standards of the community/school.

1. If convicted of criminal behavior as defined by state or federal statutes, or community ordinances such as but not limited to:
 - a. Theft
 - b. Burglary
 - c. Assault
 - d. Battery
 - e. Vandalism
 - f. Possession or use of a weapon as defined in the student handbook
 - g. Under the influence of, and/or possession of a controlled substance and/or paraphernalia on school grounds, school transportation, and/or school event
 - h. Sex offenses
 - i. Bomb threats
 - j. Graffiti
 - k. Use and/or possession of explosive devices including illegal fireworks
 - l. Criminal disorderly conduct
2. Non-Criminal Behavior such as, but not limited to:
 - a. Obscene Language
 - b. Fighting
 - c. Insubordination
 - d. Other acts that show a disrespect for health, welfare, safety and/or property of others
 - e. Displays of poor sportsmanship, swearing or abusive language during activities
 - f. Violations of school policy
 - g. Willful disobedience of rules established by the coach/advisor of a particular activity

Consequences:

Note: Discipline action steps may be skipped or repeated depending on the severity of the offense.

First Offense: The student will be suspended for 10% or at least one competition of the season's contests that he/she was to have performed. Students will be required to participate in all practices during the suspension.

Second Offense: The student will be suspended for 20% of the season's contests. Students will be required to participate in all practices during the suspension.

Third Offense: The student will be suspended for 50% of the season's contests that he/she was to have performed. The student will also meet with the school counselor and his/her parents. Students will be required to participate in all practices during the suspension.

Fourth Offense: The student will be suspended for an entire calendar year and will meet with the guidance counselor and his/her parents.

Fifth Offense: The penalty will be left to the discretion of the principal and the activities director with the minimum penalty being, suspension for an entire calendar year and the maximum being, suspension for the remainder of the student's career.

All suspensions in performance activities will carry over to the next season in which the student participates.

HIGH SCHOOL VIOLATIONS CONTESTS DISCIPLINE SCHEDULE			
Based on scheduled events at the start of the season, whether played or not.			
SPORT	10%	20%	50%
Baseball	2	4	11
Basketball	2	4	11
Cross Country	1	2	5
Dance	1	2	5
Football	1	2	4
Golf	1	3	7
Softball	2	4	11
Track	1	2	5
Volleyball	Based on number of matches		

MIDDLE SCHOOL VIOLATIONS CONTESTS DISCIPLINE SCHEDULE			
Based on scheduled events at the start of the season, whether played or not.			
SPORT	10%	20%	50%
Basketball (14)	2	3	7
Cross Country (7)	1	2	4
Football (7)	1	2	4
Track (7)	1	2	4
Volleyball (14 games)	Based on number of matches		

Electronic Transmissions

Student-Athletes are responsible for information contained in written or electronic transmission (e-mail, Text message, etc.) and any information posted on a public domain (internet, chat rooms, Facebook, YouTube, MySpace, etc.). Student athletes are not precluded from participation in such online social network sites, however, any student-athlete that is identified on a social networking site which depicts illegal or inappropriate behavior may be considered in violation of the athletic code.

Since there is no way to establish a timeframe for when, or location of where, the image was taken, it shall be a responsibility that the student-athlete must assume. It must be noted that there may be persons who would attempt to implicate a student-athlete by taking such images to place them in a situation where they might be in violation of this code standards. This is our rationale for requiring that our student-athletes not place themselves in such environments.

Miscellaneous

1. All student/athletes, with their parent/guardian signature, must have on file at the athletic director's office the following:
 - a signed athletic code form (375 Exhibit)
 - a WIAA approved physical card or alternate year physical card, signed by the student/athlete's physician and a parent/guardian
 - a school emergency card
2. Any student who misses a game in the WIAA tournament series due to a code violation is ineligible for the entire tournament series thereafter.
3. All student/athletes involved in school-sponsored activities are expected to exhibit conduct which reflects the ideals, principles and standards of the Fall Creek School District. Behavior deemed inappropriate by administration may be considered a violation of the athletic code. This includes, but is not limited to, displays of poor sportsmanship, abusive language during activities, violations of school policy as listed in the student handbook, and willful disobedience of rules established by the coaches. Failure to comply with the aforementioned expectations may be deemed a violation of the athletic code.
4. Any student/athlete who transfers to the Fall Creek School District with an athletic suspension pending or in progress at their former school is required to fulfill that suspension at Fall Creek prior to any competition.
5. Student/athletes must assume full responsibility for all equipment/apparel issued to him/her. The student/athlete will be held financially responsible for any and all equipment and apparel that he/she loses, misplaces damages purposely, or misuses. Replacement costs will be used to determine the amount owed. Student/athletes will not be allowed to begin another athletic activity until all equipment/apparel is returned or paid for following the previously completed season.

6. Student/athletes are expected to follow all coach directions. Repeated insubordination or disrespect to any teacher, coach or staff member will be treated as a violation of the athletic code, subject to penalty as determined by the coach, principal, and/or athletic director.
7. Any student/athlete who serves a suspension for a code violation will not be allowed to hold honorary positions such as “captain” in any sport in which the suspension is served.
8. Any student/athlete who is suspended from competition due to a code violation must complete the season including all practices. Failure to do so will result in the penalty being carried over to the next athletic season in which the student/athlete participates.
9. All student/athletes are required to travel to and from contests with the school provided transportation. The only exception permits a student/athlete to ride home from a competition with a parent/guardian. The student/athlete’s parent/guardian must provide written permission to the coach for this to happen.
10. All student/athletes are expected to positively represent the school in all interactions within the community at all times. Any conduct by a student/athlete that brings negative attention to the individual, school or community may be deemed a violation of the athletic code. This includes activities that may be considered hazing.

Hazing is defined as any act whether physical, emotional, mental or psychological that subjects another person, voluntarily or involuntarily, to anything that may abuse, mistreat, degrade, humiliate, harass or intimidate the person, or which may in any fashion compromise the inherent dignity of the person.

11. All student/athletes are expected to follow all school and district policies and rules including those not specifically listed in this code. Chronic violations of rules and policies not specifically listed herein may be deemed a violation of the athletic code. The athletic director and/or principal will make determination of whether this code will be applied and consequences assigned.
12. Locker rooms may only be used by those individuals participating in after school events or practices. All other individuals must obtain permission from a coach prior to entering the locker room. Everyone is entitled to a reasonable amount of privacy therefore no recording devices, including cell phones, may be used in the locker room unless directed to by the coaching staff. Unauthorized use of a recording device to capture, record, or transfer a representation of a nude or partially nude person is a violation of Wisconsin Act 118 which carries criminal penalties.

13. There is no clean slate in this code when a student/athlete moves from one grade to the next 6-12. All penalties carry forward.
14. There is a redemption clause in this code. If a student/athlete has no violations for a two calendar year period, from the end of the last suspension, he/she will be moved to the next lowest level of violation.
15. The Fall Creek Athletic Code is a twelve-month code. There is no differentiation between the school year and summer as relates to the expectation contained herein.

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