

# **BRITTON-HECLA SCHOOL DISTRICT #45-4**

## **ACTIVITIES HANDBOOK**



## **RULES AND REGULATIONS 2025- 2026**

759 5<sup>th</sup> Street  
Britton, SD 57430

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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. Britton-Hecla School District 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 of the rules and procedures detailed in this booklet.**

**Parents must sign the acknowledgement and permission to participate form at the end of this handbook before their student will be permitted to participate in the activity programs of the district.**

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:

Name: Stephanie Symens  
Title: Activities Director  
Address: 759 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Britton, SD 57430  
Telephone: 605-448-2234  
E-mail: stephanie.symens@k12.sd.us

For further information on notice of nondiscrimination, visit <http://wdcrobcolp01.ed.gov/CFAPPS/OCR/contactus.cfm> for the address and phone number of the office that serves your area or call 1-800-421-3481.

For additional prohibited discrimination and related information, please review school district Policy Britton-Hecla – 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's 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**

Unless the administration determines that it is permissible for the activity to continue as scheduled, all activities will be cancelled or postponed in the

event that school has been called off for inclement weather or any other reason as determined by the administration. Unless the administration determines that it is permissible for the activity to continue as scheduled.

### **Colors**

The Britton-Hecla School colors are Red & White. Silver is the 3<sup>rd</sup> color if used.

### **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**

Any player, following a blow, bump, or jolt to the head, who exhibits signs, symptoms or behaviors consistent with a concussion (such as loss of consciousness, headache, dizziness, confusion, balance problems, blurred vision, slurred speech, seizures or vomiting) shall strictly adhere to the following procedures:

- The athlete will be immediately removed from play and assessed as soon after the impact as possible. This is NOT a diagnosis! If a concussion is suspected proceed to next line.
- The athlete should be evaluated by a health care professional trained in evaluation and management of concussions. (At no time should any person without professional training attempt to judge the severity of the injury).
- The athlete's parents or guardians about the possible concussion and provided with a fact sheet on concussions.
- The athlete will be kept out of play the day of the injury and will NOT be allowed to return to competition or practice until a District approved health care professional determines the athlete is symptom-free and is cleared to return. The Britton-Hecla School Board has identified the following professionals as approved Health Care Professionals qualified to clear an athlete to return to competition: Medical Doctor (MD), Physician's Assistant (PA), Nurse Practitioner, or a Certified Athletic Trainer. (The South Dakota High School Activities Association recommends a five (5) day minimum return to play protocol)

### **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 check out to him/her and is lost or stolen.

### **Fundraising**

There will be one major fundraising event that takes place in the fall of every year. This money goes into the BH Club. Any other school-sponsored fundraising activities must be approved by a member of the school district administration. Use of the school mascot shall not be permitted unless approved by the superintendent.

### **Homeschooling Participation**

Home school students are allowed to participate in any of the activities provided by the district. Students will be required to follow all standards and participation rules adopted by the district. Refer back to the eligibility section for further details.

### **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.

If are injured or cannot participate, for any period of time, you are still required to attend all practices, games, meetings, etc. and still be a member of the team. All unexcused absences and conduct rules still apply.

### **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.

### **Lettering Requirements**

The varsity lettering policy will be decided on by head and assistant coaches. The activities director will have a copy of each coach's lettering policy.

### **Mascot**

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

### **Practices**

The individual head coach, in cooperation with the high school activities director, will schedule all starting times of practice. 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. Upload signed physical form, health history form and medical treatment form.
2. Finish filling out all the information needed on Bound website.

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

Students wishing to serve as student volunteers for extracurricular activities must gain the permission of the activity coach. 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.

### **Team Camps**

Each varsity sports team will be allowed to use District transportation to one (1) team camp providing:

- A formal request is made to the Activities Director to attend the camp, which will be communicated with Administration.
- ALL members of the team are allowed, or given the opportunity, to attend the camp
- The coaches attend the camp with the athletes
- The camp has a mileage limit of 500 miles from Britton.
- Camp is held on consecutive days if more than a one (1) day camp.
- Transportation is available for the days requested.
- Transportation includes Suburban's and mid-busses. If a regular route bus is needed, the coach must be certified to drive, or provide/pay a certified driver willing to transport.

District Transportation MAY NOT be used for the following:

- Any camp exceeding a mileage limit of 500 miles from Britton.
- Individual Skills Camps
- Summer Leagues
- Competition Camps
- Any camp that is not held on consecutive days.



## **Title IX**

The school district prohibits sex discrimination in any education program or activity that it operates and individuals may report concerns or questions to the Title IX Coordinator. The school district's Title IX policy, notice, and other information may be accessed at the following link:

See Policy 3057:

[https://core-docs.s3.us-east-](https://core-docs.s3.us-east-1.amazonaws.com/documents/asset/uploaded_file/2037/BHSD/4710883/3057_Title_IX.pdf)

[1.amazonaws.com/documents/asset/uploaded\\_file/2037/BHSD/4710883/3057\\_Title\\_IX.pdf](https://core-docs.s3.us-east-1.amazonaws.com/documents/asset/uploaded_file/2037/BHSD/4710883/3057_Title_IX.pdf)

## **Training Hour Requirements**

It is the overwhelming opinion of health educators and coaches that athletes perform best when they follow intelligent training hours. Students have to decide if they want to be athletes. If you wish to be an athlete "you have to invest the time necessary" in order to be a competitor. A big part of this is following a simple set of training hours, which the department of athletics believes to be fair.

