

Panther



Pride

**St. Croix Central
Athletic Handbook**

2016-2017

 **Character**

 **Commitment**

 **Compete**

NONDISCRIMINATION

St. Croix Central does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, creed, color, religion, pregnancy, marital status, sexual orientation, or physical, mental, emotional or learning disability, handicap, national origin or ancestry in its educational programs, evaluation procedures, and activities, policies, or in admission or access to programs or activities offered by the St. Croix Central School District.

Article I. PHILOSOPHY

The athletic program constitutes an important phase of learning in the school setting. It provides students with a variety of opportunities that are seldom duplicated in other school activities. The purpose of the code is to provide assurance that public school athletes and their parents are informed of the standards of behavior, conduct, and appearance that are appropriate for the young people who represent this school system in various forms of competitive athletics.

Participation is both voluntary and a privilege. Therefore, when an athlete signs accepting the code, it means that he/she accepts it as part of his/her athletic responsibility while attending St. Croix Central High School. Participants are expected to adhere to all the provisions of this Athletic Code. In addition, coaches may establish team rules in areas that are not addressed in the athletic code.

It is not the intent of this Athletic Code to punish, but rather to guide and inform the athlete of his/her responsibilities and privileges. It is then up to the individual participant to become and remain eligible. This Athletic Code is in effect for one calendar year from the start of your area of participation.

Article II. OBJECTIVES

- A. To provide the best possible instruction toward learning the skills of competitive and lifetime sport activities.
- B. To provide experiences related to competition, cooperation and participation by rules during interscholastic competition while displaying a high degree of sportsmanship.
- C. To afford the opportunity to make new friends while developing a wide variety of interests.
- D. To develop habits of health, physical fitness and safety as well as instilling a sense of positive self esteem.
- E. To promote community and school interaction while developing a positive school and student value system.
- F. To learn and practice self-discipline, self-confidence and self-understanding.

Article III. AFFILIATIONS

St. Croix Central is a member of the Middle Border Conference. SCC High School is a member of the Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association (WIAA).

Article IV. SPONSORED ACTIVITIES

St. Croix Central sponsors the following activities:

- Fall: Football (7-12), Girls' Volleyball (7-12)
 Boys' & Girls' Cross Country (6-12), Girls' Golf (9-12)
 Cheerleading (9-12), Pom Dance (9-12)

Winter: Boys' Basketball (7-12), Girls' Basketball (7-12)
Wrestling (6-12), Cheerleading (9-12), Pom Dance (9-12)
Boys' & Girls' Hockey (9-12)

Spring: Boys' Baseball (9-12), Girls' Softball (9-12)
Boys' Track (6-12), Girls' Track (6-12) Boys' Golf (9-12)

Article V. ELIGIBILITY POLICIES

For the purpose of this code, the eligibility policies have been divided into categories. These include:

- Section I - General Policies - WIAA
- Section II - General Policies - SCC
- Section III - Academic Policies - SCC/WIAA
- Section IV - Controlled Substance Use/Abuse - SCC
- Section V - Conduct Policies - SCC

Section I. GENERAL POLICIES - WIAA

Below are listed some of the regulations of the WIAA pertaining to student's eligibility. A complete set of regulations and/or interpretations may be obtained by visiting the WIAA website at www.wiaawi.org.

- A. The students must reside in the School District.
- B. The students must be 19 or less years of age with an August 1st cut-off date.
- C. Permission to participate must be granted in writing by parent or guardian.
- D. A physical exam must be completed and recorded in the school office. Physical exams are required every 2 years. Cards may be picked up after April 1st.
- E. The student must be an amateur athlete.
- F. The students must adhere to and follow the school Athletic Code.
- G. Transfer students after the first semester of his/her freshmen year will be considered ineligible for athletics until deemed eligible by the WIAA as processed by the Athletic Director.

Section II. GENERAL POLICIES - SCC

- A. Athletes must have training slips, emergency cards, and physical cards on file with the Athletic Director two (2) days before their first practice.
- B. Observe and obey all rules as set down by the head coach of the sport they are participating in.
- C. Attend all practices and games unless ill or excused by coach.
- D. Be dressed in uniform and ready for games or practices at designated times.
- E. Students are expected to be in attendance the entire school day if they want to participate in any practices, contests or events scheduled for that day. Individual exceptions such as family emergencies, pre-arranged family trips, medical or dental appointments, field trips for school, a college visit or any absence that is excused by the athletic director or designee are accepted. A student with as an unexcused absence or was truant (as defined by St. Croix Central School District policy) on a Friday may not participate in a weekend event if no event was held on Friday. The discovery of a violation of any of these attendances eligibility rules after the contest or event will result in suspension from participation on the next event or contest date.

