

Co-Curricular Code of Conduct

STATEMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

Participation on Valders co-curricular activities are an integral part of the Valders Middle/High School curriculum, which is a privilege and should elicit great pride in both the student and his/her family. While our number one goal as a school district is to provide a sound academic experience for all of our students, co-curricular activities provide unique opportunities for students to promote their mental, physical, social and emotional development. By providing a strong co-curricular program, Valders extends the privilege of enriching the mind and body to any student meeting district, Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association (WIAA), and any applicable governing body's requirements. Like anything of value, it comes with a price tag. That price tag is a commitment from you to follow established rules. Co-curricular participants who comply with this code of conduct demonstrate a desire to dedicate themselves to self-improvement as well as to enhance the best interests of fellow teammates, advisors/coaches and school. If accepted, this privilege carries certain responsibilities, and this co-curricular code presents these responsibilities.

ELIGIBILITY

These *Rules of Eligibility* are presented as an abbreviated version established by the Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association (WIAA) and are supplemented with Valders Area School District rules.

1. Enrollment in the Valders Area School District as a full-time student.
2. A current physical exam form or alternate year card to participate in physical co-curricular activities as determined by a licensed physician. The physical exam form must be completed every other year, with April 1st as the earliest day of the examination to be applied to the following school year. The alternate year card with parent or guardian signature is used in the second year.
3. An emergency medical form must be completed each year.
4. Yearly attendance by Parent/Guardian at a co-curricular code meeting to sign co-curricular participant code of conduct contract with the athlete.
5. Athletes need to have a signed acknowledgment of receipt of the WIAA Guidelines for Athletic Eligibility
6. Payment of sports fee applicable to all sporting seasons.

GOALS

Co-curricular activities are an integral part of our educational curriculum. It provides opportunities for learning experiences difficult to duplicate in other school activities. Valders co-curricular activities have the following goals:

1. To develop leadership skills and responsibility
2. To show team spirit, encourage others and contribute to good morale.
3. To be fair and treat others as one wishes to be treated.
4. To keep commitments to team.
5. To experience a variety of activities, to offer an outlet for a wide variety of students' abilities and interests.
6. To treat all persons respectfully regardless of individual differences and to show respect for legitimate authority (e.g. Coaches, Officials, Captains).
7. To accept responsibility to set a good example for teammates, peers, younger students, fans and school community.
8. To understand the necessity of abstaining from the use of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs in order to achieve the positive benefits of interscholastic athletics.
9. To help student athletes realize that participation in interscholastic athletics is a privilege with accompanying responsibilities.
10. To generate a sense of pride and unity in co-curricular programs for students, staff and community.

WIAA GUIDELINES for Athletic Participation

1. An athlete must meet residency requirements and school and DPI definitions of a full-time student.
2. An athlete must remain in good academic standings in order to compete in any sport.
3. An athlete must be an amateur in all recognized sports of the WIAA in order to compete in any sport.
4. An athlete may not receive reimbursement for play in the form of salary, cash or merchandise.
5. An athlete may not accept merchandise awards such as jackets, sweaters, watches, rings, billfolds, balls, etc.
6. An athlete may not permit the use of his/her name, picture, or personal appearance, as an athlete, in the promoting of any commercial endeavor.
7. An athlete may not play in a contest under a name other than his/her own.
8. An athlete may not play in a non-school contest while he/she is a member of a school team in that sport.
9. An athlete shall be suspended from interscholastic athletics (competition) for acts at any time (including summer) involving buying, selling, use and/or possession of alcohol, tobacco or other drugs.
10. 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. An athlete may not compete if she/he becomes nineteen (19) before August 1 of any school year.

Note: A complete list of WIAA guidelines and procedures for review are available on the WIAA website.

RESPONSIBILITIES

It is important to understand that participating in co-curricular activities is a privilege and not a right. You are also expected to share in the responsibility for such an opportunity that is provided, that shall include:

Responsibilities to You: The most important of these responsibilities is to broaden and develop strength of character. You owe it to yourself to derive the greatest benefit from your high school experiences. To live a healthy lifestyle and to respect your health both physically and mentally at all times.

