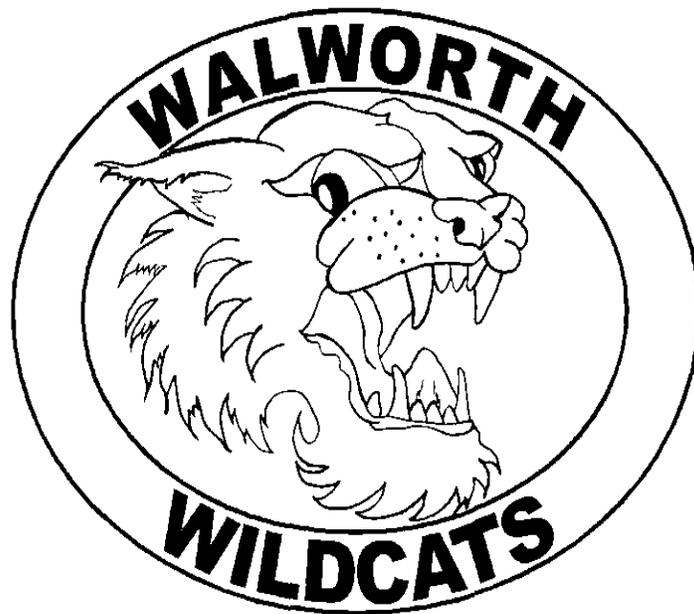


WALWORTH JT. DISTRICT #1
Walworth, Wisconsin 53184

CO-CURRICULAR HANDBOOK



2012-2015

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CO-CURRICULAR CODE OF CONDUCT

I. PREFACE/PHILOSOPHY

Co-curricular activities are activities in which students appear, perform and/or compete as representatives of Walworth Jt. District #1. Examples of these include athletics, cheerleading, forensics, musicals, and student council. Activities in which students represent Walworth Jt. District #1 as an extension of a specific course are governed by the student handbook and the Walworth Jt. District #1 student behavior expectations and are not considered co-curricular activities.

Co-curricular activities provide the opportunity for all students to develop their talents to the highest level possible. Therefore, Walworth Jt. District #1 is committed to offering a wide variety of activities. While difficult to measure, the educational value of co-curricular participation is extensive. Students not only develop physical, mental, and social skills, but also develop positive values and attitudes that they will take with them into their adult life.

Our philosophy is that academics should be the most important part of the school experience and thus come first at Walworth Middle School. If a student chooses to participate in a co-curricular activity, it should be a positive experience and a time to enjoy the excitement of competition. All students who wish to participate should do so to the best of their ability and within practical limits. Sports can be a lifelong form of fitness and fun, and it is positive experiences during these early years that shape an individual's love of the game. Students at this level have a wide range of talents and abilities that will change as they grow. Bearing that in mind, winning and losing are much less important than playing for the love of the game. We will make every effort to provide a program that is inclusive and developmentally appropriate for the middle school child as we strive to cultivate their passion for the sport.

Students participating in co-curricular activities officially represent Walworth Jt. District #1. Because of this, these students have privileges and bear responsibilities that are greater than those afforded to students not participating in co-curriculars at Walworth Jt. District #1.

This code incorporates the standards and guidelines for eligibility and participation established by both the Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association (WIAA) and the Walworth Jt. District #1.

The Walworth Jt. District #1 administration reserves the right to make policies and decisions as needed to address specific issues that arise which may not be explicitly covered in this code.

II. PURPOSE OF MIDDLE SCHOOL CO-CURRICULARS

- A. To learn the basic skills and rules of the sport;
- B. To increase physical fitness;
- C. To learn some of life's lessons such as sportsmanship that are taught through practice and competition; and
- D. To have fun while participating and competing in an activity for its own sake.

III. STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

The opportunity to participate in the Walworth Jt. District #1 co-curricular program is extended to all students who are willing to assume responsibilities as outlined in this code and those established by the advisor/coach. An attempt will be made continually to encourage as many students as possible to participate in Walworth's co-curricular program. While broad participation is encouraged, it is a privilege to compete as a team member for our school.

Every Walworth Jt. District #1 student has a responsibility to be a credit to their parents, school and community. Therefore, it is expected that they will:

- A. Show outstanding character/sportsmanship.
- B. Treat coaches and officials with respect, obeying the rules of the sport.
- C. Display a spirit of cooperation.
- D. Dress with special care whenever representing our school.
- E. Use language and act in a manner that is school appropriate.
- F. Develop individual determination and self-discipline and learn to set goals.
- G. Become part of the team and learn the concept of teamwork.
- H. Develop within themselves a sense of pride for both individual and group effort.
- I. Attend all practices and competitions.

