



Athletic Handbook

2026-2027

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Philosophy Statement

The School Board, administrators and faculty agree athletic and co-curricular activities are an important part of a student's school career. Athletic activities offer learning experiences and competitive opportunities in addition to those in the classroom. Every student is encouraged to participate.

The goal of the Athletic Department is that athletics be an enriching and healthful experience in which physical, mental and social growth occurs through an interscholastic program.

Participating in athletics at Phillips School District is entirely voluntary. Student-athletes are required to follow the rules and regulations as outlined in the Athletic Handbook. Participation in athletics is a privilege that can be revoked.

After reading the handbook, should you have any questions don't hesitate to call the 6-12 Office at 715-339-2141.

Philosophy Regarding Coaching and Student Participation

The interscholastic athletic program is an integral part of the educational process that promotes sportsmanship, citizenship, and competition, and is open to all interested and eligible students. Emphasis on competition will increase as players move from the freshmen level to the varsity level. A policy of wide participation is endorsed. There may be a selection process (try-outs) for the students involved in athletics which will be determined by the respective head coach. Before cuts can be made in a sport they must be approved by the building principal and athletic director. At the high school level, the head coach determines the philosophy and patterns for other coaches to follow in terms of such things as techniques, player development, playing time, etc. (Board Policy 2431)

Nondiscrimination Policy

The School District of Phillips shall not discriminate in student participation in athletic programs or activities, standards and rules of behavior, disciplinary actions or facility usage on the basis of sex, race, national origin, ancestry, creed, religion, pregnancy, marital parental status, sexual orientation or physical, mental, emotional or learning disability.

Eligibility

1. A high school student must be under the age of 19 before August 1 of each school year.
2. A student may not participate in a sport outside of school at the same time as they are participating in that sport in school.
3. Each school year, all participating students must submit the following prior to receiving any equipment or participating in any practice sessions:
 - a. WIAA physical examination card or alternate year card (filled out completely).
 - b. A statement signed by both student and parents indicating an understanding of the athletic code and the WIAA High School Athletic Eligibility Information Bulletin (ParentSquare form).
 - c. A student may only be on one WIAA eligibility list per season.

Academics

Academic Eligibility

1. No student may have an “F” grade in ANY subject (including assistantships, online, and independent study courses) during a grade reporting period.
 - a. Grade reporting period – final grades at the end of each semester during the school year.
 - b. Any student who receives an “F” for any grading period will be ineligible for 15 school days during which time the grades will be reviewed.
 - i. The student will be placed on “Academic Suspension”.
 - ii. If the student has no “F” grades after 15 school days, the students will regain full athletic eligibility on the 16th school day.
 - iii. If the student has an “F” grade in any subject at the end of 15 school days, the student will remain on “Academic Suspension” until the student’s grade(s) is raised to passing.
 1. Documentation from all teachers will be required.
2. No student may have an “F” grade in any subject when monthly progress reports are generated on the first school day of each month starting in October.
 - a. If any student has an “F” grade in any subject at that time:
 - i. The student will be placed on “Academic Probation” for 5 school days.
 1. If the “F” grade(s) are raised to passing after 5 school days, the student will be removed from “Academic Probation”.
 2. If the “F” grade(s) are not raised to passing after 5 days, the student will be placed on “Academic Suspension” until the grade(s) are raised to passing.
 - a. Documentation from all teachers will be required.
3. Academic Probation
 - a. Student is eligible to practice with the team.
 - b. Student is eligible to compete with the team and travel to away contests.
4. Academic Suspension
 - a. Student is allowed to practice with the team (with the coach’s permission).
 - b. Student is expected to attend all home games and sit with the team.
 - c. Student will not be allowed to travel with the team or get out of any class time.
 - d. Student will not be allowed to participate in any contests.
5. Fall Sports: Per the WIAA, the ineligibility status will be adjusted as follows for students in fall sports in which the date of the earliest allowed competition is before the first day students are in class.
 - a. The minimum ineligibility period shall be the lesser of:
 - i. 21 consecutive calendar days beginning with the date of the earliest allowed competition in a sport or

- ii. 1/3 of the maximum number of contests allowed in a sport.
6. The principal working collaboratively with the athletic director will exercise discretion developing academic improvement plans in extenuating circumstances.

