

VIROQUA HIGH/MIDDLE SCHOOL ACTIVITIES CODE



2026-2027

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HIGH SCHOOL/MIDDLE SCHOOL ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

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INTRODUCTION

Mission

Viroqua Area Schools will nurture excellence, unlock potential, and ignite passion.

Philosophy

Our district believes in the positive student outcomes associated with student involvement in co-curricular activities. To that end, limited only by available district resources, all students are invited and encouraged to participate in the broad range of co-curricular alternatives that are available at Viroqua Area Schools. Further, our district believes that participation in such activities provides a unique opportunity for students to develop such lifelong skills as commitment, responsibility, teamwork, cooperation, and sportsmanship.

In addition, it is our expectation that students who participate in co-curriculars become the standard bearers in our community. As such, they are expected to maximize their academic growth while striving to achieve with the very best in the state in the co-curricular areas of choice.

Broad Goals

1. Serve the varied needs, interests, and abilities of district students.
2. Provide positive outlets for student energies and provide a place to succeed.
3. Allow students to acquire new skills and enhance existing ones.
4. Enhance peer and adult interaction and cooperation.
5. Provide activities which bring students together for mutual expressions of interest at all age levels.
6. Help students develop responsibility, leadership and skills of competition.
7. Develop community pride in the schools.
8. Encourage lifetime interests in programs begun in school.

There is no exclusion based on race, sex, national origin, religion, ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital or parental status, sexual orientation, or physical, mental, emotional, or learning disability.

Governed By

In addition to the rules and consequences set forth in this Viroqua Area Schools Student Activity Code, the student will also be governed by: Viroqua Area Schools Parent/Student Handbook Rules and Regulations; WIAA Rules and Regulations; WSMA Rules and Regulations; and civil and criminal laws of the community, county and state. Violations of the Activity Code do accumulate throughout the student's high school career. VAS Administration and the Board of Education reserves the right to interpret this Handbook.

Statement of Participation

As determined by the WIAA, participation in high school athletics is a privilege, not a right. The coach shall determine which athletes will play, who will start, and how long an athlete will play in any given contest. Athletes that participate in interscholastic high school athletics are not guaranteed any amount of playing time.

WISCONSIN INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS ASSOCIATION (WIAA)

STATEMENTS

WIAA Public Address for Use at Events

Good evening. Viroqua Area Schools welcomes you to Viroqua High School for tonight's game. One of the goals of high school athletics is developing values for a lifetime. Sportsmanship is one such value that makes these games an educational experience. Remember to exercise good sportsmanship during the game. And now, let's meet the starting lineups . . .

WIAA Parental Guide to Sportsmanship

Introduction: This guide was designed to assist parents to evaluate their attitudes about their child's participation and put them in proper perspective. By doing this, parents can better understand and support the sportsmanship initiatives and guidelines. Our assumption is that we all want what's best for our children.

Role of Parents: As a parent and role model for your student-athlete, you have a significant influence on the education and personal growth of your child. Whether you realize it or not, the support and environment at home, as well as your conduct at interscholastic activities, assists your child accept the opportunities and challenges presented in the classroom and during athletic competition with dignity.

It is your obligation as a parent to nurture and educate your child and equip them with the knowledge, wisdom and inner strength to succeed in their lifelong endeavors. That includes setting an appropriate example of how to react in pressure- and stress-filled situations resulting in either positive (win) or negative (loss) outcomes.

Your child's participation in interscholastic athletics is testimony to your belief that high school activities provide benefits to those who participate. It is important to understand that participation in and attendance at interscholastic athletic activities are a privilege and not a Constitutional right.

Be Involved; Not Obsessed: Parents often take an active role in their child's athletic participation. An active interest in their child's development and activities is commendable and encouraged, but when parental involvement becomes too demanding and critical, a child's enjoyment in participating is diminished.

A U.S. Department of Education report reveals the number one reason children participate in high school sports is to have fun. In addition, skill development was actually considered a more important aspect of fun than winning, even among the best athletes. The purpose of your involvement with your child's participation in athletics should be for their well-being, not an attempt to live vicariously through your child or to fulfill an unfulfilled dream of yours.

Exercising Self-Control: Parents in control of their emotions and attitudes toward their child's participation and the circumstances involving that participating are considered ideal program supporters and leaders. Their good sportsmanship reveals character and self-discipline. Unfortunately, the opposite is also true. That may be of no consequence to you, but your actions and behavior reflect back on your child participating and those associated with you.

Are You A Good Sport: Forget about peer pressure; forget about your own biases; and forget about what you have seen at other events. No excuses. Nobody is responsible for your actions but you – not the officials, not the coach, not the opponents or their fans, not even the weather. Nor is ignorance to what sportsmanship is an excuse, because we can define it for you now. Sportsmanship is defined as "playing by the established rules of a contest; competing and accepting the result without complaining, gloating or taunting; and cheering in only an enthusiastic and supportive manner that does not disrespect, taunt, distract, ridicule, or attempt to intimidate an opponent, its fans or game officials."

A good sport is a true leader. As a parent of a student-athlete at our school, your sportsmanship goals and objectives must include:

1. Athletics are part of the educational experience, and its benefits of participation and involvement go beyond the final score or outcome of a game.

2. Encourage student athletes to perform to the best of their abilities and efforts, just as we urge them with their class work, realizing someone may turn in better or lesser performances.
3. Participate in positive cheers that encourage our team and discourage any actions that would redirect that focus in a negative or disrespectful nature to anyone.
4. Learn, understand and respect the rules of the game, the officials who administer them and their decisions.
5. Respect the efforts and tasks our coaches face as teachers; and support them as they work to educate our children.
6. Respect our opponents and acknowledge them for striving to do their best with positive cheers or by simply refraining from any negative cheers, actions or disrespect toward them.
7. Maintain a sense of dignity and character under all circumstances.
8. Enjoy your child's participation.

Parental Oath of Sportsmanship: I agree to practice and promote good sportsmanship. I also agree that if I fail to abide by the following guidelines and goals, I will be subject to disciplinary action that could include, but not limited to: verbal warning by school personnel, written warning, removal and/or suspension from game(s), or legal prosecution or action with record of incident kept on file.

