KEARNEY SCHOOL DISTRICT

STUDENT
ACTIVITIES HANDBOOK

2026/2027

Kearney High School

Kearney Junior High School

Kearney Middle School



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WELCOME
TO THE KEARNEY SCHOOL DISTRICT ACTIVITY AND ATHLETIC PROGRAMS

Welcome to the Kearney School District Activity Program. Hopefully, the decision to take advantage of this portion of our co-curricular program will be both educational and rewarding, while also presenting challenges. This handbook has been provided to inform our students of the available programs and their inter-relationships. The Kearney School District encourages students to take advantage of as many programs as their time and talent will permit. We do not promote specialization in a single activity; instead, we encourage you to participate in a variety of activities, sports, and school clubs and organizations. Naturally, you will have to make some choices due to conflicts in seasons, practice times, schedules, etc.. Good luck as you strive to grow emotionally, mentally, socially, and physically through activities. Please contact our office with any questions about the Kearney Activities program.

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CONFERENCE AFFILIATION

Kearney School District is a cooperating member of the Greater Kansas City Suburban Association of Cooperating Schools. As members, we are committed to adhering to the association's rules and regulations. Currently, there are 28 member schools divided into five divisions, each based on a school's population. The division is as follows:

GOLD 8	RED 6	WHITE 8	BLUE 6
Blue Springs	Liberty	Belton	Ruskin
Blue Springs South	North Kansas City	Fort Osage	Grandview
Lee's Summit	Oak Park	Grain Valley	Kearney
Lee's Summit North	Park Hill	Platte County	Raytown South
Lee's Summit West	Park Hill South	Raytown	Smithville
Liberty North	St. Joe Central	Truman	Winnetonka
Ray-Pec		William Chrisman	
Staley			

MSHSAA

Activities & Sports Offered by Season

Fall

Cross Country - Girls & Boys V, JV, 8, 7
Football - V, JV, C, 8
Golf - Girls V, JV
Soccer - Boys V, JV
Softball - V, JV, C
Tennis - Girls V, JV, C
Volleyball - V, JV, C, 8

Winter

Basketball - Girls & Boys V, JV, C, 8, 7
Swimming - Girls V, JV
Wrestling Girls & Boys - V, JV, 8, 7

Spring

Baseball - V, JV, C
Golf - Boys V, JV
Soccer - Girls - V, JV
Stunt - Girls - V, JV
Tennis - Boys - V, JV, C
Track - Girls and Boys V, JV, 7, 8
Boys Volleyball JV & V

Activities

Academic Bowl
Band
Cheerleading - V, JV
Dance - V, JV
Scholar Bowl - V, JV
Speech and Debate - V, JV
Vocal Music

GOAL STATEMENT

Student activities shall be integral to the secondary educational program, providing experiences not otherwise offered and helping students acquire additional knowledge, skills, and emotional patterns necessary for good citizenship.

PHILOSOPHY

“We believe student activities shall be an integral part of the total secondary educational program, which shall provide experiences not otherwise provided and which will help students to acquire additional knowledge, skills, and emotional patterns necessary as attributes of good citizenship.”

The activity's primary purpose shall be to benefit the participants. It shall be psychologically sound and tailored to the youth's physical, mental, and emotional levels. Emphasis shall be on learning through the activity and shall not be limited to teaching only the knowledge and skills inherent in the activity.

Student participation in any part of our activities is a privilege that carries responsibilities to the school, the activity, the student body, the community, and the students themselves. This participation privilege represents a year-round commitment and will help develop the student in all aspects: physically, mentally, socially, and emotionally.

STUDENT EXPECTATIONS

SPORTSMANSHIP

Kearney School District is a member of the Greater Kansas City Suburban Conference and the Missouri State High School Activities Association. As members of these groups, we adhere to policies on good sportsmanship for participants, students, fans, parents, and patrons. Member schools are to enforce sportsmanship rules for schools, players, and spectators. Violations of the rules may result in the following consequences: a written reprimand, probation, suspension, ejection, or permanent removal from events. Consequences are in force for participants, coaches, students, and fans. All school discipline policies and rules apply to Kearney students at school activities, whether held on school property or off campus.