In-Season – Participants will be home by 12:00 am on weekends (Friday – Saturday nights) Curfew for weekdays, and the night before an activity, will be 10:30 pm (Sunday-Thursday). Should school activities last later than this, students will be given adequate time to return home. Any exceptions must be cleared with the coach, unless a parent or guardian accompanies the participant. PARENTS SHOULD HELP STUDENTS MAINTAIN CURFEW.

## **Transportation**

All participants are expected to ride to and from away activities by means of approved school transportation.

A participant may ride home with his or her parent/guardian if the parent/guardian personally signs their child(ren) out with the coach. A participant may ride home with an adult if the participant's parent/guardian has personally contacted the principal prior to the activity and the principal/office will contact the coach.

## **Volunteering for Activities**

The Britton-Hecla School District will allow a maximum of two (2) sponsored volunteers per sport to assist with the individual program. The term "sponsored" means the District will reimburse a maximum of two (2) volunteers for the cost of the required background check as long as there are no disqualifying events and will also pay for any classes required by the SDHSAA to be qualify them to work with our students. All volunteers must follow and abide by all rules established a maintained by the district to remain in good standing. Coaches will be required to submit a list of

volunteers to the Activities Director, be approved by the board, and have all documentation in place prior to any organized contact with our students or participation in any scheduled team activity. A list of volunteers will be maintained by the Activities Director.

### **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**

### **Athletic Teams**

Basketball (boys and girls)  
Cross County (boys and girls)  
Football  
Golf (boys and girls)  
Gymnastics  
Track (boys and girls)  
Volleyball  
Wrestling (boys and girls)

### **All School Play**

The school district sponsors all school play. 9-12 graders will audition for roles and put on a performance for the school and community.

### **Band**

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

### **Cheer Squad**

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.

### **Choir**

The school district sponsors all-state choir and chorus. Participants must be enrolled in chorus class in order to be eligible to participate in these groups.

### **One-Act Play**

The school district sponsors the one-act play. 9-12 grade students are able to participate. If numbers are lower, 7-8 grade students are able to participate. The director will talk with the activities director and principal to confirm.

### **Oral Interpretation**

The school district sponsors oral interpretation. 7-12 graders are able to participate.

### **Student Council**

The school district's values are modeled by the MS/HS Student Council. Students grades 6-12 fill out an application to be on the Student

Council. Applicants are voted on by the 6-12 students and teachers. Those elected, are responsible for setting a good example to all BHHS students academically, athletically and socially. During the course of the school year, the Student Council sponsors various student body activities, volunteers within and outside of our school and travels for regional and state level events. Training rules set forth by the extracurricular activities director apply year-round to those kids elected to the Student Council. Failure to adhere to those rules may result in the removal of a student from the Student Council.

### **Student Publications**

The yearbook is published by the Britton-Hecla students along with the help of their teacher. The annual is financed partially by funds raised from the sale of the books and the school board.

## **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.

### **Academic Eligibility.**

The following guidelines will be used when determining eligibility for activities. A student must be passing six classes. Eligibility will be determined at midterm and the end of each nine-week period. If a student is deemed ineligible the student will not be allowed to participate in extracurricular activities for a one-week period (Seven days – Monday to the next Monday). Ineligible students will have grades checked at weekly intervals (each Friday) until the student becomes eligible. During academic suspension, students may practice and travel with the team as long as no school time is missed. In addition to midterm and quarterly eligibility requirements, all students must follow SDHSAA requirements for eligibility. If a student is not passing 6 classes at the end of a semester, the student will not be eligible until the following mid-term. If the student is still not passing 6 classes at mid-term, the student will not be eligible until the end of the nine weeks.

Students participating in extra-curricular activities are required to abide by the following activity rules year-round.

1. No consumption or possession of alcohol

2. No use or possession of tobacco products
3. No use of any vaping products
4. No use or possession of illegal (controlled) substance
5. In-school or out-of-school suspension

Violation of these rules will result in the following:

- 1) First violation – One event or one week, whichever is the greater
- 2) Second violation – Six weeks of non-competition or 4 weeks of non-competition if student completes an approved drug and counseling program.
- 3) Third violation – One year of non-competition or six months of non-competition if student completes an approved drug and counseling program.
- 4) When a student goes 12 months without an additional violation, he/she will move back one level in the consequences. In order for a student to successfully finalize a penalty, the student must complete the activity season.

Reporting – All violations are reported to the administration in the following ways:

- 1) The athlete may admit the infraction to the administration. If he/she reports to the coach or athletic director, that person must report it to the administration.
- 2) The sheriff's department or probation officer may inform the administration.
- 3) An adult or staff may report the infraction through a signed statement, which will be shared with the accused.

