

Freedom High School



Co-Curricular Code of Conduct

2024-2025

Philosophy

Co-Curricular activities are an integral and valuable part of a student's high school experience, and Freedom High School is committed to sponsoring a wide variety of such activities. Freedom High School recognizes that participation in a co-curricular activity is a privilege offered to its students. While difficult to measure, the educational value of co-curricular participation is extensive. Students not only develop physical, mental, and social skills, but also positive values and attitudes that they will take with them into their adult lives. All organized activities in life – be they work, play, or school related – place expectations upon participants. This code details those expectations as they pertain to all co-curricular participation at Freedom High School. Participation in activities is a privilege earned, in part, by accepting and following the regulations contained in this co-curricular code.

Students Covered by the Co-Curricular Code

For the purpose of disciplinary procedures, this code is divided into two Groups (1 & 2) of sports/activities in which students may be involved. Because of the two Groups' differences (i.e. competitions vs. service, number of contests, clearly defined seasons, etc.), the penalties for violation of school district policies and rules vary depending on whether the student is in a Group 1 or 2 activity.

Group 1 Activities:

Refers to all WIAA Sports

Baseball	Hockey (co-op boys and girls)
Basketball (boys and girls)	Lacrosse (co-op girls)
Cheer	Soccer (boys and girls)
Cross county (boys and girls)	Softball
Dance	Track and Field (boys and girls)
Football	Volleyball
Golf (boys and girls)	Wrestling

Group 2 Activities*: Refers to all Co-Curricular Activities not mentioned in Group 1

Academic Decathlon	Freedom Auto Club
Archery Club	Math League
Art Club	Medical Mentoring
Art NHS	National Honor Society
Bowling Club	Peer Educators
Bio Club	Rainbow Road
Book Club	Robotics
Chess Club	Sources of Strength
Creative Writing Club	Spanish Club
eSports	Student Council
FFA	Student Athletic Advisory Board
Fishing Club	Team Unity
Forensics	Yearbook

*List is non-inclusive and may change based on school year

Note: A student with a code violation is ineligible for the next dance court that they can represent their class within one calendar year of the violation and Athlete of the Year.

Eligibility

Student-athletes must meet all W.I.A.A. requirements for eligibility

1. WIAA Physical or Alternate Year Card is required for students participating in interscholastic athletics, cheerleading, and dance.
2. Concussion Form, Insurance Verification, Co-Curricular Code, Assumption of Risk, Emergency Medical Form, all must be signed as well as payment of all extra-curricular fees before an athlete can attend practice.
3. The Co-Curricular Code is in force all year round (WIAA Rule)
4. Co-Curricular Code conduct violations are cumulative over the student-athlete's high school career.
5. Students and parent(s)/guardian(s) must attend a school-sponsored WIAA parent-athlete co-curricular code explanation.
6. Students and parent (s)/guardian (s) must attend a mandatory pre-season meeting for each sport they participate in, which will cover sport-specific rules and expectations.
7. Student athletes will display behavior/conduct consistent with the ideals, principles, and standards of the activity and FHS.

Athletic Physicals

All athletes must have a physical examination before they will be allowed to participate in any athletic program (including practice). Physical forms are available in the high school office or on the district website.

Examinations allowing participation are good for 2 years (green form). Athletes who are not required to have an examination in a particular year must have an alternate year form (yellow colored) signed by their parents allowing participation. Athletes and their parents should be aware that it is their responsibility to arrange for their physical as well as make payment for them. ***Each year a form, physical or alternate year, must be completed and uploaded to the rSchool Athletic website.** <https://freedomschools-ar.rschooltoday.com>