IV. ELIGIBILITY RULES AND CODE VIOLATIONS

In order to represent Walworth Jt. District #1 in any co-curricular activity, a student must meet all eligibility requirements of this code. Athletes are also subject to all Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association (WIAA) by-laws, policies and rules.

The Co-Curricular Code of Conduct starts the first day that a student signs the code and remains in effect all twelve (12) months every year until the student graduates from high school or until their last event is finished, whichever comes first.

A. Attendance

- 1. A student must be in school to attend practice, compete, or perform. If a student is not well enough to attend school, he/she is not well enough to participate in co-curricular activities. Students must be in school attendance by Noon on that day in order to participate in the co-curricular activity. Exceptions to this are excused school trips and appointments that are approved in advance by Administration.
- 2. Students may not compete, perform or practice on days of in-school or out-of-school suspension. Per Walworth Joint District #1, an in-school suspension is equal to two detentions [2 unexcused absences] and an out-of-school suspension will result in immediate removal from the co-curricular season or event.

3. It is possible that some practices, performances, events and games will be scheduled during school vacation times. It is an expectation that each participating student will dedicate him/herself to their co-curricular activities, and we encourage families to do their best in setting up their schedule so that their student does not miss events.
4. Students suspended from co-curricular activities are expected to remain as a part of the team or group. Students are required to attend all contests, competitions or activities, and be a non-participant during their suspension. ***Students not in attendance at a contest, competition or activity will NOT have the event count as one of the suspension events.***

B. Other Behavior Violations

1. Disruptive behavior, including fighting or conduct which tends to interfere with the teaching process or the learning of others; inflicting harm upon others; damaging property of a student or school employee, or attempting to do so; stealing.
2. Insubordinations; flagrant or persistent disrespect; deliberate attempts to antagonize.
3. Possession of weapons.
4. Willful, persistent or disruptive behavior contrary to the Walworth Jt. District #1 values and student behavior.
5. Misuse of transportation privileges. This refers to the student's failure to comply with procedures set by this code and the coach/advisor.
6. Harassment, fighting, or flagrant, inappropriate or unsportsmanlike conduct during an athletic event or co-curricular activity as determined by the appropriate investigating administrator(s).
7. Students involved in an illegal act on their property or on property under their control, and who knowingly allow such conduct to continue.
8. Violation of Wisconsin Criminal Code or State Statutes.

C. By Participating in Walworth Jt. District #1 Athletics, Student and Parents Agree to Follow These Guidelines:

1. Any student participating in co-curricular activities must, along with their parents, sign the agreement to follow the code of conduct during their participation at Walworth Jt. District #1.

2. A student may not participate in interscholastic athletics until the school has an examination/permit card on file in its office attesting to:
 - a. Parental permission for emergency treatment; and
 - b. Physical fitness as determined by a qualified medical professional as pre-current WIAA guidelines.
3. Students will not be allowed to participate in any event until the proper forms are completed and turned in to Walworth Jt. District #1.

D. Appearance

Students representing Walworth Jt. District #1 voluntarily represent the entire school and community. For this reason, all students are expected to be well groomed and present a neat appearance when they are involved as a member of a co-curricular group from our school. It is also expected that each athlete will appear for a competition dressed in the uniform or required dress provided by the school and in compliance with those standards established by the coach or advisor. Each advisor or coach may have special rules concerning dress and appearance. Students are expected to follow such rules as well.

E. Advisors'/ Coaches' Provisions

In addition to the provisions of this policy, all co-curricular participants are expected to follow rules and regulations as established by their coach, director, or advisor. These rules will be distributed to every participant by their coach prior to the start of an activity or season. Athletic rules and regulations must be filed by coaches with the Athletic Director, who must approve the rules before distribution.

F. Practices

It is essential to attend all scheduled practices unless there is illness or a family emergency. Every attempt is made to schedule practices immediately after school. Coaches will provide practice and game schedules as far in advance as possible. Failure to attend practice may affect game playing time.

G. Areas where there is a expectation of privacy

Locker rooms are provided for the use of physical education students, athletes and other activity groups or individuals authorized by the District Administrator or board policy. The district recognizes the privacy rights of individuals using the locker room and shall take reasonable measures to protect an individual's privacy.

Under no circumstances may camera, video recorders, cell phones, or other recording devices be used in the locker room. Also, no person may use any technological device to capture, record or transfer a representation of a nude person in the locker room or to take any other photo or video image of a person in the locker room.

Persons violating this policy shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary and/or legal action in accordance with district procedures and/or penalties under state law or local ordinance.

ATHLETICS

Information about specific sports can be obtained from the coach(es) or main office.

