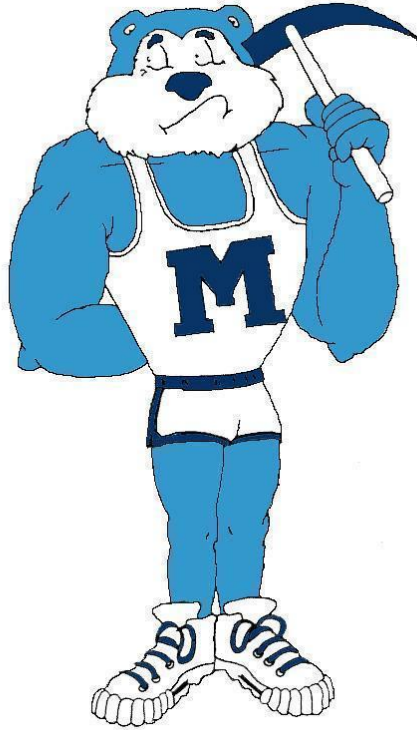


SCHOOL DISTRICT OF MELLEN



2026 - 2027

ATHLETIC CODE

Board Approved: May 20, 2026

Mission Statement

Work collaboratively in a respectful, responsible, safe, and ready environment to create an education where all students will succeed.

Vision Statement

To become a world-class community school of choice that maximizes technology and innovation.

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MELLEN SCHOOL ATHLETIC CODE

Introduction

The School District of Mellen believes that the athletic program is an integral part of our educational curriculum. It provides opportunities for learning experiences difficult to duplicate in other school activities.

The opportunity to participate in our athletic program is extended to all students who are willing to assume certain responsibilities. The student athlete will be expected to display high standards of behavior, good sportsmanship, respect for others, and meet all WIAA and School District of Mellen eligibility requirements.

Coaches/advisors have educational responsibilities to make every effort to communicate fully and fairly with the participating student and parents/legal guardians. Coaches/advisors may set specific rules for their teams. Such rules may not change the intent or spirit of this code or reduce the sanctions to be applied for code violations.

Participating students are in the public eye from the minute their names appear on a school roster. They represent the school and community and have an obligation to always present a positive image (12 months of the year), whether in school, in the community or while on out-of-town trips.

It is important for parents/guardians and students involved with these programs to understand the regulations governing participation. To make this phase of the student's education more meaningful, you are asked to read these regulations and sign the two forms along with your son/daughter and have your child return both signature pages to their coach, prior to the student athlete participating in the sport.

The WIAA states that athletes are bound to this code for the entire 12-month year. Student participants are bound by this code from the time they first sign this pledge agreement until they finish their athletic careers at Mellen Public School. Students will sign a pledge sheet each year, which will be filed with the Athletic Director. It is the responsibility of the Athletic Director to ensure each athlete has completed a pledge sheet each school year.

This handbook is subject to change at any time to allow it to remain in compliance with WIAA rule changes or District policy.

Objectives

The School District of Mellen has developed the following major objectives for the interscholastic athletic program:

- To provide opportunities for interscholastic competition.
- To provide activities that help create school unity.
- To promote friendships with teammates, coaches, and opponents.
- To provide opportunities to exemplify and observe good sportsmanship.
- To teach attitudes of responsible team play and cooperation.
- To help students realize that participation in interscholastic athletics is a privilege with accompanying responsibilities.
- To provide activities for learning self-discipline, loyalty, team play, personal pride, pride in organization, respect for the rights of others, and the will to win.
- To place team, squad, class, and school above personal desires.
- To promote lifetime physical fitness.

To help make participation a positive experience, the following training and conduct rules will be in effect for all Mellen student athletes:

Rules

The Mellen Athletic Department will follow WIAA eligibility rules and regulations. (see attached WIAA Eligibility Bulletin) Where deemed appropriate, the Mellen Athletic Code may be stricter per WIAA allowances. Coaches and athletes are required to follow all guidelines of the COVID-19 Response Plan or health directives issued by the Administration and/or Mellen School Board.

Forms

Student athletes will not be issued equipment or permitted to practice until their pledge sheet; WIAA Sign-off Form and WIAA Physical Examination Card/Alternate Year Card have been signed and returned to the coach. Student athletes must get a physical examination every other year and turn in a completed exam card prior to participation in any athletic sport. On alternative years, the student athlete must turn in a parent permission/alternative year card completed by the parent.

Attendance

The following attendance requirements are to be met for participation:

- Student athletes will be in school the full day of a practice/contest, including practices held before the school day begins and school is in session, in order to participate in that practice/contest unless they have been excused for medical or dental appointments or have a signed excuse from administration in order to participate.
- Student athletes must be in school the entire day following an event or competition unless they are excused by the administration. Student athletes violating this provision will be ineligible for the next game, meet, or match.
- Student athletes suspended from school for any reason are not allowed to participate in or attend any athletic activity, practice or game, until fully reinstated to school.

Academics

Student athletes must meet school and WIAA requirements defining a full-time student. Student athletes must maintain passing grades of D- or better at the mid-term and at quarter to be eligible for athletic contests. They will be allowed to practice but not participate but expected to attend contests/games until they meet the eligibility rules. The Athletic Director will be responsible for monitoring all athletes' grades on the 1st and 15th of each month.

Fall Sports – Any student athlete that was deemed ineligible, due to academic performance at the end of the previous year's quarter/semester, will be allowed to practice, but will be ineligible to play for the first 2 Fall contests/games. Student athletes in 9th grade will start with a clean slate, and not be based on their 8th grade academic performance.

