

Middle School Extra-Curricular Activities Code

School District of Niagara



PHILOSOPHY

The School District of Niagara believes that a program of activities outside the school curriculum is a valuable enhancement to the regular school program of studies.

Extra-curricular school programs at Niagara are intended to enrich learning through activities that foster the emotional, intellectual and social needs of students. It is also the intent of these programs to increase a student's understanding of ethical conduct and self-discipline.

It is the position of the School District of Niagara that involvement in extra-curricular activities is a privilege with accompanying responsibilities and expectations.

The Board of Education is committed to providing an equal educational opportunity for all students in the District.

The Board does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital status, parental status, sexual orientation, sex, (including transgender status, change of sex or gender identity), or physical, mental, emotional, or learning disability ("Protected Classes") in any of its student program and activities.

PURPOSE

The purpose of the School District of Niagara's Activities Code is to establish clear and definite expectations for those students who choose to participate in extra-curricular activities. It is also intended that this code will assist in instilling a sense of uniformity and equality for all students involved in any of the school's extra-curricular activities

GOALS

Some of the goals of the extra-curricular program and activities code are as follows:

1. To meet the desire for competition, performance, or presentation.
2. To provide activities that bring students together for the healthy expression of interests and talents.
3. To teach new skills and enhance existing ones with the hope that students will acquire lifetime interests and sources of fulfillment.
4. To provide students, faculty, and community members with a source of pride in their school.
5. To provide opportunities for developing lasting friendships with classmates, teammates, and opponents.
6. To help students develop responsibility and leadership as well as respect for themselves and others.
7. To teach students that there are natural and logical consequences for violating behavioral expectations.
8. To give students an understanding that participation in extra-curricular activities is a privilege, which carries with it certain responsibilities.
9. To support students in making healthy and productive choices about their lifestyle and behavior.

10. To identify students when their behavior is harmful to themselves and others.
11. To assist students in learning from their experiences with the cooperative assistance of parents, educators, and coaches/advisors.
12. To provide opportunities for students to learn from mistakes and assist in changing their behavior so as to benefit maximally from participation in extra-curricular activities.
13. To maintain the highest standards of behavior for participants in extra-curricular activities and remove the privilege of participation from those students who do not demonstrate appropriate efforts to improve their behavior.

STUDENTS COVERED BY THE EXTRA-CURRICULAR CODE

Group 1:

- Interscholastic Athletics
- Cheer Team
- Majorettes

Group 2:

- All other organizations, Clubs, etc.

School District of Niagara Activities Code

GROUP 1

ELIGIBILITY

1. Student-athletes must meet all WIAA requirements for eligibility.
2. A WIAA Physical or Alternate Year Card is required for students participating in interscholastic athletics, cheerleading, and Majorettes.
3. An Extra-Curricular Code and WIAA concussion form must be signed prior to an athlete practicing.
4. The Extra-Curricular Code is in force throughout the calendar year (WIAA rule).
5. Extra-Curricular Code conduct violations are cumulative throughout Middle School.
6. Participation in most junior co-curricular sports requires a \$20 participation fee prior to their first contest in each sport/event. Those with a problem meeting the deadline may seek a postponement by making arrangements with the athletic director or principal. Fees are to be paid in the district office. (Participants will be informed if participation fee is required)

ATTENDANCE

1. A student must be present for the second ½ of the school day to participate in practice or a scheduled contest/event on that day unless approved by an administrator.
2. If a student is suspended from school for any reason, this suspension shall include any practices, performances, and competitions that occur during this time. This includes in-school suspensions.
3. All group participants are expected to attend all of the practices and games/meets unless excused by the coach of the sport involved or by administrative excuse; failure to comply will result in discipline and/or suspension. Students may be dropped from team membership for not being in good standing with the team and/or failing to attend school and go to practices.
4. Students may also be withheld from competition/participation for insubordination or disrespect to any school employee, coach, opponent, or official, or not meeting the requirements of individual coaches/advisors.
5. A student who transfers from any school with a status of ineligibility for disciplinary reasons retains such status at his/her new school for the same period as decreed by the former school (WIAA Rule).

TRANSPORTATION REGULATIONS

Athletes must use the mode of transportation provided by the school. A participant who travels to an away activity with a school group must return with that group unless a transportation waiver is signed by the parent/guardian that specifically states the participant will be provided alternative transportation home from a school event by an approved adult.

HAZING

Hazing in athletics or extra-curricular activities is prohibited. Hazing is defined as doing any act or coercing another, including the victim, to do any act of initiation toward any student or other organization that causes or creates substantial risk for causing mental or physical harm to any person. No student shall plan, encourage, or engage in physical harm to any person. No student shall plan, encourage, or engage in any form of hazing in practice, competition, or performances. Permission, consent, or assumption of risk by an individual subject to hazing does not lessen the prohibition contained in this policy. The student faces penalties regarding participation from athletics and other activities for violation of this policy.