Responsibility to your Academic Studies: Your academic studies and your participation in other co-curricular activities prepare you for your life as an adult. Co-curricular activities while very important to young people, is only a small part of life.

Responsibilities to Your School: Another responsibility you assume as a team member is to your school. Valders Middle/High School cannot maintain its position as having outstanding schools unless you do your best in the activity in which you are engaged and are a good role model. Other students and faculty are watching you. They know who you are and what you do. Make them proud. Be an example. Do not do anything to let them down.

Responsibility to your Community: The community and school tax monies make this co-curricular activity experience possible. For that reason, we must remember that we hold a clear and paramount responsibility to our community. You assume a leadership role when you are involved with a co-curricular activity. The student body and citizens of the community know you. You are very visible with the spotlight on you. The student body, the community and other communities judge our schools by your conduct and attitude, both on and off the playing field. Because of this leadership role, you can contribute significantly to school spirit and community pride. Our desire is that our students are a class act, not for the fact that we win, rather that we are known as a program of character and excellence. Make Valders and the surrounding communities proud of you and of your school, by your consistent demonstration of these ideals.

Responsibility to Others: As a team member you also bear a heavy responsibility to your home. If you never give your parents anything to be ashamed of, you will have measured up to that ideal. When you know in your heart that you have lived up to all of the training rules, that you have practiced to the best of your ability everyday and that you have participated in the activity "all out", you can keep your self-respect and your family can be justly proud of you, win or lose.

Responsibility to Younger Students: The younger students in the Valders Area School District are watching you. They know who you are and what you do. Co-curricular participants are role models for the young students that will come after you. Make them proud. Be an example. They will copy you in many ways. Set good examples for them.

CODE OF CONDUCT RULES, MISDEMEANORS, AND VIOLATIONS

As a co-curricular participant it must be understood that this code of conduct program is not designed to be a punishment but a deterrent to your becoming involved in risky and dangerous behaviors. It is also to insure that you have the best possibilities to succeed in your activity and to learn the valuable lessons that co-curricular activities can teach. Your mental and physical well-being is essential to your success, and we want you to reach your full potential. Therefore, we are asking you to become an active part of the solution, not to become part of the problem.

CODE OF CONDUCT RULES

The following rules will apply to each co-curricular participant and will be in effect at all times during the co-curricular season. Each activity advisor/coach also has the prerogative to establish and implement additional rules specific to his/her particular program. Advisors/coaches are expected to share these in writing with their participants and their parents/guardians on or before the first day of practice. A copy of these additional guidelines and expectations will be on file with the Athletic Director.

Academic: A student must be enrolled as a full-time student and pass all classes to be eligible to compete in co-curricular activities. If a student receives a grade of "F" in any class at the end of the scheduling term, he/she will be ineligible to compete in co-curricular activities for a minimum of 15 school days or 21 calendar days and nights. A grade of incomplete will be treated as an "F" until the grade is completed. A student who becomes academically ineligible may regain eligibility on the 16th scheduled school day by meeting the academic standards (passing all his/her classes), following a period of 15 scheduled school days and nights of ineligibility. At the end of 15 days, the student is eligible to apply for reinstatement. Any student who receives two or more failing grades at the end of a grading period will be ineligible for competition until the next grading period removes these deficiencies. The student may not participate, practice, or compete in any co-curricular sporting event during the term of ineligibility. Fall sport ineligibility as a result of a spring grading period failure will begin with the date of the earliest allowed competition in a sport or the first day of school for students, whichever comes first. The 21 consecutive calendar days shall not exceed one-third of the maximum number of games/meets allowed in a sport.

Attendance: A co-curricular participant must be in attendance for periods 6-8 in order to be eligible to compete. Exceptions to this rule would include: School-sponsored activity, family emergencies, doctor/dentist appointments and/or others at administration's discretion. Unexcused absences **WILL NOT** be tolerated. A participant suspended or expelled from school shall be barred from participation in co-curricular activities during that period of time.

When a student joins a co-curricular activity, he/she may be expected to dedicate the time specified for practice by the advisor/coach. If practice is required, regular attendance at practice is required to remain as part of the team. Any participant in co-curricular sports must also be in attendance in school for periods 6-8 to attend practice. It is the athlete's responsibility to notify the coach, in advance, of any circumstances which would prohibit attendance at practice(s) or contest(s) other than absence from school. Failure to comply may result in disciplinary action ranging from a verbal warning to dismissal from the team dependent upon the nature and/or frequency of the offense.

