

# ATHLETE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

## 1. Substance Abuse Policy

USD 253 believes that school activities are a positive influence for students and the community. The expectation for all of our students is to be lawful in the conduct of their daily lives. Students who voluntarily represent USD 253 in various activities are held to a high standard of conduct. The following guidelines reinforce the expectation of good conduct and positive representation of USD 253 by students who participate in the Emporia High School and Emporia Middle School athletic programs.

Participation in extra-curricular activities as defined by KSHSAA is a privilege. This privilege is available to a student for as long as the student complies with district policies, Kansas State High School Activities Association (KSHSAA) policies and coach/sponsor rules. In the event it is confirmed that an athlete fails to comply with the guidelines established, it will be interpreted by the Athletic Department as an indication that the athlete does not have sufficient desire to participate in the interscholastic athletic program. The failure to comply with any of the guidelines will result in suspension of the privilege of competing in extra-curricular activities.

Under these guidelines, an *offense* shall mean the use, possession, disbursement, or being under the influence of alcohol, tobacco, inhalants, any illegal or misuse of drugs, by an Emporia High School or Emporia Middle School student-athlete during their time as a student at either EHS or EMS. Any athlete suspected of an offense shall be notified of the suspected offense and due process will be afforded to the student. The parent/guardian will also be notified.

### Substance Abuse Violation

- A. The first offense the student athlete will be ineligible to compete for 20 consecutive days in the event that 20 consecutive days exceeds 25% of the regular season competitions based on KSHSAA guidelines, the suspension will occur for 25% of the regular season competitions. The student athlete will be ineligible to compete beginning the first day of that athlete's first scheduled competition after the offense. If the 20 days continues after the end of the season, the remaining days of suspension will begin again on the first day of that athlete's first competition in the athlete's next season. Holiday Break, Spring Break, KSHSAA Buffer Week or KSHSAA Holiday Non-Practice Days will NOT count toward days of suspension. A student will also complete an assessment with a USD #253 substance abuse counselor.
- B. A "first offense" consequence will only be issued to a student athlete one time in their four years of academics at Emporia High School and once during their two years at Emporia Middle School. If the student athlete commits any additional offenses during high school, the consequence will fall into the category of an "Additional Offense"
- C. Any additional offenses made by student athletes during their four years of academics at Emporia High School and two years at Emporia Middle School will result in two options for the athlete at either site.
  - i. Option A: The student athlete will be ineligible to compete for 40 consecutive days beginning the first day of that athlete's first scheduled competition after the offense. If the 40 days continues after the end of the season, the remaining days of suspension will begin again on the first day of that athlete's first competition in the athlete's next season. In addition, the student must participate in a mandatory Substance Abuse Intervention Program approved by the school and school Intervention Specialist. The length of the Intervention Program will be determined by the school's Intervention Specialist in cooperation with EHS/EMS Administration.
  - ii. Option B: The athlete will be ineligible to compete for one calendar year starting the date the offense occurred.

## 2. Athletic Trips and Contests

- a. Athletes shall go and return by the same provided transportation
- b. Exception to the above rule shall be made only at the request of the parents of the athlete and with written approval of the coach, Athletic Director, Principal or Asst. Principal
- c. Violation of this policy will result in the student not being allowed to participate in that day's activities
- d. If a student leaves an activity by any means other than the approved ride, that student will be suspended from the next activity in which they are a participant and will ride the school transportation to and from activities for the remainder of the season

## 3. Changing sports during the Season

- a. If an athlete quits mid-season, he/she is ineligible for another sport until released by the coach of the original sport or until the season is officially ended
- b. Off season weight training is not considered a sport

## 4. Attendance

- a. A student must attend the entire day of school on the day of an event or practice in order to participate in or attend the event or practice.
- b. An absence may be excused if it is an emergency or unavoidable circumstance other than illness. It must be verified by the parent and approved by the administrator. The decision of the administrator is final
- c. If the absence is not discovered until the next day the athlete will not be eligible for the next contest
- d. If an athlete is under any type of suspension from school, he/she may not participate in practices or competitions

