

# High School Policy: Academic Standards and Substance Abuse

## Approved by the Board, January 2014

### Philosophy and Purpose of the Academic Eligibility and Substance Abuse Policies of Stanwood Lacrosse

It is the philosophy of Stanwood Lacrosse to promote and encourage academic success and healthy choices by our players, and to remain in compliance with NSYLA WHSBLA, WIAA, and Stanwood School District policies.

### General Policy and Resolution of Conflicting Policies

Stanwood Lacrosse uses the rules and policies of: WHSBLA, WIAA, NSYLA, and relevant portions of Stanwood School District Policies. Unless exempted by Stanwood Lacrosse, the most restrictive rule shall be the rule followed by Stanwood Lacrosse. The President of Stanwood Lacrosse will be responsible for initial interpretation and resolution of policy conflicts. The initial interpretation may be referred to the board for review at the discretion of the President or by a vote of the Board. Exceptions to these policies, and/or policies in addition to the above policies may be developed by Stanwood Lacrosse.

Eligibility List: No student shall participate in an interscholastic contest unless he/she is properly certified on an eligibility list on file with Stanwood Lacrosse. This does not affect practice or try outs. Only players who are currently eligible to participate in a game may appear in the team uniform on the team bench, sideline, or field during the contest. A player must be currently eligible to participate in a game to participate in the pre-game warm-up.

### Academic Standards

In order to maintain game eligibility, all high school players must:

- A) Meet the standards of WIAA for the previous semester/trimester. Players must have passed the minimum number of classes as listed below, in the immediately preceding semester/trimester in order to be eligible for competition during the succeeding semester/trimester. The record at the end of the semester/trimester shall be final, except for those credits earned in a regular, accredited summer school program or alternative educational program accepted by the school district. Incompletes may be made up for credit during the first five (5) weeks of the subsequent semester/trimester. The student shall be ineligible for interscholastic competition until the incomplete(s) are cleared.

Failure to be eligible at the start of the current season: Any player who failed to make the grade requirements of the previous semester/trimester shall be placed on suspension. The student shall be ineligible to participate in games during the suspension period. **This is not-negotiable.** The suspension period for high school players shall be the first five (5) weeks of the semester/trimester which coincides with the start of the season. If, at the end of the suspension period, the student is passing in the minimum number of classes required in this

policy, the student may then be reinstated for games.

- B) During the current season, all players must maintain the academic standards of Stanwood Lacrosse, Stanwood School District, NSYLA, WHSBLA, and WIAA in order to remain eligible to compete. There are two standards for players (3 for Seniors), all of which must be met in order to maintain eligibility to compete for Stanwood Lacrosse.

**Standard 1: Current Semester/Trimester:** Minimum standards per WIAA are: Must have passing grades (D or above) in 3 of 3 class schedule, or the equivalent of 4 classes in a 5 period class schedule or 5 classes in a 6 period schedule, or 6 classes in a 7 period class schedule, or 7 classes in a 8 period class schedule--- or the equivalent credits. Grades will be monitored during each 3-6 week period beyond the normal grading periods. Private school players will be held to the school standards of their school. Running Start course equivalent: One 5-credit course or 3-credit course shall equal 1 high school semester credit.

**Standard 2:** All players must be passing all classes (no F's or equivalent) with at least a 2.0 grade point average in order to be eligible to play. Any class taken as part of the regular schedule of the student during the semester/trimester shall be considered to be a full time subject.

Standard for SENIOR players: Stanwood Lacrosse may allow only seniors who are on track to graduate to initially enroll in one less class than the minimum number of classes required for other students. Seniors enrolled in one less class than other students must maintain passing grades in all classes in which they initially enrolled in order to remain academically eligible. Seniors may not drop or withdraw from a class in order to remain eligible.

Three or more teaching days in the Stanwood School District shall constitute a week for the purposes of calculating the suspension period.

All periods of ineligibility will end on the Monday following the satisfactory completion of academic requirements. It is essential that players demonstrate eligibility. All games in which an ineligible player participates or even steps onto the field, are forfeited, in accordance with WIAA policy.

Academically ineligible players may participate in practices and other team activities at the discretion of the coach.

Proving eligibility: As Stanwood Lacrosse does not have access to any grading systems of our players, it is the sole responsibility of all high school players to provide the proof of eligibility, according to this policy. If the documentation is incomplete, insufficient, or missing, the player is immediately ineligible to play.

Eligibility for the start of the season: By the first day of practice, all players shall provide the coach or his/her designee, **an official transcript** of grades for the trimester/semester preceding the start of the season. If the player's grades meet the standard they will remain eligible for play. The official transcript is only required for initial eligibility.

Eligibility for the remainder of the current season: At 5 weeks after the start of the semester, and every 5 weeks thereafter through the season, all players shall provide the coach or designee: A copy of the printout of the current grades from the school's official online grade book (or equivalent as approved by

the President). The printout must be signed by the player and parent/guardian confirming the accuracy of the grade printout. Any grades which violate the Academic Standards policy will then automatically place the player on suspension. NOTE: It is understood that the printout may not necessarily accurately reflect the academic performance of the player. If the player believes that his/her grades are not accurately indicated on the printout, the player may provide a signed note from the teacher(s) indicating the correct grade for that class. This method of grade verification shall be used for all grade checks except for the use of the official transcript at the start of the season.

