

School District of Eleva-Strum
District Activities Policy

(Adopted July 12th, 2023)



Cardinal Athletics ... Creating Leaders!

FORWARD

The School District of Eleva-Strum offers a varied athletic program that provides a wide variety of experiences to its students. It is hoped that these activities will aid in the development of positive habits and attitudes in our students that will better prepare them for their future role as functioning adults in a diverse society.

The athletic program should function as an integral part of the school's total curriculum. It should offer opportunities for students to pursue and enhance their individual interests and talents. It should offer opportunities that promote self realization and total growth to each of its participants. It should also promote the development of sportsmanship, fellowship, citizenship, and self worth.

The opportunity for participation in various athletic activities is a vital part of a student's total educational experience. This participation is a privilege that does carry with it reasonable responsibilities for each of the students who choose to take part in one or more sports.

It is our intent that the parents/guardians of our student athletes not only know the regulations that will govern their son/daughter's participation, but also give their written approval for such participation.

The Eleva-Strum Athletic Code has been created to help each participant achieve his/her maximum potential while representing the school and community in a positive way. This code applies to athletes and managers of all sports. Throughout this code; athletes, managers, and dance members will be referred to as athletes.

Eleva-Strum athletes are expected to conform to the following code on a twelve month per year basis. This code applies to all students participating in Eleva-Strum athletics, grades 7 (6th grade students competing in Cross-Country, Track & Field, & Golf) through 12. The student activities policy shall govern all students in other co-curricular or extra curricular events.

Co-Curricular Activities	Performance Activities	Clubs/Organizations
Baseball Basketball (Boys & Girls) Cross-Country (Boys & Girls) Cheerleading Dance Football Golf Softball Track (Boys & Girls) Volleyball Wrestling	Band/Choir Trips FBLA FFA Forensics Marching Band Musical Quiz Bowl Skills USA	Archery Cardinal Mentors Courts/Royalty Eleva-Strum Honor Society SADD Student Council

ELIGIBILITY

As a member-school of the Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association (WIAA), the School District of Eleva-Strum will utilize the rules of eligibility set forth by the governing agency and local rules to determine individual eligibility.

- A. Full-time enrollment in the School District of Eleva-Strum, with the exception of administration approved home-schooled students.
- B. A current physical exam from or alternate year card to participate in athletic activities as determined by a licensed physician. The physical exam must be completed no earlier than April 1st of the preceding year for consideration for eligibility.
- C. An emergency medical form must be completed yearly.
- D. Athletic code of conduct contracts must be signed by the student and parent/guardian yearly.
- E. Receipt of WIAA health and safety related information.

ATTENDANCE

A student must be in school all day in all classes in order to compete in an athletic event or practice that day. Students will be allowed to participate if they have an excused absence, a medical appointment, or the absence has been pre-arranged with the Athletic Director or Principal. School attendance policies, as outlined in the student handbook, shall govern in athletics as well.

INVESTIGATIONS

Upon receipt of a reported violation, the Athletic Director and administration will make a determination as to the validity of the report. Any student alleged to have engaged in conduct which is in violation of the Code will be subject to the following procedures:

- A. The student's participation in the investigation procedure is expected. The student's refusal to answer questions pertaining to his/her violation may be used as a basis for a presumption that the student committed the alleged violation.
- B. The Athletic Director or administration may obtain information in regard to alleged violations of the Code in any reasonable manner, including an interview of a student alleged to have committed a violation and interviews of others who may have information about the alleged violation.
- C. A student will be determined to have a violation if any of the following have occurred:
 - a. The student admits the conduct constituting a violation.
 - b. The Athletic Director or administration obtains information, which in his/her judgment, demonstrates a preponderance of evidence that the student engaged in conduct constituting a violation.

When a suspension is assessed, the Athletic Director shall send a disciplinary referral to the parent(s)/guardian(s) informing them of the decision and the basis for it. A copy of the appeal process will be included.

GUIDELINES FOR CODE VIOLATIONS

All student athletes are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the Athletic Code on a year-round basis. Any information or evidence considered to be relevant, valid, and accurate by any person(s) reviewing a particular alleged violation shall be considered.

