

# *Edgerton Middle School*



## *Athletic Handbook*

*2022-2023*

*Edgerton, WI 53534*

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**To File a Complaint:** Complete School District of Edgerton available in the District Administrator's Office and submit to District Administrator Dr. Dennis Pauli, School District of Edgerton, 200 Elm High Drive, Edgerton, WI 53534.

**Nondiscrimination Statement:** The School District of Edgerton will not discriminate against any student or employee on the basis of sex, race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital or parental status, sexual orientation, gender identity or physical, mental, emotional, or learning disability in its educational programs or activities.

# **EDGERTON ATHLETIC HANDBOOK**

## **2022-2023**

### **PHILOSOPHY**

The Edgerton Middle School is committed to providing an interscholastic athletic program that will provide student athletes an opportunity to compete at a level commensurate with their ability. Interscholastic athletic teams and interscholastic competition of athletes has educational value and is an effective, cohesive force in the school and community. This philosophy has the aim of providing opportunities for student athletes to:

- Become better able to handle challenges and hardships.
- Learn respect for rules, authority and the rights of others.
- Develop pride in themselves and their accomplishments.
- Recognize their individual and team skills.
- Learn the value of putting forth their best mental and physical efforts toward the achievement of personal and team goals.

While each student athlete is important, the athlete's ability, attitude, skill level, needs and demand of the team, budget funding and facility limitations determine the extent or opportunity to allow the student athlete participation and/or playing time. Athletic programs for students in grades 6-8 will reflect an increasing emphasis on the advanced level of competition and greater sophistication of skill development. Although an athletic fee and other costs are charged for student athletes, these costs do not guarantee that a student will meet the level of competition required by the coach to compete against other schools in competitive contests. Student participation is always optional in interscholastic athletics.

Coaches will decide whether or not a student is allowed to participate as a team member, and will decide whether or not a team member is allowed to compete against other teams. Simply stated, there may be students who make the team and faithfully dedicate themselves in practice, but who may not get the same amount of playing time as others. Coaches are to share candidly with athletes the competitive options open to them in an attempt to effectively meet mutual needs.

All students participating in interscholastic athletics must comply with the athletic rules and policies as stated in the Athletic Handbook.

### **INFORMED CONSENT STATEMENT**

Participation in athletics at Edgerton Middle School may expose the athlete to the risk of serious injury, including but not limited to, sprains, fractures and ligament and/or cartilage damage which could result in a temporary or permanent, partial or complete, impairment in the use of the athlete's limbs; brain damage; paralysis or even death. By signing the Parent Athlete Agreement form, the athlete and his/her parents/guardians indicate that they have been warned and cautioned regarding the risks of athletic participation and choose to have the athlete participate with a full understanding of the risk of serious injury.

### **DEFINITION OF ATHLETE**

The definition of an athlete is to include the following: sport participants, managers, cheerleaders, statisticians, and any other student affiliated with the sports program.

### **ELIGIBILITY - WIAA RULES**

Edgerton Middle School follows the basic rules of eligibility of the W.I.A.A. in regard to requirement of credits earned or taking at the present time, age limit, physical examination, legal residence and number of years of athletic participation. The specific rules are stated in the W.I.A.A. Handbook, which the school receives annually. In some cases where Edgerton rules exceed the W.I.A.A. standards, the Edgerton rules will prevail.

1. The athlete must be an amateur in all sports in order to participate in any sport; thus he/she cannot:
  - a. Accept any reimbursement (including merchandise).
  - b. Sign a contract for athletic services.
  - c. Permit use of name, picture or personal appearance to promote any non-school interests.
  - d. Play under another name.
2. The athlete cannot receive a merchandise award from anyone at any time, and must only accept approved recognition awards (medals, trophies, etc.) with permission of his/her school.
3. The athlete cannot play on a non-school team and his school team at the same time, in the same sport, under any conditions, and cannot play in a non-school game or meet during the school year if awards are available and/or admission is charged.
4. The athlete cannot participate in a summer program which can be construed to be practice out of season, and cannot attend a specialized camp, clinic or school unless the program is approved by the W.I.A.A.

### **ELIGIBILITY - SCHOOL RULES**

In order to represent the Edgerton School District in any inter-scholastic competition, a student must meet all eligibility requirements of the W.I.A.A. as well as those at Edgerton.