I. ATHLETIC GUIDELINES

- A. Adhere to school rules and specific team rules during both practices and at competitions.
- B. Report any injury or illness to your coach *immediately*.
- C. Avoid scheduling “routine” appointments during practice time. It is very important that all athletes attend every practice.
- D. Athletes must communicate with their coach, as far in advance as possible, about any vacations or special family situations that will require an athlete to miss practice(s), competition(s), and/or tournament(s).
- E. Athletes are required to ride on school-sponsored transportation to and from all away contests. The only exception to this is when there has been both written and verbal confirmation from the parent of the student to the coach prior to leaving the site on the school’s official form specifying the alternate transportation.
- F. Athletes are responsible for all equipment and uniforms that are issued to them. Any equipment or uniforms that are not returned to the coach at the end of the season will be charged at the current replacement cost. An athlete will not be allowed to participate in another sport until the equipment is returned or paid for.
- G. Do not do anything that will embarrass yourself, the team, Walworth School, or your family.
- H. Any action that is distracting to the goals and objectives of the team may result in suspension or removal of the athlete from the team.
- I. If you cannot be on time, be early!

Each head coach will also have more detailed “team rules” that will be discussed and distributed at their pre-season meeting.

II. ATHLETIC PRACTICE ATTENDANCE POLICY

- A. Three Unexcused Absences: The athlete will be removed from the team for the remainder of the season after three unexcused absences from either school or practice during the season.
- B. Missing part of the day of an extra-curricular activity (sports or any school-sponsored activity): The student must be in school no later than 12:00 (Noon) to participate. Special arrangements may be made with administration for various appointments, funerals, etc. The student must be in school during the day to practice with the team.

III. EXPECTATIONS FOR PARENTS, ATHLETES, AND COACHES

Parenting and coaching are extremely difficult vocations. Our goal is to establish effective communication between our parents, athletes and coaches.

The following information was designed to clearly outline expectations that Walworth parents, athletes and coaches must be aware of in order for our athletic programs to be successful.

A. Parents and athletes should expect the following from Walworth coaches:

1. The coaching staff acting as a role model for good sportsmanship, use of appropriate language, professional appearance, promotion of a healthy environment, and safe teaching techniques.
2. All information regarding team requirements, fees, special equipment, off-season opportunities, and location and time of all practices and contests.
3. Team regulations and expectations pertaining to excused/unexcused absences and consequences.
4. Well-planned practices.

If all guidelines are followed, all athletes will participate in every contest. It should be understood that complete equality cannot be attained but meaningful playing time is our goal.

B. Coaches should expect the following from parents:

1. Complete support of all team regulations.
2. Positive support for their child, all coaches and other team members at all times.
3. Good sportsmanship exhibited toward officials, players and coaches at all times.
4. Notification to coaches of any schedule conflicts that may occur well in advance, including vacations.
5. Encourage your child, if they have a concern, to speak directly to their coach.

C. Coaches should expect the following from athletes:

1. Complete commitment to the TEAM concept.
2. Acceptable work ethic at all times.
3. Exhibition of good sportsmanship including appropriate language at all times.

IV. PROCEDURE FOR ADDRESSING A CONCERN/DISPUTE WITH A COACH

Step 1: Athlete seeks out his/her coach to discuss concern.

Step 2: Parent requests conference with the coach or coaching staff.

(Please call during school hours and leave a message for the coach either on his/her voice mail or with the Principal.)

Step 3: If the conference between the athlete and coach, or parent, athlete and coach does not resolve the concern, a meeting will be set up with the Principal who will mediate the conference. The conference will deal only with specific concerns regarding the immediate athletic matter. Both parties will be allowed to speak in an uninterrupted manner. The conference will be held in a non-threatening environment.

Appropriate concerns that a parent may address with the coaching staff are listed below.

1. The treatment of your child mentally and/or physically.
 2. Ways that your child can improve his/her performance and skill level.
 3. Concerns about your child's behavior in school, practice or competitions.
 4. The make up of the team in relation to your child.
- Coaches will not discuss other team members with other parents or other members of the Walworth Jt. District #1 coaching staff.
 - Coaches will not meet with a parent immediately after a contest. Parents must wait until the next school day and refer to the recommended procedure for addressing a concern with a coach.

IV. Concussions in athletics

A concussion is an injury to the brain. It is caused by a strike to the head and can be caused by a mild bump or a severe blow. The potential for concussions is greatest in athletics where collisions are more common. Information will be distributed at the first practice that provides signs and symptoms of a possible concussion. Information will be given for the athlete and the parent to read. A Parent/Athlete Agreement will need to be signed and submitted by the third practice in order for the athlete to participate in the sport. All coaches will follow the action plan found at the end of this document if s/he suspects a concussion in an athlete.

CO-CURRICULAR AND ATHLETIC POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

I. TRAVEL

Any time a student travels to or from an event or competition, in which Walworth Jt. District #1 provides transportation, students must ride to and from the event or competition using school-approved transportation. The only exception to this is when there has been both written and verbal confirmation from the parent of the student to the coach to allow alternate transportation. This must be done on the approved school form prior to leaving the site. If an athlete is to ride with a different parent, arrangements must be made in writing before the end of the school day on the day of the contest.