1. I will learn and understand the rules of the game and the policies of the conference and WIAA.
2. I will be responsible for my actions and the actions of my guests as a positive role model for my student athlete and will encourage sportsmanship by showing respect, courtesy and positive support for players, coaches, officials and all other spectators.
3. I will not engage in any unsportsmanlike actions directed at any official, coach, player, or other spectators to include booing, taunting, using profane or rude language or gestures.
4. I will discourage any behaviors or actions that would endanger the health of all spectators and athletes.
5. I will teach my child to play within the rules and resolve conflicts without resorting to violence or hostility. In addition, I will demand that they treat other players, coaches and officials with respect.
6. I will teach my child to perform to the best of their ability and, although winning is rewarding, it is not more important than the effort extended or the maintaining of one's dignity.
7. I will compliment my child for playing fair and to the best of their ability.
8. I will not ridicule or yell at my child or other members of the team for making a mistake or losing a competition.
9. I will put what is best for the athletes and team above my personal desires for my child to gain acclaim or win.
10. I will respect the officials and their authority during games and will not question, discuss or confront coaches or officials at the competition site. I will take time to speak with coaches at an agreed upon time and place.
11. I will demand an educational sports environment for my child that is free from drugs, tobacco and alcohol and will refrain from their use at all school events.

What Is Expected Of Me As A Parent: Essential elements of character and ethics are embodied in sportsmanship principles, including loyalty, respect, modesty, honesty, trustworthiness, responsibility, self-control, and discipline, and good citizenship. To be a supportive and valued parent fan, we ask you to review and abide by the following sportsmanship goals and guidelines.

1. Realize that athletics is part of the educational experience, and the benefits of involvement go beyond results and standings.
2. Encourage your child and other student-athletes to give their best effort, just as you would expect them to do in their class work, with the realization others will often perform better or worse.
3. Extend respect to all those involved with your child's participation in interscholastic activities including game officials, coaches, opposing team and opposing team supporters.
4. Maintain your dignity under any circumstance. Participate in only positive cheers encouraging our teams, discourage cheers or outbursts that redirect that focus and confront those who engage in unsportsmanlike behavior.

Recommended Procedure for Addressing a Concern with a Coach:

Step 1: Athletes seek out their coach to discuss concerns (*Parents please speak with your child about the concern and encourage your child to speak with their coach*).

Step 2: Parent requests conference with the coach or coaching staff.
(Please call during school hours and leave a message for the coach either on their voicemail or with the Activities Office).

Step 3: If the conference between the athlete and coach, or parent, athlete and coach does not resolve the concern, a meeting can be set up with the Athletic Director. The Athletic Director will mediate the conference.

- *The conference will deal only with specific concerns. Both parties will be allowed to speak in an uninterrupted manner. The conference will be held in a non-threatening environment.*

Appropriate concerns that a Parent may address with the Coaching Staff:

1. The treatment of your child mentally and physically.
 2. Ways that your child can improve their performance and skill level.
 3. Concerns about your child's behavior in school, practice, or contests.
 4. The make-up of the team in relation to your child.
- *Coaches will not discuss other team members, other parents, or other members of the VAS coaching staff.*
 - *Coaches will not meet with a parent immediately after a contest. Parents must wait until the next school day and refer to the recommended procedure for addressing a concern with a coach.*

CATEGORIES

Category I – School Sponsored or Affiliated Athletic Programs

Boys: Cross Country, Football, Golf, Basketball, Hockey, Wrestling, Baseball, Tennis, Track

Girls: Cross Country, Golf, Volleyball, Basketball, Hockey, Wrestling, Softball, Gymnastics, Tennis, Cheerleading, Track

Category II – School Sponsored or Affiliated Activities with Performances

Drama, Musical, Spirit Squad, & Pep Band

Category III – School Sponsored or Affiliated Activities with Contests

eSports, FBLA, FFA, Solo and Ensemble, Skills USA, Forensics, Visual Arts Classic, Trap Shooting, Powerlifting

Category IV - IV School Sponsored or Affiliated Activities without Contests or Performances

Student Council, Class Officers, National Honor Society, Library Council, Sources of Strength

Category V – Homecoming and Prom Courts

Category VI – School Sponsored Overnight Trips

Activities Seasons

ACTIVITY	SEASON	ACTIVITY	SEASON
Class Officers	Year round	NHS	Year Round
Courts	1st vote date until end of dance	Pep Band	Varsity Sport Season
eSports	Varsity Sport Season	Powerlifting	November - March
FBLA	Year round	Trap Shooting	Spring Season
FFA	Year round	Skills USA	Year round
Forensics	September 1 – April 30	Solo and Ensemble	January 1 – May 7
Library Council	Year round	Student Council	Year round
Musical / Drama	Tryouts until last performance	Visual Arts Classic	March 1 – April 30
Spirit Squad	Fall and Winter sports season		

ELIGIBILITY

Viroqua Area Schools will follow WIAA's guidelines as stated in the "High School Athletic Eligibility Information Bulletin." There are additional WIAA guidelines that are not listed within this handbook. A copy of this is available through the Athletic Director.

Academic Eligibility

- A participant must be enrolled at Viroqua Area Schools for the minimum number of credits or units required per year by the school/meeting requirements of full-time status.
- The participant may not have received any F's or Incompletes (report card) during the previous grading period.
- Parents/guardians and students are required to sign the Activity Code Agreement each year prior to the start of the season.
- Parents/guardians and students are required to attend one mandatory meeting during which the coaches/advisors of each activity will inform the parents/guardians and students of expectations and responsibilities for their activity.

High school students who do not meet these academic requirements will be ineligible during the first fifteen (15) school days and nights of the next quarter grading period. After fifteen (15) school days and nights, the student must be passing in all classes to regain his/her eligibility. The student will be required to practice during the ineligibility. It is the student's responsibility to initiate a grade check after fifteen (15) days by completing a Progress Report and submitting it to coaches/advisors who will forward it to the athletic director. Middle school students will have the same process, but the ineligibility will be seven (7) days instead of fifteen (15) days due to the shortened seasons. Fourth quarter failing grades result in ineligibility in the lesser of twenty-one (21) calendar days beginning with the date of earliest competition or one-third of the maximum games allowed in a sport. Students with fourth quarter failing grades can earn back eligibility by earning in-person summer school credit, if available, equaling or exceeding the number of credits failed.