EXTRA TEAM-SPECIFIC RULES

Coaches or advisors or individual activities may establish more specific rules for their programs with the approval of the administration. Any specific training rules and other regulations set up by the individual coaches should be written, on file with the athletic director, and available to all members of the team or squad. Items which may be covered include conduct, actions, appearance, diet, practice attendance, curfew, etc.

1. WIAA, conference, and school rules will apply.
2. Rules may not supersede national, state, WIAA, conference, or school rules.
3. A copy of specific rules must be provided to, and approved, by the athletic director prior to the start of the activity season.
4. Notification and copies of specific rules will be provided and explained to all participants during or before the first practice.

INJURIES AND CARE

1. All injuries must be reported to the supervising trainer or coach/advisor immediately. The coach will file the appropriate accident report.
2. In the case of an emergency, students will be sent to the nearest hospital, unless parents/guardians indicate that the student should be sent elsewhere.
3. The trainer, varsity coach, and athletic director should be informed prior to participation of an athlete who has any special medical problems (diabetes, epilepsy, etc.).

4. To assure that sufficient recovery or healing has occurred and the athlete is physically able to return to competition, he/she must have a certificate signed by a doctor indicating the date of return. This is a WIAA Rule designed to provide some assurances to the parent, coach, and school that the athlete has recovered from the injury. The certificate is to be given to the trainer; the trainer is required to pass it to both the coach and the athletic director, who will keep it on file.

WISCONSIN STATUTES

In accordance with state statutes, legal authorities will share law violations with the school as follows:

1. Wisconsin Statute S.938.396(1m) permits law enforcement agencies to provide school districts any information in their records relating to use, possession, or distribution of alcohol, controlled substances, or those items associated with the use of controlled substances.
2. In addition, law enforcement agencies are permitted to provide school districts any information in their records relating to the illegal possession of a dangerous weapon by a juvenile, the commission of certain serious acts by a juvenile, and any information in their records relating to acts for which a juvenile was adjudged delinquent.

ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY

1. Students will be ineligible if they receive two (2) failing grades in the most recent term (9 weeks).
2. A student who does not meet the standards required for academic eligibility will be ineligible for three weeks (15 consecutive scheduled school days and nights). The ineligibility period will start the after report cards are issued. The WIAA Fall Sports Ineligibility table is used for sports that start before school is in session.
3. The academically ineligible participant must practice and attend events with the team, but will not participate in any event.
4. Students moving from 8th grade to 9th grade will be held to the same academic standards. No incoming freshman will be eligible for athletic activity as a freshman if he/she has two (2) failing grades during 4th quarter of his/her 8th grade year.

ACADEMIC GUIDELINE

1. Each of the four quarter grades will be used to determine student eligibility for Group 1 activities.
2. Middle School students who transfer to Niagara will have their last quarter grades at their previous school used in determining eligibility status.

PENALTY GUIDELINES

1. When enforcing consequences, the number of scheduled contests in a season will be used as a basis for the length of a suspension. For example, if a student is penalized 25% of the season for a first violation and the team had a 20 game schedule, the athlete would be penalized 5 games.
2. All suspension totals will be rounded up. If an athlete is suspended for 25% of a 17 game schedule, the total would be 4.25 contests, which would then be rounded up to 5 contests.

3. Participants must be in good standing with the team until season's end in order to complete any suspension. If an athlete quits a sport while under suspension, the full suspension will still be in effect for the next sports season.
4. Multiple suspensions and/or academic ineligibility must be served consecutively and may not be served concurrently (an athlete must be academically eligible first in order to then serve any code violation suspension).

PRINCIPLES AND PHILOSOPHIES OF ALCOHOL/TOBACCO/CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE VIOLATIONS

1. There is no such thing as responsible use of controlled substances/mood altering chemicals, alcohol, or tobacco (including e-cigarettes) by any high school student. Adolescent use is against the law, it jeopardizes the student's health and safety, and it inhibits attainment of individual potential and goals. Therefore any use of controlled substances/mood altering drugs, alcohol, or tobacco (including e-cigarettes and vape) by student-athletes/participants will not be tolerated.
2. Student-athletes/participants are in a highly visible setting of leadership and/or competition/performance. Therefore, these student-athletes/participants will be held to a higher standard of conduct than the students who choose neither to participate nor to represent Niagara High School.
3. We believe that the parent(s)/guardian(s) have a right to be informed. Therefore, the parent(s)/guardian(s) will be contacted regarding findings by school staff.
4. Participation is better than exclusion. Therefore, the student may remain a practicing member of the team/group/activity during a violation period. While under suspension, the student must be at all practice sessions and contests. If a participant misses a required practice, it may result in additional penalties determined by the coach.
5. The use or possession of alcohol, tobacco (including e-cigarettes), and other drugs or controlled substances by any student who participates in co-curricular activities will not be allowed. Alcohol, tobacco, other drugs, and/or criminal violation penalties shall be cumulative for each violation committed during the participant's Middle School career.
6. The person(s) reporting the violation must put the allegation(s) in writing. The allegations cannot be based on hearsay. Pictures of students involved in activities which violate the Extra-Curricular Activities Code should also be signed, unless deemed acceptable proof by the athletic director.