KEARNEY SPORTSMANSHIP CODE

For Participants, Coaches, and Fans

1. Maintain pride in self and school.
2. Strive to keep high standards of conduct.
3. Cheering is always encouraged for one’s team.
4. Treat everyone with respect.
5. Positive signs may be displayed for one’s team.
6. No disrespect will be shown to the opposing team during introductions.

7. No noise makers unless MSHSAA approved.
8. No continuous standing unless in the designated student section.
9. Abide by the decisions of the officials.
10. Accept victory or defeat graciously.

MSHSAA Unsportsmanlike Conduct: By-Law 5.5.1
The Board of Directors can suspend schools from membership for unsportsmanlike conduct by teams, coaches, students, or fans. Each school is responsible for the conduct of its teams, coaches, students, and fans at home and away games. Additional information can be found on the MSHSAA website in the MSHSAA Handbook.

Special Accommodations: Please meet with the coach if your student has an IEP/504. We want to ensure we are meeting the needs of all our students.

COMMITMENT

When a student chooses to participate in an activity, the parents/guardians must also commit to that team. This may bring about some hardships for parents and guardians, as well as students. If the activities teams at Kearney are to be competitive, there must be practice, and the students should realize that their time at practice is critical. Coaches consider the practice as important as the classroom in these situations. When students miss assignments, they must make them up in school. The same theory applies to the activity teams. Students should be required to make up the practice of the skills they have missed in an officially called practice.

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR CONFLICT RESOLUTION

When observing improper behavior or problems with individual members, the best solutions address the problem as soon as it is observed or occurs. Here is a two-step method.

1. Talk to the person (one-on-one) about what they're doing and why it should be stopped.
2. If the problem is not solved, tell the Head Coach. It is best to stop the problem immediately by handling it informally on a person-to-person level while it is still a small matter. Do not let unresolved issues become a source of conflict that harms team unity.

CITIZENSHIP

Students representing a school in interscholastic activities must be credible citizens and judged by the proper authority. Students whose character or conduct discredits themselves or their schools are not considered “creditable citizens.” Conduct shall be satisfactory and follow the standards of good discipline.

CARE OF EQUIPMENT

Each student will be held financially accountable for any abuse or loss of their equipment to instill a sense of responsibility and appreciation.

BASIC GUIDELINES FOR PARTICIPATION

1. Students are free to select activities in which they wish to participate. In the Kearney practice, students facing a conflict between two school-sponsored activities will choose which to attend. Certain school activities (to be determined by the administrators) will have priority. Students are not to be penalized for not attending the activity.

2. A student who has gone out for a sport but quits of their own accord will not be eligible to start practicing for another sport before the end of the competitions in the sport that was dropped, unless the head coach (of the sport that was dropped) agrees to the release and the head coach of the new sport involved accepts the student. EVERY STUDENT SHOULD UNDERSTAND THIS BUILDING PRACTICE.

3. All students will be transported to and from their respective activities via school transportation. If alternative plans are needed, parents/guardians may request administrative approval to transport the student 24 hours before the activity. If approved, the transportation parent/guardian release form must be processed. Students are not to transport other students.

4. If it is necessary to be absent from practice, the student must communicate with the head coach before the scheduled practice.

5. Students must be in school all day to be eligible for practice, contests, or activities (8 a.m. rule). They are expected to be on time (not tardy) both on the day of and the day after activities—exceptions to these expectations are granted only with Activity Department approval.

6. Suppose the student is truant or receives an out-of-school suspension. In that case, the student will not be eligible for participation until he/she has fulfilled the disciplinary requirements established by the administration. While serving OSS, the student will not attend any practices nor be present at any school functions. Students serving in-school suspension may attend practices at the coach's discretion but may not participate in drills or contests. ISS will affect eligibility for Saturday events (Ex, ISS is Fri., Mon., Tues. - No Saturday participation).

7. Students/participants will be held accountable for their actions throughout the year. Students' conduct outside the school environment that discredits them or their school is not considered "credible citizen" conduct and will result in consequences as determined by the coach, with administrative approval. Felony and misdemeanor charges or acts will justify suspension from competition and possible suspension from the team. In the event of a felony or misdemeanor charge, the principal, activities director, and coach will review the case and determine the penalty. The student may be allowed to practice during this time frame.

