

Dakota Valley School District

Activities Handbook



Rules and Regulations

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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. Dakota Valley Schools 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 digitally acknowledge the acknowledgement and permission to participate form located within the Athletics Online Registration process and the Activities Google Form 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 building principal or Superintendent for assistance.

General Philosophy

The Dakota Valley School interscholastic athletic program and extra- curricular activities serve as extensions of the classroom which teach educational values such as desire, dedication, determination, discipline, respect, integrity, sacrifice, pride, dignity, responsibility, and leadership. In addition, the coaching and advisory staff believes that there are many rewards for those who participate in activities. Activities can contribute to emotional maturity, health, happiness, cooperation, competition, character, physical skills, communication, and social competence. The development of poise, self-discipline, and the ability to work well within a collaborative team environment shall be considered worthy and valuable outcomes of the programs.

Participants should also be good citizens willing to abide by prescribed rules and standards. Collaborative team membership carries with it a great deal of responsibility and great rewards. We believe that every student should have the chance to participate at a competitive level; therefore, a varied program has been developed.

| Fall | Winter | Spring |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Competitive Cheer | Boys' and Girls' Basketball | Baseball |
| Sideline Cheer (Football) | Sideline Cheer Basketball | Girls' Golf |
| Cross Country | Boys' and Girls' Wrestling | Girls' Softball |
| Competitive Dance | One-Act Play | Boys' and Girls' Track and Field |
| Football | Band & Choir | Band & Choir |
| Boys' Golf | Quiz Bowl | |
| Boys' and Girls' Soccer | Debate | |
| Volleyball | E-Sports | |
| Band & Choir | | |
| Three-Act Play | | |

Student-Led Organizations: FBLA, FCCLA, HOSA, National Honor Society (High School) and Jr. National Honor Society (Middle School), Skills USA, and Student Council (High School and Middle School),

DVHS Clubs: Art Club, Book Club, DV Green, and Spanish Club

DVHS Course-Based Activities: Yearbook and Journalism

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: Bill Clements Title:

Activities Director

Address: 1150 Northshore Drive, North Sioux City, SD 57049

Telephone: 605-422-3820

E-mail: Bill.Clements@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 3053 – Nondiscrimination

**SECTION ONE:
GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE ACTIVITIES PROGRAM**

School Suspensions & Student Ineligibility

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 must follow board policy, the Student Code of Conduct, and all school rules so that the school environment is conducive for all students.

Participating in extra-curricular activities is a privilege and not a right. With this foundational belief and a commitment to fostering an environment that supports both academic and personal growth for all students, the Dakota Valley School Board adopted the additional activity participation consequences for students who are suspended from school, which is described and outlined below.

Students who receive an in-school or out-of-school suspension of any kind are subject to an additional extracurricular participation suspension. Extra-curricular activities are defined as any activity or event that is above and beyond academic courses and accompanying instruction. This includes but is not limited to all Homecoming or other Student Council sponsored events, school dances, attendance as a spectator at any home or away Dakota Valley event, weightlifting and/or team workouts before/after school, participation/attendance/practice/competition with athletic teams, participation in clubs or student-led organizations and events sponsored by those clubs and/or student-led organizations, and practice/participation/attendance in activities (Debate, Drama, All-State Band, All-State Choir, etc.)

| Length of School Suspension | Length of Extra-Curricular Participation Suspension |
|-----------------------------|--|
| 1-3 Day School Suspension | 2-Week Extra-Curricular Participation Suspension |
| 4-6 Day School Suspension | 4-Week Extra-Curricular Participation Suspension |
| 7-10 Day School Suspension | 6-Week Extra-Curricular Participation Suspension |
| Long-Term School Suspension | Extra-Curricular Participation Suspension for 1 (One) Calendar Year from the Effective Date of Suspension |

Note: Suspensions from riding the bus due to inappropriate bus behavior do not count toward the extracurricular participation suspension. However, if the bus behavior warrants a school-based suspension, then the school-based suspension would count.

Adopted by Dakota Valley School Board, May 2024.

