



**Douglas Patriots
Middle School & High School
Activities Handbook 2025-2026**

**Middle School Activities Director: Tori Nielsen
High School Activities Director: Joshua Haaland**

Updated: 6/27/2025

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Activities Directors' Letter to Students and Parents:

The Douglas School District believes that student engagement and participation in school sponsored activities is vital to the success of our school and our community. We expect all involvement within these activities to be respectful and positive, whether it be from a participant, parent, or fan.

The Douglas Patriots athletics and co-curricular programs provide an opportunity for our students to learn, refine, and display talents and skills outside of the classroom, and among other participants with common goals. Participation in school sponsored events is a privilege and is dependent on students' ability to follow the guidelines outlined in the Douglas Activities Handbook. It is the responsibility of the participants and parents to read, understand, and follow the included expectations and policies. If you do not understand, or have any questions about any of these policies, please feel free to contact the Activities Directors for further explanation or discussion.

The athletics and co-curricular programs and their coaches/advisors are dedicated to building a stronger sense of school and community through opportunities with each student. They believe that participants should not only be taught skills related to their activity, but also develop skills pertinent to all facets of life through guidance and leadership. The Douglas athletics & co-curricular programs strongly support the development of these skills including, but not limited to:

1. Respect
 - Students will treat others in a way that shows regard for their feelings, wishes, rights, and traditions.
2. Work Ethic
 - Students will accept challenges and work to overcome them.
3. Discipline
 - Students will follow rules and accept responsibility when they deviate from the rules.
4. Academic Achievement
 - Students will understand that their academic responsibilities come first at all times. You cannot be a student-athlete without being a student first.
5. Goal Setting
 - Students will learn the value of setting goals and how to set goals that are achievable.
6. Sportsmanship
 - Students will learn how to be a good sport and a good teammate by respecting other players, coaches, officials, and authority figures.
7. Teamwork
 - Students will learn how to accept a role as a member of a larger group with common goals.
8. Community
 - Students will learn what it takes to be a contributing member of a community, both on and off of the competition floor.

Thank you for your participation in our Douglas Patriot athletics and co-curricular programs. Together we can create an atmosphere of enjoyment and success for the students, families, and community members here in Box Elder. Good luck with your seasons! Go Patriots!

Sincerely,

Tori Nielsen & Joshua Haaland

Activities Directors

Mission Statement

“Our mission is to cultivate a culture where every student engages in activities that foster leadership skills, personal development, and a strong sense of responsibility.” Our vision is to promote a competitive spirit and to inspire individuals to excel, both in the classroom and as part of their collective teams and groups. We aim to develop well-rounded leaders who are ready to embrace challenges and drive positive change.”

Douglas Patriots Middle School Coaches/Advisors 2025-26

Fall Activities (1st Quarter):

- **Cross Country**
- **E-Sports**
- **7th Grade Football**
- **8th Grade Football**
- **Knowledge Bowl**
- **6th Grade Intramural Volleyball**
- **7th Grade Volleyball**
- **8th Grade Volleyball**

Fall/Winter Activities (2nd Quarter):

- **6th, 7th, & 8th Grade Fall Drama**
- **E-Sports**
- **6th Grade Intramural Girls Basketball**
- **7th Grade Girls Basketball**
- **8th Grade Girls Basketball**
- **Middle School Robotics**
- **6th, 7th, & 8th Grade Wrestling**

Winter Activities (3rd Quarter):

- **6th Grade Intramural Boys Basketball**
- **7th Grade Boys Basketball**
- **8th Grade Boy Basketball**
- **6th, 7th, & 8th Grade Spring Drama**
- **E-Sports**
- **Middle School Robotics**
- **7th & 8th Grade Spirit Squad**

Spring Activities (4th Quarter):

- **6th Grade Intramural Track & Field**
- **7th & 8th Grade Track & Field**

Year-Round Activities

- **Band**
- **Choir**
- **Newspaper**
- **Student Council**
- **Yearbook**

Administration

- **Principal - Stacey Cowen**
- **Assistant Principal - Nathan Batteen**
- **Activities Director - Tori Nielsen**

Douglas Patriots High School Club & Fine Arts Advisors 2025-26

Clubs and Fine Arts at the high school are year round programs unless specified in advance by the individuals listed below or by an Advisor

- **AFJROTC**
- **Art Club & Art Scholarship**
- **African-American Culture Club**
- **Debate (Competitive Team – Starts during 2nd quarter)**
- **Drama (Fall & Spring; One-Act in the Winter)**
- **Environmental Club**
- **Gender-Sexuality Alliance**
- **Industrial Tech (Welding & Robotics – Competitive season starts 2nd quarter)**
- **Knowledge Bowl (Competitive season starts at the beginning of the school year)**
- **Library Book Club**
- **Music (Band & Choir)**
- **National Honor Society**
- **PATS/PBIS Circle**
- **Student Council**
- **Yearbook**
- **Administration**
 - Beau Voegeli - Principal
 - Sean Gholson - Assistant Principal
 - Joshua Haaland - Activities Director

NONDISCRIMINATION POLICY

The Douglas School District does not discriminate in its employment policies and practices, or in its educational programs on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, age, sex, handicap, national origin, or ancestry.

Title IX concerns should be directed to the Executive Director of Operations, Douglas School District, 400 Patriot Drive, Box Elder, SD 57719. Phone (605) 923-0000.

Inquiries concerning the application of Title VI or Section 504 may be referred to the Director of Special Education Services, Douglas School District, 421 Don Williams Drive, Box Elder, SD 57719. Phone (605) 923-0090.

For additional information contact the Regional Director, Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights, 1961 Stout Street, Denver, Colorado 80294.

