

# **Vermillion School District Activities Rules and Regulations Handbook 2023-24 Edition**

Vermillion School District  
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## Introduction

Student participation in extracurricular activities has been linked to improved attendance, higher academic achievement, and greater student self-confidence and self-esteem. Vermillion Public Schools provides students with the opportunity to participate in a comprehensive activities program that includes athletics, fine arts, and select clubs or organizations associated with academic areas.

Although the school district believes strongly in the value of student activities, participation in the activities program is a privilege, not a right. Students must obey the rules set out in this handbook and any additional rules created by their coach or activity sponsor. This handbook is advisory and does not create a "contract" with parents, students, or staff. The administration reserves the right to make decisions and make rule revisions at any time to implement the educational program and to assure the well-being of all students. The administration is responsible for interpreting the rules contained in the handbook. If a situation or circumstance arises that is not specifically covered in this handbook, the administration will make a decision based upon all applicable school district policies, and state and federal statutes and regulations.

**Please read this handbook carefully. Students and their parents are responsible for complying with all the rules and procedures detailed in this booklet.**

The provisions in this handbook are subject to change at the sole discretion of the Board of Education. From time to time, you may receive updated information concerning changes in the handbook. These updates should be kept within the handbook so that it is up to date. If you have any questions regarding this handbook, please contact the Superintendent for assistance.

## **NONDISCRIMINATION IN EDUCATION PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES**

The school district does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policies:

Dr. Damon R. Alvey, Superintendent  
Vermillion School District  
1001 East Main Street  
605-677-7000  
Damon.Alvey@k12.sd.us

For further information on notice of nondiscrimination, visit [https://ocrcas.ed.gov/contact-ocr?field\\_state\\_value=684](https://ocrcas.ed.gov/contact-ocr?field_state_value=684) or contact:

Office for Civil Rights  
U.S. Department of Education  
One Petticoat Lane  
1010 Walnut Street, Suite 320  
Kansas City, MO 64106

Telephone: 816-268-0550  
FAX: 816-268-0599  
TDD: 877-521-2172  
Email: OCR.KansasCity@ed.gov

For additional prohibited discrimination and related information, please review school district Policy 3053 – Nondiscrimination.

## **SECTION ONE: GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE ACTIVITIES PROGRAM**

### **Academic Eligibility**

To be eligible to participate in the school's activity programs, each student must meet South Dakota High School Activities Association (SDHSAA) and District requirements concerning scholastic eligibility (see Section Three of this Handbook). Participants must attend practices and participate in all conditioning during any period of ineligibility.

The school district will notify a participant and his or her parents whenever the participant is declared academically ineligible.

Students may not participate in any activity, performance or practice while serving a short-term suspension, long-term suspension, or expulsion from school.

### **Attendance at Practices and Contests**

Participants in the activities program are expected to attend and be on time at all practices and meetings scheduled by the coach or sponsor. Participants may be excused for absences resulting from a participant's illness, a death in the family, a doctor's appointment, a court appearance, or other absences that are arranged in advance. The coach, sponsor, or director of an activity may require a participant who has an excused absence to complete an alternate assignment for missing a practice, meeting, event, performance, or contest. A participant who is unable to attend a scheduled practice, meeting, or game must contact the coach or sponsor in advance. Students who are absent from school due to illness are not required to provide the coach or sponsor with additional notification of the student's absence from practice.

Students who are absent from school for any part of the day will not be permitted to practice or participate in an athletic contest or activity performance unless the student has the building principal/activities director prior permission to participate despite the absence.

If a participant misses a scheduled contest or performance, the coach or sponsor may impose discipline up to and including suspension of the participant from the activity for the remainder of the season or length of the activity.

### **Closings**

In the event that school has been called off for inclement weather practices and events will be canceled that day.

### **Colors**

The Vermillion Public School colors are red and white.

## **Complaint Procedure**

To reduce conflicts in the school's activities program, students and/or their parents should use the district's formal complaint procedure to manage conflicts about the program. The complaint procedure is printed in the school's student handbook and may be found on the district's web site.

## **Concussions**

A concussion is a brain injury. Concussions are caused by a bump, blow, or jolt to the head or body. Even what seems to be a mild bump or blow to the head can be serious. A concussion cannot be seen, signs and symptoms of concussion can show up right after the injury or may not appear or be noticed until days after the injury. If a teen reports one or more symptoms of concussion listed below, or if you notice the symptoms yourself, keep your teen out of play and seek medical attention right away.

