

Secondary Activities Handbook

Students in Activities Handbook



2025-2026

The Kearney Public School District does not discriminate on the basis of sex, disability, race, color, religion, age, veteran status, national or ethnic origin, marital status, pregnancy, childbirth or related medical condition, or other protected status in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and designated youth groups.



Dear Students, Parents and Guardians,

The following are instructions for completing the appropriate forms and signatures. The forms are valid for one school year and are for all activities. Coaches and sponsors may add additional guidelines as deemed necessary. These forms must be completed and turned in to the Activities Director's office BEFORE the student will be allowed to begin participating in a school-sponsored activity/contest.

1. Carefully read all sections of the attached handbook.
2. Complete ALL sections of the Summer Stampede/Administrative forms and sign in all spaces indicated.
3. Be sure to include your policy number on the Statement of Insurance.
4. Detach and return the signature pages to the Activities Director's office.

If you have any questions regarding this handbook or the forms, contact Ryan Hogue, Assistant Principal & Activities Director at Kearney High School at (308) 698-8066 or ryahogue@kearneycats.com.

Let's have a GREAT year at Kearney High. GO BEARCATS!

Sincerely,

RYAN E. HOGUE, CAA - ED. 5

Kearney High School

@ryanhogue24

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GUIDELINES, REGULATIONS, AND REQUIREMENTS

Pre-Practice Requirements

All students must meet the following requirements before they begin practice:

1. Students participating in athletics must have a physical form signed by the physician turned into the Assistant Principal for Activities.
2. Return the Parental Consent, Emergency and Insurance Information to the Assistant Principal for Activities.
3. All Athletes and NSAA/NCA activity participants must purchase an activity ticket.
4. Follow and complete any other procedures or requirements as directed by the respective head coaches or sponsors.

Attendance / Classroom Assignments

Students will not be allowed to participate unless he/she is in attendance at school the day of a contest or activity. Students must be in attendance for at least 50% of their scheduled classes immediately prior to the scheduled event in order to participate, practice, perform or compete. Students absent on a Friday must receive permission from the Activities Director and coach/sponsor to compete/perform in a Saturday event. There may be circumstances where students will miss school due to appointments, etc. If a student must be absent on the day of a contest, please call the Assistant Principal for Activities for clearance. Do not try to interpret the rule yourself. If the Activities Director determines that a student has an excessive amount of absences and/or tardies, that student may be subject to disciplinary action impacting their eligibility.

Many athletic/activity events take students out of school during the school year. It is the student's responsibility to make certain that all assignments are made up prior to or as soon after the activity as possible.

Insurance

The Kearney Public Schools provides no insurance coverage and is not responsible for any such expenses.

All students participating in extracurricular activities should be covered by medical insurance. It is the responsibility of the parents/guardians to provide adequate insurance to cover any medical expenses that may be incurred while a student is participating in a school-sponsored activity. This insurance may be under a family plan. Student insurance is also available from the school through Student Assurance Services, Inc. Information will be sent out at the beginning of the school year, or can be obtained by calling the Assistant Principal for Activities' office.

Transportation

The following document will be given to each student for the 2025-2026 school year.

FIELD TRIP & TRANSPORTATION PARENTAL CONSENT FORM - Revised 6-19-24

LAST _____ FIRST _____ GRADE _____

I hereby give my permission for the above named student to participate in school sponsored field trips provided by KPS during the 2025-2026 school year.

I give consent and agree to abide by the KHS guidelines, policies, and Code of Conduct set forth in the Kearney High School Student handbook that you have signed, submitted and is on file at KHS.

Signature of Student / Signature of Parent/Guardian

Date / Date

TRANSPORTATION FORM (Parental Consent)

Activities may be conducted at locations other than Kearney High School. In most cases, KHS will provide transportation to events, activities and field trips, however, there may be some instances where Kearney High School will not provide transportation to the activity.

Kearney High School is not responsible when students are provided transportation by a vehicle driven by others, including a student-driver. In these instances, the responsibility and liability of the school and school officials is limited to the period from the participant's arrival at the event site and contact with the coach, sponsor, or assigned staff member, until dismissal from the event. All other liability for the child's safety lies with the parent, or their designated drivers.

Parents are STRONGLY discouraged from allowing students to drive to/from events unaccompanied by parents. The safety of the students is of utmost importance, and parents should exercise their wisdom, good judgment and discretion when planning travel arrangements.

TRANSPORTATION LIABILITY WAIVER

I have read the Extracurricular / Field Trip Transportation Policy above and agree that I shall assume all liability for negligently caused injuries or damages and release the school and school officials from any liability for injury or damage resulting from the following situations involving extracurricular activities and field trips:

1. Where I transport my son/daughter;
2. Where I transport other students, or I, as a parent/guardian, give permission for another adult/STUDENT to transport my son/daughter; or
3. Where my son/daughter transports himself/herself; or
4. Where my son/daughter transports other students to or from a practice or scheduled event
5. Where I or a group of parents or other individuals contract or arrange for transportation and the school does not directly contract for such transportation.

I further understand that, if I elect to allow my student to be transported by means other than KPS, then I agree, understand, and acknowledge that I and my student are solely responsible for the student's transportation, including all costs and expenses incurred therein, and hereby release and acquit Kearney Public Schools from any liability, whether known or unknown, regarding the student's transportation. I further acknowledge and understand that my student's transportation is inherently dangerous and that I and my student assume all risks inherent in such transportation. In situations where school transportation is not available, it shall be the responsibility of the student and student's parent(s)/guardian(s) to identify and secure safe transportation for the student. In these instances, the accident liability for the student driver and any other student transported by a student driver rests with the student driver.