Attendance

1. Unless there are extenuating circumstances, as determined by the athletic director or principal, a student is required to attend classes on time, the day after an athletic activity/contest/event.
2. In the case of an illness, a student must be present for their first class/study hall after lunch, to participate in practice or a scheduled contest/event on that day unless approved by an administrator.
3. If a student is suspended out of school or in school for any reason, the student will not be able to participate in any practices, performances, and competitions that occur during this time.
4. All Group 1 participants are expected to attend all practices and games/meets unless excused by the coach of the sport involved or by administrative excuse; failure to comply will result in discipline and/or suspension. Students may be dropped from team membership for not being in good standing with the team and/or failing to attend school and go to practices, classes, and study halls.
5. Students may also be withheld from competition/participation for insubordination or disrespect to any school employee, coach, opponent, or official or not meeting the requirements of individual coaches/advisors.
6. If a student is suspended for a **code** violation (not academic) for one or more WIAA tournament competitions, the minimum penalty is immediate disqualification of that student for the remainder of the total tournament series in that sport. (WIAA Rule – The WIAA tournament series is considered one contest).
7. The administration has the right to address violations not covered by this code, including misdemeanors, felonies, and violations of statutory law, and assess penalties accordingly.
8. A student who transfers from any school with a status of ineligibility for disciplinary reasons retains such status at his/her new school for the same period as decreed by the former school. (WIAA Rule)

Participation Limitations, Leaving the Team, and Lettering

1. Student-athletes may participate in more than one school-sponsored Group 1 activity during any given season, only after the approval of the advisor/coach, parents, and athletic director. A written plan, specifically designating which practices and games/meets/contests the individual athlete will attend will be established before approval will be given.
2. Individuals who voluntarily sever their team affiliation and/or quit during the season and later have a change of heart may be reinstated to team status at the coach's discretion.
3. Letter winners must meet sport requirements and must complete the sports season in good standing with the team/squad and coaching staff to qualify for a letter. Students who had code violations during a season are not eligible for any special end of season awards – MVP, Most Improved, All-Conference, All-State, etc.- for the season in which a code violation has occurred.

Transportation Regulations

Groups 1 and 2 members must use the mode of transportation provided by the schools. A participant who travels to an activity with a school group must return with his or her group unless parents request to take the student-athlete home in their private vehicle with coach/advisor approval. Said request must be in writing in advance of the event, or in person the day of the event. Only the legal parent or guardian will be given this prerogative. If an athlete cannot ride with the team to the activity the coach/advisor and AD must give approval prior to the event.

Hazing

Hazing in athletics or activities is prohibited. Hazing is defined as doing any act to intimidate or make another, including the victim, to do any act of initiation toward any student or other organization that causes or creates a substantial risk of causing mental or physical harm to any person. No student shall plan, encourage, or engage in physical harm to any person. No student shall plan, encourage, or engage in any form of hazing in practices, competitions, or performances. Permission, consent, or assumption of risk by an individual subjected to hazing does not lessen the prohibition contained in this policy. The student faces penalties regarding participation from athletics and other activities for violation of this policy.

Specific Team Rules

Coaches or advisors of individual activities may establish more specific rules for their programs with the approval of the administration. Any specific training rules and other regulations set up by individual coaches should be written, on file with the Athletic Director, and available to all members of the team or squad. Items, which may be covered, include conduct, actions, appearance, practice attendance, etc.

1. WIAA, Conference, and school rules will apply
2. Rules may not supersede National, State, WIAA, Conference, or School Rules
3. A copy of specific rules must be provided to and approved by the administration prior to the start of the activity season
4. Notification- Copies of specific rules will be provided and explained to all participants during the pre-season meeting that is required for all sports.

Athletic Injuries and Care

1. All injuries must be reported to the supervising trainer and their coach immediately. The coach or trainer, if available, will file the appropriate accident report within 48 hours of the injury.
2. In case of emergency, students will be sent to the nearest hospital, unless parents/guardians indicate that the student should be sent elsewhere.
3. The trainer, varsity coach, and athletic director should be informed prior to participation of an athlete who has any special medical problems (diabetes, epilepsy, etc.).
4. To assure that sufficient recovery or healing has occurred and the athlete is physically able to return to

competition, he/she must have a certificate signed by a doctor stating and indicating the date of return. This is a WIAA Rule designed to provide some assurances to the parent, coach, and school that the athlete has recovered from the injury. The certificate is to be given to the Athletic Director for their files and the Athletic Director will pass it on to both the coach and trainer.

