Watertown High School
Co-Curricular Handbook



2026-2027

WATERTOWN HIGH SCHOOL
CO-CURRICULAR HANDBOOK
2026-2027 School Year

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STATEMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

The Watertown Unified School District recognizes co-curricular activities as an integral part of our students' education. Participation in these activities provides opportunities for personal growth, skill development, socialization, creativity, and competitive experiences.

It is the belief of the Watertown Unified School District that involvement in co-curricular activities is a privilege, which comes with certain expectations and responsibilities. It is in the interest of the school and community that standards be maintained concerning academic performance and personal behavior. It is also believed that failure to adhere to these standards should result in consequences according to the guidelines defined in this code.

THE GOALS OF CO-CURRICULAR PROGRAMS

By showing up with a positive attitude, giving their best effort, being a good teammate, and taking advantage of opportunities to grow, students can make their co-curricular experience a meaningful and rewarding part of their time at Watertown High School.

The purpose of co-curricular activities is to teach responsibility, cooperation, and an understanding that participation is a privilege that comes with certain expectations and responsibilities. These activities provide opportunities for students to develop self-discipline, loyalty, teamwork, personal pride, respect for others, and a desire to succeed.

Co-curricular activities also encourage students to challenge themselves, reach their potential, and experience healthy competition. They provide opportunities for students to become more connected to their school while building school spirit, pride, and a sense of belonging.

Above all, students are encouraged to understand the importance of putting the team, group, organization, and school ahead of individual interests when participating in co-curricular activities.

RESPONSIBILITIES

The opportunity to participate in co-curricular activities is available to all students at Watertown High School. Continued participation, however, is a privilege that comes with the responsibility of representing yourself, your family, your school, and your community in a positive manner.

Students involved in co-curricular activities are expected to demonstrate good character, appropriate social behavior, sportsmanship, and respect for teammates, opponents, coaches, teachers, officials, and others in positions of authority. Participants should be cooperative, follow the rules and expectations of their activity, and use language and behavior that reflect positively on themselves and Watertown High School.

NON-DISCRIMINATION

No person shall, on the basis of handicap, race, color, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, or gender be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity in the school district. If you have questions about procedures, or if you wish to file a grievance, please contact the athletic director in the high school office (262-7502).

PURPOSE OF HANDBOOK

The purpose of this handbook is to provide students participating in co-curricular activities and their parents/guardians with a clear understanding of the policies, expectations, and regulations governing co-curricular programs within the Watertown Unified School District. All athletic policies are consistent with WIAA rules and regulations unless otherwise specified by the Badger Conference Constitution.

WATERTOWN HIGH SCHOOL CO-CURRICULAR PROGRAMS

ATHLETICS:

Fall Season:

Cheer-Football
Cross Country (Boys & Girls)
Dance Team
Football
Golf (Girls)
Soccer (Boys)
Swimming (Girls)
Tennis (Girls)
Volleyball

Winter Season:

Basketball (Boys & Girls)
Cheer-Basketball
Dance Team
Gymnastics
Swimming (Boys)
Wrestling

Spring Season:

Baseball (Boys)
Golf (Boys)
TBD-Lacrosse (Boys & Girls)
Soccer (Girls)
Softball (Girls)
Tennis (Boys)
Track (Boys & Girls)

CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS:

Assoc. of Business Students
Academic Decathlon
Anime Manga Club
Art Club/Photo Club
Athletic Leadership Team
DECA
Ecology Club
Esports
Music Honor Society
FBLA
Classic
FCCLA
FFA Trap Team
Forensics Team
German Honor Society
GSA
HOSA
INTERACT/Student Rotary
Key Club
Math Team
National Art Honor Society
National FFA
NHS (National Honor Society)
NTHS (National Technical Honor Society)
SHH (Sociedad Honoraria Hispanica)
SkillsUSA
Student Council
Supermileage & Electrathon
Tri-M
Visual Arts

PERFORMING ARTS

Drama Productions (Spring Musical)
Femme Fusion (all Female Show Choir)
Jazz Ensemble I & II
Marching Band
WHS Carolers
Men in Blue (all Male Show Choir)
Pep Band
Pit Orchestra
River City Rhapsody (Top Mixed Show Choir)

WATERTOWN HIGH SCHOOL
CO-CURRICULAR ELIGIBILITY

Each participating student must read the Watertown High School co-curricular information found within the student handbook. The student must sign a co-curricular contract each year and his/her parent or guardian indicating that the handbook has been read and the student agrees to abide by all the rules outlined in the contract. Eligibility for participation includes the following general rules:

1. **Attendance:** Students are expected to attend all scheduled classes throughout the entire school day in order to participate in co-curricular activities, practices, or contests that day. Individual exceptions, such as a family emergency, may be approved by the coach/advisor and the athletic director only when arrangements are made in advance.
2. **Truancies:** Students are expected to attend all scheduled classes each day. Detentions must be served for truancies that occur during the period of co-curricular participation.
3. **Academics:** A student must be doing passing work in all classes based on the final grades issued at the end of each grading period (first trimester, second trimester, and third trimester). If a student receives a failing grade at the end of a trimester, the student will remain ineligible for a minimum of three weeks (15 school days and nights), or until the student is doing passing work (based on cumulative grades) in all classes following the minimum suspension period.

   In addition to trimester grade requirements, academic eligibility will be monitored throughout the school year through Gus's Weekly Grade Checks. Results of these weekly grade checks will also be used to determine a student's eligibility to participate in co-curricular activities.

4. **Transportation:** Transportation to and from all activities must be in district contracted vehicles. Only a parent may transport a student home from an out-of-district event. Notification to the Head Coach and/or athletic department 24 hours in advance is preferred.

Athletic Co-Curricular Activities:

Definition: In the interest of uniformity and clarity, the term "athlete" when used in this handbook shall refer to all team student athletes, statisticians, trainers, and managers. Athletes must also abide by the following rules:

1. Red Card**:**
   No athlete may participate in any sport activity until the coach receives a "red card" from the athletic office. A red card will be issued to each athlete after the following items are filled out online through Skyward Family Access:
   a) Signed WIAA physical exam form,
   b) Co-curricular contract,
   c) WHS Athletics Registration form,
   d) Co-curricular fee of $75 for each sport for the athlete (payable online through Skyward RevTrak or to the WHS book keeper),
   e) Health Information Disclosure form,
   f) Concussion form
   g) WIAA Eligibility form,
   h) ImPACT consent form,
   i) Athletic Trainer Treatment Release form

   No "red card" will be issued if the student has any outstanding fees, fines, or athletic equipment.
2. Informational Meeting:
   Freshmen/new student athletes along with a parent/guardian must watch the online Red Card video through Skyward Family access. Athlete and parent must sign off that they watched and understood the content of the video. This must be done before any red cards can be issued to the student athlete.
3. Individual Season Participation:
   Once a student has participated in a sport, he/she cannot quit that sport and go out for another unless both coaches and the athletic director give approval. The Co-Curricular Council shall intervene only upon request when the coaches disagree. Note: Any student athlete who is cut from a team is eligible to participate in another sport during the same season.

ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY

The following is an explanation of how the academic eligibility portion of the code of conduct is handled at WHS:

1. A student's grades from the most recently completed grading period will be used to determine academic eligibility at the start of each season.
    a. For fall sports, the final grade for Trimester 3 from the spring (end of school year).
    b. For winter sports, the final grade for Trimester 1 from the fall.
    c. For spring sports, the final grade for Trimester 2 from the winter.
2. If a student is not passing the academic standard at the end of a grading period, the athlete is declared ineligible from competition for 15 school days and nights. The 15-day period of ineligibility begins on the day the computer generated student listing is given to the athletic office. The athlete can participate on the 16th school day if he/she documents that they are passing all classes. If the 15th day falls on a Friday, the athlete is ineligible until Monday.
3. At the conclusion of the 15-day ineligibility period, the student-athlete must be passing all of their current classes in order to regain eligibility.
4. After the 15-day period of ineligibility, if the student remains failing one or more classes, the student will continue to be ineligible until all classes are passing.
5. If a student receives a failing grade during the final grading period of the school year, they may regain academic eligibility by successfully completing an equivalent course through summer school or an approved correspondence course during the summer.
6. A student-athlete who receives an incomplete will be considered academically ineligible. If the incomplete is resolved within two weeks following the end of the grading period, the student-athlete will regain eligibility immediately. If the incomplete is not resolved within that two-week period, the student-athlete will be subject to the same eligibility requirements outlined above.
7. For fall sports where the date of earliest allowed competition is before the first day students are in class, the ineligibility status will be adjusted as listed below (a & b). In this scenario, the minimum ineligibility period shall be the lesser of:
    a. 21 consecutive calendar days beginning with the date of earliest allowed competition in a sport, or
    b. One-third of the maximum number of games/meets allowed in a sport (rounded up if a fraction results).
8. **When athletes are academically ineligible, they will not be released early from school for away competitions.**
9. Managers must be passing all classes at the beginning of the season to manage a sport.

