

ACTIVITY GUIDELINES FOR STUDENTS AND PARENTS

I. Introduction

A. To Parents:

This material is presented to you because your son/daughter has indicated a desire to participate in interscholastic activities and you have expressed your willingness to permit him/her to participate. Your family interest in this phase of our school program is gratifying. We believe participation in interscholastic activities provides a wealth of opportunities and experiences which assist students in personal adjustments.

We are concerned with the educational development of boys and girls through activities and feel a properly controlled, well-organized activities program meets the students' needs for self-expression, mental alertness, and physical growth. It is our desire to maintain a program that is sound in purpose and will further each student's educational maturity.

A student who elects to participate in activities is **voluntarily making a choice of self-discipline and self-development**. These are the reasons we stress good training habits and citizenship. Failure to comply with the rules of training and conduct means exclusion from the activity. This concept of self-discipline and self-development is tempered by our responsibility to recognize the rights of the individual within the objectives of the activity. There is no place in high school activities for students who will not discipline their minds and bodies to rigorous competition. We are striving for excellence and do not want our students to compromise with mediocrity.

When your son/daughter enlisted in one of our activity programs, he/she committed our staff to certain responsibilities and obligations. We would like to take this opportunity to acquaint you with specific responsibilities that are necessary to well-organized activity programs:

- 1) to provide adequate equipment and facilities,
- 2) to provide training in the fundamentals and skills,
- 3) to provide contests controlled by qualified officials

Likewise, we feel that you have committed yourselves to certain responsibilities and obligations. It is the role of the activities department to make rules that govern the spirit of competition for the school. The following policies need a broad basis of community support:

Eating Policy

Due to the fact that stopping for meals can delay the estimated arrival time back to Osborne from fifteen to forty-five minutes, the following policy will take effect 10/3/94:

- 1) The buses/vans, etc. will not stop at any eating establishments during the school week except on Fridays and Saturdays when the arrival time home will be no later than 11:00 p.m.
- 2) The Principal must be notified of the intent to stop for meals and his approval given at least 48 hours in advance of the scheduled event.
- 3) Details of the planned stop must be written out, initialed by the principal and a copy given to the transportation director at least 48 hours in advance of the event.
- 4) Students and their parents will be notified at least 48 hours in advance so they can plan ahead, that is, send money for meals, take their student off the bus if plans have not been made to stop to eat, or for the parents to plan to arrive later than expected to pick up their child when the bus arrives later than expected at the designated stop for that child -- Alton, Bloomington, Osborne, Portis.

II. ATHLETIC PHILOSOPHY

A. Statement of Philosophy

The Osborne Senior High School activities program should provide a variety of experiences to aid the development of favorable habits and attitudes in students that will prepare them for adult life.

The interscholastic program shall be conducted in accordance with the KSHSAA and school policies, rules and regulations. While the school takes great pride in winning, it does not condone "winning at any price." It discourages any and all pressures that neglect good sportsmanship and good mental health. At all times, the interscholastic program must be conducted in such a way as to justify it as an educational activity.

B. Activity Goals and Objectives

OUR GOAL -- The student shall become a more effective citizen.

OUR SPECIFIC GOALS -- The student shall learn:

1. **To work with others** -- in society, a person must develop self-discipline, respect for authority, and the spirit of hard work and sacrifice. The team and its objectives must be placed higher than personal desire.
2. **To be successful** -- our society is very competitive. We do not always win, but we succeed when we continually strive to win. You can learn to accept defeat only by striving to win with earnest dedication. Develop a desire to excel.
3. **To develop sportsmanship** -- to accept defeat like a true sportsman, knowing we have done our best, we must learn to treat others as we would have others treat us. We need to develop desirable social traits, including emotional control, honesty, cooperation, and dependability.
4. **To improve** -- continual improvement is essential to good citizenship. As a participant, you must establish a goal and you must constantly try to reach that goal. Try to better yourself in the skills involved and those characteristics set forth as being desirable.
5. **To enjoy participation in activities** -- it is necessary for the student to enjoy participation, to acknowledge all of the personal rewards to be derived from the activity, and to give sufficiently of themselves in order to preserve and improve the program.
6. **To be prepared** -- students need to be prepared to meet the challenging and sometimes unfair world.