Quarter - At the end of the quarter any student athlete not maintaining a D- or better in all classes is ineligible for any contests/games during a minimum of the next 15 school days and must provide a report of D- or better in all classes before being allowed to participate again. Any student athlete not maintaining a D- or better at mid-term will become ineligible and must earn a D- or better to re-establish eligibility. At the completion of each quarter the Student Services Secretary and the Athletic Director will monitor each student athlete's grades and then will inform coaches of eligibility. Any incompletes will be considered an F.

An incomplete caused by health reasons may not render a student athlete ineligible. Once administration, teacher and student athlete work out arrangements for completion and the Athletic Director and Coach are notified by Administration, the student athlete will remain eligible if the work is being completed.

Alcohol, Tobacco And Illegal Drugs

Student athletes shall not use any controlled substances as so designated and prohibited by Wisconsin statute or Board Policy; all chemicals which release toxic or mind-altering vapors; all alcoholic beverages; anabolic steroids, illegal drugs, household products used in an inappropriate way, tobacco (including e-cigarettes), vaping devices with or without nicotine, abuse/misuse of prescription drugs, and "look-alikes" of any form throughout the school year and summer. Refer to District Policy 5530.

"Holding" an alcoholic drink, tobacco product, illegal drug or look-alikes shall be considered using the product.

Any student athlete found guilty of any of the infractions listed above will be suspended for:

First Offense – The student athlete will be immediately suspended from all athletic contests for 25 percent, rounded up, of the season. During the suspension, the student athlete can attend practices and will attend and sit with the team in street clothes during all competitions. The suspension will be carried over into the next season or school year, if necessary, to complete the suspension period.

Second Offense – The student athlete will be immediately suspended from all athletic contests for 50 percent of the season and must submit to complete the drug/alcohol assessment program. Until the assessment program is completed by the student athlete and the school has the completion on file, the student athlete will remain suspended. The suspension will be carried over to the next season or school year if necessary to complete the suspension period. Parents/Guardians are responsible for paying for assessments and counseling.

Third Offense - The student athlete will be suspended for the remainder of the season and 25% of the next season. If the 50% suspension cannot be served during the current season, the Athletic Director will calculate the remaining suspension time ensuring that the suspension is served in its entirety. The student athlete must provide the District an official letter, from a licensed Counselor, stating that he/she completed a counseling

treatment plan. The Athletic Director will provide Administration with a written report documenting how the suspension will be completed.

If the student athlete does not complete the requirements above, then a one calendar year suspension (from the date of violation) will be enforced.

If a student athlete is suspended for possession, use or distribution of illegal drugs, misuse of prescriptions, alcohol or all forms of tobacco, he/she will forfeit the right to any athletic award including All-Conference, in the sport in which the suspension was served.

Student Athletes are to be a positive role model within our community. Attendance at parties where illegal use of alcohol, tobacco or controlled substances and look-alikes is occurring is prohibited and will result in a one game suspension. Student athletes should avoid placing themselves in situations where their guilt or innocence is questioned. Second offense will be treated as if the student athlete was in possession of or using these substances. In accordance with Board policy 5530

The student athlete must complete the season that suspension is being served in order for it to count. If he/she fails to complete the season, the full suspension will be reinstated for the next sport that the student athlete competes in.

Random Drug/Alcohol Testing – Athletic random drug and alcohol testing of student athletes involved in all athletic activities will be conducted in accordance with Board Policy.

Honesty Clause: In the event a student comes to Administration to self-report an athletic code violation, Administration has the right to reduce the code suspension in half. This clause may only be used once per a student's high school career.

Bullying of Staff/Students

Bullying is defined as a person willfully and repeatedly exercising power or control over another, badgers, teases and/or intimidates with hostile or malicious intent. Bullying can be physical, verbal, electronically transmitted, psychological (e.g., emotional abuse), through attacks on the property of another, or a combination of any of these. Examples of bullying include, but are not limited to:

- A. Physical – hitting, kicking, spitting, pushing, pulling, taking and/or damaging personal belongings or extorting money, blocking or impeding student movement, unwelcome physical contact and unwanted touching.
- B. Verbal – taunting, malicious teasing, insulting, name calling, making threats.
- C. Psychological – spreading rumors, manipulating social relationships, coercion, or engaging in social exclusion/shunning, extortion, or intimidation.
- D. "Cyber bullying" – the use of information and communication technologies such as e-mail, cell phone and pager text messages, instant messaging (IM), defamatory personal web sites, personal social media accounts and defamatory online personal polling web sites, to support deliberate, repeated, and hostile behavior by an individual or group.

All complaints about behavior that may violate this policy shall be promptly investigated. If the investigation finds that behavior has occurred, it will result in prompt and appropriate discipline, co-curricular sanctions and/or disciplinary action up to and including suspension or expulsion. Individuals may also be referred to law enforcement officials. The complaint procedure is described in Administrative Guideline 2260.01B and is available in the District office. All Board policies and the student Handbook must be followed and enforced.

Equal Education Opportunity/Anti-Harassment (Policy 2260)

It is the policy of the District to provide an equal education opportunity for all students. The right of a student to be admitted to school and to participate fully in curricular, extra-curricular, student services, recreational or other programs or activities shall not be abridged or impaired because of a student's sex, race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital status, parental status, sexual orientation, or physical, mental, emotional, or learning disability or other protected characteristics as well as place of residence within District boundaries, or social or economic background.

Students who have been identified as having an impairment or disability under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act or the Americans with Disabilities Act shall be provided with appropriate educational services. Parents/legal guardians who have questions should contact Mrs. Heidi Stricker, Principal at extension 402.