Wisconsin Statute

In accordance with state statutes, legal authorities will share law violations with the school as follows:

Wisconsin Statute S.938.396 (1m) permits law enforcement agencies to provide school districts any information in their records relating to use, possession, or distribution of alcohol, controlled substances, or controlled substance analogs by students enrolled in the school district.

In addition, law enforcement agencies are permitted to provide school districts any information in their records relating to the illegal possession of a dangerous weapon by a juvenile, the commission of certain serious acts by a juvenile, and any information in their records relating to acts for which a juvenile was adjudicated delinquent.

Expulsion renders the student ineligible to participate in any co-curricular activity during the term of the expulsion and upon return from expulsion unless otherwise agreed to in writing by the student, parents and district administrator at the time of the student's return. Convicted felons are ineligible for any co-curricular participation until the district administrator has a hearing to determine eligibility status. The grouping described as "convicted felons" is considered to include juveniles convicted of an offense that if committed by an adult would be a felony.

Academic Eligibility

1. In accordance with WIAA regulations, a student-athlete must be a full-time student enrolled in Freedom High School and have received no more than one failing grade (including incompletes) in the most recent grade-reporting period.
2. Students who earn 2 or more F's in any grading period, including incompletes (see number 4) will be declared academically ineligible.
3. A student who becomes academically ineligible may regain eligibility on the 16th school day by meeting the academic standard (passing all classes) following a period of 15 scheduled school days and nights of ineligibility. A student who has incompletes will become eligible immediately when they have made up all work and are passing all classes.
4. The first term, second term, third term, and fourth term, grades will be used to determine academic eligibility.
5. Students' fourth term grades will be used to determine eligibility for the first term of the following school year. The ineligibility will be adjusted as follows for students in fall sports in which the date of earliest allowed competition is before the first day students are in class.
6. Fall Sports – The minimum ineligibility period shall be the lesser of 21 consecutive calendar days beginning with the date of earliest allowed competition in a sport or one-third of the maximum number of games/meets allowed in a sport (rounded up if one-third results in a fraction). A student may erase ineligibility status related to the last grading period through summer school courses in which core courses are taken.
7. While under academic suspension, students are expected to participate in all practice sessions and attend all contests/events as long as there is no missed school time. At the end of the academic suspension, the student must provide written proof from the teachers to the Athletic Director that he or she is passing ALL classes. The Athletic Director will give the student a form that all teachers have to sign to determine the student's eligibility. The student is responsible for picking up the paper from the athletic

office and returning it with all required signatures. If after the first fifteen (15) day period a student is not passing ALL classes at the end of suspension, and is still receiving failing grade(s), their grades will be checked again after the next five (5) school days. Grades may be checked up to three (3) times following the initial fifteen day period: if a student is not passing after the third grade check they will be ineligible for the remainder of the grading period. An ineligible student cannot participate in any program's contests during the period of ineligibility (students may practice at the discretion of the coach and athletic director). If the student regains eligibility, the Athletic Director will give the athlete a piece of paper to hand to their coach to reinstate them to the team. Grade check's after eligibility has been established will stop until the next grading period.

8. High school students who transfer to Freedom High School will have their last grades at their old school, be they term, quarter or semester, used in determining eligibility status.
9. A student who is enrolled in any state-approved EEN program and receives no usual grades for such courses may be eligible if he/she is making satisfactory progress in his/her total school program as indicated by his/her IEP.
10. When enforcing consequences, use the number of contests that are game/meet maximums for the sport are used. If the number results in a fraction, consequences will be rounded up.
11. Participants must be in good standing with the team until the season's end in order to complete any suspension. If an athlete quits a sport while under suspension, the full suspension will still be in effect.
12. Multiple suspensions and or academic ineligibility must be served consecutively and may not be served concurrently (i.e.: an athlete must be academically eligible first in order to then serve any code violation suspension)
13. Suspensions will be figured and must be served at the highest level a student-athlete will participate in (V, JV1, JV2) during the course of a season.