8. If a student is assigned an afternoon detention period due to a classroom problem,

they are not allowed to use the excuse that “I have practice, so I can’t stay.” THE CLASSROOM OBLIGATION ALWAYS COMES FIRST.

9. The possession or use of alcohol, tobacco, or nonprescription drugs is known to be detrimental to the individual as well as the team the student represents. Therefore, disciplinary action will be taken. This is a year-round commitment.

10. Hair shall not be worn in any manner that will affect the student's safety.

MSHSAA ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

The Missouri State High School Activities Association, of which the Kearney School District is a member, is a voluntary, nonprofit educational association of junior and senior high schools established to work cooperatively in adopting standards for the supervision and regulation of interscholastic activities and contests.

One of the primary functions of MSHSAA is to establish eligibility standards that all students must meet to sustain the privilege of representing their school in interscholastic activities. Eligibility is a PRIVILEGE to be granted by the school to a student. Eligibility is NOT A STUDENT’S RIGHT BY LAW. Previous legal cases have held that eligibility is a privilege granted only if the student meets all standards adopted by the school.

Student Eligibility Requirements: All students participating in an interscholastic athletic activity representing an MSHSAA member school must meet the student requirements as listed in the MSHSAA handbook.

PRACTICE

MSHSAA does not prohibit practices or contests on Sundays. Practices may be scheduled on Sundays; however, athletes may miss practices for religious reasons and must communicate directly with the coach. Coaches may schedule practices during vacation time; however, students will be excused from those practices by notifying the coach in advance, but practice time must be made up.

DUAL PARTICIPATION

Kearney School District offers the opportunity for a student to participate in two activities during one season (i.e., Fall, Winter, and Spring) with the understanding that a mutual agreement needs to be obtained from ALL parties involved. The parties are the coaches/sponsors of the activity, the student, and the parent(s). A form from the Activity Office must be completed and signed by ALL parties before dual participation can begin. Certain school activities (to be determined by the building administration) will have priority.

On the occasion that the student encounters conflicting events, the final decision to determine which event to participate in will be left up to the student and parent/guardian. Once the decision has been made, the student should notify the coach of both activities related to this determination as soon as possible.

NON-TRADITIONAL STUDENTS Option 3 in By-Law 2.3 - Resident Participants Students

Kearney School District Guidelines for Non-Traditional Students who Desire Eligibility to Participate in MSHSAA Activities/Athletics.

1. In accordance with Section 167.790 RSMo, a full-time student who attends a home school or a family-paced education (FPE) school or a student full-time in a virtual school may participate with their public school or charter school of residence. Resident participant students must meet the minimum academic requirements in By-Law 2.3.2 as per Section 167.031.1(1) & (2) RSMo.

2. Upon initial enrollment, the building principal or designee will review past classes, academic history, credits, logs, attendance, transcripts, etc., to determine "prior semester" credit earned to determine eligibility status.

3. The building principal or designee will review current semester classes enrolled to approve and validate that "outside" courses/credits are sufficient in allowing the non-traditional student to meet the 80% rule.

4. Non-traditional students must meet the essential eligibility standards, including the citizenship standard, semesters rule, age rule, etc., as traditional students.

5. If non-traditional students participate in band, orchestra, or choir, they must be enrolled in the associated class to participate in music activities.

6. All non-traditional students will be held to the same policies and standards as traditional students, as set forth by the Kearney School District student and activity handbooks.

7. * It should be noted some programs offered by the Kearney School District are cut sports with a tryout process. Non-traditional students will have every opportunity, just as traditional students, to make teams in cut sports through the try-out process.

Academic Standards for NCAA Initial-Eligibility

The NCAA Eligibility Center verifies the academic and amateur status of all student-athletes who wish to compete in Division I or II athletics.

College-bound student-athletes who want to practice, compete, and receive athletically related financial aid during their first year at a Division I or II institution must follow the NCAA Requirements.

Division III colleges and universities set their admission standards, and the NCAA does not set initial eligibility requirements in Division III.

