

FORT ATKINSON HIGH SCHOOL

FAMILY-ATHLETE HANDBOOK

2025-26 SCHOOL YEAR



fortschools.org



920-563-7840



info@fortschools.org



201 Park Street, Fort Atkinson WI 53538

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School District of Fort Atkinson

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LETTER FROM THE ATHLETICS DIRECTOR

Thank you for supporting your child's choice to participate in the Fort Atkinson High School Interscholastic Athletic Programs. All organized activities in life - be they work, play or school-related - place expectations on participants. That said, this handbook is intended to give you as much information as possible regarding these expectations as they pertain to Fort Atkinson High School.

There are a couple of key items to stress in this handbook. First, if students are planning to participate in athletics, it is very important that they submit all information needed in order for your child to participate before the start of a season or activity. This will ensure athletes will have the full benefit of early season practices and an entire season of competition. Please register on www.fortathletics.com.

Second, the primary enforcement and responsibility of the code rests not only with the students, as they should be self-disciplined, but also with their parents or guardians. If the aims, opportunities, and benefits of the total educational curriculum are to be attained, close cooperation must exist between students, their parents/guardians, and the school all twelve months of the year.

Third, Fort Atkinson High School strives to provide the highest quality education. The individuals who are chosen to act in the capacity of coaches are committed to ensuring that all students pursue their athletic goals with confidence, competence, and within a framework of good sportsmanship and sound educational values. While it is difficult to measure, the educational value of co-curricular participation is extensive. Students develop not only physical, mental and social skills, but also the positive values and attitudes they will take into their adult life. We hope that your experience in our co-curricular programs is a satisfying, fun-filled, exciting time that will leave your family with many pleasant memories for years to come. We are pleased that you have chosen to become an integral part of our school family through Fort Atkinson Athletics.

Go Blackhawks!

Steve Mahoney

Director of Athletics and Activities



ATHLETICS DEPARTMENT MISSION/PHILOSOPHY

[Fort Atkinson High School Athletic Department Mission, Values, and Goals](#)

The athletic program is an integral part of our school district's educational program that provides our students with enriching and healthful experiences in which physical, mental and social growth shall be stimulated. Participation in athletics provides opportunities and experiences that are difficult to duplicate in other school activities. These experiences are developmental in nature and consider the age related characteristics and needs of our students as they move through the grades.

The School District of Fort Atkinson believes the following to be true:

- ❖ Athletics are a privilege made available to students who abide by the rules and regulations. Students involved in athletics have an obligation to present a positive image to fellow students and the general public; such as abstaining from drug and alcohol use and inappropriate behavior.
- ❖ Athletics are secondary to academics and are made available only if the student meets the academic eligibility requirements.
- ❖ Athletics provide an opportunity for athletes to learn the value of [sportsmanship](#), citizenship, discipline, responsibility and teamwork.
- ❖ Athletics provide for physical development, a sense of accomplishment and pride in one's team and school.
- ❖ Athletics provide an opportunity to sharpen the intellect, improve concentration, decision-making, leadership, perseverance and dedication.
- ❖ The developmental needs of students necessitate different philosophies and practices at each level of athletic participation.

Participation in athletics is a progression from the middle school level to the high school varsity level. The emphasis at the middle school level is on skill development, teamwork, strategy, sportsmanship and participation. While skill development, teamwork, strategy and sportsmanship continue to be important and are further developed at the high school level, athletics become more competitive with more of an emphasis on winning. The skill level and developmental level of the athlete is also more important in determining how much an athlete plays and at what level (JV2, JV or varsity).

While we would like to see all students that try out for a team be able to participate, the number of spots and opportunities to play may limit the number of athletes that make a team, and sometimes necessitate coaches to make cuts.

NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY

NOTICE OF NONDISCRIMINATION AND NOTICE OF VOCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

[BOARD POLICY 2260 - NONDISCRIMINATION AND ACCESS TO EQUAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY](#)

The School District of Fort Atkinson offers a variety of courses in Agriculture Education, Business Education, Family and Consumer Education, and Technology Education, including opportunities for students to participate in work-based learning.

The Board is committed to providing an equal educational opportunity for all students in the District.