Academic Dishonesty

It is expected that all students will do their own work. A student athlete who cheats, or helps others to cheat, on an assignment, test, or class project during a sports season, will be ineligible for the next upcoming contest for which he/she is eligible (i.e. football season, basketball season, etc.) For second and subsequent offenses, the violation would be treated as a code violation (conduct unbecoming an athlete), subject to penalties outlined under the Consequences section of this handbook.

The following additional rules also relate to academic eligibility:

- A. Any incompletes must be made up in accordance with District policy.
- B. Middle school grades will not carry over when determining academic eligibility for incoming freshmen.
- C. Students are responsible for any school work missed due to co-curricular activities. Students are expected to make every effort to contact the instructor prior to the absence.

Attendance

Students are required to be in **full attendance on the day of a contest to be eligible** for participation on that day. If this requirement cannot be met due to a family emergency, a medical/dental appointment or school-related activity, participants must get approval from the Athletic Director or the building principal in order to play on that day. A note from a physician's office is considered approved. If a parent excused absence is used, students must be in attendance for at least periods 4-7. If the absence is unexcused, students will not be able to participate in a contest that day. Participants who are suspended (in school or out-of-school suspension) for any reasons may not participate in any way in a practice or a contest, nor travel until officially reinstated, which is on the day following completion of the suspension. Students will need to be excused early from class to attend some events. Students are expected to remain in their classes until they are permitted to leave. Students will not be excused early to do other personal tasks prior to leaving for the event.

Unexcused Tardies After 3 tardies during a season, the student will meet with the Athletic Director and speak with the parent/guardian about the attendance concerns. They will also miss the next scheduled practice for all tardies thereafter.

Travel and Conduct on Trips

- A. Athletes should use the mode of transportation approved by the school. An athlete who travels to a site with a school team should return with the team. There are two exceptions to this rule. First, for parents/guardians who make personal contact with the coach and sign a release form to transport their son or daughter home from an out-of-town athletic contest. Second, students are allowed to ride home with other adults if their parents have completed and signed the contest travel release form, and the principal/athletic director has approved.
- B. Student athletes are responsible for cleaning up garbage and other debris which results from eating on school buses or other school- provided transportation.
- C. It is expected that students will conduct themselves in an appropriate manner on school sponsored trips and follow all rules imposed by the coach and/or bus driver. It is important that all of our students understand that they represent their schools and community to the general public. Additional rules and consequences are listed in the student handbook.
- D. Athletes whose event/practice takes place at the athletic field by the bus garage (football field/track), the playing field south of the former elementary school (Memorial

Field), and Forward Park Complex, and the PHS/PhMS fields will walk to and from those sites. Athletes are expected to obey pedestrian laws while moving from the high school to one of the listed sites. The athletic department will attempt to schedule transportation whenever possible/practical for home contests at the sites listed above.

Athletic Policies

- A. **Enforcement** - The Phillips High School Athletic Code will be enforced from the first day of practice or date of signing, for a period of 12 consecutive months. For students who participate in at least one sport each school year, the code applies during their entire high school experience.
- B. **Suspension** - A student athlete who is suspended from school shall miss his/her next contest. The student athlete will not be allowed to practice while serving a school suspension.
- C. **Academic or Code Violation Sanctions** - Any student athlete who is suspended from participation will not be allowed to miss school time to travel with the team to away games until the suspension has been served.
 - a. Any student athlete who is under academic or training rule suspension will not be allowed to wear the uniform for games during their suspension period but may be with the team at a game. During the suspension period, the coach will decide the status of the student athlete regarding practice.
- D. **Appearance** - Student athletes will be responsible for being clean and well-groomed on and off the field.
- E. **Communicating the Code to Parents and Athletes** – Prior to the start of the fall, winter, and spring athletic seasons coaches will conduct meetings with student athletes to review the Athletic Code. It will be the responsibility of each head coach to explain to his/her team any sport-specific modifications of the code. Ultimately, however, it is the student's responsibility to know and understand the policies of the athletic code. Athletes and their parents must sign an athletic code each year.
- F. **Equipment** - Any school equipment that is issued must be returned or paid for before a student may participate in his/her next sport or receive awards in the current sport. Anyone possessing equipment that has not been issued to him/her will face athletic department action and may be referred to small claims court.
- G. **Injury** - All sports participation injuries (no matter how minor), other than emergencies (injuries which require immediate medical attention), must be reported immediately to the coach and to the 6-12 office by the athlete and/or parent/guardian. The coach will fill out an accident report.

