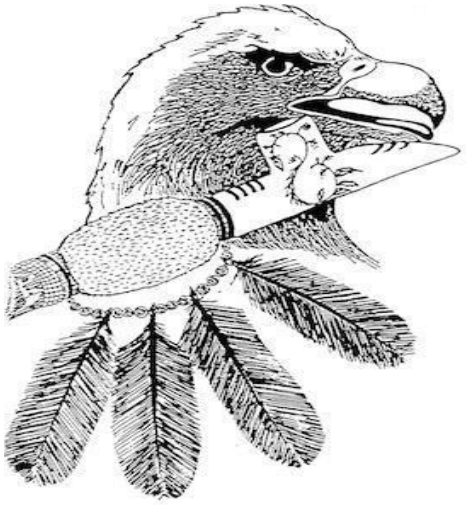
# FOND DU LAC OJIBWE SCHOOL



# 2026-2027

## Activities and Athletics

# HANDBOOK

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# Philosophy and Mission

The Fond du Lac Ojibwe School retains authority to administer activities and athletics pursuant to Band authority, School Board policies, applicable Band law, and governing agreements with participating organizations.

The Fond du Lac Ojibwe School believes that participation in extracurricular activities enriches a student's experience. Extracurricular activities are an accepted extension of our educational program and as such are treated as an educational component of learning providing lessons in teamwork, sportsmanship, and self-discipline. Through extracurricular activities the development of self-confidence, loyalty, perseverance and leadership skills happen. One goal of the Ojibwe School is to develop character and integrity in each student that participates in extracurricular activities.

# Objectives and Beliefs

We believe:

- The opportunity to participate in extracurricular activities is a privilege, not a right.
- Sportsmanship is critical and needs to be present in all school-based extracurricular activities. This includes student participants, coaches/advisors, fans and any other stakeholder in the school.
- Ethical behavior, integrity, character, dignity and respect are essential and are non-negotiable.
- In displaying respect for opponents and officials before, during and after contests.
- Academics must come before participation in athletic or fine arts activities.
- The success of the team is more important than individual honors.
- Promoting life skills in relationship to competitiveness, discipline, responsibility, accountability, and emotional maturity is essential.
- Activity programs are designed for student participants and adults to serve in a supportive role.
- Students should have an equal opportunity to participate in all activities offered by the school.
- Compliance with school, community and Minnesota State High School League rules is essential for all activity participants.
- *In fostering an appreciation of wholesome recreation and entertainment.
- *In encouraging the development of the whole student to achieve full mental, emotional and physical potential while cultivating the concept of health and physical fitness.

# Opportunity to Participate

The philosophy of the Ojibwe School is to encourage the emotional, physical, and intellectual development of each student. Student participation in a variety of activities will be encouraged and supported by the staff and administration. Each participant must accept the responsibility of representing the Ojibwe School in the best possible way personally, academically, and in a sportsmanlike manner. Each student is given an opportunity, if eligible, to try out for any team. Continued participation depends upon the coach or advisor's perception of the individual's attitude toward the rules and regulations governing participation. Frequent (more than twice) displays of an uncooperative attitude, including unexcused absences from classes, practice, meets and contests, or displays of unsportsmanlike conduct including repeated insubordination, failure to follow team rules, and unsportsmanlike behavior may result in removal from the team. All rules and regulations of the Ojibwe School and the Minnesota State High School League concerning academic eligibility, prohibitive use of drugs and tobacco, hazing and harassment will be followed and enforced.

# Guidelines and Philosophy of a Competitive Program

We encourage our parents, participants and advisors/coaches to recognize that student activities require a spirit of cooperation and mutual understanding as well as an appreciation for the experience offered.

For these programs the following guidelines have been developed:

1. Be aware of the time demands and commitments of the activity and accept the responsibility for being prompt and in regular attendance at practices and performances.
2. Demonstrate a sincere interest and consistent effort to improve skills equivalent with ability.
3. Demonstrate an attitude of cooperation and concern for the total group or team.
4. Take proper care of and have respect for equipment, uniforms, instruments, props, etc. used in the activity.
5. Parents/Guardians must be prepared to accept the responsibility of helping their student attain the lessons learned through participation in extra-curricular activities.
6. Parents/Guardians must be a positive supporter of the program, the participants, the coaches, and the officials.
7. Parents/Guardians must support the student's academic achievement while participating in Extra-curricular activities.

