

# Ventura Unified School District

## ATHLETIC POLICY

### **Introduction**

The purpose of this policy is to define and clarify the Athletic Policies and Procedures of the Ventura Unified School District. We believe that participation in interscholastic athletics provides the opportunities for developing lifetime skills, which will help students become well-rounded individuals. Our goal is to help student athletes develop their physical abilities and also aid in their intellectual and disciplinary growth. We consider it a privilege to be a student athlete in Ventura Unified School District and expect our student athletes to be excellent representatives of our community.

### **Philosophy**

The welfare of all students will be the guiding principle of the Athletic Program. Continued emphasis shall be placed on the philosophy that athletic activities are an integral part of the educational program and are justifiable only to the extent that they are desirable learning experiences. All athletic activities in the Ventura Unified School District shall be closely coordinated with the general instructional program and with the other departments of the School District. The intent of this policy is to reinforce the idea that athletics are to complement the academics and never to supplant them.

### **Student Eligibility Requirements**

According to the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) Southern Section, only those students regularly enrolled in a public or private CIF member school, grades 9 – 12, shall be permitted to participate in the CIF. In order to be eligible, any student entering a four-year high school from the 8<sup>th</sup> grade must have achieved a 2.0 Grade Point Average (GPA) on a 4.0 scale in all enrolled courses at the conclusion of the previous grading period. Students who are currently enrolled in a high school must also achieve a 2.0 Grade Point Average on a 4.0 scale in all enrolled courses at the conclusion of the previous grading period in order to be eligible to participate.

Student athletes who fail to meet the 2.0 GPA criteria for a given grading period will be placed on probation for the following grading period. Failure to bring grades to the 2.0 GPA at the end of that second grading period will result in a student's ineligibility to participate in any athletic program until the student at a subsequent grading period, returns his/her overall GPA to a 2.0 or greater.

A student athlete will be permitted only one (1) probationary period during his/her attendance in the Ventura Unified School District.

- A “probationary period” is defined as any quarter or semester when a student failed to earn a 2.0 GPA WHETHER THAT STUDENT PARTICIPATED OR NOT.
- A student must pass a minimum of four (4) classes during each quarter grading period.

All students, regardless of their participation in special instructional programs, shall be held responsible for this eligibility policy. Students who transfer into school during the school year will also be held to this eligibility policy.

Ineligible student athletes may “practice” with the athletic team during the regular school day (8:00 a.m. – 3:05 p.m.), but may not participate in practices extending beyond the regular school day or with the team in the “athletic contest.” The duration of ineligibility will be through the entire grading period.

### **Requirements for Participation**

To be scheduled for an athletics physical education class, a student athlete must be recommended by the team coach and the Athletic Director. Any student athlete who is recommended and who agrees to be placed in an athletics physical education class accepts all the conditions set forth in this policy.

The following documents are required prior to a sports season for a student athlete to be eligible to tryout for an interscholastic sports team.

- Current Physical Examination – completed by a medical doctor
- Athletic Department Participation Contract - completed with all required signatures
- Physical Insurance Packet – completed with all required signatures

# Ventura Unified School District

## ATHLETIC CODE OF CONDUCT – RULES

### 1. Attendance

Ventura Unified School District places a high emphasis on academics. Consequently, a student athlete must be in attendance in every class during the day of a contest or practice session, except as excused by the School Administration, Athletic Director or designee. For Saturday contests, this rule will apply to the Friday immediately preceding the contest. Violation of this rule may result in the student athlete not participating in the scheduled athletic contest and/or practice. Student athletes are expected to be at all practices unless they have an excused absence.

### 2. Conduct

All student athletes are constantly in the public eye and should not find it necessary to gain attention through unacceptable behavior. Your behavior reflects on your school and your program. Others are looking to you as an example; therefore, student athletes are held to a higher standard and must adhere to acceptable campus conduct.

Any student athlete, who is found to have violated rules of acceptable campus conduct, may receive a warning, a suspension from participation in athletics or removal from the team, as well as appropriate disciplinary action (Board Policy 6145).

When a student athlete is suspended from school, he/she shall not be allowed to participate in any athletic practice, meeting or contest during the period of suspension.

Student athletes are expected to demonstrate good sportsmanship, ethical conduct, and fair play during all athletic competitions. They shall also abide by the core principles of trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring and good citizenship and the Code of Conduct, as adopted by the California Interscholastic Federation in its publication "Pursuing Victory with Honor."

