

COLUMBIA ATHLETIC CODE

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Athletic Core Business

“In partnership with our community, the Columbia School Districts athletic core business is to provide opportunities and experiences that engage student athletes to persist when experiencing difficulties and feel a sense of accomplishment when they succeed.”

Athletic Mission and Belief Statements

- Our belief is that all participants (students, athletes, coaches, staff, and community) will represent themselves, our school, and our community in a positive fashion, by consistently demonstrating class and sportsmanship before, during, and after competitions. Participation in extra-curricular activities is a privilege, not a right!
- Integrity expressed in sportsmanship and fair play is a controlling value throughout our programs. Student athletes and coaches are held to the highest standard of conduct as ambassadors for our school district and our community. The value of each individual will be emphasized along with their ability to make positive contributions, which will enhance respect for others and promote self worth.
- It is our belief that there is a difference between winning and success. Success is measured as individual and/or team improvements and most important, the long term success of the student athlete when athletics are over.
- Student athletes will learn about responsibility, discipline, teamwork, effort-reward relationships, commitment, pride, and fun. Our belief is that these aspects will provide the student athletes the skills to face adversity and reach their potential. Participants will be held accountable to individual team expectations and the school district athletic code. These aspects will be held as paramount, even above “winning and losing.”
- Through competition, student athletes will experience and learn about rewards and consequences associated with winning and losing. Our belief is that these experiences will engage the student athlete to persist when experiencing difficulties and feel a sense of accomplishment when they succeed.
- Individuals and teams will be competitive and productive, working up to, and in the best case maximizing their abilities through a steady progression of skill and character development.
- Coaches are first and foremost teachers, relaying the idea to student athletes to excel both academically and athletically. Our belief is that coaches provide student athletes the opportunity to experience success through hard work and constant improvement. Coaches will build ownership, trust, and respect in the student athlete, communicate effectively with the student and parents, and enforce standards equitably when problems arise.

PHILOSOPHY

Columbia School District is committed to a strong and diverse athletic program for all students. We believe that athletic experiences provide a valuable link in student's overall growth and maturation process. Every effort is made to offer separate and equal programs for boys and girls. All programs challenge athletes to achieve success in a quality, caring, and innovative environment. Student athletes are encouraged to participate in the total school program and experience as wide a variety of activities as possible. Student safety in athletic events will be the top consideration throughout our program.

Competition is viewed as an important part of a sound athletic program. Competitive experiences will be balanced with participation, skill development, and safety concerns.

Middle school programs will **stress participation and skill development**. A “no cut” policy will be used at this level unless team dimensions dictate that there are too many students turning out. If this is the case, a developmental team will be used. This team will practice but will not play against teams outside the school district. Columbia Middle School will offer football, volleyball, basketball, wrestling, baseball, and softball. Each sport will be made up of one seventh and one eight grade team.

High school programs will stress skill development, cooperation, competition, team attitude, and team success. Cutting may occur if team dimensions cannot accommodate the number of students turning out. Playing time in contests will be a result of the progression of the athlete's skills and attitude and the needs of the team as determined by the coach.

Integrity expressed in sportsmanship and fair play is controlling values throughout our programs. Student athletes and coaches are held to the highest standard of conduct as ambassadors for our school district and our community. The value of each individual will be emphasized along with their ability to make positive contributions, which will enhance respect for others and promote self worth. Columbia School District supports the following:

Players' Role

- Play the game for fun, be humble when you win, and gracious when you lose
- Respect and abide by the rules of the game
- Put the team ahead of yourself
- Accept decisions made by those in authority
- Demonstrate respect to your opponents, coaches, and teammates
- Be accountable for your own actions
- Develop the feeling of pride based upon “shared joy” of the team
- Develop a teachable spirit that allows you to take correction as a compliment
- Accept and embrace the discipline involved in athletics because it benefits the team
- Be an athlete of character

Coaches' role

- Coach for the love of the game and the love of the athlete
- Place athletes above winning
- Reward effort and behavior and not the outcome
- Give dignity to mistakes made with full speed and attention
- Lead with character and by example
- Put the needs of the team ahead of any individual
- Encourage multiple sport participation
- Develop a positive-demanding coaching style
- Constantly work to improve your knowledge and ability to teach the game and the athletes

Parents' Role

- Attend as many games as possible
- Be a model, not a critic
- Attend pre-season meetings
- View the game with the team's goals in mind
- Encourage multiple sport participation
- Accept the judgment of the officials and coaches
- Accept the results of each game – do not make excuses
- Demonstrate winning and losing with dignity
- Dignify mistakes made by athletes who are giving their best effort
- Accept the goals, roles, and achievements of your child