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 whenever the participant is declared academically ineligible.

Students serving an out-of-school or in-school suspension or expulsion from school are not allowed to participate, practice, or compete/perform for an extended period of time. (See Section Three of this Handbook and the above School Suspensions and Student Ineligibility for details.)

Eligibility for Practices and Contests

- A.) Participants in an activity must be in attendance all day prior to practice, event or departure time for the event. Students must be present before 9:00 a.m. to constitute a full day.
- B.) Participants who are absent for any reason are ineligible on that day, unless it has been cleared in advance by the school administrator. Emergency cases, which allow for deviation from this, are given consideration by the Head Coach or supervisor, Activities Director, and High School Principal. Doctor appointments are an excused absence if doctor's note is presented upon return.
- C.) An unexcused absence from any class during the school day will make that person ineligible for that day.
- D.) If participation in an activity causes a student to be absent or tardy the day immediately following such activity, said student shall be ineligible for the next succeeding activity.

Closings

Unless the administration determines that it is permissible for the activity to continue as scheduled, all activities will be canceled or postponed in the event that school has been called off for inclement weather or any other reason as determined by the administration.

Colors

The Dakota Valley School colors are purple, black, and silver.

Communication

Communication is essential for a strong parent/student/coach relationship. Many coaches and advisors/supervisors utilize the Remind app or email distribution lists.

- **Athletics:** Season schedules will be handed out at the start of the season. At the minimum, you can expect communication from the coach outlining the coach's philosophy, expectations of student-athlete's role on the team, locations and times of all practices and contests including updates throughout the season, team requirements including fees, special equipment, off-season conditioning and the expectation and time commitment of student-athletes.
- **Activities:** Schedules will be handed out to all students participating in the activity, alerting them of specific, important events. At the minimum, you can expect communication from the advisor/sponsor outlining the expectations for participation, any related fees, and time commitment for the students.

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

Student-athletes participate in baseline concussion testing every two years, in 7th, 9th, and 11th grade. The testing is conducted by our trainer on-site at Dakota Valley High School. Any student who has received a concussion may receive testing on a more frequent basis.

Dances

School dances are part of the district's extracurricular activity program. Students who wish to participate in school dances must comply with the Student Code of Conduct. Students may be prohibited from participating in school dances as a consequence for violating school rules or these activity rules.

- **High School Dances:** All high school dances are restricted to Dakota Valley High School students and their guests. Any school organization wishing to sponsor a dance must obtain permission from the principal regarding date and times. Each dance must be sponsored by at least two faculty members and one additional adult couple. Once admitted to the dance, students must remain until the close of the dance. Students who leave the dance will not be readmitted.
- **Homecoming and Prom:**
 - The Homecoming dance is open to students and guests of Dakota Valley High School.
 - The Junior/Senior Prom is open to students and guests of the Dakota Valley High School junior and senior classes. Guests must follow all rules that the students must follow. Each student is responsible for his/her guest's conduct. Appropriate attire is required for these dances.

Electronic Communication

The school board supports the use of technology by coaches, extracurricular sponsors, advisors, 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 Policy 4051, Staff and District Social Media Use, 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.

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. All equipment must be checked in at the conclusion of the season. Students will be assessed the replacement cost for school equipment that has been checked out to him/her and is lost or stolen.

Fundraising

All school-sponsored fundraising activities or solicitation of funds must be approved by a member of the school district administration. Fundraising for any activity must comply with the district's policies, including applicable provisions specifically pertaining to Booster Clubs and PTOs for non-school-sponsored fundraising. Use of the school name, logo, and mascot shall not be permitted unless

approved by the Activities Director or Superintendent.

Individual Training Rules and Rules of Conduct

Head coaches, sponsors or advisors may develop additional training rules or rules of conduct for their activity. Students are responsible for knowing these rules and complying with them.

In addition, the following rules are in place:

Student conduct while using the training room:

- The training room is to care for and prevent athletic injuries.
- No athlete should enter the training room unless they are in need of care by the trainer.