Douglas Patriots High School Athletic Coaches 2025-26

Fall Sports:

- Competitive Cheer
- Competitive Dance
- Cross-Country
- Girls Wrestling
- Sideline Cheer

- Football

- Boys Golf

- Soccer

- Volleyball

Spring Sports:

- Girls Golf

- Track & Field

Non-School Sport Clubs

Talk to the Activities Office for more information

-

Administration

- Beau Voegeli - Principal
- Sean Gholson - Assistant Principal
- Joshua Haaland - Activities Director

Winter Sports:

- Boys Basketball

- Girls Basketball

- Boys Wrestling

“Our mission is to cultivate a culture where every student engages in activities that foster leadership skills, personal development, and a strong sense of responsibility.”

Conference Sport Offerings & SDHSAA Season Start Dates

Black Hills Conference

The Douglas School District is a member of the Black Hills Conference for the sports of competitive cheer, competitive dance, cross-country, football, boys and girls golf, soccer, volleyball, boys and girls basketball, boys and girls wrestling, and track and field. Member schools of the Black Hills Conference include: Belle Fourche, Custer, Douglas, Hill City, Hot Springs, Lead-Deadwood, Rapid City Christian, Red Cloud, St. Thomas More, Spearfish, and Sturgis Brown.

The Black Hills Conference hosts annual competitions for competitive cheer, competitive dance, cross-country, boys and girls golf, boys and girls wrestling, and track and field. Basketball, volleyball, soccer, and football do not have conference tournaments but have annual voting to recognize all-conference athletes. Sites and dates of the 2025-26 conference events are:

Boys Golf Meet – Tuesday, September 23rd – Custer – 10:00am

Cross-Country Meet – Thursday, October 9th – Custer – 2:00pm

Competitive Cheer & Dance – Thursday, October 16th – Spearfish - 5:00pm

Girls Wrestling Tournament – Saturday, January 17th – Spearfish – 9:00am

Boys Wrestling Tournament – Saturday, January 17th – Spearfish – 12:00pm

Girls Golf Meet – Monday, May 11th – Belle Fourche – 9:00am

Track & Field Meet – Thursday May 14th – Sturgis – 9:00am

Conference events are subject to change in locations and times based on agreements between conference schools. Schools will be notified immediately of such changes.

Season Start Dates

The South Dakota High School Activities Association sets the dates for the start of all high school sports programs. Below are the starting dates for Douglas high school athletic teams for the 2025-26 school year.

Fall Sports

Competitive Cheer.....	Monday, August 4th, 2025
Competitive Dance.....	Monday, August 4th, 2025
Soccer.....	Monday, August 4th, 2025
Football.....	Monday, August 11th, 2025
Boys Golf.....	Monday, August 11th, 2025
Cross-Country.....	Thursday, August 14th, 2025
Volleyball.....	Thursday, August 14th, 2025

Winter Sports

Wrestling.....	Monday, November 17th, 2025
Girls Basketball.....	Monday, November 24th, 2025
Boys Basketball.....	Monday, December 1st, 2025

Spring Sports

Track and Field-Pole Vaulting.....	Monday, February 2nd, 2026
Track and Field.....	Monday, March 2nd, 2026
Girls Golf.....	Monday, March 30th, 2026

Junior High Athletics

Junior high athletics start and end dates are not dictated by the SDHSAA. The Douglas middle school Activities Director will determine the starting and ending points of each junior high athletic season.

Douglas High School Lettering Requirements

Specific requirements for winning major awards are established for each sport by the coaches. These will be available to all squad members at the start of the season. One major award, a “sport letter”, will be awarded when an athlete has met the qualifications as a varsity team letter winner. Repeat letter winners will receive bars after they have received the initial emblem and bar for the sport.

The following Douglas lettering requirements applies as listed below for Fall Athletics:

- **Competitive Cheer** - Team members must attend and be on time for 90% of ALL practices, games, and competitions and finish the season in good standing; or at the coaches discretion.
- **Competitive Dance** - Team members must attend and be on time for 90% of ALL practices, games, and competitions and finish the season in good standing; or at the coaches discretion
- **Cross-Country** - Must earn at least 15 points based on the team’s point system or at the coaches discretion.
- **Football** - Earn 20 points through varsity competition and other in-season and off-season accomplishments, or at the coaches discretion
- **Golf (Boys)** - Lettering points are accumulated for competitions, practices, top 10 finishes, and at the coaches discretion.
- **Soccer (Boys)** - Must remain a member of the team in good standing and play at least ⅓ of all minutes
- **Soccer (Girls)** - Must remain a member of the team in good standing and play at least ⅓ of all minutes
- **Volleyball** - Participate at the varsity level, complete community service, in good standing attendance and grades wise, and at the coaches discretion.

The following Douglas lettering requirements applies as listed below for Winter Athletics:

- **Basketball (Boys)** - Be in the varsity line-up for at least 75% of our regular season games, be on the roster for SoDak 16, or at the coaches discretion.
- **Basketball (Girls)** - Complete the season in good standing as a varsity player, compete in at least half of the varsity games (40 qtrs), have no more than 3 strikes on the team, or at the coaches discretion
- **Wrestling (Boys)** - Athletes will need to earn 50 points through varsity competition, and other in-season and off-season accomplishments, or at the coaches discretion.
- **Wrestling (Girls)** - Athletes will need to earn 50 points through varsity competition, and other in-season and off-season accomplishments, or at the coaches discretion.

The following Douglas lettering requirements applies as listed below for Spring Athletics:

- **Golf (Girls)** - Lettering points are accumulated for competitions, practices, top 10 finishes, and at the coaches discretion.

- **Track & Field** - Place top 8 at a varsity meet, qualify for state meet, be a senior with good attendance, no training violations during the season, or at the coaches discretion.

The following Douglas lettering requirements applies as listed below for Non-Athletic Activities

- **Band/Music** - Perfect attendance at all major performances and events, cumulative grade of above 86% in class, participation in at least 1 extra event, and no unexcused absences from pep band
- **Debate** - Students participating must earn 250 points on their NSDA account through competing at tournaments
- **Knowledge Bowl** - Accumulate 80% of possible points scale and attend 3 of 4 meets

Non-school club sport organizations may submit a Club Sport Agreement request to receive a varsity letter for Douglas students who participate on their teams

Other Awards:

Student-athletes and other activity participants are eligible for a variety of state, region, and conference awards and recognitions that are determined by their governing bodies and any state, region, and conference criteria.