Alcohol, Controlled Substance, and Tobacco Violations

Principles and Philosophies

1. This policy is designed to help students and parents cope with drug, alcohol, and tobacco use. Accordingly, the policies established by the Freedom School District are based upon the following beliefs:
2. There is no such thing as responsible use of controlled substances/mood altering chemicals, alcohol, or tobacco by any high school student. Adolescent use is against the law, it jeopardizes the student's health and safety; and it inhibits attainment of individual potential and goals. Therefore, any use of controlled substances/mood altering drugs, alcohol, or tobacco by student-athletes/participants will not be tolerated.
3. Student-athletes/participants are in a highly visible setting of leadership and/or competition/performance. Therefore, these student-athletes/participants will be held to a higher accountability of conduct and behavior than the student who chooses neither to participate nor to represent Freedom High School.
4. We believe that the parent(s)/guardian(s) have a right to be informed. Therefore, the parent(s)/guardian(s) will be contacted regarding findings by school staff.
5. We believe the purpose of the drug, alcohol and tobacco policies are to encourage/reward a student for agreeing to follow assistance recommendations and confront a violation honestly.
6. The suspended individual will be required to practice and attend games/matches and may sit with the team for all contests during the suspension.
7. The use or possession of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs or controlled substances by any student who participates in co-curricular activities will not be allowed. Alcohol, tobacco, other drugs and/or criminal violation penalties shall be cumulative for each violation committed during the participant's high school career. While under suspension, the student must be at all practice sessions and home contests. If a participant misses a required practice, it may result in additional penalties determined by the coach.

8. Students do not need to be criminally charged or criminally convicted to be found in violation of the activities code.
9. A student will be provided relief from a code of conduct violation if they are a victim or witness to a sexual assault and report the crime by calling 9-1-1, request emergency assistance, cooperate with law enforcement either at the scene or at a medical facility, and meet the state amnesty law requirements.

Mere Presence Policy

1. **Presence in bars or attendance at parties where drinking of alcoholic beverages or use of alcoholic beverages or use of illegal drugs is occurring is prohibited.** This rule is not meant to include presence in an establishment that is primarily an eating place or presence in such places with parents. This rule is not meant to prevent being employed in such places. Presence in places such as golf courses or bowling alleys where alcoholic beverages are served is not prohibited.
2. **Students should avoid situations where their guilt or innocence is questioned.** Students are not prohibited from attending weddings, reunions, anniversaries or other ceremonial functions where alcohol is served, but they may not consume alcohol or be in possession of alcoholic beverages even though they have parental permission. Parental permission does not override the provisions of this code.
3. **If a student is in attendance at a party or gathering where alcohol or other drugs are present,** outside of the exceptions noted above, as evidenced by: 1) the student's own admission, 2) a police report, 3) a signed statement from a responsible adult witness (i.e. parent, teacher, coach, etc.) or 4) visual evidence such as photographs (**exception: If the student is holding an alcohol or tobacco/vape or look-a-like product in the picture a 25% penalty will apply**), and it is determined that the student has not consumed any of the substances listed as banned throughout this document, the initial penalty will be a one (1) game suspension for Group 1 and ten (10) hours of school or community service for Group 2. As a second offense, the penalty would be loss of 25% of contests for Group 1 Activities and 20 hours of community service for Group 2 Activities. All school or community service requirements must be served prior to any Group 1 competition or Group 2 involvement taking place.