### 3. Personal Appearance, Grooming and Dress Policy

Appropriate dress and grooming contribute to a productive learning environment. The School and District expects students to give proper attention to personal cleanliness and to wear clothes that are suitable for the school activities in which they participate. Students' clothing must not present a health or safety hazard or a distraction which would interfere with the educational process. (Board Policy 5132)

#### **4. School Clothing and Equipment**

It is the responsibility of each student athlete to return all clothing and equipment issued. Failure to do so may result in the student athlete being charged for the missing clothing and equipment and will result in forfeiting the right to receive any school equipment or clothing in the next sports season, or to be ineligible for any certificate, pin, or letter.

#### **5. Drugs, Alcohol and Tobacco Policy**

Drugs, alcohol and tobacco negatively affect a student athlete's physical well-being and performance in athletics. District Policy prohibits the use of smoking or smokeless tobacco products. Student athletes who use, possess, or are under the influence of a controlled substance, as defined in section 11007 of the Health and Safety Code; to include alcoholic beverages, or intoxicants of any kind at any time; including evenings, weekends and holidays; on or off school grounds are in violation of this policy and will be disciplined. Student athletes should fully understand that he/she may be suspended or dismissed from the team for the remainder of the season for any violation. Student athletes may reapply to participate in sports the following season.

Before a student athlete is allowed to participate in any athletic activity, he/she must sign a pledge agreeing not to use, possess, or be under the influence of any controlled substance, as defined in Section 11007 of the Health and Safety Code. He/she further agrees not to possess any type of drug paraphernalia.

A student athlete's locker is the property of the District and the administration reserves the right to examine it, and its contents at any time with reasonable suspicion. Each student is encouraged to make sure that the locker is kept securely locked at all times and will not share the combination with any other person. The school is not responsible for any lost or stolen items.

#### **6. Athletic Trips**

While traveling, student athletes are expected to act in a positive, responsible manner at all times. If a student athlete is to suit-up at another school, he/she is expected to dress for the trip in a way that will not bring discredit to his/her teammates, fellow students, school and community.

#### **7. On the Playing Field or Court**

Student athletes are expected to behave in an appropriate manner to officials, fans, teammates and opposing team members. Students may be removed from the team for inappropriate behavior.

## **8. Quitting a Sport**

Quitting a sport differs from being dropped. If a student athlete quits, he/she has not fulfilled his/her agreement to participate and the student athlete will not be allowed to attend the activities at the end of the sports season, including the team banquet, and receive any awards. In addition, the student athlete will not be allowed to participate in any other sport until the season of the sport the athlete has quit is completed.

## **9. Dropping a Sport**

If a student athlete wants to drop a sport, he/she needs to make a personal contact with the coach/instructor and obtain his/her approval. By following this procedure, the student athlete will remain eligible to participate in other sports.

## **10. Locker Room Behavior**

All student athletes must observe all rules governing the locker and shower rooms.

## **11. Letters and Other Awards**

Letters are awarded according to School District, League, and CIF rules and regulations. All coaches reserve the right to deny any student athlete an award that is in violation of these rules.

## **12. Transportation**

A student athlete participating in the Ventura Unified School District Athletic Program is required to travel to and from a contest by means of school-approved transportation. The only school-approved means of transportation are as follows:

- A. District bus/charter bus
- B. District van with a Ventura Unified School District certificated employee driver.
- C. Private vehicles approved by the District per Board Policy 3541.1
- D. Upon being notified of being selected for a team, a voluntary transportation donation of \$85 is requested. No student will be denied athletic participation based on the inability to pay.

## **13. Insurance**

Each student athlete must pass a physical examination and have adequate health and accident insurance. In case the student athlete does not have adequate coverage, he/she will have to purchase school insurance.

**14. Appeal**

The student athlete may appeal a ruling for his/her violation of a rule(s) contained in this policy. To begin the appeal process, the student athlete must contact his/her coach. If the student athlete is not successful with their appeal, the next steps in order are, to contact the Athletic Director, Assistant Principal of Student Services, Principal, and District Administration. Decisions of the District Administration are final.

**15. Conclusion**

Each student athlete and their parent/guardian are required to read and sign this policy. This athletic policy must be given to the coach and must be on file, with the school's Athletic Director, before a student athlete participates on any athletic team in the Ventura Unified School District.