Douglas School District Student Expectations for Activities

1. Student-athletes will attend all practices, rehearsals, lifts, or competitions unless excused by the head coach.
2. Student-athletes will abide by the rules and guidelines of the Douglas School District policies, activities handbook, and student handbooks.
3. Students will finish the season in good standing to be eligible for a letter that season.
4. Student-athletes will cooperate with coaches/advisors and their respective teams.
5. In case of illness or injury, the coaching staff will take into consideration the circumstances in making end-of-season decisions.

Douglas School District Parent/Guardian Expectations for Activities

1. Parents will demonstrate their responsibility to their children by showing unwavering support and by providing on-going positive reinforcement for their child's performance and effort. Being a positive role model includes demonstrating proper sportsmanship at all times and refraining from negativity.
2. Parents will demonstrate their responsibility to the coaches and officials by being supportive of their decisions and not undermining their efforts. If, by chance, you do not agree with a coach, please communicate with the coach at an appropriate time and place and not in front of the students.
3. Parents will demonstrate their responsibility to the school district by assisting the coaching staff in maintaining the intended positive nature of our programs. The coaching staff requests that you report any behavior or situation to us that we may need to address and thank you for your support.
4. Parents/Spectators will demonstrate their responsibility to other parents by cheering good plays and successes and by consoling disappointments, no matter which team is affected. Taunting is unsportsmanlike behavior, which we do not tolerate.
5. Parents will demonstrate their responsibility to themselves by watching both their own and other children participate, learn, and have fun. We hope you will experience the fullest joy and pride associated with watching our children in their athletic pursuits.

“Our mission is to cultivate a culture where every student engages in activities that foster leadership skills, personal development, and a strong sense of responsibility.”

Pre-Participation Requirements

Prior to participating to any extent (practice, games, tournaments, trips, etc.) the following requirements must first be fulfilled by student participants:

- High School & Middle School Activities:
 - Complete and submit the DSDdigital registration on the Bound website. The digital registration will consist of:
 - Personal Information
 - Overnight/Field Trip Permission acknowledgement form.
 - HS/MS Handbook Acknowledgement Form
 - SDHSAA Consent for Participation in Activities
 - SDHSAA Consent for Medical Release
 - SDHSAA Concussion Fact Sheet for Parents
 - SDHSAA Concussion Fact Sheet for Students
 - SDHSAA Health History Form & Pre-Participation Physical
 - Physicals are good for one year from the date of completion.
 - Complete annual Impact Baseline Testing (completed with Athletic Trainer)
 - High school athletics only (includes 7-12 programs)

Preseason Activity Meetings & Activity Fairs

Douglas High School & Douglas Middle School will hold preseason activity kick-off meetings that align with the changing of the seasons (Fall, Winter, Spring). The intent of these meetings is to provide students and parents pertinent information for their season, and allow breakout sessions with their coaches for the same informative purpose. Attending these meetings is not mandatory but **HIGHLY ENCOURAGED**. The dates for the high school 2025-26 preseason kick-off meetings are:

- High School Fall Kick-Off Meeting: Thursday, July 31st, 2025 @ 6:30 pm in the high school theater
 - Middle School 1st Quarter Kick-Off: Thursday August 7th, 2025 @ 5:00pm in the cafeteria
- Winter Kick-Off Meeting: Monday, November 10th, 2025 @ 6:30 pm in the high school theater
 - Middle School 2nd Quarter Kick-Off: Monday October 20th, 2025 @ 5:00pm in the cafeteria
- Spring Kick-Off Meeting: Monday, February 23rd, 2026 @ 6:30 pm in the high school theater
 - Middle School 3rd Quarter Kick-Off: Thursday December 18th, 2025 @ 5:00pm in the cafeteria
 - Middle School 4th Quarter Kick-Off: TBD

Douglas High School will work in collaboration with Douglas Middle School in presenting all opportunities for offered activities to all students grade 6th-8th. These Activity Fairs promote opportunities that extend from the high school into the middle school (with the exception of golf, which is a 7-12 program). Activity Fair dates will be determined through collaboration of Activities Directors and Principals. Anticipated fairs for 2025-26 are:

- 8th grade activities fair in collaboration with 9th grade registration - Early 2nd semester
- 6th-8th grade athletics, fine arts, & clubs fair - Late 2nd semester

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SDHSAA Eligibility Requirements (to be updated once SDHSAA updates)

The following eligibility requirements are set by the SDHSAA and must be met before any student can participate in a school interscholastic program. Douglas High School students will abide by the below policies set forth by the SDHSAA.

YOU ARE ELIGIBLE IF:

1. You are under the age of 20. Age to be determined by birth date, not hour and minute.
2. You have not attended more than 4 first semesters and 4 second semesters, or 12 trimesters, of school in grades 9 through 12. Enrollment and attendance in school or participation in one or more contests shall constitute a semester/trimester of eligibility. Once a student enrolls as a ninth grader, all semesters/trimesters must be consecutive unless waived as per Article VII, Section 3 (l), page 10 of the constitution.
3. During the preceding semester/trimester you passed a minimum equivalent of four full time subjects for which you earned at least 2.0 units of high school credit that will be used in the issuance of a diploma.
4. During the current semester/trimester you are enrolled in and attend a minimum equivalent of four full time subjects for which you will earn at least 2.0 units of high school credit that will be used in the issuance of a diploma.
5. You have enrolled by the 16th school day of the current semester/trimester. Date of regular entry into classes is considered the date of enrollment.
6. You have on file in the principal's office a signed physical examination, a parent & student consent form, consent for release of medical information form (HIPAA), and a concussion fact sheet for parents/athletes.
7. You have not transferred from one high school to another without a corresponding change in the residence of your parents. (Exception made for students who transfer pursuant to the open enrollment Bylaws.)
8. You have a copy of your transcript on file in the principal's office prior to competition.
9. You have not been absent from school more than ten (10) consecutive school days in a member school which operates a five (5) day school week or more than eight (8) consecutive days in a member school which operates a four (4) day school week. (Illness of the student or death in the immediate family excepted.)
10. During a high school sport season, you do not compete on an unattached basis as an individual or as a member of a non-school team.
11. You have not participated in an athletic contest under an assumed name.
12. You have not participated in athletics in any institution of learning of higher rank than a standard secondary school.
13. You have not violated your amateur standing.