Any person who believes that the Mellen School or any staff person has discriminated against them in violation of this policy may file a complaint. A formal complaint can be made in writing to a School Compliance Officer listed below:

Mrs. Heidi Stricker, Principal
(715) 274-3601 ext 402
420 South Main Street
hstricker@mellendiggers.org

The complaint procedure is described in Board **Policy 2260** - Nondiscrimination and Access to Equal Educational Opportunity, and on **Form 2260F8** - Notice of Nondiscrimination and Internal Complaint Procedure (Including Title II, Title VI, Title VII and Title IX, Section 504, and ADA) and on **Form 2260.01B** - Parents' Procedural Rights and Safeguards, Including Due Process. The policy and forms are available in the District office.

The complaint will be investigated, and a written acknowledgement given to the complainant as-soon-as-possible or will be given within forty-five (45) days of receipt of a written complaint. The determination of the complaint within ninety (90) days, unless the parties agree to an extension, or unless the complaint is within the procedures of Chapter 115 of the Wisconsin Statutes governing exceptional educational needs. Education Department General Administrative Regulations, commonly called EDGAR complaints, shall be referred directly to the State Superintendent.

The School District of Mellen is committed to an educational environment that is free of harassment of any form. The school will not tolerate any form of harassment and will take all necessary and appropriate action to eliminate it, including suspension or expulsion of students and disciplinary action against any other individual in the school district community. Additionally, appropriate action will be taken to stop and otherwise deal with any third party who engages in harassment against our students and/or staff.

Harassment means behavior toward a student or group of students based, in whole or in part, on the their sex, race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital or parental status, sexual orientation or physical, mental, emotional or learning disability or any other characteristic protected under State, Federal or local law, which substantially interferes with the student's school or academic performance or creates an intimidating, hostile or offensive school environment. Harassment may occur student-to-student, student-to-staff, staff-to-student, male-to-female, female-to-male, male-to-male, or female-to-female.

Section 504/ADA Prohibition Against Disability Discrimination

The Board prohibits discrimination against any student based upon his/her disability. As such, the Board will not engage in practices or adopt policies that discriminate on the basis of disability. The District's Section 504 Compliance Officer is Administration. This person is responsible for coordinating the District's efforts to comply with and fulfill its responsibilities under Section 504 and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, as amended ("ADA"). A copy of Section 504 and the ADA, including copies of their implementing regulations, may be obtained from the District Compliance Officer. For more information see **Policy 2260.01 - Section 504/ADA Prohibition Against Discrimination Based on Disability**.

Anti-Harassment

It is the policy of the Board of Education to maintain an educational environment that is free from all forms of unlawful harassment, including sexual harassment. This commitment applies to all District operations, programs, and activities. All students, administrators, teachers, staff, and all other school personnel share responsibility for avoiding, discouraging, and reporting any form of unlawful harassment. This policy applies to unlawful conduct occurring on school property, or at another location if such conduct occurs during an activity sponsored by the District or District transportation.

Harassment consists of unwelcome conduct, whether verbal, physical, visual, or of sexual nature that is based on a person's protected status, such as sex, color, race, ancestry, creed, religion, genetic information, national origin, age, handicap, disability, marital status, veteran status, citizenship status, sexual orientation, (including transgender status, change of sex, or gender identity), arrest record, conviction record, or other protected group status, which affects tangible job benefits, interferes unreasonably with an individual's work performance, or creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working environment. Harassment may occur employee-to-employee, student-to-employee, employee-to-student, woman or a man, and the victim and harasser can be the same sex.

The Board will not tolerate any form of harassment and will take all necessary and appropriate actions to eliminate it, including suspension or expulsion of students and disciplinary action against any other individual in the School District community. Additionally, appropriate action will be taken to stop and otherwise deal with any third party who engages in harassment against our students.

For additional information, please refer to Policy 5517 and the Student Handbook.

TITLE IX REGULATIONS (Policy 2266)

The Board of the Mellen School District does not discriminate on the basis of sex in its education program or activity and is required by Title IX and its implementing regulations not to discriminate in such a manner. The requirement not to discriminate in its education program or activity extends to admission and employment. The District's Title IX Coordinators are:

Heidi Stricker, Principal
715-274-3601 ext. 402
420 S. Main Street
Mellen, WI 54546
hstricker@mellendiggers.org

Corey Lake, Assistant Principal
715-274-3601 Ext. 228
420 S. Main Street
Mellen, WI 54546
clake@mellendiggers.org

Any inquiries about the application of Title IX and its implementing regulations to the District may be referred to the Title IX Coordinator(s), the Assistant Secretary for the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights, or both.

The Board has adopted a grievance process that provides for the prompt and equitable resolution of student and employee complaints alleging any action that is prohibited by Title IX and/or its implementing regulations. The grievance process is included in Policy 2266 – Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex in Education Programs or Activities, which is available on the District's webpage or by requesting a copy from the District office. The grievance process specifically addresses how to report or file a complaint of sex discrimination, how to report or file a formal complaint of Sexual Harassment, and how the District will respond.

Conduct Unbecoming an Athlete

Student athletes are expected to conduct themselves in an appropriate manner as outlined in the Student Handbook. Student athletes should avoid situations and places where code violations occur or may occur. Improper actions shall be considered conduct unbecoming of an athlete and shall cause the student athlete to be suspended. The Coach, Athletic Director and Administration will meet to determine the suspension. First Offense shall result in one game suspension. Each subsequent offense results in additional suspensions, i.e. second offense two game suspensions. Repeated misconduct shall lead to permanent suspension from the team. Student athlete conduct will start fresh every school year.