# Expectations and Philosophy of a Competitive Program

1. In each program, a coach and/or coaches are hired by the Ojibwe School to be responsible for team selection and playing time. The head coach establishes criteria for selection, possibly with input from the entire coaching staff. This may be a highly subjective process. Team selection, practices and decisions regarding game situations are the responsibility of the coaching staff.

2. The Ojibwe School's extra-curricular programs strive to become highly competitive. As our athletic programs progress, we may not be able to place every child on the team which they wish to participate (Junior Varity, Varsity, etc.). While this is not our desire, it is reality. When a student tries out for a team, both you and they understand there is a very real possibility of not being selected. If selected both the parent(s) and the child should be prepared to accept placement at any team level, (i.e., 9th grade, B-squad, Junior Varsity, and Varsity). It is our desire to place students at their skill level and size to the degree possible. Coaches have a very short amount of time to make team selections. They do the very best they can by placing athletes on the appropriate team and filling positions for play. We believe it is the coaches' responsibility and right to make team selections.

3. The Ojibwe School understands there are off-season/select teams sponsored by different organizations. Participation on one of these teams does not guarantee any player a spot on another "select team" or any high school team. While we believe players can gain valuable experience outside of the school athletic program, neither parents nor students should count on this type of participation to guarantee a spot on a high school team.

4. Good sportsmanship is expected at all Ojibwe School events. Good sportsmanship is expected of players, coaches, advisors, faculty, students, and adult spectators. Promotion of good

sportsmanship at Ojibwe School events shall include a demonstration of respect for all participants and officials.

All involved in an event shall maintain self-control throughout the event. Rules of the event shall be understood, and skill performance should be recognized regardless of team affiliation.

Good sportsmanship Is the Cornerstone of a Quality Activities Program!

## Attendance/Absence

1. Students must attend school in order to practice and/or participate in any extra-curricular activity. Students must attend all assigned classes in order to participate on any given school day. For events that take place on weekends or non-school days, they must be in attendance on the most recent school day or be excused by a parent or guardian.

2. Any student who has been suspended from the Ojibwe School or Cloquet High School for any reason shall also be suspended from attendance or involvement in any extracurricular activity during the full period of the suspension, including any non-school days spanned by the period of suspension. They must also miss one contest after they have returned to school.

3. Any student that receives an in-school suspension shall also be suspended from attendance at, or involvement in, any extracurricular activity during the full period of the suspension, including any non-school days spanned by the period of suspension.

4. Any student who is absent because of a family emergency or a traumatic event (i.e. funeral) may participate in an event that day.

5. Any absence from a scheduled practice will be considered unexcused unless the individual received prior approval from coach.

6. Any late arrival or unexcused absences from scheduled practice, game, or match will result in consequence in line with the team rules as established by the coach and/or school administration.

## Captain's Practice

Captains' practices are not sponsored nor supervised by the Ojibwe School. These practices are arranged by the team captains, are student-led and are optional practices for students to attend. The Ojibwe School assumes no liability for participants involved in these practices. These practices must be supervised by an adult as needed to ensure safety and building supervision.

## Code of Responsibilities

Participation in interscholastic activities is a privilege which is accompanied by responsibility.

As a student participating in the Ojibwe School sponsored activities, I understand and accept the following responsibilities:

A. I will respect the rights and beliefs of others and will treat others with courtesy and consideration.
B, I will be fully responsible for my own actions and the consequences of my actions.
C. I will respect the rights and property of others.

D. I will respect and obey the rules of my school and the laws of my community, tribe, state, and country.
E. I will show respect to those who are responsible for enforcing the rules of my school and the laws of my community, state and country.

## Penalty

A student who is dismissed from school or who violates the student Code of Responsibility is not in good standing and is ineligible for a period of time as determined by the Minnesota State High School League guidelines and in accordance with policies and procedures of the Fond du Lac Ojibwe School Parent/Student Handbook.