14. You have not graduated from a regular four-year high school or institution of equivalent rank.

15. Credit recovery. Students who have been declared ineligible because of academic deficiencies from the previous semester/trimester may earn scholastic/academic eligibility by taking an academic course(s) via the options approved by the SD Department of Education. Examples include, but not limited to, on-line courses, in-district credit recovery courses, alternative education settings, digital courses, etc. The principal must monitor the successful completion of the course(s) and reinstate eligibility only after the successful completion of 2 units of credit as per Chapter I, Part IV, Section 1, Subsection D., page 14 of the Bylaws.

NOTE 1: Participation in an All-Star Game, during the school year, that is not sanctioned by the SDHSAA could cause you to be ineligible at NCAA colleges and universities your freshman year. Consult the SDHSAA Constitution and By-Laws for additional information or consult the Activities Director.

NOTE 2: There are exceptions to the above rules. Consult with your coach, athletic director, or principal if any questions arise.

NOTE 3: Any 7th or 8th graders who participate at the high school level will adhere to the high school eligibility requirements above.

Middle School Eligibility Rules

Middle School Eligibility is determined weekly for the current quarter's activities. All students in activities are subject to weekly grade checks during their activity's season. If any student-athlete has two failing classes on the day of grade checks, they are deemed ineligible and must sit out that week of activities. Eligibility is revisited the following week for all student-athletes.

During a period of ineligibility, students may practice, but may not travel, compete in any games and/or performances. They may also not sit the bench with their team for home games.

If a student is ineligible for 3 consecutive weeks in an activity, the Athletic Director and Head Coach reserve the right to dismiss the student from that activity. This policy allows the student to focus on academics for the remainder of the quarter.

Douglas School District Training Rules

The Douglas School District believes that it is important for our students involved in extra and co-curricular activities to understand the significance of participating/competing as a representative of the Douglas Patriots and refrain from any activity that is considered illegal by the criminal justice system. These activities include, but are not limited to, the use, possession of, or attempt to purchase alcohol, tobacco, vaping devices, nicotine and nicotine delivery devices, and all other illegal substances by a minor as well as refraining from committing crimes against a person or property. The expectation that students/athletes will refrain from the use of illegal substances and participating in illegal activities does not just apply to a season or sport; rather, students/athletes are expected to follow these training rules throughout the course of an entire school year. An entire school year, for all students participating in activities, is defined as beginning with the start of the first practice in the fall and concluding at midnight on the day of the last school-sponsored activity of the year. Please note that there are NO times during the school year, outlined above, when using alcohol, tobacco, vaping devices, nicotine and nicotine delivery devices and illegal drugs or participating in illegal activities are tolerated by the Douglas School District. ([District Policies JFCG, JFCG-R, JFCH, JFCH-R](#))

The Activities Director(s) and Principal(s) will investigate infractions and will consider the individual, other students, parents, community members, and law enforcement as acceptable sources of information. Evidence utilized throughout the investigation process is at the discretion of the administration. It is important to note, that due to the sensitive nature of these infractions and the seriousness of the penalties enforced, the school can only enforce penalties if at least one of the following standards is met for the final determination of guilt:

1. Admission of guilt by the student in question
2. Admission by parent or guardian of the student in questions as to their guilt
3. Obtained evidence of an infraction
4. Citation by law enforcement agency
5. Enrollment into a court approved diversion program

Any violations of the training rules will result in discipline in addition to those repercussions set forth by their respective buildings. If a student is found to have violated the Douglas School District activity training rules, the following penalties will be enforced:

Teams/Activities with Large Competition Schedules:

Activity (Based off HS Schedules)	1st Offense (Calculated based on 25% of competitive season)	2nd Offense (Dismissal from team)	3rd Offense (Ineligible for DSD Activities for the remainder of the school year)
Basketball	5 games	x	x
Competitive Cheer/Dance	3 competitions	x	x
Cross-Country	4 meets	x	x
Debate	4 competitions	x	x
Football	2 games	x	x

Golf	4 meets	x	x
Soccer	4 games	x	x
Track & Field	4 meets	x	x
Volleyball	5 competitions	x	x
Wrestling	5 competitions	x	x

Teams/Activities with Shortened or No Competition Schedules: Clubs, Fine Arts, & Other Activities

1st Offense - A student will be on probation for two weeks and will not be allowed to participate in any contests, performances, or activity sponsored events that may fall within that time period.

2nd Offense - A student will be suspended from all activity events of any kind for two months.

3rd Offense - A student will be ineligible for all DSD sponsored activities for the remainder of the school year.

During the time that a student is serving their 1st penalty, they are expected to participate in practices those days, but will not participate in after school events. They will not be allowed to travel to away contests or events, or sit the bench for any contests.

If a student is deemed to be in violation of the Douglas training rules during the school year while they are NOT participating in an activity, the punishment will carry-over into the next activities season or school year if necessary. Students must remain an active participant on the team and complete the entire season for the number of events required to apply to the given season and any attempt to bypass the rules by quitting a team could result in suspension from all DSD activities for the remainder of the year. Suspensions not completed within one season will carry over to the next and suspensions not completed in one school year will carry over to the next school year, or at the discretion of the administration.

The parents of the offender(s) and law enforcement will be notified. The student/athlete will not letter in an activity if he/she does not finish the season in good standing.