(Print Student Name)

(Date)

(Signature of Parent/Guardian)

(Date)

Student Managers

An official student manager or Athletic Training Room aide for a Kearney High School sport or activity will generally be selected from a group of students who may not make the team in which they tryout for. There will be occasions where a non-athlete/activity participant is interested in becoming a student manager or ATR aid for a sport or activity. Listed below are the student manager job duties that may be required by the head coach or sponsor. The coaching staff from each sport and activity will determine the number of student managers needed for the season. An application process will then take place if needed per the number of interested candidates. An official interview process with more than one member of the coaching staff will take place. The Head Coach will choose the best overall candidate in relation to the candidate's ability to perform all of the duties and responsibilities listed below as well as the interview score. Attendance and discipline records may also impact the selection process. Second, third or fourth year student managers can be carried over without the interview process. Two simple questions can be asked of the returning student managers. 1 - What did you learn from serving as a student manager the season/year before? 2 - What are some things you would do differently to improve your performance as a KHS student manager?

Student Manager Job Duties:

- Daily attendance at practices to help with the day to day duties.
- Be able to work independently and handle duties without direct supervision from the coaches or sponsors.
- Cleaning and management of sport/activity equipment as needed.
- Be knowledgeable on the sport and be able to take statistics during practice and games.
- Be able to film practices and also run our HUDL platform software.
- Be able to properly and sufficiently operate our scoreboards on and off site.
 - Some of our scoreboards on-site at KHS are digital boards and run by iPad.
- Travel may be required for all student managers during the season.
- Other related duties as needed.

Overnight Travel Guidelines

The following guidelines must be followed when KPS sponsored teams and activity/CTSO groups are traveling on overnight trips in and out of state:

Prior to Departure:

- Full Bag Search of All Student Bags
 - Students should not return to their car once they have submitted their bag to be searched.
- Discuss expectations prior to leaving and how breaking these policies will be handled by the KPS Administration.
- Follow KPS drug, tobacco, alcohol, and behavior guidelines. Students may be sent home at the parent's expense for serious infractions.

While at Hotel:

- Discuss expectations ONCE AGAIN prior to assigning rooms
- Assign Rooms Based on Coaches'/Sponsors Discretion on Underclassmen vs. Upperclassmen and Student Responsibility and Positive Leadership
- Periodic Room Checks (Both announced and unannounced) Students and Parents will be alerted via the Activities Handbook but also during group pre-season meetings.
- Detailed itineraries for all parents
 - (where, when, phone #'s, room assignments, etc... shall be provided.)
- Gender Segregation in Hotel Rooms Will be Enforced to the Fullest!

- Individual room assignments might be assigned on a case by case basis. Administration will work with you regarding special requests or overnight scenarios that may come up.
- Set Curfews and Check In Times to Ensure Everyone is Safe and Responsible.
- The district will not pick up extra expenses such as phone calls, movies, etc...
 - Coaches'/Sponsors shall do walk-throughs of the rooms upon check out.

Inclement Weather

If school is canceled or dismissed early because of inclement weather, practices and contests generally will not be held as a rule. Occasionally, weather and road conditions clear by early afternoon, and, if it is determined that athletes can travel safely, a practice or contest may be held, only after administrative approval. Information regarding the cancellation or postponement of an event will be announced over the local radio stations and their websites as soon as the information becomes available or can be found at www. Kearneycats.com, under the KHS Athletic Schedule link. This link also includes middle school information. In addition, parents can subscribe for alerts on this same site.

Activity Tickets

Students who choose to participate in **NSAA Sponsored Athletics/Activities that Kearney High offers** will be required to purchase an activity ticket from the school for **\$60.00**. In addition to athletes, the following activities that will be required to purchase an activity pass include **Cheerleaders, Dance Catz, Play Production and Speech participants**. The activity pass will be good for the entire school year and will admit the student to all Kearney High athletic events.

Equipment

The school will furnish equipment and lockers needed for each program, with the exception of shoes and items of a personal nature. All equipment checked out to a participant is their responsibility. All equipment and clothing checked out is the property of Kearney High School. Upon completion of the season, the equipment is to be checked back in. Items not checked back in, or have been damaged are the financial responsibility of the student for replacement. Equipment checked out is to be worn for practices and contests only!

Training Room

Kearney High School has one Head Certified Athletic Trainer who coordinates our sports medicine program. The primary responsibility is the prevention and care of school-related athletic injuries. Injuries resulting from participating in non-school activities should be referred to their personal physician. Some of the areas in which the Athletic Trainer is proficient are:

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Emergency procedures | Use of therapeutic modalities |
| Evaluation of injuries | Nutrition |
| Treatment of injuries | Protective equipment |
| Injury rehabilitation | Conditioning techniques |
| Exercise prescription | Concussions |

In the event that an athlete is injured, the athletic trainer or coach will administer emergency first aid if needed. Every effort will be made to contact the parent/guardian as soon as possible following an injury. All injuries should be reported to a coach immediately, who will in turn contact the Athletic Trainer for diagnosis. A decision will then be made as to the next course of action.

Concussions: Return to Learn Protocol & Return to Play

Students who sustain a concussion and return to school may need informal or formal accommodations, modifications of curriculum, and monitoring by medical or academic staff until the student is fully recovered.

The school administration of Kearney Public Schools adopts the NDE Guidance entitled “Bridging the Gap from Concussion to the Classroom,”[1] and accompanying Appendix,[2] as its return to learn protocol, with the recognition that each student who has sustained a concussion will require an individualized response.

Return-to-Play. A student who has been removed from a practice or game as a result of being reasonably suspected of having sustained a concussion or brain injury shall not be permitted to participate in any school supervised team athletic activities involving physical exertion, including, but not limited to, practices or games, until the student: (i) has been evaluated by a licensed healthcare professional, (ii) has received written and signed clearance to resume participation in athletic activities from the licensed healthcare professional, and (iii) has submitted the written and signed clearance to resume participation in athletic activities to the school accompanied by written permission to resume participation from the student’s parent or guardian.