MEDICAL INFORMATION

PHYSICAL EXAMS AND INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS

Physical: The school shall require each student participating in athletics/activities to have a certificate of physical examination issued and signed by a healthcare provider stating that the individual is physically able to participate in athletic practices and contests of their school. A student shall be permitted to practice or compete for a school once a complete, signed certificate is on file. The medical certificate is valid for two years (730 days) from the date of issue, unless the healthcare provider restricts the physical to 1 year (365 days). Forms are available on KSDR1.net or in the Activity Office.

CONCUSSION EDUCATION AND MANAGEMENT PROTOCOL

Education

The Missouri State High School Activities Association (MSHSAA) believes that educating coaches, officials, athletes, and their parents or guardians is key to safely returning student-athletes to play. Appropriate immediate care after a suspected concussion and follow-up incorporating a multidisciplinary team that includes the coach, parent or guardian, athlete's physician, team physician, athletic trainer (if available), and school representatives are also crucial for properly managing a sport-related concussion.

Each school district will receive educational materials for coaches, athletes, parents, and school officials; required forms for student-athlete participation and parent/guardian consent; and recommended medical clearance forms for return to play.

Annually, MSHSAA member school districts will ensure that every coach, student-athlete, and parent or guardian of a student-athlete completes a concussion and head injury information sheet and returns it to the school district before the student-athlete participates in practice or competition. Officials will receive training from their parent organization. Each official's organization will require annual concussion training and maintain a signed head injury information sheet for each official.

Recognition and Evaluation of the Athlete with a Concussion

1. Recognizing the signs and symptoms of a concussion is essential. Every team member—athletes, teammates, coaches, parents or guardians, officials, athletic trainers, and team physicians—must report a suspected concussion. Not all school districts have medical personnel available to cover every practice and competition; therefore, the coach is in the best position to protect the player and must be aware that not all student-athletes will be forthcoming about their injuries.

2. An official is not responsible for diagnosing a concussion. However, the official can assist coaches and medical staff by recognizing the signs and symptoms of a concussion and informing them of their concerns.

3. The coach (Athletic Trainer) ,AT, or physician on-site should systematically evaluate the athlete:

a. Assess for airway, breathing, and circulation (basic CPR assessment)
b. Assess for concussion

i. Any unconscious athlete should be assumed to have a severe head and/or neck injury and should have their cervical spine immobilized until a determination can be made that the cervical spine has not been injured. If no medical professional can assess, the athlete should be transported to an appropriate emergency care facility.

ii. A conscious athlete with no neck pain can be further evaluated on the sideline.

4. An athlete experiencing ANY of the signs/symptoms of a concussion should be immediately removed from play. Signs/Symptoms of a concussion include:

PHYSICAL	COGNITIVE	EMOTIONAL
Headache	Feeling mentally "foggy"	Irritability
Nausea/Vomiting	Feeling slowed down	Sadness
Dazed/Stunned	Difficulty concentrating	More emotional
Balance problems	Difficulty remembering	Nervousness
Visual problems	Forgetful of recent information	
Fatigue	Confused about recent events	
Sensitivity to light	Answers questions slowly	
Sensitivity to noise	Repeats questions	

5. Evaluation
Following any first aid management, the medical team or coach, in the absence of medical personnel, should assess the athlete to determine the presence or absence of a concussion. The current version of the Sports Concussion Assessment Tool (SCAT) is a readily available tool that can assist with the assessment. The athlete should be monitored for worsening or change in signs and symptoms over the next 24 hours. Instructions should be given to the parent or guardian regarding signs and symptoms that may require further or more emergent evaluation.

6. Management of a Concussion and Return to Play
a. An athlete determined to have a concussion or have concussion-like symptoms will be removed from practice or competition and is not allowed to return to practice or competition that same day.
b. If an athlete displays concussion-like signs or symptoms, the athlete should be assumed to have a concussion until further medical evaluation can occur. "WHEN IN DOUBT, SIT THEM OUT!"
c. Written clearance from a physician (MD or DO), Advanced Nurse Practitioner in written collaborative practice with a physician, Certified Physician Assistant in written collaborative practice with a physician, Athletic Trainer, or Neuropsychologist in written supervision of a physician must be provided before return to play.
d. Following a concussion, current accepted physical and cognitive activity guidelines should be practiced until symptoms have resolved.
e. An athlete must be asymptomatic at rest and with exertion before returning to play.
f. A graduated return to play progression should be followed to guide return to activity.