## College Bound Athletes

1. Interested students should seek information on the NCAA website at www.ncaa.org
2. Interested students need to complete the NCAA Clearinghouse Application.
3. There are certain scores on the ACT/SAT, a minimum GPA, and specific course work that must be passed in order to be eligible for scholarship money. Please find out more on the web at https://web3.ncaa.org/ecwr3/

## Communication

This procedure has been developed for the purposes of establishing and maintaining the lines of communication between the school, parents/guardians and the students for the resolution of concerns related to extracurricular activities. This procedure is a means by which concerns/problems can be resolved.

To maintain a positive atmosphere and ensure that the proper channels of communication will not be circumvented, a procedure has been outlined for the use of the student, parent/guardian, coach/advisor, and administrators. All participants should adhere to the following guidelines.

**Note:** This process is not intended to provide grievance of a rule(s) of the Minnesota State High School League (FOND DU LAC OJIBWE SCHOOL). There is a separate process established by the OJIBWE SCHOOL. Please ask school administration if you would like a copy of the FOND DU LAC OJIBWE SCHOOL grievance policy.

## Communication Policy

### Step 1:

If a student and or parent/guardian have a concern they should:

A. Schedule a meeting to speak personally with the coach/advisor at a time convenient to both parties, preferably within one week, with the intent of solving the problem. This should not be done immediately after a contest or practice. The coaches have been instructed not to address a problem directly after a contest.

We request that parents wait 24 hours after a contest before scheduling a meeting. If the problem involves an assistant coach, the head coach should be involved in the meeting. The student should also attend this meeting.

B. Parents/students should address problems or concerns related to them only. To be in compliance with FERPA, problems or concerns related to other students will not be discussed.

### Step 2:

If either party has not been satisfied by the proposed resolution of the problem or concern during Step 1, they should request a continuation by contacting a school administrator

### Step 3:

If either party has not been satisfied by the proposed resolution of the problem or concern during Step 1 or 2, they should request a continuation by contacting the Superintendent.

## Equipment/Uniforms

- All uniforms, equipment, and supplies are the property of the Ojibwe School and are to be checked out and in with the coach and/or Activities Department according to the schedule established by the coaching staff and Activities Department.
- All athletes must fill out and turn into the activities department a uniform form. This form will be held until the uniform is satisfactorily turned in. Once the uniform has been returned, the athlete may, if needed, be required to pay fees to cover the replacement cost for articles lost, excessively worn or damaged.
- Game uniforms are to be worn for games and matches only. Uniforms should not be worn as physical education uniforms. Uniforms should not be worn as attire unless authorized by the coach.
- No one will be allowed to start practicing in another sport until the coach from their previous sport clears them.
- Students may be assessed a fee if uniforms are not returned in a timely manner.

## Event Confirmation/Cancellation

Parents and students should check when cancellations occur due to inclement weather, team captains and athletes will be notified as soon as possible. Students are expected to notify parents with details.

## Overnight Student Travel Policies

In the event of a contest or activity needing to spend the night in a hotel, the following policies will be in place for all students travelling on school-sponsored activities. This policy will apply to all overnight school-related activities, including, but not limited to; athletics, school clubs/activities, and camping trips.

- Rooming assignments will be created by the staff responsible for the activity. Student input may be taken into consideration, but final say will be the responsibility of the adults in charge of the activity. Parents with special rooming requests for their student(s) will be

taken into consideration as well and all efforts will be made to accommodate parental requests for rooming.

- The Fond du Lac Ojibwe School will provide space for all students participating in the activity, not to exceed two students per bed provided.
- If a parent/guardian wishes to reduce the number of students per bed for their student(s), the school will do their best to accommodate, depending on several factors. All reasonable efforts will be made to accommodate parental requests with the following in mind:
    - Rooming requests made by parents should be communicated to the school prior to the date of the trip and will be kept confidential by the lead adult.
    - If the provided hotel allows the school to reserve enough rooms for this to take place.
    - If the request does not fit within the budget of the school trip, parents/guardians may be asked to help pay for an extra room should their student(s) require their own beds.