The Board does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital status, parental status, sexual orientation, sex, (including gender status, change of sex or gender identity), or physical, mental, emotional, or learning disability (Protected Classes) in any of its student program and activities. This policy is intended to support and promote nondiscriminatory practices in all District and school activities, particularly in the following areas:

- A. use of objective bases for admission to any school, class, program, or activity;
- B. prohibition of harassment towards students and procedures for the investigation of claims (see [Policy 5517](#));
- C. use of disciplinary authority, including suspension and expulsion authority;
- D. administration of gifts, bequests, scholarships and other aids, benefits, or services to students from private agencies, organizations, or persons;
- E. selection of instructional and library media materials in a nondiscriminatory manner and that reflect the cultural diversity and pluralistic nature of American society;
- F. design and implementation of student evaluation practices, materials, and tools, but not at the exclusion of implementing techniques to meet students' individual needs;
- G. design and configuration of facilities;
- H. opportunity for participation in extra-curricular and co-curricular activities provided that separate programs for male and female students may be available provided comparable activities are made available to all in terms of type, scope, and District support; and
- I. the school lunch program and other school-sponsored food service programs.

The Board is also committed to equal employment opportunity in its employment policies and practices as they relate to students. The Board's policies pertaining to employment practices can be found in [Policy 1422](#), [Policy 3122](#), [Policy 4122](#) - Nondiscrimination and Equal Employment Opportunity.

The District will identify, evaluate, and provide a free appropriate public education to students with disabilities who are determined eligible for special education and related services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Section 504).

The District's educational programs include the academic and nonacademic setting. Each qualified student with a disability shall be educated with students without disabilities to the maximum extent appropriate. In the

nonacademic setting, a student with a disability shall participate with students without disabilities to the maximum extent appropriate.

Notice of the Board's policy on nondiscrimination and the identity of the District's Compliance Officer(s) (see below) will be published on the District's website, posted throughout the District, and included in the District's recruitment statements or general information publications.

Members of the District community, which includes students or Third Parties, who believe they have been discriminated/retaliated against are entitled to utilize the complaint process set forth below. Initiating a complaint, whether formally or informally, will not adversely affect the Complainant's employment or participation in educational or extra-curricular programs. While there are no time limits for initiating complaints under this policy, individuals should make every effort to file a complaint as soon as possible after the conduct occurs while the facts are known and potential witnesses are available.

District Compliance Officers (hereinafter referred to as the COs)

The Board designates the following individuals to serve as the District's CO's:

Mandy Turnbull
Director of Human Resources
201 Park St.
Fort Atkinson, WI 53538
920-563-7819
turnbullm@fortschoos.org

Nathan Knitt
Director of Business Services
201 Park St.
Fort Atkinson, WI 53538
920-563-7800
knittn@fortschools.org

Lisa Hollenberger
Director of Pupil Services & Special Ed
201 Park St.
Fort Atkinson, WI 53538
920-563-7804
hollenbergerl@fortschools.org

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Revised: January 17, 2022

INTRODUCTION TO ATHLETICS DEPARTMENT

All students in grades 9-12 participating in any interscholastic athletic program must comply with all procedures and rules as stated within this Parent-Athlete Handbook.

In addition, all athletes must comply with all current rules as established by the following groups:

- ❖ Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association (WIAA)
- ❖ The Badger Conference
- ❖ Fort Atkinson High School and the Fort Atkinson School District
- ❖ Recognized rules of the activity
- ❖ Coach of the team

Some information regarding WIAA rules and Regulations is included in this manual. Parents/Students may access the entire WIAA Handbook on their website at www.wiaawi.org.

Conference rules pertain mainly to schedules and regulations of sports governed by the conference. Special areas such as sportsmanship may also have rules that are generated by a group of high school principals representing each school in the conference.

Coaches are responsible for establishing rules and procedures specific to the teams under their jurisdiction. While rules and safety procedures may be reiterated orally on a regular basis, information that is needed by participants on an ongoing basis will be distributed in writing to all participants.

SPONSORED ATHLETIC TEAMS AT FAHS

FALL	WINTER	SPRING
Football	Boys' Basketball	Baseball
Boys' Cross Country	Girls' Basketball	Boys' Golf
Girls' Cross Country	Boys' Hockey (Co-op)	Girls' Soccer
Boys' Soccer	Boys' Swimming	Softball
Girls Tennis	Wrestling	Boys Track and Field
Girls Golf	Poms	Girls Track and Field
Boys Volleyball		Boys' Tennis
Girls Volleyball		Boys' Lacrosse (Co-op)
Girls Swim		Girls' Lacrosse (Co-op)
Poms		

ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES

[WIAA Rules at a Glance](#)

A student must meet school and DPI requirements defining a full-time student and have received no more than one failing grade (including incompletes) in the most recent (school issued) grade-reporting period.