- F. Travel with squad on provided school transportation to away events. Exceptions for this would be for an athlete to be picked up by a parent upon the coach receiving either written or oral permission. Other alternatives of transportation can also be arranged upon parental permission.
- G. Participants are expected to return school equipment/uniforms at the end of the season. Damaged or unreturned items costs' will be assessed to the participant and will prohibit participation in another sport until fees paid.
- H. Students are not allowed to participate in two (2) sports concurrently.
- I. Students who quit a sport and want to join another sport during the same season must complete the following:
 - 1. Complete the number of "pre-season practices" to be eligible for competition. The number of "pre-season practices" will be what is set up by the WIAA.
 - 2. The two (2) coaches of the involved sports must be contacted by the athlete and notified of the decision.
 - 3. The coach has the discretion to disallow an individual to join the team.

Section III. ACADEMIC REGULATIONS – SCC

Athletes must maintain passing grades in all classes to remain eligible for competition. Failures or "F's" will result in either temporary or permanent suspension from athletics. Academic eligibility will be determined by quarter grades. Academic ineligibility will be determined at the end of the quarter. Suspension will start one week following the end of the quarter grading period, pending notification from the Athletic Director.

- First (1) quarter and second (2) quarter grades will determine winter sport eligibility.
- Third (3) quarter and fourth (4) quarter grades will determine spring sport eligibility.
- Fourth (4) quarter grades will carry over to determine the next school year fall sport eligibility* and will adhere to WIAA established criteria.
- First (1) quarter grades will also determine the current school year fall sport eligibility using SCC academic policies.

*Fall Sports – WIAA Academic Ineligibility

When the earliest allowed WIAA game/meet takes place before the first day of classes at a member school, "the maximum ineligibility period shall be the lesser of: a). 21 consecutive calendar days beginning with the date of the earliest allowed competition in a sport; or b). one third of the maximum number of games/meets allowed in a sport (rounded up if one-third results in a fraction)." In those instances where a member school has begun fall classes on or before the date of the earliest allowed WIAA game/meet in a sport, ineligible students in these situations are subject to the standard rule applied when school is in session (15 scheduled school days and nights). In this situation, eligibility is regained **on the school day following the period of ineligibility (16th school day).**

Note 1: An interschool scrimmage does NOT count as a game or meet for purposes of this rule.

Note 2: If a multischool meet is counted on your schedule as one meet, it also counts as one meet as it applies to the number of meets an ineligible student must sit out.

Note 3: Games/meets at different levels of competition (varsity, JV, freshmen) may NOT be combined to reach the number of meets an athlete must sit out. When your school year begins **after** the earliest allowed game/meet you may use the WIAA chart to determine the period of ineligibility.

- A. A student receiving one (1) failing grade (F) will be ineligible for 10% of the contests scheduled for their respective sport. After the student serves his/her 10%, the student must be passing all classes. The student is to get a grade progress report form from the office and have all teachers sign it to indicate that the students is passing at that point. The form must be completed and returned to the athletic director/principal in order for the student to be reinstated. In addition, this individual must abide by the following:
 1. Continue to practice at the coaches discretion
 2. Maintain a positive attitude toward athletics
- B. A student receiving two (2) failing grades (F's) will be ineligible for 20% of the contests scheduled for their respective sport. The student is to get a grade progress report form from the office and have all teachers sign it to indicate that the students is passing at that point. The form must be completed and returned to the athletic director/principal in order for the student to be reinstated. Continued practice will be at coach's discretion.
- C. A student receiving three (3) failing grades (F's) will be ineligible for one academic quarter (9 weeks). Continued practice will be at the coaches' discretion.
- D. A student who receives an incomplete grade will remain ineligible until he/she provides verification to the athletic director that the incomplete has been changed to a passing grade.
- E. A student may attempt to regain eligibility or remove academic probation through summer school or correspondence courses, provided they are approved by the athletic director/principal.
- F. Academic eligibility for incoming freshmen shall be determined by using grades from his/her 8th grade fourth quarter.

Section IV. CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE USE/ABUSE

The student may not possess or consume alcoholic beverage when possession or use is illegal, or controlled substances, except those drugs prescribed by his/her doctor.

Chemical Free Rules:

- There will be no use or possession of any tobacco products.
- There will be no use or possession of any alcoholic beverages.
- There will be no use or possession of drugs (except by doctor's prescription)
- If a student finds himself/herself in the presence of alcohol or controlled substances, the student should leave immediately. To maintain full eligibility, students are to avoid situations or circumstances, which cast doubt as to their commitment to honor the intent of the athletic code.