- A. IN SPORT ATHLETIC VIOLATION - suspension applied immediately.
- B. OUT OF SPORT ATHLETIC VIOLATION - suspension begins on the first day of practice.

- C. A student who is suspended for a code violation may have to forfeit all school awards for the activity season in which he/she was participating at the time of the infraction. It will be the decision of the Activities Director and Coaches to include or exclude a student who is suspended for a code violation from receiving school awards for the activity season in which he/she was participating at the time of the infraction.
- D. Penalties will be cumulative over a two (2) school year period. This is for determining second and third violation consequences. A student must have a clear record for (2) years consecutively before subsequent violations are considered a first violation.
- E. For athletics, student suspension will be based on WIAA games allowed guidelines and not necessarily on the number of games scheduled for that season. General rounding methods will apply to determine the total number of contests in which the athlete is suspended. (E.G. If a season consists of 14 total contests allowed by the WIAA and an athlete is suspended 20% of the total contests, the total number of contests suspended would be 2.8, this will be rounded to 3.0 and the athlete is suspended for 3 contests.)
 - a. **First Violation:** A first violation results in a suspension from athletic competition for a period of 20% of the contests based on the regular season of the sport. Any remaining percentage of that suspension not served shall be recalculated and applied to the next sport in which that athlete participates and completes. If the suspension carries over into the WIAA tournament series, the athlete will miss the entire tournament series. This clause pertains to team tournaments as well as the individual tournament series. Any student serving a penalty during a sport must remain in the sport in order for the penalty to be valid. If a student quits the sport any remaining percentage of that violation will carry over to the next season of participation. The student must undergo an initial AODA screening performed by the School District of Eleva-Strum AODA specialist, and may be subject to restorative practices assigned.
 - b. **Second Violation:** A second violation results in a suspension from athletic competition for a period of 50% of the contests based on the regular season of the sport. All other sanctions listed under the first violation apply to second violations as well. A student with two violations in the same season will serve his/her suspension consecutively, not concurrently. The student must undergo, at his/her expense, a certified AODA assessment performed by a community-based health organization/AODA treatment agency, along with any recommendations for a treatment or education program, which is prescribed by the assessors to confront the behaviors of use/abuse. The student will provide the Athletic Director with written certification of compliance with recommendations prior to any reinstatement of participation, and the student may be subject to restorative practices assigned.
 - c. **Third Violation:** The third violation results in loss of eligibility for all athletic events for one calendar year from the date of the third athletic code violation. If an athlete or participant has an additional offense(s) while already serving a year's suspension, then the one year suspension period will start over again dating from the time of the additional suspension(s). The student must undergo, at his/her expense, a certified AODA assessment performed by a community-based health organization/AODA treatment agency, along with any recommendations for a treatment or education program, which is prescribed by the assessors to confront the behaviors of use/abuse. The student will provide the Athletic Director with written certification of compliance with recommendations prior to any reinstatement of participation, and the student may be subject to restorative practices assigned. A student desiring to participate again after the third offense must

indicate his/her desire to that effect and must remain violation-free for the entire year of his/her penalty. Upon return, he/she will return to Step 2 (2nd offense).

- F. Athletes will be suspended for a full day of competition/performance. (E.G. if a student is ineligible for game one of a tournament they will remain ineligible for each contest held that day.)
- G. Scrimmages will not count as part of a suspension.
- H. The student will be required to practice with the group during the suspension.
- I. A student who is in more than one sport when a consequence for a code violation is applied will be subject to consequences for all sports they are currently participating in.

Training Violations

- A. Use, possession, buying or selling of alcohol, tobacco (including vapes-regardless of whether nicotine is present), illegal drugs, prescription (not prescribed to the student), banned performance enhancing substances, or look-alikes.
- B. Attendance at functions where alcohol and drugs are present and/or being consumed and not immediately removing themselves from the situation.