- ❖ A student who becomes academically ineligible may regain eligibility on the 16th scheduled school day by meeting the academic standard, following a period of 15 scheduled school days and nights of ineligibility.
- ❖ A student regains eligibility immediately if incompletes are made up within two weeks after a grade-reporting period.

- ❖ A student may erase ineligibility status related to the last grade-reporting period of the school year through summer school courses (including correspondence courses) at the same or some other school, provided:
 - The student successfully completes not less than the same number of courses which caused ineligibility.
- ❖ A student who is ineligible for a minimum of 15 scheduled school days, under the provisions of this Section, may not return to competition until the school day following the 15-day ineligibility period.
- ❖ A student who is enrolled in some courses in a university/college or technical college or some similar institution: a. Must receive high school credit which meets the academic standard or have a notation made on his/her high school transcript that he/she successfully met the equivalent of the academic standard between the two schools involved. Note: A student who has been assigned to a technical college by the school district is exempt from the provision requiring physical attendance at least one course each day, provided such a student continues being carried on the attendance rolls for purposes of state aides.
- ❖ 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.
- ❖ The ineligibility status described in the introduction to this Section (A) 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 and for students in summer baseball:
 - Fall Sports – The minimum ineligibility period shall be the lesser of (1) 21 consecutive calendar days beginning with the date of earliest allowed competition in a sport or (2) one-third of the maximum number of games/meets allowed in a sport (rounded up if one-third results in a fraction).
- ❖ A school because of computer printout of grades being delayed may use a prearranged date other than the last day of a grade-reporting period to determine eligibility, provided (a) all other provisions of this Section (A) are followed and (b) the procedure developed is the same for all students, all grade-reporting periods, and all sports.
- ❖ Fall Sports have a different reporting criteria as linked [HERE](#).

YOU ARE NOT ELIGIBLE IF:

- ❖ You reach nineteen (19) years of age prior to August 1.
- ❖ You have attended more than eight (8) semesters after entering grade 9, or if your seventh and eighth semesters do not follow consecutively
- ❖ You have participated in school sports for all, or part of, four (4) seasons.
- ❖ You and parent/guardian do not live in the school district in which you attend school, (this does not apply to open enrollment students) unless the WIAA office has approved your residence situation.

- ❖ You do not have on file, in your school office, evidence of both having passed a physical examination administered by a licensed physician and having received parental permission to participate in athletics.
- ❖ **You do not follow the code of conduct established by your school. The code of conduct is in effect twelve (12) months of the year.**
- ❖ **Amateur Status:** Please see the [WIAA High School Handbook](#) for language with the addition of the new NIL rule.
- ❖ You, at any time, have received an award of merchandise value such as a jacket, sweater, watch, billfold, etc, in recognition of your talent or accomplishment as an athlete.
- ❖ You may participate in no more than **two** contests other than for your official interscholastic school team while you are a member of that school team and during the entire school season (start of practice to end of season) of that sport with prior approval from your Head Coach and Athletic Director. Use this [link](#) to gain approval.
- ❖ You have played in an all-star contest.
- ❖ You let anyone besides your parent/guardian pay a fee for specialized training, like a summer camp, or if you are instructed by your school coach outside the season of a sport unless in the unlimited contact portion of the calendar year defined by the WIAA.
- ❖ **You have more than one failing grade per grade check. Grade checks will take place on the following grading periods: 1st quarter/1st semester/3rd quarter/2nd semester**
- ❖ Coaches reserve the right to dismiss an athlete from the team if their behavior is detrimental to the nature of the team or community.- This may be appealed to the athletic director. The athletic director will make the final ruling on the appeal.

Your school is a member of the Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association, and the rules and regulations of the WIAA govern both your participation in high school athletics and your sports activity outside of school.

WIAA/FORT ATKINSON HIGH SCHOOL ELIGIBILITY RULES

In order to promote good sportsmanship and respect for rules and authority, establish leadership, team pride, teamwork, team discipline, as well as eliminate disruptive behaviors, disturbances in the locker room, on the training field, on the playing field, on trips, and off school grounds, the following rules are established:

- ❖ All athletes must have a physical examination and have a WIAA exam card on file in the high school office.
- ❖ It is recommended that all athletes have a dental examination.