# Governance

The primary role of the Fond du Lac Ojibwe School is to maintain rules and regulations that ensure equity in competition for the student athletes and a balance with other educational programs. The Ojibwe School solicits input and is responsive to requests for rule modification from school board members, concerned community members and the Reservation Business Committee.

The Ojibwe School attempts to enforce such rules that assure the greatest good for the greatest number and to ensure that competition is conducted in an appropriate manner.

Harassment Policy

Bullying, cyberbullying, hazing, online harassment, and retaliation are prohibited.

Refer to the Ojibwe School Parent/Family/Student Handbook.

The following is an excerpt from the Parent/Family/Student Handbook:

“Sexual/Racial/Religious harassment of administrators, staff, students, or visitors is any conduct which interferes with the education or work performance of an individual, or a group which creates an intimidating, coercive, hostile, demeaning or offensive educational and/or work environment. A student may not use racial/religious insults toward other students or staff. "Sexual Harassment" is sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature when 1) submission to such conduct is made, either explicitly or implicitly, a term or condition of a person's employment or advancement of a student's participation in school programs or activities and/or 2) submission to or rejection of such conduct by any employee or student is used as the basis for decisions affecting the employee or student and/or 3) such conduct has the purpose of unreasonably interfering with the employee's or student's performance or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive work or learning environment.”

Consequence: Refer to Parent/Family/Student Handbook

# Injuries

Students who have received medical attention for an injury must provide the Activities Department with a medical release signed by the physician, PA, or NP, stating that the student is cleared to participate before the student will be allowed to resume participation in practice, games or matches. If necessary, with appropriate concussion management protocols as recommended by students physician, PA, or NP.

# Locker Rooms

1. Lockers are provided for students involved in sport and it is the students' responsibility to ensure that the locker rooms are kept clean and orderly.
2. No rough housing or harassment will be tolerated.
3. Any device(s) capable of capturing images ARE NOT permitted in the locker rooms. If a person is found to have one of these devices in their possession it will be confiscated, and disciplinary action will be taken in accordance with the Fond du Lac Ojibwe School Parent/Family/Student Handbook.

# Participation Requirements

In order to participate in athletic activities, the student must have the following on file in the activities office:

1. The current Minnesota State High School Eligibility form signed by both student and his/her parent or guardian.
2. A physical examination form signed by a physician within the last three years.
3. Athletic Emergency Contact Card filled out each sport season.
4. An Academic Eligibility Policy form signed by both student and his/her parent or guardian.

# Academic Eligibility

Students, parents and faculty at the Ojibwe School place a high value on academic achievement. Students are students first and must prioritize co-curricular activities in a secondary role. While students have varying levels of academic ability, it is expected that each one will work to his or her potential.

Ineligibility guidelines are as follows:

1. Specific to academics, students must be making adequate progress toward graduation and must be passing all classes.
2. Grade checks will generally be done twice monthly, on the first and fifteenth. The student will have four days to raise their grades to become eligible before any ineligibility is put into effect. If the student is not eligible after the fourth day, they will become ineligible and begin serving their suspension.

3. Grade checks will start at the beginning of the season and will be done by the Activities Department.

4. Students found to be ineligible will not participate in contests until they have raised their grade(s) to meet the eligibility qualifications.

4. In the event that a student does not meet the requirements and has an active Individualized Education Plan (IEP), the student's case manager must be involved in the determining of eligibility (i.e. the disability affects the student's performance directly). If such a circumstance arises, provisions for eligibility qualifications may be made.

It is the student's responsibility to bring their grade(s) up and prove eligibility. A progress report from all affected classes is required. This progress report should be shown to the Activities Director. If progress report is given to the coach/advisor, it must be shown to Activities Director. The teachers will not be expected to correct, grade, or enter the scores on late or make-up work that is handed in so that student is assured eligibility.

- Students and parents are responsible for understanding this policy, signing and turning into activities department an Academic Eligibility Policy form.

## Transfer Students

Prior to participation, all paperwork with the Ojibwe School Admissions Office, Activities Department and the Ojibwe School must be completed.