An athlete with a concern with a coach must use the following steps:

1. Talk with the coach.
2. Then, if needed, talk with parents about the meeting with the coach.
3. Then, if needed, organize a meeting with the coach and AD (AD will organize this meeting).
4. Share the substance of the meeting with the parents.
5. Then, if needed, ask the AD to setup a meeting with the athlete, coach, parent and AD.
6. Then, if needed, begin the process identified in Complaints Concerning Staff or Programs (Policy 4220 & Procedure 4220P
<http://www.csd400.org/CSD/district/Policy/4000PolicySeries.pdf>)

OBJECTIVES OF THE ATHLETIC CODE

The athletic program:

- Is designed for all students who possess the skills necessary to build a team
- Will contribute to:
 - Physical skills development

- Emotional maturity
- Cooperation and self-discipline
- Will stimulate the participant's interests in the overall educational program
- Will provide separate and equal programs for boys and girls
- Will develop a competitive spirit in an environment of participation, skill development, and safety
- Will emphasize sportsmanship by all participants
- Will challenge the athlete to achieve success in quality, caring, and an innovative environment
- Will enhance respect for others and promote self-worth

SUPERVISION

The coach in charge of each activity will be responsible for the overall program and the supervision of individual participants. Students may only use school facilities when a coach is present.

PARTICIPATION

Athletic participation will be subject to the written policies set down by the coach and the current athletic code.

STUDENT ELIGIBILITY

Participation Requirements

All athletes are to complete all athletic forms. No athlete will be allowed to practice until he/she turns these forms into the athletic director. The athletic director will notify the coach when the requirements have been fulfilled.

Athletic Forms Required

- Physical exam
- Medical history
- Parent permission
- Liability waiver
- School insurance or insurance waiver (proof of insurance)
- Medical emergency authorization
- A.S.B. Card (all athletes are required to purchase)

Scholastic Requirements

To be eligible for interscholastic competition, an athlete must:

- ***Students cannot be failing more than one class*** in the grading period immediately preceding the quarter/semester to be eligible.
- ***Students cannot be failing more than one class*** during all mandatory grade checks. Mandatory grade checks will be issued every quarter, mid-quarter and semester for High School and Middle School athletes. Semester grades for Middle school will be the average of their first and second quarter grades and their third and fourth quarter grades.
- High school students below the 2.0 GPA will be required to attend a mandatory study hall from 2:45 to 3:30 until their grades are above a 2.0 GPA. These students will provide a weekly grade check to the AD. Students who fail to attend the study hall or study halls without a written excuse from the AD will miss the next game or games.

Quarter Probation

High School Athletes

If the athlete is failing more than one class, they will be placed on probation until their current Semester grades meet the requirement.

- During the first week of the probationary period, the athlete will continue to practice, but miss all athletic contests.
- At the end of the first week of the probationary period, a grade check will be issued. The athlete may continue to practice, but will be ineligible for athletic contests until the scholastic requirements are met.
- The athlete will be responsible for picking up grade check sheets from the athletic director and returning them each week they remain on probation.

Middle School Athletes

If the athlete is failing more than one class for the previous QUARTER, they will be placed on probation until their current Semester grades meet the requirement.

- During the first week of the probationary period, the athlete will continue to practice, but miss all athletic contests.
- At the end of the first week of the probationary period, a grade check will be issued. The athlete may continue to practice, but will be ineligible for athletic contests until the scholastic requirements are met

- The athletes will be responsible for picking up grade check sheets from their coaches and returning them to the athletic director each week they remain on probation.

Mid-Quarter Grade Checks (*High School and Middle School*)

If the **athlete is** failing more than one class, they will be placed on probation until the requirements are met.

- The athlete may practice but will be ineligible for athletic contests for one week.
- At the end of the first week of the probationary period a grade check will be issued. The athlete may continue to practice, but will be ineligible for athletic contests until the scholastic requirements are met.
- The athlete will be responsible for picking up grade check sheets from their coaches and returning them to the athletic director each week they remain on probation.

Semester Ineligibility (*High School*)

If the athlete is failing more than one class for the previous semester, they will be ineligible for interscholastic competition until the mid-quarter grade check of the following semester.

- At the end of this time, a grade check sheet is to be picked up by the athlete from the athletic director and taken to the athlete's teachers.
- Athletes that are not failing more than one class will again be eligible. Those not meeting these requirements will be ineligible for the remainder of that quarter.
- Ineligible athletes are expected to attend practice if they wish to remain members of the team, but they are ineligible for athletic contests.