Weekly Grade Checks

Weekly grade reports will begin on September 16 and will be reviewed each Wednesday. Students are expected to be passing all classes at the time of each weekly grade check.

If a student is failing one or more classes:

1. The student will have seven calendar days to raise the failing grade(s) to a passing level. During this seven-day period, the student remains eligible to participate in practices and contests.
2. If the student is still failing one or more classes at the end of the seven-day period, the student will become ineligible for contests. The student will remain ineligible until they are passing all classes.

WISCONSIN INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION
ATHLETIC ELIGIBILITY

The following is a partial list of rules of eligibility established by the WIAA. More complete rules can be found in the WIAA Handbook. These eligibility rules must be met for athletes to compete interscholastically.

Physical Exam/Parental Permission
A student may not participate in interscholastic athletics (practice or competition) until the school has a WIAA Physical Exam/Parental Permission card on file in the school office attesting to signed parental permission to be involved in the sport and to physical fitness as determined by a licensed physician. Physical exams taken after April 1 and thereafter are valid for the following two school years; physical exams taken before April 1 are valid only for the remainder of that school year and the following school year.

Age
A student shall be ineligible for interscholastic competition if he/she reaches his/her 19th birthday before August 1 of any given year. The WIAA Board of Control may provide relief from the age requirement due to extenuating circumstances, and under no circumstances may a student begin a sport season once the student has reached his/her 20th birthday.

Scholarship
An athlete must meet school and DPI requirements defining a full-time student (WHS students must be enrolled in 2 credits per trimester). *NOTE: WHS academic standards supersede WIAA requirements!*

Early Graduation
Any student that graduates early and is no longer enrolled or attending WHS may not participate in any co-curricular programs. This becomes effective on the last date attended and enrolled as a WHS student.

WATERTOWN HIGH SCHOOL
CO-CURRICULAR CODE OF CONDUCT

Students may be suspended from participation in co-curricular activities at any time for involvement in conduct that is contrary to the ideas, principles, and standards of Watertown High School and/or the WIAA. THESE RULES ARE IN EFFECT AND ENFORCED DURING ALL 12 MONTHS OF THE YEAR!

Participation in co-curricular activities comes with expectations that extend beyond practices, competitions, performances, and events. Students are expected to make responsible choices and conduct themselves in a manner that reflects positively on themselves, their team or organization, Watertown High School, and the community.

The following Code of Conduct establishes the standards and expectations for students participating in co-curricular activities. These expectations are intended to promote personal responsibility, good decision-making, healthy choices, and the high standards that come with representing Watertown High School.

Rule #1: Alcohol, Tobacco, and Controlled Substances
Students participating in co-curricular activities shall not use, possess, or be an accessory to supplying alcohol, anabolic steroids, tobacco, illegal controlled substances, drug paraphernalia, street drugs, and performance enhancing substances (PES),or look alikes.

Rule #2: State and Federal Statute Violations – Criminal Acts
Students participating in co-curricular activities shall not commit, have allegedly committed, or have received a citation for any criminal act, including but not limited to such criminal acts as assault and battery, disorderly conduct, theft, vandalism, sexual assault, reckless driving, hit and run driving, etc.

Rule #3: Municipal Ordinance Violations - Civil Forfeiture, Misdemeanor Acts
Students participating in co-curricular activities shall not commit, have allegedly committed or received a citation of civil forfeiture for any municipal ordinance violations. This includes, but is not limited to, illegal acts such as shoplifting, disorderly conduct, trespassing, curfew violations, etc. This does not include basic traffic violations and parking tickets.

Rule #4: School Suspensions
Students participating in co-curricular activities shall not exhibit inappropriate behavior in school that may result in a suspension from school.

Rule #5: Class Attendance
Students participating in co-curricular activities are expected to attend all scheduled classes. Students must be in attendance at school from 11:30 a.m. until the end of the school day in order to be eligible to participate in a co-curricular on that day.

Rule #6: Grades
Students participating in co-curricular activities must be doing passing work in all classes.

Rule #7: Conduct Unbecoming of an Athlete including Social Media Behavior and Conduct
This will result in a minimum of a one-game suspension

CONSEQUENCES FOR VIOLATIONS OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT

RULES # 1 & 2:

If the student is involved in more than one activity, he/she is penalized the percentage designated by this code in each activity. Student participating in co-curricular activities that perform may continue to practice or meet with the team/club at the discretion of the coach/advisor after consultation with the athletic director. The suspended student must follow all rules of this code and team.

First Violation:
Suspension from competition participation in all co-curricular activities for a period of 40% of the allowable limit by the WIAA in contests, performances, etc. of the regular duration of that activity.