Student conduct at practices and events:

- When entering and using the locker rooms.
 - Dress quickly and go to the practice area.
 - Place all valuables in your locker and lock it. You are responsible for your own valuables!
 - Cell phones & video recording devices are prohibited.
- When participating in scheduled practices
 - Remain out of the practice facility while other teams are using it.
 - Refrain from hanging on the baskets and backboards. Damage from unauthorized use may result in restitution by that student.
 - Refrain from using other equipment in the practice facility not specifically designed for the sport that you are in.
- When leaving the practice area
 - Athletes will leave the practice facility through the designated doors indicated by their coach.
 - Athletes will bring all items to practice that they want to take home that night.

Athletes and students participating in activities should not be using school facilities, whether supervised or not, unless proper arrangements are established through the Activities Director and their coach.

Athletes will not be allowed to consume or store supplements in school facilities. This includes but is not limited to dietary, nutritional or performance enhancing supplements. Violations may include loss of privileges to training facilities.

Athletes will be allowed to transfer from one sport to another sport during the same season. However, this will only be allowed until the first competition date. No transfer will be allowed after the first competition date.

Athletes will be sure to do the following when they learn that it is necessary to quit a sport:

- A. Notify the coach of this decision.
- B. Turn in all gear that has been issued.*

**NOTE: This is to be completed at the very earliest convenience, preferably the day of or day after quitting. We urge you to remain out for a sport once you have started but realize that*

sometimes it becomes necessary to drop due to situations beyond your control. To just disappear from a team, without taking care of the above responsibilities, will be recorded and considered for a future sport.

Injuries

Participants who suffer any type of injury while involved in extracurricular activities must notify the coach or sponsor immediately. The coach, athletic trainer, 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, athletic trainer, 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.

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

Lettering requirements vary by activity and are set by the coaching staff in collaboration with and approval by the Administration.

Mascot

The official emblem for boys' and girls' athletic teams is the Panther. The mascot cannot be used for non-school-sponsored purposes unless approved by the Activities Director or Superintendent.

Open Gym

- The general philosophy of the Dakota Valley School Board is that Open Gym Time is reserved for the students of the Dakota Valley School District, under the direct supervision of school district personnel, coaches, or approved volunteers.
- All SDHSAA rules must be adhered to at all times.
- During the off-season, at the discretion of the Head Coach, graduates of the Dakota Valley School District may be invited back to participate in the Open Gyms. Head Coaches should make every effort to limit the number of graduated students participating as to not to take playing time and court time away from the current Dakota Valley student athletes.
- Students who graduated from schools other than Dakota Valley may not participate in the Open Gyms unless prior approval is granted by the HS Administration.

Practices

The individual head coach, sponsor, or advisor in cooperation with the Activities Director, will schedule all starting times of practices. All participants are expected to be ready at the time set by the coach or sponsor.

- Practices may not begin until 6:15 a.m.
- On Wednesday evenings, all activity participants are out of the facility by 6:00 p.m.
- There are no scheduled practices on Sunday unless approved by Administration.

Athletics: To be eligible to practice, a participant must satisfy the following requirements:

1. Complete the Activity Online Registration, which includes the physical, all release information, emergency contact information, HIPPA form, concussion information and personal insurance information in addition to other required items.
2. Provide hard copy of the annual health physical to be kept on file at school

Activities: To be eligible to practice, a participant must complete the Online Google Registration Form.

Social Media Guidelines

The Dakota Valley Activities Department recognizes and supports the student rights to freedom of speech, expression, and association, including the use of social networks. In this context, however, each student must remember that participating and competing for The Dakota Valley Schools is a privilege. As a student-athlete and/or activity participant, you represent the Dakota Valley Schools and the communities of Dakota Valley and you are expected to portray yourself, your team, and the School District in a positive manner at all times.

Below you will find the social networking guidelines which provide the following rules for social networking site usage:

Everything you post is public information – any text or photo placed online is completely out of your control the moment it is placed online – even if you limit access to your site. Information (including pictures, videos, and comments) may be accessible even after you remove it. Once you post a photo or comment on a social networking site, that photo or comment becomes the property of the site and may be searchable even after you remove it.

