2016-2017
STUDENT-ATHLETE HANDBOOK
AND
ATHLETIC CODE OF CONDUCT
GRADES 9-12

Rules and Regulations for Student Participation in Stevens Point
Area High School’s Athletic Program

Selfless, Positive, Accountable, Strong, Honorable
Extra-curricular activities are an important part of the Stevens Point Area Public School District’s curriculum. While our number one goal as a school district is to provide a sound academic experience for our students, extra curricular activities provide special opportunities for participants to promote their mental, physical, social and emotional development. We feel these contributions to the overall development of our young men and women are essential, and we appreciate the support of our programs by our student body, teachers, parent(s)/guardian(s) and community. Winning is not the final measurement of success in co-curricular activities. We strive for quality in preparation, in presentation, in sportsmanship, and in the efforts of our participants.

High school athletics are part of the Third Curriculum. The First Curriculum consists of those classes required for graduation. The Second Curriculum consists of elective classes that a student takes to broaden his or her knowledge. High school athletics, as well as other extra-curricular activities, make up the Third Curriculum which helps to round out the educational experience.

**ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF**

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District Athletic Director  
345-7307

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Assistant Athletic Director  
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Athletic Office Assistant  
345-7309

Linda Haller  
Licensed Athletic Trainer  
498-7165

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

We offer interscholastic sports to all students in grades 9-12. The entire student body is encouraged to participate in the program. Those that choose not to try out for the teams are encouraged to be loyal boosters for all of the teams.

As an athlete, you ARE NOT eligible to participate in any sport UNTIL the following items have been completed and filed with the athletic department.

1. Physical examination card filled out by physician or nurse. Physical examinations administered after April 1 are good for the remainder of that year plus two more years with a tan “alternative” card being required the final year of the two years (every other year: physical one year, alternate card the next, etc.)

2. Emergency card signed by parent(s)/guardian(s).

3. The athletic code and assumption of risk statement filled out on-line by parent(s)/guardian(s) and athlete.

4. All previous season’s sport equipment/uniforms etc. have been turned in.
SPASH ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS
All parents of student-athletes are required to read and sign the WIAA Athletic Eligibility Information Bulletin. Specific requirements with regard to Age, Academics, Amateur Status, Residence, etc. are outlined in this document.

SPASH VARSITY SPORTS PROGRAMS

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*denotes Varsity club sport

SPASH is a member of the Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association, the Wisconsin Valley Conference, Valley Football Association, and the Great Northern Conference. These governing bodies determine the rules and regulations for all contests. The WIAA classifies all schools by enrollment.

WISCONSIN VALLEY CONFERENCE
Merrill Bluejays                        Wis. Rapids Red Raiders        Wausau West Warriors
D.C. Everest Evergreens          Stevens Point Panthers
Marshfield Tigers                   Wausau East Lumberjacks

AN ATHLETE’S VALUES
There may be occasions when a student-athlete will have a conflict of responsibilities. We suggest the following set of values to aid the student-athlete in determining primary responsibilities:
1. Family responsibilities
2. Academic responsibilities
3. Athletic responsibilities
4. All other social, work, and school responsibilities

SPORTSMANSHIP:
Athletics in our schools have earned an outstanding reputation for school and community sportsmanship. Everyone is very proud of this reputation and works hard at upholding it. Please review the following suggestions for future consideration:
1. A student spectator represents his/her school the same as an athlete.
2. The good name of the school is more valuable than any game won by unfair play.
3. Decisions of officials must be accepted without dispute.
4. Fine play and good sportsmanship on the part of the opponent must be recognized and appreciated.
5. Any spectator or athlete who continually demonstrates poor sportsmanship should be excused from the athletic program.

PHILOSOPHY OF SPASH ATHLETICS
The following are major objectives of the SPASH athletic program:
1. Interscholastic athletics shall be an integral part of the total school educational program. It shall strive to provide educational experiences not otherwise provided in the curriculum.
2. Athletic opportunities shall be available to all students and should primarily benefit the students who participate directly in them.
3. Athletic participants shall be provided maximum participation opportunities at the entry levels of competition.
4. Athletic opportunities shall provide for the development of attitudes, cooperation, and responsible individual/team play.
5. Athletics shall provide opportunities to observe, develop, and exemplify good sportsmanship.
6. Athletics shall develop an awareness and realization in students that participation is a privilege with accompanying responsibilities.

ATHLETIC CODE
NOTE: Parent(s)/guardian(s) should note that each head coach can establish policies germane to that sport program. It shall be the coach's prerogative to suspend any student from a squad whom they consider a demoralizing influence or a detriment to that program. The athletic code is in the back of this booklet.