## 5. Equipment

- a. Each athlete is responsible for taking care of school equipment
- b. School equipment shall not be worn at any time other than at authorized practices, games or matches, unless given special permission by the Athletic Director
- c. If a student fails to produce equipment checked out in his/her name that athlete will
  - i. Be liable for the expenses of the lost equipment
  - ii. Be ineligible to receive a diploma upon graduation

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- iii. Be ineligible to compete in his/her next competitive season

### 6. Sportsmanship-Rule 52

- a. PHILOSOPHY--Activities are an important aspect of the total education process. They provide an arena which fosters maturation, promotes quality performance, and teaches the value of teamwork for participants to grow, to excel, to understand and to value the concepts of SPORTSMANSHIP and teamwork. They are an opportunity for coaches and school staff to teach and model SPORTSMANSHIP, to build school pride, and to increase student/community involvement; this ultimately translates into improved academic performance. Activities are also an opportunity for the community to demonstrate its support for the participants and the school, and to model the concepts of SPORTSMANSHIP for our youth. Sportsmanship is good citizenship in action!
- b. ALL ACTIONS are to be FOR, NOT AGAINST; POSITIVE, NOT NEGATIVE or DISRESPECTFUL
- c. Be courteous to all participants, coaches, officials, staff and fans
- d. Know the rules, abide by and respect the official's decisions
- e. Win with character and lose with dignity
- f. Display appreciation for good performance regardless of the team
- g. Exercise self control and reflect positively upon yourself, team & school.

### 7. Ejection from an Activity

- a. Any student who is ejected from an activity/competition through their own acts will be suspended from that activity/competition for that date and the next date of that activity/competition upon review by athletic director and/or principal. A second offense could result in the individual being suspended from that activity/competition for the remainder of that activity/competition season, upon review by administration.

### 8. Eligibility

- a. Students are expected to maintain passing grades to remain eligible based on the guidelines in the student handbook. Grades are checked every two weeks and student must be passing a minimum number of classes to remain eligible for competition.

### 9. Dual Sport Participation Policy- (High School Policy Only)The purpose of the dual sport agreement is to allow the student athlete the opportunity to compete in two sports during the same season.

- a. Student may participate in no more than two sports per season.
- b. Student must meet with the Athletic Director prior to talking to coaches of the respective sports.
- c. Student must receive written approval from the head coach of both sports. Without the approval of both coaches, a student must choose one of the sports within which to compete.
- d. Student must designate a primary sport prior to final written approval for dual participation being granted by the athletic director. When the two schedules conflict, competition in the primary sport will take precedence over competition in the secondary sport. When practice schedules conflict, practice for the primary sport will take precedence. Competition of either sport will take precedence over practice of the other. Exceptions must be agreed upon by the two head coaches prior to the start of the season.
- e. Student must maintain a current GPA of 2.0 with no D's. Any GPA below 2.0 or grade below C will exclude the student from participation in the secondary sport until grades are above a D average. The student may have no more than 5 absences the quarter prior to the season of dual participation.

### 10. Athletic Permission & Physical Examination

- a. Students must have a signed statement by a Licensed Physician or a registered Physician Assistant (MD, DO, DC, or PA) certifying the student has passed an adequate physical examination and is physically fit to participate before he/she can practice or participate in an athletic event based on KSHSAA Rule #7, Sec. 1, Art. 1-7
- b. Students must have the signature of his/her parent or guardian before he/she can practice or participate in an athletic contest.
- c. The physical exam must be obtained after May 1 for the following school year
- d. Emergency medical treatment cards must be signed by a parent, notarized and returned to the coach prior to the first out-of-town competition.
- e. The medical cards can carry over to sports later in the same academic year
- f. Concussion and substance abuse forms must also be turned in by the individual student once per school year

### 11. Behavior

- a. Coaches will have specific regulations for the following areas:
  - i. Hours
  - ii. Attendance at School
  - iii. Attendance at Practice
  - iv. Promptness
- b. If a squad member is involved in a situation inside or outside of school in which his/her behavior reflects poorly upon the school, disciplinary action will be determined by the coach, principal and the athletic director.