In the event it appears there is a violation, the following steps shall be taken:

1. The student will be advised of the concern
2. Allow the student to explain his/her position
3. Notify the parent(s) or guardian(s) of the alleged violation and provide an opportunity for a parent conference with any of the following personnel present: coach/advisor, activities director, principal, and student. This conference may be used to determine the action taken.
4. The activities director will notify all parties of the decision rendered
5. Consequences will begin the date the guilty decision is rendered
6. The decision may be appealed following [Douglas Policy JFA](#).

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SDHSAA and SDCL Policy Regarding Drugs and Marijuana

Suspension from Extra-curricular activities for use or possession of controlled substances or marijuana:

The information listed below is a summary of the regulations outlined in the following state statutes:

- SDCL 13-32-9; SDCL 13-32-9.1; SDCL 13.32.9.2 ***Please note that the statutes, not the summary, will be used when implementing consequences for all violations***

Any student who has any form of court ordered consequences for possession, use or distribution of controlled drugs, substances or marijuana or ingesting, inhaling or otherwise taking into the body any substance prohibited by SDCL 22-42-15 will be subject to the following punishment under South Dakota Law:

Suspension from all extracurricular activities sponsored by the SDHSAA for a period of one (1) year

For a first offense, a student can have their suspension reduced to thirty (30) days by petitioning the school board and completing an assessment with a certified and licensed addiction counselor. If the assessment indicates a higher level of care required, then that must be completed before the reduction to the suspension is applied. For a second offense, a student can petition the school board for a reduction of the one-year suspension to sixty (60) days if they complete an intensive prevention or treatment program and provide proof of completion. A third offense results in a permanent suspension from all SDHSAA extracurricular events for the remainder of their school career.

As per SDCL 13-32-9.2 – any suspension that is imposed for the above listed violation a student must miss a minimum of two (2) SDHSAA sanctioned events for the first violation and six (6) events for a second violation regardless of whether the suspension is reduced or not. This means that a student’s suspension could last longer than the required number of days to meet the criteria. Students must remain an active participant on the team and complete the entire season for the minimum number of events required to apply to the given season and any attempt to bypass the rules by quitting a team could result in the suspension upheld for the entire (1) year. Suspensions not completed within one season will carry over to the next and suspensions not completed in one school year will carry over to the next school year.

Start dates for the suspension can begin one of two ways:

1. The day following a notification by the Unified Judicial System that a student received a court ordered consequence.
2. The day following a self-report by the student, with a parent or guardian present, to a school administrator. NOTE: This option would speed up the penalty by starting the suspension earlier

Nothing in this policy shall relieve the school district from complying with any other state law, including the requirements set forth in SDCL 13-32-9.

Social Media Guidelines ([District Policy JFCK](#))

Douglas Activities recognizes its student-athletes’ rights to freedom of speech, expression, and association, including the use of social networks. All student-athletes must remember that they represent the Douglas School District, and are expected to portray themselves, their team, and the Douglas Activities Department, in a positive manner at all times.

If you participate on a social networking site:

- Everything you post is public information. Texts and photos are out of your control once placed online.
- Use caution when adding or inviting friends.
- Limit information about your location or plans.
- Use of disrespectful comments and behavior online will not be tolerated by the Douglas Activities Department. This includes but is not limited to:
 - Comments or photos that depict unlawful or prohibited conduct.
 - Derogatory, defamatory, harassing, or discriminatory posts related to teammates, opponents, coach or coaching staff, officials or the Douglas Activities Department, that will adversely affect team chemistry.
 - Comments that create a serious danger to the safety of another person or that constitute a credible threat of emotional or physical injury to another person.

Situations involving any of the above activities will result in a meeting with the Athlete, Parents, Coach, Principal, and Athletic Director. The results of that meeting could range from just having a meeting to different levels of suspension. Those involved in the decision will be the Coach and Administration.

This applies to all activities' participants in the Douglas School District participating in school sponsored teams in grades 6-12. It is in effect from the first sports practice of the year through the final sporting event of the year. All penalties will be administered to align with the Douglas Training Rules procedures.

Activities Attendance & Behavior Expectations

The Douglas School District believes that academic attendance is vital for the success of all students who participate in extracurricular and co-curricular activities. Any students who choose to participate in activities offered by the school must meet expectations of behavior and attendance. Attendance & behavior expectations shall be:

- Students are expected to adhere to any and all District Policies on proper handling of absences and attendance for the academic day ([Douglas Policy JED](#) & [Douglas Policy JEG](#))
- A student must be in classes all day prior to an extracurricular or co-curricular to participate in the activity unless the student has been excused through the high school or middle school office. **The** District retains the right to deem an absence excused or unexcused. Medical or other verification may be requested before the absence is deemed excused. Refer to Douglas Policy JED for what may be valid reasons for a student to be excused.
- Students are expected to arrive at all classes on time. Students who receive excessive tardies MAY be ineligible to participate in that day's activities at the discretion of the principal and activities director.
- **Students with an unexcused absence may not be allowed to participate in that day's activities, which include performances, competitions, practices and/or rehearsals. An absent report will be run at the end of each school day and/or at the time of an activity dismissal to determine any violations. Excessive unexcused absences may result in extended removal from an activity at the discretion of the coach, principal, and activities director.**

Student Conduct/Behavior Expectations (Douglas Policy JFC)

