

La Conner School District Extra- Curricular Student Participation Policy

This policy applies to all students participating in any extracurricular activities sponsored by the La Conner School District and the Washington Interscholastic Activities Association (WIAA). These groups include but are not limited to sport teams, sport team support personnel, cheerleaders, ASB and class officers, academic teams as well as band, chorus and drama participants. **At the beginning of each season, the teacher/coach(es) shall review the requirements of the La Conner Extra-curricular Policy with all athletes/participants on his/her team or class roster. Attendance at this meeting will be required and a record of attendance kept on file in the athletic office of La Conner High School.** Students and parents are required to *read and sign this document* and meet WIAA requirements.

Philosophy

The community of La Conner is proud of its athletic and activities programs. We encourage all students to be involved, while keeping in mind that participation in these programs is a privilege. La Conner students participating in sports and other school sponsored activities must demonstrate consistently high standards of academic performance as well as positive ethical and legal behaviors both inside and outside the school.

Terms of Enforcement

The Athletic Director, principals and coaches shall enforce this policy from the beginning date of a season or activity to the beginning date of the next season or activity. ***For example an athlete who participates in a fall sport or activity is held to this policy from the first turnout of the fall till the first turnout of the next sport or activity in which he/she chooses to participate.***

Washington Interscholastic Activities Association (W.I.A.A.) Requirements

- 1) Prior to the first practice session, and in order to ensure the ongoing physical welfare of the athletes, it is imperative that evidence be given to the Athletic Director of the following:
 - A) Student physical fitness exam by a qualified health professional
 - B) Proof of health insurance
- 2) Additional W.I.A.A. rules must be followed regarding eligibility, previous semester requirements, transfer, sportsmanship, season length and the appropriate use of school equipment. W.I.A.A. requirements are covered in detail in the W.I.A.A. handbook available for review in the Athletic Director's office or on the W.I.A.A. website.

Accommodations/Modifications Under 504 Plans and I.D.E.A.

Modifications or accommodations to this policy may be made for any students eligible for services under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 or the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) or for any student otherwise identified. A committee consisting of the following individuals: coach, teachers(s), counselor, principal and/or the director of special services or their designees will determine any modifications/ accommodations to procedures for eligibility to this policy. This group will discuss the nature of the handicapping condition and design appropriate modifications or accommodations. The fundamental principal to guide decisions is that the essential character of the sport/activity and of this policy must be maintained by all who participate. The Athletic Director and principal will oversee and evaluate the implementation of each accommodation plan.

School Attendance and Athletic Events/Activities Students must attend at least one half of a school day in order to participate in the same day extracurricular event or activity: Any partial absence must be excused under the school attendance policy as defined in the student handbook. In the case of extreme unforeseen circumstances exceptions to this rule may be considered at the discretion of the building principal and/or Athletic Director.

Academic Ineligibility

School sponsored activities must support and not compete with the academic focus of the school. To ensure that students are meeting their academic responsibilities:

1) The principal and/or Athletic Director will conduct academic eligibility checks for all participants in school-sponsored activities/events. These checks using the current quarter grades *and* current semester grades will be completed every two weeks during the sport/activity season according to a published calendar. Students, parents and coaches will be notified by the principal or athletic director of extracurricular ineligibility due to academic deficiencies. Reversal of ineligibility is the responsibility of the individual student and requires approval by the principal.

2) Conditional academic ineligibility from school-sponsored activities will be instituted for students who

- a. Receive an "F" grade in any class.
- b. Fall below a 2.0 grade point average.

Ineligibility from competition (and team travel) will result if the student receives two or more failing grades *or* if a failing grade in any given class remains after two weeks of study table.

****All athletes with conditional eligibility or ineligibility will be required to document a minimum of three hours of study table each week of academic deficiency.

3) The suspension becomes effective at 1:00 p.m. on the Tuesday following the Friday grade check and lasts seven calendar days. In order to regain eligibility, the student must prove that he/she has met the academic standards set forth above by bringing printout of current grades to the principal or athletic director proving that he/she has met the standard he/she will regain eligibility.

4) If **extremely difficult** extenuating circumstances occur (for example extended illness or family emergency) the principal may approve and monitor a student-initiated action plan developed by the student and teacher. When the principal judges that adequate progress has been made the student may have eligibility re-instated.

Ineligibility Due to Illegal Substance Use

La Conner School District recognizes that chemical use and dependency are serious medical and legal issues that affect school performance, student safety and often require outside intervention. The following specific expectations apply:

- 1) Abstain from drinking any alcoholic beverages in and out of school.
- 2) Abstain from using any form of tobacco in and out of school.
- 3) Abstain from using all controlled substances, illegal drugs, legend drugs and steroids.

***Please note: a student at an event or activity outside their own family event (wedding, etc.) at which alcoholic beverages or illegal substances are evident must leave immediately or be subject to consequences of code violations.