1. Symptoms observed by parents or guardians:
  - a. appears dazed or stunned;
  - b. is confused about assignment or position;
  - c. forgets an instruction;
  - d. is unsure of game, score, or opponent;
  - e. moves clumsily;
  - f. answers questions slowly;
  - g. loses consciousness (even briefly)
  - h. shows mood, behavior, or personality changes;
  - i. can't recall events prior to hit or fall; or
  - j. can't recall events after hit or fall.
2. Symptoms Reported by Athlete:
  - a. headache or pressure in head;
  - b. nausea or vomiting;
  - c. balance problems or dizziness;
  - d. double or blurry vision;
  - e. sensitivity to light or noise;
  - f. feeling sluggish, hazy, foggy, or groggy;
  - g. concentration or memory problems;
  - h. confusion; or
  - i. just not feeling right or is feeling down.

## **Dances**

School dances are part of the school experience. Students who wish to participate in school dances must comply with the activity code. Students may be prohibited from participating in school dances consequently for violating school rules or these activity rules.

### **Junior High/Middle School Dances**

Junior high/middle school (6-8) dances are restricted to students currently enrolled in the junior high school and will be sponsored by junior high teachers

and parents. Any organization wishing to sponsor a junior high dance must obtain permission from the principal regarding date and times.

Each dance must be sponsored by at least two faculty members and one additional adult couple. Once admitted to the dance, students must remain until the close of the dance. Students who leave the dance will not be readmitted. Students who are academically ineligible will not be allowed to attend school dances.

### **High School Dances**

All high school dances are restricted to Vermillion High School students and their guests. Any organization wishing to sponsor a dance must obtain permission from the principal regarding date and times. Each dance must be sponsored by at least two faculty members. Students who leave the dance will not be readmitted.

The Junior/Senior Prom is open to students and guests of the Vermillion High School junior and senior classes. Guests (aged 20 and younger) must follow all the rules that the students must follow. Each student is responsible for his/her guest's conduct. Appropriate attire is required for these dances.

### **Electronic Communication**

The school board supports the use of technology by coaches, extracurricular sponsors, and other staff members to communicate with students for legitimate educational, extracurricular, and other school-related purposes.

However, electronic communication between students and teachers, sponsors, and coaches shall be appropriate at all times and shall not violate any law, district policies, or the Regulations and Standards for Professional Ethics. Please see the social media Policy for School District Employees for further explanation.

### **Equipment**

Each participant in the athletic portion of the activities program will be issued a locker to store his/her personal belongings and school equipment that has been checked out. Students should secure their athletic lockers with combination locks.

School-owned clothing or equipment that is checked out to individual students remains the property of the school. The clothing or equipment is not to be used or worn by the student except for the intended use. Each piece of equipment or clothing is to be returned to the instructor or coach when the season or the use for such clothing or equipment is over. Each participant is responsible for all equipment checked out to him/her. Students will be assessed the replacement cost for school equipment that has been checked out to him/her and is lost or stolen.

## **Fundraising**

All school-sponsored fundraising activities must be approved by a member of the school district administration. Fundraising for any activity must comply with the district's policies, including applicable provisions specifically pertaining to Booster Clubs and PTOs for non-school-sponsored fundraising. Use of the school mascot shall not be permitted unless approved by the superintendent.

## **Individual Training Rules and Rules of Conduct**

Head coaches or sponsors may develop additional training rules or rules of conduct for their activity. Students are responsible for knowing these rules and complying with them.

## **Injuries**

Participants who suffer any type of injury while involved in extracurricular activities must notify the coach or sponsor immediately. The coach or sponsor will then evaluate the injury and, if necessary, notify the participant's parents or seek immediate medical treatment.

If at any time during participation a doctor removes an athlete from participation because of an illness or injury, the athlete must have a written release from a doctor before participating again. The written release must be given to the coach or sponsor of the activity. The release requirement will be satisfied if the initial doctor's order specifies the duration of the student's restriction from participation and/or competition.

## **Insurance**

The school district does not provide medical or other insurance coverage for students who participate in athletic contests or other activities. It is the parents' responsibility to provide adequate insurance to cover any medical expenses that may be incurred while the student is participating in athletics or other activities.