Unbecoming Conduct Violations

- C. Flagrant violation of the school's behavioral expectations policies outlined in the student handbook.
- D. Conduct contrary to the ideals, principles, and standards of the school and the WIAA, including but not limited to criminal behavior. Such conduct shall be considered unbecoming of an athlete. Examples may include but are not limited to:
 - a. Theft in or out of school
 - b. Flagrant misbehavior in class
 - c. In-school and out-of-school suspension
 - d. Disorderly conduct as defined by state laws in or out of school
 - e. Criminal behavior
 - f. Vandalism in or out of school
 - g. Fighting in or out of school
 - h. Harassment and/or bullying
 - i. Cell phone/social media, improper use as determined by the administration
- **The consequences of unbecoming conduct violations shall be determined by the Athletic Director and an administrator on a case by case basis.**

Criminal Violations: Any conviction for a misdemeanor or felony is automatically a violation of the Athletic Code. The School District of Eleva-Strum will determine the eligibility of the student-athlete during the investigation process.

Multiple Violations: Violations of the code involving behavior, alcohol, drugs, and/or tobacco will not be considered separately. The first violation of any of the above will be considered as the first violation, the second violation of any of the above will be considered as the second violation, etc.

Reporting Violations: Any person who reports a student must contact the principal and sign a written statement within thirty (30) calendar days describing the circumstances under which the person has

observed or has known the student to be in violation, (or a police report within 90 days from the date of occurrence).

Self-Referral Policy: Students who voluntarily report their own alcohol and drug-related Athletic Code violation to the athletic director will have their resulting consequences reduced by 50%. The following guidelines must be followed when making the self-referral:

- A. Must be made prior to questioning by an administrator or athletic director.
- B. Must be done within 72 hours of the violation.
- C. Can be used only for first time code violations.
- D. Must not have participated in a competition between violation and referral.

Suspension/Expulsion: Students who are suspended or expelled from school shall be ineligible for all co-curricular, performance, or club activities, including practices, for the duration of their suspension or expulsion. If the reason for suspension or expulsion results in a code violation, the code will take effect upon the athlete's reinstatement in the school.

Training Violations: After a training violation, athletes who go out for a sport simply to become eligible to participate in another sport of their choice must complete the first sport in full before they can become eligible for the later sport. There may be an exception in the case of an emergency injury. If there were a question as to the reason an athlete wishes to quit a sport, the administration will decide if the reason is acceptable.

Suspension Penalty Chart

NUMBER OF CONTESTS IN A SEASON												
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
NUMBER OF CONTESTS INELIGIBLE												
20%	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	2
50%	1	1	2	2	3	3	4	4	5	5	6	6
NUMBER OF CONTESTS IN A SEASON												
	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
NUMBER OF CONTESTS INELIGIBLE												
20%	3	3	3	3	3	4	4	4	4	4	5	5
50%	7	7	8	8	9	9	10	10	11	11	12	12

APPEALS PROCEDURE

An appeals process recognizes the rights of the individual and outlines his/her recourse in the event he/she feels a wrong decision has been made that affects him/her. The appeals process outlined below is the procedure for a student and his/her parents and/or guardians to follow in appealing decisions relating to disciplinary action. It should be understood that students and parents will be expected to follow the appeals process as outlined in the event an appeal is made.

- A. After a decision of disciplinary action has been made by the athletic director and principal, the student and/or his parents may formally appeal the decision (written or oral) to the superintendent within five school days or ten calendar days of the date of verified written notification of the decision.
- B. The superintendent will hear the appeal within five calendar days. The parents and students will be notified of the superintendent's decision on the appeal within five calendar days. If the parents and/or student do not agree with the appeal decision of the superintendent, they may follow the same procedure to appeal the decision to the school board. The Board of Education will address the appeal at their next regularly scheduled Board of Education meeting and respond to the parties involved within five calendar days of that meeting.

ATHLETIC GROOMING

Athletes are expected to adhere to the personal grooming standards set forth by the WIAA for their respective sports.

ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY

Students must maintain passing grades to ensure eligibility. Academic eligibility will be determined based on the following standards:

- A. A student receiving one failing grade at mid-quarter of semester-long courses will be declared ineligible until a passing grade in that particular class is regained. Eligibility will be reinstated as soon as the grade is brought up to passing. Any student who receives a failing grade at mid-quarter is required to provide weekly progress reports to the athletic director by the end of the day on Monday from all classes in order to remain eligible throughout the grading period.
- B. A student receiving one failing grade at the end of the quarter for semester-long courses is ineligible for 1 week (Friday to Friday). The student is required to provide weekly progress reports to the athletic director by the end of the day on Monday from all classes in order to remain eligible throughout the grading period. Progress report forms are obtained from the school office.
- C. A student receiving two or more failing grades at quarter or semester is ineligible for the next 15 consecutive school days. At the end of the 15 school days, the student who received failing grades is required to provide weekly progress reports to the athletic director by the end of the day on Monday for all classes in order to remain eligible throughout the remaining grading period.
Note: WIAA rules state that eligibility for contests will be reinstated on the 16th school day.
- D. At semester, semester grades are used to determine eligibility. Athletes receiving a failing grade or an incomplete as a semester grade are ineligible for 15 consecutive days. **Note:** WIAA rules state that eligibility for contests will be reinstated on the 16th school day.
- E. Penalties incurred in the fourth quarter or second semester of the previous year will be enforced on the first day of school. ***If the first scheduled game/meet for your sport begins before the first day of school, please see disclaimer from the WIAA below .*** Students receiving a failing grade or an incomplete as a semester grade at the end of the year are ineligible for fifteen (15) consecutive weekdays. However, summer school, if available, may be attended in order to correct

failing grade(s). If a student receives two or more failing grades or incompletes as semester grades, at the end of the year, he/she would be ineligible for the remainder of the spring sports season.

* Fall Sports - Academic Ineligibility

A reminder: When the earliest allowed WIAA game/meet takes place before the first day of classes at a member school, “the maximum ineligibility period shall be the lesser of: a) 21 consecutive calendar days **beginning with the date of the earliest allowed competition** in a sport; or b) one third of the maximum number of games/meets allowed in a sport (rounded up if one-third results in a fraction).”

In those instances where a member school has begun fall classes on or before the date of the earliest allowed WIAA game/meet in a sport, ineligible students in these situations are subject to the standard rule applied when school is in session (15 scheduled school days and nights). In this situation, eligibility is regained **on the school day following the period of ineligibility (16th school day)**. *Note 1:* An interschool scrimmage does NOT count as a game or meet for the purposes of this rule. *Note 2:* If a multi-school meet is counted on your schedule as one meet, it also counts as one meet as it applies to the number of meets an ineligible student must sit out. *Note 3:* Games/meets at different levels of competition (varsity, jv, freshmen) may NOT be combined to reach the number of meets an athlete must sit out.

When your school year begins after the earliest allowed game/meet you may use this chart to determine the period of ineligibility:

Fall 2023 Dates

Sport	Girls Volleyball	Football	Cross Country
Minimum Ineligibility Period: 21 Days or	5 Meets	3 Games	4 Meets
Earliest Allowed Game/Meet	Aug. 22	Aug. 17	Aug. 22
Student Regains Eligibility on this Date or After Sitting Out the Required Number of Meets	Sept. 8	Sept. 5	Sept. 12

TRAVEL TO AND FROM ATHLETIC EVENTS

All athletes must ride the players' bus to and from athletic contests. Any exceptions must be cleared in advance by the head coach. The parent must speak personally to the coach about the exception. Athletes may only ride with parents to and from athletic events with permission from their coach.

Without this special permission:

- A. Failure to ride the players' bus to a game will result in the athlete not being allowed to participate in that game or meet.
- B. Failure to ride the players' bus home from a game will result in the athlete not being allowed to participate in the next game or meet.

A co-curricular release form can be obtained from the High School office if a parent wishes to have their son/daughter ride home from an athletic contest with another parent. This should be done in advance of the event and submitted to the High School office.