In the case of activities in which the school does not provide transportation, students can arrange their own transportation to and from activities or practices.

II. GAME TIMES

The first game will begin at 4:00 P.M. unless otherwise notified. The second game, eighth grade, will begin at 5:00 P.M. Some games may be delayed due to transportation situations that exist for other schools. We will notify parents if these situations arise and will result in a substantial delay.

III. INJURIES

Any student who is injured during a co-curricular practice or event must report the injury to the coach or advisor at once. If a student has any "special medical problems," the student and/or parent must ensure that the coach or advisor is informed in advance.

V. EQUIPMENT

Each student is responsible for the equipment issued to him/her. Care labels should be carefully followed when washing the uniform. All equipment must be returned in good condition at the end of the activity. Failure to return such equipment shall result in one or several of the following:

- A. The student shall be excluded from any continued involvement in other co-curricular activities.
- B. Lost or damaged equipment must be paid for by the individual to whom it was issued at the current replacement cost.
- C. An individual who knowingly continues to retain equipment shall be reported to the proper law enforcement agency.

The Spirit of Sportsmanship at Walworth Middle School

Players

- ▶ Show respect for the opponent.

The opponent is a guest in our building. We will treat them like we would want others to treat us, with dignity and respect.

- ▶ Show respect for the officials.

The officials are the impartial authority of the game. They are trained to do their job and have experience in the field. They make calls to the best of their ability under stressful situations. Be willing to accept and abide by the officials' decisions.

- ▶ Know and understand the rules.

It is just as important to follow the spirit as it is the letter of the rules.

- ▶ Exercise self-control at all times.

Appropriate behavior is more important to us than the desire of winning. Be concerned with the behavior of all involved in the game including your actions and words. You are representing our school; it is a privilege to do so.

- ▶ Appreciate skill in performance regardless of team membership.

Recognize quality performance and acknowledge it without regard to which team the player is on.

- ▶ Be gracious winners and losers.

Accept both victory and defeat with pride and compassion. Congratulate the opponents in a sincere manner following either a victory or defeat.

Coaches

- ▶ You're the leader! Therefore, you bear the greatest burden of responsibility for good sportsmanship through your influence upon the attitudes and behaviors of your players. It is imperative that you do the following:

- Set a good example for others to follow by exercising emotional control when under stress.
- Instruct players on how to be good sportsman.
- Discipline players that display unsportsmanlike behavior.
- Treat all opponents as guests.

- Respect the officials' rulings.
- Be proactive in addressing potentially volatile situations.
- Accept both victory and defeat with pride and compassion.

Parents

► Your example is being watched! Therefore, it is important that you set an example of mature behavior before, during and after all contests. It is imperative that you do the following:

- Treat all people with respect.
- Support our coaches, teams, and school in a positive manner.
- Know and understand the rules of the game.
- Respect the officials' rulings.
- Appreciate all our players' efforts, win or lose.
- Accept both victory and defeat with pride and compassion.

**WALWORTH MIDDLE SCHOOL
STUDENT-PARENT COMPACT
FOR PARTICIPATION IN CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

Participation in our middle school's co-curricular athletic program is both a privilege and a responsibility. It is a privilege because you get to develop your athletic skills with your friends and classmates in an organized setting. It is a responsibility because you represent our school and community with your actions and appearance whether in school or as a visitor at an away event. You are responsible to exhibit good sportsmanship at all times whether it is during school, at practice, or at a contest.

Listed below are the expectations you are required to comply with in order to participate in games at Walworth Middle School.

1. I will demonstrate good sportsmanship at all times.
2. I will represent Walworth Middle School in a positive manner at all games.
3. I will accept winning and losing in a gracious manner.
4. I will exercise self-control at all times.
5. I will not use vulgar or objectionable language or gestures in school, during practice, or at any athletic event.
6. I will not criticize game officials at any time under any circumstances.
7. I will not use or be in possession of tobacco products, alcohol, illegal drugs, or drug paraphernalia at any time.

I have read the above expectations. I understand the expectations outlined in the Walworth Middle School co-curricular handbook as well. I agree to abide by the guidelines outlined in these documents. If I fail to follow any rule I realize that I may be suspended from games and/or practices for the next scheduled event up to the remainder of the school year.

Student signature

Date

I (We) have read the above expectations. I understand the expectations outlined in the Walworth Middle School co-curricular handbook as well and agree to abide by the guidelines presented in these documents. I (We) realize that my(our) athlete may be suspended from games and/or practices for the next scheduled event up to the remainder of the school year if s/he fails to follow any rule. I(We) will help the athlete to abide by the rules.

Parent/Guardian signature

Date