Transfer students' eligibility will be determined by their placement in the appropriate grade and semester level upon entering the Ojibwe School. Students will adhere to the same guidelines mentioned under Academic Eligibility'.

## Grade/Age

Students in grades 7-12 in the Ojibwe School are eligible to participate in any high school activity.

Students under the age of 20 are eligible to participate in any high school activity. This includes managers, ball person, statisticians, etc.

## Sportsmanship Expectations

The Minnesota State High School League and the Ojibwe School emphasize proper fan behavior and great sportsmanship. The Ojibwe School seeks to set the standard, be an example of great sportsmanship, and be known as a school with high standards whether the game or match occurs during regular season, section, or state tournament. The enthusiasm displayed and support provided by fans is appreciated by the members of our teams and reflects well on our school and community.

The Fond du Lac Ojibwe School will use the following guidelines at school sponsored events.

1. If you behave inappropriately (e.g. swearing, chanting tasteless cheers, taunting, throwing items, etc.), you will be warned and possibly removed based on the situation at hand. Examples of inappropriate cheers are; singling out a team member by name or number, "you can’t make it", "BS", "air ball" - when continuing to taunt the player, etc.

2. If you have been previously asked to leave a game or match and are asked to leave another game or match you will not be permitted to attend any games or matches for the next 2 weeks.

3. If inappropriate behavior occurs again and you are asked to leave the game or match, you will not be permitted to attend any extra-curricular activities for the remainder of that season. Please help the Ojibwe School set the standard for sportsmanship.

**CHEER FOR OUR TEAM AND NOT AGAINST OUR OPPONENT.**

## Transportation

1. Transportation to away contests will be arranged by the Ojibwe School activities departments. It is expected that students will ride to and from the assigned event. Any changes made to those assigned must be cleared with the coach.

2. If a parent/guardian is going to give their child a ride home, they should complete a Transportation Notice Form and turn it into the coach before student gets on the bus to leave for the event. Under no circumstance will a coach/advisor release a student to someone other than his/her parent/guardian without prior approval from student's parent or guardian.

3. The only way a student would be released to someone else is in an extreme situation. This type of request should be made to the Activities Department as soon as possible prior to the day of the contest. **A written request to do this should be filed with the activities department.**

7. Upon removing the student from the care of the school, the school will no longer be liable for the student.

8. Failure to follow these procedures will result in a disciplinary action as determined by the coach/advisor, the activities department, or the school administration.

9. The Ojibwe School is responsible for arranging rides to away games and matches for the players and managers on the team. Students who are not on the team will be responsible for establishing their own means of transportation to and from games, matches and events.

## Two (2) Sports/Same Season

An athlete may compete in two (2) high school sports during the same season.

The athlete must:

1. Obtain consent from BOTH coaches.

2. Obtain consent from the Activities Director.

## Fond du Lac Ojibwe School Expectations for Student Behavior, and Consequences/ Discipline

1. Students are to abide by the rules and policies that are in effect while attending school and/or school sponsored functions.

2. Staff will notify school administration of all violations of the rules. Consequences will be made in accordance with the Fond du Lac Ojibwe School Parent/Family/Student Handbook.

3. Suspensions will follow the Ojibwe School guidelines when necessary and meet or exceed MSHSL Standards.

# Appendices

## Appendix A

The Ojibwe School is committed to a learning environment and working environment that is free from harassment of any form. Harassment of any student or employee through conduct or communication by any other student or employee is prohibited. The Fond du Lac Ojibwe School will treat allegations of harassment seriously and will review and investigate such allegations in a prompt, confidential and thorough manner. The Fond du Lac Reservation Business Committee has established a "Zero Tolerance Policy" for all harassment violations.

A charge of harassment shall not, in and of itself, create the presumption of wrongdoing. However, substantial acts of harassment will result in disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal. Any person found to have made false or frivolous charges will also be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including expulsion/termination.

## HARASSMENT DEFINED

Harassment occurs when an individual is subjected to treatment or a school environment which is hostile or intimidating because of the individual's race, color, national origin, ancestry, religion, creed, sex, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or any other status protected by applicable tribal, federal, or state law.

