

High School Athletic Policy

I. General Philosophy

The main purpose of the athletic program at the high school is to offer to as many students as possible a wide variety of experiences that will tend to develop young people in such a way as to make them better physically, mentally, and morally. All athletic activities will be conducted with sound educational experiences having top priority. All coaches will strive to develop a winning spirit but must always keep the welfare of the student athlete first and foremost. A continued effort will be made to expand the athletic program and opportunities to as many participants as possible.

All students will have equal opportunities to try out for participation in any and all programs. Students should not compete in interscholastic programs on two teams (e.g. varsity, j.v.) in the same sport if doing so prevents other students from significant participation. They may do so if that practice is necessary to permit the high school to field a varsity, junior varsity, or freshman team. In general, students should compete with the team with which they practice. Exceptions to this must be approved by the Athletic Director.

II. Job Analysis of Supervisory Personnel

- A. Athletic Director** - It will be the responsibility of the Athletic Director to see that the high standards outlined in the general philosophy are maintained. S/he shall also be responsible for the following specific duties:
1. **Scheduling** - The Athletic Director will be responsible for scheduling all athletic activities, both interscholastic and practice, including officials, travel, etc. S/he will work in cooperation with the several coaches to schedule practices and games and will be responsible for scheduling all activities that use the gymnasium, pool, locker rooms, and athletic fields. Generally practices on school days shall not exceed 2 hours, exclusive of travel time. The Athletic Director may modify this rule for sports which do not practice daily. The Athletic Director shall have authority to determine if competitions will be held on no school days.
 2. **Seasonal Coaches' Meeting** - The Athletic Director will be responsible for holding coaches' meetings prior to the start of each sports season.
 3. **Budget** - The Athletic Director will keep a record of all income and expenses for the athletic programs. S/he shall submit an annual budget as requested by the Superintendent of Schools.
 4. **Equipment** - It will be the responsibility of the Athletic Director to see that all athletic teams are furnished with proper equipment to ensure safety and good appearance. S/he will keep an accurate inventory of all equipment.
 5. **Supervision** - The Athletic Director will observe members of the coaching staff in practices and games and will make annual recommendations to the Principal and Superintendent. These recommendations will be based not only in terms of team performance, but more importantly on the basis of the coach's ability to

work with young people, consistent with the District's Guiding Principles and best coaching practices.

B. Coaches - A coach has the opportunity to become closer to the student athlete than many other school personnel. S/he should capitalize on this valuable relationship to help favorably direct young people. S/he shall strive at all times to foster a winning spirit and to develop good character in all student athletes. The coach is also charged with the following:

1. It will be a coach's responsibility to develop a team so qualified as to safely and credibly represent the District.
2. The coach will supervise all practices and contests in which his/her team is participating and shall supervise the locker rooms until all participants have left the area.
3. The coach will submit, in writing, a list of specific rules and regulations for his/her activity at the beginning of the activity.
4. The coach will be responsible for all equipment assigned to him/her for the team.
5. It will be the decision of the coach to determine who is qualified for team membership and who shall be dropped. It will be his/her decision to select members of the team to participate in scheduled contests.
6. The coach shall uphold and adhere to the policies approved by the District, including the District's policies relative to student confidentiality.
7. The coach will be solely responsible for ensuring that the team members are physically sound before participating in any practice or game by determining that there is a medical card on file for each team member before participating in any practice.

III. Athletic Code

This Athletic Code is established to familiarize students with the Eligibility Requirements pertinent to the District's athletic program. It also serves to inform the reader of the Training Guidelines which are so stipulated to provide optimal grounds for both individual and team success.

Prior to becoming involved in the athletic program, a student is wise to consider that participation in athletics is a hard-earned privilege, not a right. Much personal sacrifice and self-discipline is needed. One's dedication to the team, to the task at hand, and to the values inherent in a sound training program, fairly well determines the degree of success realized.

A. Eligibility Guidelines

1. A student must pursue at least the District's minimum required course work load each year and satisfactorily be proceeding toward meeting or exceeding the District's Benchmarks and Outcomes.
2. A student must have successfully completed (passed) the equivalent of four courses of study in the preceding quarter (exclusive of physical education).

3. A student must be under the age of 20.
4. A student cannot have attended secondary school for more than eight semesters from the date s/he entered as a ninth grader.
5. A student cannot have played for a non-school team under an assumed name.
6. Successful completion of summer school course work for any course failed during the regular school year counts as a passing grade for that course.
7. All participants in interscholastic sports will have a physical examination card on file with the school and submit a signed parent permission/medical update form. Any problem areas noted may require an updated physical before being allowed to participate. Also, following a major illness or injury, a student must have clearance from his/her physician before participating again.
8. All team members shall show evidence of having accident insurance.
9. Any student who has not returned school issued equipment will be ineligible until such equipment is returned or paid for.
10. Penalty for infractions of eligibility guidelines:
 - a. Students failing to comply with the above will be ineligible for all teams until the eligibility requirements cited are met.
 - b. Students failing to meet the criteria in sections 3 or 4 of the above will be immediately suspended from all squads.
 - c. Students failing to comply with section 2 of the above will be subject to the school's academic eligibility guidelines.
 - d. Students failing to comply with sections 1 or 5 of the above will be suspended until such case is reviewed by the Athletic Director and the administration at which time a decision will be rendered.
11. Team members will attend all regularly scheduled practices and games/meets including MPA tournaments/championships. This does not include practices or exhibition/scrimmage games held during school vacation periods. Athletes with conflicts in scheduling due to religious reasons will be accommodated.

B. Training Guidelines

1. Use of Tobacco - No member of any team may use or possess tobacco in any form.
2. Drinking/ Drugs - No member of any team may use or possess alcoholic beverages or other unlawful drugs of any kind.
3. No member of any team may participate in a contest on the day s/he has an unexcused tardiness if s/he has had a previous unexcused tardiness during that sport season.

4. Students must be in attendance at the beginning of school following the day of a game. If the reason for non-attendance is unacceptable/unexcused, then the student faces the possibility of not playing in the future games/meets. This decision would be made by the Athletic Director. Students must be present at the beginning of school the day of a game in order to play, unless the reason for lateness or absence is accepted by the Athletic Director and the school administration.

Training guidelines in sections 1 & 2 will be subject to the rules and regulations of the school substance use guidelines.

C. Travel

Students and their parents are responsible for making their own travel arrangements to their teams' designated "home field," even if the site is located off of school grounds. All team members shall travel to and from school-sponsored out-of-District competitions or practices on the bus or in vehicles authorized by the District. Drivers must be adults authorized by the Superintendent or Principal. Students may return with parents, a relative or an adult neighbor, provided the student's parents personally ask permission of the coach. Any other travel arrangements must be made with the Athletic Director in writing or in person. Ideally the notice will be given at least three days prior to the event.

D. Team Membership

No student will be eligible for any other interscholastic athletic activity after his/her name has been posted as a member of an inter-scholastic athletic activity during a current season unless both coaches and/or advisors and the Athletic Director agree. The District recommends that students who are participating in an interscholastic athletic activity refrain from participating on other athletic teams during the same season.

Cross Reference: IKF Graduation Requirements
IHD Student Schedules and Course Loads

Adopted: 12/17/01