Dress: Every co-curricular participant is expected to maintain appropriate standards of dress and grooming while representing their school or team.

Cell Phone Privacy: It is the practice of Valders Area School District to ensure the privacy of all individuals during the time they occupy locker room facilities at school and during school sponsored events. All cell phones are prohibited in any school locker room. If a cell phone is found the advisor/coach has the right to confiscate the phone. If compromising photos are found to be taken with the phone, it may result in immediate removal from the co-curricular activity and law enforcement may be called.

Transportation: All students participating in co-curricular activities are expected to ride the bus to and from competitions. Students may ride home with a parent/guardian if the parent/guardian follows the coach's procedures for signing out the athlete after the contest. Students wanting to ride home with parents other than their own must provide the advisor/coach alternate transportation arrangements in writing, at least a day in advance. It is the advisor/coach's decision to accept or deny a parental written notice. Students are NOT permitted to ride home with another student, sibling, or any other person under the age of 18.

Injury: Every participant in athletics is required to report any injury, however slight, to the coach at the time it occurs. (School insurance may be invalid if this is not done). The coach will fill out an accident report form.

Equipment: Co-curricular participants are responsible for any uniforms and/or equipment issued to them. Each co-curricular participant is financially responsible for all lost, damaged (through negligence), or unreturned items issued by school officials in that student's name. Students will not be allowed to participate, practice, or compete in another sport until he/she has returned or paid for all uniforms and equipment that was issued to them in a previous season.

Quitting: A student who quits or is dropped from a team/activity for disciplinary reasons is not eligible to compete in another activity for the same season without the mutual agreement by both advisors/coaches and the activities director. A student who quits does not receive credit for serving a suspension. Any student who is cut from an activity may request to participate in another activity during that season, which will be dependent upon roster availability.

Honesty Clause:

1. The co-curricular participant shall be truthful and shall not be deceptive.
2. The co-curricular participant shall be forthcoming with information.
3. The co-curricular participant shall be cooperative.

If a Valders District Administrator or Activities Director has a reasonable suspicion that a specific co-curricular participant may have violated the district's code of conduct, he/she may question that student about a possible violation. In responding to any such questioning about his/her personal actions, **it is expected that the student shall answer truthfully**. Also during the questioning process, a student may not attempt to mislead or misrepresent himself/herself, which may impede the investigation. If a student's answer is subsequently found to be untrue, disciplinary action/penalty will be doubled. (Example: a half season suspension will become a full season.)

CODE OF CONDUCT MISDEMEANORS

The following misdemeanors will apply to each co-curricular participant and will be in effect at all times during the co-curricular season. These violations accumulate only during each school year. The following misdemeanors are unacceptable and the principal and/or Activities Director reserves the right to impose a penalty as deemed appropriate by the severity of the infractions which may include the suspension from practice and/or competition. Each activity advisor/coach also has the prerogative to establish and implement additional misdemeanors specific to his/her particular program.

Behavior and Conduct: Respect, courtesy, manners and good sportsmanship are basic to good citizenship and shall form the basis for all behavior. Since co-curricular participants represent the school in public, their behavior frequently determines the opinion outsiders have of the school and community. It is expected that the conduct of co-curricular participants will be exemplary at all times. Any situation or problem that may arise that is not specifically covered by the conduct language stated below may be reviewed by the high school administration for possible action. Below is a list of examples that are considered behavior unbecoming of a co-curricular participant, but is not an exhausted list:

- Unexcused absences
- Academic dishonesty
- Bullying/Cyber bullying/Harassment
- Vandalism or Property Destruction

- Poor sportsmanship including name calling, obscene gestures, and/or fighting.
- Being suspended from school
- Hazing/Initiation Ceremony: Valders Area School District will not permit, nor will any co-curricular participant stage any type of "initiation ceremony" or hazing for co-curricular participants at any time and on any level. This prohibition includes locker room/shower pranks, etc.
- Engaging in or being an accomplice to any other immoral or unacceptable conduct contrary to the philosophy of this Code, the regulations within WIAA, or the ideals, principles and standards of the Valders Area School District.