Return to Play (RTP) Procedures After a Concussion

1. Returning to activity and play is a medical decision. The athlete must meet all of

the following criteria to progress to the activity:
Asymptomatic at rest and with exertion (including mental exertion in school) AND have written clearance from their primary care provider or concussion specialist (athlete must be cleared for progression to activity by a physician, other than an Emergency Room physician if diagnosed with a concussion).

2. Once the above criteria are met, the athlete will return to full activity following the step-wise process detailed below. (This progression must be closely supervised by a certified athletic trainer. If your school does not have an athletic trainer, the coach must have a specific plan to follow as directed by the athlete's physician.)

3. Progression is individualized and will be determined on a case-by-case basis. Factors that may affect the rate of progression include the previous history of concussion, duration, type of symptoms, age of the athlete, and sport/activity in which the athlete participates. An athlete with a prior history of concussion, one who has had an extended duration of symptoms, or one who is participating in a collision or contact sport may progress more slowly.

4. Stepwise progression as described below:
Step 1: Complete cognitive rest. This may include staying home from school or limiting school hours (and studying) for several days. Activity requiring concentration and attention may worsen symptoms and delay recovery.
Step 2: Return to school full-time.
Step 3: Light exercise. This step can begin once the athlete no longer has concussion symptoms and is cleared by a physician for further activity. At this point, the athlete may begin walking or riding an exercise bike. No weight-lifting.
Step 4: Running in the gym or on the field. No helmet or other equipment.
Step 5: Non-contact training drills in full equipment. Weight training can begin.
Step 6: Full-contact practice or training.
Step 7: Play in a game. Must be cleared by appropriate medical personnel before returning to play.

The athlete should spend 1 to 2 days at each step before advancing to the next. If post-concussion symptoms occur at any step, the athlete must stop the activity and contact the treating physician. Depending upon the specific type and severity of the symptoms, the athlete may be told to rest for 24 hours and then resume activity at a level one step below where he or she was when the symptoms occurred.

INJURY PREVENTION

Proper conditioning will improve participants' power, speed, and endurance. Statistics indicate that conditioning assists in preventing injury. Year-round conditioning can increase performance considerably. Opportunities are provided for secondary students enrolled in the Kearney School District to be involved in year-round conditioning. Make certain to consult with activities staff immediately if an injury does occur.

COMMUNICATION

COACH/PARENT/GUARDIAN/ COMMUNICATIONS

Both parenting and coaching are challenging vocations. By establishing an understanding of each position, we are better able to accept the actions of the other and provide greater benefit to students. As parents/guardians, when your student becomes involved in our program, you have a right to understand what expectations are placed on your student. This begins with clear communication from the coach of your student's program.

Communications Coaches Expect from parents/guardians.

1. Concerns were expressed directly to the coach.
2. Notification of any schedule conflicts well in advance.
3. Specific concern regarding a coach's philosophy and/or expectations.

As your students become involved in the programs in the Kearney Schools, they will experience some of the most rewarding moments of their lives. However, it is important to understand that there may also be times when things do not go how you or your student wish. At these times, discussion with the coach is encouraged.

Communication You Should Expect from Your Student's Coach

1. Philosophy of the coach.
2. The coach has expectations for your students as well as all the students.
3. Location and times of all practices and contests.
4. Activity requirements, i.e., fees, special equipment, off-season conditioning.
5. The process should your student be injured during participation.
6. Discipline that results in the denial of your student's participation.
7. Timely schedule updates.
8. Clear team expectations.
9. Responsiveness within a reasonable timeframe(48 hours).

Appropriate Concerns To Discuss With Your Coach

1. The treatment of your student mentally and physically.
2. Ways to help your student improve.
3. Concerns about your student's behavior.

Accepting your student playing less than you may hope is very difficult. Coaches are professionals. They make judgment decisions based on what they believe to be best for all students involved. As you have seen from the list above, certain things can be and should be discussed with your student's coach. Other things, such as those listed next, must be left to the coach's discretion.

Issues **not** appropriate to discuss with coaches

1. Final decisions regarding playing time, strategy and team roles rest with the coaching staff, parents and students are encouraged to discuss ways the student can improve,

develop and earn greater opportunities.
2. Play Calling.
3. Other students/participants.