- ❖ All athletes must have paid their participation fee to the high school office. \$50.00 for the first sport, \$40.00 for the second and \$30.00 for the third.
- ❖ All athletes must have a parent or guardian attest to parental permission and have fully registered on www.fortathletics.com.
- ❖ All athletes and their parents must sign the eligibility/insurance waiver online.
- ❖ All athletes are to refrain from the use of profanity during interscholastic athletics. This pertains to practice and competition.
- ❖ **All athletes are required to use the mode of transportation provided by the school while participating in interscholastic athletics. Special requests, in writing, must be directed to the Athletic Director if an athlete will not be using the school's mode of transportation. A 'travel release' form must be filled out and signed by the parent/guardian and must have approval of the Athletic Director. Failure to follow this rule may result in a 1 game suspension. Fort Atkinson High School will assume no responsibility for any athlete who uses his/her own mode of transportation to a contest and attempts to travel to the contest site on his/her own.**
- ❖ Any questions relative to off-season participation should be directed to the Athletic Director. Athletes are reminded that participation on non-school teams may be a violation of WIAA rules and result in ineligibility.
- ❖ **If an athlete is not in school during the afternoon session (12:30) of classes, he/she may not practice or participate in a contest on that day, unless special permission is granted by the Athletic Director. Pre-arranged absences are the only exception to this rule.**
- ❖ Any student-athlete receiving an unexcused absence or truancy during his/her sports season will not be allowed to practice or participate in a contest on the day of the violation or on the day the unexcused absence is discovered or on the day the athlete returns to school. A single class truancy will result in the same suspension unless there are extenuating circumstances. Suspensions will increase with repeated offenses.
- ❖ Athletes are expected to be in all classes the day after a contest or competition. Non-compliance may result in a one game suspension.
- ❖ Athletes serving an in school or out of school suspension shall not be allowed to participate in practice or contests on the date specified in the disciplinary action.

ATHLETE/PARENT/COACH EXPECTATIONS

Parenting and coaching are extremely challenging 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 the athletic department.

Communications That Parents/Athletes Should Expect From Coaches:

- ❖ The expectations the coaches have for their children and all team members.
- ❖ Location and times of all practices.
- ❖ Team requirements, fees, special equipment, game dress, off-season opportunities.
- ❖ The policy dealing with excused and unexcused absences. (What will the consequences be for missing a practice/game because of vacation, etc.?)
- ❖ The FAHS and WIAA requirements for eligibility.
- ❖ Team rules beyond the F.A.H.S. Athletic Code
- ❖ The lettering requirements.
- ❖ The coach's act as a role model for good sportsmanship, use of appropriate language, promoting a healthy environment and safe teaching techniques.
- ❖ Well-planned practices.

Expectations/Communications Coaches Should Expect From the Athlete and Parents:

- ❖ Notification of any schedule conflicts that may occur, well in advance of the season (ex: vacation).
- ❖ Special concerns regarding coaching expectations. (Practice requirements, etc.)
- ❖ Support for the F.A.H.S. Athletic Code and all team rules.
- ❖ Support for all team members and coaching staff.
- ❖ Positive support at games for their son/daughter, their teammates, and the coaching staff.
- ❖ Exhibit good sportsmanship and appropriate language by the athlete and parents at games and/or practices.
- ❖ A great work ethic at practices and in games.
- ❖ If the athlete has a concern, the parents should encourage their son/daughter to speak with the coach or coaching staff.
- ❖ Parents should not expect to meet with a coach before or after a game to communicate concerns. Any meeting with the coach is to be scheduled in advance.

Appropriate Concerns Athlete/Parent May Address With Coaching Staff:

- ❖ The treatment of the athlete mentally and physically.
- ❖ Ways to help the athlete mentally and physically.

- ❖ Concerns about the athletes' behavior in school/practices/games.

Areas That Are Not Appropriate For Parents To Discuss With Coaches:

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

The Proper Method To Address a Concern:

Step One:

The athlete speaks with the coach. (I would suggest the coaching staff be involved/present when this conference takes place.) Parents should help the child prepare to discuss his/her concerns with the coach, to empower them to take responsibility.

Step Two:

If the meeting between the athlete and the coach does not resolve the concern, the parent should schedule a conference with the coach (with the student-athlete present).

Please do not approach a coach before or after a contest. If the coach cannot be reached, the parent should contact the athletic director and he will arrange for the coach to contact the parent.

Step Three:

If the conference between the parent/athlete does not resolve the concern, there will be a meeting set up by the athletic director. The A.D. will moderate the conference.