1. A student must not reach the age of 19 before August 1 of any given school year.
2. A student must only participate on their school team during the same season.
3. **MANDATORY Requirements for Athletic Participation:** All of the following must be on file in the athletic director's office before the student receives any equipment, practices or participates in an event. All necessary forms are available in the athletic director's office.
  - a. A completed and signed physical or alternate year card.
  - b. A signed copy of the Athlete/Parent Agreement form.
  - c. A completed Emergency Care form.
  - d. Proof of payment of the \$20 athletic fee for each sport. (Exception: Any student who is unable to afford athletic fees may appeal this requirement to the middle school principal.)
  - e. Any possible exceptions to letter "d" above must be approved in advance by the principal.
4. **Consequences for Illegal Participation:** It is the responsibility of both the student athlete and the coach to make sure the athlete does not practice nor participate in an event until all five of the above requirements are met.
  - a. Any athlete who practices illegally (without fulfilling the above requirements) will be required to sit out an equal number of practices beginning immediately after they become eligible.
  - b. Any athlete who participates illegally in an event (without fulfilling the above requirements) will be required to sit out an equal number of events beginning immediately after they become eligible.

5. Scholastic requirements:
  - a. An athlete must be a full-time student in order to be eligible to compete in interscholastic athletics.
  - b. It is the expectation that a student will be passing all of his/her classes to be participating in athletics. Both the athletic director and the coaches will be monitoring student grades to ensure appropriate progress.
  - c. A failing grade during grade checks (Monday of each week) will result in the following actions:
    - The athlete will have one (1) week to be passing all classes. During this warning week, the athlete will be allowed to practice and compete but will be required to complete a form for that class/subject with that teachers' signature(s) verifying current grades. This form is to be returned to the athletic director by the end of the day on Friday.
    - If the athlete does not return the form by the deadline or is still not passing all classes by the end of the week, he/she will become ineligible starting the following Monday.
    - While ineligible, the athlete is expected to practice and attend all home games/meets (ineligible athletes will not travel to away competitions) unless excused by the coach. The athlete cannot suit up but is expected to sit on the team's bench.
    - During each sports season, an athlete is only given this courtesy warning week a single time; any failing grade after the warning constitutes ineligibility.
    - In order for the athlete to regain eligibility, he/she will need to return a new eligibility form with the class or classes in question signed by that teacher.
  - d. If an athlete is failing one or more classes at the end of the trimester (1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup>), the following will occur:
    - One F will result in suspension from one game/meet after the release of the report cards.
    - Two or more Fs will result in immediate removal from the sport.
  - e. The coach, parent and athlete will be notified by the athletic director as to which contest(s) the athlete will be suspended.
6. A student may participate in only one sport per sport season. (Rock Valley Conference rule)
7. Any student who is dropped from one squad for disciplinary reasons, or who quits after the first game of any sport, shall not be eligible to compete in another sport for that particular sport season unless approved by the coaches of both sports.

## **GENERAL SCHOOL POLICIES**

1. Athletes must be in school for the entire day in order to compete or practice on that day. Athletes who do not follow this rule will be ineligible and the athletic director will notify the coach. The suspension will be administered on the day of/or day after the violation, unless the absences are on a scheduled contest day, making the athlete ineligible for the contest. Doctor appointments or other school related absences must be approved in advance by the athletic director or the principal in order for an athlete to practice or play on the day of the absence. Exceptions will be considered at the discretion of the administration. Absence due to illness automatically excludes an athlete from competition or practice.

2. Athletes will refrain from wearing to practices or competition apparel that refers to alcohol, tobacco, or is considered offensive to a coach. Each coach has the right to establish a grooming and dress policy for his/her team. Athletes are not allowed to participate if they do not adhere to this policy.
3. All athletes are expected to ride to and from contests on the team bus or van. Exceptions to this rule may be made on a very occasional basis and are subject to the following:
  - a. Parents may take their student home from a contest after a face to face meeting and providing a signature to the coach before the team bus or van leaves the site of the contest.
  - b. Any other situations will require pre-approval (before the date of the contest) by the coach and the athletic director or the principal. Some possible scenarios (but not limited to) that would be approved include:
    - Parents are out of town and the athlete is staying with another family.
    - Special athletic events make it difficult for parents to provide transportation (overnight stays, games played in special venues).