Situations may require a conference between the coach and the parent/guardian, which is to be encouraged. Both parties involved must have a clear understanding of the other's position. When these conferences are necessary, the following procedure should be followed to help promote a resolution to the issue of concern.

If You Have a Concern To Discuss With a Coach, The Following Procedure Should Be Followed:

1. Call to set up an appointment with the coach. This meeting will include the Parents or guardians, the Student, the head coach, and a designated assistant coach.
2. Please do not attempt to confront a coach before or after a contest or practice. These can be emotional times for the parent/guardian and the coach. Meetings of this nature do not promote resolution, and 24 hours are required before scheduling a meeting.

THE NEXT STEP
What can a parent do if the meeting with the coach does not provide a satisfactory resolution?

1. Call and set up an appointment with the Activities Director.
2. This meeting includes parents/guardians, students, coaches, and the activities director.

ACTIVITY AWARDS

A program certificate may be presented to the student each time they meet the requirements established in that activity and are recommended by the Head Coach to be a recipient of the award. The Kearney School District is proud to acknowledge and reward our students and athletes with usual and customary awards such as certificates, plaques, ribbons, medals, and commemorative assemblies. The district does not participate in awarding cash prizes, jewelry, or other monetary awards.

ACTIVITY LETTERING

All of the Kearney MSHSAA Activity programs offer an Activity letter. Each sport offers objective criteria and qualifications for lettering set by the individual sports coaching staff. Good school citizenship and a constructive, positive attitude are additional factors in the lettering process.

LETTERING

Several organizations offer letters for their programs. Each activity offers objective qualifications and lettering criteria the organization's supervisor sets. Good school citizenship and a constructive, positive attitude are additional factors in the lettering process. For lettering requirements, check with the Head Coach/Supervisor.

BULLYING/HAZING/STUDENT AND/OR STAFF INTIMIDATION/CYBERBULLYING

Bullying occurs when one or more persons (1) expose(s) other people (s) to negative actions, aggression, intimidation, and/or harassment, (2) the negative action, aggression, intimidation, and/or harassment occur(s) repeatedly over time and cause(s) a reasonable person to fear for his or her physical safety, property, or emotional well-being, substantially interferes with the educational performance, opportunities or benefits of any student without exception; or substantially disrupts the orderly operation of the school.

Bullying involves a real or perceived imbalance of power and may consist of, but is not limited to, intentional physical actions, including violence, gestures, theft, or property damage; verbal, written, or electronic communication, including name-calling, put-downs, racial jokes, or comments, extortion or threats; or threats of reprisal or retaliation for reporting such acts.

Bullying may also include cyberbullying or cyber threats. Cyberbullying is the transmission/posting of harmful or cruel messages, text, sounds, or images using the internet or other digital or electronic devices. Cyber threats are online materials that threaten or raise concerns about violence against others, suicide, or self-harm. Even when cyberbullying does not involve district property activities for the technology resources, the district may impose consequences or discipline for those who engage in cyberbullying if there is a sufficient nexus to the educational environment; the behavior materially and substantially disrupts the educational environment.

**Note: Bullying/hazing/student intimidation/cyberbullying occurs even when all students involved are willing participants.

KEARNEY R-I SCHOOL DISTRICT DISCIPLINE GUIDE

The Kearney R-1 School District's primary goal is to educate, not to discipline. However, when an individual student's behavior conflicts with the rights of others, corrective actions are necessary for the benefit of the individual and the school. The school district will not tolerate any student stopping a teacher from teaching or another student from learning.

Establishing standards for acceptable behavior is imperative to maintain an atmosphere where teaching and learning are possible. That discipline is fair, impartial, and consistently applied is important in educating young people about acceptable behaviors. The standards of behavior promote the objectives of the school in ways appropriate to individuals' respective roles while, at all times, recognizing and defending the rights of others. This code can be a part of the dual commitment to educational excellence that characterizes our concern for students.

Guidelines for consequences have been set forth due to a violation of the Student

Discipline Policy. The “level” of the offense (e.g., first, second, or third) will generally be based on the total number of discipline referrals accumulated by a student for a particular type of conduct during the current school year. Offenses including but not limited to drugs, alcohol, pranks, weapons, vandalism, or acts of physical violence will accumulate through secondary school (grades 6-12).