The conference will deal with the specific issues that the parent/athlete has. Both parties will be allowed to speak in an uninterrupted manner. The conference will be in a non-threatening environment.

Step Four:

If there is no resolution, the parent must put in writing his/her concerns and submit to the District Administrator. Within ten days after receipt of the letter, the District Administrator will meet with the parent(s) in an effort to resolve the concern(s).

ATHLETIC CODE VIOLATIONS

****This code is in effect twelve (12) months a year****

The following rules, in compliance with the WIAA, exist to ensure the best interests of Fort Atkinson High School athletes.

An athlete shall be suspended from interscholastic athletics for:

1. Use or possession of tobacco (smoking and/or chewing) or smoking devices (tobacco or non-tobacco).

2. Possession, use, or sale of illegal drugs or controlled substances as defined by the Wisconsin State law.
3. Possession, consumption, or sale of intoxicants including all fermented malt beverages, wine and intoxicating liquors as defined by the Wisconsin State law.
4. Attendance at parties where there is illegal consumption of alcohol or use of other controlled substances is considered a violation and will result in a suspension whether the athlete consumed alcohol or any other controlled substance or not.
5. Any criminally related activity (shoplifting, burglary, vandalism, etc.), or municipal ordinance violation.
6. Any behavior deemed “conduct unbecoming an athlete” including, but not limited to:
 - a. Acts of immorality or any other unacceptable conduct (fighting, harassment, insubordination, etc.), in or out of school, which makes an athlete unqualified to represent the ideals, principles, students of our school, and/or the Wisconsin Athletic Association.
 - b. Flagrant misbehavior in class/Academic dishonesty
 - c. Poor school attendance
 - d. Out of school suspension
 - e. Disorderly conduct as defined by state law in or out of school
 - f. Harassment
 - g. Hazing
 - h. Vaping/Smoking devices
 - i. Improper use of the internet and social media includes, but is not limited to, content that is sexually explicit, profane, lewd, indecent or defamatory language, derogatory language regarding school personnel or other students, and racism. Comments designed to harass or bully and inappropriate photos that cause a substantial disruption to the educational process, environment, or community.
 - i. For information regarding proper social media etiquette, please visit the National Federation of High School’s (NFHS) website at <https://nfhslearn.com/courses/social-media>.
 - j. Inappropriate locker room behavior including, but not limited to, stealing, vandalism, hazing, cell phone use, and any behavior deemed inappropriate.

CODE VIOLATIONS & PENALTIES

A coach or advisor may make the penalty more severe. However, the penalty as stated in the Code of Conduct or that of the co-curricular board may not be lessened. #6 will be determined on a case by case basis.

For code violations 1 – 5:

First Violation:

The athlete will be suspended from a minimum of one third (33%) of the season's contests in which he/she is currently participating, or the next season in which the athlete chooses to participate.

Second Violation:

The athlete will be suspended from a minimum of two-thirds (66%) of the season's contests in which he/she is currently participating, or the next season in which the athlete chooses to participate.

Third Violation:

The athlete will be suspended from all co-curricular activities for one calendar year from the date of the incident.

If a 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.

Students will be given the opportunity of due process.

ATHLETIC DISCIPLINARY GUIDELINES

- ❖ Suspensions that overlap two (2) different sports seasons shall be prorated to the number of contests in each season.
- ❖ Suspensions are interpreted to mean one athletic contest. In the sports where doubleheaders, quads, and multi-duals exist, the athletic department will prorate the games or matches played on that day and apply the appropriate game suspension.
- ❖ **Suspensions may not be served while a student is academically ineligible.**
- ❖ Athletes with suspensions to serve, or who are academically ineligible, may be allowed to participate in scrimmages (playing time will be at the discretion of the head coach).
- ❖ An athlete who has been suspended indefinitely for code of conduct violations may request a co-curricular board meeting to review the suspension after one calendar year of ineligibility from the date of the third violation. The board may reinstate a suspended athlete if he/she demonstrates the desire and attitude to return to the program.
- ❖ **Athletes suspended for first or second violations are expected to practice during their suspension and must complete the season in good standing, or the suspension will be reassigned.**
- ❖ Disciplinary action due to code of conduct violations will carry over from one sport season to the next and from one year to the next.

- ❖ An athlete suspended for any code of conduct violation will be ineligible for captain, MVP, and all end of the year awards during the sport season(s) in which the suspension is served.