Semester Ineligibility (*Middle School*)

If the athlete is failing more than one class they will be ineligible for interscholastic competition the first three weeks of the competition succeeding quarter. Each student can become eligible the Monday of the week following the suspension. Three or more teaching days shall constitute a week.

- At the end of this time, a grade check sheet is to be picked up by the athlete from the athletic director and taken to the athlete's teachers.
- Athletes that are not failing more than one class will again be eligible. Those not meeting these requirements will be ineligible until the scholastic requirements are met.

Ineligible athletes are expected to attend practice if they wish to remain members of the team, but they are ineligible for athletic contests

Attendance

- Athletes must be in attendance fifteen weeks of an eighteen-week semester. Anyone with more than twelve days of absence during a semester will be ineligible for the first five weeks of the next semester.
- Athletes must be in attendance at all class periods to participate in practice or contests on that day unless the absence is excused. Athletes violating this policy will miss the next scheduled practice plus the next scheduled game.
- Attendance at all practice/contests is mandatory on school calendar days. Athletes will be excused only for illness or with the coach's PRIOR approval. (Athletes are to give prior notice to coaches when they will miss practice/games for curricular activities.) Penalty: ineligible to participate in the next contest.

PARTICIPATION RESTRICTIONS

Restriction of participation by athletes includes, but is not limited to:

- Athletes dropped from a team for disciplinary reasons will not be allowed to become a member of any other team during that season.
- Athletes will not turn out for a sport until all previously issued equipment has been returned or otherwise accounted for.
- Athletes may drop a sport and transfer to another sport only with the agreement of both coaches. Athletes must meet the required number of practices for the specific sport of their choice; they may not transfer practices from one sport to the next.
- An athlete shall maintain the dress and grooming standards of the team. First offense: verbal warning. Repeated offenses: removal from the activity for five (5) school days. All athletes are expected to dress appropriately, in good taste, and in compliance with coach and school district expectations.

GUIDELINES FOR THE STUDENT ATHLETE

Any student who participates in a school sponsored athletic program is a representative of the Columbia School District. Therefore, each student is bound and obligated to behave in such a manner as to reflect credit on the activity and the school. **Inappropriate behavior be it, electronic, written, verbal, or physical misconduct will result in disciplinary action. Inappropriate pictures and/or physical misconduct will result in a minimum one week suspension.**

General Rules

School Conduct

Athletes must realize that their primary purpose in attending school is to acquire an education, therefore, all school and athletic codes are in operation at all times. Athletes will honor the student codes or will be subject to discipline.

Suspension from School

Athletes on in-school suspension will continue to practice and compete in interscholastic contests within the confines of the coach's policies and guidelines. Detention will be served when assigned. Athletes on out-of-school suspension will not be allowed to practice or compete in interscholastic contests for the duration of the suspension.

Enforcement

The head coach in consultation with the Athletic Department will be responsible for all decisions relating to disciplinary action resulting from violation of training rules. All actions (including sportsmanship) leading to probation, suspension, or expulsion will follow the regular administrative procedures.

Procedure

Any athlete who does not abide by the rules and regulations of their coaches and this athletic code are subject to warning, suspension, or expulsion from the team.

Warning/Probation

The athlete may be given a warning, which states that, they must correct a certain behavior or they will be placed on suspension. The length of the suspension will be defined at that time. This athlete will continue to practice and compete in interscholastic contests.

Suspension

The athlete is prohibited to compete in interscholastic contests for a defined period of time due to unsatisfactory correction of a probationary problem. Suspension can also result from an infraction deemed severe enough by the head coach. It is the coach's decision whether or not the athlete continues to practice.

Expulsion

Expelled athletes are prohibited from practicing and/or competing with the team for the remainder of that sport season. This action can be taken in regard to specific rule infractions stated in this athletic code or by the coach or Athletic Director in response to repeated violations of team standards of conduct.

SPECIFIC RULES

In compliance with WIAA rule, and Columbia School District #400 policy 3300P, the following will apply to all participants in athletics:

Drugs

Any student found by the school district to be guilty of possession, use, or sale of drugs will be disqualified from participation in athletics.

First Violation

Upon first violation, the student will be ineligible for all sports for the remainder of the season. Prior to returning to athletics, the student will submit to assessment through the building intervention specialist.

Second Violation

With a second violation, the student will be ineligible for all sports for a period of one calendar year from the date of the violation.

Third Violation

With a third violation, the student will be ineligible for all sports for the remainder of his/her high school career.

Alcohol, Tobacco, Vandalism, or Theft

Any student found guilty by the school district of possession or use of alcohol, tobacco, (smoking or chewing) or party to vandalism or theft will face the following penalties:

Note: Athletes must be academically eligible, and have served any prior code violations, before current/ additional violations will be served.