Age

A student shall be ineligible for interscholastic competition if he/she reaches his/her 19th birthday before August 1 of any given school year.

Medical Consent

Athletes will not be permitted to practice or be issued equipment until their WIAA physical examination card and medical consent card are signed and returned to the athletic director, coach, or advisor. Athletes are required to have a physical examination every two years. Viroqua Area Schools recommends that students have a physical examination during the summer of their freshman and junior years of high school.

If a student has had a physical one year, the following year they will need to have a parent permission card on file in the high school office in order to be eligible for participation. All athletes are required to sign a Concussion Information Acknowledgement form at the start of every season as required by the WIAA Concussion Policy and Procedure, 2011.

Attendance

Daily attendance by a student athlete is important and necessary. Parents play an important role in supporting this effort. Athletes and parents need to adhere to the participation rules listed below for practice and contests.

A student must attend at least three (3) of the four (4) blocks of the day of an activity to participate that day and must attend the entire afternoon unless there has been prior approval by an administrator (3A and 3B count as one block, not two). Acceptable excuses include medical appointments and family emergencies. The administration may request confirmation about appointments from a health care provider (additional penalties can be given by the coach, advisor and/or administrator). This attendance can be a combination of on-site or virtual school coursework.

Any suspension, in-house or out-of-school, will make a student ineligible to participate on that day(s).

Excessive absences/tardies by a student athlete will result in a coach, athletic director, and principal meeting for consideration of the student athlete's eligibility status.

Residency and Transfers

A full-time student is eligible for varsity interscholastic competition only at the school within whose attendance boundaries his/her parents reside, within a given school district. Transfer eligibility will follow WIAA rules (WIAA website: Eligibility Rules & Forms Page).

Amateur Status

The popularity and interest in sports is the caveat for professional athletes to be widely targeted for product and service endorsements hoping to commercialize on an individual's exploits and popularity. Unfortunately, familiarity with the concept of these endorsements and those hoping to capitalize on the notoriety of high school athletes are all too frequently adopted by local or regional businesses and organizations.

School administrators, coaches, parents, student-athletes, businesses and organizations must all be aware of amateur status provisions and its impact on high school students' athletic eligibility. The member schools of the WIAA have approved the amateur status provisions listed in its Rules of Eligibility, which are made available to schools in the membership Handbook and the Rules at a Glance information provided each year, as well as to anyone who has access to the Internet on the WIAA Website (www.wiaawi.org).

The membership's regulations state that a student shall be an amateur in all sports sponsored by the Association in order to compete in any sport. It also states all students shall become ineligible for all further participation in the school's interscholastic program for violation of any of the amateur status provisions. With high school career-ending ramifications, amateur status regulations must be understood and carefully monitored.

Per the WIAA, student-athletes are in violation of the members' amateur status rules if they:

- 1) ...accept, receive and/or direct to another, reimbursement or award in any form of salary, cash, or share of game or season proceeds for achievement in athletics. A student may receive: school mementos valued not more than \$200, an award valued no more than \$100 retail, and may retain non-school competition apparel worn by the student as part of the team uniform.*
- 2) ...sign a contract or agreement for services as a participating athlete.*
- 3) ...receive compensation or benefit, directly or indirectly, for the use of name, picture, and/or personal appearance as an athlete.*
- 4) ...receive free and/or reduced rates on equipment, apparel, camps/clinics/instruction and competitive opportunities that are not identical for all other participants. In addition, student-athletes and parents must pay all costs associated with attending camps and/or clinics.*
- 5) ...are identified as an athlete, provide endorsement as an athlete, or appear as an athlete, in the promotion of a commercial/advertisement and/or profit-making event, item, plan or service.*
- 6) ...play in any contest (school or nonschool) under a name other than his/her own name.*

Amateur status penalties may be reduced upon request of a school on the basis of documented extenuating circumstances, when accompanied by evidence of complete restitution made by the athlete if the circumstance is applicable.

Student-athletes, as well as parents, are required to read and sign the Athletic Eligibility Information Bulletin, acknowledging their familiarity with the membership's rules and regulations.

The consent of the student-athlete and the student-athlete's parents should be required before any third party (recruiters, club teams, fitness centers, businesses and organizations) uses a student-athlete in any form of publicity.

There have been instances whereby a business or organization--without knowledge or permission of the school or individual--uses the likeness of student-athletes in order to capitalize on the student-athlete's popularity, which creates a violation. The most heart-wrenching application of the member's rules and subsequent sanctions on the school or individual for a violation occurs when a business or organization exploits a student-athlete without the student-athlete, parent or school having knowledge of the action.

The three most common considerations of a student having been identified as a student-athlete are by text or spoken word, by apparel and by props.

Sports Activities Outside of School

Per the WIAA, a student-athlete, with school approval, is allowed to participate in up to two non-school contests during the regular season in the same sport. The non-school opportunities will not count against the individual maximum in that sport.

Dual sports participation (simultaneous)

VAS (Viroqua Area Schools) administration has the responsibility to ensure the physical and academic health and well being of student athletes. Dual sport participation in Category I activities is allowed at the discretion of the Activities Director as well as the head coaches of the sports in consideration. Participation is reserved only for those student athletes that have demonstrated that they are capable of making such significant commitments.

Eligible dual sport athletes must adhere to a Dual Sport Participation Agreement which details the terms of participation including practice and contest date expectations created by head coaches of the two sports and Activities Director. This agreement must be completed and signed by all parties prior to the first practice of the sport with the latest start date. There may be instances in which a head coach will not consent to a dual sport participation. If either head coach does not consent to the terms detailed in the Dual Sport Participation Agreement and refuses to sign the agreement, the student will not be allowed to participate in both sports and will need to decide which sport to participate in.

Fees

All Viroqua High School and Middle School students must pay the participation fee as determined by the school district before they can participate in any school-sponsored activities.

LETTERING

Basic Requirements

- The athlete/participant must attend practices, competitions, and/or activities (unless excused by the coach/advisor).
- The athlete/participant must be a contributing member of the team/group, upholding the rules and regulations of the team/group and the VHS/VMS Activity Code.
- The athlete/participant must complete the season as a member of the team. The end of the season is recognized as the completion of the state tournament or as communicated by the coach/advisor.