CODE OF CONDUCT VIOLATIONS

Code of Conduct Violations will apply to each student athlete on a year-round (12 month) basis in all locations, including non-school activities. Violation of the Code will result in penalties, which are consistent with those identified within the code, as determined by the School Board and Activities Director. All Code of Conduct Violations will be cumulative beginning with a student's initial participation on a freshman, junior varsity, or varsity team.

- **Criminal Behavior:** An athlete who participates in activities resulting in his/her arrest or formal charges being filed in a court of law will be issued a conduct violation. If the school district has adequate and competent evidence that the student participated in the offense for which he or she is charged, a penalty may be imposed pursuant to this Code prior to completion of the criminal proceeding. **If the school district does not have such evidence and the student is convicted of a crime (misdemeanor or felony), the penalty pursuant to this code will be imposed upon conviction.** In the latter case, the athlete may continue to participate in his/her sport until resolution of the matter by the judicial system.
- **Chemical Health Violation:** A chemical health violation includes Possession, Use, Buying, Selling and/or Being under the Influence of Any Drug and Drug Paraphernalia: (Note drugs are defined as tobacco, alcohol, illegal drugs, performance enhancing drugs, or medications without a prescription or use not in accordance to prescription directions.)
- **Presence in a bar or tavern:** Being present or loitering in a bar or tavern without the participant's parents/guardian.
- **In the Presence of** at a party or gathering where alcohol or drugs are being illegally consumed: If a co-curricular participant attends a party where alcohol or drugs are being illegally dispensed, the student must **LEAVE IMMEDIATELY**. To remain in the presence of this illegal activity shall constitute a violation.*
Note: Co-curricular participants should encourage as many classmates as possible to leave with them.
*The intent of the "presence at a party" is not to deny participation with adult family members in gatherings such as weddings, anniversaries or other family gatherings.
- **Hosts of Parties Lose the Most:** There may be a **greater consequence** for a co-curricular participant, if it is determined that the participant is involved in the organization, facilitation, promotion, or hosting of any gathering or social event where alcohol or drugs were known to be available or used.
- **Cyber Image Policy:** Any identifiable image, photo or video which implicates a co-curricular participant to have been in possession or presence of alcohol and/or drugs or portrays actual use, or out of character behavior or crime, shall be confirmation of a violation of the code. Since there is no way to establish a time-frame for when or location of where the image was taken, it shall be a responsibility that the co-curricular participant must assume. It must also be noted that there may be persons, who would attempt to implicate a co-curricular participant, by taking such images, to place them in a situation where they might be in violation of this code standard. This is our rationale for demanding that our co-curricular participant not place themselves in such environments.

PENALTIES FOR CODE OF CONDUCT VIOLATIONS

- The penalty for that season will be imposed immediately following the violation.
- When calculating the number of contests to be forfeited, any amount that results in a decimal remainder of .5 or greater will round to the next whole number.
- The student will be ineligible for all activities during the period of suspension and prior to a reinstatement request.
- During the period of the suspension, the student is required to attend team meetings and practices and must participate in every team/group activity, but may not compete.
- For sporting activities in which the number of contests forfeited is greater than the number that remains in the season, the remainder will be carried over to the next sporting season in which the athlete participates. Number of performances may vary yearly. The actual penalty will be determined using the actual schedule for the current school year. The number of contests forfeited will be recalculated when the forfeiture involves two different sports, allowing a prorated penalty to take effect.

First Violation: Automatic suspension from the competitive team for 25% of that competitive season's scheduled contests.

Second Violation: Automatic suspension from the competitive team for 50% of that competitive season's scheduled contests.

Third Violation: Automatic suspension from all co-curricular activities for the rest of high school career.

CODE OF CONDUCT VIOLATIONS REINSTATEMENT

All students must seek reinstatement after any code of conduct violation to regain eligibility.

1. The student must attend all practices/meetings and be present at all competitions while under suspension.
2. A written request for reinstatement must be submitted by the student to the activities director. Letter should include the understanding of why suspended, how to plan to remain in good standing and the benefits for the student to return competitive performance.
3. Must make a verbal apology to team and resign the code of conduct contract.