Role Model

Student athletes should act and dress according to the district's policy on Dress Code, whenever they represent the Mellen School and community.

Student athletes are expected to set positive examples for other students to follow inside and outside of the school.

Enforcement Of Athletic Rules

Once signed, this code of conduct applies retroactively from July 1 through June 30 of the current school year .

Students will start each year fresh in terms of total code violations. If a violation were to occur, the student will serve the first offense penalty. If another violation were to occur during the same school year (July 1 - June 30), the student would be ineligible for the remainder of the school year. The next school year, the student will again be eligible for participation using the same guideline as mentioned above. If at any time, the student would have four total violations, they would be ineligible for the remainder of their high school career.

All reports of athletic code violations will be investigated.

Under Wisconsin Act 105, the school district may obtain law enforcement agency and court records and use them as the sole basis for taking action against a student under the District's athletic code.

Within two school days of a report of a violation, the District's team, consisting of the Athletic Director and the coach will investigate the allegations.

Within five school days, the team will meet with administration to report on the facts and inform administration regarding consequences if any will be imposed.

A third meeting will be scheduled including the committee and the student athlete and the students' parent/legal guardian to inform them of the decision. The student athlete and parent/legal guardian's attendance is not required and unless prior arrangements have been made by the student athlete or parents/legal guardian, the meeting will continue in their absence. Any imposed consequence will begin following this meeting.

If a situation warrants a longer investigation the administration may seek a waiver from these timelines.

The decisions of the team shall be communicated by certified mail to the student athlete's parents/legal guardians following the third meeting. This communication will summarize the investigation, outline the consequence, and inform the student athlete and parent/legal guardian of the appeal process.

The student athlete or his/her parents/legal guardians may appeal the decision to administration. If a satisfactory resolution is not achieved the student athlete or parent/guardian may appeal to the Board. The Board shall meet with the parent/legal guardians and render a decision in writing to the student athlete and parent/legal guardian, usually within ten (10) school days after the meeting.

Summer violations will be dealt with as soon as possible and a written notification will be sent to the parent/legal guardian by certified mail within five days of receipt of the misconduct report.

Any penalties for violations being served under the Athletic Code prior to the adoption of this revision remain in effect until the penalty is completed.

Student Insurance

The School District of Mellen does not offer student accident insurance. The parent/legal guardian is responsible for all costs for sports related injuries.

Injuries

Injuries, of any type, must be reported to the Coach immediately. Any student athlete under a doctor's care must turn in a doctor's release form prior to returning to team participation. Refer to District Policy 5340.

Concussions

A concussion is a type of traumatic brain injury that interferes with normal function of the brain. No student athlete shall return to play or practice on the same day of a concussion. Any student athlete suspected of having a concussion shall be evaluated by an appropriate health-care professional right away. Any student athlete with a concussion shall be medically cleared by an appropriate health-care professional prior to resuming participation in any practice or competition.

Concussion Forms

Wis. State Statute: At the beginning of a season for a youth athletic activity, the person operating the youth athletic activity shall distribute a concussion and head injury information sheet to each person who will be coaching that youth athletic activity and to each person who wishes to participate in that youth athletic activity. No person may participate in a youth athletic activity unless the person returns the information sheet signed by the person and, if he or she is under the age of 19, by his or her parent or legal guardian.

WIAA Concussion Insurance

The Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association (WIAA) has now purchased Concussion Insurance for all student athletes, grades 9-12, participating in a Covered Activity. Covered Activities include participating in practice or play of interscholastic sports under the jurisdiction of the WIAA. Interscholastic Sports and Activities include: Baseball, Basketball, Cross Country, Football, Golf, Softball, Track and Volleyball. Includes traveling directly to and from a scheduled event as a representative of the school while traveling in transportation sponsored by the school.

Transportation

All student athletes shall travel on the school bus both to and from the activity unless prior approval is given by the coach. The only exceptions are by parent/legal guardian request prior to departure to the activity approved by the administration and/or coach or by request of the student athlete's parents/legal guardians or known by the coach to be immediate family who are present with which the student athlete will actually leave the activity. At no time is another student to transport another student unless that student is an immediate family member.

If for extraordinary circumstances a student cannot ride a team bus to an event and is being transported by their parent/guardian, prior written Administrative approval is required. A student shall not drive themselves to an event unless written permission is granted by the student's parent/guardian and Administration. No other student shall be allowed to transport another student, unless it is their immediate family member, (resides in the same household) and they are listed in writing in the approval by parent/guardian and Administration.

FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THIS POLICY WILL RESULT IN A SUSPENSION OF THE NEXT GAME THE STUDENT ATHLETE PARTICIPATES IN.

Equipment

Each student athlete is responsible for school equipment issued to them. All lost and/or damaged equipment (due to abuse of equipment), must be paid for by the student athlete/Parent/Guardian. Student athletes must turn in uniforms and equipment at the end of the season.

Coach's Rules

The coach may supplement these rules with additional ones of their own with the approval of the Athletic Director and Administration.

Chronic Discipline Problems

Chronic discipline problems will be viewed by Administration, Athletic Director and Coach. Necessary action will be taken up to and including suspension from all school activities.

NONDISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the Agency (State or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of

hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the [USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form](#), (AD-3027) found online at: http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

- (1) Mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;
- (2) Fax: (202) 690-7442; or
- (3) Email: program.intake@usda.gov.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

WIAA Athletic Eligibility Information

WIAA has mandated that we attach the Association's Rules of Eligibility to our Athletic Code. These are WIAA minimum requirements for a student athlete's eligibility. The school may adopt stricter rules for the student athletes.

