

## **VI. CO-CURRICULARS**

### **SPRING VALLEY MIDDLE & SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL CO-CURRICULAR CODE FOR GRADES 7-12**

Spring Valley's co-curricular program is an integral and vital part of the total educational program. It is specifically designed toward voluntary participation to provide opportunities to develop skills, positive attitudes, and experiences beyond those found in the curriculum. Students' physical, emotional, recreational, social, and vocational interests and needs are addressed by the program. It is designed to create learning experiences which will be carried over to out-of-school life and post-school experiences.

As a performer/participant representing the school and community, it is anticipated that the student will display appropriate conduct at all times and under all circumstances. Having assumed these responsibilities, students are expected to:

- Graciously accept decisions of coaches/advisors as well as officials/judges.
- Be familiar with the organization/sports rules and requirements.
- Practice self-control reflecting positive sportsmanship and character.
- Perform/compete and accept the outcome graciously.
- Treat all competitors and fans with courtesy.
- Remember that actions reflect on the students as well as school and community, year-round.

### **I. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS & EXPECTATIONS:**

Eligibility applies specifically to school-sponsored events where a student is representing this school. A student is required to follow the school's code of conduct on a year-round (12 month) basis. A team, club or other organization may choose to set higher standards than what is stated in this code.

Middle and High School students are charged a participation fee for each school-sponsored athletic co-curricular in which they participate in each school year. The participation fee for high school athletics is \$75.00. The participation fee for middle school athletics is \$35.00. The participation fee for athletics must be paid at the office prior to participation in the first contest of each athletic season. Students are charged a participation fee of \$25.00 for each academic co-curricular (club or organization) they choose to participate in each school year. A family cap of \$500.00 per year for all co-curricular activities (athletic and academic) is in effect. Inquiries regarding payment of a participation fee should be referred to the building principal.

### **A. ACADEMIC CRITERIA:**

Participating students must pass all classes each quarter and semester and maintain a minimum 1.335 grade point average (GPA) each quarter and semester with no 'Incompletes'.

1. A failing quarter or semester grade will result in the student's removal from any co-curricular activity for fifteen (15) school days and nights beginning with the last day of the grade-reporting period.
2. A student may regain academic eligibility following a period of fifteen (15) scheduled school days and nights of ineligibility. To reinstate eligibility the student must have the "Eligibility Reinstatement Form" signed by all of the student's teachers attesting that the student is doing satisfactory work in all classes.
3. A student may not erase ineligibility status following the last grade-reporting period through summer school courses (including correspondence courses).
4. A student participating in co-curriculars for the first time at Spring Valley shall be allowed one (1) probationary quarter to attain the 1.335 GPA minimum, provided a failing grade was not received the previous grading period. (Transfer students will be treated as first-time participants). Seventh grade students will be eligible for participation immediately upon entering the seventh grade for the first quarter.
5. The IEP will be used to help determine eligibility of EEN students.
6. Students must participate in practices during the suspension for any performing co-curricular group. Unexcused absences from practices will result in a one (1) day extension of the suspension for each day missed.

### **B. ATTENDANCE CRITERIA:**

Absences other than excused pre-arranged absences will disqualify students from participation on that day. In order to be eligible to participate in co-curricular activities on a given day, students should complete the usual attendance paperwork and procedures for excused pre-arranged absences and receive approval from the Athletic Director (athletics only) and/or principal before the absence occurs. Participants must be enrolled as full-time students and must attend the entire school day in order to participate in activities unless there are unusual circumstances as determined by the principal.

### **C. CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE USE / ABUSE:**

To participate in co-curricular activities, the student may not:

- possess alcoholic beverages,
- consume alcoholic beverages,
- be in the presence of alcoholic beverages when possession or use is illegal.

(NOTE: “Being in the presence of alcoholic beverages” does not apply to religious activities or their family’s event, including weddings. See further explanation below.)

The student may not:

- possess or consume controlled substances, except drugs as prescribed by his/her doctor.
- possess or consume tobacco products.

If a student finds himself/herself in the presence of alcohol or controlled substances as described above, the student must leave immediately. Immediately means at once—not five or ten minutes later. Violations occurring during summer vacation will be dealt with at the start of the next school year.

#### **Chemical Free Rules:**

- There will be no use or possession of any tobacco products.
- There will be no use or possession of alcoholic beverages.
- There will be no use or possession of drugs (except by doctor's prescription).
- Students in the presence of controlled substances when possession or use is illegal are in violation of the code.
- If a student finds himself/herself in the presence of alcohol or controlled substances as described above, the student must leave immediately. Immediately means at once - not five or ten minutes later. To maintain full eligibility, students are to avoid situations or circumstances which cast doubt as to their commitment to honor the intent of the co-curricular code.
- The only exception our code allows with “in the presence of alcoholic beverages being used illegally” is regarding student involvement in a religious activity or their family’s event, including weddings. Simply put, if a student is at a public event such as a wedding their family was invited to, they should not be processed for an “in the presence of” violation. It would be in the student’s best interest to distance themselves from use inconsistent with the high standards of our code, but the expectation is not that their family’s

event should be avoided due merely to the fear of an “in the presence of” violation by a “guilt by association” finding.

