

USD 443 - Dodge City
Student Conduct Rules Governing Participation in Athletics & Activities

Preamble

Student participation in the school district's athletic and activity programs is a privilege available to all students who are willing to make the commitment required and exercise the self-discipline necessary to comply with the rules of conduct established for the program. However, such participation is not a legal right. As such, participation is regulated by rules and regulations which are more stringent than those established for regular school attendance.

The following rules will apply to the participating student's conduct at all times and places during the school year, and not just to conduct while on school property or at a school-sponsored event. If a violation of the following rules occurs on school property or at a school-sponsored activity, enforcement of these rules will be in addition to other disciplinary action that may be imposed under the general student conduct rules.

The purpose of these rules is to assist the student in obtaining the full extent of benefits to be gained from participation in the school's athletic and activity programs, while at the same time establishing conduct that will maintain a positive image for the program and the school in the eyes of the community.

Proper physical conditioning, development of concepts of team work and cooperation, self-restraint and self-discipline for one's own betterment and for that of the team or group and the development of a positive image and self-esteem are but a few of the benefits to be derived from participation in such programs.

Students participating in school-sponsored athletics and activities are representatives of USD 443, and as such, are expected to conduct themselves at all times and at all places in such a manner so as to bring credit to themselves, their sport or activity, the school, and the community in general. Therefore, student conduct meeting the standards set forth herein is expected and is a requirement for participation by the student.

The rules of conduct set forth below have been adopted by the Board of Education and may be changed and/or amended at any time by action of the Board of Education. Copies of any such changes and/or amendments will be provided to all students and published in the student newspaper.

Rules of Conduct

All students participating, or intending to participate, in any school-sponsored and/or KSHSAA-supervised athletic or activities program including, but not limited to, basketball, football, track, cross country, golf, tennis, wrestling, softball, baseball, swimming, cheerleading, volleyball, soccer, bowling, scholars'

bowl, forensics, orchestra, band, drill team, KAYS, debate, STUCO, vocal music, FFA and the athletic training program, shall not:

1. Consume or be in possession of any alcoholic beverage or rice cereal malt beverage.
2. Use, possess, manufacture, distribute, or dispense any controlled substance, as defined by state or federal law, in any illegal manner;
3. Use or possess any form of tobacco product;
4. Violate any state or federal law, the commission of which would constitute a misdemeanor or felony if committed by an adult;
5. Be involved in any personal actions that discredits the team, school or community;
6. Commit playing rule violations that endanger the life and/or safety of others.

Any student who is under suspension or expulsion from class shall not participate in any athletic or activity program during the period of suspension from class.

If a student is absent from all or part of a school day, he/she may not practice or participate in any athletic or activity program on the day of the absence. Any exception to this rule requires prior approval from the Athletic/Activities Director. If for any reason the student's absence is not detected and the student takes part in any practice or participates in any athletic or activity program, he/she may not practice or participate in any athletic or activity program immediately after the absence is detected.

Each coach/sponsor may also establish other rules of conduct that are specific to his/her respective program and which apply during their respective season, including but not limited to absences from practices, tardiness, disrespect for coaches or sponsors, lack of effort or attention, violation of team training rules and similar conduct. Disciplinary action for such individual program violations may be more severe than the general rules provided herein. If such disciplinary action involves removal of the student from the program, the procedural rules set out herein will apply.

These rules of conduct supplement and are in addition to rules of conduct and eligibility requirements imposed by KSHSAA.

Effective Period

The Rules of Conduct set forth above shall be in effect continuously for the period beginning with the first KSHSAA approved practice for Fall sports until the end of all post-school year activities in the Spring, including weekends, holidays and vacations which occur during such period. This period is referred to herein as the "school year".

All students who intend to participate in any athletic or activities program will be expected to abide by the above rules throughout the entire school year.

If a violation occurs:

- During the school year, but prior to the time the student is participating in a program, disciplinary action will be imposed when the student next participates in any program.
- During the time the student is actively participating in a program, disciplinary action will be imposed during that program. If the current program ends before the disciplinary action is completed, the balance of the disciplinary action will carry over to the next program in which the student participates, including programs occurring during the next school year if necessary;
- During the time after the program in which the student participates has ended, the disciplinary action will be enforced when the student next participates in any program, including programs occurring during the next school year if necessary.

Expected Consequences

If a violation of this policy is reported to the Athletic/Activities Director by a coach/sponsor, school staff member, the parent/guardian of the student involved, the involved student or law enforcement personnel, an investigation may be undertaken by the Athletic/Activities Director. If the Athletic/Activities Director concludes that a violation of this policy has occurred, the following disciplinary action will be imposed. Although the consequences are categorized as first, second and third offenses, any disciplinary action listed in any category may be imposed for any violation depending on the existing circumstances and the nature and extent of the violation.

First Offense:

- Notification of parent/guardian and student of disciplinary action by Athletic/Activities Director or coach/sponsor;
- Loss of participation in at least ten percent (10%) of next competitive events: (If the activity in which the student participates does not involve competitive events, the student may be barred from participating in the activity for such period of time deemed appropriate by the Athletic/Activities Director and sponsor.)