- What you post may affect your future. Many employers and college admissions officers review social networking sites as part of their overall evaluation of an applicant. Carefully consider how you want people to perceive you before you give them a chance to misinterpret your information (including pictures, videos, comments, and posters).
- Similar to comments made in person, the Dakota Valley Activities Department will not tolerate disrespectful comments and behavior online, such as:
 - Derogatory language or remarks that may harm or disrespect others
 - Incriminating photos or statements depicting violence; hazing; sexual harassment; full or partial nudity; inappropriate gestures; vandalism, stalking; underage drinking, selling, possessing, or using controlled substances; or any other inappropriate behaviors.
 - Creating a serious danger to the safety of another person or making a credible threat of serious physical or emotional injury to another person.

- Indicating knowledge of an unreported school or team violation— regardless if the violation was unintentional or intentional.

Through social media, you are now monitored by more individuals than ever before, including community members, fans, opposing teams and members of the media. Everything you do in these forums should positively represent Dakota Valley. Improper postings to social media that violate Dakota Valley’s guidelines may be handled in the following manner:

- Extra conditioning as deemed appropriate by the coach and/or administration.
- Suspension from practices, games, or activities as deemed appropriate by the coaches and/or administration.
- Dismissal from the team.
- Other consequences that are deemed appropriate after consulting with coaches and/or administration.

Student Manager, Helpers or Statisticians

Students wishing to serve as student volunteers for extracurricular activities must gain the permission of the activity coach or sponsor. Student volunteers must comply with all of 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 or travel to an activity sponsored by the conference, district, or state on a Wednesday night.

The school does not allow Sunday practice sessions without the approval of Administration.

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: <https://www.dvschools.com/non-discrimination-policy>

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 only if the parent/guardian personally contacts the sponsor at the activity. A participant may ride home with an adult if the participant’s parent/guardian has personally contacted the Activities Director prior to the activity and the adult personally contacts the sponsor at the activity prior to leaving with the student. Parents are discouraged from requesting to take their children home after an away contest or performance. Travel to and from an event provides time for the students to further develop a strong team concept.

Weight Room

The weight room has been developed to help each athlete, student, or staff member maintain a level of physical fitness. No student 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. Scheduling of the facility is managed by the strength coach and Activities Director.

SECTION TWO: AVAILABLE ACTIVITIES

SDHSAA Sanctioned Athletics/Activities

- All-State Band & Orchestra
- All-State Choir
- All-State Jazz Band
- Basketball (boys and girls) Cross County
- Competitive Dance
- Competitive Cheer
- Debate and Individual Events
- E-Sports
- Football
- Golf (boys and girls)
- One-Act Play
- Track (boys and girls) Soccer
- (boys and girls) Softball
- State Visual Arts Contest
- Volleyball
- Wrestling (boys and girls)

SDHSAA Non-Sanctioned Athletics/Activities

Baseball

Art Club

Membership is open to those students who are or who have been enrolled in Art classes at DVHS.

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 be eligible to participate in these groups.

Sideline Cheer

Participants are selected by the sponsor(s) or judges appointed by the sponsor. Sideline cheer squad will be scheduled to cheer at all home events and selected away events.

Three-Act Play

Participation in the three-act play is open to all students interested in any aspect of theater and offers varying levels of involvement. The three-act play rotates between a comedy, drama, and musical and is performed in the fall. The MS produces one, one-act play in the spring.

Family Career and Community Leadership of America (FCCLA)

FCCLA is an integral part of the Family and Consumer Sciences department. Members should have taken or presently be taking a family and consumer sciences class. Program emphasis for FCCLA is on leadership development, family cooperation and communication, community service and peer education.

Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA)

FBLA is an integral part of the vocational business department and membership is limited to those

students with at least one semester of work in the business education field. One of the primary objectives of FBLA is developing leadership and responsibility.

