

WEST CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

Participation in school activities delivers an opportunity for all students without regard to sex, race, or creed. It is a privilege and honor, not a right, to represent the West Central School District. Interscholastic activities constitute a vital part of the total educational experience a student has while in school. Character, teamwork, poise, self-confidence, leadership, time-management along with the development of physical and emotional health can be attained through participation in activities. These aspects will carry over into all parts of a student's life.

Under a well-administered school program, students and coaches become better citizens through the participation in and observation of activities conducted under the established rules. With this in mind, the West Central Board of Education upon the advice of the administration, coaches, and advisors, has adopted the following Code of Conduct. The Code of Conduct is a year round policy.

Team/Activity Standards:

Each coach/advisor is responsible for his/her respective activity and may impose team/group standards in addition to, but not in conflict with, the Code of Conduct.

School Activities include, but are not limited to any activity sanctioned by the SDHSAA as well as other athletics, band, cheerleading, clubs, drama, color guard, National Honor Society, oral interpretation, orchestra, royalty candidates, student council, vocal, as well as any other student activity, club, or organization. A School Activity is defined as a public presentation, performance, competition, or trip associated with participation in a school activity.

NOTE: ANY student who is disruptive or uncooperative in any West Central activity program may be subject to dismissal from the activity for the remainder of the season. Student misconduct may also include social networking, internet postings, electronic or other forms of communication that negatively represent themselves, their teams, coaches, or West Central. This type of conduct is subject to discipline and/or suspension. Coaches, Activity Director, Principal, and/or Superintendent will handle these violations. In addition, any behavior unbecoming the standards delineated in the student handbook or the West Central policy manual may constitute a violation of the Code of Conduct.

Participation in an Extra-Curricular Activity is Subject to the Following Rules:

Participating in the following 5 major areas or types of conduct any time during the year shall constitute a violation of the Code of Conduct.

1. Use of or possession of chewing tobacco, smoking tobacco, or any nicotine delivery device.
2. Use of or possession of or being Under the Influence of alcoholic beverages.
3. Use of or possession of or being Under the Influence of mood altering substances not prescribed by a physician, or possession of drug paraphernalia.
4. A felony or misdemeanor (other than a minor traffic violation).
5. Out-of-School Suspension for any reason

Code of Conduct Violation Penalties		
	West Central Policy (Rules 1 & 5)	State Law (Rules 2, 3, 4)
First Violation Consequence	The student shall lose eligibility for 2 events in each activity (athletic/non-athletic) in which the student is involved. Students involved in publications would be prohibited from publishing 2 scheduled articles.	Ineligible to participate in any activity sanctioned by the SDHSAA for one (1) calendar year from the date of adjudication, conviction, diversion, informal adjustment, suspended imposition of sentence or suspended imposition of delinquency.
Alternative		A suspension** of 30 calendar days if the student participates in an assessment with a certified chemical dependency counselor and if the assessments indicates a higher level of care, completion of the prescribed program before becoming eligible to participate. During completion of the reduced suspension period, student is ineligible for a minimum of two (2) SDHSAA sanctioned events.***
Second Violation Consequence	The student shall lose eligibility for 4 events in each activity (athletic/non-athletic) in which the student is involved. Students involved in publications would be prohibited from publishing 4 scheduled articles.	Ineligible to participate in any activity sanctioned by the SDHSAA for one (1) calendar year from the date of adjudication, conviction, diversion, informal adjustment, suspended imposition of sentence or suspended imposition of delinquency.
		A suspension** of 60 calendar days if the student completes an accredited intensive prevention or treatment program. During completion of the reduced suspension period, student is ineligible for a minimum of six (6) SDHSAA sanctioned events.***
Third - Fifth Violation Consequence	The student shall lose eligibility for any activity for a period of 12 calendar months from the date of the violation.	Ineligible to participate in any activity sanctioned by the SDHSAA from the date of adjudication, conviction, diversion, informal adjustment, suspended imposition of sentence or suspended imposition of delinquency.
Sixth Violation Career Cap	The student shall lose eligibility for the remainder of his/her career at West Central.	

According to the South Dakota High School Activities Association (SDHSAA)

* Extracurricular activities means any activity sanctioned by the SDHSAA.

** A suspension begins on the day following the notification to a District Administrator by the Unified Judicial System that a student has been adjudicated, convicted, the subject of an informal adjustment or court approved diversion program, or the subject of a suspended imposition of a sentence or a suspended adjudication of delinquency for possession, use, or distribution of controlled drugs, substances, or marijuana as defined in chapter 22-42, or for ingesting, inhaling, or otherwise taking into the body any substance prohibited by §22-42-15 and the school administrator gives notice to the South Dakota High School Activities Association and the students; or the day following the student's admission to a school administrator that the student committed an offense enumerated in subdivision (1), which shall be made with the student's parent or guardian present if the student is an unemancipated minor, and the school administrator gives notice to the South Dakota High School Activities Association.

*** To count toward the minimum number of events, the student must participate in the entire activity season and may not drop out or quit the activity to avoid suspension. The failure of a student to complete the entire activity season shall result in the student being ineligible for one year from the date of adjudication, conviction, the subject of an internal adjustment or court approved diversion program or the subject of a suspended imposition of sentence or suspended adjudication of delinquency. A suspension that is not completed by the student during one activity season shall carry over to the next activity season in which the student participates.