COLLEGE RECRUITMENT POLICY
In the event a college recruiter should contact a student-athlete personally, that student-athlete should work with his/her coach and the athletic department and inform the coach of such contact as soon as possible.

ATHLETIC AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

**Minimum Requirements For Earning A Varsity Letter:**
An athlete who has participated for at least four seasons, and has not lettered, must meet the following stipulations:
1. Must have attended all practices unless excused.
2. Must have competed in four full seasons.
3. Must be academically eligible.

**Varsity Awards**
Varsity Letters are awarded in respective sports following individual sport criteria which will be given to athletes and parents by that coach.
First year letter award: Chenille letter, medal insert signifying the sport, and certificate. No athlete will receive more than one chenille letter.
Second year letter award: Gold service bar, certificate.
Third year letter award: Gold service bar, certificate with gold foil.
Fourth year letter award: Gold service bar, certificate with gold foil.
**SPECIAL ATHLETIC AWARDS**

**Captains:** Each captain will receive a medal insert and one point towards the Golden “S” award.

**Seasonal Scholar Athlete Award:** This award is earned by any athlete who earns a letter during the season and has a cumulative GPA of 3.6. The athlete will receive a medallion the first time that they receive this award, and each subsequent time, they will receive a certificate in recognition of their accomplishment.

**Tri-Sport Athletic Award:** This award is earned by any athlete who participates in three different sports during the three sport season (fall-winter-spring). A manager status does not apply to this award. An athlete must participate in one sport each season. The athlete does not have to earn a letter to qualify for this award; he/she just has to finish each season in good standing. First time winners earn a certificate plus a bronze medal. Second time winners earn a certificate plus a silver medal, third time winners earn a certificate, plus a gold medal and fourth time winners earn a certificate and a plaque.

**Golden “S” Athletic Award:** This is the highest athletic award given by the school. The Golden “S” winner must satisfy the following criteria:

1. Earn 9 points throughout his/her high school career. Each letter earns one point, being selected captain earns one point, and being selected MVP earns one point.
2. Golden “S” points are only earned by being a participant in a WIAA sanctioned sport. Letters for being a cheerleader, pom-pon squad member, or being a team manager do not count towards the Golden “S.”
3. The Golden “S” candidates must have earned points in at least two different sports.
4. An athlete will not be eligible for the Golden “S” award if he/she had a training code violations involving tobacco, alcohol or drugs during his/her high school career. The only exception to this is if the athlete voluntarily turned him/herself in on a first offense.

**WIAA Scholar-Athlete Award:** This award is presented to one senior boy and one senior girl who exhibit academic and athletic excellence.

**Panther of the Week Award:** This is a weekly recognition program designed to honor a male and female athlete. A picture of the honoree is placed in the athletic office window. The honorees are also placed on the Stevens Point Public School Website at [www.wisp.k12.wi.us](http://www.wisp.k12.wi.us). The honorees are also announced to the school during announcements, receive coupons from local businesses, and a parking permit for the designated Panther of the Week space.

**Senior Scholar Athlete Award:** This award is given to a senior who has compiled a 3.6 GPA and earned three varsity letters. One of the letters must have been earned during the senior year. The athlete receives an engraved medallion that can be worn during the graduation ceremony.

**Wisconsin Valley Conference Senior Scholar Athlete:** This award has the same criteria as the SPASH Senior Scholar Athlete award; however, an athlete is not eligible if they have received an athletic code violation in his or her senior year. The athlete receives a conference certificate in recognition of this award.
**WIAA State Recognition:** Any WIAA sanctioned team or individual that qualifies for the State Tournament will be recognized with a school-wide send-off in recognition of this accomplishment.

**POTENTIAL DANGERS IN ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION**

Parent(s)/guardian(s) and student athletes should fully understand and appreciate the risk of serious personal injury associated with participation in the educational sports program provided by Stevens Point Area Senior High School. Athletic activities can be hazardous, and taking part in such activities is a calculated risk on the part of the student-athlete and parent(s)/guardian(s). It is also understandable, that to many young adults, the potential benefits exceed the potential hazards. The very element of calculated risk makes the participation a stimulating adventure and satisfies the student athletes’ desires for competition, strenuous effort, and creative activity. Reducing injuries to a minimum without subtraction from this adventure is a continuous goal of our coaching and administrative staff. SPASH does have a Licensed Athletic Trainer on duty from approximately 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

**SCHOOL EQUIPMENT**

Students are responsible for all equipment issued to them. Athletic uniforms, both practice and game, are supplied for the sole purpose of athletic participation. This equipment is not to be used for any other purpose. When the season is completed, all equipment is to be returned to the school. There are no exceptions to this policy. Violators will be held financially liable for equipment.