Athletic Lettering

The athletic letter is given on the basis of participation in varsity contests for the loyalty, commitment and performance of an individual.

Specific Requirements

- The athlete must participate in 50% of the games, periods, innings, quarters, or matches. Cheerleaders must earn 90% of the points awarded. In track, the athlete must score twenty (20) Varsity points.
- Under special or unusual circumstances (for example: four years in a sport, illness or injury), a coach may recommend a letter be given even though the specific letter requirements were not met. This will be subject to the approval of the Athletic Director or Principal.
- Managers are eligible for a letter for working in one sport season. Managers must follow the basic requirements of athletes. Letters are not awarded to scorers, statisticians or photographers.

Violations of the Activity Code

- If an athlete violates the Student Activity Code, they will not be allowed to letter for the sport in which a violation occurred. If the penalty carries over to a second sport season, they are eligible to letter in the second season.

- An athlete with a violation is not eligible for any special awards in the sport and season in which the violation occurred.

Fine Arts Lettering

The fine arts letter is given on the basis of participation in activities/contests for the loyalty, commitment and performance of an individual.

Specific Requirements

- The student must participate in a percentage of the activities/competitions. This will be communicated by the advisor/coach.
- Under special or unusual circumstances (for example: four years in an activity, illness, injury), a coach/advisor may recommend a letter be given even though the specific letter requirements were not met. This will be subject to the approval of the Athletic Director or Principal.
- Managers are eligible for a letter for working in one activity. Managers must follow the basic requirements of participants.

Violations of the Activity Code

- If a participant violates the Student Activity Code, they will not be allowed to letter for the activity in which a violation occurred. If the penalty carries over to a second activity season, they are eligible to letter in the second season.
- Students with a violation are not eligible for any special awards in that season in which the violation occurred.

VIOLATIONS

The participant must not violate any of the Wisconsin Criminal Statutes, including but not limited to, the following chapters:

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------|
| * Alcohol, Tobacco/Nicotine, Controlled Substances | * Disorderly Conduct |
| * Use of some performance-enhancing substances | * Larceny-Theft / Shoplifting |
| * Simple Assault | * Criminal Vandalism |

A list of performance-enhancing and banned substances by the WIAA can be found at [Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association - Performance-Enhancing and Banned Substances](#) and [WIAA POSITION STATEMENT – CBD \(Cannabidiol\)](#)

Presence in bars or attendance at parties where these prohibited substances are available is prohibited. This rule is not meant to include presence in an establishment that is primarily an eating place, or to prevent being employed at such places. It also is not meant to include presence in places like a golf course club house where alcoholic beverages are served when a participant would have a legitimate reason to be there. Attendance at family gatherings sponsored by parents/guardians where use of alcohol is occurring will not be considered a violation. (This does not allow the holding of or use of these products.) These exceptions would include such logical events as family weddings, graduation parties, and other similar occasions.

It is the responsibility of each participant to avoid attending or participating in any gathering that includes these activities. Failure to leave will be viewed as “Guilt by Association” and will result in the suspension of one contest. “Guilt by Association” will not be considered a first violation.

Activity Season/Suspensions

A sports season is defined by the WIAA. In all sports, the season will end with the state tournament for that sport. In the case of cheerleading, the season will be the same as the sport for which the squad cheers. For example, the basketball cheerleader’s season will begin on the first day of girl’s basketball practice and end with the boy’s state tournament.

In determining violation consequences, a season is the number of contests scheduled, not including the WIAA Tournament or state competitions. Consequences will begin the day the decision is rendered and will continue through the day the percentage of the consequence is fulfilled using the varsity schedule. The consequence will round up to the nearest full contest. If a student has not completed a consequence prior to the WIAA Tournament or state competitions, they are ineligible for the entire Tournament series. A contest is a competition in which an official score is recorded, and the end result is a win, loss, tie, or rating.

The student under suspension must practice and complete the season in good standing in order for the consequence to be fulfilled. Once a season has started, a student cannot join a team and fulfill a suspension. A student who joins a team after a violation has occurred will be ineligible for all category I activities from the day the decision is rendered and parents/guardians are notified until the completion of the consequence which would occur in the next sport season in which that student participates from the beginning of the season.

In order for a student to be considered as having joined a team, the student must have attended and participated in the entirety of the most recent team practice. Verbal intent to participate, completion of registration for the sport, and issuance of equipment alone, or in conjunction with each other, without attending a practice do not satisfy joining a team.

Enforcement of Activity Rules

1. Enforcement of the Activity Code will be based on the following:
 - a. All violations must be reported to an administrator/athletic director/coach/advisor.
 - b. Violations must be reported by teachers, coaches/advisors, parents/guardians, students, law enforcement officials (per Wisconsin Statute, Section 4.118.125 (5)(b)), or members of the community. The reporter (other than law enforcement officials) must share how and when they came upon the violation information. The report must be made within ten (10) days of the reporter receiving the information. Failure to report the information within this timeframe may result in consequences less than a full code violation.
 - c. Students may self admit to a violation.
2. Upon receiving a report of the violation:
 - a. An administrator will facilitate/oversee the designee of the interview process of the accused participant. If the participant admits the allegations, a suspension will be rendered. Personal contact and a letter will inform the parents/guardian of the violation and subsequent consequence.
 - b. If the participant denies the allegations, the administrator or designee shall conduct an investigation within five (5) school days. The allegations may be dismissed or a suspension may be rendered. The administrator or designee will be responsible for notifying parents/guardians by letter and personal contact.
3. The suspension shall begin the day the decision is rendered and parents/guardians are notified. If the student is not actively involved in any sport or activity at the time of violation, the penalty will take effect beginning with the next sport or activity in which the student participates. Any student serving a penalty during a sport or activity season must remain active in the sport or activity in order for the penalty to be valid. The violator must attend practice during the suspension period.
4. All coaches/advisors will be notified of violations by the athletic director.
5. Disciplinary measures which may involve suspensions for a violation unbecoming of a participant and not specifically covered by the Viroqua Area Schools Student Activity Code, Student Handbook, WIAA policy, WSMA policy, or other activity governing body will be determined by the Activity Board.
6. It shall be the coach/advisor's prerogative to suspend/discipline any student from a squad whom they consider to be a demoralizing influence or a detriment to the objective of that activity.
7. Students will be penalized in a maximum of one activity per category per violation in categories II through VI. If the student is in multiple activities in those categories, the student will be allowed to choose the activity in that category in which the penalty will be served. If a student is in two (2) Category I activities simultaneously, he/she must serve the full consequence in both activities.

