

**Hortonville Middle School
Greenville Middle School
Fox West Academy**



Co-Curricular Code of Conduct

Board Approved August 28, 2017

I. MS Philosophy – The mission of middle level athletics and other co-curricular activities is to provide an enjoyable educational experience for young adolescents based on their developmental characteristics and needs. The development of the young adolescents' self-esteem, citizenship, responsibility and skills in cooperative and leadership behaviors are positive outcomes of middle level programs. These programs should be enjoyable, vigorous and safe and should occur in a positive climate with appropriate adult leadership and support. Effective middle level programs are coordinated with other school and community activities to offer additional opportunities for young adolescents to explore varied interests. Middle level athletics/co-curricular activities are an essential part of the total educational process and an excellent opportunity for the home, school and community to work together.

II. Definition of Co-Curricular Activities: Co-curricular activities include any school-related activity that is offered outside of academic class requirements. The following list is not exclusive.

Clubs and Activities:

- Jazz Band
- Show Choir
- Solo-Ensemble
- Volleyball
- Football
- Cross Country
- Basketball
- Wrestling
- Track and Field
- Forensics
- Student Council
- Student Council Sponsored Events (i.e. fun nights, etc.)
- Yearbook
- School Newspaper
- Other clubs and activities established during the school year not listed here

PTO sponsored activities are not considered co-curricular and will not be affected by this code.

III. Goals of Athletic / Co-curricular Programs

A) At the middle school level, all interested students are encouraged to participate and some performance time is assured. A “no-cut” policy applies except for music co-curricular activities where tryouts are necessary. Participation is emphasized; winning is not the sole objective. A student is covered by this code while he/she is a student at a Hortonville Area School District middle school. The student is expected to follow all school rules and to display high standards of behavior, including good sportsmanship, respect for others, and use of appropriate language and dress at all times.

Program Goal 1

Athletics and co-curricular activities at the middle school are a privilege. In order to be eligible to participate, a student must meet district identified academic and behavioral standards. See Student Responsibilities A –F.

Program Goal 2

The developmental characteristics of young adolescents should provide the foundation for middle level athletic program philosophy and goals.

- A) Programs should provide a variety of activities that allow for participation and exploration. Emphasis should be on development of individual skills and cooperative group behaviors.
- B) Athletics/co-curricular activities should offer an opportunity for young adolescents to transfer and reinforce learning from academic areas while improving social, emotional and physical skills.
- C) “Fun” is an important reason given by young adolescents for participating in athletics and co-curricular activities. Young adolescents are not varsity level or professional athletics.
- D) Participation in all programs for young adolescents would build positive self-esteem.

Program Goal 3

Coaches, advisors, parents, athletic directors, administrators, school board members and community leaders need to be knowledgeable about the characteristics and need of young adolescents, as well as appropriate coaching strategies and role model behaviors for them. The program’s philosophy and expectations would be supported by all those involved in the program.

- A) Adults who coach middle level athletics must support district wide policies and regulations.
- B) Middle level athletic programs should not be a “feeder system” for high school teams.
- C) The school district and/or community program must provide support for coaches, particularly when parents question coaching practices that follow the program’s philosophy and objectives.
- D) Abusive and foul language have no place in athletic/co-curricular programs. Coaches, parents, participants and fans must recognize their responsibility to model appropriate behavior for young adolescents.
- E) Equipment and facilities should be specifically designed to provide for a safe and healthy athletic experience for the young adolescent.

Program Goal 4

Programs should promote behaviors that include cooperation, sportsmanship, and personal improvement. Winning is not the primary goal of the program.

- A) Middle level athletics should reward positive effort regardless of the outcome of the game.
- B) Awards and certificates should reward participation not individual accomplishments or team standings. All-star teams, most valuable player, trophies, plaques, and individual recognition will not be permitted. At the completion of the season coaches may report win/loss records but not conference standings.