National Honor Society

The National Honor Society is a national organization that recognizes student character, scholarship, leadership, and service to the school. National Junior Honor Society is available for MS students.

Student Council

The purpose of student government is to arouse the spirit of loyalty toward the school, to promote good citizenship, to sponsor school activities, to extend the spirit of good fellowship throughout the student body, to foster a spirit of cooperation between the students and faculty, and to seek to develop a spirit of cooperation, good will, and better understanding with other schools. The organization, operation, and scope of the student government shall be administered by a High School Administrator. Student Council is available for MS students.

Spanish Club

The Spanish Club is designed to give students an opportunity to develop their knowledge of different Spanish speaking cultures. Members of the club are also interested in becoming involved with the Spanish speaking community in the area.

Student Publications

The yearbook is published by the Journalism class along with the help of its teacher. The annual is financed partially by funds raised from the sale of the books.

The school paper is "Panther Pride." It is published once per quarter by the journalism classes and their teacher. It is financed in part by advertising.

SECTION THREE: SOUTH DAKOTA HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION RULES

Dakota Valley School District and the Activities Department holds our students to higher standards for academic achievement. Therefore, Dakota Valley School enforces additional eligibility requirements above and beyond those set forth by the SDHSAA. The additional DV requirements are outlined below:

Eligibility checks will be conducted at mid-quarter and end of quarter to ensure that our students remain on-track for graduation. This is in addition to the once-per-semester eligibility checks required by SDHSAA.

Students enrolled in six/seven classes who are failing two (2) or more courses or students enrolled in four/five classes are failing one course (1) when progress reports, quarter or semester grades are compiled will be ineligible until the following grading period. (approximately every 4 to 5 weeks).

Entering Freshmen must be in good academic standing to be eligible to participate in DVHS activities.

- A student that has passed four (4) out of five (5) core courses during the second semester of his/her eighth-grade year is considered to be in good academic standing.

Students must be on track to graduate by completing the following credit requirements per semester during their high school career.

- Student credits are evaluated following each semester to determine eligibility.

| Dakota Valley High School Graduation Credit Schedule | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| Semesters Completed in High School | Minimum Total Credits Needed |
| End of 1 st Semester | 2.0 credits |
| End of 2 nd Semester (End of 9 th Grade) | 4.0 credits |
| End of 3 rd Semester | 6.5 credits |
| End of 4 th Semester (End of 10 th Grade) | 10.0 credits |
| End of 5 th Semester | 12.5 credits |
| End of 6 th Semester (End of 11 th Grade) | 16.0 credits |
| End of 7 th Semester | 19.5 credits |

- Students enrolled in online courses must abide by school calendar timelines for course completion. Failure to complete courses by the end of the semester will be treated as a failed course for that grading period.

Credits earned through credit recovery and/or course completion during the summer months do not count towards eligibility for the following semester.

SDHSAA 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

- **Preceding Semester.** The student, unless they are entering high school for the first time, shall have successfully earned a minimum of two (2) units of credit which are used in the issuance of a diploma, for the preceding or for the most recent semester/trimester of attendance in any accredited high school. For the purposes of this subsection, enrollment and attendance in school or participation in one or more contests shall constitute a semester/trimester in determining eligibility. However, the Board of Directors or the Executive Director shall have the authority to waive the attendance rule when and if a student withdraws from school as a result of an injury or illness and does not return to any school for the remainder of the semester/trimester and the student does not receive any high school course credits.

NOTE: Failure to earn two (2) units of credit the previous semester/trimester causes the student to become ineligible the entire following semester/trimester. NOTE: Only credits accepted by the school for graduation may be used in determining whether a student successfully earned two (2) units of credit. Source: Minutes of the January 10-11, 2001 Board of Directors Meeting.