The administrator, activities director, parents, and the student need to discuss the infraction on a weekday with the penalty beginning on the first contest following that discussion. Students participating in music and drama events sanctioned by the SDHSAA are also to uphold these rules. All students are to follow the South Dakota High School Activities Association Code of Ethics and the states eligibility rules for extracurricular activities. These are on file with the athletic director, coaches and administration.

Violations are cumulative from year to year. Junior high students' records will be kept separate from senior high students. When a junior high student reaches the senior high, he/she will start with a clean record. If they are in the process of serving a one (1) year suspension, they must complete that year of suspension before eligibility will be restored to them. When a student goes 12 months without an additional violation, he/she will move back one level in the consequences.

Example: A student has two violations as a freshman and has no violations as a sophomore; his/her next violation will be treated as a second violation instead of his/her third violation.

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

All students associated with Britton-Hecla Public Schools 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 establish 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.

**Athletes Code of Ethics.** I agree to conduct myself according to the following code of ethical behavior. I also realize that in the case I don't live up to this agreement I may be penalized.

- Be sincere and loyal at all times to my coach, my team and my school.
- Be respectful and cooperate with all my coaches.
- Work hard and strive for improvement.
- Put my team's success ahead of individual glory.
- Create, maintain, and promote the elements of good sportsmanship.
- Be worthy of the responsibility of representing my school at home and away.

- Create, maintain, and promote good team morals.
- Preserve moral attitudes.
- Be responsible for all athletic equipment entrusted to me for my use and return it to the school in the best possible condition.
- Set an example in school, at home, and while participating in any event so others will look up to me and respect me and so that I will add something positive to the athletic program.

**Parents Code of Ethics.** The Britton-Hecla School believes parents play a vital role in the development of student-athletes. We ask that you read this code of conduct and follow its guidelines to show good sportsmanship and to be a positive role model for your athletes. Thank you for your cooperation.

- I will encourage sportsmanship by being a Positive Role Model.
- I will try my best to make athletics a positive experience for everyone involved, i.e., participants, coaches, officials and spectators.
- I will insist my son/daughter treat other players, coaches, officials and fans with respect.
- I will reinforce the school's drug and alcohol-free policies and refrain from use of alcohol and other drugs before and during the contests.
- I will do my best to understand and appreciate the rules of the contest.
- I will show appreciation for an outstanding play by either team.
- I will be a "team" fan, not a "my child" fan.
- I will help my child learn that success is measured by development of skills, not winning or losing.
- If I have a concern, I will talk to the coach at the appropriate time and place, i.e., never before, during, or immediately after a contest.
- If I am compelled to use any social media to express my feelings, I will use it in a positive and encouraging manner.
- I will do my best to remember my ticket to a school athletic event provides me with the privilege to observe the contest, and will not berate officials, coaches or players.

**Social Networking Expectations.** The Britton-Hecla Athletics Department recognizes its student-athletes' rights to freedom of speech, expression, and association, including the use of social networks. Each student-athlete must remember that he/she represents the Britton-Hecla School District, and is expected to portray themselves, their team, and the Britton-Hecla Athletics, in a positive manner at all times.

If you participate on a social networking site:

- Everything you post is public information.
- Texts or photos are out of your control once placed online.



- Use caution when adding or inviting friends.
- Limit information about your location or plans.
- Use of disrespectful comments and behavior online will not be tolerated by the Britton-Hecla Athletic Department.

This includes but is not limited to:

1. Comments or photos that depict unlawful or prohibited conduct.
2. Derogatory, defamatory, harassing, or discriminatory posts related to teammates, a coach or coaching staff, or the Britton-Hecla Athletics Department, that will adversely affect team chemistry.
3. Comments that create a serious danger to the safety of another person or that constitute a credible threat of emotional or physical injury to another person.

Situations involving any of the above activity will result in a meeting with the Athlete, Parents, Coach, Principal, and Athletic Director. The results of that meeting could range from just having the meeting, to different levels of suspension. Those involved in that decision will be the Coach and Administration.

This applies to all students in the Britton-Hecla School District playing/participating on school sponsored activities in grades 7-12. It is in effect for 365 days a year. All penalties will be administered during the sport that has been adversely affected.

**Social Media Conduct.** Not at any time will a student/athlete at Britton-Hecla High use any type of social media to degrade other teams and their member, or his/her own team and its members, including the coaches. If you are compelled to use any social media to express your feelings, please use it in a positive and encouraging manner. If you choose to disobey these rules, then you will be expected to have to deal with the following consequences:

- 1st Offense – suspended for one game – submit a written apology to victim or victims.
- 2nd Offense – suspended for three games – submit a written apology to victim or victims.
- 3rd Offense – suspended from the team – submit a written apology to victim or victims.

**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 for 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.

(Calendar Year): 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 30 minutes after the beginning of the next 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 in spite of 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 competition 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.

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Signature of Parent

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Printed Name of Parent

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Date

### **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.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Student

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name of Student

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

I understand that my student is obligated by this handbook, including the statements above.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Parent

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name of Parent

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date