MERE PRESENCE POLICY

1. A student may not attend gatherings where drugs or alcohol are present or are being consumed. It will be the participant's responsibility to leave the party immediately when drugs or alcohol are present or being illegally consumed. Immediately means the moment it is evident alcohol or other drugs are present.

2. This rule is not intended to pertain to family gatherings such as weddings, anniversaries, birthdays, graduation parties, etc., or monitored events within licensed establishments as long as students are following the intent of the activity code.
3. Within these guidelines, however, students may not consume alcohol or be in possession of alcoholic beverages—**even if they have parental permission**. Parental permission does not override the provisions of this code.
4. Each violation of this policy is cumulative throughout a participant's high school career.

VIOLATION PENALTY PROGRESSION

1. First Infraction- Participants suspended for 25% of scheduled events for that activity, with carryover into other seasons.
2. Second Infraction- Participants suspended for 50% of scheduled events for that activity, with carryover into other seasons.
3. Third Infraction- Participants will be suspended from participating for **One calendar year**.
4. Fourth Infraction- Participants will be banned from all Extra Curricular activities for the **remainder of his/her middle school career**
5. The suspended individual will be required to practice and attend games/matches/activities (out of uniform) and may sit with the team for all contests during this suspension unless otherwise directed by the administration.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES CODE SELF-REPORTING POLICY

1. Students who self-report an alcohol, tobacco, or drug related Extra-Curricular Activities Code violation within 72 hours to a coach, the guidance counselor, an administrator, or the athletic director of their own volition will have their penalty reduced to 10% of the total number of scheduled contests.
2. A participant may only self-report for a 1st violation.
3. The referral must be made prior to staff awareness of the violation.

OTHER SERIOUS VIOLATIONS AND/OR CONDUCT UNBECOMING OF A STUDENT-ATHLETE

Any student-athlete who commits any of these violations may be suspended immediately and may be suspended up to one calendar year (entire career depending on severity) pending a review by the principal, the athletic director, neutral coaches/advisors, and other administrators as needed. The administration has the right to address violations not covered by this code, including but not limited to: misdemeanors, felonies, and violations of statutory law, and assess penalties accordingly.

The seriousness of the offense will determine the penalty up to or including an athletic code violation. These violations are cumulative with other code violations.

- Organizing, hosting, or having gatherings where drinking alcohol or use of controlled substances takes place
- Selling, providing, or distributing alcohol or controlled substances, including the misuse of prescription or over-the-counter drugs
- Possession of a dangerous or concealed weapon
- Theft
- Vandalism
- Threatening a staff member
- Battery or sexual assault
- Intervention by the police
- Being charged with, or committing a felony or misdemeanor other than a traffic violation
- Cell phone use in restricted areas
- Camera usage in restricted areas

GROUP 2

ENFORCEMENT AND PENALTIES FOR GROUP 2 VIOLATIONS

Students who are given an activities code violation may incur penalties as outlined by the club or activity based on the rules established by that club or activity.

APPEALS PROCESS

1. Violations may be reported to the administration, coach, teacher, and/or advisor. The athletic director will then investigate the alleged violation for Group 1 activities while the principal will investigate allegations for Group 2 . When a decision has been reached, the parent/guardian and the student will be informed. When the student has been informed by the administration of a decision to suspend, he/she may take the decision to the Board of Appeals. The appeal must be in writing and submitted to the Niagara High School athletic director within 10 days of the notification.
2. The Board of appeals will be comprised of the following:
 - a. Designated administrator (not athletic director-Group 1 or principal for Groups 2)
 - b. 4 coaches/advisors/faculty member (the coach/advisor of the sport or activity the penalty will be applied to will not be a part of this group)
3. The Board of Appeals will hear the participant's appeal and the reasoning for the original decision as presented by the Athletic Director or Principal.
4. The Board of Appeals will make the final decision on the suspension based on the evidence presented to it at the hearing by submitting a secret ballot to be reviewed at the meeting in witness to those present.
5. The Board of Education is committed to providing an equal educational opportunity for all students in the District. The Board does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital status, parental status, sexual orientation, sex, (including transgender status, change of sex or gender identity), or physical, mental, emotional, or learning disability ("Protected Classes") in any of its student program and activities.

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF NIAGARA MIDDLE SCHOOL EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES CODE AGREEMENT

STUDENT/PARENT AGREEMENT TO ABIDE BY THE CODE

While a student attends Niagara, they are held to the standards laid out in this document. If administrators have proof of an athletic code violation during enrollment prior to the start of the student/athlete starting the season, the student shall serve the suspension when his/her next season starts.

NOTE: This document does not need to be signed for a student/athlete to be under the code. Enrollment in the district, signing of the student handbook, or participation on a school sponsored team automatically puts the student under the code.