The school district makes an accident insurance plan available for purchase by participants and their families through an authorized insurance agent. Information about policies which families may purchase will be available prior to each sports season and at fall registration.

## **Mascot**

The official emblem for boys' and girls' athletic teams is the Tanager. The mascot cannot be used for non-school-sponsored purposes unless approved by the superintendent.



## **Practices**

The individual head coach or sponsor, in cooperation with the high school principal, will schedule all starting times of practices. All participants are expected to be ready at the time set by the coach or sponsor.

To be eligible to practice, a participant must satisfy the following requirements:

1. Submit to the coach or sponsor a signed physical form and Activities Code that verifies that a physical examination has been completed and that the student and parent(s) understand the school's position regarding the use or possession of alcohol, tobacco, and other related drugs.
2. Return a signed Activities Consent Form to the Activities Office.

## **Student Manager, Helpers, or Activity Aids**

Students wishing to serve as student volunteers for extracurricular activities must gain the permission of the activity coach or sponsor. Student volunteers must comply with all the rules and procedures contained in this handbook.

## **Sunday and Wednesday Night Activities**

In order to provide students sufficient time away from school for family-related activities, the school will endeavor not to schedule activities on Wednesday evenings or on Sundays. Practices will be organized so that all participants are showered, dressed, and/or leave the facilities by 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday nights. An exception to this guideline would be when a team, group of students, or an individual may be required to participate in an activity sponsored by the conference, district, or state on a Wednesday night.

The school does not allow Sunday practice sessions, except when a varsity team, group of students, or individual is scheduled to compete or perform on a Monday. Practices scheduled for a Sunday must have the prior approval of the activities director or building principal.

## **Transportation to Activities**

All participants are expected to ride to and from away activities by means of approved school transportation. The school district provides transportation to students who are participating in school-sponsored events, and they must ride to those events in a school vehicle. Students who wish to ride home with their parents may take private transportation home from a school event and must submit a release form to the sponsor that has been signed by that student's parent. Students may not ride home with anyone other than their parents without prior administrator approval.

## **Weight Room**

The weight room has been developed to help each athlete, student, or adult in the community maintain a level of physical fitness. No one may use the weight room or equipment without proper supervision. The school will develop a schedule for use of the weight room by athletes during the school year and during the summer months.

The weight room is a high demand area within the school facilities. The following guidelines will help determine the priorities in reference to use if more than one group desires to use the facility at the same time:

1. Physical education instruction
2. By the team sports, which are in season
3. Conditioning programs for athletes not currently out for a sport
4. Summer conditioning programs
5. Adult education

## **SECTION TWO: AVAILABLE ACTIVITIES**

### **Activities**

Basketball (boys and girls)	Art Club
Cross County (boys and girls)	Band
Football	Cheer Team
Golf (boys and girls)	Dance Team
Gymnastics	Debate & Speech
Soccer (boys and girls)	Drama Club
Softball	FBLA
Tennis (boys and girls)	FCCLA
Track (boys and girls)	Marching Band Flags
Volleyball	Math Club
Wrestling	National Honor Society
Baseball (club)	Oral Interp.
Bowling (club)	Science Club/Quiz Bowl
Swimming (club)	Student Council
	Vocal Music
	Yearbook

### **Art Club**

Membership is open to those students who are currently or have been enrolled in Art Classes at VHS. A variety of projects will be worked on.

## **Band**

The school district sponsors marching band, pep band, and jazz band in addition to concert band. Participants must be enrolled in band class to be eligible to participate in these groups.

## **Cheer Team**

Participants are selected by the coach(s) or judges appointed by the coach. Members of the cheer squad will attend all home and selected away athletic contests.

## **Dance Team**

Participants are selected by coaches or judges. Members perform at home events along with an annual recital.

## **Debate & Speech**

Students compete in numerous categories of competition. These include debate, current events speaking, and several theater-type acting events.

## **Drama Club**

The Drama Club is open to students interested in the various aspects of theater and offers varying levels of involvement. The main focus of this club is to produce the fall and spring plays, and the winter musical (in cooperation with the Vocal Music Department).