The use, purchase, possession, or sale of tobacco/nicotine products, illegal drugs, alcoholic beverages, look-alike drugs or alcohol, and improper use of inhalants are regarded as violations.

A. First Violation

School counseling referral:

The student is responsible to set up appointments for school counseling regarding AODA (alcohol and other drug abuse) screening with the school AODA coordinator (school counselor or designee). Appointment dates will be set up at the availability of the coordinator. At a minimum, the AODA screening will consist of:

- Two one-on-one sessions between the student and the AODA coordinator (school counselor or designee).
- One meeting with the parents/guardians, the student, and the AODA coordinator (school counselor or designee).

The above must be completed on separate calendar days and prior to the student resuming activity. The student must show the coach written verification from the AODA coordinator indicating that counseling has been fulfilled. The student must adhere to the ongoing recommendations of the coordinator and may continue beyond the length of the suspension. Failure to follow the recommendations will cause the student to become ineligible for competition until such time as all recommendations have been successfully completed.

Category I: School Sponsored Athletic Programs

A. First Violation

- Suspension for 50% of the regular season
- Student must practice
- Carry over unserved % to the next season in which the student participates if the suspension is not fulfilled.
- School counseling referral
- Loss of letter
- Ineligible for Dual Sport Enrollment for remainder of high school athletic career
- Decrease to 25% for self-reporting outside of school violation within 48 hours of the violation or for being completely honest during the investigation if the violation occurred at school.

B. Second Violation

- Suspension for one (1) full sports season
- Student must practice
- Carry over unserved % to the next sports season in which the athlete participates if the penalty is not fulfilled.
- Loss of letter
- Decrease to 75% for self-reporting outside of school violation within 48 hours of the violation or for being completely honest during the investigation if the violation occurred at school.

C. Third Violation and Subsequent Violations

- Suspension for one (1) calendar year from the date of violation.
- Loss of letter

Guilt by Association

- One game suspension.

Category II – School Sponsored Activities with Performances

A. First Violation

- Loss of one (1) performance for Musical or Drama performance, and three (3) performances for Pep Band
- Loss of Fine Arts Points in that activity
- Student must practice
- Carry over into the next activity if penalty is not fulfilled
- School counseling referral

B. Second Violation

- Loss of all performances for one (1) current activity
- Loss of all Fine Arts Points in that activity
- Student must practice
- Carry over into the next activity if penalty is not fulfilled

C. Third and Subsequent Violations

- Loss of all activities in this category for one (1) calendar year
- Loss of all Fine Arts Points for the school year

Guilt by Association

- Loss of 25% of the student's Fine Arts Points for the school year and the assignment of 1 hour of extra work as assigned by the advisor.

Category III – School Sponsored Activities with Contests**A. First Violation**

- Loss of all Fine Arts Points in one (1) current activity for the school year.
- Student must practice
- Do five (5) hours of extra work as assigned by the advisor in one (1) current activity when appropriate
- Carry over into the next activity if penalty is not fulfilled
- School Counseling referral

B. Second Violation

- Loss of all contests for one calendar year in one (1) current activity
- Loss of Fine Arts Points in that activity for the school year
- Do five (5) hours of extra work as assigned by the advisor in one (1) current activity when appropriate
- Carry over into the next activity if penalty is not fulfilled

C. Third and Subsequent Violations

- Loss of all events for all activities in this category for one (1) calendar year
- Loss of all Fine Arts Points for the school year
- Do five (5) hours of extra work as assigned by the advisor in one (1) current activity when appropriate

Guilt by Association

- Loss of 25% of the student's Fine Arts Points for the school year and the assignment of 1 hour of extra work by the advisor when appropriate.

Category IV – School Sponsored Activities without contests or performances

Events encompassed in this code include all activities not related to daily class work.

A. First Violation

- 30 school day suspension from leadership as an officer in one (1) activity
- Student must be present and do 5 extra hours as assigned by the advisor when appropriate
- School counseling referral

B. Second Violation

- Suspension from leadership as an officer in one (1) activity for sixty (60) school days
- Student must be present and do ten (10) hours of extra work as assigned by the advisor in one current activity when appropriate

C. Third and Subsequent Violations

- Loss of all activities in this category for one (1) calendar year

Guilt by Association

- The assignment of two (2) hours extra of work in the current activity when appropriate.

Category V – Homecoming and Prom Courts**Any Violation (Not Guilt by Association)**

- Student is ineligible to participate on courts during the school year(s) of violation(s).

Category VI – School Sponsored Overnight Trips**Any Violation (Not Guilt by Association)**

- Student is ineligible to participate in school sponsored overnight trips during the school year(s) of violation(s).
The school year will be considered July 1st through June 30th. Student athletes may ask for an exception to this rule from the athletic director for athletic events if their consequence has been completed for Category I.

GENERAL INFORMATION**Activity Board**

- The Activity Board may be initiated, as needed, by school personnel to determine disciplinary actions/suspensions that pertain to violations of civil or criminal laws and any items not specifically covered in District Handbooks, including the Viroqua Student Activity Code, WIAA Rules and Regulations, or other student activity governing bodies.
- The Activity Board will not hear appeals.
- The Activity Board shall consist of five members appointed by an administrator or designated to the athletic director: an administrator, athletic director, a faculty member, one head coach, and one advisor.

Appeals Board

- The Appeals Board deals with violations of the Student Activity Code.
- The Appeals Board will determine whether a violation did or did not occur.
- The Appeals Board shall consist of an administrator, an athletic director, a coach, an activity advisor, and a staff member.
- The student and his/her parent/guardian may be present at an appeal hearing.
- The administrator will preside.