ATHLETIC CODE APPEAL PROCEDURE

- ❖ After a ruling of ineligibility results in suspension from an athletic activity, the athlete and his/her parents/guardians may appeal the decision in writing to the high school Athletic Director, provided the appeal is made within five (5) school days of receipt of the ineligibility notice.
- ❖ After an appeal has been received, a date for a co-curricular board hearing shall be scheduled by the high school Athletic Director. The hearing will be held within five (5) school days of receipt of the appeal. The athlete and his/her parents/guardians may appear before the board and will be provided the opportunity to testify and present other evidence to the board. The purpose of the board is to judge whether a code of conduct violation occurred. The board will consist of five members, including: the athletic director, the high school principal, a non-coaching teacher, one coach, and one community member. The decision of the co-curricular board shall be delivered to the athlete and his/her parents, in writing, within five (5) school days.
- ❖ If an athlete and his/her parents/guardians wish to appeal the decision of the co-curricular board, they shall submit their appeal to the Principal, in writing, within five (5) school days of the receipt of the board's decision. The Principal shall inform the athlete and his/her parents/guardians of his/her decision, in writing, within five (5) school days.
- ❖ If the athlete and his/her parents/guardians wish to appeal the decision of the Principal, they shall submit their appeal to the Superintendent, in writing, within five (5) school days of receipt of the principal's decision. The Superintendent shall inform the athlete and his/her parents/guardians of his/her decision, in writing, within five (5) school days.
- ❖ If the athlete and his/her parents/guardians wish to appeal the decision of the Superintendent they shall submit their appeal to the Board of Education, in writing, within five (5) school days of receipt of the Superintendent's decision. The Board of Education shall hear the appeal at a reasonable time thereafter and shall provide a written decision to the student and his/her parents/guardians. The decision of the Board of Education shall be final.

If the student-athlete and his/her parents/guardians file an appeal, the records will not be a part of the student-athlete's other records.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF FORT ATKINSON ATHLETES

The **privilege** of participating in our athletic program is extended to all students, provided they are willing to assume certain responsibilities. Therefore, it is required that each athlete:

- ❖ Displays a high standard of social behavior, and follows the code of conduct

- ❖ Displays appropriate sportsmanship
- ❖ Displays respect for those in authority
- ❖ Displays appropriate citizenship

Care of Equipment

One of the values of athletics is to teach responsibility. This should apply to the care of athletic equipment as well as other school property. The school attempts to provide the best and safest equipment.

- ❖ We expect each athlete to take excellent care of this equipment.
- ❖ The original equipment issued to an athlete must be returned at the close of the season. Substitution of equipment among athletes cannot be permitted.
- ❖ Athletes are not allowed to wear clothes or use equipment belonging to another school.
- ❖ Athletes will be held financially responsible for all equipment that is issued to them and not returned at the conclusion of the season for whatever reason.

ATHLETIC INJURIES

- ❖ All injuries should be reported to the supervising coach or advisor immediately. Unreported injuries can lead to serious complications and increased time lost from competition.
- ❖ Our team doctor and trainer are specifically trained in the care of athletic injuries. However, we urge the use of your family physician. Very often, a complete history of an athlete's health plays an important part in the care of athletic injuries.
- ❖ Please inform the coaching staff of any special medical problems or medical history your son/daughter may have that may be important in the handling of an athletic injury.
- ❖ Should an injury be discovered after a participant has returned home, the coach of the sport should be contacted as soon as possible.
- ❖ Return to play policy – Injured athletes should be seen by the athletic trainer and/or doctor. It should be the decision of the athletic trainer and/or doctor when the athlete is able to return to practice and competition. If an athlete is seen by a doctor the athlete must obtain a release from the doctor to return to practice and competition and must give the release to the coach. If an injured athlete does not see the trainer or a doctor, the decision to return to play should be made by the athlete and his/her parents. If parents and/or coaches overrule or ignore the athletic trainer's and/or doctor's decision regarding the case and return to play date of an injured athlete, they will assume any legal responsibility.

CHANGING SPORTS

No athlete may withdraw from one sport and begin another sport during the same season, except by permission of the Athletic Director. An athlete cut from one sport may try out for another sport during the same season.

