ATHLETICS & EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Assumption of Risk

There are many special benefits being afforded to student-athletes by the athletic programs at Bluestem JR/SR High Schools. It must be understood that participating in athletic activities may lead to injury to student-athletes. Therefore, the purpose of this section is to make all student-athletes and their parents aware that dangers do exist and that participation is voluntary with the understanding that risks are involved. It is to be further understood that student-athletes must share in the responsibility for their own safety and safety of others as each participates in the district athletic program. The student-athlete participating in the athletic program could mildly, moderately or severely injure the anatomy in one of several of the following; muscles, tendons, ligaments, bone, skin, teeth, spinal column, and any of the vital organs. Catastrophic injuries of death and permanent paralysis may also occur during sports participation. There is no absolute prevention against any of the mentioned potential injuries.

Classroom Attendance

Student-athletes are expected to attend all classes on game day. If a student-athlete is ill or has an unexcused absence from class on a game day, he/she will not be allowed to participate on that day. An exception on the day of a game would be made for a doctor's appointment, funeral or religious observances of the student's own faith. If this violation is learned of after participation then he/she will not play in the next contest. Any student who is not in attendance for one half of the school day may not participate in any school activity for that day or evening. One half of the school day shall require attendance of no less than three and one half hours during the school day. Exceptions may be granted by the Administration for doctor appointments, funerals, dental appointments, school sponsored activities or other preapproved causes. All players are expected to be in school the day after a contest. Teachers should report these absences to the athletic director or head coach of that sport on the day of the contest.

Guidelines to Behavior on Athletic Trips

1. All members of a squad shall travel to an athletic event and return by the same conveyance.
2. With the coaches' permission, an athlete may leave a contest with his/her parent. An athlete may leave with another adult if the coach has written permission from the athlete's parent which has been signed and approved by Administration.
3. General rules covering mannerly conduct will be observed and enforced by the coach.
4. All athletes on a traveling squad will dress appropriately, when on the road, as determined by the coach.

On The Playing Field or Court

In the area of athletic competition, an athlete is expected not to use profanity or illegal tactics. He/she should be gracious in defeat and modest in victory. However, if you have nothing good to say to your opponent, leave the area rapidly. A true athlete maintains control at all times. Officials in a game are

there for the purpose of insuring both teams that they will receive a fair contest. Officials do not intentionally lose a game for you. It is an athletic tradition and rule that no one except the appointed captain speaks to the official and he/she should speak in a tone of respect and for the purpose of clarifying a rule. Any behavior contrary to the above is a direct reflection on the school, team and coaches, and will not be tolerated.

An integral part of successful athletic programs is established discipline and the promotion of sportsmanlike behavior on the playing field. Students involved in activities at Bluestem are held accountable for their on-field actions as they reflect upon the entire athletic program and community. In the event that unsportsmanlike behavior occurs, the following guidelines are in place.

- Unsportsmanlike Conduct Calls, Technical Fouls (discrediting in nature) and any other conduct that brings discredit to the school or to the student will result in the removal of the student from the contest immediately. The student-athlete's return to the contest is at the discretion of the head coach and their interpretation of the severity of the infraction. All situations involving a player's conduct will go before Administration for the determination of adequate discipline in reference to KSHSAA and school policy.
- Player ejections in any event will result in the immediate removal of the student from the activity. The student is not to return to any contest on that date. Certain activities are governed through the KSHSAA for game ejections. All situations involving a player ejection will go before Administration for the determination of adequate discipline in reference to KSHSAA and school policy. Disciplinary actions can include game(s) suspensions, removal from the squad and/or forfeiture of activity eligibility for the remainder of the school year.
- Any pupil found guilty of striking (contact/initiating contact) an official will be barred from further athletic competition at Bluestem JR/SR High School.
- Administration, per Rule 14: Section1: Art. 2 of the KSHSAA Interscholastic Rules, retains the right to review and assign appropriate discipline concerning all actions that bring discredit to the student and/or school. Students will be ineligible for a period of time as specified by Administration.