- Participation in activities at Douglas High School is a privilege, not a right. All students involved in athletics, fine arts, and extracurricular clubs are expected to represent the school, their teammates, and themselves with integrity, responsibility, and respect.
- Student behavior is important when representing the Douglas School District. Therefore, it should be understood by all students that the Activities Director, Administration, and Coach/Advisor reserve the right to administer discipline for inappropriate behavior not covered in this code. Such discipline may include removal from the team, suspensions from an activity, or other disciplinary actions.
- Students involved in activities are expected to be leaders in the classroom as well as on the field, stage, or court. Academic success and respectful conduct in school are essential components of eligibility. This includes, but is not limited to showing respect for teachers, staff, and classmates, following all classroom rules and school-wide behavior expectations, and avoiding disruptions, inappropriate language, or disrespectful conduct. Coaches, advisors, and administrators may use the Student Conduct/Discipline Matrix listed in the DHS Student Handbook when resolving issues that arise.
- Students who are cited, charged with, or convicted of criminal activity – whether on or off school grounds – will be subject to consequences as determined by the school administration, in addition to any legal or judicial penalties. Participation in school-sponsored activities requires a high standard of behavior that reflects positively on Douglas High School and the community.
- Students shall not engage in any forms of bullying as outlined in Douglas Policy JFCD
- Soliciting, encouraging, aiding, or engaging in hazing is prohibited. “Hazing” includes, but is not limited to: any intentional, knowing, or reckless act directed against a student. Discipline for hazing may range from temporary suspension from their activity to permanent removal from the activity. School consequences may also apply.

School Based Suspensions

In-school suspensions will require the student to be in attendance from 7:55 am - 3:10 pm at the high school and 7:55 am to 3:05 pm at the middle school. In addition to being isolated from classes, students serving in-school suspension will be expected to participate in practice that day but **will not participate in after-school events. They will not be allowed to travel to away contests or sit on the bench for any contests that day.**

Students serving out-of-school suspension will not be allowed to participate in ANY school events (games, events, or practices) as either a participant or as a spectator.

Participant/Spectator Ejections

Any participants that are ejected from an event and/or activity will serve the SDHSAA mandatory one game suspension and complete the NFHS Sportsmanship course before returning to participation. Any spectator that is ejected from a DSD event or activity will be required to complete the NFHS Sportsmanship before returning to DSD activities, and will be required to miss a minimum of one event.

Activity Practices

Douglas School District will make every effort to have practices preceding or concluding the school day. However, due to limited facilities space, later practices may be scheduled.

- Students who choose to participate as a member of a Douglas School District activity are expected to be at all practices, rehearsals, lifts, or competitions unless excused by the head coach.
- Wednesday practice during the school year must be concluded by 6:00pm and students out of the buildings by 6:30pm. Student participants may be excused from practice on Wednesdays by their parents/guardians for religious activities. Such excusal(s) should be communicated to the head coach/advisor.
- Sunday Practices
 - Practices will not occur in school facilities on Sunday morning or on Sunday evening
 - Practices may occur on Sunday afternoon in school facilities if at least one (1) of the following conditions are met:
 - The practice may only occur if there is a scheduled or rescheduled varsity event or performance on the next day (Monday)
 - The practice may occur if the team is currently involved in State level competition (i.e. Football playoffs, District/Regional Tournaments, etc.
 - Even when criteria is met, Sunday practices must be approved by the Activities Director or Superintendent.

Transporting Participants to/from Events

All participants **are expected to ride the bus or school vehicle(s) to and from an event unless arrangements are made ahead of time with the head coach/advisor.** Douglas School District strongly encourages all participants to ride home with the team as we consider this a vital part of the team building experience.

A student shall be allowed to leave following the event with the parent/guardian, or the parent/guardian's designee, provided that the parent/guardian has personally verbally communicated with the coach/advisor prior to the student being allowed to leave with the parent/guardian/designee. Written authorization to release the student to parent/guardian/designee after the event will not be accepted. (Douglas Policy JEDB). **NO STUDENT CAN LEAVE AN EVENT WITHOUT CHECKING OUT WITH THE HEAD COACH/ADVISOR.**

Douglas High School offers a transportation waiver for students of legal driving age to drive to events located in Box Elder and/or the Rapid City Area. Waivers should be picked up in the high school Activities Office and turned into the head coach or advisor of their activity. Note: **Allowance of waiver use is at the discretion of the head coach/advisor and should be communicated and approved by them ahead of time.**

The Activities Director, Principal, or Superintendent can amend these expectations in an emergency situation*

Douglas Policies JFCC & JFCC-R outline conduct expectations of students on buses and potential repercussions for violations of the policies.

Overnight/Out-Of-State Travel

Students who participate as members of high school activities, including 7th-12th grade programs, may be afforded the opportunity to partake in events that require out-of-state and/or overnight travel. In such an instance, The district will provide a per diem allowance for food, and provide transportation and lodging for all traveling team members, coaches/advisors, and official district personnel. Students must have the proper paperwork turned into the activities office to be eligible to travel for overnight/out-of-state events.

Middle school students will NOT be allowed to travel to activities that involve overnight stays, unless they are participating/performing/competing with a high school program. Middle school students/families who wish to participate in an overnight middle school-specific activity, will be required to do so at their own expense.

State & National Competitions & Travel

Participation at the State level is one of many goals of our activities programs. Teams and individuals that qualify according to SDHSAA standards are given the opportunity to compete at the state level. The district will provide a per diem allowance for food, and provide transportation and lodging for all qualifying team members, qualifying team coaches, and official district personnel when a team qualifies.

Teams that qualify for state events that are hosted in the Rapid City Area will be offered the above allowances. Acceptance of these opportunities will be at the discretion of the qualifying team's coaching staff and the Activities Director.

Douglas High School student fans are considered unofficial personnel, but may receive School Exemption to attend SDHSAA state events when Douglas' teams are participating. Student fans must submit written parent permission to the high school Main Office before missing school or they will be considered truant. Parent permission will be verified by the Main Office. Student fans are responsible for all expenses they incur while traveling and attending activities and state events.

Any activities that qualify for competition in a National level event must be funded completely by the individual program's activity account through fundraisers and/or donations.

Team Selection, Tryouts, & Participation

Philosophy - Douglas High School's philosophy of activities is to encourage as many students as possible to participate in the activities programs at Douglas High School. We encourage coaches/advisors to retain as many students as they can without compromising the integrity of their activity. Time, space, facilities, equipment, and other factors will place limitations on the most effective squad size for any particular activity.