Appeals Process

- The appeals process is for the purpose of hearing a student who feels that their rights have been denied or who wishes to appeal a suspension.
- The student and/or his/her parents/guardians may formally appeal the suspension in writing to the building principal within two (2) school days from the time of initial notification of the suspension.
- The formal appeal must be in writing stating the reasons for the appeal using the Activity Code Appeal Form (attached).
- The appeal form must be submitted to the building principal.
- The principal /designee will sign the form and indicate the date and time it was received.

After an appeal has been received, a hearing date will be established by the principal / designee. This hearing shall be scheduled within five (5) school days after receipt of the written appeal request from the parent/guardian or student. The Appeals Board will be sent information regarding the violation and a copy of the completed Activity Code Appeal Form before the hearing.

- The student will be provided with an opportunity to testify and present other evidence on their behalf at the hearing.
- Following the presentation of evidence, the Appeals Board will deliberate in closed session.
- Results of the hearing will be written and will be mailed to the student and his/her parents/guardian within three (3) school days of the hearing.

WIAA Membership & Contest Scheduling

Viroqua High School is a member of the WIAA and complies with or exceeds all WIAA requirements. All athletic schedules are generated either by the WIAA, Conference, or by the VAS Athletic Director and approved by the administration. State events scheduled by the state and the state tournament series in Categories I and III will always take priority over locally scheduled events.

Co-ops

The deadline dates for athletic co-ops for the next school year are:

October 1st for Fall season

February 1st for Winter season

May 1st for Spring season

Participation of non-public school students in district programs/activities:

Students enrolled in a private school, parochial school or home-based private educational program may not participate in any public school sponsored academic courses or curricular or extra-curricular activity programs, except as follows:

A non-public school student may participate in a course or activity program when specifically required by law.

A homeschooled student that lives in the district is allowed to participate in activities.

Non-public school students will be allowed to participate in summer school classes.

Agreements with other schools for participation in extra-curricular activities and/or co-ops will be decided based on the educational and financial benefit to our district.

Participation philosophy for students not enrolled in our school:

We believe that extra-curricular activities are an important part of the growth of our students. We also believe that the people in the school should promote and encourage all students to become involved in school activities. With this in mind, Viroqua Area Schools will do its best to maintain all of our current activities and involve district students. All agreements with other schools for participation and/or coops will be decided based on the educational and financial benefit to our district.

Confidentiality

School personnel will maintain all records, conversations, and personal contacts in the strictest confidence as required by federal and state regulations and statutes.

Equipment, Practice, and Participation

If inclement weather should force school to be closed, either before school starts or after it has started, Viroqua Area Schools shall not participate in interscholastic activities or practices (including open gym) on that date, nor will there be any forfeiture due to the closing of school. During the tournament season, the high school principal or designee will make a decision about practice or competition during inclement weather.

Participants will have signed and returned the appropriate paperwork prior to the first practice or receiving equipment. Depending on the activity, forms may include the 'Activity Code Participant Acknowledgement slip', 'WIAA Physical Examination card' (for athletes), 'insurance waiver', 'medical consent card', and other forms the coach/advisor may request. These forms should be signed and returned to the athletic director, coach, or advisor.

Coaches/Advisors have individual expectations in regards to a participant's behavior, commitment to rules, game/activity conduct, transportation conduct, equipment care, language, dress, training, etc. Each coach/advisor will make aware to the participants their expectations of students and their methods

Conflict Resolution

Students that participate in more than one activity sometimes find themselves in conflict where two events are scheduled on the same date. Because of the tremendous number of events that the high school schedules, a conflict of that nature is inevitable. In an attempt to resolve conflict, scheduled events should take priority over events that have been rescheduled unless the rescheduled event is a postseason event.

When the situation can only be resolved by choosing one activity over the other, the following people will meet: principal/designee, advisors/coaches, students, and parents/guardian (if available). The situation, including any implications, will be discussed. The student will make a decision and notify the coaches/advisors accordingly.

Coaches/advisors will accept the decision of the student. The choice will not affect continued/future participation in any activity. When the conflict involves a curricular class/performance which is graded, make-up assignments may be required by the instructor.

Transportation

The school district furnishes transportation to and from out-of-town activities in a school approved vehicle accompanied by the advisor/director/chaperone/coach. There are events when we contract with an alternate transportation company based on availability and costs. There are occasions when return trips with parent/guardian or a parent designee may be acceptable. If a parent/guardian requests that his/her child ride home with a designated adult, (the designated adult may not be a high school student), the parent/guardian must make the request, in writing, prior to the start of the activity. This permission must be granted by the school principal, athletic director, advisor, or coach. A parent/guardian may request that his/her child ride home with them at any time. In all cases, parents/guardian or parent designees (as specified by the parent/guardian) will have to be the party with whom the student is riding home. The adult giving the ride will present themselves to the advisor/coach after the contest before the student is excused. Failure to comply will result in denial of the request, future travel restrictions, and possible contest disqualification. Individual coaches/advisors may suggest that the participant ride home in the school-provided vehicle. In extenuating circumstances, students may drive themselves with parental permission and administration approval.

In the event that a parent/designee provides transportation for a student (other than their own child) requests must be received by both families involved prior to the event. In all cases, permission/approval must be given in advance by the coach and administration.

Student Accident Insurance

When a student is injured at school, they should inform the teacher or other adult on duty immediately.

If the school nurse feels the student needs medical attention, the parent will then be notified. In the event the school nurse is unavailable, their assistant or the office personnel will contact the parent to make the decision. If the parent is unable to be reached; the person listed on the emergency card will be called.

Viroqua Area Schools provides accident insurance that provides coverage after your family insurance. The Health Aide coordinates this process and will send the necessary forms after receiving a completed accident report from the adult on duty. If you receive an insurance form from the school and your child did not go to the doctor, or you know your insurance will pay everything, you are not obligated in any way to send the insurance form in. If, however, you do not receive an insurance form within one week of the injury and your child was seen by a doctor, please contact the Athletic Director. Also, if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to call 637-1184.