A. First Infraction

Any student who is found in violation of controlled substance use/abuse rules will be subject to the following regulations:

1. Will be withheld from interscholastic competition for 20% of the scheduled number of interscholastic contests. When using the percentage, any fraction will be rounded to the nearest whole number; (i.e.: 20% of 14 = 2.8 = 3, 20% of 12 = 2.4 = 2). Any unserved portion of a penalty and/or violation, which occurs during the off-season, will be carried over to the next sport in which the athlete participates. To regain eligibility, the athlete must complete the entire season.
2. Must continue to practice and each practice missed adds one contest to the suspension.
3. Counseling concerning the issues inherent to violations of the code. This process may be delegated to the Coach, Athletic Director, Guidance Counselor, Building Principal, or any other person the Principal feels is best qualified to guide the student.

B. Second Infraction

Any student who is found in violation of controlled substance use/abuse rules for the second time, in their high school career, shall be suspended from all sports for one calendar year from the date of their ineligibility letter.

C. Third infraction

Any student who is found in violation of controlled substance use/abuse rules for the third time shall be permanently suspended from all high school sports.

Honesty Penalty Reduction

Student athletes who of their own volition immediately report their alcohol, tobacco and other drugs violation to the athletic director or coach the next school day will have their suspension reduced by one-half. This honest penalty reduction is available on the first alcohol, tobacco and other drugs offense only and results in the student athlete waiving his/her rights to appeal the suspension. The honesty penalty reduction may not apply when the school would have been made aware of the violation through another source, or if it was not reported the next school day upon violation.

Middle School Violation

Any 8th grader who receives a controlled substance violation at the end of their 8th grade year or during the summer is subjected to the following:

1. Their suspension will begin on the first day of practice or the first day of school.
2. Once they have completed their suspension for their middle school code violation there violation record is considered clean.
3. If they violate any rules or regulations according the High School Athletic Code their suspension will be decided upon like it is their first infraction.

Section V. CONDUCT

The athlete must conduct himself/herself in a manner, which upholds the principles and standards of the St. Croix Central School District and the WIAA. Conduct unbecoming an athlete may include, but is not limited to the following:

- A. Disrespect for teachers, officials, other school personnel or students.
- B. Posting disparaging or disrespectful comments regarding coaches, school staff members, game officials, St. Croix Central students, or opposing school students on electronic media and/or electronic devices such as "Facebook" and "Twitter" and actions such as texting.
- C. Flagrant violation of game rules.
- D. Violating any federal or Wisconsin law, any municipal or county ordinance, or law of any other jurisdiction in conformity with the Wisconsin Criminal Statutes.
- E. Engaging in any form of sexual harassment. Sexual harassment is defined as deliberate, repeated or unwanted verbal or physical contact, sexually explicit derogatory statement, or sexually discriminating remarks that is offensive or objectionable to the recipient or cause the recipient discomfort or humiliation.
- F. Violating any law regarding stealing or vandalism, or the illegal possession of property belonging to St. Croix Central School District or other school district.
- G. Engaging in any form of hazing another student. Hazing is defined as the act of harassment by forcing (physically, morally, and/or mentally) someone to exact unnecessary or disagreeable work, to banter, ridicule or criticize someone, or to initiate someone into an organization.

The disposition of each case will be based on each incident's individual set of circumstances. The Athletic Director will determine minimum penalties for any other unacceptable conduct contrary to the ideals, principles and standards of the St. Croix Central School District and the WIAA

Minimum Action - Conference with athlete and parent contact.

Maximum Action - Suspension from athletics competition for the remainder of their high school career.

In addition to the previous behaviors listed, all athletes are expected to follow the rule and regulations established by their coach. These rules will be distributed to every participant.

Article VI. SUMMER VACATION VIOLATIONS

The 90 school days waiting period will go into affect on the first day of school in the fall. Violations occurring in the summer months will be acted upon by the Athletic Council within this framework.

Article VII. PROCEDURE OF DUE PROCESS

- A. Students accused of violating the rules and regulations of this Athletic Code have the following rights:
 - 1. The right to know the charges being brought against him/her.
 - 2. The right to contest the charges.

Article VIII. PROCEDURES OF CODE ENFORCEMENT

Alleged violations of controlled substance use/abuse or conduct regulations are subject to the following procedures:

A. Accusation

Anyone having first hand knowledge of an alleged training or conduct violation must contact the Athletic Director or Principal within 90 days of the violation. The contact must be in either written form or verbal consent of using their name and information. At that time, a "Misconduct Report" will be completed and signed by the accuser.