The spirit of this provision is to keep students accounted for and safe. We also want to promote the philosophy that the team travels together in all but very exceptional cases.
4. All athletes must meet the scholastic requirements as outlined in the Athletic Handbook.
5. Students will remain in an ineligible status until they have met the mandatory requirements of athletic participation as outlined in the Eligibility-School Rules section.

### **OBJECTIVES OF ATHLETICS**

1. To develop physical fitness and skills.
2. To develop mental alertness.
3. To develop moral qualities.
4. To develop social abilities.
5. To develop emotional maturity.
6. To give students an early understanding that participation in athletics is a privilege that carries responsibilities with it.
7. To consider interscholastic athletic squads as “advanced” classes for teaching of special skills to the physically “gifted” student.

### **PROPER METHOD FOR ATHLETES AND PARENTS TO ADDRESS A CONCERN**

#### **Step One – Athlete and Coach**

The athlete speaks with his/her coach.

Note: The athlete may also attend any or all future conferences, but is not required to attend unless requested by the parent or coach.

#### **Step Two – Parent and Coach**

- A. The parent asks for a conference.
- B. This conference must not take place during or immediately after a contest, especially on the field or court.
- C. The coach will make every attempt to set up a meeting within 48 hours of the request. If the meeting is delayed beyond this time frame, the athletic director may be contacted to help set up the meeting.

**Step Three – Parent, Coach and Athletic Director**

- A. If the conference between the parent/athlete and coach does not resolve the concern, there will be a meeting set up by the athletic director that will include the athlete, parent, coach and athletic director. The athletic director will moderate the conference.
- B. The conference will deal with the specific issues that the parent/athlete have. All parties will be allowed to speak in an uninterrupted manner.

**Step Four – Parent, Coach, Athletic Director and Principal**

If the issues are not resolved in step three, all parties concerned will meet with the principal to discuss the issues. Parents are requested to provide the following in writing, to the principal, in advance of the meeting:

- A. Nature of the concern/complaint.
- B. What has been discussed at previous meetings, what has been resolved, and what still needs to be addressed.
- C. The specific actions or resolutions that are being requested.

**Step Five – Formal Complaint Procedure**

If the above process does not resolve the concerns that the athlete or parents have, the athlete and parent will have the option to follow the district's formal complaint policy by obtaining a complaint form from the district office.

**RESPONSIBILITIES OF ATHLETES**

The privilege of participating in the Edgerton Middle School athletic program is extended to all boys and girls providing they are willing to assume certain responsibilities and are in good standing with the middle school office. The athlete's greatest responsibility is to be a credit to his/her parents, school and community. Therefore, it is required that the athlete:

1. Display high standards of social behavior.
2. Display outstanding sportsmanship.
3. Display proper respect for those in authority, including teachers, coaches and officials.
4. Display a real spirit of cooperation.
5. Dress with special care when attending a contest.
6. Use language which is socially acceptable.

**STUDENT/ATHLETE GUIDELINES**

1. All athletes are to refrain from the use and/or possession of alcohol, tobacco, other intoxicants, drugs and drug paraphernalia (not prescribed by a physician) at any time while a student. Attendance at a party where alcoholic beverages or controlled substances are being consumed or used will be considered a violation of this rule. Attendance at weddings, graduation and/or other family events is exempt when parents or guardians are hosting the event and adults are in attendance. This does not, however, allow students to consume and/or be in possession of alcohol, tobacco, other intoxicants, drugs and drug paraphernalia. If an athlete attends a party where alcohol beverages or controlled substances are being consumed or used, the student must leave immediately. To remain in the presence of this illegal activity shall constitute a violation of the code of conduct.

If an athlete was present for any time at a party where alcohol beverages and/or controlled substances are being consumed or used, the student must report this to his/her head coach.

Note: Athletes should encourage as many classmates as possible to leave with them.

If an athlete hosts a party where alcoholic beverages or controlled substances are being consumed or used the disciplinary action/penalty for the athletic code violation will be doubled.