- **Which students will be covered under Student Accident Insurance?** Coverage would be in force for all participants in school sponsored and supervised student activities, including interscholastic athletics and sponsored group travel.
- **What is an accident?** An accident is defined as an unexpected, sudden and definable event, which is the direct cause of a bodily injury, independent of any illness, prior injury or congenital predisposition.
- **What are the covered expenses?** The coverage would be for those medical/dental expenses incurred within 52 weeks from the date of the original accident. Treatment must begin within 60 days from the date of the accident by a legally licensed medical or dental practitioner (not a member of the insured's immediate family).
- **Is there any deductible?** A \$100 deductible, which may be satisfied by other insurance payments, will be applied to each claim.
- **Do I need to use my family insurance first?** YES. Payment of all medical/dental expenses incurred from accidents is made only in excess over any family or employer group coverage or plan that must contribute its maximum before this coverage has any liability. This is a program of supplemental coverage designed to pick up eligible balances left

by the family or employer group insurance or plan and, if no other coverage plan is available to pay the medical/dental expenses incurred to the limit stated in the policy.

- **Am I covered if my family is an HMO or PPO?** If the insured's primary coverage is an HMO (health maintenance organization) or PPO (preferred provider organization), this plan will provide benefits in excess of coverage provided by the insured's HMO or PPO. If the insured chooses not to use an authorized medical vendor (under HMO or PPO), this plan will cover the expense incurred that would have been honored had they used the proper medical vendor.
- **What is the basic coverage?** Athletic Accident (\$100 to \$25,000) - Student Accident (\$100 to \$10,000)

2260 - NONDISCRIMINATION AND ACCESS TO EQUAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY

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

The Board of Education does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital status, parental status, sexual orientation, sex (including gender status, change of sex or gender identity), or physical, mental, emotional, or learning disability (Protected Classes) in any of its student programs and activities. This policy is intended to support and promote non-discriminatory practices in all District and school activities, into the following area: opportunity for participation in extra-curricular and co-curricular activities provided that separate programs for male and female students may be available provided comparable activities are made available to all in terms of type, scope, and District support.

The district's educational programs include the academic and non-academic setting. In the nonacademic setting, a student with a disability shall participate with students without disabilities to the maximum extent appropriate. Each principal shall verify that procedures used with students and parents for selection of and participation in any part of the District's academic, co-curricular, or extracurricular programs do not discriminate on the basis of the Protected Classes.

RETURN TO PARTICIPATION

Student safety and well-being are the first priorities of Viroqua High School's (VHS) extracurricular programs and activities. In accordance with Wisconsin law and Board Policy, VHS is required to prevent student athletes from further participation (practice or competition) in a VHS-sponsored athletic activity when: (1) the student athlete is suspected to have a head injury/concussion, or (2) the student athlete sustains an injury that requires the care of a physician. When VHS prevents a student athlete from further participation in a VHS-sponsored athletic activity due to concerns of a head injury or concussion, or an injury requiring the care of a physician, the student athlete/parent(s)/guardian(s) must provide written clearance from an appropriate health care provider before the student athlete is permitted to return to participation in the VHS-sponsored athletic activity unless the clearance comes from the school's Athletic Trainer.

Who May Provide Written Clearance?

Throughout the school year, all VHS student athletes have access to an Athletic Trainer provided by Viroqua Area Schools. The District's Athletic Trainer has significant experience in the prevention and treatment of injuries and conditions that student athletes commonly experience and has the support and resources of Vernon Health. As such, the District and its coaches encourage VHS student athletes to engage the Athletic Trainer when needed, including making certain return to participation determinations when permitted. However, in accordance with Board Policy, there are instances where the District's Athletic Trainer may not provide written clearance for a student athlete to return to participation in VHS-sponsored athletic activities.

When a student is suspected of sustaining a head injury/concussion, the District's Athletic Trainer or other health care provider or designee may provide clearance for the student athlete to return to participation in a VHS-sponsored

athletic activity. The District's Athletic Trainer may provide this clearance in writing or verbally, whereas the other health care provider or designee must provide it in writing by completing the RETURN TO PARTICIPATION CLEARANCE FORM. When a student athlete sustains an injury that requires the care of a healthcare provider, only a healthcare provider or designee may provide written clearance for the student athlete to return to participation in a VHS-sponsored athletic activity. This clearance can occur through consultation with the District's Athletic Trainer. For more information regarding student athlete participation in VHS-sponsored athletic activities after an accident, injury, illness, concussion, or cardiac arrest, please refer to Board Policy 2431—Interscholastic Athletics and Board Policy 5340—Student Accidents/Illness/Concussions & Sudden Cardiac Arrest, or contact the District's Activities Director.

Seeking Clearance From The District's Athletic Trainer.

When a student athlete or their parent(s)/guardian(s) use the District's Athletic Trainer for purposes of determining whether the student athlete may return to participation in a VHS-sponsored athletic activity, the parent(s)/guardian(s) of the student athlete or adult student athlete do not need to have the RETURN TO PARTICIPATION CLEARANCE FORM completed in full.

Seeking Clearance From An Outside Health Care Provider.

When a student athlete or their parent(s)/guardian(s) use a health care provider or designee that is not the District's Athletic Trainer for purposes of determining whether the student athlete may return to participation in a VHS-sponsored athletic activity, the parent(s)/guardian(s) of the student athlete or adult student athlete must:

- Notify the District's Activities Director in writing that the student athlete will be, or has been, evaluated and/or treated by a health care provider that is not the District's Athletic Trainer; AND
- Submit a RETURN TO PARTICIPATION CLEARANCE FORM completed in full by an appropriate health care provider or designee.

Any RETURN TO PARTICIPATION CLEARANCE FORM required by this policy must be provided to the head coach or District's Activities Director prior to the end of the academic school day or prior to the school transportation leaving for an away event (whichever occurs first) in order for the student athlete to participate in the day's practice/competition. If provided to the head coach, the head coach will immediately communicate this clearance to the District's Activities Director and District's Athletic Trainer. Any variance from the guidelines and/or procedures herein may delay the student athlete's return to participation in VHS-sponsored athletic activities.

Definition of Health Care Provider - (MD or DO)/PA/APNP

RETURN TO PARTICIPATION CLEARANCE FORM

I evaluated and/or treated the student athlete: _____, concerning the following ailment(s), condition(s), illness(es), or injury(ies), which has/have caused the above-named student athlete to cease participation in Viroqua High School (VHS)-sponsored athletic activities:

Upon evaluating and/or treating the student athlete for the above-listed ailment(s), condition(s), illness(es) or injury(ies), I hereby give **PERMISSION** and **CLEARANCE** for the above-named student athlete to return to **FULL PARTICIPATION WITHOUT RESTRICTION**, in the following VHS-sponsored athletic activity: _____, beginning on _____.