1. First Violation:
  - a. Student will be suspended from participation:
    - 1) Athletics - one-fourth of the scheduled events in the season. If the suspension is not completed during the current athletic season it will carry over to the next athletic season.
    - 2) Activities - twenty (20) school days and nights. If the student is not currently in an activity, the suspension will begin when participation in an activity commences.
  - b. Students must participate in practices during the suspension for any performing co-curricular group. Unexcused absences from practices will result in one (1) day extension of the suspension for each day missed.
  - c. Student must complete at least one in-house drug-alcohol counseling session or decision-making session with the guidance counselor with a written report filed with the principal and parents.
2. Second Violation (during the probationary period):
  - a. Student will be suspended from participation:
    - 1) Athletics - one-half (1/2) of the scheduled events in the season. If the suspension is not completed during the current athletic season it will carry over to the next athletic season.
    - 2) Activities - forty (40) school days and nights. If the student is not currently in any activity, the suspension will begin when participation in an activity commences.
  - b. Student must participate in practices during the suspension for any performing co-curricular group. Unexcused absences from practices will result in a one (1) day extension of the suspension for each day missed.
  - c. Student must complete an out-of-school counseling drug/ alcohol assessment (if the violation was drug/alcohol related) or a decision-making session with a written report filed with the principal and parent. In addition, the student must successfully complete a unit in decision-making offered through the school guidance department.
3. Third Violation (during the probationary period):
  - a. Student will be suspended from participation:
    - 1) Athletics - one (1) full season scheduled events in the season. If the suspension is not complete during the current athletic

season it will carry over to the next athletic season.

- 2) Activities - eighty (80) school days. If the student is not currently in any activity, the suspension will begin when participation in an activity commences.
  - b. Student must participate in practices during the suspension for any performing co-curricular group. Unexcused absences from practices will result in a one (1) day extension of the suspension for each day missed.
  - c. Student must complete an individualized drug/alcohol or decision making program, which will be pre-approved and monitored by the principal. A written report must be filed with the principal and parents.
4. All Subsequent Substance Abuse Violations:
- a. All penalties will double from the preceding violation. To reinstate eligibility, the student must also enter an individualized drug/alcohol or decision making program, which will be pre-approved and monitored by the principal. A written report must be filed with the principal and parents. This program is at no cost to the school district.

#### **D. OTHER VIOLATIONS:**

1. A student shall not violate State Criminal Statutes referencing the 'Criminal Code'; 'Crimes against Life and Bodily Security'; 'Crimes against Property'; 'Crimes against Sexual Morality'; or any other criminal or civil statutes not mentioned which is punishable by imprisonment.
2. Students convicted under the above statutes may not participate in any activities until a period of one (1) year following the date of conviction. Students must participate in practices during the suspension for any performing co-curricular group. Unexcused practices will result in a one (1) day extension of the suspension for each day missed.
3. A student who is on in-school suspension or suspended from school in any manner may not participate in co-curricular activities while the suspension is in effect.
4. **Additionally, suspension from co-curricular activities may result from conduct not consistent with community expectations.**
5. Habitual truancy referral will result in loss of eligibility. Reinstatement can be made by the principal based on improved attendance.

### **E. ADDITIONAL CONSEQUENCES:**

1. Probationary Period: Once a student has been found to be in violation, the student will be placed on probation for one (1) calendar year.
2. If a second or more violation(s) occurs while on probation, the above penalties as listed will be enforced and the probationary period shall extend for two (2) calendar years from most recent violation.
3. A student in violation may not begin a new sport already in progress.
4. A student in violation must successfully complete the sport in which the penalty is served.
5. If a trip begins during a suspension, the student is excluded from the entire trip.
6. A student who is on a two (2) year probation may not participate in an extended (overnight) field trip. Examples are the FFA National Convention, band tour, etc. Any money paid would be forfeited.
7. A student must complete all items listed under the appropriate violation section in order to return to participation in athletics or activities.  
**Failure to comply with ALL items will result in continuation of the suspension until all items are completed.**
8. WIAA rules prohibit participation in the upcoming playoff or tournament series if a student is serving a suspension when the regular season ends.
9. State Tournament Attendance (athletics):  
Juniors may attend the state tournament of each sport in which they participate if the following conditions are met.
  - a. The student is not on a two (2) year probation at the time of the tournament.
  - b. The student must follow any specific school or coach's rule(s) pertaining to attendance at the tournament.
  - c. The student must have participated in the sport for at least two (2) years (including the junior year). If this condition cannot be met because of unusual circumstances, the principal may waive this requirement.
  - d. For those attending the tournament, the school will:
    - 1) Arrange for WIAA approved housing if available. Housing is to be paid for by the student.
    - 2) Arrange for the purchase of tickets to be paid for by the student.
    - 3) Provide transportation to and from the tournament.
    - 4) Provide supervision during the tournament.