- H. **Insurance** - As part of recent budget reductions, the school district no longer pays for this coverage. Coverage is, however, available through the school district for those who wish to purchase it.
- I. **Doctors Clearance** - Whenever an athlete receives medical treatment for any reason (illness, injury etc.), a note signed by the attending physician giving medical clearance for continued athletic participation must be on file in the high school office, in order for the athlete to return to practice. No exceptions.
- J. **Discipline** - Recognition is given that discipline is an essential part of the learning process; therefore, each coach may establish rules in addition to those stated to ensure an atmosphere conducive to the sport. Any additional rules may not preclude any code of conduct or WIAA rules. These rules must be submitted to the athletic director and principal in writing and pre-approved prior to their introduction to the team at large. Character and leadership development will be emphasized in season. The Coaching Female Athletes and Coaching Boys Into Men curricula may be utilized. If questions or concerns regarding participation in these training arise, parents should contact the athletic director.
- K. **Athletes** will follow the practice plan and expectations which are developed by the school-sanctioned coach.
- L. **Review** - The athletic code will be subject to review annually.

Code Violations

The following are violations of the athletic code:

- A. Purchase, possession, or use of alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs.
- B. Purchase, possession, or use of look-alike drugs on school property or at school sponsored events.
- C. Purchase, possession, or use of tobacco and related products such as e-cigarettes/Juuls.
- D. Insubordination, illegal acts or conduct contrary to the principles and standards of the School District of Phillips (conduct unbecoming of an athlete).
- E. Violation of Federal Law, Wisconsin Statutes, County and Municipal Ordinances.
 - a. DNR, motor vehicle, and traffic violations which are not criminal offenses and not alcohol or drug related will not be considered code violations (example: speeding).
- F. Presence at a gathering of individuals who the athlete knows are illegally consuming alcohol or using drugs.

THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PHILLIPS STRONGLY DISCOURAGES THE USE OF ANY DRUG, MEDICATION, OR FOOD SUPPLEMENT SOLELY FOR PERFORMANCE-ENHANCING PURPOSES.

Reporting and Administration Procedures for Code Violations

- A. Athletic code violation may be observed or reported by administration, faculty, parents, students, or community members. When appropriate, as determined by the athletic director, the anonymity of the informant will be maintained.
- B. The athlete and his/her parents(s)/guardian(s) will be notified of the alleged violation within two days of receipt of the report by the athletic director. The athletic director shall interview the athlete and/or his/her parent(s)/guardian(s) not later than two days after the preceding notice.
- C. Upon conclusion of the interview and after such other and further investigation and inquiry as the athletic director deems appropriate, the athletic director shall issue his/her decision whether the athlete violated a code provision. The athletic director shall determine and impose the appropriate consequence if a violation is found to have occurred. The athletic director shall be the sole finder of fact.

Consequences

Participation in interscholastic athletics is considered co-curricular. Failure to abide by the established rules will result in withdrawal of the privilege to participate. Violations of the code of conduct will be dealt with in the procedures that follow:

Honesty Option Reduction

Student athletes who admit to violations voluntarily when questioned for the first time during the interview will receive a lesser consequence compared to those who do not cooperate or attempt to deceive school officials during the first interview. Additionally, student athletes who report their violations to the athletic director or principal of their own volition could, at the discretion of the athletic director or principal, have their suspensions reduced by another contest. The honesty option reduction is available on the first offense of the athletic code only!

1. First Offense
 - a. Suspension from 1/3 of the interscholastic season.
 - b. A student athlete who used the honesty option will have the suspension reduced by 50%.
 - c. If the violation is for a drug or alcohol offense, the student athlete must enroll in the PAL Program for as long as the program coordinator deems appropriate.
2. Second Offense
 - a. Suspension from 1/2 of the interscholastic season.
 - b. If the violation is for a second drug or alcohol offense, it is required that the student athlete have a chemical assessment by an approved non-school AODA counseling agency. The student athlete must cooperatively participate and complete the treatment program that the agency recommends prior to regaining eligibility to participate in an athletic program.
3. Third Offense
 - a. Suspension from interscholastic athletics for 12 consecutive months from the date of the offense.
 - b. The student athlete will meet with the administration to determine appropriate procedures for re-admittance to the athletic program.
4. Fourth Offense
 - a. Suspension from interscholastic athletics for 12 consecutive months from the date of the offense.
 - b. The student athlete will meet with the administration to determine appropriate procedures for re-admittance to the athletic program.