- **Current Semester.** The student shall (a) be enrolled in an accredited high school and attend courses for which a minimum of two (2) units of credit may be earned towards the issuance of a diploma, (b) be receiving alternative instruction as set forth in SDCL § 13-27-3 or (c) any student in grades ten, eleven, or twelve may apply to an institution of higher education or a postsecondary vocational education institution as a special student in a course or courses offered at the institution of higher education or postsecondary vocational education institution. Correspondence/college courses approved in advance by the high school principal for which credits earned are used in the issuance of a high school diploma may count towards the two (2) units of credit eligibility requirement. (Refer to SDCL § 13-28-37)
- **Project Grades.** A student's grades which are dependent upon completion of a project such as a vocational education project after the close of the academic school year shall be determined by the grade averages of record assuming satisfactory completion of the project.
- **Credit recovery.** Students who have been declared ineligible because of academic

deficiencies from the previous semester/trimester may earn scholastic/academic eligibility by taking an academic course(s) via the options approved by the SD Department of Education. Examples include, but not limited to, on-line courses, in-district credit recovery courses, alternative education settings, digital courses, etc. The principal must monitor the successful completion of the course(s) and reinstate eligibility only after the successful completion of 2 units of credit as per Chapter I, Part IV, Section 1, Subsection D., page 14 of the Bylaws.

- **Additional Dakota Valley Expectation:** The completion of credits through credit recovery must be completed by the end of the semester to be considered toward eligibility for the following semester. Reinstatement of eligibility will not occur if completion of credits occurs after the end of the semester.

- **Beginning and Ending of a Semester.** For the purpose of this subsection, the first semester shall be considered as ending at midnight on the day before the second semester begins and the second semester shall be considered as starting on the first day classes are held in said semester. The actual ending of the first/second semester or school year, rather than the date of graduation exercises or diploma date, controls the determination when eligibility terminates.

SECTION FOUR: DAKOTA VALLEY STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

All students associated with Dakota Valley Public Schools 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.

- **Athletic/Activity Participants:** 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, school rules/expectations, the Student Code of Conduct, and SDHSAA Guidelines.
- **All Students:** Participants must follow board policy, school rules, and this Code of Conduct. 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, school rules/expectations, and the Student Code of Conduct.

All violations of this code must be reported to the Principal or his/her designee, and in the case where the student is involved in athletics or activities, the Activities Director shall also be informed of the incident.

Individual Team or Activity Rules. This Student Code of Conduct shall control in the event that there may be an inadvertent omission with individual team or activity rules.

Prohibited Conduct. Students 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).

- ***** Note that the State of South Dakota has a specific law (13-32-9)** that states that students involved with the legal system for drug related offenses will be ineligible to participate for one calendar year, which may be reduced to thirty (30) calendar days for completing an assessment and treatment program. The student is also ineligible for a minimum of two SDHSAA sanctioned events upon completion of the reduced suspension period. The one-year suspension for a 2nd offense may be reduced to sixty (60) calendar days if the student completes an accredited intensive prevention or treatment program. If the suspension for a second offense is reduced, the student is also ineligible for a minimum of six SDHSAA sanctioned events upon completion of the reduced suspension period. A student is ineligible for the remainder of his or her high school career for a third offense.
 - *Violations & penalties will be pursuant to state law, which are in addition to the violations and penalties outlined in this code.
- 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.

Such conduct is prohibited during the school year, regardless of whether it occurs on-campus or off-campus. School year means the period commencing on the first day of fall sports practice through the last day of spring sports practice, events, or attendance at school for a given school year.

Discipline. Students who violate any provision of the Student Code of Conduct 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 Student 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.

All violations in Grades 7-12 are considered cumulative. Penalties for violation of the Student Code of Conduct are outlined below.

First Violation -

The student will be ineligible to attend or participate in any school or after school activity or extra-curricular activities for a period of fourteen (14) calendar days. However, unless the student is suspended from school, the student must participate in any extra-curricular activity practices during the fourteen-day period. In some situations, students who are active participants in activities MAY be required to attend but not compete in competitions. Depending on the nature of the violation, there may be additional consequences from the Grades 4-12 Expectations/Consequences Chart found in the Student Handbook.

Second Violation –

The student will be ineligible to attend or participate in any school or after school activity or extra-curricular activities for a period of sixty (60) calendar days.