Harassment can occur at any time during school related activities. It includes, but is not limited to any or all the following:

1. Verbal Harassment: Derogatory comment and jokes with intent to harass; threatening or obscene words spoken to another person, name calling or rumoring; written communication that is intimidating and/or inappropriate for students or adults in a learning environment.

2. Physical harassment: Unwanted physical touching, pulling on clothing, contact, assault, deliberate impeding or blocking movements or any intimidating interference with normal work or movement.

3. Visual Harassment: Publicly displaying or making obscene gestures with the intent to harass; derogatory, demeaning or inflammatory posters, cartoons, written words, notes, book covers or drawings.

4. Sexual Harassment: Includes unwelcome sexual advances, unwelcome requests for sexual favors, and other unwelcome verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature, unwelcome touching, suggesting or demanding an inappropriate relationship or sexual involvement accompanied by implied or explicit threats concerning grades, job, and the like.

5. Any conduct that has the purpose or effect of substantially interfering with an individual's academic or professional performance or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive employment, or educational environment.

# RESPONSIBILITIES

It is the responsibility of the Fond du Lac Ojibwe School to:

1. Implement this policy in accordance with all Fond du Lac Reservation policies and procedures through a regular training program with all faculty and staff, ensuring that they understand the policy and its importance. This program will be held at the beginning of each school year.

2. Make all students and parents aware of this policy and the commitment of the school toward its strict enforcement. Faculty will train students at the beginning of each school year.

3. Remain watchful for conditions that create or may lead to a hostile or offensive school environment.

It is the responsibility of the employee/student to:

1. Conduct in a manner which contributes to a positive school environment. An environment that includes, but is not limited to Debwewin (Truth), Dabasendiziwin (Humility), Manaaji'idiwin (Respect), Zaagi'idiwin (Love), Gwayakwaadiziwin (Honesty), Zoongide'ewin (Bravery), and Nibwaakaawin (Widsom).

2. Avoid any activity that may be considered discriminatory, intimidating, or harassing.

3. Consider immediately informing anyone harassing him or her that their behavior is offensive and unwelcome.

4. Report all incidents of discrimination or harassment to school personnel.

5. If informed he or she is perceived as engaging in discriminatory, intimidating, harassing or unwelcome conduct, to discontinue that conduct immediately.

# CHILD ABUSE

In instance of suspected child abuse (sexual and otherwise) and neglect, Minnesota's Child Protection Law requires school administrators, counselors, and teachers to report suspected instances. This is an additional responsibility of the School Activity Director. Reasonable cause may be based on any number of circumstances or factors. Child abuse and neglect are broadly defined by the law. Appropriate action shall be taken immediately.

# CONFIDENTIALITY

As in all allegations, every effort will be made to keep the matter confidential in order to presume innocence until proven guilty and to protect the names and reputations of those involved. Appropriate notification of insurance carriers to potential liability exposure is the responsibility of the School Activity Director.

## Appendix B

# Fond du Lac Ojibwe School Other Activities and Lettering Requirements

Academic Lettering

This is the highest form of lettering. Academic letters are presented to students after the 3rd quarter for

Freshman and after the 1st semester of each of the other grades; based on a cumulative GPA, not a semester GPA.

1 Students may letter up to four times academically in their high school career.

2. Students will earn an "S" the first time they have lettered. Upon lettering again, they are eligible for a bar.
3. Students earn an academic letter if they attain the following GPA: Freshman: cumulative GPA of 3.85,

Sophomores: cumulative GPA of 3.8, Juniors: cumulative GPA of 3.7, Seniors: cumulative GPA of 3.6

**Fond du Lac Ojibwe School Drum & Dance/ Quiz Bowl**

All of the following must be met:

1. Be a member of Ojibwe School's Drum and Dance or Quiz Bowl group.
2. Be recommended by the instructor for recognition.

Complete the following: Receive recognition as I (Superior); or Il (Excellent) rating in performance at school, region, or state gatherings.

**Certifications**

Approved by the Fond du Lac Ojibwe School Board on 7/2/2026
Approved by the Fond du Lac Reservation Business Committee on 8/18/2026