**TRANSPORTATION TO ATHLETIC CONTESTS**

SPASH is responsible for transporting athletes to and from out of town contests. The school is aware that unusual circumstances do arise in which a parent(s)/guardian(s) desires to transport his/her son/daughter either to or from a contest. If this occasion does arise, it is the responsibility of the athlete to obtain a permission form from his/her coach, the athletic office or the main office. This form MUST be completed and returned to the athletic director prior to departure for the contest. Athletes may be released to be transported by another parent(s)/guardian(s) provided the athletic office has the transportation release form signed by the parent or legal guardian, noting the parent(s)/guardian(s) to be responsible for transportation. The Travel Release form is available on www.wisp.k12.wi.us under "printable forms" and is available in the Athletic (South) Office.

**TRANSPORTATION TO OFF CAMPUS ATHLETIC PRACTICES**

Several of the athletic practice facilities are not located on the SPASH campus. The school district does not provide transportation to and from those venues. It is the responsibility of the parent to make arrangements for the transportation to and from those venues.

**CO-CURRICULAR FEES**

It is important to note that the payment of fees for participation in activities does not assure an equal amount of participation by all participants at all levels. Though the district encourages as much fair and equal participation as possible for all children; there are some situations where the competitive nature of the activities may not allow for equal playing time.

**Grades 9-12 Athletic Fee Schedule**
Boys Hockey

Baseball, Basketball (Boys and Girls), Football, Girls Hockey, Gymnastics, Soccer
$150
(Boys and Girls), Softball, Track & Field (Boys and Girls), Volleyball, Wrestling

Cross Country (Boys and Girls), Golf (Boys and Girls), Swimming (Boys and Girls),
$100
Tennis (Boys and Girls)

Cheer & Stunt (Co-Ed), Poms $50

**Waivers, Reduced Fees, and Payment Options**
The District’s policy provides for a possible waiver or reduction of fees under certain circumstances.

- Students have four possible alternative plans for participation fees:
  - Students meeting the requirements for free lunch may participate in all activities at no charge.
  - Students meeting the requirements for reduced lunch prices may participate in all activities with a 50% reduction of assessed fees.
  - Students not covered under the fee and reduced lunch provisions, may request a payment plan of 2 or 3 payments over the course of the athletic season for each sport or activity.
  - Families experiencing a special financial hardship may request a waiver of fees by filing the form and attaching a statement of circumstances.

- Fees for free and reduced participants may not be waived without a signed permission slip from the parent or guardian permitting the food service department to release the information to the principal of the school where participation is taking place. These forms are available in the Athletic Office.

- The **District Athletic Director** will review and approve or deny special circumstance payment plan requests and financial hardship requests for school sponsored athletics.

**Refunds**
If a student is no longer able to participate in an activity due to circumstances beyond his/her control a refund may be requested. Refund request forms are available in the Athletic Office. All requests for refunds for school sponsored athletics must go through the **high school athletic director** for approval.

**Examples of requests for refunds that would be approved include:**
- A season ending injury in a sport that wouldn’t permit further participation
- A family who leaves the district part way through an athletic season

**Examples of requests for refunds that would not be approved include:**
- A student being removed from a team for academic or disciplinary reasons
- A student being removed from a team for athletic code or club/activity rules violations
- A student who voluntarily decides to no longer participate
SPASH ATHLETIC CODE OF CONDUCT

The SPASH Athletic Code of Conduct has been created to help each participant achieve his/her maximum potential while representing the school and community in a positive way. This code of conduct applies to student-athletes, managers, and lettering club sport participants. Throughout this code, athletes, managers, and club sport participants will be referred to as athletes.

I. GENERAL PROVISIONS

The SPASH athlete is expected to conform to the following code on a twelve-month per year basis. This code applies to all students participating in Stevens Point Area Public Schools high school athletics, grades 9 through 12.

A. Attend school and classes regularly in accordance with state statutes and school board policy. Daily attendance is vital. Student-athletes must be in school no later than 11:26 a.m. (beginning of 5th hour) and for the remainder of the day in order to be eligible to practice or compete on that day. The exception would be a pre-excused absence, such as a college visit or a doctor appointment. Those participants who are unexcused from any class period will be excluded from involvement in athletics on the next school day. Involvement is defined as practice or competition. Unexcused absences on a Friday or the day before vacation will result in missing a Saturday or vacation day practice or competition. If the student is tardy or absent the day following a completion more than two times within a season, the athletic director in conjunction with the coach could declare the student ineligible.