Depending on the nature of the violation (Example: Vaping at school), the student would be suspended from school for a period of 5 days and suspended from participation in activities (practice, attendance, competition) for a period of 4 weeks. After the 4-week activity suspension, the student must participate in practices during the final two weeks of the 60-day ineligibility period outlined above. In some situations, students who are active participants in activities MAY be required to attend but not compete in competitions.

Third Violation –

The student will be suspended and not ineligible allowed to attend or participate in any school or after school activities or extracurricular activities for twelve (12) months. If the student at their own expense completes an evaluation and completes a treatment program for drug or alcohol related violations, the penalty will be reduced to ninety (90) days.

- Depending on the nature of the violation (Example: Vaping at school), the student would be suspended from school for a period of 7 days and suspended from participation in activities (practice, attendance, competition) for a period of 6 weeks. If the student completes an evaluation and a treatment program, thus reducing the Student Code of Conduct penalty to 90 days, the student may begin attending practices until the 90-day period is over. During this interim period, participants may be required to attend but not compete in competitions.

Fourth Violation and all subsequent violations –

The student will be ineligible to attend or participate in any school or after school activities or extracurricular activities for twelve (12) months. There is no option to reduce Student Code of Conduct penalty.

Violation of the suspension –

If a student violates any of the above ineligibility periods, consequences will be determined by the building administrator and Activities Director. Being banned from all school events (including Homecoming, Prom, and the Graduation Ceremony as examples) would be considered as a consequence.

* All calendar day penalties define a day as ending at 11:59 pm. Example: a 7-day penalty means that the student is ineligible to participate or attend school activities until 11:59 pm of the seventh day.

Appeal Process.

During the appeal process, the student will be ineligible. If an appeal of the administrative decision is desired, the process is as follows:

- A.) The Administration must meet with the student. If the parent(s) desire, the parent (s) may also meet with the Administration.
- B.) In the event the student or parent/guardian believes that the action taken by the Administration is inappropriate, they may appeal the Administration's decision in the following manner:
 1. An advisory three (3) member panel of impartial school staff members shall review the case. Two (2) members of the review panel shall be appointed by the school principal. One (1) of these two (2) staff members may be chosen by the student, if so desired. The third (3rd) panel member will be designated by the superintendent of schools from the central administration staff.
 2. The student and his/her parent(s)/guardian(s) shall be notified when and where the review panel will meet, and they shall be allowed to appear before the review panel.
 3. The review panel shall consider the circumstances and evidence and make its findings and recommendations in writing, to the student and parent(s)/guardian(s), and to the school principal. Responsibility for the decision of the appeal rests solely with the principal of the school.
 4. Following the decision, the student and parent(s)/guardian(s) shall have three (3) school days to file an appeal with the superintendent. The appeal shall be heard at the earliest feasible opportunity, but no later than seven (7) days following the filing of the appeal.
 5. If the appeal conducted by the superintendent is not acceptable, then an appeal may be made to the board of education at the next regularly scheduled board meeting, in closed session.

A. Good Behavior Clause:

If a student is found to be in violation of this code, he/she may be rewarded for subsequent good behavior. If the student maintains good behavior and is not in violation of this code for eighteen (18) consecutive months, then the student will move back one level.

B. Credible Witness:

Judgment as to whether a student has violated this code will be based upon an arrest, citation, or notification from Law Enforcement, self-admission, or court proceedings. Credible witness is defined as school staff, law enforcement, or parents of the violator. Additional witnesses may enter evidence to be considered if they are willing to submit information in a signed statement.

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 administrator'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 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

Dakota Valley has cautionary statements for participation in each sport. As part of the online registration process, each parent must read and acknowledge receipt and understanding of these cautionary statements related to the sport in which their child is participating.

Acknowledgement of receipt and understanding of the Activities Handbook is also completed via the online registration process.

Note: The Student Code of Conduct is contained in the Activities Handbook. When acknowledging the handbook, you are also acknowledging that you have read and understood the expectations outlined in the Student Code of Conduct.