

BANNER COUNTY SCHOOL ACTIVITIES HANDBOOK

The administration and operation of the Banner County Schools Activity Programs shall comply with the rules, regulations, and policies of the school, the Minuteman Activities Conference, the Banner County Board of Education, and the Nebraska School Activities Association.

School activities are designated as follows:

Football	Volleyball	Basketball	Track
Wrestling	Chorus/Band	Speech	Math Counts
One-Act Play	Mock Trial	Scholastic Contests	Quiz Bowl
Cross Country			

ACTIVITY POLICY

The Banner County School activity acknowledgement must be signed by students and parents/guardians, and returned to the office. This form can be found at the end of this handbook.

All athletes must have their physical, student/parental consent and warning waiver, permission for emergency treatment, and proof of insurance signed and turned in to the office. All required signatures must be received by the office prior to a student's participation.

ACTIVITY CODE OF CONDUCT AND DUE PROCESS

Student conduct on the campus, in the building, on the buses and at school and community activities should at all times be characteristic of a group of young men and women who are proud of themselves, their school and their community. Deviations of behavior from the standard of conduct including possession and use of drugs, alcohol and tobacco will be handled according to the Activity Code of Conduct, board policy #5565:

Definitions: Co-curricular and extra-curricular activities shall include those activities that fall outside of the regular classroom instruction but which are activities or programs sponsored by the school district. Examples of co-curricular activities shall be, but not limited to, vocal and instrumental music programs or Quiz Bowl which may be extensions of classes being taken by students. Examples of extra-curricular activities shall be any activity authorized by the Nebraska School Activities Association, school plays, intramural activities, or other activity sponsored by the school but not directly associated to a class.

Possession: Possession shall mean having any substance in one's custody or control. Actual possession occurs when the item is in the actual physical custody of the person charged with possession. Constructive possession occurs when there is no actual physical possession, but there is dominion and control over the substance (Example: The student is in a vehicle or on the

premises where he or she knows that alcohol, anabolic steroids, or drug products exist and/or are being used or consumed by fellow students or other unauthorized individuals.)

Rationale: The board of education recognizes the opportunities for educational and social development for students participating in school-sponsored activities. As students participate in these activities they must remember that they are not only representing themselves, but also their school and their community in all of their actions. In many instances the majority of the students in these activities will participate at a level at which they will be proud of their actions and achievements, as will their fellow students, parents and guardians, district patrons, their sponsors, and the opponents with whom they are competing. Unlike students taking required courses, co-curricular and extra-curricular activities are voluntary activities. Therefore, by choosing to participate in an activity the student is agreeing to abide by the standards or rules established by the sponsor and the members of the organization or activity.

I. Preamble:

A student who engages in any prohibited conduct or fails to abide by any requirement of this policy or any other policy regarding student conduct, shall be subject to appropriate corrective action which can range from an oral warning to expulsion. No system of rules can provide for every situation, and the School District may prohibit and discipline other offenses not specifically listed that interfere with the education, safety, welfare, or morals of students, employees, or volunteers. The School will try to apply discipline that is progressive in most situations. However, the disciplinary action applied in any particular case will depend upon the specific circumstances, and the School reserves the right to apply whatever disciplinary action is appropriate in each case. The appropriate level of discipline requires professional judgment and should be based on an individualized evaluation of the conduct and the student involved. The factors that may be considered include, but are not limited to the following:

- A. The potential for harm;
- B. The student's prior disciplinary record; or lack of any prior offense;
- C. Discipline imposed on others in similar situations;
- D. Maintaining an appropriate educational environment;
- E. Other relevant factors or circumstances; and
- F. For students with disabilities the determination as to whether disciplinary action or another consequence is the appropriate corrective action must be consistent with state and federal law.

Statement of Non-Discrimination:

This policy will be enforced without regard to race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, sex or gender, sexual orientation, disability, or geographical residence of the student.

II. Enforcement period of Code of Conduct:

This policy shall be in effect for all school district activities from the time school officially begins each fall until the activity ceases. It shall be in effect if the Nebraska School Activities Association or the superintendent of schools authorizes an activity before classes officially begin in the fall or after classes end in the spring. This policy shall be in effect during times such as weekends, vacation times, or holidays that may occur during the time school officially starts in the fall and ends in the spring. This policy applies to conduct on school grounds, at school activities on and off school grounds, on school buses, and at school bus stops. This policy applies to acts that:

- A. Begin on school grounds and end off school grounds; or
- B. Begin off school grounds and continue on school ground; or
- C. Pose a likelihood of disruption of education at the school; or
- D. Occur when the student is on the way to or leaving school or any school related activity.