B. A copy of the Athletic Code of Conduct is available on-line on the SPASH Athletic Website. Academic eligibility will be determined at the nine week grading period. A student failing any class or receiving an incomplete at that time shall be declared academically ineligible for competition for a period of 15 scheduled school days starting on a pre-determined date (usually the Thursday after the quarter grading period ends). On the 15th day of ineligibility, the student will take around a grade verification sheet to all his classes/teachers. If the student is free from all failing grades on the verification form, he/she regains full competition eligibility on the 16th scheduled school day (not a Saturday or Sunday). If after 15 days the athlete has not regained eligibility (failing grade on verification form), he/she would have one more chance to regain eligibility by taking around the grade verification form on the 20th school day of ineligibility. Eligibility would be restored on 21st school day if the GVF is free from all failing grades. If there is still a failing grade on the GVF at this point, the student will remain ineligible for the remainder of the quarter. **A student with a documented educational disability who does not receive a traditional letter grade indicative of successful course completion may be eligible if he/she is making satisfactory progress as indicated by progress towards the goals/objectives outlined in his/her IEP.

C. If an athlete should want to switch sports once a season begins, both coaches involved in the switch must give approval.

D. An athlete has the use of a varsity locker during his/her season. However, each athlete must vacate their athletic locker immediately at
the end of each season. Locks can be cut off if an athlete does not comply with this rule.

II. ATHLETIC CODE VIOLATIONS

A. CONDUCT UNBECOMING AN ATHLETE

The SPASH administration and coaching staff have agreed that conduct unbecoming an athlete shall not be tolerated. Participation in athletics is a privilege, not a right. Conduct unbecoming an athlete may include, but is not limited to the following:

1. Stealing in or out of school
2. Flagrant misbehavior in class
3. Out-of-school suspension
4. Disorderly conduct as defined by state law in or out of school
5. Criminal behavior
6. Disrespectful attitude directed toward school personnel
7. Other conduct which adversely affects and relates to the management of the school
8. Harassment/hazing is any unwanted physical or verbal acts, acts that cause pain or excess fatigue, acts that involve involuntary seizure or restraint, acts of a demeaning or sexual nature, threat or demeaning commentary. Hazing, initiations and "right of passage" ceremonies or activities are expressly prohibited. Students who convene or conduct such activities that relate in any way to athletic team membership OR that are perpetrated on other students who are not members of athletic teams will be subject to the disciplinary penalties outlined in the SPASH Athletic Handbook and Coaches' Handbook. Penalties will be imposed whether the hazing activity occurs on or off campus on a year-round basis. This policy is a direct application of Wisconsin Statute 948.51.
9. Attendance at an event where alcohol or other drugs are being used illegally. It is the expectation of this code that athletes disassociate themselves from these events.

All misconduct referrals must be submitted to the athletic director. The disposition of each case will be based on each incident's individual set of circumstances. The athletic director will determine minimum penalties for any other unacceptable conduct contrary to the ideals, principles and standards of the school district and the WIAA.

- Minimum Action: Conference with athlete and parent(s)/guardian(s) contact.
- Maximum Action: Suspension from athletic competition for a period of one year.

In addition to the previous behaviors listed, all athletes are expected to follow the rules and regulations as established by their coaches. These rules will be distributed to every participant.
B. OTHER ATHLETIC CODE VIOLATIONS

Other athletic code violations include the use or possession of tobacco products (smoking or chewing), alcohol or controlled substances, or Performance Enhancing Substances (for a complete list of PES subs., please refer to the WIAA website, www.wiaawi.org). Pursuant to Board Policy 456, substances classified or presented as “look-alikes” shall be considered and responded to as if they were, in fact, the actual chemicals. An athlete receiving communion at a religious service would not be considered in violation of the athletic code. However, toasting with alcohol at weddings, graduations, or other ceremonies would be considered a violation of the athletic code.

Violations of the athletic code will be cumulative during an athlete’s career. However, an athlete who competes one year without a violation “wins back” his/her status prior to the last violation.

Any student who voluntarily turns him/herself in for a first violation of this code shall have the penalty reduced by one contest of the original amount specified in the code.