This is in keeping with the Kearney R-1 School District’s aims: 1) Education is both a right and privilege; 2) This education opportunity is guaranteed unless a student infringes on the rights or privileges of others; 3) An integral part of the educational process is recognition that one’s liberties must be correlated with the rights of others.

This code lists offenses that, if committed by a student, will result in the imposition of Loss of Privilege(s) and/or the maximum penalties listed. The code may be modified at the discretion of the building principal or assistant principals after a review of all circumstances on a case-by-case basis.

It is impossible to list every disciplinary situation that may arise. Therefore, the administration reserves the right to accelerate and/or modify the discipline guide listings and consequences based on the student's infraction(s) and/or intent.

Students who engage in other misconduct not expressly covered by the preceding standards but disruptive to school operations and detrimental to positive order and discipline may be subject to disciplinary action up to and including suspension and/or expulsion.

The Kearney R-1 School District complies with all aspects of the Safe Schools Act of 1996 (section 8.1)

KEARNEY ACTIVITY DEPARTMENT’S CONSEQUENCES FOR STUDENTS WHO VIOLATE THE FOLLOWING CODES OF CONDUCT.

The percentage penalties assessed against the total average matches/contests played during tournaments shall be counted the same as individual matches/contests. Upon Administration notification of the violation or self-reporting by the student, the student/athlete will serve the suspension immediately following Administration notification. For example, if the tennis team plays an average of 26 matches/contests, including tournaments, then .40 x 26 would be 10.4 matches/contests. Since all decimals are to be rounded up, the total number of penalty matches/contests missed would be 11.

End of Season, Off-Season, Summer Violations: The loss of eligibility carries over to the next season in which the student/athlete participates. For Example—If a student commits a violation during the last contest of the season, he/she loses eligibility (as per the consequence of the

category involved) in the next season of participation. The 40% formula will be reworked per the next season of participation. If applicable, Drug/Alcohol, Counseling/Rehabilitation services should begin during the violation season.

TOBACCO/NICOTINE

(Defined in the Kearney High School Student-Parent Handbook)

Grades 7-8 / Grades 9-12
First Offense:
The student or athlete shall be ineligible for at least 10% of their competitive season, complete the Tobacco/Nicotine Video, and meet all other team obligations.

Grades 7-8 / Grades 9-12
Second Offense
The student or athlete will be ineligible for at least 50% of their competitive season. The student must meet all other team obligations.

Grades 7-8 / Grades 9-12
Third Offense
Student/Athlete shall be ineligible for 365 days from the date the suspension is assigned.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE/USE/POSSESSION/UNDER THE INFLUENCE ALCOHOL/DRUGS, OTHER DRUGS

(Defined in the Kearney High School Student-Parent Handbook)

Grades 7-8 / Grades 9-12
First Offense:
Students shall be ineligible for interscholastic competition and may not participate for a minimum of 40% of his/her competitive season. The student must meet all other team obligations. Suppose the student completes the Northland Dependency Drug/Alcohol Counseling/Rehabilitation class or a comparable program pre-approved by the administration at the family's expense. In that case, the suspension will be reduced to 20% of contest suspension. The student must provide the Activities Director with documentation from the center that they have completed the counseling before returning to participate in activities.

Grades 7-8 / Grades 9-12

Second Offense
Student/Athlete shall be ineligible for 365 days from the date the suspension is assigned.

~~**MOOD-ALTERING CHEMICALS**~~
~~(Defined in the Kearney School District Student-Parent Handbook)~~

~~Grades 7-8 / Grades 9-12~~
~~First Offense:~~
~~Students shall be ineligible for interscholastic competition and may not participate for a minimum of 40% of his/her competitive season. The student must meet all other team obligations. Suppose the student completes the Northland Dependency Drug/Alcohol Counseling/Rehabilitation class or a comparable program pre-approved by the administration at the family's expense. In that case, the suspension will be reduced to 20% of contest suspension. The student must provide the Activities Director with documentation from the center that they have completed the counseling before returning to participate in activities.~~

~~Grades 7-8 / Grades 9-12~~
~~Second Offense~~
~~Student/Athlete shall be ineligible for 365 days from the date suspension is assigned.~~

COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY LETTER OF INTENT SIGNINGS

Kearney High School recognizes that we have student-athletes who will continue their athletic quest at the collegiate level. These institutions request that each athlete sign a letter of intent to attend their college or university. To ensure that each letter of intent signing is recognized properly and consistently, the following criteria will be used:

- Kearney High School will recognize letters of intent for student-athletes who participate at their high school in the same sport they are signing to participate in at the collegiate level and finish their season in good standing.
- Kearney High School will provide **TWO** dates for students to celebrate their college signings on campus throughout the academic school year. Interested students will register through the activity office. The registration form is available on the Activity Website.
- Athletes will provide written documentation from the post-secondary institution that confirms the college/university's intent to offer participation opportunities.

APPLICATION OF POLICIES CONTAINED IN THIS HANDBOOK

The policies in this handbook apply to students involved in activities on an as-needed basis. For example, the Drama team does not need physicals, the 8 o'clock rule applies to all activities, and at least parts of the sportsmanship code apply to all activities. Questions should be directed to the Head Coach or Activity Administrator.

Since research indicates a student involved in co-curricular activities has a greater chance of success during adulthood, these programs have been established. Many of the character traits required to be successful participants are exactly those that will promote a successful life after high school. We hope the information in this handbook makes your students' experience with the Kearney Activity Programs less stressful and more enjoyable. The following operational criteria will be complied with by all who are involved with the management of the activities program:

1. Participants may be withheld from competition for disciplinary reasons, provided rules are established before the season begins and students and parents are notified of said rules.
2. Freshmen may compete at the junior and varsity levels if the student and his or her parents/guardians concur with that decision.
3. The coaches may cut participants from varsity, junior varsity, freshman, or junior high teams if the number of participants trying out for those teams could be better managed in practices or games. An effort will be made to retain as many participants for each team as possible.
4. Coaches must work with all their participants in practices, and all participants will be allowed to participate in skill drills, scrimmages, and conditioning drills.
5. Regarding student scholarship opportunities, the board recognizes the necessity of maintaining integrity between our school and institutions of higher learning. Coaches are expected to be honest and forthright in their evaluations of participants.
6. Kearney School District's Position on Gambling. Gambling is participating in games of chance to exchange money or property. The district's position is that the same expectations apply to our students while participating in activities. The minimum consequences of abuse would be the same as those of tobacco substances.
7. By Kearney Board policy, Kearney grounds (inside and outside) are a tobacco-free environment. Tobacco use is prohibited inside the building or on any school or athletic grounds.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

SECTION IV. RULES INTERPRETATIONS (Questions and Answers)

Question #1: What is meant by team obligation?
Response: Team obligations are defined by the activity coach.

Question #2: Do the rules cover summer vacations?
Response: Yes. The rules include the school year and any portion of a fall or spring sports season that overlaps with the summer vacation period. Creditable citizenship is a year-round responsibility.

Question #3: What is the meaning of the phrase: Next consecutive interscholastic event?
Response: Following confirmation of the violation, the student would lose eligibility to participate in the next event(s) occurring in a consecutive chronological sequence. The contests cannot be selected.

Question #4: Why are the penalties for tobacco use different from alcohol and drugs?
Response: Using each type of chemical will adversely affect the students on a short—or long-term basis. The rules reflect that some chemicals create larger and more permanent problems than others for students, team members, or other significant persons in their lives.

Question #5: What solution is created by specifying loss of events as a penalty for all violations?
Response: Without loss of events as a penalty, a student could time an offense to occur over an open season, not lose eligibility for any activities, and regain eligibility next season. Under the current rules, a violation can be held over to the next season to ensure the certainty of the penalty.

Question #6: Is there a carry-over from one season to the next?
Response: The loss of eligibility carries over to the next season in which a student participates. For example, suppose a student commits a violation during the last contest of the season. In that case, he/she loses eligibility (as per the consequences of the category involved) in the next season of participation. Thus, there is a carry-over from one season to the next.

Question #7: A student commits two simultaneous violations, such as using tobacco and alcohol. What is the penalty?
Response: Simultaneous violations would be considered as one violation, with the violation being categorized as carrying the greater consequence.