1. A student found to be in violation may have the consequence reduced to a suspension of 20% of the allowable limit by the WIAA in contests, performances, etc. of that activity if he/she agrees to the following:
    a. Completion of Watertown High School's AODA prevention program.

2. If the student self-refers or is self-referred by parents/guardians to the athletic director for participation in the AODA prevention program, there shall be a one contest deduction if the program is completed. This violation will be recorded as the first violation.

Second Violation:
Suspension from participation in all co-curricular activities (practice and competition/performance) for **one full calendar year**.

1. A student found to be in violation a second time may have the consequence reduced to a suspension of 40% of the allowable limit of the WIAA in contests or duration of the activity if he/she agrees to the following:

    a. Completion of Watertown High School's AODA prevention program if it has not already been completed OR
    b. Complete an AODA assessment at an approved non-school agency (at parent expense) and follow recommendations of the non-school agency.

2. If the student's second violation is his/her first self-referral/parent referral, and he/she follows through with completing Watertown High School's AODA prevention program OR the completion of an AODA assessment at an approved non-school AODA agency, there shall be a 20% suspension. If the student does not complete the program, second violation penalties shall apply.

Third Violation:

Suspension from participation in all co-curricular activities for the **remainder of the student's high school career.**

1. A student found to be in violation a third time may have the consequence reduced to a one-year suspension if the student and his/her parents/guardians meet with the facilitator of the Watertown High School's AODA prevention program and an administrator to establish a plan for the following;

   a. Complete an AODA assessment at an approved non-school agency (at parent expense).
   b. Participation and successful completion of any recommended treatment program.
   c. Agree to a behavioral contract between the student, school administration, and a representative of the AODA agency as a condition of being readmitted to co-curricular activity.

2. If a student's third violation is his/her first self-referral/parent referral, and he/she follows through with all of the requirements listed in the above paragraph, there shall be a 40% suspension. If the student does not meet these requirements, third violation penalties shall apply.

Fourth Violation:

Suspension from participation in all co-curricular activities at Watertown High School for the remainder of the student's high school career.

INELIGIBILITY CONSEQUENCE FOR CO-CURRICULAR CODE VIOLATIONS

Co-curricular Activity	20% Penalty	40% Penalty
Baseball		
Basketball		
Cheer		
Cross Country		
Dance Team		
Football		
Golf		
Gymnastics		
Lacrosse		
Soccer		
Softball		
Swimming		
Tennis		
Track		
Volleyball		
Wrestling		
	1 month and a minimum of 1 activity	2 months and a minimum of 2 activities
ACADEC		
Art Club/Photo Club		
DECA		

Drama Club
Ecology Club
Esports
FBLA
FCCLA
FFA Trap
Forensics
International Club
Key Club
Math Team
National Honor Society
Pep Band
Plays/Musicals

Show Choir
Student Council

Honesty Clause: The penalty for a code violation is reduced by one contest, performance, or activity for any student who is honest about his/her misconduct when questioned by a school official conducting an investigation.

Self-Referral: Once a student has been observed to be in violation by a person who intends to refer the student, or the student has been apprehended by the police, the student is not considered to have self-referred.

RULE # 3:

Students committing or alleged to have committed illegal acts that have violated a municipal ordinance will lose eligibility for one game or performance per violation.

RULE # 4:

Any student who receives an out-of-school suspension is ineligible to participate in practices, performances, or competitions during the period of suspension. In addition, the student will lose eligibility for a minimum of one performance or competition. If the student is not participating in an activity at the time of the suspension, the minimum one-performance or one-contest suspension will be served during the next activity season in which the student participates.

RULE # 5:

One detention must be served for each period of truancy that occurs during the season of the activity. All truancy consequences must be served prior to any practice, performance, or competition.

RULE # 6:

If a student is not passing all classes at the end of a grading period, the student is suspended from participation in competitions/performances until he/she is passing all classes. The student will be declared academically ineligible for a minimum of 15 scheduled school days and nights, and then must document to the athletic director that he/she is passing all classes with a cumulative score for the semester.

RULE # 7:
A minimum of a one game suspension is the consequence for conduct unbecoming of an athlete.