Two Year Forgiveness

Athletic code offenses are cumulative. However, if a two-year time period has elapsed since the calendar date of the first offense, the student athlete will then have a clean slate. This does NOT

apply to any athlete receiving their second violation.

Increased Consequences for Serious Violations

- A. If a student commits an act in violation of the athletic code which would be classified under Wisconsin state law or federal law as a felony or Class A misdemeanor, or which in the sole discretion of the athletic director is so serious that additional (increased) consequences are warranted, the athletic director may impose additional (increased) consequences including, but not limited to additional and increased suspension periods. These consequences are solely within the discretion of the athletic director.
- B. The consequences imposed pursuant to this section shall supersede all other consequences and shall not be subject to the “Honesty Option Reduction” and “Two Year Forgiveness”.
- C. The consequences imposed pursuant to this section are subject to the appeal procedure set forth in Appendix A.

Suspensions

Suspension will be rounded to the nearest whole number of contests. Any suspension not completed in one sport will carry over to the next sport. A student athlete must complete a sport in order to satisfy the requirement of a suspension. Any suspension carried into a state tournament series will result in the athlete being ineligible for the entire tournament.

Consequences for violations that occur while an athlete is already serving a suspension will result in the additional suspension being imposed after the current suspension is completed.

A student who is injured and is not medically approved to participate cannot begin to serve an athletic suspension until after they have been medically cleared.

Athletic Awards and Letter Requirements

Athletic Awards

1. First Season Awards
 - a. Qualifying athletes will receive a varsity letter and pin.
2. Second Season Awards
 - a. Numerals will be awarded to qualifying athletes. Seniors who transfer to Phillips will only have to letter once to get their numerals.

Chevrons will be awarded for qualifying athletes for each year they letter.

Bars will be awarded for each time lettering in a certain sport.

Note: Managers and trainers will follow the same procedures as listed above.

Letter Policy

1. Participate in one fourth of scheduled contests.
2. Finish the season in good standing.
3. A Senior who has been an active member of a program for 4 years will automatically letter with a maximum of one letter per season.
4. The coach may recommend special cases to the Athletic Board of Control for review.
 - a. Examples include injury, athletic code violations, attendance, academic suspensions, etc.

The following sports are not covered by the above letter policy due to their practice and schedule differences:

1. Swim Club
 - a. In addition to the Phillips Wave high school lettering requirements, high school swimmers must comply with the regulations in the Phillips High School Athletic Handbook. Athletes and their parents must sign an athletic code pledge and a waiver giving the coaches permission to verify grades and conduct with high school authorities. Athletes must participate in 6 of the 8 regular conference meets (see the coach for details about which meets will count toward the 6 meets).
2. Powerlifting
 - a. Lift in both meets.
 - b. May only miss one practice.
 - c. Finish the year in good standing.

- d. Special consideration at the coach's discretion.
- 3. Track
 - a. Finish the season in good standing.
 - i. Academically
 - ii. Athletic Code
 - iii. Attendance at Practice
 - b. Participate in 9 varsity events.
 - c. Cooperate with coaches by assisting with set up and storage of equipment.

Other Athletic Awards

- Carol Kurth Award
- Frank Zydzik Jr. Memorial Award
- James J. Slowey Award
- PHS Scholar Athlete
- Ray Lile Memorial Award
- VFW Auxiliary Award
- WIAA Scholar Athlete
- Sophomore Girls Basketball Award
- Senior Male and Female Sportsmanship Award
- Top Frosh Male and Female Award
- Senior Male and Female Award
- Top Senior Male Athlete
- Top Senior Female Athlete

Concussion Management Plan

A sports-related concussion is a type of brain injury that changes the way the brain normally works. It's caused by a bump, blow, or jolt to the head, or sometimes even a hard hit to the body that makes the brain move rapidly inside the skull, causing temporary changes in how it functions. Unlike a broken bone, you can't see a concussion on typical scans, but it does disrupt normal brain function. An athlete doesn't have to be "knocked out" to have a concussion; in fact, most don't lose consciousness. Symptoms can vary and might include things like headache, dizziness, feeling confused or "foggy" memory problems, or even changes in mood or behavior, and these might show up right away or days later. It's important to take any suspected concussion seriously and have your child evaluated by a medical professional before they return to play.

