

EXTRACURRICULAR PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS

Philosophy

The West Fargo School District believes that participation in extracurricular activities constitutes a privilege and not a right. Students who participate in extracurricular activities represent the student body, school district, and community on the state and national level. As such, behavior of these students is a reflection on the entire community.

The District will enforce the requirements placed on extracurricular participants by the North Dakota High School Activities Association (NDHSAA), which govern both on- and off- campus behavior. In addition, the district has established the following extracurricular participation requirements.

Activities Affected by this Policy

Activities affected by this policy shall include extracurricular activities as listed in the student handbook, including those not sponsored by NDHSAA.

Tobacco, Alcohol & Other Drug Use

The use or possession of tobacco, alcohol, or any controlled substance (including prescription and synthetic drugs) as defined by North Dakota law is prohibited. Any co-curricular participant who is in violation of the foregoing regulation shall be suspended from participation in interscholastic contests / activities including scrimmages for a minimum of six weeks in her/his activity season. He/she will not be eligible for any special awards or letters provided by the West Fargo School District for that activity season. Students under suspension may continue to practice with the team through the completion of the season. The period of suspension shall begin from the date notification is given to the student by the school administration. If information is withheld from the administration, the length of the suspension shall commence the day the administration is notified. For any subsequent offense during the same school year, the violator will be dropped from all further participation in co-curricular activities at West Fargo Public Schools for the remainder of the academic/activity school year. A student always has the right to a hearing.

A student found in violation will be required to meet with a school counselor.

Off-Season Violations

In athletics and fine arts, a violation during the off-season, including summer, will result in a six-week suspension. However, since the student is not actively participating in an activity sponsored by West Fargo Public Schools, a subsequent four-week suspension, or two interscholastic contests / activities including scrimmages (whichever is greater) will go into effect during the student's next season. A student must report on the official first day of practice and meet all team expectations and criteria or they will be dropped from the team. The student will be ineligible for any West Fargo School District sponsored awards or letters and may not hold a leadership position for that affected activity

season. A student will not be able to join a new activity while under suspension for a second offense. Students in other school related activities will be affected by the policies as related to possession or use of tobacco, alcohol or controlled substances if and when the date of the violation and subsequent suspension period occurs during the time of the student's competitive and/or performance date(s).

Multiple Violations

The following is a summary of the length of suspension for a West Fargo Public School student found in violation of this policy:

- **1st Offense:** A student will be suspended for a minimum of six consecutive school (activity) weeks from the time of notification of the violation. The student may be allowed to practice and travel with their respective teams (with the approval of the coach and team). However, suspended students will not be allowed to miss school time to travel with the team and will not be able to participate in any competitions or performances of his/her activity during the period of suspension. The student will be ineligible for any WFPS sponsored awards or letters and may not hold a leadership position for that affected activity season. If the violation occurs in the off-season, see off-season policy above.
- **2nd Offense:** A student will be suspended for a minimum of 18 consecutive weeks from the time of notification of the violation. If the second offense occurs during the same school year as the 1st offense, the suspension will be extended for the remainder of the school year or 18 additional weeks, whichever is longer. The student may be allowed to practice and travel with their respective teams (with the approval of the coach and team). However, suspended students will not be allowed to miss school time to travel with the team and will not be able to participate in any competitions or performances of his/her activity during the period of suspension. If following the 18-week suspension, the suspension does not cover a minimum of six weeks or four interscholastic contests / activities including scrimmages of the student's affected season, the suspension will be extended until a minimum of six (activity) weeks has expired.
- **3rd Offense:** Loss of eligibility in all activities for the remainder of a student's high school career.

Academics

While participating in co-curricular activities, a student must be doing passing work in at least 25 class hours per week (the passing grade will be computed from the beginning of the semester or quarter, and related to such subjects that have a minimum credit value of one-half unit per semester). The 25 class hours must consist of all subjects that are carried daily for five days a week. A student who has special permission to be enrolled in less than 25 class hours per week must have his/her eligibility approved by the principal. (Example: A student who is taking college classes or has extended illnesses). Students **MUST** be in attendance the last three class periods of THEIR school day to participate in any competition or practice. Exceptions for medical appointments (with note from doctor) and family emergencies will be made.