- Drug and/or alcohol counseling if deemed appropriate by the Athletic/Activities Director;
- Subject to special conditioning or other similar disciplinary action at coach's or sponsor's discretion;

Second Offense:

- Notification of parent/guardian and student of disciplinary action by Athletic/Activities Director or coach/sponsor;
- Loss of participation in at least twenty percent (20%) of next competitive events; (If the activity in which the student participates does not involve competitive events, the student may be barred from participating in the activity for such period of time deemed appropriate by the Athletic/Activities Director and sponsor.)
- Drug and/or alcohol counseling if deemed appropriate by the Athletic/Activities Director;
- Subject to special conditioning program or other similar disciplinary action at coach's or sponsor' discretion;

Third Offense:

- Notification of parent/guardian and student of disciplinary action by Athletic/Activities Director or coach/sponsor;
- Loss of participation in all athletics/activities for the remainder of the school year and up to loss of participation in all athletics/activities during the next school year or years;
- Drug and/or alcohol counseling if deemed appropriate by the Athletic/Activities Director.

Conference and Appeal Rights

In the event the disciplinary action proposed involves ineligibility for the remainder of the school year or years, the parent/guardian will be requested to attend the conference with the Athletic/Activities Director, coach/sponsor and student. If the parent/guardian refuses or cannot be located within a reasonable time, the conference will proceed with the student only. If the student refuses to attend the conference, such refusal shall be deemed a waiver of the student's and parent's/guardian's right to the conference or any appeal of the disciplinary action taken.

At the conference the student will be informed of the nature of the violation and the basis for the disciplinary action. The student will be given an opportunity to make a statement in defense or mitigation to the allegations and/or disciplinary action.

A written notice of the disciplinary action imposed and the reasons therefore shall be given to the student involved and to the student's parent/guardian within three (3) school days following the disciplinary conference.

The student and/or parent/guardian may appeal such action by filing a written notice of appeal with the Clerk of the Board of Education not later than five (5) school days after receiving the written notice of ineligibility. Any such appeal will be heard by a hearing officer appointed by the Superintendent of Schools, not later than fifteen (15) school days after such notice of appeal is

received by the Clerk. The student and the student's parent/guardian shall be notified in writing of the time and place of the appeal hearing at least five (5) school days prior thereto. The decision on any such appeal shall be rendered not later than five (5) school days after the conclusion of the appeal hearing. Such appeal hearing shall be conducted in accordance with the following rules and shall afford the following rights:

1. The right of the student to have counsel of the student's own choice present and to receive the advice of such counsel or other person whom the student may select;
2. The right of the parent or guardian of the student to be present at the hearing;
3. The right of the student and the student's counsel or parent/guardian to hear or read a full report of the facts and reasons given in support of the disciplinary action taken;
4. The right of the student or the student's counsel to cross examine witnesses who appear in person at the hearing;
5. The right of the student to present the student's own witnesses in person at the hearing;
6. The right of the student to testify on the student's own behalf and give reasons for the student's conduct;
7. The right of the student to have an orderly hearing; and
8. The right of the student to a fair and impartial decision based on the evidence.

Failure of the student and parent/guardian to appear at the time and place designated in the appeal hearing notice shall constitute a waiver of the right to such appeal hearing.

The decision of the hearing officer shall be final and binding, and a copy of the decision shall be provided to the student and parent/guardian.

Parental Support

Parental support of the student's participation in athletic and activity programs is essential. Parents of student participants are expected to know and enforce the rules of conduct governing the program or activity in which their student is involved.

A copy of these rules will be provided to the parent/guardian and the student.

Parent/guardians, as well as other relatives and friends of a student participant are encouraged to attend and support the programs and activities in which their student is involved. If, however, the conduct of such parent/guardian or relative is, or becomes, disruptive or has a negative impact on the program or activity, the parent/guardian or relative may be asked to leave the event and may be barred from further attendance.

Parents/guardians are expected to immediately report to the Athletic/Activities Director any condition or circumstance which may affect their student's participation in a program or activity.

STUDENT AND PARENT/GUARDIAN CONSENT
AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The undersigned parent/guardian consents to the student's participation in athletic and activities programs offered by USD 443 for the current school year.

The undersigned student and parent/guardian acknowledge that they have received a copy of the Student Conduct Rules Governing Participation in Athletics and Activities and state that they have read and understand those rules. The undersigned student and parent/guardian agree to abide by such rules and the enforcement of the same during the school year.

Dated this _____ day of _____, 20 _____.

Student

Parent/Guardian



Parent/Guardian Extracurricular Transportation Notice

I understand that practices for elective programs may be conducted at a location away from my student's campus. I understand that unless I am notified otherwise in writing the School District does not provide transportation for such practices. By requesting that my student be permitted to participate in elective activities, I agree that in those circumstances where the District does not provide transportation to such practices, I assume full responsibility for personally transporting my student, or for arranging transportation of my student, to and from such practices.

I acknowledge that if I elect not to personally drive my student to and from a practice, any decision I may make to instead allow my student to drive himself or herself, to ride in a vehicle driven by the parent or guardian of another student participant, or to ride in a vehicle driven by another student participant, is solely an exercise of my discretion as a parent or guardian. I acknowledge that the assessment and decision whether it is safe to allow my student to drive to or from any practice, to ride with another parent or guardian, or to ride with another student driving, is a family assessment and decision made by me.

By allowing my student to participate in this elective extracurricular program, I agree that no person driving my student to and from an athletic practice for which the School District is not providing transportation shall be considered an agent or employee of the School District, in any respect or for any purpose.