In order to facilitate good communication, all questions regarding athletic participation at your school should be addressed to Don Moreland, Athletic Director at 715-274-3601 Ext. 149 or by email at: dmoreland@mellendiggers.org.



WISCONSIN INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

2026-2027 High School Athletic Eligibility Information Bulletin

To: Student-Athletes and Their Parents

From: Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association and the School District of Mellen

Your high school is a member of the Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association. The following rules and regulations are developed by the member schools of the WIAA and govern the participation by boys and girls in school athletics and in some instances, impact upon sports activities outside the school.

This information bulletin is a **summary** of the WIAA OFFICIAL HANDBOOK as it pertains to those rules and regulations. Both student-athletes and their parents should have an understanding of these requirements. Equally important is that student-athletes and/or parents talk to their principal or athletic director if they have any question about these regulations. For additional information on Rules of Eligibility see the WIAA Handbook, or visit the WIAA website at www.wiaawi.org.

This bulletin does not discuss specific penalties for all violations. The reason is that penalties vary depending upon the nature of the violation. In addition, schools often have established penalties or periods of ineligibility, which are greater than the minimum prescribed by WIAA rules.

There also are exceptions and other permissive provisions in some rules. Student-athletes and their parents should discuss all athletic eligibility related situations with the school principal or athletic director who, if necessary, will get a decision, interpretation, or opinion from the WIAA office.

Student-athletes, as well as parents are asked to read this bulletin, and then sign it and have their signature statement (attached) on file at their school prior to practicing and competing. Reading and signing this form is a condition of participating in interscholastic athletics at WIAA member schools. It does not guarantee a student-athlete's athletic eligibility nor does it give rise to any contractual rights, direct or indirect, to student-athletes or their parents.

These are WIAA eligibility rules, which are **current for the 2026-2027 school year**:

AGE

A student shall be ineligible for interscholastic competition if they reach their 19th birthday before August 1 of any given school year.

ACADEMICS

A student-athlete must meet school and DPI requirements defining a full-time student and have received no more than one failing grade (including incompletes) in the most recent school issued grade reporting period. Note: Some member schools adopt code and academic policies and other participation requirements which are more stringent than WIAA minimum requirements. In those instances, the school's requirements prevail and must be applied as written.

ATTENDANCE

A student-athlete is eligible for interscholastic competition at a member school if they are carried on the attendance rolls as a duly enrolled fulltime Grade 9, 10, 11 or 12 student in that member school. (Subject to satisfying all other eligibility requirements.)

Note: A full-time student is further defined as one where the member school is responsible for programming 100% of the student's school day. The student is eligible for like or similar awards, privileges and services as all the other students and meets all obligations and responsibilities as other students, without exception.

- A. A student must complete eligibility in the four consecutive years starting with Grade 9, unless there are documented extenuating circumstances and a waiver has been provided.
- B. A student is ineligible if they have graduated from a school offering studies through Grade 12 or its equivalent.
- C. A student who graduated in May or June retains eligibility for any portion of a spring athletic schedule not completed by the end of the academic year. Mid-year graduation ends athletic eligibility on the last day of attendance.
- D. A student is ineligible if they have not been enrolled in some school by the 17th day of a semester or trimester, except upon request of a school in special cases involving sickness, accident, military service, social services assignment, e.g.
- E. A student-athlete may not participate in school sports in more than four different years, and a student-athlete may not participate in the same sport more than one season each school year

DETERMINING RESIDENCE FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS

A full-time student, whether an adult or not, is eligible for varsity interscholastic competition only at the school within whose attendance boundaries their parents reside, within a given school district, with these additional provisions:

- A. Board of Education approved full-time student(s), paying their own tuition and residing full time with parents in their primary residence shall be afforded eligibility. Transfer students are subject to provisions outlined in the transfers section of this document and in the Senior High Handbook.
- B. The residence of a student's guardians shall determine eligibility in cases where both parents of a student are deceased. The execution of guardianship papers in situations where one or both parents are living does not by itself make a student eligible.
- C. In the event of a divorce or legal separation, whether pending or final, a student's residence at the beginning of the school year shall determine eligibility, except in situations involving transfer after the fourth consecutive semester following entry into grade 9. For the purpose of this rule, attendance at one day of school and/or attendance at one athletic practice shall determine 'beginning of school year.' Under this rule, a student who transfers after the beginning of the school year shall be ineligible at the new school unless approval is granted by the Board of Control in accordance with the transfer and/or waiver provisions as described in the WIAA HS Handbook.
- D. A student whose tuition is paid by the school within whose attendance boundaries parents reside or by the state and is enrolled in a district approved program may be eligible at either school (first priority to school of residence) but (a) may not participate at both schools in the same year and (b) academic ineligibility accompanies student upon transfer. Transfer restrictions may also apply.
- E. A student whose tuition is paid by the school within whose attendance boundaries parents reside or by the state or who is participating full time in a legislated open enrollment option must meet all statutory timeline requirements. This provision extends the opportunity to decline attendance at the new school and continue at their school of residence. If the student begins the school year at the new school and then transfers back to school of residence after attending one or more days of school or one or more athletic practices, they shall be subject to transfer provisions as outlined in the transfer Section of this document.
- F. A student may continue being eligible in the same school even though parent(s) and/or student move from within that school's attendance boundaries, provided enrollment is continuous (unbroken in that school).
- G. After a student-athlete has not participated and/or has had their eligibility restricted for one calendar year due to reasons relating to residence and/or transfer, they become eligible.
- H. A student-athlete will not be eligible if their attendance at a particular school resulted from undue influence (special consideration because of athletic ability) on the part of any person.
- I. A student-athlete who has been declared ineligible at a school for disciplinary reasons, academic reasons or due to another State Association's provision retains that ineligibility status if they transfer to another school.
- J. Except in situations involving transfer after a student's sixth consecutive semester, a full-time student whose residence in a given district and attendance at a member school does not conform with any of the provisions outlined above shall be eligible for nonvarsity competition only, for one calendar year, unless a waiver is provided as outlined in the WIAA HS Handbook under Waivers. Transfer students are subject to transfer provisions as outlined in the transfer section of this document and in the Senior High Handbook.