School Rules

Athletes are constantly in the public eyes and should not find it necessary to gain attention through unacceptable behavior. How you act will be an example of your athletic program - its success or lack of success. Others are looking to you as an example; therefore, acceptable campus conduct must be adhered to by each athlete. Any athlete found violating Bluestem's rules of campus conduct may receive disciplinary action which could affect their practice time or game status.

Training Rules Violations

Alcohol, tobacco, narcotics and steroids negatively affect the athlete's physical well-being. The following infractions by an athlete would be considered major behavior violations:

1. Use of tobacco (chewing/smoking)
2. Alcoholic beverages
3. Drugs
4. Stealing or other illegal activities

5. Steroids

In the event it is confirmed that an athlete fails to comply with these necessary standards during the season in which he/she is participating, regardless of whether it is on or off school property, it will be interpreted by the Athletic Department as an indication that the athlete does not have sufficient desire to participate in the interscholastic athletic program. See USD 205 Activities Code of Conduct for disciplinary action.

Equipment Care and Replacement

Each athlete has the responsibility for taking care of all school activity/athletic equipment issued for his or her use during the season. School activity/athletic equipment (including uniforms, warm-ups, jackets, travel bags, and other items) shall not be used at any time other than at authorized practices, games or matches, unless the athletic director gives special permission.

The athlete must check-in all distributed equipment at the end of the season. An athlete is not eligible for the next season of participation until all school issued uniforms/equipment are returned. The student to whom such equipment was checked-out must pay (replacement value) for activity/athletic equipment lost, stolen or damaged beyond normal use.

Quitting a Sport

Quitting a sport differs from being dropped in that the athlete has not acquired the coach's permission. If you as an athlete quit a sport you forfeit your award. You will not be allowed to participate in any other sport until the season of the sport which you have quit is completed.

Dropping a Sport

The proper way to withdraw from a sport is to make personal contact with the coach and obtain his/her approval. This is extremely important if you expect to remain eligible for other sports.

Excused Practices/Games

Students excused from the office or that have made prior arrangements with the head coach and/or Administration will be considered excused from that day's practice/game. Excused absences are outlined as those absences due to illness, appointments for health care, injury, school activity, bereavement, or other circumstances approved by Administration. Missed practices impact the coaching staff's ability to evaluate a student-athlete's performance. Decreased playing time, loss of a starting position, demotion to sub-varsity competition and extra conditioning are all acceptable/additional consequences for missing practices/games for any excused reason. Parents/Guardians should make an effort to schedule routine appointments, vacations, etc. around practice schedules and games. No game/practice suspensions will be administered for excused absences. In the event that excused absences become excessive, the head coach will notify Administration, where a determination will be made concerning the eligibility of the student to participate in that season of activities.

Unexcused Practices/Games

Unexcused absences from practice/games are outlined as absences where no attempt to justify an absence, the reason is not acceptable to Administration and/or Administration has reason to believe the excuse offered may not be substantially correct or true. Each unexcused practice/game will be equivalent to its corresponding activity suspension (1 UA Practice = 1 Practice Suspension, 1 UA Game = 1 Game Suspension). Decreased playing time, loss of a starting position, demotion to sub-varsity competition and extra conditioning are all acceptable/additional consequences for missing practices/games for any unexcused reason. Upon a student-athletes 3rd unexcused practice/game (separate or in combination) during a season, the head coach will notify Administration, where a determination will be made concerning the eligibility of the student to participate in that season of activities.

Friday Practice(s)

Coaches/Sponsors may hold activity practices on Fridays between 12:00 PM and 6:15 PM. No activity bus will be provided by the district on Friday's. No other transportation will be provided on Friday's, unless outlined by previous agreements. Students should make every effort to attend Friday practices. Difficulties in making transportation arrangements should be discussed in advance with the coaching staff. In the case of a disagreement over the ability of a student to attend a practice and subsequently participate in a contest, the activities director shall rule on any participation eligibility decisions. There may be circumstances when Administration will allow practices during alternate times due to facility availability and other issues that arise. In such circumstances, attendance is still encouraged as outlined by the activity coach/sponsor.