NOTES:

- **FAILURE TO COMPLETE REDUCED CONSEQUENCES WITHIN ONE SEASON WILL RESULT IN THE STUDENT SERVING THE BALANCE OF THE CONSEQUENCE DURING THE NEXT SEASON!**
- **ALL STUDENTS MUST COMPLETE THEIR SEASON IN GOOD STANDING FOR ANY PENALTY TO COUNT.**
- **If a student athlete is suspended for one or more WIAA tournament contest for a Code of Conduct violation, he/she is immediately disqualified for the total tournament series in that sport per WIAA rules.**
- **A student athlete will serve the appropriate game suspension in the highest level (varsity, JV, etc) that the student had already competed in. The student will not be able to compete in any other level until the suspension has been completed.**

PROCESS FOR DETERMINING VIOLATIONS OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT

A student reported for a violation of any eligibility rules shall have a fair hearing and the following process shall be used:

1. Violations of the co-curricular code are to be reported to the athletic director/administrator in writing and he/she will perform an investigation and meet with the student in person to determine the validity of the violation and the consequence if necessary. The written report must include the type of violation, the place, and the day of the violation. It must be signed/reported by the person who witnessed the violation or by the violator as a self-referral.
2. The parent will be contacted in person and/or written correspondence.
3. A written record of the incident will be retained.
4. The coach/advisor and the Student Assistance Program staff will be informed of the violation and the penalty.

APPEAL PROCESS
WATERTOWN CO-CURRICULAR RULES AND REGULATIONS

"Due Process" is a procedure the courts of law recognize as a necessary part of any rules and regulations. "Due Process" furthermore, and of primary importance, recognizes the rights of individuals since it outlines their recourse in the event they feel a wrong decision has been made. The "due process" steps outlined hereafter is the procedure for a student athlete and his/her parents/guardians to follow in appealing decisions relating to eligibility. It should be understood that student athletes and parents/guardians will be expected to follow the "due process" steps in the event legal action should be initiated at some later date. The provisions listed below in procedures 1, 2, and 3 shall be the sole and exclusive remedy for appeals of co-curricular violations by students other than athletes of WIAA sanctioned sports.

1. After a ruling of ineligibility resulting in suspension from co-curricular activities has been made a student and his/her parents/guardians may formally appeal the decision in writing to the athletic director, provided an appeal is received within five school days of the official notice.

2. The athletic director, within three days of receipt of such appeal, shall formalize the ineligibility decision in writing and send a letter by registered mail to the parents/guardians outlining the specific details relating to the violation/infraction, including:
    a) Date of the violation or infraction,
    b) Period of suspension, and
    c) Any other pertinent information.

3. After the athletic director has received an appeal, the co-curricular council will convene within three school days to hear the appeal.
    a) The student will be provided with an opportunity to testify and present other evidence on his/her behalf.
    b) Proceedings of the hearing, including the decision, will be put in writing and a copy mailed to the student and his/her parents.
    c) Decisions reached by the Co-curricular Council are final.

THE CO-CURRICULAR COUNCIL

The Co-curricular Council will:

1. Consist of nine members serving a one-year term:
    a) Superintendent
    b) High School Principal or Designee
    c) One Varsity Coach (Selected by the principal)
    d) One Co-curricular Advisor (Selected by the Student Council)
    e) One Faculty Member-at-Large (Selected by the Student Council)
    f) Two Senior Students (One female, one male - Selected from the Student Council by the faculty)
    g) One Parent (Selected by the Principal)
    h) Athletic Director (Nonvoting except in case of a tie)
2. Will be designated and chaired by the school principal or his/her designee.
3. Will hear appeals and act upon violations brought before it in the appeal process.
4. Will review the co-curricular handbook yearly and make appropriate recommendations on changes in policy.
5. Will vote by secret ballot to accept or reject the report of a violation and the consequence. A majority vote of members voting will render the decision final.

NOTE: If the Superintendent's vote is in the minority, he/she may write an opinion that will become part of the written record.

REQUIREMENTS FOR VARSITY LETTERS

The head coach of each sport determines the requirements for an athletic letter. Requirements are based on a student athlete's value to the team, honors won, time played, performance, loyalty to the team, dedication, and commitment to the goals of the co-curricular program.

ATHLETIC INJURIES

1. All safety equipment required by the WIAA will be furnished to the student athlete with the exception of the dental guard for football. The student athlete must pay for that item.

2. The athlete must report all injuries to the coach immediately. If an emergency hospital/doctor call arises, notify the coach the following day so the necessary reports may be filed.

3. In case of an emergency, student athletes will be sent to a doctor of their choice, if possible, and the parents/guardians will be notified as soon as possible.

4. Should a serious injury be discovered after the student athlete has returned home, the athlete may go to the doctor, but it is the student athlete's responsibility to see that the proper forms are completed when he/she returns to school.

5. A certified athletic trainer will be available to all student athletes for consultations. The trainer, in consultation with the hospital/doctor, will decide if an athlete is healthy to participate in practice and/or competition.