POSTPONEMENT & CANCELLATION POLICY

Whenever school is not held because of inclement weather, the following procedures will be followed:

- ❖ If school is completely canceled in the morning because of snow, ice, cold, or other dangerous conditions, athletic teams may practice only if it can be determined that the dangerous conditions are no longer threatening. This decision shall be made jointly by the athletic director and principal. The practice time shall be similarly determined. Whether to play a contest on such days shall be determined in the same way but also in conjunction with the scheduled opposing school.
- ❖ If the start of school is delayed, there would be no effect on after school meetings, practices or contests. However, no morning practices or meetings may be held on days with delayed starts.
- ❖ If weather conditions necessitate sending students home before the regularly scheduled end of the school day, **NO ATHLETIC PRACTICES OR OTHER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES SHALL BE HELD.**
- ❖ The Badger Conference policy concerning postponements and/or cancellations will be adhered to. It shall be the responsibility of the home school athletic director and/or principal to initiate all negotiations for postponement or cancellation and supervise the notification of all concerned personnel. It is the home school's responsibility to re-contract with officials. In case of postponement, the contest will be played on the next available date, including Saturdays. www.badgerconference.org will reflect all updates.

ATHLETIC AWARDS

- ❖ **Numerals:** An athlete in ninth grade who completes the season in good standing will receive numerals (one set per athlete).
- ❖ **Sport patch:** An athlete in tenth grade who completes the season in good standing will receive a sport patch.
- ❖ **Chenille Varsity "F":** An athlete who completes the requirements for a varsity "F" for the first time and completes the season in good standing shall be awarded a varsity letter "F" and a letter certificate. See each individual coach's handbook for specific lettering requirements.

- ❖ **Chenille Varsity “FA”:** An athlete who earns a second varsity “F” in the same sport shall be awarded a varsity “FA” and a letter certificate.
- ❖ **Letter certificate:** An athlete who earns additional varsity letters shall be awarded a letter certificate only.
- ❖ **End of the year awards:** Each year these awards are presented at the Spring Athletic Banquet:
 - *WIAA Scholar Athlete Award* – awarded to a senior male and female who show academic and athletic excellence.
 - *Badger Conference Scholar Athlete* – awarded to a senior male and female, based on athletic achievement, leadership and academics.
 - *Blackhawk Scholar Athlete* – awarded to a senior male and female, based on athletic achievement, leadership and academics.
 - *American Legion/American Legion Auxiliary Award* – awarded to a senior male and female who demonstrate citizenship, character, sportsmanship and athletics.
 - *Blackhawk Distinguished Athlete Award* – awarded to a junior or senior, male and female, based on citizenship, athletic leadership and character. Also known as the ‘unsung varsity athlete’ award.
 - *Blackhawk Sportsmanship Award* – given to one male and one female based on leadership, sportsmanship and team spirit.
 - *Athlete of the Year Award* – awarded to one male and one female’s athletic achievement for that year only.

BADGER CONFERENCE GUIDELINES

- ❖ Badger Conference rules prohibit a senior from competing in junior varsity level competition in baseball, basketball, football, soccer, softball, volleyball and wrestling. Freshmen are eligible to play on JV, JV2 and varsity teams.

BADGER CONFERENCE SPORTSMANSHIP GUIDE

The Badger Conference believes that good sportsmanship is essential to a successful high school athletic program. With this in mind, the Badger Conference strongly supports the following fundamentals of sportsmanship.

- ❖ Respect is to be shown towards opponents at all times. The opponent should be treated as a guest, greeted cordially on arriving, given the best accommodations, and accorded the tolerance, honesty and generosity, which all human beings deserve.

- ❖ **Officials are to be accorded respect at all times. Officials should be recognized as impartial arbitrators who are trained to do their job and who can be expected to do it to the best of their ability. Good sportsmanship implies the willingness to accept and abide by the decisions of the officials.**
- ❖ The rules of the contest are to be known, understood, and appreciated. A familiarity with the current rules of the game and the recognition of their necessity for a fair contest is essential. Good sportsmanship suggests the importance of conforming to the spirit as well as the letter of the rules.
- ❖ **Self-control must always be maintained. A prerequisite of good sportsmanship requires one to understand his/her own bias or prejudice and the ability to prevent the desire to win from overcoming rational behavior. A proper perspective must be maintained if the potential educational values of athletic competition are to be realized. Good sportsmanship is concerned with the behavior of all involved in the game.**
- ❖ Skill in performance regardless of affiliation is to be recognized and appreciated. Applause for an opponent's good performance is a demonstration of generosity and good will that should not be looked upon as treason. The ability to recognize quality in performance is one of the most highly commendable gestures of good sportsmanship.