C. Equipment and Uniforms

All athletes are responsible for the proper care and security of equipment issued to them. School furnished equipment is to be worn only for contests and/or practice. Participants should report any broken or deteriorated equipment to coaches immediately. All equipment not returned in good condition at the end of the season must be paid for by the student. A student will not be allowed to begin a new activity or sport until the equipment and uniforms from the previous season are checked in or paid for.

All of Osborne High School coaches/sponsors are identified as USD #392 members, not as a separate entity. They must support our school policy and never advocate or over-emphasize athletics in the total purpose of the school. All coaches are also teachers on the field of play through the medium of athletic participation. Their association with young people in sports places them automatically in a position for tremendous influence upon the athletes and the whole student body. This distinction is accompanied with tremendous responsibility. What coaches do and say is reflected in the attitudes of the student athletes.

III. COACHES

The Head Coach/Sponsor:

Participation in school activities requires the commitment to responsibilities and obligations for the school, parent, and student. Good communication is key to the success of all educational programs. The tutor policy, activities transportation policy, and the meal, quick stop policies for activities, and completion of required paperwork must be the responsibility of all individuals involved. Required paperwork would include: Complete physical form, signed insurance waiver, and complete emergency care form before the individual participates.

Coach and Sponsor responsibilities

1. Operate at all times within the scope of the general and specific educational philosophy of USD 392. The first responsibility is the welfare, safety, and growth of the youth under their supervision. In expediting this responsibility the sponsor/coach will be directly responsible to the AD in athletic situations and the principal in athletic and activities situations.
2. Coaches and sponsors must distribute to each participant a written copy of training rules, lettering policy, grade requirements, rules of behavior, dress code, and selection process if the squad or group has numbers limitations. A copy of the guidelines must be submitted to and approved by the AD in athletic related programs and the principal in athletic and activities programs prior to student distribution. Programs will be expected to operate within the approved guidelines for the full year. Changes in policy during the year will require AD, principal and superintendent approval before changes occur. Adequate notification in writing must be sent to parents and group members before changes can be enforced.
3. Cooperate and uphold all policies adopted by the athletic department and the Board of USD 392.
4. Be responsible for team and/or player discipline.
5. Submit a participation roster after the first practice and notify the office to additions and deletions. Submit a complete roster to the athletic Director by the due date assigned.
6. Not allow students without completed insurance waivers and completed physicals to participate in practice until the forms are completed. Mrs. Mans will maintain a physical checklist in the office.
7. Post practice schedules in the office. Practice dates beginning times and ending times will be sufficient.
8. Arrange transportation through the A. D.
9. Notify principal and A.D. of serious training code or serious policy violations

IV. MISSED PRACTICE POLICY

Unexcused Absence: A practice which is missed for reasons unacceptable to the coaching staff will be declared "unexcused." An "unexcused" absence will result in a pre-determined make-up and be handled by coaching staff according to distributed guidelines. **Excused Absence:** Acceptable reasons for missing practice include but are not limited to: participation in other school sponsored events, illness, injury, doctor appointments, family emergencies, and funerals.

Any time an athlete is aware that he/she may miss a practice, the coach should be informed well in advance. The coach will declare the absence as "excused" or "unexcused," which will allow the athlete to make a final decision about missing practice.

Whenever a practice has been missed, the athlete is expected to contact the head coach upon arriving back at school the next morning to give an account of his/her whereabouts.

The Administration retains the option to modify practice times and practice dates. These times are subject to review by the administration and the Board of Education. If school is called off because of bad weather, no athletic practice will be allowed.

Enforcement and interpretations of the regulations will be up to each coach or sponsor. It is generally agreed that the regulations and penalties for violation be put in writing - a copy is to be given to the building principal. Approval of the building principal prior to distribution would be wise.

Coaches and sponsors are not to take correction in their own hands regarding appearance. If the student does not comply, do not allow them to participate.

It is not a violation for an individual to be in possession of a controlled substance specifically prescribed for the individual's own use by their doctor.

This code of conduct applies to the entire school year including any portion of the season which occurs before and after the close of the school year.