Consequences for Use of Tobacco and Alcohol

Criteria for violations: Students who have, in the judgment of the principal, to have been in possession of, used, shared or delivered alcohol or tobacco will be subject to the following sanctions:

First Violation: Ineligible for competition or scheduled activities for a minimum of 14 days. If an athlete meets all requirements of steps 1-3 below, he/she *may* appeal the length of the ineligibility and *may* be granted eligible status after seven calendar days.

Required steps to regain eligibility:

- 1) The student will undergo mandatory assessment through an outside agency at his/her own

expense.

- 2) The student and parent guardian will sign a “release of information form” allowing the school access to the recommendations of the evaluation and proof of treatment.
- 3) The student and parent/guardian will share the evaluation and treatment recommendations with the principal. Should the student fail to follow through on the recommendations he/she will be restricted from further participation in the activity until the recommendations are being followed to the satisfaction of the principal.

Second Violation: Suspension from all extracurricular activities for the remainder of the school year.

Required steps to regain eligibility:

- 1) The student will undergo mandatory assessment through an outside agency at his/her own expense.
- 2) The student and parent guardian will sign a “release of information form” allowing the school access to the recommendations of the evaluation and proof of treatment.
- 3) The student and parent/guardian will share the evaluation and treatment recommendations with the principal. Should the student fail to follow through on the recommendations he/she will be restricted from further participation in the activity until the recommendations are being followed to the satisfaction of the principal.

Consequences for Use of Controlled Substances, Illegal Drugs and/or Legend Drugs

Criteria for violations: Students who have, in the judgment of the principal, to have used, shared or delivered controlled substances, illegal drugs and/or legend drugs will be subject to the following sanctions: (Note: The following outlines the accumulative consequences for students in grades 9-12 as defined in section 18.22.2 in the W.I.A.A. handbook)

First Violation

A participant shall be immediately ineligible for interscholastic competition in the current sport or activity for the remainder of the season.

Required steps to regain eligibility:

- 1) The student will undergo mandatory assessment through an outside agency at his/her own expense. The student and parent guardian will sign a “release of information form” allowing the school access to the recommendations of the evaluation and to proof of treatment. The student and parent/guardian will share the evaluation and treatment recommendations with the principal.
- 2) The student is urged to seek help for his/her substance use problem using community resources (these may include counseling services, Alcoholics Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous, etc.) Utilization of treatment may allow the student to have eligibility reinstated in the athletic program, pending recommendation by the school eligibility board.
(See below)
- 3) Ineligibility shall continue until the next season in which the student chooses to participate. In order to be eligible to participate in the next season or activity, the student shall present his/her plan of improvement to the school eligibility board consisting of the athletic director, principal and a coach to request approval to participate. The board shall make the final decision on the action to be taken in the student’s case. The school principal shall have final authority as to the student’s eligibility for participation.
- 4) The student is required to undergo at least one random drug test during the remainder of the school year. Failure of the random drug test will constitute a second violation of this code.

Second Violation

A participant shall be ineligible for extracurricular activities and competitions for a period of

one calendar year from the date of the second violation.

Third Violation

A participant shall be permanently ineligible for extracurricular activities and competitions.

Note: Sale or delivery of controlled substances, illegal drugs and/or legend drugs will constitute a step 2 violation of the activities code.

Engaging in Criminal Activity: (excluding using, supplying and possessing illegal drugs and alcohol)

First Violation: Ineligible for a minimum of 14 days

Second Violation: Ineligible for the remainder of the season

Third Violation: Ineligible permanently for participation in activities and competitions.

Inter-local Law Enforcement/School Communication

Student participants waive all rights precluding all shared communication between the La Conner Schools, the Skagit County Sheriff's Department, the Swinomish Tribal Police and other law enforcement officials. This is intended to hold students accountable for illegal behavior under the provisions of this activity participation policy and to assist school officials in fair enforcement of the policy.

Appeals of Ineligibility

Appeals should be submitted to the principal and/or Athletic Director in a letter outlining procedural errors or mitigating circumstances. The decision of the principal may be appealed to the superintendent for resolution and finally the Board of Directors.

Coach/Advisor Expectations

1) While ineligible student participation in practice will be solely at the discretion of the coach or advisor. Students suspended from one activity during a season may not participate in another activity in the same season.

2) Coaches/advisors may set rules augmenting this activities code. The athletic director and/or coaches at the start of the season will review these coaches' rules. Students are expected to abide by the coaches/advisors rules as well as the activities code during the season.

Sportsmanship

W.I.A.A. policy prohibits unsportsman-like conduct during contests and events.

First Violation: Student participants exhibiting such behavior will be removed from the game and suspended from the following contest.

Second Violation: Suspension for the remainder of the season.

I have read, understand and intend to abide by the rules governing extracurricular activity eligibility in the La Conner School District.

Student Name (printed): _____

Student Signature _____ Date _____

I have read and understand the requirements and consequences pertaining to the student for whom I am responsible.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date _____

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