First Violation

The student will face an immediate suspension from all athletic competition for a period of four weeks (28 days), or two weeks (14 days) if they self report. This penalty will commence on the day the student self reports, confesses to, or is found guilty of the offense. The students will be allowed to practice and will not forfeit letter/award points earned up to that time.

Second Violation

The student will face an immediate suspension from all interscholastic competition and practice for a period of four weeks (28 days), or two weeks (14 days) if they self report. Upon return to practice, the athlete must attain the WIAA required minimum number of practice days before he/she is eligible for interscholastic competition. Athletes will forfeit all letter/award points earned up to the time of the suspension. Prior to returning to athletics, the student will submit to an assessment through the building intervention specialist.

Third Violation

The student will be suspended from all interscholastic athletics for one calendar year.

Fourth Violation

The student will be expelled from athletics for the remainder of his/her high school career.

Violations are cumulative from one sport to another throughout the student's middle school and high school career. Athletic code will be in effect beginning the first day of fall practice until after graduation day or the last spring sporting event, whichever is the latter. A violation will carry over from one sport to the next if the suspension cannot be fulfilled during the current sport season.

APPEALS

When infractions occur within the athletic program, the following process may be followed:

- A. Upon the imposition of penalty for infraction(s) of said rules or regulations, any aggrieved student and parents of said student shall have the right to an informal conference with the building principal and/or designee, activities director, and coach (Building Hearing Committee) to request that they refrain from enforcing the decision of the coach or ask the coach to reconsider. If the students and parents do not make a written request for this informal conference within five (5) school days of the action grieved, they will have waived their right to the conference and appeal procedure. The informal conference is to be held within three (3) school days of the request.

- B. The aggrieved party may appeal to the superintendent of schools within three (3) school days of the appeals decision. The superintendent of schools, after hearing the case in detail, shall render a decision within ten (10) school days of the hearing.

- C. The aggrieved party may appeal the superintendent's decision to the disciplinary appeal council established in Policy 3300, Corrective Actions or Punishments, or to the board of directors in the absence of a disciplinary council, within three (3) school days. The disciplinary council or board of directors, after hearing the case in detail, shall render a decision on the case within ten (10) school days of the hearing. This decision shall be final.

EQUIPMENT & FACILITIES

Issued Equipment

School equipment checked out to an athlete is their responsibility. It is expected that it will be kept clean and in good repair. Loss or damage to this equipment is the athlete's financial obligation. Issued equipment is to be worn only at practice, games, or as directed by the coach. Issued equipment is not to be worn while participating in events outside the school program.

Facilities

The school district provides athletics with excellent facilities. It is important that the athletes exercise care and take pride in them. Facility misuse/vandalism will result in disciplinary action.

AWARDS

An athletic letter award is a symbol of athletic accomplishment, good sportsmanship, and observance of athletic policies. Since the award is a symbol of accomplishment, its value lies in its implication rather than its monetary value. To qualify for an athletic letter, athletes must meet the requirements established in that sport or be recommended by the head coach. Athletic letters and awards shall only be presented to athletes who complete the entire season. (This does not apply to athletes who were unable to complete the season due to illness or injury.)

TRAVEL

All athletes will travel to and from athletic contests with the team in transportation provided by the school district. Written requests from the parent/legal guardian to the athletic director prior to departure for a contest can waive this requirement. If extenuating circumstances arise following a contest, coaches or school district administrators can release students to ride with their parent/legal guardian if the parent/legal guardian signs the school district's liability waiver form.

Team members will remain with the team and under the supervision of the coaching staff at all times during "away" contests.

Team members are expected to dress appropriately, in good taste, and in compliance with coach and school district expectations.

SPORTSMANSHIP

Athletes representing Columbia School District are expected to exemplify the highest standards of good sportsmanship. Sportsmanship is courtesy, fairness, and respectfulness to officials, teammates, opponents, coaches, and all others associated with athletics.

In compliance with WIAA rule, sportsmanship violations that result in ejection from a game will mean automatic suspension from play in the next scheduled game at that level.

SUMMER PARTICIPATION

Athletic participation in a commercial summer camp, school sponsored summer camp, summer clinic or other similar program in any sport shall not begin until the conclusion of the final state tournament of the school year. Fall sport athletes (football, volleyball, and cross country) cannot attend summer camps or clinics in their sport after August 1 until the first fall sport turnout.

Student athletes who are participating in school sponsored activities during the summer are expected to abide by the rules of the student handbook while representing the Columbia School District.