## **Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA)**

FBLA is an integral part of the vocational business department and membership is limited to those students with at least one semester of work in the business education field. One of the primary objectives of FBLA is developing leadership and responsibility.

## **Family Career and Community Leadership of America (FCCLA)**

FCCLA is an integral part of the Family and Consumer Sciences department. Members should have taken or presently be taking a family and consumer sciences class. Program emphasis for FCCLA is on leadership development, family cooperation and communication, community service and peer education.

## **Future Farmers of America (FFA)**

FFA is an integral part of the agricultural education department, and all students of that department are urged to belong. The activities include training in leadership, opportunities for travel and recreation, and safety and community service activities. Students may participate in field trips, conventions, judging contests, and have hands-on experience.

### **Marching Band Flags**

Membership is open to students wanting to participate with a marching band. Students will coordinate with the band director to develop performances. Performances include halftimes, parades, and competitions.

### **Math Club**

Students compete in various categories for local math competitions.

### **National Honor Society**

The National Honor Society is a national organization that recognizes student character, scholarship, leadership, and service to the school.

Student members shall be selected from the junior and senior classes by the high school faculty. Ten percent of the Junior and Senior classes will be selected each year. The results of the selection will be announced at an honors convocation.

### **One Act Play**

Participants learn about acting, stage development, lighting, and sound development. Competition at local, regional, and state level.

### **Oral Interp.**

Activity members study and practice vocally expressing written compositions. Members will participate in local competitions, including regional and state.

### **Science Club/Quiz Bowl**

The purpose of the science club is to support students involved in student research projects. The club encourages student participation in competitions, seminars, training camps, and research programs.

### **Student Council**

The purpose of student council is to arouse the spirit of loyalty toward the school, to promote good citizenship, to sponsor school activities, to extend the spirit of good fellowship throughout the student body, to foster a spirit of cooperation between the students and faculty, and to seek to develop a spirit of cooperation, good will, and better understanding with other schools. The organization, operation, and scope of the student government shall be administered by the Superintendent or designee.

### **Spanish Club**

The Spanish Club is designed to give students an opportunity to develop their knowledge of different Spanish speaking cultures. Members of the club are also interested in becoming involved with the Spanish speaking community in the area.

## **Vocal Music**

Participants are prepared for solo and ensemble performance. Mixed Choir, concert choir, and show choir are offered. The participant must be enrolled in concert choir to be eligible for show choir.

## **Yearbook**

The yearbook is published by the Journalism class along with the help of its teacher. The annual is financed partially by funds raised from the sale of the books.

# **SECTION THREE: SOUTH DAKOTA HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION RULES**

## **Eligibility**

In order to represent a high school in interscholastic athletic competition, a student must abide by eligibility rules of the South Dakota High School Activities Association. Eligibility requirements are established by the SDHSAA in its Constitution and its Bylaws and Approved Rulings. These documents can be found online at <https://www.sdhsaa.com/Portals/0/PDFs/Handbook/Athletics/3-ConstitutionByLaws.pdf?ver=2016-07-21-131149-890>. A summary of the major rules is given below. Contact the principal, activities director or the activity sponsor or coach for an explanation of the complete rule.

**Age:** The student must be under 20 years of age at the time of participation. Age to be determined by birth date.

**Enrollment:** The student must have enrolled not later than the sixteenth school day of the current semester.

**Eight Semester Rule:** A student shall be eligible for four first semesters and four second semesters of interscholastic competition while enrolled in grades 9-12. For the purpose of this subsection, enrollment and attendance in school or participation in one or more contests shall count as a semester of eligibility. Once a student enrolls as a ninth grader, all semesters must be consecutive unless waived as per Article VII, Section 3 (I), page 10 of the SDHSAA Constitution.

## **Local Academic Eligibility**

**Preceding Semester/Trimester:** The student, unless they are entering high school for the first time, shall have successfully earned a minimum of two (2) units of credit which are used in the issuance of a diploma, for the preceding or for the most recent semester/trimester of attendance in any accredited high school. For the purposes of this subsection, enrollment and attendance in school or participation in one or more contests shall constitute a semester/trimester in determining eligibility. However, the SDHSAA Board

of Directors or the SDHSAA Executive Director shall have the authority to waive the attendance rule when and if a student withdraws from school as a result of an injury or illness and does not return to any school for the remainder of the semester/trimester and the student does not receive any high school course credits.