DETERMINING RESIDENCE FOR NONPUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS

A full-time student, whether an adult or not, is eligible for varsity interscholastic competition only if the student is residing full time with parents in their primary residence with these additional provisions:

- A. In the event of a divorce or legal separation, whether pending or final, a student's residence at the beginning of the school year shall determine eligibility except in situations involving transfer after a student's fourth consecutive semester. For the purpose of this rule, attendance at one day of school and/or attendance at one athletic practice shall determine 'beginning of school year'. Under this rule, a student who transfers after the beginning of the school year shall be ineligible at the new school unless approval is granted by the Board of Control in accordance with the waiver provisions as described in the WIAA HS Handbook under Waivers. Transfer restrictions also apply.
- B. Residing full time with guardians shall determine eligibility in cases where both parents of a student are deceased. The execution of guardianship papers in situations where one or both parents are living does not by itself make a student eligible.
- C. A student may continue being eligible in the same school even though parent(s) and/or student move from within that school's traditional attendance area, provided enrollment is continuous (unbroken in that school).
- D. A student who has been in attendance in a nonpublic, self-contained school (i.e. grades K-12 or 7-12) for at least one complete school year prior to reaching Grade 9 and has not broken enrollment during that time is eligible in that nonpublic school upon entering Grade 9.
- E. Except in situations involving mid-year transfer and/or transfer after the fourth consecutive semester students attending member residential schools shall be eligible at the member school provided they reside at the school or reside full time with parents in their primary residence.
- F. Except in situations involving transfer after a student's sixth consecutive semester, a full-time student attending a nonpublic school but not residing in accordance with any of the provisions outlined above shall be eligible for nonvarsity competition only, for one calendar year, unless a waiver is provided as outlined in the WIAA HS Handbook under Waivers.

TRANSFERS

A full-time student may be afforded up to eight consecutive semesters of interscholastic eligibility upon entry into Grade 9. **Transferring schools at any time may result in restrictions being imposed on eligibility, or in some cases a denial of eligibility.** For the purpose of this rule, attendance at one day of school and/or attendance at one athletic practice shall determine 'beginning of school year.' These additional provisions relate to transfer cases:

- A. A student who transfers from any school into a member school will be subject to the transfer rules for one calendar year, unless the transfer is made necessary by a total and complete change in residence by parent(s). [The calendar year (365 days) will be determined from a student's first day of attendance at the new school.]
Unrestricted eligibility may be afforded at a new school at the time of a complete family move. Any student who delays enrollment after a family move is subject to the transfer rule.
- B. Students entering 9th and/or 10th grade at the beginning of the school year and who are within the first four consecutive semesters of high school will be afforded unrestricted eligibility provided all other rules governing student eligibility are met.
- C. Students entering 11th and 12th grade are restricted to nonvarsity opportunities for one calendar year. [The calendar year (365 days) will be determined from a student's first day of attendance at the new school.]
- D. 9th grade students who transfer after the beginning of the school year and with written consent from both schools directly involved shall be restricted to nonvarsity opportunities for the remainder of the school year. Restrictions are removed upon entering 10th grade.

- E. 10th, 11th or 12th grade students who transfer after the beginning of the school year and with written consent from both schools directly involved shall be restricted to nonvarsity opportunities for one calendar year (365 days beginning with first day of attendance at the new school).
- F. In the event of divorce or legal separation, whether pending or final, residence at the beginning of the school year shall determine eligibility for students entering 9th and/or 10th grade.
- G. District policies with respect to intra-district transfer do not supersede WIAA transfer rules.
- H. Unless transfer, including an accompanying total and complete change of parents' residence, is effective at the outset of a semester, a student cannot establish eligibility at their new school until the fifth calendar day of such transfer.
- I. A student who transfers more than once in any given school year shall be ineligible for all interscholastic competition for the remainder of that current school year and will be eligible for nonvarsity opportunities only for the balance of the calendar year. [The calendar year (365 days) will be determined from a student's first day of attendance at the new school.]
- J. A student may not have eligibility in more than one member school at the same time. A parent or parents who move from a primary residence within one school's attendance boundaries, to a secondary residence within another school's attendance boundaries, may be required by the Board of Control to provide evidence of a total and complete move.
- K. A student who transfers from any school, whether or not a member school, with a status of ineligibility for disciplinary reasons, academic reasons and/or as a result of another State Association's regulation or sanction, retains such status at their new school for the same period as decreed by the former school. A student who transfers due to expulsion or removal for disciplinary reason from the previous school is ineligible for the length of the expulsion as determined by the previous school's Board of Education. Note: A student who does not serve a penalty for violation by leaving the state and competing in another state, will be ineligible for the balance of the suspension upon return to the state.
- L. No eligibility will be granted for a student whose residence within a school's attendance boundaries, with or without parents, or whose attendance at a school has been the result of undue influence (special consideration due to athletic ability or potential) on the part of any person, whether or not connected with the school.