I have / have not (please circle one) communicated with the District's Athletic Trainer regarding this clearance.

By signing below, **I HEREBY ATTEST** that, to the best of my knowledge, all of the information contained herein is true and accurate. If any ailment, condition, illness, or injury listed above is a concussion and/or head injury, **I HEREBY ATTEST** that I am a "health care provider" as defined under Wis. Stat. § 118.293(1)(am).¹

Health Care Provider Name

Title/Profession

Health Care Provider Signature

Date

¹ The definition of "health care provider" under Wis. Stat. § 118.293(1)(am) means a person who: (1) holds a credential that authorizes the person to provide health care; (2) is trained and has experience in evaluating and managing pediatric concussions and head injuries; and (3) is practicing within the scope of their credential.

ACTIVITY CODE APPEAL FORM

VIROQUA HIGH/MIDDLE SCHOOL

This form is to be submitted to the principal/designee.

I, _____, do submit this appeal to be reinstated in
_____.
Sport or Activity _____.

Using the back of this form to explain your rationale for reinstatement.

The following people will speak on my behalf to the Appeal Board:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Signed: _____
Person appealing

Date received: _____

Meeting Date: (to be filled out by the Principal/designee or Athletic Director.)

Date: _____

Time: _____

Place: _____

Appeal Board Members:

ACTIVITY CODE APPEAL CHECKLIST

Student Name: _____

Date of Suspension: _____

Parent Notification: _____

Telephone: _____ Letter: _____

_____ Formal appeal is in writing and on the Activity Code Appeal Form.
Date _____

_____ Appeal presented to Principal/Designee within two (2) school days from
Date _____ the time of the initial notification.

_____ Hearing date established by the Principal/Designee within five (5) school
Date _____ days after receipt of the written appeal.

_____ Results of the hearing will be written and mailed to the student/parents
Date _____ within three (3) school days of the hearing.

Activity Board Members:

Administrator

Faculty Member

Coach

Advisor

Athletic Director

ACADEMIC PROGRESS REPORT

Student's Name: _____

Date: _____

Block	Subject	Passing Yes No		Assignment Missing Yes No		Teacher's Signature
1						
2						
3a						
3b						
4						
Other						

Comments:

List Activities

Coach/Advisor Signature

*Academic Progress reports must be circulated by the student three (3) weeks following the grading period

Turn completed forms into the Athletic Director.

**PARENT-STUDENT CONCUSSION/PARTICIPATION CODE /PROCEDURE FOR ADDRESSING A CONCERN
AGREEMENT - Viroqua Middle/High School**

Statement Acknowledging Receipt of Education and Responsibility to Report Signs or Symptoms of Concussion:

I, _____, of Viroqua Middle/High School hereby acknowledge having received education about the signs, symptoms, and risks of sport-related concussion. I also acknowledge my responsibility to report to my coaches, parent(s)/guardian(s) any signs or symptoms of concussion. I certify that I have read, understand, and agree to abide by all of the information contained in this sheet. I further certify that if I have not understood any information contained in this document, I have sought and received an explanation of the information prior to signing this statement.

Participation Code Agreement:

I, _____, have read the Viroqua Student Middle/High School Activities Code. I understand that violation of any of the WIAA or Viroqua Middle/High School regulations will result in action prescribed. Furthermore, any act in violation of the Activities Code that occurs outside of the school setting which is brought to the attention of school authorities, will be prosecuted under the athletic code following due process.

Further, we understand that participation in school-sponsored extra-curricular activities is a privilege and that all such participation is voluntary.

I am aware that playing or practicing to play/participate in any co-curricular activities can be dangerous, involving many risks/injuries. I understand that some risk is assumed by the participant as a matter of participating. I further understand that some of these activities (e.g. football, wrestling, hockey, baseball, softball and gymnastics) involve even greater risk of injury than others and that such injuries can be permanently disabling, crippling, or fatal.

Because of the dangers of participating in such activities, I recognize the importance of the following coach's/advisor's instruction regarding playing techniques, training, and other rules, etc., and agree to obey such instruction.

Participation in sports increases the possibility of coming in contact with the blood and body fluids of other people. Student athletes should not assist in any body fluid spills clean-up. All coaches are required to participate in First Aid training and proper handling of body fluids is reinforced and required throughout the sports season.

I agree to abide by all rules and regulations set down by my individual coach/advisor and the Activities Director.

I agree to assume full responsibility for all equipment issued to me, and to confine the use of that equipment to practice, games, or meets.

I will further agree to pay for any and all equipment which I may lose, misplace, or damage through carelessness or intent.

Recommended Procedure for Addressing a Concern with a Coach:

Step 1: Athlete seeks out their coach to discuss concern (*Parents please speak with your child about the concern and encourage your son/daughter to speak with their coach*).

Step 2: Parent requests conference with the coach and/or coaching staff.
(Please call during school hours and leave a message for the coach either on their voicemail or with the Activities Office).

Step 3: If the conference between the athlete and coach, or parent, athlete and coach does not resolve the concern, a meeting can be set up including the Athletic Director. The Athletic Director will mediate the conference.

Appropriate Concerns That a Parent May Address with the Coaching Staff:

1. The treatment of your child mentally and physically.
2. Ways that your child can improve their performance and skill level.
3. Concerns about your child's behavior in school, practice, or contests.
4. The make-up of the team in relation to your child.
 - Coaches will not discuss other team members, other parents, or other members of the VHS coaching staff.
 - Coaches will not meet with a parent immediately after a contest. Parents must wait until the next school day and refer to the recommended procedure for addressing a concern with a coach.

Student's Name (print)

Date of Birth

Student Signature

Student's Grade

As parent/guardian of the above participant, I acknowledge that I have reviewed the above information and understand the rules and regulations set forth at Viroqua Area Schools. I give my child permission to participate in co-curricular activities under the described conditions.

Parent's Signature (legal guardian)

Date