

Athletic Code



School District of Amery

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School District of Amery

Board of Education: Keith Anderson, Char Glenna, Erin Hosking, Dale Johnson, and Joe Vierkandt

District Administrator: Dr. Shawn Doerfler

High School Principal: Josh Gould

Middle School Principal: Tom Bensen

Athletic Director: Jeff Fern

EDUCATIONAL PHILOSOPHY

The School District of Amery believes that one of the primary purposes of education is to provide each student with the values and training necessary to lead a rewarding and happy life. The activities program is an integral part of this process as it provides certain opportunities and emphasizes definite aims which are difficult to duplicate in other school experiences. It is the desire of the District to generate a program of activities that will provide opportunities for the youth of this community to develop the proper ideals of sportsmanship, ethical conduct and fair play. Participation in this school program is a privilege for which every student should be willing to meet the challenges deemed necessary to fulfill these ideals. It is with this in mind that the Amery School District Activity Code has been established.

OBJECTIVES

- To develop within the students the determination and dedication necessary to complete their chosen goals.
- To develop the self-discipline necessary for a successful life.
- To develop a willingness to place the good of the group before the desires of the individual.
- To teach that a penalty follows the violation of a rule.
- To provide a “whole school” interest and activity that will develop school pride in all students.
- To provide opportunities to exemplify and observe good sportsmanship.
- To provide the opportunities for developing lasting friendships, both with teammates and opponents.

EXPECTATIONS

The privilege of participating in co-curricular activities is extended to all students providing they are willing to assume certain responsibilities. The participant’s greatest responsibility is to be a credit to themselves, his/her parents, school and community. Remember, it is an honor and a privilege to participate and represent the school in various activities. For every privilege and right a participant has, he/she also has a corresponding duty or responsibility. Therefore, it is required that all participants:

- Display high standards of social behavior both in school and out of school.
- Display outstanding sportsmanship.
- Display proper respect for those in authority, including administration, teachers, coaches, officials and other school personnel.
- Display a real spirit of cooperation.
- Use language which is socially acceptable.

CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES CODE PROCEDURE

The co-curricular activities are grouped into two (2) categories and are governed by the codes as described below. **Students involved in athletic competition will serve their suspension as a member of Group A. There will be no double jeopardy.**

Group A	
Basketball	Soccer
Baseball	Softball
Cross Country	Tennis
Dance	Track
Football	Volleyball
Golf	Wrestling
Hockey	

Group B	
Color Guard	Art Club
Destination Imagination	Chess Club
Drama	French Club
Forensics	FBLA
Jazz Band	FFA
Pep Band	FCCLA
Quiz Bowl	Kinship
Show Choir	Knitting / Book Club
Solo / Ensemble	Spanish Club
Skills USA	MS Leadership Team
STARS	Student Council
Power Lifting	Trap Shooting

***All activities that are considered an extension of the classroom rather than a co-curricular activity will **not** be governed by this code of conduct. Examples of activities that are an extension of the classroom would be concerts performed by the full band and choirs, field trips, and student travel. The principal and athletic directors will determine whether an activity is an extension of the classroom or a co-curricular activity.

I. Eligibility- Group A

- A. A high school student must be under the age of 19 before August 1 or each school year.
- B. A middle school student must be under the age of 15 before August 1 of each school year.
- C. A student must be a full-time student in an approved program working towards an “Amery High School” Full-time student is defined further in the WIAA Handbook.
- D. WIAA Physical or Alternate Year Card is required for students participating in interscholastic athletics. Exams taken after April 1st are good for the following two school years. Exams taken before April 1st are good for the remainder of the school year and the following school year. In years when a physical exam is not required, a WIAA alternate year athletic permit card must be turned in.
- E. Co-Curricular Activities Code/Emergency Medical Form signed annually by both student and parents, which indicates an understanding of the activity code. The emergency form serves as consent to treat in case of emergency. It also provides emergency contact information. All forms will be kept on file in the athletic athletic office.
- F. WIAA Parent/Athlete Rules of Eligibility Sign-off Form signed annually indicating that both student and parents have read, understood, and agreed to abide by the WIAA Rules of Eligibility.
- G. Concussion test must be completed every two years.
- H. Athletes are **not** eligible to practice or compete unless the athletic fee is paid. Athletic Fees are waived for those individuals who qualify for free and reduced lunch.

Eligibility- Group B

- A. Participants will be governed by state association guidelines for regional and state competition.

II. Academic Eligibility

A. Standards

- 1. A student in grades 6-12 may not have any failures at the end of a grading period.