Except for the initial proof of eligibility, all documentation is required to be turned in by the start of practice on the last day of the week it is required—or 5pm on Friday, whichever is earlier. The documentation shall include grades through the day prior to the due date.

Incomplete, missing, and/or illegible documents will be considered as not meeting the standard for that week. Any documentation which does not meet the academic standards of Stanwood Lacrosse also will be considered as not meeting the academic standards for that week.

At any grade check point after the start of the season, a player does not meet the academic standard, he/she becomes ineligible for 1 week, beginning at the day and time that the grade printout is due, until the suspension ends. Suspension ends on Monday following the successful completion of requirements for academic eligibility.

In order to become eligible to play, the player must prove that he/she has met the academic standard as stated in this policy. The player must then demonstrate eligibility each week.

If the player maintains eligibility for 2 weekly grade checks, they may be removed from weekly grade checks.

### **Rules regarding the use, consumption, sharing\*, providing\*, or distribution of alcohol, tobacco, marijuana and drugs:**

Rules regarding use, consumption, sharing, providing, or distribution of any drugs and controlled substances follows WIAA policies. Examples of legend drugs are designer drugs, cocaine, paraphernalia being use for drugs, anabolic steroids, performance enhancing drugs. *\*Under no circumstances will the penalties be waived for sharing, providing, or distribution.*

Stanwood Lacrosse, WHSBLA, NSYLA and/or WIAA rules and regulations are intended to discourage the use of alcohol, tobacco, legend drugs, controlled substances and paraphernalia and to encourage the use of school and community resources. These rules apply to all high school players at anytime during the sports season, whether the violation occurs at school, in a Stanwood Lacrosse activity, or elsewhere. As Stanwood Lacrosse is not a year round program, the rules regarding substance use will apply only during the season.

Any player who is on suspension or expulsion from school related to substance use or abuse allegation may not participate in ANY Stanwood Lacrosse activity while they are on suspension/expulsion. At any time that a player has violated this policy, it is expected that it will be reported to the Head Coach by the player and/or his parent/guardian immediately. It is also expected that all players, and club members, will report violations to the coach immediately. If a player has been disciplined by the school,

for violations of the school's substance abuse policy, the player is immediately ineligible to play. If a player attends or participates in a game, or even steps onto the field during a game, the game is forfeited, in accordance with WHSBLA and WIAA rules.

Any player who is found in violation of the policy at his school, it is automatically determined that the player is in violation of Stanwood Lacrosse Policy. Any non-school related violations of the policy will be evaluated and the determination of a violation will be made by the President.

1st Violation -- A player shall be immediately ineligible for participation in any Stanwood Lacrosse activity for the remainder of the current season.

Ineligibility shall continue until the next Stanwood Lacrosse season, in which the participant wishes to participate unless the student accesses the assistance program outlined in 2 (below.)

An athlete that is found to be in violation of WIAA Rule 18.26.2 (Legend drugs and controlled substances) shall have two options.

1. The athlete will be ineligible for participation in contests for the remainder of that Stanwood Lacrosse sports season. In order to be considered for participation during the following season, the player must follow the Reinstatement Process.
2. The athlete may choose to seek and receive help for a problem with use of legend drugs or controlled substances. Successful utilization of school and or community assistance programs may allow him/her the possibility to have eligibility re-instated in the current season. The player will be required to provide sufficient documentation of successful utilization of appropriate assistance programs, and follow the Reinstatement Process.

2nd Violation -- A player who again violates any provision of the policy shall be ineligible for Stanwood Lacrosse competition for a period of one (1) calendar year from the date of the second violation. The player must then follow the Reinstatement Process in order to be considered for reinstatement after the suspension period.

3rd Violation -- A player who violates the policy for a 3<sup>rd</sup> time shall be permanently ineligible for participation in Stanwood Lacrosse.

#### **Reinstatement Process:**

- 1) The player will contact the President or his/her designee to request a meeting with the Player Eligibility Committee. The committee will consist of at least: a) The Coach, b) The VP of the appropriate program or President, and c) One more Board member, for a minimum of 3 members. The President is responsible for determining the membership of the Committee.
- 2) If the player is seeking reinstatement during the current season for a first violation of the Substance Abuse Policy, the player must provide the committee with sufficient documentation of successful utilization of an appropriate assistance program, as determined by the Committee.
- 3) The meeting will be held in private, attended only by the player, his/her parent/guardian(s) and the Committee, to discuss the situation. The player will have the chance to present his/her rationale for reinstatement, and be available to answer questions from the Committee.

- 4) The Committee will then meet in Executive Session at the first opportunity, and make a recommendation to the Board President who will make the decision on reinstatement. The Board President may choose to reinstate the player, bar reinstatement, and/or set additional requirements for reinstatement.
- 5) The findings will be shared by the President or designee to the player. The Board may be advised of the findings of the process in an Executive Session.

**Appeals Process:**

A player has the right to request an appeal for discipline handed down by Stanwood Lacrosse. The appeal must be made within 3 days from the player's notification by Stanwood Lacrosse. The appeal must be made in writing, (email is sufficient) and provided to the President or designee.

The player will have the opportunity to meet with the Player Eligibility Committee. Only members of the Committee, the player and his parent/guardian(s) will be allowed to attend this meeting.

After this meeting, the Committee will meet in the full Board at the next regular or special meeting of the Board. The Committee will make its recommendation to the Board in Executive Session, at which point the Board will discuss the appeal and vote. A simple majority vote is sufficient to make a determination on the appeal. The determination of the Board is final.