Return-to-Learn. Any student, parent, or guardian who suspects that the student sustained a concussion must immediately inform the student’s coach or building administrator. If a student is suspected of having a concussion, the student may not be permitted to participate or practice in any school-sponsored activity. The District encourages full cooperation and support from both students and parents in each student’s Return to Learn protocol.

The coach or administration may require that the student’s return to full activities be on a stepwise progression back to full participation, or otherwise establish conditions for return to participation that are more restrictive than those defined by the licensed health care professional if the coach or an administrator reasonably deems such to be appropriate.

The signature of an individual who represents that he or she is a licensed healthcare professional on a written clearance to resume participation that is provided to the school shall be deemed to be conclusive and reliable evidence that the individual who signed the clearance is a licensed healthcare professional. The school is not required to determine or verify the individual’s qualifications.

Additional Information regarding Concussions and Athletic Training Services by clicking [here](#) or can be found on the Kearney High School Website. If you have any questions in regards to injuries or this program, feel free to contact the Assistant Principal for Activities or Athletic Trainer at 698-8102.

Activity Conflicts

With students participating in multiple activities, there are bound to be conflicts which arise when two events are scheduled on the same day. While we try to avoid this whenever possible, it still may happen, therefore it is important that the student communicates with all coaches and sponsors involved regarding potential conflicts well in advance. In determining which event takes priority, State, District, and Conference tournaments shall take precedence as to where the student shall compete. When two regularly scheduled events, or non-priority events, take place on the same day, the two sponsors shall attempt to work out an agreement. If no mutual agreement can be reached, the Principal and Activities Director will make the determination. Parents should not interpret this rule and there may be consequences when students choose to not follow the rule with an activity, particularly in activities that have academic grades involved in the participation.

Team Selection

It is the philosophy at Kearney High to retain as many students as possible. In some instances, space restrictions, ability to schedule competition and limitations on the number of team members may require competitive tryouts to be held to determine the team makeup. Students will be given at least (3) practices for evaluation before final selections are made. Coaches/sponsors have the option of conducting these (3) test practices over the course of two or three days. All KPS students academically and in “good standing” according to the administration in grades 9-12 will be allowed one tryout for each seasonal sport or activity. Students wishing to try out after the three-practice evaluation period may be allowed to try out with permission from the head coach/AD. For Play Production, no three day tryout is required but an audition will be conducted.

Following the evaluation, students will be informed of the final selection. The final selection will be made by the Head Coach with input from Assistant Coaches. There are three options available to a student who is not selected for a team:

1. The student may try out for another activity with permission from the new Head Coach/Sponsor.
2. The student could volunteer to remain with the team in another capacity.
3. The student could participate in a recreational, intramural, or community program.

Addressing Concerns

Parents and students may have questions or concerns that may arise during the season. We stress open communication of these concerns, as long as they follow the appropriate channels. Should a question or concern arise, the following steps are to be taken **in this order**:

1. The student should communicate with his/her coach or sponsor.
2. The parent/guardian may call the school to set up an appointment with the coach/sponsor. Please do not attempt to contact the coach before or after a practice or contest as the coach's first priority is to be with the students.
3. Call and set up an appointment with the Assistant Principal for Activities. At this meeting, the appropriate next steps can be determined.

Weight Room

A state of the art weight room is available for student use throughout the year, provided they follow the rules and guidelines established for such use and are properly supervised by a certified staff member. It is the commitment by the Activities Department to encourage all students to participate in a number of activities throughout the school year. This is a major portion of our mission, philosophy and our commitment by our staff to encourage our students at Kearney High to carry on the tradition of the "Multi-Sport/Activity Participant."

KEARNEY PUBLIC SCHOOLS CODE OF CONDUCT POLICY

Athletic/Activity events shall be defined as any activity involving students of the Kearney Public Schools, outside the established academic program, at which public attendance is encouraged, or involves students from other schools. Athletic/Activity events include, but are not limited to, athletics, music, dramatics, forensics, cheerleading, dance team, clubs, etc.

The application of these rules and regulations shall be initiated on the first day of school, or the first day in which practice for, or participation in, any activity is held, whichever is earlier. Those students involved in Athletic/Activity events may be expected to participate in/or attend all practice sessions during the time of suspension and may also be required to attend their scheduled activity. The student will be suspended from activities currently in season, or the next extracurricular activity if not involved in an activity when the violation occurs. Students who decide to participate in an activity that they normally would not have participated in, simply to get their suspension completed, must finish that entire season in good standing. If the student does not finish that season, the suspension will carry over to the next season.

THIS RULE APPLIES TO THE ENTIRE SCHOOL YEAR AND ANY ATHLETIC/ACTIVITY EVENT, WHICH OCCURS PRIOR TO OR AFTER THAT YEAR. CONSEQUENCES SHALL BE CUMULATIVE GRADES 9-12 REGARDLESS OF ATTENDANCE CENTER. VIOLATIONS OF THE ALCOHOL/DRUG POLICY AND INAPPROPRIATE ACTION POLICY ARE CUMULATIVE AND WILL PLACE THE INDIVIDUAL ON THE NEXT STEP. THE POSSESSION OR USE OF ALCOHOL AND DRUGS AT SCHOOL WILL RESULT IN CONTACT WITH LOCAL AUTHORITIES.

Kearney Public Schools reserves the right to suspend extracurricular activities for any student at Kearney High School where administration deems as the appropriate consequence for failure to adhere to all adopted student code of conduct policies.

Drugs, Alcohol, Tobacco and Vaping/E-Cigarette:

Behavioral expectations and prohibitions apply 365 days a year, 24 hours a day, in and out of the specific extracurricular season, and on or off KPS grounds. Violations will be recorded from the start of the freshmen season through graduation. For example, a student is caught with alcohol twice during their freshman season and again during their junior season. The consequences during the junior season would be reflective of a third offense for alcohol possession/use.