B. Guidelines

- 1. Eligibility will be based on nine-week quarters in the middle and high school.
- 2. Eligibility for all fall sports shall depend on grades earned in the previous spring marking period. Eighth grade students entering 9th grade are all academically eligible unless determined otherwise by an administrator.
- 3. Students who are under academic suspension are allowed to practice at the discretion of the coach. Students are not allowed to dress in uniform but may travel with the team at the coach’s discretion.
- 4. If a student has an “incomplete” in a class, zero’s will be entered for all incomplete work. If the student would be passing if all zero’s were factored into the student’s grade, the student will be eligible to participate.
- 5. Students are responsible for any schoolwork missed due to co-curricular activities. They are expected to make every effort to contact the instructor prior to the absence.

C. Consequences and Procedure

- 1. Consequences for failure to meet the Academic Eligibility Criteria will be administered as follows:
 - A. **One Failing Class**- Student will be ineligible for **10%** of the total games scheduled for that sport season. The individual must attend all practices and games and will be unable to dress in uniform for competitions. After the violation is served, the student must be passing all classes to regain eligibility.
 - B. **Two Failing Classes**- Student will be ineligible for **30%** of the total games scheduled for that sport season. The individual must attend all practices and games and will be unable to dress in uniform for competitions. After the violation is served, the student must be passing all classes to regain eligibility.
 - C. **Three or More Failing Classes**- Student will be ineligible for the **next grading quarter**. The individual must attend all practices and games and will be unable to dress in uniform for

competitions. After the violation is served, the student must be passing all classes to regain eligibility.

- D. Per the WIAA, when the earliest allowed competition/ performance takes place before the first day of classes, the rule will read as follows: The minimum ineligibility period shall be the lesser of (1) 21 days or (2) one-third of the maximum number of games/activities/meets allowed in that sport/activity (rounded up if one-third results in a fraction)
2. Suspensions for failing grades will begin the first competition after the term has ended and grades are considered final.
3. After the suspension has been served, the student must be passing all classes to become eligible to participate in competitions.
4. The coach will not allow the athlete to participate in competitions until they received written or verbal consent from the athletic director that the athlete is eligible.

*Note: The WIAA considers a **scrimmage** as a **practice**. A student-athlete suspended for contests or events will not be able to count a scrimmage as a lost contest or event. A contest penalty will occur in all lost eligibility situations. If a scheduled contest is postponed or canceled and a student-athlete was ineligible for that contest, their ineligibility will be served at the next contest.*

III. Attendance

- A. An unexcused absence of one or more class periods during a sport season makes a student ineligible for the next contest unless there are extenuating circumstances as determined by an administrator.
- B. A student must be present by **9:00 a.m.** of the school day to participate in practice or a scheduled contest on that day unless approved by an administrator.
- C. Attendance for student athletes at practices and games is mandatory, with the exception of injury or illness, or with the specific consent of the coach or advisor. Consequences will be determined by specific coaches and advisors.
- D. Students serving an out-of-school suspension may not participate or attend practices, games, or events during the suspension and until they have resumed attending classes after completion of the suspension.
- E. The coach will recommend that team members be in class the day after a contest.

IV. Changing Sports

- A. An athlete may not quit one sport and begin another during the same season except by agreement of the coaches involved and/or the athletic director.
- B. A student cut from one sport may try out for another sport providing he/she was in good standing in the previous sport.
- C. Athletes cannot participate in more than one sport at the same time in the same season. Exceptions to this rule may be granted upon approval. They can participate only after approval of advisor/coaches and parents.

V. Athletic Injuries

- A. All injuries must be reported to the supervising coach or athletic trainer immediately. The trainer will file the appropriate injury report within 48 hours. Parents should follow up with the trainer.
- B. In the case of any emergency, students will be sent to the nearest hospital, unless parents have indicated a specific hospital for treatment.
- C. The athletic office should be informed by parents/guardians prior to participation, of an athlete who has any special medical conditions.
- D. If an injury has been discovered after the athlete has returned home from a practice or competition, the coach and athletic trainer should be notified as soon as possible.

VI. Transportation

Athletes must travel with team on provided school transportation to away events. Exceptions for this would be for a student to be picked up by a parent (after the event) upon the coach receiving either written or oral (face to face) permission.

VII. Parent Communication with Coach

Parents and coaches each have their responsibilities. A parent's main responsibility is their own child. The coach's main responsibility is their program. By establishing an understanding of each position, we are better able to accept the actions of the other and provide a greater benefit to children. As parents, when your child is involved in our program, you have the right to understand what expectations are placed on him/her. This begins with clear communication from the coach of the sport.