2. Possession, use or being under the influence of alcohol, tobacco products, drugs or drug paraphernalia on school grounds, during a school related activity and/or on District sponsored transportation to and from school by an athlete carries an automatic one-year suspension from athletics for the first offense and a career suspension for a second offense.
3. Athletes shall refrain from engaging in criminal misconduct including, but not limited to acts that are considered felonies and misdemeanors. The juvenile status of the student and/or the consequences assigned by the courts and legal system are independent of the school's athletic consequences. In other words, admission or verification that a student has committed an act of criminal misconduct is sufficient cause for the school to take action regardless of court actions taken. Criminal misconduct behavior is subject to review by the athletic director and/or administration and may require an Athletic Council hearing to determine an appropriate consequence for the athlete. However, a consequence for criminal misconduct shall not be less than the school's normal consequence for that step on the athletic code.
4. Cyber Image Policy: Any identifiable image, photo or video which implicates a student athlete to have been in possession or presence of alcohol and/or drugs, shall be investigated as a violation of the Athletic Code.
5. An athlete who is suspended (in-school or out-of-school) from school may not participate in any practice or contest during the suspension. If the suspended athlete does not miss a contest during the suspension from school, the athlete will be suspended from the first contest following reinstatement. (Suspensions are not considered in an athlete's accumulated violation total.)

## CONSEQUENCES FOR GUIDELINE VIOLATIONS

Violations of the Student/Athlete Guidelines are cumulative throughout the athlete's middle school enrollment. Violations of the Student/Athlete Guidelines will result in the athlete being subject to the following:

1. **First Offense** – The athlete will be suspended for two games.
2. **Second Offense** – The athlete will be suspended for four games..
3. **Third Offense** – The athlete will be removed from the team for the remainder of that season.

Please note the special consequences for violations of Item 2 under the Student/Athlete Guidelines section.

Violations of Items 1 and 2 under Student/Athlete Guidelines also require that the athlete's name be given to the AODA coordinator.

The AODA coordinator may interview the athlete to determine if the athlete requires outside intervention.

Outside intervention may include:

1. Regular visits with the AODA coordinator.
2. Participation in a support or informational group.

3. Formal assessment or diagnosis by an outside agency.
4. Entry into a specified treatment program.
5. Other: AA, Al-Anon or Alateen.

An athlete may not regain eligibility until the athletic director receives a statement from the AODA coordinator indicating the athlete has been interviewed and is in compliance and following the AODA coordinator's recommendations.

Athletes are encouraged to self-refer to the AODA coordinator if concerned about their use of alcohol or other drugs and will not face any loss of eligibility. However, if self-referral appears to be an attempt to intentionally avoid violation consequences, then the AODA coordinator will request that the athletic director submit the self-referral to an Athletic Council. The Athletic Council will determine the appropriate course of action. All self-referrals will remain confidential from parents, teachers, coaches and the administration.

If a first or second violation occurs during a season in which the athlete is participating, the violator may not withdraw from regular practice sessions. If the athlete withdraws from practice or quits the sport, the consequences outlined in Consequences for Guideline Violations will be imposed during the next sport season in which the athlete competes.

#### Honesty Clause:

1. The athlete shall be truthful.
2. The athlete shall be forthcoming with information.
3. The athlete shall not be deceptive.
4. The athlete shall be cooperative.

If an Edgerton School District administrator has a reasonable suspicion that a specific athlete may have violated the District's Code of Conduct, he/she may question the 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 the student's answer is subsequently found to be untrue, disciplinary action/penalty will be doubled.

#### Self-Referral

If a student has violated the Athletic Code, he/she is required to inform his/her coach and/or the administration immediately. If the athlete fails to do so, disciplinary action/penalty will be doubled.

#### Code of Conduct Violations Reinstatement

All students must seek reinstatement after any code 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 athletic director and head coach. The letter should include the understanding of why they were suspended, how they plan to remain in good standing and the benefits for the student to return to competitive performance.

3. The student must make a verbal apology to the team and re-sign the Athletic Code of Conduct.

**Suspensions that are not completed in a sport season will be prorated for completion in the next season in which the athlete competes.**

Students who are serving an athletic suspension must finish that specific sport season in good standing for which they are serving the suspension for the suspension to be counted. For example, a student may not go out for a fall sport with the sole intention of serving the suspension in the fall and then quitting the fall team before the season is over to avoid serving the suspension for the winter sport season.

**DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES**

It is the expectation that students be truthful and forthcoming when evidence of a possible violation by an athlete or athletes of the Student/Athlete Guidelines is made known to the athletic director and/or administration. These steps will be followed:

1. The athlete or athletes implicated will be interviewed individually by the athletic director and/or administration to discuss the possible violations.
2. The athletic director and/or administration will make a determination that the athlete either has or has not committed a violation. If the violation is alcohol, tobacco or drug related, the appropriate suspension will be enforced. If the violation is for criminal misconduct or other reason, the athletic director will schedule an Athletic Council hearing to determine the appropriate consequence.
3. If a student has violated the Athletic Code and the student has not self-referred to his/her coach and/or the middle school administration, the disciplinary action will be doubled.
4. If it is determined that a violation has been committed by the athlete, the athlete's parents/guardians will be notified of the violation by the athletic director.
5. An athlete may appeal the decision of the athletic director and/or administration to an Athletic Council. The athlete will not be eligible to participate in a scheduled athletic contest until the Athletic Council hearing has been concluded and a decision has been made. The athletic director will schedule an Athletic Council hearing as soon as reasonably possible.
6. The athlete has the right to appeal the decision of the Athletic Council to the Board of Education by notifying the athletic director and district administrator in writing within seven (7) calendar days of the Athletic Council's decision. Consequences imposed by the Athletic Council will not be set aside while the athlete is waiting for the School Board to hear his/her appeal.

**ATHLETIC COUNCIL**

An Athletic Council shall have the authority to review and hear cases involving violations of the Student/Athlete Guidelines. The Athletic Council shall not be required nor have the authority to review discipline imposed by coaches, teachers and administrators of the Edgerton School District.

1. If an athlete requests or is required to appear before an Athletic Council, all affected parties will be notified of the infraction and the date and time of the Athletic Council hearing.

2. The Athletic Council will consist of the athletic director and the principal. The coach of the sport in which the athlete is involved may be in attendance.
3. The Athletic Council will hear each case individually. After hearing all information, the Athletic Council will vote on the appropriate consequence and inform the athlete of its decision.
4. A written report of the Athletic Council's decision will be prepared by the athletic director. Copies of the report will be sent to the athlete's parents/guardians, coach, principal and the district administrator's office to be kept on file.

### **ATHLETIC EQUIPMENT**

1. One of the values of athletics is to teach responsibility, and this should be applied to the care of athletic equipment as well as other school property. We hope every athlete will take pride in the fine facilities and equipment the people of Edgerton School District have provided.
2. The athletic department in conjunction with the school, attempts to provide the best and safest equipment money can buy. Each year a major portion of the equipment is thoroughly cleaned through reconditioning to ensure maximum protection to our athletes. We demand that each athlete take excellent care of this equipment.
3. The original equipment issued to an athlete must be returned at the close of the season. If equipment needs repair or if a change in size is required, the manager or coach should be requested to make the change on the athlete's equipment inventory roster.
4. Each athlete will be financially responsible for any lost or misplaced equipment. Deliberate mutilation of school property will be charged in full to the athlete. An athlete must hand in all equipment, or pay for any lost equipment before he/she is eligible to practice or play in the next sport season.
5. Any student athlete in possession of stolen equipment from Edgerton Middle School or other schools will be subject to dismissal from any Edgerton Middle School athletic team. Coaches are expected to enforce this policy.

### **NOTICE**

Parent/Guardian:

The health and safety of your student while participating in athletics is of great importance to the Edgerton School District. As a result, a system has been set up to deal with ill and/or injured athletes. If your student should become ill or injured while involved with athletics. The following steps will be taken on behalf of your student:

1. If your student has a minor illness/injury, the following action will be taken:
  - First aid will be provided according to school approved procedures.
  - Your student will be returned to practice/game if he/she is all right.
2. If your student is unable to return to practice/game because of illness or injury, the following steps will be taken:
  - First aid will be provided according to school approved procedures.
  - Coach or school personnel will contact you to inform you of why your student did not participate.

- When appropriate, you will be requested to make arrangements to have your student transported from school. If you cannot be reached, an emergency contact will be called.
  - If the emergency contact cannot be reached, your student will be kept with the team and continued attempts made to reach you or the emergency contact.
3. If your student is in need of immediate medical attention, the following steps will be taken:
- First aid will be rendered according to school approved procedures.
  - Transportation to a medical facility will be arranged for your student.
  - A coach or school personnel will contact you or the emergency contact to inform you of your student's need for medical care. In order for this system to work, we need your cooperation to ensure that telephone numbers are accurate.

If you have any questions or concerns about these guidelines, please contact your student's coach.