School Board Policy 5103

Students

Extracurricular Activities

The student will inform their coach or sponsor when they are injured or have health problems that require their activities be restricted, and to exercise common sense.

Warning for Participants and Parents –

Even with appropriate coaching, appropriate safety instruction, appropriate protective equipment and strict observance of the rules, injuries are still a possibility.

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Extracurricular Activity Code of Conduct

Purpose of the Code of Conduct

Participation in extracurricular activities is a privilege. The privilege carries with it responsibilities to follow the school code of conduct and the school district's policies, procedures and rules. A student who is suspended or expelled from school shall not be permitted to participate in activities during the period of the suspension or expulsion, and may also receive an extended activity suspension.

Scope of the Code of Conduct

Activities Subject to the Code of Conduct: The Code of Conduct applies to all extracurricular activities. Extracurricular activities mean student activities or organizations which are supervised or administered by the school district which do not count toward graduation or grade advancement and in which participation is not otherwise required by the school.

Extracurricular activities include but are not limited to: all sports, cheerleading, dance team, Pep Club, Pep Band, vocal, band, orchestra, speech and drama, One-Act, FBLA, FCCLA, Spanish Club, Art Club, Tri-M, E-Sports, Student Council, Student Advisory Board, National Honor Society, and other school sponsored organizations and activities. The Code of Conduct also applies to participation in school sponsored activities such as school dances and royalty for such activities.

A participant means a student who participates in, has participated in, or will participate in an extracurricular activity.

When: The Code of Conduct rules apply to conduct which occurs at any time during a calendar year. The rules also apply when a student is participating or scheduled to participate in an extracurricular activity that is held outside the school year or the NSAA season. For example, if an FBLA or FCCLA student plans to participate in a conference in July and commits a Code of Conduct infraction in June, the student may be suspended from participating in the conference. Conduct during the summer months may also affect a student's participation in the subsequent school year(s).

Where: The Code of Conduct rules apply regardless of whether the conduct occurs on or off school grounds. If the conduct occurs on school grounds, at a school function or event, or in a school vehicle, the student may also be subject to

further discipline under the general student code of conduct. A student who is suspended or expelled from school shall not be permitted to participate in activities during the period of the suspension or expulsion, and may also receive an extended activity suspension.

Grounds for Extracurricular Activity Discipline – See Student Discipline Policy 5101

Drug and Alcohol Violations -

Meaning of Terms -

Use or consume includes any level of consumption or use. Use of a controlled substance in the manner prescribed for the student by the student's physician is not a violation.

Under the influence means any level of impairment and includes even the odor of alcohol on the breath or person of a student, or the odor of an illicit drug on the student. Also, it includes being impaired by reason of the abuse of any material used as a stimulant.

Possession includes having control of the substance and also includes being in the same area where the substance is present and no responsible adult present and responsible for the substance. Possession includes situations where, for example:

(1) Alcohol is in a vehicle in which the student is present. The student is considered to be in possession if the student is aware that the alcohol is in the vehicle, even though the student has not touched or consumed the alcohol; and

(2) Alcohol is present at a party attended by the student. The student is considered to be in possession if the student is aware that alcohol is at the party and fails to immediately leave the party, even though the student has not touched or consumed the alcohol.

In these situations, a violation would not exist if the alcohol is in the control of a parent or guardian or other responsible adult (age 21 or older) such that students are not allowed to access the alcohol. A violation would also not exist if the student did not know or have a reasonable basis to know that alcohol would be present, and the student leaves the location where the alcohol is present as soon as the student could safely do so.

(Students are expected to leave immediately, but are not to do so in a manner that would endanger them. For example, you are not to leave in a car being driven by a person who has been drinking just to get away from the alcohol party immediately when there is no other way to get home. Instead, you should call for a safe ride home and, while waiting, clearly distance yourself from the alcohol).

Consequences -

Students may be suspended from practices or participation in interscholastic competition or participation in co-curricular activities for violations of the Code of Conduct. The period of suspension or other discipline for such offenses shall be determined by the school administration.

The disciplinary consequence will be determined based on consideration of the seriousness of the offense, any prior violations, the student's compliance with the self-reporting obligations, the student's level of cooperation and willingness to resolve the matter, and the student's demonstration of a commitment to not commit future violations.

Because of the significance of drug and alcohol violations on the student participants, other students and the school, the following consequences are established for such violations:

Drugs, Alcohol, Tobacco and Vaping/E-Cigarette:

An activity participant who violates the drug or alcohol rules (other than steroids) shall be prohibited from participating in any extracurricular activity for the following minimum periods:

1. **First Violation:** After confirmation of the first violation, the student will lose a minimum of 20% of the current season or the next season that the athlete competes in. The penalty will be immediately assessed to the participant's next competition. If the offense happens prior to a season starting, the athlete may be permitted to try out for the sport but will then serve the suspension at the start of the season. **The student can practice with the team if the school administration permits him/her to practice during the suspension. Practicing during the suspension will be a school decision. The student may not travel with the team during the suspension to competitions.**
2. **Second Violation:** After confirmation of the second violation, the student will lose a minimum 40% of the current season or the next season that the athlete competes in. The penalty will be immediately assessed to the participant's next competition. If the offense happens prior to a season starting, the athlete may be permitted to try out for the sport but will then serve the suspension at the start of the season. **The student can practice with the team if the school administration permits him/her to practice during the suspension. Practicing during the suspension will be a school decision. The student may not travel with the team during the suspension to competitions.**
3. **Third Violation:** If a third violation occurs, the participant will be suspended from all practices/competitions for one calendar year. These rules and consequences are in addition to any other school discipline under the Code of Conduct.
4. **Fourth Violation:** The participant will lose the privilege to participate in extracurricular activities for their remaining time in high school.