Communication Coaches Expect from Athletes and Parents

- A. Concerns expressed directly to the coach by the student first, then the parent if a solution has not been reached.
- B. Notification of any schedule conflicts in advance.
- C. Notification of illness or injury as soon as possible.

As your child becomes involved in his/her programs, they will experience some of the most rewarding moments of their lives. It is important to understand that there also may be times when things do not go the way you and your child wish. Coaches are professionals. They make decisions based on what they believe to be best for all student involved. It is important that all parties remain professional in all interactions.

Appropriate / Inappropriate Concerns to Discuss with Coaches:

The following topics are appropriate for discussion:

- A. The treatment of your child.
- B. Ways to help your child improve.
- C. Concerns about your child's behavior.

If you have a concern that is appropriate to discuss with a coach, the following procedure should be followed:

- A. The student should communicate concerns to the coach first to try and resolve.
- B. The parent communicates to the coach the desire to discuss the concern. If the coach cannot be reached after reaching out for 24 hours, please contact the Athletic Director to assist in the communication process.
- C. Please **DO NOT** attempt to confront a coach before or after a contest or practice. These can be emotional times for the student, parent, and coach. Please wait at least **24** hours before communicating to allow emotions to settle.

The following items should be left to the discretion of the coach:

- A. Playing time, positioning, and event entry.
- B. Team strategies, game tactics, play calling.
- C. Any discussion about other students.

VIII. Substance Use

Students participating or wishing to participate in interscholastic athletic activities and clubs/activities are prohibited from the following:

- A. Use, possession, buying or selling drugs, alcohol, look-alike drugs and/or inhalants
- B. Use, possession of anabolic-androgenic steroids and other performance enhancing substances (PES)
- C. Use, possession, buying or selling tobacco products. This includes e-cigarettes/vaping devices of ANY kind.
- D. Shall not knowingly enter a vehicle that is transporting alcoholic beverages and/or illicit substances unless he/she is under the direct supervision of his/her parents or legal guardians.
- E. See information on succeeding pages regarding procedures and consequences:

Substance Use Consequences

First Violation – 20% suspension from the number of scheduled contests for that activity. Refer to penalty chart for exact suspension.

Second Violation – 40% suspension from the number of scheduled contests for that activity. Refer to penalty chart for exact suspension.

Third and Beyond Violation – 365 day suspension from athletics.

Self-Referral - A student who violates the code may report the violation to the high school principal or athletic director via phone, in person, or email. If the student does so within twenty-four (24) hours of the violation, the student may be eligible for a reduced penalty for the violation. **Any violation that is being investigated by law enforcement or school officials on or before the time of self-referral is not eligible for a reduced penalty.** The self-referral can only be used for the 1st athletic code violation and will result in a 15% penalty.

**If a student is not able to fulfill their suspension because a season has ended, they will serve the remainder of their suspension in the succeeding sport. The individual must complete both athletic seasons for the suspension to be considered fulfilled.*

**Example: Student A receives an athletic code violation at the end of their spring season. It is a 4 game suspension. They are able to serve 2 games in the spring and then the season ends. Since they have technically served a 10% suspension (in this example), they will need to serve 10% of their next sport to fulfill their 20% suspension.*

**Athletic Code suspensions that result in a fraction of a game are rounded to the nearest game.
Example: 2.5 = 3 games. 2.4 = 2 games.*

Group A- Substance Use Violation Chart

# Of Scheduled Contests for Season	First Violation	Second Violation	Third Violation
7	1	3	365 Days
8	2	3	365 Days
9	2	4	365 Days
10	2	4	365 Days
11	2	4	365 Days
12	2	5	365 Days
13	3	5	365 Days
14	3	6	365 Days
15	3	6	365 Days
16	3	6	365 Days
17	3	7	365 Days
18	4	7	365 Days
19	4	8	365 Days
20	4	8	365 Days
21	4	8	365 Days
22	4	9	365 Days
23	5	9	365 Days
24	5	10	365 Days

Group B- Substance Use Violation Chart

Consequences	Category I Performance Activities	Category II Clubs and Organizations
First Violation	Suspension for 2 weeks of activity except for graded performances	Suspension for 4 weeks from all Category II activities
<i>Self-Referral</i>	Suspension for 10 calendar days of activity except for graded performances	Suspension for 3 weeks activity Category II activities
Second Violation	Suspension for 4 weeks of the activity except for graded performances	Suspension for 8 weeks from all Category II activities
Third Violation	Suspension for 365 days except for graded performances. Loss of Awards	Suspension for 365 days from all Category II activities. Loss of Awards.