Hosting a Party

A student who has a gathering at his/her home/property where alcohol or drugs are being used will be given a penalty at the next highest level above the level she/he would normally receive. Example: If a student hosts a party and it is the student's first violation, since the party was at her/his home/property, the student would be given a violation as her/his second offense. Note: A student who hosts a party may not use the honesty penalty reduction.

Reporting Conduct Violations

All reports of violations must be submitted in writing and signed by the person making the report. The investigator of the allegations must also be able to contact the individual who reported the violation.

First Violation

Participants who use and/or possess, distribute, or purchase alcohol, tobacco products, drugs, and/or all illegal substances and/or legal substances such as inhalants that produce a drug-like effect, including look-alike drugs, will be suspended from participating in 25% of the total number of scheduled events with carryovers into other seasons. The student-athlete will also be required to meet with the guidance department. The guidance department will meet with the student and do a screening to determine whether a formal AODA assessment will be needed, and if it is needed, it would be at the family's own expense. The student-athlete must provide proof of meeting with guidance to the Athletic Director before regaining eligibility. The suspended individual will be required to practice and attend games/matches and may sit with the team for all team contests during the suspension.

Second Violation

Participants who use and/or possess or purchase alcohol, tobacco products, drugs, and/or all illegal substances and/or legal substances such as inhalants that produce a drug-like effect, will be suspended from participating in 50% of the total number of scheduled events with carryovers into other seasons. The student-athlete will also be required to meet with the guidance department. The guidance department will go over options with the student to enroll in an AODA assessment and follow up program at his/her own expense. The student-athlete must provide proof of enrollment to the Athletic Director before regaining eligibility. Once the assessment is completed the students must provide proof of completion to the Athletic Director. The suspended individual will be required to practice and attend games/matches/activities and may sit with the team for all home contests during this suspension.

Third Violation

A third violation will result in suspension in participation from all Group 1 Activities for one (1) calendar year. The student will be referred to the building administrators and district administrator to determine what type of support services need to be provided to the student.

Subsequent Violations

Students will be referred to the building principal to determine future opportunities to participate.

Self-Referral Policy/Honesty Penalty Reduction

Students who self-report an alcohol, tobacco, or drug related concern that involves the Co-Curricular Code to the activities director, administrator, coach, or guidance counselor and who do not attempt to deceive or mislead school officials, shall receive a one contest suspension from all Group 1 activities and/or 10 hours of school service for Group 2 activities. A student will receive this penalty reduction only once during their high school career.

Other Serious Violations and/or Conduct Unbecoming of a Student-Athlete (including, but not limited to the following)

1. Organizing, hosting, or having gatherings where drinking alcohol or use of controlled substances takes place, selling, providing, or distributing alcohol or controlled substances including the misuse of prescription or over the counter drugs
2. Possession of a dangerous or concealed weapon
3. Theft
4. Vandalism
5. Threatening a staff member
6. Battery or sexual assault
7. Actions that require intervention by the police
8. Being charged with or committing a felony
9. Inappropriate cyber images and/or behavior associated with technology
10. Bullying/hazing/harassment of any kind (cyber/social networks etc.)

Any student-athlete who commits any of these violations may be suspended immediately and may be suspended up to one calendar year pending a review by the Board of Appeals. The seriousness of the offense will determine the penalty. These violations are cumulative with other code violations.

Alcohol and Other Drug Violation Guidelines

1. The Co-curricular code is in force all year round for everyone beginning August 1st of your freshman year. Violations between seasons will be applied to the next contest/activity.

2. If a student is participating in more than one co-curricular activity at a time, the full consequence will apply to each activity.
3. For violations that occur during the summer months, the appropriate penalty would begin for all fall activities on the first day of practice. If the student does not participate in a fall activity the appropriate penalty would begin the first day of practice in the next season the individual participates in.
4. When enforcing consequences, the total number of game/meet maximums will be used. If there is a fraction, consequences will be rounded up.
5. Suspensions will be figured and must be served at the highest level (Varsity, JV1 or JV2) a student-athlete will participate during the course of a season.
6. Participants must be in good standing with the team until the season's end in order to complete any suspension. If an athlete quits a sport while under suspension, the full suspension will still be in effect.
7. Students do not need to be criminally charged or criminally convicted to be found in violation of the activities code.