NOTE: Failure to earn two (2) units of credit the previous semester/trimester causes the student to become ineligible the entire following semester/trimester. NOTE: Only credits accepted by the school for graduation may be used in determining whether a student successfully earned two (2) units of credit. Source: Minutes of January 10-11, 2001, Board of Directors Meeting.

**Current Semester:** The student shall (a) be enrolled in an accredited high school and attend courses for which a minimum of two and a half (2.5) units of credit may be earned towards the issuance of a diploma, (b) be receiving alternative instruction as set forth in SDCL § 13-27-3 or (c) any student in grades ten, eleven, or twelve may apply to an institution of higher education or a postsecondary vocational education institution as a special student in a course or courses offered at the institution of higher education or postsecondary vocational education institution. Correspondence/college courses approved in advance by the high school principal for which credits earned are used in the issuance of a high school diploma may count towards the two (2) units of credit eligibility requirement. (Refer to SDCL § 13-28-37)

**Credit recovery:** Students who have been declared ineligible because of academic deficiencies from the previous semester/trimester may earn scholastic/academic eligibility by taking an academic course(s) via the options approved by the SD Department of Education. Examples include, but are not limited to, on-line courses, in-district credit recovery courses, alternative education settings, digital courses, etc. The principal must monitor the successful completion of the course(s) and reinstate eligibility only after the successful completion of 2 units of credit as per Chapter I, Part IV, Section 1, Subsection D., page 14 of the Bylaws.

**Beginning and Ending of a Semester:** For the purpose of this subsection, the first semester shall be considered as ending at midnight on the day before the second semester begins and the second semester shall be considered as starting on the first day classes are held in said semester. The actual ending of the first/second semester or school year, rather than the date of graduation exercises or diploma date, controls the determination of when eligibility terminates.

### **Eligibility Grades 7-12**

Vermillion High School students who are academically ineligible by local standards, who has achieved the local eligibility GPA standard during the first nine-week period of the semester of ineligibility, may on their own initiative meet with the School Board requesting reinstatement for probationary

eligibility for the second nine-week period of the semester of ineligibility. Reinstatement requests will be reviewed individually, and a decision rendered based on the circumstances of the situation.

A. In order to participate in Vermillion 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade activities/athletics, a student must:

1. Have a GPA of 1.5 from the previous nine weeks to be eligible for the following nine weeks. The 1.5 must be an average of all semester length courses the student is taking.
2. A student with less than a 1.5 average for a nine-week period has a ONE GRACE PERIOD, ten (10) school days per year, in which to bring up and maintain the 1.5 GPA. If the student is successful, he/she will be allowed to continue public participation in contests. Grades will be checked every two weeks. If the student has not raised the grade to 1.5 by the end of the grace period, the student will become ineligible for the remainder of the nine weeks. A student who is ineligible is still allowed to participate in practices.
3. Students considered to be participating on a high school team will fall under high school eligibility requirements. Should a middle school student considered to be on the high school team or squad become ineligible, said student will be ineligible to participate on a middle school team, activity or sport should it still be in progress.

#### **SECTION FOUR: CODE OF CONDUCT**

All students associated with Vermillion School District and participating in extracurricular, or school sponsored activities (including all SDHSAA activities) are required to avoid conduct that is detrimental to the integrity of, and public confidence in, the school. Rules promoting lawful, ethical, and responsible conduct serve the interests of all people associated with the school. Illegal and irresponsible conduct puts people at risk, tarnishes the reputation of the offender and everyone else associated with the school, and undermines the public support and respect of the school district.

**Standard of Conduct:** Participation in school-sponsored or extracurricular activities is a privilege and not a right. Participants must follow board policy, this code, and all the training rules and rules of conduct of the coaches and/or activity sponsors. Students participating in school-sponsored or extracurricular activities are held to a high standard. Students are expected to conduct themselves in a way that is lawful, responsible, promotes the values upon which the school is based, and that brings credit to themselves and the school. Students who fail to live up to the required standard of conduct are guilty of detrimental conduct and subject to discipline under all

school policies, the general student code of conduct, and these Activity Participation Rules.

**Coach and Sponsor Rules:** Coaches and/or activity sponsors shall enforce training rules or rules of conduct for participation in or attendance at the activity or event. General training rules or rules of conduct shall be established prior to the activity or event. This Code shall control in the event that there is a conflict with coach or sponsor rules.