1. First Violation:
   Suspension from athletic competition for a period of 20% of the contests based on the regular season of that sport. Any remaining percentage of that suspension not served shall be recalculated and applied toward the next sport in which an athlete participates and completes. A referral to the Student Services staff will also occur.
   ● If a suspension carries over into the WIAA tournament series, the athlete will miss the entire tournament series. This clause pertains to team tournaments as well as the individual tournament series.
   ● Any student serving a penalty during a sport must remain in the sport in order for the penalty to be valid. If a student quits the sport, the penalty will carry over to the next season.

2. Second Violation:
   Suspension from athletic competition for a period of 30% of the contests based on the regular season of that sport. All other sanctions listed under the first violation apply to second violations as well.

3. Third Violation:
   Loss of athletic eligibility for one calendar year from the date of the athletic code violation or when the violation was first known to have occurred

4. Fourth Violation:
   Loss of athletic eligibility for the remainder of the student’s high school career.

Notes about Violations:
A student with two violations in the same season will serve his/her suspensions consecutively, not concurrently.
A student found to be involved in the use or abuse of alcohol and controlled substances, including steroids, Performance enhancers, will be referred to the SAP program. Student athletes who are reported for athletic code violations will be sanctioned if the violation is substantiated to a reasonable degree by the athletic director or his/her designee.
III. PROCEDURE FOR ATHLETIC CODE VIOLATIONS
Reported violations of the athletic code shall be presented to the athletic director. When appropriate, the anonymity of the informant will be maintained.

Upon receiving a report of a training rule violation, the athletic director may, as soon as possible, meet with the athlete who as allegedly violated the athletic code and the coach of any sport in which the athlete is then participating. The parent(s)/guardian(s) will be contacted. If the athletic director finds the violation did occur, a sanction, consistent with code requirements, will be imposed.

There is no statute of limitation on reporting athletic code violations. However, it will be at the discretion of the administration on whether to take action on reports that are not made in a timely fashion.

APPEAL PROCEDURE
This process recognizes the rights of individual. It outlines his/her recourse in the event he/she feels that the alleged offense did not occur or the proper procedures were not followed. The appeal procedure outlined hereafter is the process a student and his/her parents are to follow in appealing decisions relating to suspension.

Administration may utilize the appeal board to clarify issues regarding interpretation of the code. Any imposed sanctions will take effect during this time of appeal.

1. An individual and/or his/her parent(s) or guardian(s) may formally appeal a suspension decision in writing to the Appeal Hearing Officer (Pupil Services Director) within 72 hours from the verbal notification of the suspension or prior to the next interscholastic competition, whichever comes first.

2. The Hearing Officer will notify the Athletic Director and the Principal of the request for an appeal and gather the appropriate information that resulted in the sanction.

3. The Hearing Officer will then contact the parent(s)/guardian(s) inform them of their rights, review the appeal and present district evidence.

4. Proceedings of the meeting, including the Hearing Officer’s decision, shall be put in writing, and a copy of these proceedings must be mailed to the student and his/her parents within 5 working days. The decision of the Hearing Officer may be appealed to the school board for a full hearing.

5. Upon receipt of the Hearing Officer’s decision, parent(s)/guardian(s) still wishing to proceed with the board-level appeal must notify the Hearing Officer within 5 working days and an appeal meeting to be set in a timely manner.

A. RE-INSTATEMENT PROCEDURE
The activities director or his/her designee must reinstate any student suspended from co-curricular activities for an athletic code violation.

HOT LINE CONCEPT
Hot Line: In an effort to prevent alcohol-related parties from happening, we strongly encourage the “Hot Line Concept” between school and community. In the best interest of the athletic program, anyone hearing of an alcohol-related party should contact the athletic director or principal. When school personnel are aware of such
parties before they take place, efforts can be made to try to prevent them by contacting parent(s)/guardian(s), contacting the authorities, or by going directly to the persons in question. Community help and support are needed with this. Community members are often “privy” to information that the school officials simply do not hear about until “after the fact.”

TRANSGENDER PARTICIPATION

Students participating in interscholastic programs may also be required to comply with the rules and regulations of the Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletics Association (WIAA), including the eligibility requirements. Please refer to the WIAA medical policies for more information regarding transgender participation in interscholastic athletics.

The Stevens Point Area Public School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, ancestry, marital status, pregnancy, parental status, arrest or conviction record, membership in the military reserve, religion, political beliefs or affiliations, citizenship, use or non-use of lawful products off school premises during non-working hours or any other factor prohibited by law. Discrimination on the basis of age, sex (including sexual orientation) or disability is prohibited except where specific age, sex or other requirements constitute a bona fide occupational qualification necessary to the proper and efficient operation and administration of the school district. The assistant superintendent for pupil services is the district’s compliance officer. If you have concerns, please call 345-5454.

REVISED: May 2016