Group 2

Enforcement and Penalties for Group 2 Violations

When a violation occurs, the advisor has the responsibility to enforce the rules and regulations as stated in this code of conduct. The minimum penalty for any violation will be 10 hours of community service. and the maximum penalty will be suspension from all activities for one calendar year. The administration and the advisor will determine the penalty and length of suspension.

Procedures and Appeals

1. A Board of Appeals will be formed to consider infractions of rules that are not resolved between the coach/athletic director/advisor. During the appeal procedure, the participant will be under suspension for his/her violation until a ruling can be made by the District Administrator.
2. The Board of Appeals will consist of the following: principal and three coaches/advisors.
3. The coaches/advisors shall be assigned to the "review hearing" from a prepared roster. The roster shall be alphabetically developed and have at least one male and one female on the committee. The coach/advisor who is currently, or next (if between seasons) to coach/advise the student athlete is exempt from the hearing. The coaches/advisors shall be selected on a next in line situation. If a person is bypassed because his/her position is needed to be gender neutral or because he/she is the coach/advisor (in season) of the student concerned, he/she then will be first on the next review board.
4. If the roster should be used totally in one year, then the rotation starts over. New coaches/advisors to the system shall take their place in alphabetical order and shall start whenever their turn comes up.
5. The hearing shall be chaired by the principal. The athletic director shall be responsible for the summary and coordinate the date of the meeting, place, and alert the coaches/advisors who are to serve.
6. If there is a minority opinion in disagreement with the majority decision, they will be asked to write and sign their minority opinion. If no such opinion is expressed or written, it is assumed there is then a unanimous decision.
7. During the hearing, the student may be represented by parents/guardians/counsel. It shall be general practice that where there is more than one student involved in the same situation, the students shall be heard on a separate basis and the order or procedure shall be determined by the principal.
8. A telephone call by the athletic director will be made to the home concerning the results and decision of the Board of Appeals. A copy of the results of the hearing will be mailed to the parents/guardian, the student concerned, and students coach/advisor.
9. Cases that are not resolved by the Board of Appeals can be appealed to the District Administrator. An appeal to the District Administrator shall be requested in writing within five school days after receipt of the review board's decision. The board of education will schedule a board of education hearing within

ten school days from receipt of the Board of Appeals decision. The District Administrator will notify, in a timely manner, all participants involved in the appeal hearing.

10. The District Administrator shall furnish such material as has been used to this point as well as any such new material raised at the time of consideration. The material shall be furnished in a timely manner as to allow reasonable consideration and understanding of the issue.
11. The results of the District Administrator hearing shall be communicated to the parent/guardian/student and coach/advisor in writing within five school days of the hearing.
12. Cases that are not resolved by the District Administrator can be appealed to the Board of Education. An appeal to the Board of Education shall be requested in writing within five school days after receipt of the District Administrator's decision. The Board of Education will schedule a hearing within ten school days from the receipt of the appeal request. The Board of Education will notify, in a timely manner, all participants involved in the appeal hearing.
13. The Board shall furnish such material as has been used to this point, as well as any such new material raised at the time of consideration. The material shall be furnished in a timely manner as to allow reasonable consideration and understanding of the issue.
14. The results of the Board hearing shall be communicated to the parent/guardian/student and coach/advisor in writing within five school days of the hearing.
15. During this appeal procedure, the participant will be under suspension for his/her violation until a ruling can be made by the Board of Education.
16. Decisions relating to the WIAA rules may be appealed to the WIAA Board of Control.
 - The Athletic Director will be responsible for revising this handbook. Changes will be based in part on recommendations from the administration, athletic department, students, and community members and are subject to approval by the board of education.**
 - Revised August 2024**