When assessing a suspension, only NSAA regular season and playoff games count for athletic suspensions. If a student is suspended, playoff games count towards the suspension. For example, a football player is caught with alcohol after the 9th football game of the season. The football team qualifies for the state playoffs. The student athlete must serve 20%, in this case, 2 games. The student athlete will be suspended for the 10th game and the 1st playoff game.

More Serious Violations: In the event of more serious violations, such as students engaging in the use of especially serious drug offenses (cocaine, meth, etc.) procuring alcohol for minors, bullying/hazing of teammates, or any other serious offense as determined by the administration, the consequence of the violation is not restricted by the foregoing, and consequences will be established at the discretion of the administration.

Steroid Offenses. A student who possesses, dispenses, delivers, or administers anabolic steroids shall be prohibited from participating in any extracurricular activity as determined by district and school administration.

When Suspensions Begin

All suspensions will begin with a timeline determined by the administration. The suspension will be communicated with the participant, the parent(s), and the coaches/sponsors. After the determination by school officials of the sanction to be imposed; provided that the school officials shall have the discretion to establish a time period for the suspension that makes the suspension have a real consequence for the student. During a suspension, participants may be required or permitted to practice at the sole discretion of the administration. Suspensions in the spring will be carried over to the fall when the suspension has not been fully served or when determined appropriate for the suspension to have a real consequence for the student.

Letters and Post-Season Honors

A student who commits a Code of Conduct violation is:

1. Eligible to letter, provided the student meets the criteria of the coach or sponsor.
2. Not eligible to receive honors during the sport or activity in which they are participating at the time of the offense and/or in sports or activities in which they have been suspended due to a code violation. The coach/sponsor, with the Athletic Director's approval, may make an exception to receive honors.

Determining a Violation Has Occurred.

A violation of the Code of Conduct will be determined to have occurred based on any of the following criteria:

1. When a student is cited by law enforcement and school officials have a reasonable basis for determining that grounds for the issuance of the citation exist.

2. When a student is convicted of a criminal offense. Conviction includes, without limitation, a plea of no contest and an adjudication of delinquency by the juvenile court.
3. When a student admits to violating one of the standards of the Code of Conduct.
4. When a student is accused by another person of violating one of the standards of the Code of Conduct and school officials determine that such information is reliable.
5. When school officials otherwise find sufficient evidence to support a determination that a violation has occurred.

Procedures for Extracurricular Discipline. The following procedures are established for suspensions from participation in extracurricular activities:

1. Investigation. The school official(s) considering the suspension will conduct a reasonable investigation of the facts and circumstances and determine whether the suspension will help the student or other students, further school purposes, or prevent an interference with a school purpose.
2. Meeting. Prior to commencement of the suspension, the school official considering the suspension or their designee will provide the student an opportunity to give the student's side of the story. The meeting for this purpose may be held in person or via a telephone conference.
 - a. The student will be given oral or written notice of what the student is accused of having done, an explanation of the evidence the school has, and the opportunity to explain the student's version. Detail is not required where the activity participant admits the conduct. Names of informants may be kept confidential where determined to be appropriate.
 - b. The suspension may be imposed prior to the meeting if the meeting cannot reasonably be held before the suspension is to begin. In that case the meeting will occur as soon as reasonably practicable. The student is responsible for cooperating in the scheduling of the meeting.
3. Notice Letter. Within two school days (two business days if school is not in session), or such additional time as is reasonably necessary following the suspension, the Athletic Director or the Athletic Director's designee will send a written statement to the student and the student's parents or guardian. The statement will describe the student's conduct violation and the discipline imposed. The student and parents or guardian will be informed of the opportunity to request a hearing.
4. Informal Hearing before Superintendent. The student or student's parent/guardian may request an informal hearing before the Superintendent. The Superintendent may designate the Athletic Director or another administrator not responsible for the suspension decision as the Superintendent's designee to conduct the hearing and make a decision.
 - a. A form to request such a hearing must be signed by the parent or guardian. A form will be provided with the notice letter or otherwise be made available by request from the Principal's office.
 - b. The request for a hearing must be received by the Superintendent's office within five days of receipt of the notice letter.
 - c. If a hearing is requested:
 - i. The hearing will be held within ten calendar days of receipt of the request; subject to extension for good cause as determined by the Superintendent or the Superintendent's designee.
 - ii. The Superintendent or the Superintendent's designee will notify the participants of the time and place of the hearing a reasonable time in advance to allow preparation for the hearing.
 - iii. Upon conclusion of the hearing, a written decision will be rendered within five school days (ten calendar days if school is not in session). The written decision will be mailed or otherwise delivered to the participant, parents or guardian.
 - iv. A record of the hearing (copies of documents provided at the hearing and a tape recording or other recordation of the informal hearing) will be kept by the school if requested sufficiently in advance of the hearing by the parent/guardian.
5. No Stay of Penalty. There will be no stay of the penalty imposed pending completion of the due process procedures
6. Opportunity for Informal Resolution. These due process procedures do not prevent the student or parent/guardian from discussing and settling the matter with the appropriate school officials at any stage.

Attendance.

Student participants are expected to meet the following attendance expectations:

1. Attend school regularly. Students who have “excessive absences” as determined under the school’s attendance policy are ineligible to participate in extracurricular activity contests or performances. Students who have four or more unexcused absences in the semester of participation may be ineligible to participate in extracurricular activity contests or performances.
2. Be on time for all scheduled practices, contests, and departure for contests. In the event a participant is unable to attend a practice or contests the participant should contact the coach or sponsor in advance.
3. On the day of a contest, performance or other activity, be in attendance for the half day. A student who is not in attendance the half day is ineligible for the contest, performance, or activity.