(Note: It is possible that a student would be expected to observe the conditions of this policy for the entire school year even though he or she may not participate or begin participating in an activity until later in the school year).

This policy shall not cover the months between calendar school years, unless the student's violation occurs at any summer activity that may be sponsored by the school district or authorized by the board of education.

If a student violates any portion of this policy at a time that his or her suspension or expulsion from an activity would normally cover a greater time period than what may remain in the school year, the administration reserves the right to continue the suspension or expulsion into the next school year.

III. Suspension and Expulsion from Activities:

Student conduct which may result in short term suspension, long term suspension, or expulsion from an activity shall include, but may not be limited to the following student conduct. Should a student's conduct violate other school district policies, the student could also be subject to suspension or expulsion from school (See Policy 506.01).

- A. Failure to maintain academic standing as set forth in Policy 611.05, Grading System, Eligibility, and Progress Reports and the scholastic guidelines set forth by the Nebraska School Activities Association.
- B. Unsportsmanlike conduct displayed toward his or her fellow student(s), school district personnel, game or activity officials, opposing players or personnel, or other individuals.
- C. A repeated violation of any school rule, regulation, or school board policy, if such violation constitutes substantial interference with school purposes and may be deemed to interfere with the success of the activity.

- D. Any violation of the constitution, by-laws, or Approved Rulings of the Nebraska School Activity Association.
- E. Engaging in selling, using, possessing or dispensing of alcohol, tobacco, narcotics, drugs, controlled substance, or an inhalant; being under the influence of any of the above; possession of drug paraphernalia, or the selling using, possessing, or dispensing of an imitation controlled substance as defined in Section 28-401 of Nebraska statutes, or material represented to be alcohol, narcotics, drugs, a controlled substance or inhalant. The term “under the influence” has a less strict meaning than it does under criminal law; for school purposes, the term means any level of impairment and includes even the odor of alcohol or illegal substances on the breath or person of a student; also, it includes being impaired by reason of the abuse of any material used as a stimulant.
- F. The constructive possession, even though there may be no actual physical possession, but there is dominion and control over the substance such as knowing the alcohol, tobacco, narcotics, drugs, controlled substance, or an inhalant are available and/or are being used by individuals not authorized to have or use the products. Students shall have the responsibility to remove themselves from that situation. (Example: The student is in a vehicle or on the premises where he or she knows that alcohol, anabolic steroids, or drug products exist and/or are being used or consumed by fellow students or other unauthorized individuals.)
- G. Any activity which will embarrass or disgrace the Banner County School District, his or her fellow activity participants, or the students.
- H. Violation of any other school policy or rules.

Students suspended or expelled from school will not be permitted to participate in student activities while serving out such suspension or expulsion. Students assigned detention by teachers and/or administration must report the detention to their coach or activity sponsor(s). The coach, sponsor(s) and Activity Director will determine any additional action to be taken according to the activity rules given to students at the beginning of the year.

- A. Short Term Suspension:
Suspension up to four contests (or activities), or four weeks. The penalty will be carried over to the next co-curricular or extra curricular activity if the violation occurs at the end of a season. Students will not be allowed to participate in school activities during the suspension.
- B. Long Term Suspension:
Suspension for five to eight contests or activities, or five to eight weeks. The penalty will be carried over to the next co-curricular or extra curricular activity if the violation occurs at the end of a season. Students will not be allowed to participate in school activities during the suspension.

C. Expulsion:

Removal from all activities and the student will not be allowed to participate in any further activities for one calendar year.

Note: Although suspended from participation in an athletic contest, a student may be allowed to attend a contest as a spectator upon approval of the administration. The same would not be accepted for attendance at a school dance where attendance would be considered as participation. The extent of what defines attendance or participation for a particular activity will be at the discretion of the coaches, sponsor(s), Activities Director and Administration in applying this policy.

Exceptions:

Exceptions may be made to the length of suspension or expulsion under the following conditions:

1. If the student reports his or her offense (alcohol, tobacco, or drug offense) to a school official within twenty-four hours of the infraction and submits to and completes an accredited treatment program.
2. The school district may require, through school and/or community agencies, the student to obtain help for a substance abuse or mental problem. If substance abuse or mental/counseling help is required, it will be at the student's expense; the school will not be responsible for the costs of such services. In no instance shall participation in a community-approved assistance program excuse a student from subsequent compliance with this regulation. However, successful utilization of such an opportunity by the student may allow the student to have eligibility reinstated in the activity, after a minimum ineligibility period, pending determination of the school administration.