Cutting Policies

1. Choosing members of activity squads is the sole responsibility of the coaches/advisors with accepted input from outside evaluator(s). An outside evaluator may be utilized to provide an unbiased perspective. The evaluator cannot be affiliated with the squad's school.
2. Sub-varsity level coaches shall take into consideration the expectations established by the head coach in their program when selecting final team rosters.
3. Prior to tryouts, the coach/advisors shall provide the following information to all candidates and parents for the team:
 - Extent of tryout period
 - Criteria used to select the team
 - Commitments required if they make the team
4. When a squad cut becomes necessary, the process will include the following:
 - Ensure that a consistent selection process exists in the High School programs for all student activities to include objective criteria rating instrument utilization. The rating sheet must be the basis for any cuts that are made. Each participant must have individual skills/abilities rated &

recorded, resulting in an overall try-out score. These rating sheets will be used to provide feedback to the participant and parents if requested.

- Ensure there is no pre-selection of participants.
- Ensure that participation in Summer Camps/Activities is not included in the criteria utilized for your selection. Provide extended periods of “tryouts” for students involved in the selection process.
- Ensure that consistent teams of evaluators exist on each campus and that the selection process is clearly communicated to all participants and parents/guardians
- At the conclusion of tryouts, provide final selection process utilized for all activities as well as review of participants selected for participation to the activities director

5. Appeal Process

- The parent/guardian and the student activity participant may request a meeting with the activities director if the parent/guardian and the student activity participant disagree with the decision of the coach. The decision of the activities director may be appealed using the formal public complaint process ([Douglas Policy KL](#) & [KL-R](#))

Middle School Students Petition Up Procedures

1. Middle school athletes may be petitioned up to higher levels of competition than their current grade level (ie. 6th to 7th or 8th to high school level if selected during the tryout process.)
2. The following criteria will be taken into consideration whenever a high school head coach petitions for a 7th or 8th grade student to participate on a high school team (As per SDHSAA, 6th graders are not eligible to compete at the high school level):
 - a. Each individual case will be considered on its own merits.
 - b. The petition process will be initiated by the head coach/advisor.
 - c. Parent permission must be obtained.
 - d. The physical and emotional maturity of the individual will be considered.
 - e. When a student is given approval to compete in a high school program by the building administration, he/she becomes subject to the eligibility requirements of the high school to which he/she is petitioned.
 - f. Middle school student athletes participating in an SDHSAA sanctioned club or sport must have an updated annual physical on file at the high school.
 - g. Students must be in good standing in the following areas: grades, attendance, and behavior.
 - h. If petitioned, participants shall be able to start the season with the high school students. They will not be required to wait until the conclusion of the middle school season.
 - i. For those high school activities that have a squad selection process, middle school students must participate in this process.
3. If the petition is successful, the student will compete on the high school level according to the following:
 - a. The student's day will end at the regularly scheduled middle school day.
 - b. Middle school students competing at the high school level are required to meet high school eligibility standards.
 - c. Transportation, for practice, from the middle school to the high school site will be the responsibility of the student, parent, and/or guardian. Transportation will be provided for games/performances.
 - d. If a 7th/8th grade student competes inter-scholastically at the high school level in a particular activity, he/she will not be allowed to move back to the middle school level of competition in that activity with the exception of 7th/8th grade students who are petitioned for a specific formal

tryout period. These students will be allowed to move back to the middle school if they do not make the team.

- e. If a student has been petitioned to the high school level as a 7th grader, he/she is not guaranteed a high school position as an 8th grader.

Dual Activity Participation

A student/participant may participate in two activities during the same season provided that the student, coach(es)/advisor(s), parent/guardian(s) provide an agreed upon schedule to the activities director prior to the beginning of the seasons. The student is responsible to communicate with the coach/advisor of both programs prior to the beginning of the season.

Return to Play Procedures

An athlete who is suspected of sustaining a concussion or head injury during a practice or competition shall be removed from participation at that time. Any athlete who has been removed from participation during a practice or competition based on a suspected concussion may not participate in practice or competition until the athlete no longer exhibits signs, symptoms, or behavior consistent with a concussion and has received written clearance from a licensed healthcare provider. A licensed health care provider is ([Douglas Policy IGDJ](#)):

1. Registered, certified, licensed, or otherwise recognized in law by the State of South Dakota to provide medical treatment; and
2. Trained and experienced in evaluation, management, and care of concussions.

Undue Influence for Participation

Students shall enjoy as many activities as the student and their parents wish them to participate in without influence from any coach to specialize in one activity. All coaches should encourage participation in other activities. Students may switch activities once the season has started with approval from both head coaches involved. Student participants may begin their next season when their current activity is completed or with approval of the head coach of the current activity.

Participation of Alternative Instruction Students

Alternative instruction students are allowed to participate in school-sponsored activities and activities sanctioned by the SDHSAA within the school district in which the student resides. Alternative instructions student participants have the same rights and responsibilities as enrolled students. Alternative instruction participation requirements can be found in [Douglas Policy IGDK](#)

Chain-of-Command - Athlete/Parent Concerns

In order to ensure a fair appeal process for everyone involved, any concerns by athletes or parents - other than legal or ethical concerns - should go through the proper chain-of-command and first be brought to the head coach by the athlete. If the issue is not resolved AFTER speaking with the head coach then it can move through the chain of command by the individual voicing the concern. The chain of command is as follows:

1. Head Coach or Advisor
2. Activities Director
3. High School Principal
4. Superintendent
5. School Board

Each level has the authority to hear and decide an appeal from the level above it. Jumping the chain-of-command may hinder the opportunity for the next level to fairly hear an appeal and make a decision.

Concerns with assistant coaches can be brought to the head coach and do not need to start with the assistant to maintain the integrity of the process. Legal and ethical concerns can be brought to the Activities Director.