**Prohibited Conduct:** Students in school-sponsored and/or extracurricular activities may not engage in the following conduct:

1. Receipt of a criminal citation by law enforcement for any reason.
2. Conviction of a crime in adult court or the adjudication of a criminal charge in juvenile court.
3. Any behavior that is illegal under the laws of South Dakota or the United States of America regardless of whether it results in a criminal charge or conviction.
4. Any conduct that substantially interferes with the educational process or disrupts the activity or event.
5. Possession, consumption, use, distribution, or being under the influence of alcohol, illicit drugs, tobacco, controlled substances, or any lookalike or imitations thereof; or being in the presence of alcohol, illicit drugs, controlled substances, or any lookalike or imitations thereof that are being possessed, consumed, used, or distributed by any person under twenty-one (21) years of age without parental supervision. "Lookalike or imitations" means substances such as K2 and products like electronic nicotine delivery systems, vapor pens, etc. (Note: the term "under the influence" for school purposes has a less strict meaning than it does under criminal law; for school purposes, the term means any level of impairment and includes even the odor of alcohol on the breath or person of a student; also, it includes being impaired by reason of the use or abuse of any substance for the purpose of inducing a condition of intoxication, stupefaction, depression, giddiness, paralysis, inebriation, excitement, or irrational behavior, or in any manner changing, distorting, or disturbing the auditory, visual, mental, or nervous processes).
6. Engaging in initiations, defined as any ritualistic expectations, requirements, or activities placed upon new members of a school organization for the purpose of admission into the organization, even if those activities do not rise to the level of "hazing" as defined below. Initiations are prohibited except by permission of the superintendent.
7. Engaging in hazing as defined by state law and this policy. Hazing is defined as any activity by which a person intentionally or recklessly endangers the physical or mental health or safety of an



individual for the purpose of initiation into, admission into, affiliation with, or continued membership in any school organization. Under state criminal law, hazing activities include, but are not limited to, whipping, beating, branding, an act of sexual penetration, an exposure of the genitals of the body done with the intent to affront or alarm any person, a lewd fondling or caressing of the body of another person, forced and prolonged calisthenics, prolonged exposure to the elements, forced consumption of any food, liquor, beverage, drug, or harmful substance not generally intended for human consumption, prolonged sleep deprivation, or any brutal treatment or the performance of any unlawful act that endangers the physical or mental health or safety of any person. For purposes of school rules, hazing also includes any activity expected of someone joining a group, team, or activity that humiliates, degrades or risks emotional and/or physical harm, regardless of the person's willingness to participate; personal servitude; restrictions on personal hygiene; yelling, swearing and insulting new members/rookies; being forced to wear embarrassing or humiliating attire in public; consumption of vile substances or smearing of such on one's skin; binge drinking and drinking games; sexual simulation and sexual assault.

8. Bullying which shall include cyber-bullying, defined as the use of the internet, including but not limited to social networking sites such as Facebook, cell phones or other devices to send, post, or text message images and material intended to hurt or embarrass another person. This may include, but is not limited to; continuing to send e-mail to someone who has said they want no further contact with the sender; sending or posting threats, sexual remarks, or pejorative labels (i.e., hate speech); ganging up on victims by making them the subject of ridicule in forums; posting false statements as fact intended to humiliate the victim; disclosure of personal data, such as the victim's real name, address, or school at websites or forums; posing as the identity of the victim for the purpose of publishing material in their name that defames or ridicules them; sending threatening and harassing text, instant messages, or emails to the victims; and posting or sending rumors or gossip to instigate others to dislike and gang up on the target.
9. Using any Internet or social networking websites to make statements, post pictures, or take any other actions that are indecent, vulgar, lewd, slanderous, abusive, threatening, harassing, or terrorizing.
10. Violating any school policy, handbook provision, or a coach's or activity sponsor's training rules or rules of conduct.

11. Dressing or grooming in a manner which is (A) dangerous to the student's health and safety or a danger to the health and safety of others, (B) lewd, indecent, vulgar, or plainly offensive, (C) materially and substantially disruptive to the work and discipline of the school or an extracurricular activity, (D) interpreted to advocate the use of illegal drugs or other substances by a reasonable observer.
12. Failing to report an activity at the beginning of a season unless excused by the coach or activity sponsor.
13. Failing to attend scheduled practices and meetings unless excused by the coach or activity sponsor.