IV. Due Process:

Every Student has a right to due process. Discipline should be progressive, consistent, and reasonable. Before any disciplinary action is taken, a student will be given "due process," which is an opportunity to the following procedures:

- A. In the case of minor infractions as determined by coaches, sponsor(s), Activity Director and administration the student will have the right to:
 1. Find out the alleged violation and the evidence supporting the alleged violation;
 2. Present the student's side of the story.
- B. For suspensions or expulsions the following procedures shall be followed:
 1. Notice of Charges: Before such suspensions or expulsions, the student shall be given oral or written notice of:

- a) The charges against him or her.
 - b) An explanation of the evidence the authorities have.
 - c) An opportunity for the student to present his or her version.
2. **Written Statement:** Within twenty-four hours or such additional time as is reasonably necessary following such suspension, the building principal shall send a written statement to the student and his or her parents or guardians describing the following:
 - a) The student's conduct, misconduct, or violation of the policy, rule, or regulation.
 - b) The reasons for the action taken.
 3. **Building Principal-Parent/Guardian Conference:** The building principal shall make a reasonable effort to hold a conference with the parents or guardians before the student is suspended or expelled from the activity. The purpose of the conference shall be to explain why the student is to be suspended or expelled from the activity and advise them as to what may be expected of the student and parents or guardians during the suspension or expulsion to justify the reinstatement of the student at the end of the suspension or expulsion.
 4. The school district will afford the student and his or her parents or guardians the right to challenge the decisions made by the principal and activities director. If the student and his/her parents or guardians wish to appeal the decision of the activities director and principal, they may do so in writing to the superintendent within five (5) school days of being notified of such suspension or expulsion of an activity. The decision of the superintendent will terminate the appeal procedure.
 5. During the time items B.1 - 4 are being carried out, the student shall not participate in any co-curricular or extra-curricular events. Whether the student will be allowed to continue to practice shall be at the discretion of the sponsor and the building principal and will be governed by the severity of the reasons for the suspension or expulsion.

ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY

Any students in grades 7-12 who are failing in two subject areas will be declared ineligible for the following school week (Monday through Saturday). Eligibility for each week will be determined on Thursday of the preceding week at 11:00 a.m. This will be a cumulative grade point average. Academically ineligible students will not be allowed to participate in activities with the team and will not travel with the team. Students will not participate in any school activities including, but not limited to, dances, awards, prom, etc.

Nebraska School Activities Association Rules:

In order to represent a high school in interscholastic athletic competition, a student must abide by eligibility rules of the Nebraska School Activities Association. A summary of

the major rules is given below. Contact the principal or activities director for an explanation of the complete rules.

1. Student must be an undergraduate.
2. Student must be enrolled in at least twenty hours per week and regular in attendance, in accordance with the school's attendance policy at the school he/she wishes to represent in interscholastic competition.
3. Student must be enrolled in some high school on or before the eleventh school day of the current year.
4. Student is ineligible if nineteen years of age before August 1 of current school year.
5. After a student's initial enrollment in grade nine, he/she shall be ineligible after eight semesters of school membership.
6. Student must have been enrolled in school the immediate preceding semester.
7. Student must have received twenty semester hours of credit the immediate preceding semester.
8. Once the season of a sport begins, a student shall compete only in athletic contests/meets in that sport which are scheduled by his/her school. Any other competition will render the student ineligible for a portion of, or all of, the season in that sport. The season of a sport begins with the first date of practice as permitted by NSAA rules.
9. A student shall not participate in sports camps or clinics during the season of a sport in which he/she is involved, either as an individual or as a member of a team.
10. A student shall not participate on an all-star team while a high school undergraduate.
11. A student entering grade nine for the first time after being promoted from grade eight of a two-year junior high, or a three-year middle school, or entering a high school for the first time after being promoted to grade ten from a three-year junior high school is eligible. After making a choice of high schools, any subsequent transfer will cause the student to be ineligible for ninety school days.
12. A student is ineligible for 90 school days if his/her parents have changed their domicile to another school district and the student has remained in the former school which is in a different school district. (EXCEPTION: If parents have moved after school has started, the student will be eligible to compete for the remainder of the school year, or if parents have moved

during the summer which immediately precedes the school year and the student is in grade twelve and has attended the high school for two or more years, the student is eligible for that school year in the school district from which the parents moved.)

13. Guardianship does not fulfill the definition of a parent. If a guardian has been appointed for a student, the student is eligible in the school district where his/her natural parent(s) have their domicile. Individual situations involving guardianship may be submitted to the Executive director for his review and a ruling.
14. A student shall not participate in a contest under an assumed name.
15. A student must maintain his/her amateur status.