Program Goal 5

The athletic/co-curricular program should be open to all young adolescents and provide a positive experience. All young adolescents should have the opportunity to participate, play and experience

skill improvement. Formation of teams should be determined by the number of young adolescents interested in the program.

A) A well-designed athletic program responds to a variety of needs. Program directors, coaches, parents, community members and teammates need to know that youths participate in sports for many reasons. Coaches must be sensitive to the individual needs of participants.

B) When large numbers of young adolescents are involved in an athletic program, coaches should include all team members as equally as possible.

Program Goal 6

Each activity should have a predetermined season. Athletic activities, including practice schedules, should be flexible with concern for student conflicts and family schedules. Schedules should allow young adolescents to participate in a variety of programs, including nonathletic activities.

A) The length of seasons and number of contests per season should be designed to provide young adolescents the opportunity to participate in a number of different activities. At this age, young adolescents should not focus on any one activity, sport or other interest. Adolescents need experiences that encompass a wide range of activities. This should be a period of exploration rather than specialization.

B) Scheduling activities for young adolescents during evening hours on school nights should not be a common practice.

IV. Student Responsibilities – In order to provide opportunities for personal growth, skill development, socialization, and competitive experience, the Hortonville Area School District middle school staff provides a variety of co-curricular activities and strongly encourages student participation. We feel that these supplemental activities are extremely beneficial to the whole educational process. Student involvement in co-curriculars is considered to be a privilege that carries with it a number of expectations and responsibilities. Co-curricular activities are provided to all students who are willing to accept these responsibilities.

In order to be assets to school, the community, and themselves, students are expected to maintain appropriate academic performance levels, meet participation requirements, attend school regularly, dress appropriately and conduct themselves properly by displaying high standards of behavior. They must also meet the W.I.A.A. eligibility requirements.

A) Academic Requirements: All students will be eligible to participate in co-curricular activities for the first 4 ½ weeks of school (through mid-quarter); thereafter, the following will apply:

1. A student with 2 or more proficiency levels of 'Not Yet' for any given course at 4 ½ weeks of school or after 9 weeks of school will be considered ineligible to participate in any co-curricular activity(ies) for a period of 10 regularly scheduled school days. This includes any and all contests, meetings, or events. The office will set the exact dates of when the ineligibility period will begin and end based on the Board of Education approved calendar for a given school year. A student will be eligible for participation on the 11th regularly scheduled school day provided the student can provide evidence that he/she is receiving a proficiency level of at least 'Near Mastery' in both courses.

2. For athletic participation, the student may return to practice within the 10 days provided they have evidence that they are receiving a proficiency level of at least 'Near Mastery' in both courses.
3. If not eligible on the 11th school day, he /she will be ineligible for the remainder of the 9 weeks or equivalent.
4. Transfer students will be eligible. Ineligibility will be determined at 4 ½ weeks or after 9 weeks.

B) WIAA Regulations: All WIAA regulations will apply and are available upon request.

C) Participation Requirements: All of the following items are required before a student may participate in any co-curricular activity. The WIAA Physical Card, Alternate Year Card, Insurance Waiver, and WIAA Concussion Form will not be required of those not participating in athletic activities.

1. The office must have on file the co-curricular form signed by the student and his/her parent(s) indicating they have read and understood the Co-Curricular Code of Conduct.
2. Before practicing an athletic activity, we must have on file in the office the WIAA Athletic Physical Card or Alternate Year Athletic Permit Card signed by a licensed physician.
3. Insurance Waiver Form
4. WIAA Concussion Form
5. Students with two or more major office discipline referrals will become ineligible for a period of 10 regular school days. Upon the 11th day, a review of the student's behavior record will be conducted to determine eligibility. The review will include both major and minor referrals. During this period, no majors or minors will be allowed to regain eligibility.
6. Adhere to all school regulations regarding eligibility.

D) Attendance Requirements:

1. Students must be in attendance for one-half of the school day to participate in that day's activity. Permission may be granted for extenuating circumstances.
2. Lack of attendance at practices may affect the student's eligibility to participate in scheduled competitions.