The “24-Hour Rule”

The “24-Hour Rule” refers to the handling of situations that may be of concern immediately following the completion of a competition or performance. Parents should address this concerns in the following manner:

- During business days allow coaches/advisors until the following day to respond to your concerns.
- During weekends allow coaches/advisors until the next business day to respond to your concerns. Feel free to reach out via email to communicate your concerns to bring coaches/advisors awareness of your concerns in order to respond in a timely manner.

Parent/Coach/Advisor Communication

When your student becomes involved in the Athletic, Fine Art, and/or Club programs within the Douglas School District, they will experience some of the most memorable and rewarding times of their high school days. It is important to understand that there will also be times when things do not go the way you or your student(s) would like. At these times, discussion with the coach/advisor at an appropriate time is encouraged. It is very difficult to accept your student not playing as much as you may hope. Coaches/Advisors are professionals and have to make judgment decisions based on what they believe to be best for **all** students involved. There are certain things that can and should be discussed with your student’s coach/advisor. There are other things that need to be left to the discretion of the coach.

Concerns Appropriate to Discuss with Coaches:

- The treatment of your student mentally and physically.
- How to help your student improve their skills.
- Concerns you have about your student’s academics, behavior, and practice habits.

Concerns Inappropriate to Discuss with Coaches:

- Other student athletes
- Other coaches and/or school personnel
- Team Strategy
- Play Calling
- Playing Time

Activities Inclement Weather/Air Quality Procedures

The Douglas School District Activities Department is committed to ensuring the safety and well-being of middle and high school students during inclement weather and unhealthy air quality conditions, and will make informed decisions regarding practices and games. In the event that activities are affected by inclement weather or air quality issues, the communication procedures will be as follows:

- General - Coordination of all messaging including Infinite Campus, VM, and Social Media with Communications Coordinator.
- School District Announcement - Ensure that Administrators are notified of all pending public communication prior to disseminating.
- Parent and Student Notification - Use of the school’s communication system to notify parents and students about activity cancellations or changes as early as possible.

- Public Announcements - Post updates on school websites, social media accounts, and other relevant platforms.

Douglas School District Inclement Weather/Air Quality Matrix:

Weather Conditions	Games/Performances	Practices/Rehearsals
Normal School Day	Continue as normal	Continue as normal
Early Release Days for Weather	Canceled	Canceled
School Closures for Weather*	Canceled	Canceled
Temperature Below -35°F w/windchill	Canceled	Canceled
Temperature Above 98°F or Extreme Heat Index	Canceled	Canceled/Moved in Doors
Heavy Rain or Thunderstorms	Canceled/Postponed when including lightning	Canceled/Moved Indoors
AQI 100-150	Continue as normal/monitored	Continue as normal/monitored
AQI 150-200	Continue as normal/monitored	Continue with potential shortenings or modifications
AQI 200-300	Canceled or Postponed	Canceled/Moved Indoors
AQI 300 or ↑	Canceled	Canceled

Equipment Usage

A student participant is required to return his/her school issued uniform and/or equipment at the end of the season. A student who fails to return school equipment at the end of the season assumes financial responsibility for the equipment. The student will be required to pay for any repairs needed due to negligence while the equipment was in the student's control. In addition, the student agrees to pay for, or replace with comparable equipment, any items lost or stolen while in his/her care. ([Douglas Policy JN & JNB](#)) Seniors who have any outstanding fees or fines at the end of the school year will have their diplomas held until resolved. Non-seniors who have any outstanding fees or fines at the end of the school year will be deemed ineligible for all activities until resolved.

Special Events

Seasonal Award Ceremonies - Award ceremonies will be hosted near the end of each high school activities seasons (Fall, Winter, Spring) to provide DHS activities an opportunity to recognize their participants and any major achievements over the course of their seasons. The Spring seasonal award ceremony will include school district awards voted on by the coaches and advisors. These awards are: Rapid City Officials' Outstanding High School Male and Female Athlete; Bernard Colvin Memorial Award for Male and Female Athlete; Betty Stearn Memorial Award for Managers; Fine Arts Students of the Year for Debate, Drama, & Music.

Team Awards Ceremonies - Each head coach/advisor reserves the right to hold a program specific awards ceremony to acknowledge achievements and honor any program specific awards.

Collegiate Signing-Days - Douglas High School will hold 2-4 collegiate signing-day ceremonies to honor any senior students participating in activities and planning to continue their involvement in said activity at the collegiate level. Dates will be selected and announced in the Fall of the school year by the Activities Office. Any students planning to participate in a signing-day will need to contact the Activities Office with their intent to participate.

Special Events/Pep Rallies - Douglas High School and Middle School reserve the right to hold special events during the course of the school year to support and/or celebrate our students and student groups. The Activities Office will make every attempt to recognize any State Qualifying teams/groups, given that it does not negatively impact the school day.

Middle School Awards - Each year, Douglas Middle School recognizes our 8th graders with the following three awards:

Pev Evans Athletic Award - Most outstanding male and female athlete. Must have participated in 2 or more athletic activities during their 8th grade year while maintaining an 86% or better GPA. These nominees have shown that they have the leadership, work ethic, time-management skills, and character that embodies being both a high performing student and athlete alike.

Booster Club Fine Arts Award- Most outstanding male and female in fine arts. Must have participated in 2 or more fine arts activities their 8th grade year while maintaining an 86% or better GPA. These nominees have shown that they have the leadership, work ethic, time-management skills and character that embodies being both a high performing student and activities representative alike.

Gutzon Borglum Award- An 8th grader who has demonstrated an act of bravery, who has overcome a handicap, or who has overcome an adverse situation. This student must be recognized for showing improvement and leadership qualities.

American Legion Award- is awarded to an 8th grade boy and an 8th grade girl. The award is sponsored by the Post 22 American Legion. The criteria used includes:

1. The student places emphasis on the development of the qualities of courage, honor, leadership, patriotism, scholarship and service.
2. Develops those ideals of Americanism among young people which will make them citizens of the highest quality.
3. Gives recognition to the boy and girl who show high qualities of citizenship and true Americanism.