PHYSICAL EXAMINATION and PARENT'S PERMISSION

A student-athlete whether an adult or not, must have written permission of parents to participate in school athletics, an emergency information form, and they must have a physical examination (signed by a licensed physician, physician's assistant or advanced practice nurse prescriber) every other school year.

A physical examination taken April 1 and thereafter is valid for the following two school years. Physical examination taken before April 1 is valid only for remainder of that school year and the following school year.

TRAINING and CONDUCT

A student-athlete must follow their school's code of conduct (training rules) on a year-round basis.

- A. A student-athlete who violates their school's code of conduct during the season of a sport (start of practice to final game) must be suspended from competition for a period of time specified in the code (minimum of one meet) if the violation involves (a) possession and/or use of alcohol, (b) possession and/or use of tobacco, including chewing tobacco and (c) use, possession, buying or selling of controlled substances, street drugs and performance enhancing substances (PES).
- B. The member school will determine minimum penalties for violation of any other provisions of its code of conduct, including out of season offenses and for any other unacceptable conduct contrary to the ideals, principals and standards of the school and this Association including but not limited to criminal behavior.
- C. Any student charged and/or convicted of a felony shall, upon the filing of felony charges, become ineligible for all further participation until the student has paid their debt to society and the courts consider the sentence served (including probation, community service, etc.).
- D. A student-athlete who violates their school's code of conduct at times other than during the actual season of a sport must be disciplined by the school, the nature of such discipline to be determined by the school as indicated in its code of conduct.
- E. A student-athlete who violates any part of the school or WIAA's code of conduct resulting in suspension for any portion of WIAA-sponsored tournament competition must be immediately declared ineligible for the remainder of tournament series in that sport. During the WIAA Tournament, an ineligible athlete may not suit up.
- F. A student-athlete, disqualified from a contest for flagrant or unsportsmanlike conduct, is also suspended from the next competitive event at the same level of competition as the disqualification.
- G. Any player who in the judgment of the official, intentionally spits on, strikes, slaps, kicks, pushes or aggressively physically contacts an official at any time shall be immediately ineligible for competition a minimum of 90 calendar days from the date of the confrontation. In addition, the player is ineligible to compete for the first 25% of the next season in that same sport.
- H. A school must provide an opportunity for the student to be heard prior to a penalty being enforced (except for felony charges). If a student appeals a suspension, according to the school's appeal procedure, the student is ineligible during the appeal process.
- I. Schools/individuals are prohibited during the regular season and the WIAA tournament series from practicing for regional, sectional, and state tournament preparation at sites and facilities hosting WIAA tournaments.

AMATEUR STATUS

A student-athlete must be an amateur in all recognized sports of this association in order to compete in any WIAA sport.

- A. A student-athlete may not accept, receive or direct to another, reimbursement in any form of salary, cash (including gift cards) or share of game or season proceeds for athletic accomplishments, such as being on a winning team, being selected for the school varsity team, or being a place winner in an individual tournament, e.g.
- B. A student-athlete may receive: a medal, cup, trophy or plaque from the sponsoring organization regardless of cost; school mementos valued not more than \$200; an award valued not more than \$100 retail for participation in an athletic contest in a WIAA recognized sport; and may retain non-school competition apparel worn by the student as part of the team uniform.

- C. A student-athlete may not capitalize on athletic fame by receiving money, compensation, endorsements or gifts of monetary value in affiliation or connection with activities involving the student's school team, school, Conference or WIAA (scholarships to institutions of higher learning are specifically exempted).
- D. A student-athlete is not restricted from participating in a Name, Image and Likeness (NIL) commercial endorsement provided there is no school team, school, Conference or WIAA affiliation. Prohibited NIL activities are identified as follows:
 - (1) The student shall not appear in the uniform of the student's school and does not utilize the marks, logos, etc. of the school team, school, Conference or WIAA as part of any endorsement.
 - (2) The student shall not promote activities nor products associated with the following: gaming/gambling; alcoholic beverages, tobacco, cannabis, or related products; banned or illegal substances; adult entertainment products or services; weapons (i.e. firearms).
 - (3) The compensation is not contingent on specific athletic performance or achievement (i.e. financial incentives based on points scored).
 - (4) The compensation is not provided by the school or persons associated with school as an inducement to attend a particular school ("recruiting") or to remain enrolled at a particular school.
 - (5) The NIL activities do not interfere with a student-athlete's academic obligations, and the student does not miss athletic practice, competition, travel, or other team obligations in order to participate in NIL opportunities.
 - (6) A student cannot utilize representation or contract an agent. High schools or its employees are not allowed to help facilitate deals for student-athletes.
- E. A student-athlete may not participate in school athletics or in sports activities outside the school under a name other than their own name.

SPORTS ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL

Athletes may compete in not more than two non-school competitions with prior school approval during each regular sport season. The contest(s) will not count against the individual maximum for the athlete in that sport. Nonschool competition will not be allowed during the respective WIAA tournament series in a sport. Violation of this rule results in loss of eligibility for the remainder of the season (including the WIAA tournament series) and forfeiture of the two non-school opportunities.