Academic eligibility for a student in grades 9-12 shall be determined weekly beginning with the second week of each quarter. The period of ineligibility will be from list to list on a weekly basis, the list will be generated on Friday and take effect on Monday. Likewise, if students are currently ineligible but have met academic requirements for the new marking period, they will become eligible on the Monday following the Friday when the list is generated. If a week has three days or less, no changes in eligibility will occur. Student eligibility at the end of each semester shall be determined by his/her semester grade (a student must have earned 2.5 credits to be eligible at the end of each semester). At the beginning of a semester, an ineligible student may become eligible after two weeks from the first day of the semester have passed and they have been deemed academically eligible. Spring sports with contests following graduation will be governed by the eligibility list that was in effect for the last portion of the fourth quarter.

Following the first and third quarters, a student will be ineligible for two weeks. This is when the first list will be published for the next grading period. Summer school grades cannot be used for eligibility purposes.

Co-curricular supervisors and administrators will monitor academic standings and notify individual students if they become ineligible.

Suspension Procedure

When the principal or Activities Director, as a result of his/her investigation, concludes that a violation of this policy or NDHSAA bylaws has occurred, s/he shall issue notice to the student of this suspension.

Period of Enforcement

This policy shall be in effect 12 months per year, including those days and months when school and extracurricular activities are not in session. It shall be in effect for all extracurricular activities including those of middle school students.

Adopted: 01/15/74

Reviewed:

Revised: 09/09/86

08/24/87 05/14/90

10/24/11 11/01/16

ELIGIBILITY PETITION FOR AN EXCEPTIONAL ATHLETE

Philosophy

The West Fargo Public School District is committed to meeting the needs of all students. The District believes that every student should be given an opportunity to participate in their chosen activity for as many years as possible in both practice sessions and competition with their peers. In acknowledging this belief, occasionally, a young athlete may be so skilled that their needs are better met by participating at the highest level (varsity) of competition. While it is important to acknowledge the skills of a student, it is also important to carefully consider the ramifications of promoting a student. This regulation only supports promotion of a student to the highest level of competition (varsity).

In making a recommendation for promotion of an athlete, there are many variables that should be considered including: chronological, physical, and emotional maturity. This regulation presents a procedure that considers the needs of the young athlete while not unnecessarily displacing high school athletes. This process should not be initiated to enhance the quality of the team, but rather to meet the needs of a student athlete.

The scope of this regulation is for students in grades 7-8 who participate in high school activities that are also offered through middle school level or club programming. While the District acknowledges that students may be promoted to higher levels due to program needs, one-on-one competition, or time trials, coaches will consider the criteria listed below before promoting the athlete.

While many athletes are very skilled, seldom are they at the level for advancement to be considered. In making this recommendation, one must keep in mind the importance of keeping students in their peer group. We remind all individuals involved in the assessment that the young athlete may appear very strong within their chronological level of competition but may not perform well when they advance to the highest level.

Criteria for Petitioning the Advancement of a Student-Athlete

In considering a student for promotion, several criteria should be weighed. This list is not meant to be exhaustive but represents the intent of the exceptional athlete regulation. The following criteria should be met:

1. **Physical Skills:** The level of physical skills is appreciatively above those of hers' or his' peers. He or she is an extremely dominating athlete.
2. **Academically Sound:** The student's ability to maintain academic eligibility would not be in question.
3. **Level of Competition:** Age-appropriate competition will not enhance the student's opportunity to develop his or her skills to full potential.
4. **Maturity:** The student must be emotionally stable and mature to advance to the high school level (9-12).

5. **Self-Disciplined:** The student must be coachable and self-disciplined in relation to work ethic and attitude. Evidence of this must be provided with respect to preparation and athletic competition.
6. **Other Activities:** The student must be encouraged to participate in other activities with her or his peers in other athletic seasons. Advancement in one activity does not automatically translate to all activities that the student participates in.

Procedure

The process for completing the petition is important. The welfare of the student is the first concern. Therefore, it is necessary for all involved to be sure that this process is strictly followed to prevent unnecessary emotional stress on the student.

The process should be initiated by the head coach of that activity. The coach must first contact the high school building activities director, before contacting the student, any coach, teacher, or administrator. Once the building activities director is notified, they will be responsible for overseeing that the procedure outlined below is adhered to. Whenever possible, the procedure should be initiated before try-outs begin, so the student is considered with the rest of the group. The procedure may also be initiated at any time after the first week the season begins. If the promoted student is added to the roster after the season begins, no student currently on the roster may be “cut” from the team. Once advanced, an exceptional athlete may not return to their original level of competition.

District Initiated Advancement of Student Athletes

At times when a given sport is undersubscribed, coaches and administrators, may consider advancing younger athletes. The same criteria will be applied to determine which, if any younger athletes should be advanced.

Link to Coinciding Form

[Petition Form for Exceptional Athletes](#)