Practice Attendance (during injury)

All student-athletes are expected to adhere to the same practice requirements regardless of health or injury. Student participants are only exempt from practice if they have been excused through the office or by the head coach. Students may not excuse themselves from practices regardless of age. Parents/Guardians will need to coordinate excusing an activity absence through the school office or with the head coach of the program.

Grooming/Jewelry

Bluestem athletics and activities will mirror the KSHSAA policies that govern each activity pertaining to grooming and jewelry.

In-School/Out-of-School Suspensions

Any student serving an In-School or Out-of-School Suspension (ISS/OSS) will not be allowed to participate in activities (including practices) outside of school hours or attend and/or participate in activities or assemblies during school hours.

Locker Room Behavior

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

Letters and Other Awards

Letters are awarded according to individual team regulations. All coaches reserve the right to deny anyone a letter that is in violation of the rules.

Grades

The student-athlete must meet both USD #205 District and KSHSAA academic standards.

Eligibility Policy

All students will be subject to KSHSAA eligibility requirements in those activities that are under the sponsorship of KSHSAA. These requirements are as follows:

- The student shall have passed in at least five subjects of unit weight the previous semester of the last semester in attendance.
- The student shall be enrolled in five subjects or courses of unit weight and in attendance during the present semester.
- A first semester high school student's eligibility is based on middle school eligibility standards (five subjects of unit weight).

Per KSHSAA policy Rule 7: Section 1, all students-athletes are required to have a physical on file to be eligible to participate in interscholastic activities. Any physical taken after May 1st will count toward the following school year (KSHSAA Rule 7: Section1: Art. 5).

Coaches/Sponsors will adhere to the KSHSAA eligibility policy within their own programs. Students that have failing courses are subject to study halls, extended learning opportunities, extra conditioning and other discretionary measures as outlined. No game suspensions or limits on playing time will be imposed due to failing grades, unless a student becomes academically ineligible per KSHSAA guidelines. Eligibility suspensions are handled through Administration and will be communicated to coaches before each semester of any student that did not meet the eligibility requirements outlined above.

Playing Time/Starting Positions

Playing time is based upon the culmination of practice and game evaluations by the coaching staff of that particular activity. Many hours of evaluation go into the determination of starters. At the Varsity level, the student-athletes that have earned a starting position with play. Substitutions will be made out of necessity and will not be made in an effort to establish equal playing time. During JV/C/Mixed competition, players will be substituted, at the discretion of the coaching staff, in an effort to establish growth within the program. Playing time is not guaranteed at any level of play and each program will be as competitive as possible, playing the individuals that give the program the best opportunity for success. All playing time decisions (quantity and individuals) are determined solely by the coaching staff. In the event that playing time decisions are in question, such will be addressed by the coaching staff in compliance of the 24-hour rule policy.

24-Hour Rule

Any activity/athletic incident or decision made by coaches/sponsors will be given a 24-hour non-communication/contact period with any member of the media or community. The 24-hour period is to allow for reflection upon the situation, to ensure that all parties respect the environment of each student-athlete and to promote a positive atmosphere that adheres to professional conduct. Violation of the 24-hour rule will result in the following consequences:

- First Offense- Notification from Administration of being in violation of the policy.
- Second Offense- Suspension from attending all activities sponsored by USD #205 during the current activity season.
- Third Offense- Suspension from attending all activities sponsored by USD #205 for the remainder of the school year.

Meetings and Personnel

Meetings will not be held with sponsors or Administration in an effort to degrade coaching staff, players or athletic programs of USD #205. Personnel decisions come as recommendations to the Board of Education by Administration. Activity and athletic sponsors are evaluated throughout the course of each season and during a formal evaluation process at the conclusion of each activity period. Such evaluations are handled by Administration. In the event that a circumstance arises that requires intervention by Administration, such decisions and actions will be conducted by school officials under the direction of the Superintendent of Schools and Board of Education.

Calendar of Practices/Games

At the beginning of each season, the head coach will provide parents/guardians with an informational calendar outlining proposed practice times and games. This calendar will serve as a tentative schedule and can be modified by the head coach and/or Administration. Any practice or game changes will be communicated to the student-athlete and parent(s) to ensure effective communication for all parties involved.