B. Student and Parental Notification

Upon receiving a "Misconduct Report" the Athletic Director will:

1. Contact the student and parents to inform them of the accusation.
2. Inform them of the specific Athletic Code violation (interpret code).

C. Appeal Procedures to Athletic Council

1. If the student or his/her parents are dissatisfied with the decision rendered by the Athletic Director, they may appeal the decision of the Athletic Director within five school days after they receive their misconduct report.
2. The Athletic Director and Athletic Council (The Athletic Council is comprised of all head coaches and is chaired by the Athletic Director. It is a judiciary body to rule on alleged violations of the rules and regulations described herein.) will schedule a meeting as soon as possible to discuss the issue.
3. The athlete may be accompanied by his/her parents at the meeting. The athlete will have an opportunity to present evidence and challenge evidence presented against him/her at the meeting. The Athletic Council will vote to determine if the suspension should be sustained.
4. The Athletic Director shall notify the athlete and his/her guardians of the decision within five school days.

D. Appeal Procedures to Principal, Superintendent, and Board of Education

Any student wishing to appeal the decision of the Athletic Council must adhere to the following procedures:

- a. Present a written statement to the high school Principal, stating the reason that the Athletic Council's decision is contested. The Principal and Superintendent will review the decision of the Athletic Council and the appeal of the accused. They will inform the accused within one day as to their findings regarding the incident.
- b. If the accused is not satisfied with the decision of the Principal and Superintendent, a hearing before the Board of Education may be requested in writing.
- c. If the accused is not satisfied with the decision of the Board of Education, he/she may request in writing a review by the Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association's Executive Office.
- d. If the accused is not satisfied with the decision of the Executive Office of the WIAA, he/she may appeal in writing for either a review or a hearing before the Board of Control of the WIAA.
- e. The provisions outlined above shall be the sole and exclusive remedy for appeal of contested decisions.

Article IX. SEARCH AND SEIZURE

All lockers in the athletic department are the property of the St. Croix Central School District. The athletic locker is to be used as a storage place for their equipment. If the Athletic Director or Coach has reasonable suspicion that the student is using the locker improperly, or for storage of illegal or dangerous material, they may search the locker with or without the student's permission, providing a reliable witness is present. Law enforcement officers who wish to search lockers should possess valid search warrants.

Article X. ATHLETIC INJURIES AND CARE

1. All athletes will be required to take a physical examination. All student athletes are covered by a supplemental student insurance plan. Please contact the Administrative Office for specifics.
2. In the event a student is injured, it is the student's responsibility to report the injury to the coach. The Coach will fill out an injury report form and file it with the office the next day. This form may provide a source of information necessary for insurance purposes.
3. To assure that sufficient recovery or healing has occurred and the athlete is physically able to return to athletic competition, he/she must have a certificate signed by the doctor so stating and indicating the date of return. This is a WIAA rule and obviously designed to provide some assurance to the parent, coach, and school that the athlete has recovered from the injury. The certificate is to be given to the Coach and the Coach is required to pass it to the Athletic Director, who will keep it on file.
4. Parents, if not present at the athletic contest, will be notified by the Coach or Athletic Director as soon as feasibly possible, in the event their son/daughter is injured or hospitalized.
5. In order for insurance to apply, the injured athlete must see a physician within one month of the date of the injury.

Article XI. AWARDS

1. Varsity letters will be earned according to the criteria set up by each sport's coaching staff and approved by the Athletic Director.
2. Individual awards will be determined by each sport's coaching staff.
3. The Athletic Director will recognize a senior male and female athlete(s) for Outstanding Athlete and Scholar Athlete, as determined by WIAA criteria and coaching staff members.
4. Each season an individual male athlete, female athlete, and overall athletic team will be recognized for earning the highest GPA amongst the same season athletes and teams.

Article XII. AGE OF MAJORITY DISCLAIMER

St. Croix Central School is aware that a percentage of the student athletes will have reached the age of majority. There is no attempt to deny these students their constitutional rights. However, in order to maintain consistency in our athletic programs, we shall enforce the rules and regulations of this Athletic Code for all students regardless of age.

Article XIII. PARENT-STUDENT AGREEMENT

The signatures on the parent attest card show that I have read and understand the Athletic Code of St. Croix Central School. I understand that violation of any of the WIAA or St. Croix Central School Regulations will result in action as prescribed. Furthermore, any act in violation of the Athletic Code that occurs outside of the school setting, which is brought to the attention of the school authorities, will be prosecuted under the Athletic Code following due process, by referring the individual to the Athletic Council.