Such conduct is prohibited year-round regardless of whether it occurs on-campus or off-campus. However, punishment for violations that occur during the summer break shall be administered by the coach at his or her discretion.

**Discipline.** Students who violate any provision of these Activity Participation Rules may be subject to discipline up to and including expulsion from extracurricular activities and school sponsored events. (including but not limited to graduation ceremony and related activities). These disciplinary consequences and this Activity Code of Conduct are in addition to and do not prejudice, diminish, impede, or reduce any discipline that is authorized by state law, Board Policy, or the Student Handbook. Disciplinary action may include a probationary period and conditions that must be satisfied prior to or following reinstatement. Administrators and coaches will take the following into consideration when making disciplinary decisions:

1. Any prior or additional misconduct;
2. The nature and seriousness of the offense;
3. The motivation for the offense;
4. The amount of violence involved;
5. The student's demeanor and attitude regarding the violation;
6. The actual, threatened, or potential risk to the student and others due to the student's behavior;
7. Whether the student has compensated or will compensate the victim in the event of property damage or personal injury;
8. Whether the circumstances of the violation are likely to recur;
9. The student's willingness to participate in evaluations, counseling, or other programs;
10. Any mitigating factors;
11. Any other relevant factors.

If suspended, the student must continue to participate in practices and conditioning during the suspension if required by the coach or activity sponsor. The failure to comply with the practice and conditioning requirement will make the student ineligible for reinstatement to the activity.

**Evaluation, Counseling, and Treatment.** Apart from any other disciplinary procedures, students who violate any provision of these rules may be required to undergo a formal clinical evaluation at the

administration's/coach's/sponsor's discretion. Based upon the results of that evaluation, the student may be encouraged or required to participate in an education program, counseling, or other treatment deemed appropriate by the evaluating professional.

**Reporting of Incident.** Students shall report any violation of these rules to the coach, principal, or superintendent no later than one school day after the violation has occurred. Failure to report an incident will constitute a violation of these rules and will be taken into consideration in making disciplinary determinations under this policy.

**Misrepresentations.** Any misrepresentation of fact by a student regarding any alleged violation of these rules shall be considered a separate violation of these rules, and the student shall be subject to additional disciplinary action.

**Questions.** Any parent or student who has questions about board policy, this code, training rules, or rules of conduct of coaches or activity sponsors, or their interpretation or application shall consult with the activities director and/or the superintendent.

**Assistance.** Students are encouraged to consult with their coach, an administrator, a counselor, or a teacher to obtain access to educational, counseling, and other programs and resources that may be available to help avoid misconduct that may result in discipline under this policy.

## **AUTHORIZATION AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

### **WARNING: SERIOUS CATASTROPHIC AND PERHAPS FATAL INJURY MAY RESULT FROM ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION**

Many forms of athletic competition result in violent physical contact among players, the use of equipment that may result in accidents, strenuous physical exertion, and numerous other exposures to risk of injury. Students and parents must assess the risks involved in such participation and make their choice to participate despite those risks. No amount of instruction, precaution, or supervision will eliminate these risks. Students have suffered accidents resulting in death, paraplegia, quadriplegia, and other very serious permanent physical impairment while playing sports. By granting permission for your student to participate in athletic competition, you, the parent, or guardian, acknowledge that such risk exists. Students will be instructed in proper techniques to be used in athletic competitions and in the proper utilization of all equipment worn or used in practice and competition. Students must adhere to that instruction and utilization and must refrain from improper uses and techniques.

I understand the statement above and I understand that by allowing my student to participate in athletic events, I assume the risk that he/she may be injured, perhaps severely.

### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF CONDUCT CODE**

I understand that as a student representing the school district in activities, I am obligated to comply with the athletic handbook, including the code of conduct. **This means that I may not possess, use, or be at parties in the presence of alcohol, illicit drugs, or controlled substances at any time during the calendar year. I understand that this policy applies both during the school year and in the summer.** I understand that if I violate the code of conduct or other rules in this handbook, I may be suspended from participation in all co-curricular activities and/or school sponsored activities or events.