



Spooner Middle School



Athletic Code

Philosophy Statement

The athletic program at Spooner Middle School is an important component of the curriculum (see policy 2431). It is for voluntary participation and to participate is a privilege. As a privilege, students involved in the athletic program are required to abide by the rules and regulations set forth by the school district, both within and outside of athletic participation.

The athletic program provides opportunities that may not be duplicated in other school activities. While it does provide recreational opportunities, these shall be secondary to academic educational value. Extracurricular programs including athletics shall not interfere with a student's academic program, which shall be the primary consideration if conflict does arise. All students participating in the Spooner School athletic program will adhere to this athletic code and its components or forfeit the privilege of participating in it.

General Information for Student Athletes

The opportunities that are available to students through our extra-curricular programs add to experiences that a student may have at Spooner Middle School. The following athletic activities are offered:

FALL

Cross Country
Football
Volleyball

WINTER

Boys Basketball
Girls Basketball

SPRING

Track & Field
Wrestling (Co-op)

Athletes must complete the following to be eligible to participate in any sport:

Due prior to first practice

- **ONLINE REGISTRATION**
- **WIAA Physical Exam Form** (completed bi-annually) - 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 the remainder of that school year and the following school year.

Due prior to first competition

- **\$30.00 participation fee**, per sport. Fee due before 1st competition to be paid in the Middle School office.
NOTE: A discount may be applied for athletes who qualify for free and reduced meals after submitting the completed "SHARING INFORMATION WITH OTHER PROGRAMS" FORM (located in the high school office). Those who qualify for reduced meals qualify for a reduced athletic fee of \$15 and those who qualify for free meals will have no charge.

All student athletes must adhere to the policies of the Spooner Middle School Student Handbook. Athletes who violate provisions of the WIAA rules, this athletic code and/or the student handbook are subject to the penalties outlined in each code.

Athletes must be responsible for all school equipment issued to him/her. The athlete must pay for all equipment not returned at the end of each sports season. He/she will pay the cost of replacing the item.



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Academics

At Spooner Middle School we believe student access and opportunity to participate in extracurricular activities such as athletics is an important part of developing strong student character. To maintain student-athlete accountability we tie athletic eligibility to their responsibilities in the classroom. We expect students to complete their work in a timely and quality manner as well as respect staff, fellow students and school rules.

In the absence of a GPA (which will not be generated with a standards-based report card) Athletic Director, in partnership with the student's teachers and administration, will determine co-curricular eligibility based on grade reports from teachers indicating which students are not performing up to expectations in their academic classes and/or those who consistently struggle to meet established behavioral expectations. Students must not have five or more missing assignments during the course of the sports season and must not have three minor or major office referrals, in order to be eligible to participate in co-curricular activities at Spooner Middle School. Ineligible students will be permitted to continue to practice but will not be permitted to participate in events until missing work has been turned in and/or one week of positive behavior demonstrated.

Attendance

- Students **MUST** be in school the entire school day of a game or contest in order to participate. Exceptions to this are **approved absences** such as doctor appointments, funerals, emergencies, or approval from the athletic director.
- Since education is a priority for student-athletes, attendance (particularly the school day after an athletic contest) is an expectation.

Enforcement

The Spooner Middle School Athletic Code will be enforced from the first day of practice or date of signing, for a period of 12 consecutive months (which includes summer months).

Departure Time

- Athletes are allowed to be released from class a maximum of 15 minutes before bus departure time for athletic events.
- Athletes are not allowed to leave school grounds prior to bus departure time for athletic events.

Travel

Athletes are required to ride the school sponsored bus to and from the athletic contests.

Under extenuating circumstances an exception to this rule will be considered if the parent/legal guardian either:

- A. signs the travel release form, provided by the coach each event.
- B. pre-arranges with the athletic director or school administrator, by supplying a note. If student is to be released to an authorized adult other than a parent/legal guardian, option B is required.

Students may not be transported by other students.



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Violations will result in penalization as determined by the athletic director and/or school administrator using WIAA guidelines (as provided).

