

Athletic Participation Code

The Athletic Participation Code will apply to all St. Vrain Valley School District participants in interscholastic and intradistrict activities.

The purpose of these guidelines is to provide clarity, consistency and fairness in the application of this code.

Regulations pertaining to student athletics normally are more stringent than District-wide policies and regulations for several reasons. The desire of the District is to provide a standard whereby participants may minimize risk factors involving injuries and general well being. Schools and society in general look to participants to demonstrate self-discipline, leadership, moral character and good health habits. Students wishing to participate in athletic programs are required to meet standards of personal behavior and academic performance which are reasonably related to District purposes including but not limited to insuring that the participant is representative of the community, the District and the school's ideals in matters of academic conduct and sportsmanship.

Recognizing that participation in athletic programs is a privilege and purely voluntary on the part of the student, the participant is to be accountable to the rules set forth in this code. Each student will be required to sign an acknowledgment form of the Code of Conduct before being allowed to participate in activities.

Once the acknowledgment is signed, the student is subject to this code during all school years in which they are eligible to participate. In addition, sanctions may be imposed for violations of the rules of conduct, set forth below, which occur at any time during the year, (regardless of whether school is in or out of session) on or off campus, and in or out of that sport's season. Sanctions may also be imposed for serious and substantial violations occurring outside of the school year.

In addition, to be eligible to participate in athletic programs, a participant must conform to District and individual school standards of conduct and sportsmanship.

Rules of conduct

1. The following conduct, regardless of whether it constitutes a single incident or a pattern of activity, will be grounds for disciplinary action.
 - a. Use, possession, sale and/or exchange, regardless of the quantity, of alcoholic beverages, illegal controlled substances (e.g., hallucinogens, marijuana, anabolic steroids, etc.) and tobacco (in any form).
 - b. Willful disobedience or open and/or persistent defiance of authority.
 - c. Willful destruction, damage or defacing of any school property or equipment (including athletic equipment).
 - d. Behavior that is detrimental to the welfare and safety of others or behavior which could be characterized as lacking proper or good citizenship or good sportsmanship practices. For purposes of this policy, the phrase "lacking proper or good citizenship" includes, but is not limited to, behavior which is prohibited or punishable by federal, state or local criminal statutes.

2. Penalties for rule violations

For any of the above offenses, the following disciplinary action will be taken:

1st offense: Suspension of the participant from 30 percent or major fraction thereof of any contests on the schedule of the sports/activity season. Does not include scrimmages. If a participant should be suspended late in the season and is not able to fulfill the 30 percent penalty, the remaining suspension will extend into post-season play and/or the participant's next sports/activity season.

For example, should a participant/team qualify for any post-season play, those contests will be included in the computation of the 30 percent suspension or should a student violate any training rules while not participating in a sport, the suspension will begin with and be computed according to the student's next sports season.

Participants are expected to practice during the period of suspension from contests in order to finish a season in good standing and to be eligible for any awards. Participants failing to attend practices are subject to permanent suspension from that sport/activity to the end of the school year.

Recommendation that a restorative process occur prior to reinstatement to competition.

Reduce to 10% with self-admission prior to school's knowledge. Must include a minimum of 10 community service hours agreed upon by school administration, parents, coach and athlete and a written timeline for completion. Students without additional violations for one calendar year may be reinstated to "No Prior" offense status. Such reinstatement can occur only once during a student's four years of eligibility.

Or . . . students may opt for 20% suspension with no community hours. Students without additional violations for one calendar year may be reinstated to "No Prior" offense status. Such reinstatement can occur only once during a student's four years of eligibility.

With no self admission prior to school's knowledge, an athlete will serve the 30% suspension but may participate in an approved educational program with parental participation for a minimum of three one hour sessions. If the athlete does the educational component and has no additional violations up to one calendar year, the athlete may be restored to "no prior" offense status. Such reinstatement can occur only once during a student's four years of eligibility.

2nd offense: 60% suspension from the regular season of participation or subsequent season if unable to complete. Post season play will count toward the total suspension. Remain in practices and good standing. Recommendation that a restorative process occur prior to reinstatement to competition.

Approved mandatory educational program with parental participation agreed upon with administration, parents, coach and athlete. Must exceed three one-hour sessions.

3rd offense: One calendar year suspension from the date of the infraction with approved educational program mandatory before reinstatement. Administration, parents, coach and athlete will determine terms for reinstatement and educational program.

Penalties for violations beyond the third offense will be at the discretion of the building principal and/or District Athletic Director and may include permanent prohibition from participating in District athletic programs.

Enforcement of any penalty will begin from the day the student is determined to have violated the rules of conduct. For purposes of this code, penalties are cumulative throughout a participant's years of high school eligibility. Penalties accumulated during middle school participation but do not carry forward to high school.

Should a participant transfer to another District school, any acquired penalties also would transfer.

Miscellaneous

1. Nothing contained in this code will be deemed to prohibit a coach or sponsor from establishing and enforcing with principal approval additional rules applicable to the particular activity, e.g., curfew hours and other matters relating to the functioning of the team or group.

Such rules are to be provided to participants in writing with a copy on file with the principal.

Violations of such rules may be handled directly by the coach involved after conferring with the District Athletic Director and/or the appropriate building administrator.

2. Suspensions from/quitting a sport/activities

- a. Students permanently suspended from a sport will not letter in that sport or participate in another sport during the same season. Any violations of the participation code may result in the revoking of any awards for which the participant might otherwise be eligible.
- b. An athlete who quits a sport during its season may try out for another sport that season provided both head coaches of the sports involved give their consent. If

there is disagreement between coaches, the student or coach may request a building administrator to review the case.

- c. A student may not participate in practice, scrimmages or contests during the time of any suspension from school.

Disciplinary and appeal procedures

1. The principal or designee will be responsible for the application of penalties and sanctions for violations of the rules of conduct set forth in this code.
2. Prior to the imposition of any penalty set forth in this code, the principal or designee will give the student and their parent/guardian advance notice of the intended action. The notice may be oral or in writing at the discretion of the principal or designee and as a minimum will inform the student and their parent/guardian of the nature of the alleged violation, the nature of the penalty which may be imposed and the availability of the principal or designee to meet with the student and their parent/guardian to discuss the matter.
3. At the informal hearing, the student will be given an opportunity to deny the alleged violation or to provide their version of the incident. The principal or designee may at their discretion depending upon the circumstances allow the student to present witnesses or hold a more extensive hearing in order to make a proper decision on the contemplated action.

Following the hearing, written notice of the penalties to be imposed will be made promptly by the principal or designee to the participant and their parent/guardian.

4. The student and the parent/guardian may appeal the decision of the principal by submitting in writing a request within five days of the decision to the District Athletic Director.

Approved: January 10, 2001
Revised August 24, 2005

St. Vrain Valley School District RE-1J, Longmont, Colorado