Attending Parties or Events With Banned Substances

Student who knowingly attend an event at which any of the above banned items are being illegally consumed, but who do not themselves consume banned substances.

It is recognized that under certain circumstances high school student-participants may legally enter places where beer or liquor is served (weddings, family gatherings, establishments, etc.). The intent of our code is not to punish student-athletes for association with friends and family or to curtail generally wholesome activities. Further, student-participants under the code are still to refrain from the use, possession, sale or distribution within such setting. It is recognized that each of these cases will have to be judged on its individual merits.

Consequences for attending parties and events will be administered as follows:

- A. **First Offense:** Student will meet with the athletic director and be reminded attendance at these gatherings is an athletic/activity code violation. There is no game suspension consequence for the first offense. The athletic director will work with the head coach on a consequence.
- B. **Second Offense:** Student must continue to practice and travel with the team but may not participate in the equivalent of 20% of the season's events. The suspension carries over into the student's next season if necessary.

- C. **Third offense:** Student must continue to practice and travel with the team but may not participate in the equivalent of 40% of the season's athletic events. The suspension carries over into the student's next season if necessary.
- D. **Fourth Offense and beyond:** Student is suspended for 365 days. The student will not be allowed to practice or travel with the team.

IX. Conduct

The participant must conduct himself/herself in a manner, which upholds the principles and standards of the School District of Amery and the WIAA. Student athletes are visible members of our community that need to represent the School District of Amery in the most positive way. Behavior which reflects negatively on themselves, their team, the Athletic Department, or the School District of Amery may be grounds for disciplinary action.

Conduct that could result in disciplinary action may include, **but is not limited to** the following:

- A. Violating any Federal or Wisconsin law, any municipal or county ordinance, or law of any other jurisdiction in conformity with the Wisconsin Criminal Statutes (See Appendix 1). It is not necessary for a student to have been issued a citation to be considered a violation.
- B. Disrespect toward teachers, officials, other school personnel, or students.
- C. Using biased or harassing behavior including profane, vulgar, racist, sexist, or homophobic language.
- D. Posting disparaging or disrespectful comments regarding coaches, school staff members, game officials, Amery students, opposing school students on social media or via texting. Reports of such violations must occur within **10 school days** of actual occurrence. **Anonymous reports will be disregarded.**
- E. Engaging in any form of sexual harassment. Sexual harassment is defined as deliberate, repeated or unwanted verbal or physical contact, sexually explicit derogatory statement, or sexually discriminating remarks that is offensive or objectionable to the recipient or cause the recipient discomfort or humiliation.
- F. Violating any law regarding stealing or vandalism, or the illegal possession of property belonging to the School District of Amery or other school district.
- G. Engaging in any form of hazing another student. Hazing is defined as the act of harassment by forcing (physically, morally, and/or mentally) someone to exact unnecessary or disagreeable work, to banter, ridicule or criticize someone, or to initiate someone into an organization.
- D. Flagrant violation of game rules and/or ejection from a contest.
- E. Out of School Suspension / Expulsion

Procedures and Consequences

The consequence 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 of Amery and the WIAA.

Minimum Consequence – Conference with participant and parent contact.

Maximum Consequence – Suspension from athletics/activities competition for the remainder of their high school career.

X. Guidelines for Code Violations

- A. IN SEASON VIOLATION—suspension application to take place at next practice and/or competition.
- B. OUT OF SEASON VIOLATION—suspension begins first day of practice.
- C. A student who is suspended for a code violation may have to forfeit all school awards for the activity season in which he/she was participating at the time of the infraction. It will be the decision of the Athletic Director and coaches to include or exclude a student who is suspended for a code violation from receiving school awards for the activity season in which he/she was participating at the time of the infraction.
- D. Offenses shall accumulate throughout the student's middle or high school career. Violations will not carry over middle school to the high school. Eighth graders will be considered high school students upon completion from the last day of middle school.
- E. A student who has a code violation and completes one (1) calendar year with no violations may reduce their total number of violations by one (1) by following the procedure outlined on page 11. (Clean Slate Policy)
- F. With each violation, the student's parent(s)/guardian(s) shall be notified by the Athletic Director in writing and an attempt will be made to contact via phone.
- G. There is a due-process procedure that is outlined in this document.
- H. All participants must finish the season in good standing in the activity when a suspension for a code violation has been served. This includes participating in all practices and attending all contests. If a student quits the team before completing the entire season or does not finish the season in good standing, the violation will remain on the records. The participant must finish serving the suspension before any further athletic competition can occur.
- I. Athletes and activities participants are under code 365 days a year. Any violations of the code that the AD is made aware while school is not in session (Breaks, Summer Vacation, Etc.) will result in the consequences in the subsequent season of participation.
- J. The School Board reserves the right to suspend any and all activity of a student who has been charged with a felony.**