This sportsmanship guide has been developed in an attempt to foster appropriate conduct and good sportsmanship among all of the conference schools. The primary objective of this guide is to develop a positive atmosphere at all events sponsored by the Badger Conference.

Good sportsmanship is exemplified by:

- ❖ Cheering with the cheerleaders
- ❖ Standing for school songs of both schools
- ❖ Standing and being attentive when the National Anthem is being played.
- ❖ Coaches, athletes and spectators showing respect for the officials
- ❖ Showing respect for your opponent (example: during team introductions)
- ❖ Being attentive and courteous to visiting cheerleaders

Examples of poor sportsmanship are:

- ❖ Throwing objects onto playing area
- ❖ Use of noisemakers of any kind
- ❖ Use of cheers that taunt or ridicule the opponent
- ❖ Booing

Badger Conference rules governing conduct at athletic contests:

- ❖ No banners or posters are to be brought by visiting schools to any athletic event for display. Banners and posters may be displayed only by the host school.

- ❖ Manufactured noise makers are not allowed at athletic events. This includes any and all types of noisemakers or articles that could be used to increase volume, specifically megaphones.
- ❖ Stomping and kicking of bleachers is prohibited.
- ❖ The first cheer during a time-out of a basketball game will be the privilege of a visiting school and that thereafter the cheerleaders alternate in leading cheers.
- ❖ The Badger Conference will follow the W.I.A.A. tournament rule pertaining to stereos and other radio or audio equipment. This rule shall be applied to all contests.
- ❖ Megaphones shall not be used by cheerleaders or spectators at indoor events.
- ❖ Pep bands, and parts thereof, or any use of audio facilities are not allowed to play while the game is in progress.

COACHES

- ❖ Treats own players and opponents with respect.
- ❖ Inspires in the athletes a love for the game and the desire to compete fairly.
- ❖ Is expected to serve as a good role model of sportsmanship and positive leadership.
- ❖ Disciplines those on the team who display unsportsmanlike behavior.
- ❖ Respects the judgment and interpretation of the rules by the officials.
- ❖ Knows he/she is a teacher and understands the athletic arena is a classroom.
- ❖ Is responsible for the supervision of their athletes before, during and after the games.

PLAYERS

- ❖ All players will be in service on their school's Athletic Code of Conduct and on sportsmanship expectations during a mandatory rules interpretation session prior to each athletic season.
- ❖ Badger Conference players involved in any unsportsmanlike conduct, which results in ejection from an athletic contest, will be suspended from the next contest. The intent of this rule is that any player ejected will sit out the next contest whether it is a conference game, a non-conference game, or a tournament game.
- ❖ Vandalism and/or theft to or from the host school facilities may result in referral to local law enforcement agencies for prosecution under local ordinances, and will result in disciplinary action in accordance with the school's student handbook.
- ❖ Expectations of players:

- Treats opponents with respect.
- Plays hard, but plays within the rules.
- Exercises self-control at all times, setting examples for others to follow.
- Respects officials and accepts their decisions without gestures or argument.
- Wins without boasting, loses without excuses, and never quits.
- Always remembers that it is a privilege to represent the school and community.

SPECTATORS

- ❖ Attempts to understand and be informed of the playing rules.
- ❖ Appreciates a good play no matter who makes it.
- ❖ Cooperates with and responds enthusiastically to cheerleaders.
- ❖ Shows compassion for an injured player; applauds positive performances; does not heckle, jeer or distract players; and avoids the use of profane and obnoxious language and behavior.
- ❖ Respects the judgment and strategy of the coach and does not criticize players or coaches for loss of a game.
- ❖ Respects property of others and authority of those who administer the competition.
- ❖ Censures those whose behavior is unsportsmanlike.
- ❖ The host school will notify the administration of the visiting school about any students who may have had to be removed from the event. Cooperation is expected. Failure to follow these expectations will result in removal from the gymnasium.
- ❖ The principals will work through the student councils to foster sportsmanship and inter-school respect and cooperation.

FORT ATKINSON SCHOOL SONG

“FORT LOYALTY”

***We're loyal to you, Fort High
We're loyal to you, Fort High***

***We back you to stand
'Gainst the best in the land***

***For we know you can stand, Fort High
U Rah Rah!***

***Pick up that ball, Fort High
We're backing you all, Fort High***

***Our team is a fame protector
On teams, for we expect a***

Victory from you, Fort High