PHYSICAL EXAMINATION, STUDENT/PARENTAL CONSENT AND PARTICIPATION WARNING WAIVER, EMERGENCY TREATMENT AND INSURANCE INFORMATION, AND RECEIPT OF CONCUSSION AWARENESS INFORMATION.

The physical examination, student/parental consent and warning waiver, and the emergency treatment and insurance information must all be completed prior to participating in activities. Students not participating in athletics are not required to have a physical exam, or injury and accident insurance.

A yearly physical examination is required for all students participating in athletics. The physical form must be completed by a physician and submitted to the office prior to participation. The physical covers all sports for the entire school year.

The student/parental consent and warning waiver acknowledges to the school that the parent or guardian has given the student permission to participate in the activities offered by Banner County School and that the student and parents or guardians agree to participate under the rules and guidelines set forth by the Nebraska School Activities Association. Along with giving parental consent to participate, it also brings attention to the existence of potential dangers associated with athletic injuries. Participation in any athletic activity may involve injury of some type. The severity of such injury can range from minor cuts, bruises, sprains and muscle strains to more serious injuries to the body's bones, joints, ligaments, tendons, or muscles, to catastrophic injuries to the head, neck and spinal cord. On rare occasions, injuries can be so severe as to result in total disability, paralysis or death. Even with appropriate coaching, appropriate safety instruction, appropriate protective equipment and strict observance of the rules, injuries are still a possibility.

Banner County School will provide concussion awareness information to parents and students. An acknowledgement of the receipt of that information must be returned to the school prior to practice. All athletes will participate in the ImPACT concussion management program. Concussion protocols as outlined in the Banner Board of Education Policy 508.15 will be followed.

The permission for emergency treatment must be signed by the parents/guardians and will give authorization and permission for treatment by a physician or hospital when the parent or guardian is not available.

Banner County School requires that all athletes have injury and accident insurance. The required insurance information is also included for the record keeping staff of the doctor's office or hospital in the event of an injury. Each athlete must prove they have adequate injury and accident insurance in order to participate in any athletic activities.

USE AND CARE OF EQUIPMENT

Participants are responsible for all equipment and uniforms checked out to them. If at any time these items are lost or stolen it will be the responsibility of the participant to replace the lost/stolen items by purchasing new ones at full cost. Equipment and uniforms that become worn out or damaged due to normal use will not be held against the person it was checked out to, however if it is determined that the damage was avoidable the individual will pay to have it repaired or replaced.

INJURY TO AN ATHLETE

Every injury must be reported to the coaches. This means anything from a jammed finger and pulled muscle to a more serious injury. Any time an athlete is injured and must obtain the care of a medical physician they cannot participate in any athletic activities until they have secured a signed release from that medical physician. This release should be given to the head coach.

Banner County School has contracted for athletic training services with Monument Physical Therapy. The athletic trainer will be at the school once a week to see athletes who have been injured or need rehabilitation.

ATTENDANCE

Students must be in attendance all 9 class periods in order to practice, participate, or travel with the team in any extra-curricular activity unless previously approved by the administration. Bereavement and doctor's appointments may be excused. The administration retains the right to grant participation should exceptional circumstances prevail.

TRANSPORTATION/TEAM TRAVEL

Transportation to and from school activities will be provided by the school. Participants will travel on the activities bus. Special circumstances must be approved by the Principal or Activities Director. Special circumstances do not include simple convenience!

Other than the school grounds, students may be picked up and dropped off along designated stop sites only. These designated stop sites are the following: South at 1451 Hwy. 71, South at 3886 N Hwy. 71, Hwy 88 West & 71, North at Central Church of

Christ parking lot, and west at Hwy 88 & Wrights Gap Road (Whipple's Corner) and west at Redington.

Students who ride a bus to an activity must ride home on the bus unless they ride with a parent or guardian or have prior written permission from a parent or guardian to ride home with another adult or high school graduate. Parents, guardians, designated adults, or high school graduates must sign the student off the bus before departure. Students will not be excused to ride home with siblings who are still in high school.

BEHAVIOR OUT OF TOWN

Students who are attending school activities must remember that they not only represent the school but also their community. Sponsors have the right and the responsibility to stop and discipline improper behavior such as fighting, cursing, or any other behavior that would not be tolerated in school.

USE OF SCHOOL FACILITIES AND SUPERVISION OF STUDENTS

Students are not to be in the school facilities without supervision.

Handbook revised July 2016

I have read the Banner County School Activities Handbook and agree to comply with its guidelines and requirements.

Student signature

Parent/Guardian signature

Date

Date