- A. WIAA rules do not prevent athletes from practicing with nonschool teams or from receiving private skills instruction during the school season. However, they may not participate officially or unofficially (including "banditing") in more than two nonschool competitions or races, including scrimmages against other teams (with school approval).
 - (1) This restriction applies to normal nonschool games as well as "gimmicks," such as reduced numbers competition (3-on-3 basketball, 6 player soccer, e.g.), specific skill contests (punt, pass, and kick, shooting contests, free throws, 3 point, e.g.), fun runs, etc.
 - (2) During the season, athletes may participate in a skills contest with approval of the school. Specific skill contests (punt, pass, and kick, shooting contests e.g., free throws, 3-point, drive, chip and putt) isolate separate skills outside of the traditional competition setting. The skill contest may not include physical contact or extreme fatigue as the actual sport competition. Fun runs are not considered skills contests. There can be no school coach involvement. All other eligibility rules including amateur status apply.
 - (3) A student who was a member of a school team during the previous year may not delay reporting for the school team beyond the school's official opening day of practice in order to continue nonschool training and/or competition.
- B. During the school year before and/or after the school season of a sport and in the summertime, members of a school's team may voluntarily assemble with their teammates (without school and/or school coach involvement) at their own discretion.
- C. A student-athlete or their parents must pay 100% of the fee for specialized training or instruction such as camps, clinics, and similar programs.
- D. A student-athlete may not be instructed except during the school season of a sport and approved summer contact days by the person who will be their coach in that sport in the following school season. All sports except football are exempt from this rule, BUT only (a) during the summer months and (b) if the program involved is not limited to individuals who are likely to be candidates for the school team in that sport in the following season.
- E. A student-athlete must not participate in an all-star game or similar contest except for summertime activities (a) within the same league or program (e.g., softball game between divisions of same league) or (b) in which a team is selected to represent a league in post-season play (e.g., Babe Ruth league team). Some post-season all-star opportunities may be permitted for 12th graders who have completed high school eligibility in a particular sport. Check with your Athletic Director to be certain.
- F. Schools/individuals are prohibited during the regular season and the WIAA tournament series from practicing for regional, sectional, and state tournament preparation at sites and facilities hosting WIAA tournaments.

USE OF STUDENT IMAGE

The participation of student-athletes in school and WIAA tournaments may result in the use of student-athlete images in promotion of school and WIAA events.

In order to facilitate good communication, all questions regarding athletic participation at your school should be addressed to your athletic administrator.

Detach and Return to Athletic Director

PARENT-ATHLETE RULES OF ELIGIBILITY SIGN-OFF FORM – 2026-2027

I certify that I have read, understand, and agree to abide by all of the information contained in this bulletin. 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. In signing below, I further acknowledge and understand that no contractual relationship, direct or indirect, is created between the student-athlete or their parents and the Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association.

School Name

Parent/Guardian's Signature

Please Print Name

Date

Student Athlete's Signature

Please Print Name

Date

This form must be completed and submitted to the Athletic Director prior to a student being declared eligible to practice and compete.

PLEDGE SHEET

Both the student athlete and their parents/legal guardians must sign this pledge sheet before the student athlete will be permitted to practice.

STUDENT ATHLETE PLEDGE

I hereby indicate that I have read and agree to abide by all rules and regulations set forth by the Mellen Athletic Code and the W.I.A.A. I further agree to submit to random drug/alcohol testing as a condition of my participation in extra-curricular activities in accordance with Board Policy 2431. I also agree to assume full responsibility for all equipment/uniforms issued to me and to confine the use of issued equipment/uniforms to events, practice, games, or meets and will turn in all uniforms and equipment at the end of season. I understand that I am bound by this Pledge and that it is in effect from the time that I sign this Pledge until the time that I finish my athletic career at the Mellen School.

Student's Name – Printed Legibly

Student's Signature

Date

PARENT'S/LEGAL GUARDIANS PLEDGE

I, as the parent/legal guardian of _____, have read the rule and policies set forth for athletic participation in the Mellen School District and give permission for my child to participate under these conditions. I also agree to submit my son/daughter to random drug/alcohol testing as prescribed in Board Policy 2431. I further agree to do my part in seeing that these rules and regulations are followed.

Signature

Date

Insurance/Liability Waiver

In consideration of my participation in Mellen Athletics for the 2026-2027 school year: I (we) hereby release the School District of Mellen from all claims for damages arising from any accident or injury, direct or indirect, which is (are) caused by or arises from participation of the participant named here on during any portion of athletic training, competition, and co-curricular activity.

I (we) understand that there is a risk for injury or even death as a result of participation in athletic training, weight training, and competition. I (we) also understand that the School District of Mellen does not provide any type of accident insurance for injuries incurred at school or during any co-curricular activity. I (we) do have adequate insurance to protect against any accident or injury that may occur during the above named sport or will assume responsibility for any cost incurred by any accident or injury that may occur during the above named sport.

I (we) also understand that with the signature below, I (we) give our son/daughter permission to participate in all sports and activities for the 2026-2027 school year unless otherwise noted.

****List any school sponsored sports/activities that your student athlete may NOT participate in:***

Internet and Photo Release

I hereby give the School District of Mellen permission to use my son/daughter's photograph on the District web site and in athletic programs and posters for the 2026-2027 school year. I (we) also understand that with the signature below, I (we) give internet and photo release for all sports.

Or ☐ NO – I (we) do not give permission for my student athlete's photo to be used.

Parent/Legal Guardian-Athlete Rules of Eligibility

I certify that I have read, understand, and agree to abide by all of the information contained in the attached *WIAA Athletic Eligibility Information Bulletin*. 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 form.

Print Student-Athlete Name: _____

Parent/Legal Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

Student-Athlete Signature: _____ Date: _____

THIS SIGNATURE FORM MUST BE COMPLETED AND SUBMITTED TO THE ATHLETIC DIRECTOR PRIOR TO A STUDENT BEING DECLARED ELIGIBLE TO PRACTICE AND COMPETE.