XI. Integrity Clause

In the event a student is being questioned for a possible violation of the provisions of the Code, it is expected that:

- A. The student shall be truthful
- B. The student be forthcoming with information
- C. The student will not be deceptive
- D. The student will be cooperative

If it is determined that the student was untruthful or deceptive prior to, or after determination of a violation of the Code, the Principal and/or Athletic Director has the authority to increase the consequences to the next level of violation or take other appropriate actions.

XII. Enforcement Procedures

The Amery School District recognizes the enforcement of its Activity Code should follow procedures designed to minimize the chance of error and maximize the opportunity for interested persons to be heard. To that end, the procedures set forth hereafter provide to the parents, the students and the district, a vehicle to assure fairness and, to the extent possible, accuracy in resolving questions under this code.

1. A person witnessing a violation or having reliable information regarding a violation must present the kind, time and place of violation to the administrator or athletic director in person.
2. The athletic director shall inform the coach, the student and the parent(s)/guardian(s) that a charge has been made. If efforts to contact the parent(s)/guardian(s) on the telephone are unsuccessful, the student may be used to convey the oral or written message.

3. If the student does not plead guilty and the administrator and coach find the student guilty of the charge based on the evidence, the student will be informed within one (2) working days of the decision, and a written notification will be mailed to the parent(s)/guardian(s).
4. If the student or parent(s)/guardian(s) is not satisfied with the decision of the administrator and coach, she may appeal the decision.

Clean Slate Policy—If a student remains without a code violation for one calendar year, he/she may go back one step. For example, from one to none, from two to one, etc. This may be done only one time in the participant’s high school career. The athletic department will be responsible for keeping all records of violation

XIII. Appeal Procedures

- A. If the student or parent(s)/guardian(s) is dissatisfied with a decision or with a ruling or interpretation of the activity code, he/she may request an appearance before the Appeals Board. He/she must make the request in writing to the district administrator within one (1) student contact day from the notification of decision rendered by the director and coach. If the student does not request appearance before the one (1) student contact day limit, the appropriate penalty for that violation will be enforced.
- B. Students will **not** be eligible to participate while appealing to the Activity Board.
- C. The makeup of the Activity Board will be three (3) uninvolved teachers and two (2) uninvolved coaches.
- D. The school administrator shall serve as chairman of the board. The administrator shall be a non-voting member of the Board, except for his/her veto power. The duties of the chairman are:
 - a. To ensure that all proper procedures have been followed to warrant Board action.
 - b. To furnish all Board members with the documents that led to the administrator’s action.
 - c. To advise the Board and the accused of the specific issue to be resolved.
 - d. To ensure that discussions and questions be properly and completely aired before a vote is taken.
 - e. To conduct a secret ballot at the conclusion of the discussion and question period.
 - f. To announce the result of the balloting to the accused and the Board. A majority vote shall be required for guilt.
 - g. To notify, in writing, the accused and his/her parent(s)/guardian(s) of the results of the Board’s action and the penalty in accordance with existing extra-curricular policies.
 - h. To exercise veto power when he/she is not assured that all proper procedures have been satisfactorily executed or if insufficient evidence has been presented to the Board. If veto is exercised and additional information is needed, the Board may be reconvened within two (2) school days.
- E. The proceedings of the hearing will be recorded in a written record and kept on file in the athletic office.

Appendix I – Wisconsin Statutes

Wisconsin Criminal Statutes in the following chapters: Chp. 939 Crimes-General Provisions; Chp. 940 Crimes Against Health and Safety; Chp. 943 Crimes Against Property; Chp. 944 Sexual Morality; Chp. 945 Gambling; Chp. 946 Crimes Against Government; Chp. 947 Disorderly Conduct; Chp. 948 Crimes Against Animals.

APPENDIX II—Academic Reinstatement Form

Academic Reinstatement Form

Student:

Date:

Please sign below indicating that this student is passing your class at this time.

Athletes need to obtain teacher signatures and return this form to the athletic director or principal before regaining eligibility.

Class	Current Grade	Teacher Signature	Date Signed