Wisconsin state law and WIAA rules require that any School District of Phillips student athlete who exhibits signs or symptoms that are consistent with a possible concussion be immediately removed from play and not be allowed to return to participation until they are evaluated by an appropriate medical provider who must provide written clearance to return to activity. Once that approval is received and consistent with the school's concussion management plan, the student athlete will then progress through the stepwise return to play protocol listed below.

Step 1: Symptom Limited Activity. Usually daily activities like walking, schoolwork, etc., that do not produce or increase symptoms.

Step 2: Aerobic Exercise. Light to moderate cycling, jogging or functional movement activities (symptom free).

Step 3: Individual sport specific exercise (away from the team environment).

Step 4: Non-contact training drills at full speed.

Step 5: Full contact practice.

Step 6: Return to game play

Note: Each step takes 24 hours to complete, provided symptoms do not increase or occur.

Each student athlete will be asked to complete a preseason baseline head injury symptom check list prior to participation. In the event that an athlete suffers a (potential) head injury, additional symptom checklists will be completed and compared to their pre-season symptom score to gauge their recovery and return to play readiness. Athletes with symptoms that linger or who suffer prolonged symptoms may (at the discretion of the treating health care professional) be referred for further medical evaluation by a concussion specialist.

Please feel free to contact the athletic director.

Concussion Education for Coaches

It is required that each year the school's administrative staff, coaches, Licensed Athletic Trainers, and the school's nurse shall review the concussion management plan and a copy of the CDC's "Heads Up: Concussion in High School Sports – A Guide for Coaches".

All coaches, administrative personnel, and school nurses shall complete training dealing with concussion, its signs, symptoms and management. This training shall be completed prior to August 1st. After August 1st the course shall be completed prior to working with student-athletes. The CDC, in partnership with the National Federation of State High School Associations, has developed a free web based course, "Concussion in Sports: What you need to know", to be used for this purpose.

Graded Symptom Checklist

The **Graded Symptom Checklist (GSC)** will help the **Athletic Training staff** and **Physician** document the recovery process following a concussion. It is vital accurate information is documented on the **GSC** to ensure the safety of the injured student-athlete and to make return-to-play decisions.

T=Time	D=Date	Symptom	T: D:	T: D:	T: D:	T: D:	T: D:
		Headache					
		"Pressure in the Head"					
		Neck Pain					
		Nausea / Vomiting					
		Dizziness					
		Blurred Vision					
		Balance problems					
		Sensitivity to light					
		Sensitivity to noise					
		Feeling slowed down					
		"Feeling in a fog"					
		"Don't feel right"					
		Difficulty concentrating					
		Difficulty remembering					
		Fatigue / low energy					
		Confusion					
		Drowsiness					
		Trouble falling asleep					
		Feeling more emotional					
		Irritability					
		Sadness					
		Nervous or anxious					
		Sleeping more than usual					
		Sleeping less than usual					
		Numbness or tingling					

Directions: Fill in the appropriate time and date for each symptom grading column. Provide individual input and ask the student-athlete to grade the severity of symptoms based on the following scale:

0=not present, 1=mild, 2=mild-moderate, 3=moderate, 4=moderate-severe, 5= severe, 6= most severe

Have the student-athlete return the GSC to the Athletic Training room the following day.

Appendix A

Appeal Procedure

If the athlete and/or the athlete's parents or guardian are not in agreement with the disciplinary action taken, the following procedure may be commenced:

- A. Written notice of an appeal must be submitted to the athletic director within 72 hours of the athletic director's decision. The appeal must be submitted on the "Appeal of Athletic Code Disciplinary Action" form and must include a legitimate basis for an appeal, facts in dispute, and the requested disposition. The Board of Control may, or may not, choose to hear the student appeal based upon factual information presented on the appeal form.
- B. Written notice of an appeal to any subsequent level must also be submitted on the proper form to the athletic director within 72 hours of the decision at any previous level of appeal. The principal, or school board, may or may not choose to hear the student appeal based upon factual information presented on the appeal form.
- C. If a hearing is conducted, it must be held within seven days of the athletic director's receipt of the written notice of appeal. The student and/or parent should present a legitimate basis for appeal, not simply to appeal for appeal's sake.