Exceptions may be made for extenuating circumstances, such as doctor/dentist appointments or family emergencies. The exception must be approved by the Principal or Athletic Director.

Every attempt should be made to be in attendance the day of a contest. Sleeping in to rest up for the game will not be considered an extenuating circumstance, nor will going home ill and then returning to play in the contest later that day.

Academic Standards:

Participation in extracurricular school activities is encouraged and desirable for all students. At the same time, the primary mission and responsibility for each student is to establish a firm academic foundation. A student participating in extracurricular school activities must show evidence of sincere effort towards scholastic achievement. To be eligible for participation in extracurricular activities, students must:

1. Be enrolled in at least 20 credit hours in the semester of participation. Homeschool students must be enrolled in no less than 5 credit hours in their home school district for participation.
2. If a student is failing more than ONE class they will be ruled ineligible for that week. Courses will be reviewed weekly on **Tuesday** morning. A student who is failing more than one class at reporting times will be ineligible to participate in extracurricular activity contests or performances until the next reporting time. Any exceptions for participation will be determined on a case-by-case basis with final determination made by the Principal and/or the district Athletic Director.
3. Academic requirements do not apply to:
 - a. Instructional field trips which are part of the scheduled course learning experience

Eligibility criteria for part-time students is governed by policy 5004, NSAA bylaws, and state law.

Legal Reference: Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 79-254 to 79-296 - Nebraska State Statute 79-2, 136.

Policy adopted: ~~8/44/17~~
revised: 7/10/23

KEARNEY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
KEARNEY, NEBRASKA

CRIMINAL ACTIVITY:

- Any conduct by a student athlete or activity/club participant that results in criminal charges being filed or citations given may result in the following:
 - Meeting with the parent, AD, Principal and TBD personnel to determine the severity of the charges. Consequences can include but not limited to the following:
 - Assigned Community Service hours by administration.
 - Suspension of contests/events and/or % of the season.
 - Suspension of the current season or school year participation in activities.
 - Permanent suspension from activities

INAPPROPRIATE ACTIONS

For purposes of this handbook, the term “dangerous weapon” includes any personal safety or security device (such as a taser, mace, or pepper spray). In the event that a student desires to carry or possess a personal safety or security device, the student must obtain prior approval from the building principal before bringing such device on school grounds. If a student obtains prior approval from the building principal, the student must

store the device during the school day in the student's locker, in the main office, or in another secure location designated by the building principal. A student shall not carry a personal safety or security device during the school day.

Any conduct by an athlete/activity participant that reflects adversely on the Kearney Public School system or its Athletics/Activities constitutes grounds for disciplinary consequences that includes but not limited to the following: Community service hours, suspension or expulsion from participation in sports or activities for a determined amount of contests or % of a season. KPS/KHS administration has the right to determine consequences following their findings and will determine the appropriate disciplinary action necessary. Furthermore, the participant's ability to practice with the team will also be determined by the administration after consultation with the coaching staff. Being a Kearney High School athlete/activity participant requires year-round commitment to the standards of excellence for representing our programs.

The following conduct shall constitute grounds for disciplinary action when such conduct occurs on school grounds, during an educational function or event off school grounds, at any time while off school grounds, and at any point in time during a student athlete's four years of participation:

1. Willfully disobeying any reasonable written or oral request of a school staff member or the voicing of disrespect to those in authority.
2. The use of violence, force, coercion, threat, intimidation or similar conduct in a manner that constitutes substantial interference with school purposes.
3. Sexual assault or attempting to sexually assault another individual.
4. Willfully causing or attempting to cause substantial damage to private or school property,
5. Willfully causing or attempting to cause physical injury to another individual.
6. Threatening or intimidating any student for the purpose of, or with the intent of obtaining money or anything of value from such student.
7. Possessing, handling or transmitting any object or material that is ordinarily or generally considered a weapon while on school property. (Also subject to district policy)
8. Failure to participate in regularly scheduled classes on the day of an athletic/activity event.
9. Failure to attend all scheduled practices and meetings. If circumstances arise to prevent the participants' attendance, the validity of the reason will be determined by the coach/sponsor. Every reasonable effort should be made to notify the coach or supervisor prior to all missed practices or meetings.
10. The use of language which is profane or abusive to students or staff members.
11. Public indecency as defined in Nebraska statutes, except that this subdivision shall apply to students at least 12 years of age.
12. Unsportsmanlike conduct during practice sessions and contests.
13. Repeated violation of any of the rules adopted by the school district or school.
14. Engaging in any other unlawful activity as determined by the United States or the State of Nebraska.
15. Dressing in a manner wherein such dress is dangerous to the student's health and safety or to the health and safety of others or is destructive or indecent to the extent that it interferes with the learning and teaching process.
16. Violating the behavioral expectations for those students riding Kearney Public School buses.
17. All other reasonable rules or regulations adopted by the coach or supervisor of a co-curricular activity shall be followed provided that participants shall be notified by the coach or supervisor of such rules and regulations by written handouts or posting on bulletin boards prior to the beginning of the season.
18. Failure to comply with any rule established by the Nebraska School Activities Association, including but not limited to, rules related to eligibility.

ELECTRONIC DEVICES WARNING

Students are reminded that anytime you share information electronically, it is NO LONGER PRIVATE INFORMATION! Examples may include, but are not limited to: Twitter, Facebook or other social media websites, computers, cell phones (including text messages), personal blogs, and any/all other electronic devices. Students are thus notified that the school administration, while not personally involved in securing information in the sharing process of information, WILL follow normal investigative procedures if a possible school violation and/or activity suspension may be involved.

PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICES & SOCIAL MEDIA

An electronic communication device (ECD) is any technology capable of sending or receiving messages using a network, such as a mobile phone, iPod, laptop, scanner, or video game system. All ECDs, whether owned by Kearney Public Schools, the student, or anyone else, are subject to the rules and regulations of the Kearney Public Schools if they are on school property or using the Kearney Public Schools network. (Refer to Policy 5400.13). Social media is any form of electronic communication (as Web sites for social networking and microblogging) through which users create online communities to share information, ideas, personal messages, and other content (pictures, videos, etc.)

The use of cell phones and other personal electronic devices are permissible during extracurricular activities at the coaches/sponsors discretion. Violation of this rule shall result in confiscation of the device. The confiscated device shall be held by the coach/activity sponsor until such time that the parent or guardian can pick it up at their convenience. If a student athlete/activity participant refuses to give up the cell phone or other electronic device to a coach/sponsor when a violation occurs, this constitutes insubordination and may result in suspension from the sport/activity as well as school consequences. If pictures/videos are taken and used to intimidate, embarrass, or harass any person (staff, student, or otherwise) consequences may range from confiscation of the phone to suspension and possible law enforcement contact if privacy issues are violated. Additionally, student athletes/activity participants who use social media to intimidate, embarrass, or harass any person (staff, student, or otherwise) will be subjected to a consequence that will be assessed by the Activities Director. Repeated violations of the personal electronic device and social media rule may result in suspension from games/activities or removal from the team/club.

Any and all social media accounts that pictate and represent Kearney High School or Kearney Bearcats will report directly to the Activities Director for approval of such accounts. These accounts represent Kearney Public Schools and will be subject for oversight and/or disciplinary action as needed. All information and posts shared on these accounts need to be respectful in nature and represent Kearney Public Schools in the most positive manner possible.

DUE PROCESS

If it becomes necessary to enforce the suspension rule, the student shall be notified in writing of the offense and the student and his or her parents are entitled to a hearing with the school authorities upon request. They should contact the Activities Director who shall act as the hearing officer and shall notify the student and the parents in writing of the decision. In the event that the student and their parents are not satisfied with the results of the initial hearing and decision, they may appeal the decision to the Superintendent of schools. Any further appeal would have to come through the judicial process.

NSAA ELIGIBILITY - [NSAA Constitution & By Laws Link](#)

In order to represent a high school in interscholastic athletic competition, a student must abide by eligibility rules set forth by the Nebraska School Activities Association. If you do not understand any of the rules stated below, consult the high school principal or activities director.

1. Students must be an undergraduate.
2. After a student's initial enrollment in grade nine, they shall be ineligible after eight semesters of school membership beginning with their enrollment in grade nine.
3. Students are ineligible if nineteen years of age before August 1 of the current school year. (Students in grades 7 or 8 may participate on a high school team if he/she was 15 years of age prior to August 1 of the current school year.)
4. Students must be enrolled in some high school on or before the eleventh school day of the current semester.
5. Students must be enrolled in at least 20 hours per week and regular attendance, in accordance with the school's attendance policy at the school they wish to represent in interscholastic competition. Exempt or Home School Students from authorized Rule 13 Schools must be continuously enrolled in a minimum of **5** credit hours of instruction per semester at the school the student represents in interscholastic competition.
6. Student must have been enrolled and received 20 credit hours in school the immediate preceding semester. If a student is a Home School or Exempt Student from authorized Rule 13 Schools, the member school shall determine whether the home school credits will be accepted to fulfill preceding semester scholastic requirements. Further, such home-school students who are enrolled in subsequent semesters in the member high school must have evidence of having successfully completed 20 credit hours of school work the immediate preceding semester, of which at least **5** of those credit hours have been earned in the member-school setting.
7. **Guardianship does not fulfill the definition of a parent.** If a guardian has been appointed for a student, the student is eligible in the school district where his/her natural parent(s) have their domicile. Individual situations involving guardianship may be submitted to the Executive Director for his review and a ruling.
8. A student entering grade nine for the first time after being promoted from grade eight of a two-year junior high, or a three-year middle school, or entering a high school for the first time after being promoted to grade ten from a three-year junior high school is eligible. After a student makes an initial choice of high schools, any subsequent transfer, unless there has been a change of domicile by his/her parents, shall render the student ineligible for ninety school days. If a student has participated on a high school team at any level as a seventh, eighth, or ninth grade student, they have established their eligibility at the high school where he/she participated. If the student elects to attend another high school upon entering ninth or tenth grade, they shall be ineligible for ninety school days.
9. If the change in domicile by the parents occurs during a school year, the student may remain at the school he/she is attending and be eligible until the end of the school year or transfer to a high school located in the school district where the parents established their domicile and be eligible.
10. If the parents moved during the summer months and the student is in grade twelve and the student has attended the high school for two or more years, the student may remain at the high school they have been attending and retain eligibility.
11. If a student has been attending the same high school since initial enrollment in grade nine, they may remain at that high school and retain eligibility, or they are eligible at a high school located in the school district where their parents established their domicile.
12. If the parents of a student change their domicile from one school district that has a high school to another school district that has a high school, the student shall be eligible immediately in the school district where the parents established their domicile.
13. Transfer students who have their Enrollment Option applications signed and filed prior to May 1 shall be eligible immediately in the fall. Those students who do not have their Enrollment Option applications signed and filed prior to May 1 shall be ineligible for ninety school days, with such transfers being subject to hardship waiver guidelines. Out of state transfer students will be eligible immediately per NSAA bylaw 2.7.8.
14. Other non-enrollment option transfer students must have signed and delivered all forms necessary to make such a transfer to the school in which they intend to enroll for the upcoming school year prior to the preceding May 1st. For the student to be eligible, the school to which the transfer is being made must have notified the NSAA office in writing, postmarked no later than May 1st of the preceding school year. The student would, however, become ineligible for ninety school days the next fall if the student were to change their mind and decide not to transfer. If such student were to transfer to the new school, but later decides to return to their former district before 90 school days have elapsed, such student will be ineligible in the former district for 90 school days, with the ineligibility

period commencing at the start of the fall semester. Those students, who did not have their enrollment forms signed, delivered and accepted prior to May 1st, shall be ineligible for ninety school days, with such transfers being subject to hardship waiver guidelines.