PARENT/ATHLETE/COACH EXPECTATIONS

Parenting and coaching are extremely difficult vocations. By establishing an understanding of each other's expectations we are better able to accept the actions of both parties and provide greater benefits to the student/athlete. When a child becomes involved in a co-curricular activity, parents and coaches have a right to understand what EXPECTATIONS are going to be placed on the athlete and on each other. **This begins with clear communication from the athlete, parent, coach, and athletic department.**

Communications/expectations parent/athlete should expect from the coaches

1. The expectations the coaches have for their children and all team members.
2. Location and time of all practices.
3. Team requirements, fees, special equipment, game dress, and off-season opportunities.
4. The policy dealing with excusing an unexcused absence (What will the consequences be for a game/practice because of the violation?).
5. The Eleva-Strum District and WIAA requirements for eligibility.
6. Team rules beyond the Eleva-Strum Athletic Code.
7. The lettering requirements.
8. The coaches act as a role model for good sportsmanship, use of appropriate language, promoting a healthy environment and safe teaching techniques.
9. Well-planned, energetic practices.

Communications/expectations coaches should expect from the athlete/parent

1. Notifications of any schedule conflicts that may occur, well in advance of the season.
2. Special concerns regarding coaching expectations.
3. Support of the Athletic Code of Conduct and all team rules.
4. If the athlete has a concern, the parents should encourage their son/daughter to speak with the coach or coaching staff.
5. Support for all team members and coaching staff.
6. Positive support at games for the son/daughter, their teammates, and the coaching staff.
7. Exhibit good sportsmanship and appropriate language by the athlete and parents at games and/or practices.
8. A great work ethic at practice and in games.

Appropriate concerns athlete/parent may address with coaching staff

1. The treatment of the athlete mentally and physically.
2. Ways to help the athlete improve his/her performance and skill level.
3. Concerns about the athlete's behavior in school, practice, and games.

Areas that are not appropriate for parents to discuss with coaching staff

1. An individual's playing time.
2. Team strategy.
3. Play selections.
4. The make-up of the team and the decision as to who plays a particular position and on a particular team.
5. Other members of the team, other parents, and other coaches.

The proper method to address a concern

1. The athlete speaks with the coach. (It is suggested the coaching staff be involved/present when this conversation takes place).

2. The parent asks for a conference with the coach (staff) and the athlete. The athlete must be present if a meeting is to take place. If the coach cannot be reached, the parent may contact the Athletic Director and will arrange for the coach to contact the parent.
3. If the conference between parent/athlete and coach does not resolve the concern, there will be a meeting set up by the Athletic Director. The Athletic Director will moderate the conference.
4. Athlete, Parent, Coach, Athletic Director, Principal, and Superintendent.
5. Athlete, Parent, Coach, Athletic Director, Principal, Superintendent, and Board of Education.

LETTERING CRITERIA

General Regulations:

- A. An athlete will only receive a letter for the first sport he/she earns a letter in.
- B. All letter winners will be eligible for the "C" Club.
- C. No one may purchase a letter jacket until a letter has been awarded.

Requirements for letters by sport: For all athletes there must be appropriate attitude and behavior as judged by the coaches. All athletes must complete the season to receive a letter. Also, athletes who have participated in a sport for four consecutive years will earn a letter. Athletes must not have had an alcohol, drug, or tobacco related code violation during the season of competition.

- A. **Football:** Play in one-fourth of the quarters during the season.
- B. **Volleyball:** Play in one-third of all the games.
- C. **Cross-Country:** Meet one of the following criteria:
 - a. Participation in at least half of the Varsity meets.
 - b. Placing in the top six in a dual meet.
 - c. Placing 25th or better in meets of up to 50 runners. Placing 35th or better in meets of 60 or more runners.
- D. **Cheerleading:** Must be a member of the competition team, cheer in 80% of the varsity games scheduled, 100% practice attendance.
- E. **Basketball (Boys & Girls):** Play in 20 halves during the season.
- F. **Wrestling (Boys & Girls):** A minimum of 10 matches at the Varsity level. All seniors letter.
- G. **Golf:** Play in or compete for via a playoff, four varsity meets a season.
- H. **Track:** Athletes must earn 50 points in the twelve regular season track meets.
- I. **Baseball & Softball:** Play in one-seventh of the innings during the season.
- J. **Dance:** Dance in at least 50% of the total performances.