Order of Appeal

- 1. Athletic Director
- 2. Principal
- 3. Superintendent
- 4. Phillips School Board

Appendix B

WIAA Rules

You are not eligible:

1. If you have violated your status as an amateur athlete by:
 - a. Accepting any amount of money or any kind of usable merchandise
 - b. Signing a contract for your services as an athlete
 - c. Permitting your name, picture, or personal appearance to be used for promoting anything d.
 - d. Playing under another name
2. If you at any time have received an award of merchandise value such as a jacket, sweater, watch, billfold, etc., in recognition of your talent or accomplishment as an athlete. A student may receive an award which is symbolic (non-merchandise) in nature such as trophies, medals, ribbons, event T-shirts, etc.
3. If you participate in a contest other than for your official interscholastic school team while you are a member of that school team and during the entire school season (beginning of practice to end of season) of that sport. Exceptions may be made by adhering to the established WIAA procedures with the school's prior permission. See Athletic Director with request prior to participation.
4. If you and your parents do not live in the school district in which you attend school unless you have served one year of ineligibility or unless your residence situation has been approved by the WIAA office or unless you are an Open Enrollment student. Unless transfer is effective at the outset of a semester, a student cannot establish eligibility at his/her new school until the fifth calendar day of such transfer.
5. If you participate in any program outside of your school which can be considered by anyone as resembling a school team practicing or competing outside of the designated school season for that sport.
 - a. An acceptable program or activity is one which is not limited to students on the basis of a school affiliation, athletic experience, team status, etc.
 - b. It is not permissible for a student to wear a school uniform or other team apparel other than that during the designated school season of a sport.
 - c. There are not restrictions relative to voluntary assembling (without school/coach involvement) of students during the SUMMER.
6. If you let anyone besides your parents pay a fee for specialized training, like summer camp.

Additional WIAA Rules:

1. Coaches are allowed to use some or all of their athletes, as clinicians, when conducting a clinic for youngsters who have just completed 8th grade on down. This may be done for a maximum of six days during the summers (when school is not in session) and must conclude no later than the last Saturday in July.
2. A student, disqualified from a contest for flagrant or unsportsmanlike conduct, is suspended from interscholastic competition for no less than the next competitive event (but not less than one complete game or meet).
3. The minimum penalty for violations of the code of conduct as outlined in Section VI., which occur or are first known to have occurred after a school begins WIAA tournament competition, is immediate disqualification of the student for the remainder of the total tournament series in that sport.

For additional information, see the WIAA official handbook.

WIAA Rules of Eligibility

2026-2027 High School Athletic Eligibility Information

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 full-time 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:
 - a. (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.
 - b. (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).
 - c. (3) The compensation is not contingent on specific athletic performance or achievement (i.e. financial incentives based on points scored).
 - d. (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.
 - e. (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.
 - f. (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. 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).

- a. (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.
 - b. (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.
 - c. (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.***

PHILLIPS HIGH SCHOOL

Appeal of Athletic Code Disciplinary Action

Date: _____

Student: _____

Parent(s): _____

Basis for Appeal _____

Fact(s) in Dispute _____

Requested Disposition _____

The Phillips High School Athletic Director will decide whether or not the above information warrants conducting an appeal hearing on individual code violations.

Disposition of Appeal _____

School Representative

Date

Contest Travel Release Form

Date _____

This is to certify that _____ has my permission to ride

(to - from - both) the athletic contest on (date) _____ at (location of contest) _____.

The above-mentioned person will be riding with:

(name of person transporting athlete) _____

The reason for not riding the bus is:

I agree to release the School District of Phillips and its employees from all liability with reference to the above-stated transportation.

This form must be on file in the Athletic Office prior to the dismissal of school on the day of the contest. A copy of the completed form will be forwarded to the coach so they are aware of this release.

APPROVED - NOT APPROVED

Signature of Principal/Athletic Director

Signature of Guardian