15. Once the season of a sport begins, a student shall participate in practices and compete only in athletic contests/meets in that sport, which are scheduled by their school. Any other competition will render the student ineligible for a portion of, or all of, the season in that sport. The season of a sport begins with the first date of practice as permitted by NSAA rules.
16. During the season of a particular sport, athletes participating in that sport for a high school may attend, but may not physically take part, either as an individual or as a member of a team, in the sport activity in which instruction is being offered in the clinic, camp or school.
17. A student shall not participate on an all-star team while a high school undergraduate.
18. A student must maintain his/her amateur status.

EARLY SENIOR GRADUATES/JUNIOR GRADUATES

A student who chooses to graduate at mid-term of their Senior year will not be eligible for Winter or Spring Senior Night ceremonies. If a student chooses to graduate at the end of the school year as a Junior, that particular student will not be eligible for "Senior Year" traditions and ceremonies while participating in activities or athletics at Kearney High School. This includes but is not limited to Senior Parents Night, Senior Banner recognition and recognition of any kind by the coach, sponsor or Activities Department.

To be completed for students participating in any NSAA activities.

Student and Parent Consent Form

School Year: 20____-20____

Member School: _____

Name of Student: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Place of Birth: _____

The undersigned(s) are the Student and the parent(s), guardian(s), or person(s) in charge of the above-named Student and are collectively referred to as "Parent".

The Parent and Student hereby:

- (1) Understand and agree that participation in NSAA sponsored activities is voluntary on the part of the Student and is a privilege;
- (2) Understand and agree that (a) by this Consent Form the NSAA has provided to the Parent and Student of the existence of potential dangers associated with athletic and activity participation; (b) participation in any activity may involve injury or illness of some type; (c) the severity of such injury can range from minor cuts, bruises, sprains, and muscle strains to more serious injuries to the body's bones, joints, ligaments, tendons, or muscles, to catastrophic injuries to the head, neck and spinal cord, and on rare occasions, injuries so severe as to result in total disability, paralysis and death; (d) the severity of an illness, including contagious diseases such as the COVID-19 virus, and bacterial infections may be so severe as to result in disability and death; and, (e) even with the best supervision, the use of the best protective equipment and strict observance of rules, injuries are still a possibility;
- (3) Consent and agree to participation of the Student in NSAA activities subject to all NSAA Bylaws and rules interpretations for participation in NSAA sponsored athletic and/or activities, and the athletic and activities rules of the NSAA member school for which the Student is participating; and,
- (4) Consent and agree to (a) the disclosure by the Member School at which the Student is enrolled to the NSAA, and subsequent disclosure by the NSAA, of information regarding the Student, including the Student's name, address, telephone listing, electronic mail address, photograph, date of and place of birth, major fields of study, dates of attendance, grade level, enrollment status (e.g., full-time or part-time), participation in officially recognized activities and athletics, weight and height as a member of athletic teams, degrees, honors and awards received, statistics regarding performance, records or documentation related to eligibility for NSAA sponsored activities, medical records, and any other information related to the Student's participation in NSAA sponsored activities; and, (b) the Student being photographed, video recorded, audio taped, or recorded by any other means while participating in NSAA activities and contests, consent to and waive any privacy rights with regard to the display of such recordings, and waive any claims of ownership or other rights with regard to such photographs or recordings or to the broadcast, sale or display of such photographs or recordings.
- (5) Consent and agree to authorize licensed sports injury personnel to evaluate and treat any injury or illness that occurs during the Student's participation in NSAA activities. This includes all reasonable and necessary preventive care, treatment and rehabilitation for these injuries. This would also include transportation of the Student to a medical facility if necessary. Such licensed sports injury personnel are independent providers and are not employed by the NSAA.
- (6) Acknowledge that Parents are obligated to pay for professional medical and/or related services; the NSAA shall not be liable for payment of such services. We give permission to any and all of the Student's health care providers and the NSAA and its employees, staff, agents, and consultants to release and discuss all records and information about the Student including otherwise confidential medical information and records. We understand that this release has been requested and may be used for the purpose of determining eligibility pertaining to activities participation, fitness, injury, injury status, or emergency.

I acknowledge that I have read paragraphs (1) through (6) above, understand and agree to the terms thereof, including the warning of potential risk of injury inherent in participation in athletics and activities.

Signature Date

Name of Student [Print Name] Student

(I am)(We are) the Student's [circle appropriate choice] (Parent) (Guardian). (I)(We) acknowledge that (I)(We) have read paragraphs (1) through (6) above, understand and agree to the terms thereof, including the warning of potential risk of injury inherent in participation in athletics and activities. Having read the

warning in paragraph (2) above and understanding the potential risk of injury to my Student, (I)(we) hereby give (my)(our) permission for _____ [insert Student name] to practice and compete for the above named high school in activities approved by the NSAA, **except those crossed out below:**

Baseball	Basketball	Bowling	Cross Country	Debate	Football	Golf
Journalism	Music	Play Production	Soccer	Softball	Speech	Swim/Dive
Tennis	Track & Field	Unified Bowling	Unified Track & Field	Volleyball	Wrestling	

Parent(s)/Guardian Printed Name(s)*	Parent/Guardian Signature	Date of Signature

***Both Mother and Father must sign, unless parents are divorced, the custodial parent must sign, or if the Student is not living with parents, the Student's legal guardian.....Revised September 2021**