E) Dress Requirements:

1. Appropriate dress and grooming for any student participating in home or away activities is the responsibility of the student and is up to the discretion of the coach / advisor.
2. Students participating in school-sponsored athletics must wear school-issued uniforms.

F) Conduct Requirements – A participant must refrain from any conduct that would reflect unfavorably on him/herself or the school.

7. Any student whose habits and/or conduct, namely the use or possession of controlled substances, alcoholic or tobacco products, and any other conduct which does not represent the ideals, principles, and standards such as respect, courtesy, and good citizenship of Hortonville Area School District middle schools may be suspended from further participation by the administration for whatever period of time deemed appropriate for the misconduct. Any student with an AODA issue will automatically receive at least a one game suspension.
8. Examples of conduct that would reflect unfavorably includes but is not limited to the following:
 - a. Drug abuse, including sale, possession or illegal use. Drug paraphernalia, possession or use.
 - b. Use, possession or purchase of alcoholic beverages
 - c. Use or possession of tobacco in any form
 - d. Profanity or obscene gestures
 - e. Insubordination while involved in an activity.
 - f. A criminal offense or violation of an ordinance having a statutory counterpart.
 - g. Acts of vandalism
 - h. Presence in a bar or tavern without the student's parents present
 - i. Knowingly present where alcohol is being served illegally.
 - j. Knowingly in the presence of illegal drugs or controlled substances
 - k. Unsportsmanlike conduct.
9. Incidents of minor misconduct or poor behavior while participating in an activity will be handled by the coach and/or advisor. Violations will be reported to the principal.
10. Any violation that is not addressed in this code, will be dealt with appropriately by school authorities.
11. As noted above, students with two or more major office discipline referrals will become ineligible for a period of 10 regular school days. Upon the 11th day, a review of the student's behavior record will be conducted to determine eligibility. The student will become eligible to participate once again provided they did not receive any majors during the ineligibility period.

G) Process of Informing Participants of Ineligibility:

1. Students will be notified of ineligibility from the office or coach/advisor.

H) Process of Regaining Eligibility:

1. During the 10-day ineligibility time frame, students must provide evidence that he/she has earned a proficiency level of 'Near Mastery' or above in all courses.
2. The office / coach / advisor will notify the student he/she has regained eligibility.

I) Concerns Procedure:

1. Talk to the coach / advisor at an appropriate time. Please do not approach a coach during a game. The coach and athletes need to stay positively focused on the game. An intervention could be upsetting to the athlete, coach, or parent. An appropriate time would be before or after practice or call the coach and set up an appointment.
2. Talk to the principal or associate principal. If necessary a meeting can be arranged with the child, parent, coach / advisor, and administrator.

Student and Parent Acknowledgement of Receipt Form

My child(ren) and I have received and read the Hortonville Area School District Co-Curricular Code of Conduct in its entirety and understand its provisions. We understand that students of Hortonville Middle School, Greenville Middle School and Fox West Academy (as well as any home-schooled students) participating in co-curricular activities in the Hortonville Area School District will be required to follow all aspects of this Code of Conduct to participate in activities stated within.

We further understand that participation in middle-level co-curricular activities is a privilege and not a right. Additionally, we understand that participation (including both practices, contests and meetings) is only allowed after the following forms have been turned into the coach/advisor:

1. The office must have on file the co-curricular form signed by the student and his/her parent(s) indicating they have read and understand the Co-Curricular Code of Conduct.
2. Before practicing an athletic activity, we must have on file in the office the WIAA Athletic Physical Card or Alternate Year Athletic Permit Card signed by a licensed physician.
3. Insurance Waiver Form
4. WIAA Concussion Form

If concerns arise, we will follow the concerns procedures under item (I.) in this Code of Conduct.

Student Name (Please Print): _____

Parent Name (Please Print): _____

Student Signature: _____

Parent Signature: _____

Date Signed: _____

Date Received in the Office (For Office Use Only): _____