CODE OF CONDUCT VIOLATIONS REPORTING PROCEDURE

A violation of the co-curricular code of conduct must be reported to an administrator in the district (including the activities director) within the school year of the alleged violation. The report should indicate the nature, date and time (if appropriate) of the violation. Alleged violation during the summer months must be reported in writing or by phone to a school administrator or the activities director within the first fifteen (15) school days.

CO-CURRICULAR COMMITMENTS

WIAA sports activities are recognized as full year athletic commitments, and as such recognized as a full calendar year commitments until termination of Valders Middle/High School sports participation. Other activities sponsored by Valders Middle/High School will be recognized as periods of participation with pre-determined start and end dates, and as such the Co-Curricular activity commitments will be recognized during participation periods only for the specific activities. Students who participate in multiple activities that run concurrently with sports will have the penalty for any violation imposed on every activity in which the student is currently participating, in addition to a current sports season. In the case that the violation occurs outside a sports season of participation, the penalty will be carried over to the next sporting season in which the student participates, again recognizing the full year athletic commitment of Valders Middle/High School athletes.

CODE OF CONDUCT VIOLATIONS APPEAL PROCESS

The School Board, administration, and co-curricular staff support the philosophy of the WIAA which states participation in competitive high school athletics and co-curricular activities is a privilege, not a right. The accused student does have the right to be heard as outlined below.

1. Upon receipt of a report of violation(s) of the Valders Middle/High School Co-Curricular Code, the athletic director or supervisory personnel shall formalize the accusation in writing and give a copy to the accused. The report must be returned to the athletic director or supervisory personnel. It is understood that by signing the disciplinary report the parents and student waive their rights to any further appeal and accept the disciplinary measures for the period indicated in the code.
2. Any student charged with an offense must request a hearing within seven (7) calendar days following the date the student receives the written charge. The student remains ineligible pending further action. The co-curricular review board will consist of three (3) administrators.
 - A. Parents of the accused student are urged to be present.
 - B. The information concerning the violations will include the following:
 1. Nature of the violation
 2. Place of the violation
 3. Date of the violation
 4. Approximate time of the violation
 5. Circumstances pertinent to the violation
3. The decision of the hearing shall be in writing and a copy sent to the student and his/her parents if the student is a minor within five (5) business days.
4. Any student may request a hearing with the School Board within seven (7) calendar days following the date the student receives the written decision of the co-curricular board. The decision of the Board shall be in writing and a copy sent to the student and parents if the student is a minor within five (5) business days.

Valders Area School District Code of Conduct Contract

Our tradition has been to win with honor, to develop young people of character who our community has pride in, both on and off the field. We desire to win, but only with honor to our co-curricular participants, our schools and our community. Such a tradition is worthy of the best efforts of all concerned.

SUPREME COURT UPHOLDS CODES FOR CO-CURRICULAR CODES

Co-Curricular Codes of Conduct and drug testing have been upheld five times by the Supreme Court of the United States of America. The basis for that support is due to the fact that in co-curricular activities, we must insure the health and safety of those that partake in high level physical activities. The Supreme Court of the United States supports the efforts outlined in the Co-Curricular Codes of Conduct, we hope you do too.

Parent/Guardian:

By signing this document, I (print) _____ as parent/guardian, indicate that I have knowledge, understanding and agreement to these standards set forth in order for my son/daughter _____ to be afforded the privilege of representing Valders Middle/High School as a participant in a co-curricular activity. I am also aware that any violation on the part of my child, to any of these standards, shall result in the consequences contained within this policy. By signing this document, I also indicate that I acknowledge the WIAA standards and can receive a full copy from the main office or WIAA website.

Signature

Date

Co-Curricular Participant:

By signing this document, I (print) _____ as a co-curricular participant, indicate that I have knowledge, understanding and agreement to these standards, set forth in order for me to be afforded the privilege of representing Valders Middle/High School as a participant in a co-curricular activity. I am also aware that any violation to any of these standards shall result in the consequences contained within this policy. By signing this document, I also indicate that I acknowledge the WIAA standards and can receive a full copy from the main office or WIAA website.

Signature

Date