ACTIVITIES CODE OF CONDUCT

School Officials, coaches, and players on athletic teams and other activities participants believe that those students who are selected for the privilege of membership on teams/groups should conduct themselves as responsible representatives of the schools. In order to insure this conduct, school administrators, athletic directors, coaches, sponsors, and participants should cooperatively enforce this code. Members of teams who fail to abide by this code are subject to disciplinary action as prescribed by the code.

Section I - Rules

A student/athlete shall not: (1) use or possess a beverage containing alcohol: (2) use or possess tobacco; (3) use or consume, have in possession, buy, sell or give away any other controlled substance defined by law as a drug; or the misuse of any substance (huffing, inhalants, diet pills, sleep aids, or medication); (4) use any substance for the purpose of performance enhancement; (5) commit theft or vandalism; (6) be a member of a gang or involved in gang activity; (7) be in violation of the schools weapons policy; (8) falsify a signature on athletic forms; (9) have criminal charges pending; or (10) participate in the hazing or bullying of another student.

Interpretations:

1. The rule applies to the school participation year (as defined by the KSHSAA activities calendar).
2. It is not a violation for a student to be in possession of a controlled substance specifically prescribed for the student's own use by his/her doctor.
3. Any additional team policies will be approved by the administration before they are administered and communicated to student-athletes.

Section II- Categories of Activities

A. CATEGORY I

Category I include those KSHSAA-sponsored activities in which a member school has a schedule of interscholastic contests, **AND/OR REQUIRES A PHYSICAL FOR PARTICIPATION.** Including KSHSAA sponsored tournaments.

1. Athletic Activities: as listed in the Athletic Rules of the KSHSAA handbook.
2. Non-Athletic Activities: Debate, Scholar's Bowl, Forensics.

B. CATEGORY II

Category II includes those activities in which a member school's only interscholastic schedule is the KSHSAA sponsored regional or state contests, festivals or conference.

1. Fine Arts Activities: Music, Drama, etc.
2. Student Leadership Activities: Student Council, Kansas Association for Youth, etc.

Section III- Consequences

Consequences shall be cumulative beginning with and throughout the student's participation on any team or activity. Penalty commences immediately following student notification of offense by school authorities.

A. First Offense:

The student must forfeit participation in three dates of competition or 20% of the current and, if necessary, the following Bluestem KSHSAA sponsored activity, whichever is the lesser. If the student self-reports the violation, the consequence will be reduced to one date of competition or 10% of the current and if necessary the following Bluestem KSHSAA sponsored activity, whichever is the lesser.

B. Second Offense in the same participation year (see KSHSAA calendar):

The student must forfeit participation for nine dates of competition or 50% of the current and, if necessary, the following Bluestem KSHSAA sponsored activity, whichever is the lesser.

C. Third Offense in the same participation year (see KSHSAA calendar):

The student must forfeit participation in all Bluestem KSHSAA sponsored dates of competition for one full year from the date of notification.

Confirmation for all violations will be one of the following:

1. Written self-reporting of violation by student with parental witness signature.
2. Witness by a coach, administrator, or school district employee.
3. School or Campus Police initiated charges for substance abuse.

Copies of Due Process procedures are available, if requested by involved parties.

Acknowledgment of Risk and Agreement to Comply With the Activity Codes of USD #205

By signing below, you have acknowledged that you have read this assumption of risk statement and that you are aware that there is a possibility that you may suffer mild, moderate or severe injury, including paralysis or death due to participation in athletic activities. You further acknowledge any injury incurred may cause lifelong disability to joints, muscles, ligaments, tendons or any of the vital organs.

I have read and fully understand and accept the conditions set forth in this statement of the Activities Policy. I also accept and will meet all requirements governing participation in Bluestem Athletic Programs and agree to adhere to all athletic, school and state governing policies related to inter-scholastic activities.

Your signature below acknowledges the above statements and your intent to comply.

_____ _____

Student-Athlete Signature Date

_____ _____

Parent or Guardian Signature Date

(This agreement form must be turned in to the Athletic Department)