



# UNIFIED OSKY ACTIVITY EXPECTATIONS

*Purpose: For all Oskaloosa students who participate in any extra-curricular activity and their parents/guardians to have a clear understanding of the expectations.*

## MIDDLE SCHOOL EXPECTATIONS

**\*\*\* Complete explanations/definitions of the Code of Conduct, Eligibility, and Attendance Policies can be found in the [OMS Handbook](#)\*\*\***

### EXPECTATION TO FOLLOW THE UNIFIED OSKALOOSA ACTIVITY EXPECTATIONS

- This document will be agreed upon by parents/guardians via completion of the [Parent/Guardian- Unified Activities Handbook Agreement](#) form.

#### CODE OF CONDUCT PHILOSOPHY

- Encouragement to Participate: The Board of Directors of the Oskaloosa Community School District encourages students to participate in the program of co-curricular activities that are offered, recognizing that such activities are of significant educational benefit.
- Participation is a Privilege: By legal interpretation, participation in co-curricular activities is a privilege extended to students by the citizens and taxpayers of the district. Therefore, those participating are held to a high standard.
- Participation Carries Responsibilities: The privilege carries with it a corresponding responsibility to represent the school and community in an appropriate manner.
- Who Can Report Violations: The official reporters of possible violations shall be: school employees, law enforcement, or parents of those involved.
- All parents and students have signed the Oskaloosa School District Code of Conduct.

#### HOW DO TEAMS/GROUPS SHOW OSKY PRIDE?

- We aim for a consistent standard where our students and staff leave each place we visit better than we found it, no matter where we are. This is a value explicitly taught to everyone in our program. Osky groups strive to leave a positive impact, making people smile through our actions and how we make them feel as we come and go.
  - Teams are responsible for cleaning up after themselves at all events, ensuring that the space is left in better condition than when they arrived.
  - This includes areas such as locker rooms, restaurants, buses, and so forth.
- Any student, staff or spectators who receives a consequence or sanction from officials due to unsportsmanlike conduct during a contest will be required to participate in a meeting with the head coach and/or the Athletic Director. Repeated offenses may result in additional consequences, such as technical penalties, restrictions, or complaints from state associations.



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## ATTENDANCE POLICIES

- **Communication from student to coach/sponsor is EXPECTED for all absences!**
- Definitions of Absences: Daily absences will be shared with head coach/supervisor
  - VA: Verified Excused Absences - Documentation and/or verbal notification has been provided. PARENT PHONE CALL TO THE MS OFFICE WILL WORK. (Up to 6 absences can be called in by parents)
  - VU: Verified UnExcused Absence - Parent provides written or verbal notification to the school for a non-excused absence reason. (After 6 absences, parents will be required to provide official documentation for absences, ie. doctors note, etc. Students will not be allowed to practice or participate)
  - TR: Truant - No parental notification has been made to the school of student absence. Reason is unknown.
  - VM: Verified Medical - A written excuse is provided and signed by a medical professional or the school nurse. (Student will be able to participate)
- 3 unexcused could result from dismissal from the team/activity.
  - What are unexcused absences?
    - **Any uncommunicated absence.**
    - Unexcused absences as defined by Oskaloosa Middle School:
      - Verified UnExcused (7 or more parent phone calls per trimester) and Truant are all unexcused absences.
      - The middle school administration always has the final decision regarding school absences and approvals.
      - Students participating in school activities must be in school **by the end of 4th period or at a school sponsored activity the day of an event in order to participate.**
    - Other unexcused absences will be at the discretion and specified by each coach/sponsor.
    - Outcomes of unexcused absences:
      - 1st unexcused = Coach/Sponsor discretion of outcome
      - 2nd unexcused = Miss next competition
      - 3rd unexcused = Dismissal from team

What is an excused absence?

- Illness - absence from school
- Family emergency
- Conflict with another school activity, cleared with coach in advance

## ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY

### Middle School Eligibility

Students participating in school activities must either be: present in school, at a school sponsored activity, or verified excused on the day of the event in order to participate. Only in extraordinary circumstances may this rule be waived by the principal.

- If at the end of any grading period (end of trimester) a contestant is given a failing grade in any course, the contestant is ineligible to dress or compete in the next occurring interscholastic athletic contests



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and competitions in which the contestant is a contestant for 20 consecutive calendar days, the student may be reinstated if passing all classes.

- A student with a disability who has an individualized education program shall not be denied eligibility on the basis of scholarship if the student is making adequate progress, as determined by the school officials, towards the goals and objectives on the student's individualized education program.
- Starting dates for ineligible periods will begin with the first dates on which competition is allowed according to IHSAA and IGSAU. If the sport is currently in progress, the student shall sit out for 20 consecutive days.
- Their habits and conduct both in and out of school are such as to make them unworthy to represent the ideals, principles, and standards of their school.

## CHAIN OF COMMAND

*Goal: Talk to people, not about them.*

**Why is this important?** Following the chain of command helps establish an environment where the primary communication channel is from the student to their coach/sponsor. The objective is to facilitate the resolution of issues or concerns before they escalate. Parents are encouraged to assist their student in learning how to communicate effectively with their coach/sponsor before involving themselves in any issues or concerns. Providing constructive feedback to coaches or staff should never result in negative consequences regarding participation.

Level 1: Student, parent & direct level coach/sponsor

Level 2: Student, parent, direct level coach/sponsor, activities director

Level 3: Student, parent, direct level coach/sponsor, activities director & principal

*(direct level coach/sponsor = coach/sponsor DIRECTLY in charge of the student/athlete)*

Each new concern will revert back to Level 1.

- Any person who does not follow this chain MAY be banned from Oskaloosa School District property or prohibited from attending future events. This decision is at the discretion of the administration.
- **Concerns that are NOT APPROPRIATE for discussion with a director, sponsor, or coach:**
  - Playing or performance time of others
  - Team or group strategy
  - Play calling (for applicable activities)
  - Other students' performance
  - Statistics (for applicable activities)
- **Concerns that are APPROPRIATE to discuss with a director, sponsor, or coach in a scheduled meeting:**
  - The mental and physical treatment of the student
  - What the student needs to do to improve
  - Concerns about the student's behavior
  - Personal playing or performance time



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## DUAL SPORT/ACTIVITY STUDENT/ATHLETES EXPECTATIONS

- Predetermined schedules will be created between the coaches/sponsors prior to the start of the dual seasons. This schedule will be shared with the student and their parents. If a student does not follow the predetermined schedule, it will be counted as an unexcused absence.

### **Conflicts Regarding Club or Outside Organizations and School Activities**

The Oskaloosa Community School District understands that club and outside activities are important to many of our families, but the philosophy and overall goal of club activities is not the same as Oskaloosa's education-based activities. Our coaches and directors are tasked with making decisions that are best for the entire program, both now and in the future, and they take this responsibility seriously. Conflicts or potential conflicts that arise due to outside organization schedules must be communicated to the coach or director at the beginning of the season. These conflicts will be discussed with the coach/director and the student involved. The outcome of these conflicts will be at the discretion of the coach or director and will be communicated to that student. These decisions are considered final and do not constitute further meetings or communication with parents or administration.

## TRAVEL EXPECTATIONS/SIGNING OUT

- All coaches/sponsors will have a sign-out process when students leave events with their parents at the end of all away performance/competitions.
- Athletes are expected to stay through the end of the competition.  
Parents must communicate with the coach about extenuating circumstances.