Student Handbook:

Violations by a student athlete may result in athletic consequences (See BEHAVIOR PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION in the Student Handbook)

Drugs, Alcohol, Tobacco & Nicotine:

- Any athlete found to be in possession of or using alcoholic beverages, tobacco and vaping products, in any form, or **found to be present at a party or social gathering** at which alcoholic beverages are being consumed by under-age individual shall be considered in violation of the athletic code. Any athlete found to use, consume, possess, buy, sell, or give away any controlled substance or illegal drugs (including look-alikes) shall also be considered in violation of the athletic code. (See board policies 5512, 5530)

Code of Conduct:

- Any willful misconduct while involved in an athletic contest or practice, the enforcement period being the time the athlete reports to and departs from the team area (i.e. gym, bus, locker room, etc.) will result in penalization as determined by the athletic director and school administrator.
- Violation of Student Code of Classroom Conduct (policy 5500) and/or WIAA's Code of Conduct, as it pertains to performance enhancing substances, criminal behavior, assault on an official, etc. will result in penalization.
- Hazing, harassment, bullying as addressed in board policies 5516, 5517, 5517.01 will not be tolerated.

Coach Rules:

Nothing in this code shall be deemed to prevent a coach from establishing additional rules concerning student conduct during the designated season for their given sport; however the additional rules shall not differ from the elements in this code already in place. Any rules established by the coach must be in writing and furnished to the athlete and after prior approval of the athletic director. Student compliance with any rules established by the coach is required to maintain eligibility in that sport. It shall be the coach's prerogative to cut or suspend from the team any student who violates any such rule(s) or who is otherwise a demoralizing influence or a detriment to the objectives of the coach.

Length of Suspensions

1 st Offense	20% of Season
2 nd Offense	50% of Season
3 rd Offense	Entire calendar year
4 th Offense	Entire middle school career

- If it is a fraction of percent, it is rounded up to the nearest whole number.
- Scrimmages are not included in suspensions.
- If an athlete self-reports within 3 calendar days, their length of suspension will be cut by 50%.
- An athlete who is found in violation of the alcohol, tobacco, and illegal drug use section of the code may, have the 20% penalty reduced to 10% if they choose to participate in an AODA counseling program set forth by the AODA coordinator and athletic director (**this applies to first offenders only**).
- If the nature of the offense is deemed severe, then the Athletic Director and Principal may assign a penalty as they believe commensurate to the severity of the misconduct.
- Any portion of the suspension not completed during a season will be applied to the next sport in which the athlete participates.



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Code Violation Procedures

1. Athletic code violations may be observed or reported by administration, faculty, parents, students, or community members. Suspected violations reported by school or non-school personnel should include a written report including the date, time, place, individuals involved, and description of event. When appropriate, the anonymity of the informant will be maintained.
2. Interviews with the athletes and/or guardians will begin promptly upon notification of the violation. The athlete and their guardians will be notified of the accusation within five school days of receipt of report.
3. If it is determined that the violation is substantiated, the athletic director will immediately impose the appropriate penalty.

Code Violation Appeal Procedures

The parent(s)/guardian(s) or athlete may appeal this decision in writing to the District Administrator within five school days after the decision of the Athletic Director has been made. Within five school days of receipt of the written appeal, the District Administrator or his/her designee will arrange a meeting between the appropriate parties to review the suspension, which shall remain in effect notwithstanding the appeal unless and until it is subsequently overruled. This meeting will be conducted by the District Administrator or his/her designee and he/she will be assisted by the athletic council which will include the Principal, a school board member and a head coach of an unrelated sport. At this meeting, the athlete will be provided the opportunity to present evidence on his/her behalf and to challenge evidence that has been presented. A summary of the meeting, including the decision made, will be put in writing by the person conducting the meeting. A copy of the summary will be sent to the athlete and his/her parent(s)/guardian(s) within three school days after the meeting has been held. This decision shall be considered final for all purposes.

Approved: December 18, 2000

Revised: April, 2012/July, 2020