### **F. OTHER:**

If the student completes the probationary period without another violation, he/she will have a clean slate and the next violation will be treated as a first violation.

In situations where rules of a sanctioning body are found to be more stringent than this code (i.e. WIAA, DPI, etc.), the application of those rules shall supersede this code. Any specific situation not covered above will be handled on a case-by-case basis by the principal.

## **II. ADMINISTRATION OF CODE:**

- A. An investigation shall commence if a notice is received by the school from an adult (who is not a student) who witnessed the violation or a police/court report or if a school employee has reasonable suspicion that a violation occurred.
- B. Alleged code violations will be investigated by the principal and/or athletic director. If necessary, coaches and/or club advisors may also participate in the investigation at the request of the principal.
- C. If the student admits to the violation or the investigating team determines that a violation occurred, the investigating team can determine and implement the penalty according to the stated guidelines. (See parts C, D, E, F on the previous pages.) The penalty shall be reviewed by the principal and/or athletic director for accuracy and consistency.  
Once the penalty has been reviewed, the investigating team can apply the penalty by notifying the student and parent immediately and with a follow-up letter copied to the athletic director (athletics only), Guidance Staff, and the principal.
- D. If a student admits to a violation before any notice is received by the school or any investigation has begun, the penalty listed earlier shall be reduced by 50% (fractions are rounded down).

E. CO-CURRICULAR APPEAL PROCESS:

1. If the investigating team's decision is unacceptable to the student, he/she shall have the right to appeal this decision. The written appeal must be submitted within **two** school days.
2. The co-curricular appeal will be heard by an appeal board of five people. They shall be representatives of the following groups: One parent, one student and three school employees as appointed by the principal. The principal may serve on the co-curricular appeal board.
3. The Co-Curricular Appeal Board will review the facts and circumstances of the violation that is being appealed. If it appears that additional information was not considered by the investigating team, the Co-Curricular Appeal Board may consider that additional information.
4. The facts and circumstances of a violation as determined by the Co-Curricular Appeal Board will be presumed to be correct. The Co-Curricular Appeal Board may consider alternate penalties, reaffirm or reverse the investigating team's decision.
5. The Co-Curricular Appeal Board should meet as soon as possible but within three (3) weeks of the written appeal.
6. The Co-Curricular Appeal Board will enforce the Co-Curricular Code adopted by the School Board.
7. The decision of the Co-Curricular Appeal Board shall be final except as to procedural matters.
8. The Board of Education may review the Co-Curricular Appeal Board's decision for procedural errors only (ex. Student appealed within correct timeframe, Co-Curricular Appeal Board did not hear appeal, etc.).
9. In order to protect the interests and eligibility of all team/club/activity members, if a student appeals a suspension, according to the school's appeal procedure, the student is ineligible during the appeal process. (WIAA rules of eligibility also require this [Article VII, Sect. 2C].)
10. This Co-Curricular Appeal Process (outlined above) applies only to issues of co-curricular eligibility. The overall 'Student Handbook Grievance Procedure' is addressed in 'Section V.' of this handbook and applies to all other (non Co-Curricular) Student Handbook issues.



# **ACTIVITIES COVERED BY THE CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITY CODE**

(and other school-sponsored non-curricular activities as approved)

<i><b>PUBLIC PERFORMING GROUPS</b></i>		<i><b>NONPERFORMING GROUPS</b></i>
<i><b>ATHLETICS</b></i>	<i><b>ACTIVITIES</b></i>	
Cross Country	Flag Corps-Color Guard	FFA
Volleyball	Pep Band	Art Club
Football	Solo/Ensemble Band	Tech Ed Club
Basketball	Band Tour	Spanish Club
Wrestling	Dunn/St. Croix Honors Band	Science Club
Softball	Indianhead Honors Band	MS Student Council
Baseball	Jazz Band	HS Student Council
Track	Dunn-St. Croix Honors Chorus	Class Officers
Cheerleading	Solo/Ensemble-Chorus	Yearbook Staff
Golf	Vocal Jazz	Geography Bee
	Women's Vocal Jazz	Spelling Bee
	Vallettes	National Honor Society
	Forensics	Homecoming Court
	Drama-School Play	Prom Court
		Field Trips

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Copies of this document are available upon request and can be obtained in the Middle-High School Office or online at: [www.springvalley.k12.wi.us](http://www.springvalley.k12.wi.us)