****Students are ineligible to participate in any school activity event, but are allowed to participate in practices during the suspension period so long as the student is not suspended from class or school.

Violation Reset of West Central Policy Violations (Offenses 1-5)

A student will have offenses reset on August 1, as long as all penalties are served. If penalties are not served prior to August 1 of the next school year, the reset will not happen until all penalties are served. The offenses will be capped at 6 during the student's career at West Central. **The student must continue to participate and complete the season to restore eligibility.**

Exceptions:

Voluntary Admission: The suspension period will be reduced by half upon the student's voluntary admission to violating the Code of Conduct. In cases where a student has been cited for a violation of law that also violates the standards of the Code of Conduct, or has been suspended from school, the reduced suspension is not an option.

Guilty by Association: A student guilty by association to any of the conducts listed above shall be subject to a meeting arranged with parents, administration, and school counselors. Additional "guilty by association" incidents are subject to further evaluation and enforcement of the West Central Penalties.

Academic Eligibility

Academic preparation and success should be the number one concern of all our students, teachers, coaches, group advisors, administration, and parents. To support students who are involved in extra- and co-curricular activities, school-related clubs and organizations to be academically successful, all students involved in those activities will be expected to maintain passing grades in all courses to be eligible to participate in the extra- and co-curricular activities, clubs, and organizations.

No Pass - No Play

Grade Checks

Grades will be checked approximately every three weeks on Monday morning until the end of each Quarter. Quarter grade checks will be done 2 days following the end of the quarter (allows teachers time to post grades). Grade checks will be done on the following days for the 2024-25 school year:

- 1 - Monday, September 16 - In Progress Grade Check
- 2 - Monday, October 7 - In Progress Grade Check
- 3 - Wednesday, October 23 - 1st Quarter Grade Check
- 4 - Monday, November 11 - In Progress Grade Check
- 5 - Monday, December 2 - In Progress Grade Check
- 6 - Wednesday, January 3 - 2nd Quarter Grade Check & 1st Semester Grade Check
Check December 20 if requested by student or coach
- 7 - Monday, January 27 - In Progress Grade Check
- 8 - Tuesday, February 18 - In Progress Grade Check
- 9 - Monday, March 17 - 3rd Quarter Grade Check
- 10 - Monday, April 7 - In Progress Grade Check
- 11 - Monday, April 28 - In Progress Grade Check
- 12 - Thursday, May 22 - 4th Quarter Grade Check & 2nd Semester Grade Check

If a student is failing any course at a grade check, that student will be put on probation for 1 week. The following Monday the AD will check the students grades (ALL GRADES). If passing all classes, they will be able to continue playing, if one or more failing grades appear, they will be ineligible until the following grade check. Quarter AND Semester grades will determine eligibility for the beginning of the new quarter. (If a student fails 2nd quarter, but passes for the semester, they are still ineligible because of that failing grade for the quarter.)

Those students failing the 4th Quarter or 2nd Semester will be ineligible to compete in the first three weeks of the scheduled activities of the next school year. Upon the first scheduled grade check of the year, the student must be passing all courses to be eligible to compete. If a student has a failing grade at that time, they will remain ineligible or enter their probationary week.

The probationary week can only be utilized by a student once a season; Fall, Winter, and Spring. Probationary weeks cannot be used for Quarter or Semester grades. If a student fails a class for the quarter or the semester they are ineligible for three weeks until the next scheduled grade check.

Students participating in graded activities are responsible for making up activities that are missed during the ineligibility time period. Those makeup activities will be arranged with the coach/ advisor of the group and approved by the Activity Director.

Transfer students' eligibility will be based on the transcript of the sending school.

Middle School Students will follow a weekly Academic Eligibility Check as stated in the Middle School Handbook unless the student is participating with the high school team in which case the above eligibility procedure applies.

Makeup Slips:

Students who utilize the probationary period at any time during the year will automatically be required to obtain makeup slips to leave for school for any reason. The makeup slips require the student to speak to each of their teachers to discuss what they will be missing in class. The following guidelines will be followed:

- Eligibility is determined by grade checks completed by administration.
- Coaches and administration can hold students from activities at their discretion for academic reasons or for failing to complete make-up slips.
- If a teacher thinks a student should miss an activity, communicate that to the coach/ advisor and AD.

Attendance Policy:

Students must be in school 3 hours prior to the dismissal for the activity in order to participate in extra-curricular events. Certain individual absences, as in those listed below, may be excused upon the discretion of the administration (pre-approval needed).

1. There is a death or critical illness in the immediate family.
2. There is a family emergency.
3. They have a doctor or dental appointment scheduled during the school time that cannot be scheduled at another time. Doctors notes must be provided.
4. They accompany their family on a trip.

Students are also required to attend all practices and activities in the sport/activity in which they are a part, unless specifically excused by the coach/advisor. Students shall inform the coach/ advisor, in advance, the reason for his/her need to be absent. In the event of a doctor's appointment, submission of a note from the doctor will be required.

Weather Related Cancellations

When school is cancelled or released early, ALL activities and practices associated with West Central will be cancelled and ALL facilities CLOSED. Any exceptions must be approved by the Superintendent. Practices held at these times will not be mandatory. (Policy file JHFE)