

VERMILION LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

STUDENT ATHLETE GUIDE

Revised

October 8, 2007

PHILOSOPHY

The goal of the Vermilion Local School District is to provide each student with an opportunity to develop as a complete person. To help accomplish this goal, we offer athletic activities that provide students with experiences outside the classroom. The value and learning outcomes which are fostered by these activities are an important part of a student's total experience. Participants are expected to adhere to the Athletic Behavior Code and Competition Expectations as approved by the Board of Education and implemented by the District Administration. Participation in athletic activities is a *privilege*, not a right, extended to all students who meet the eligibility requirements.

PREFACE

The Athletic Behavior Code provides for disciplinary action for any student participating in athletic activities who falls below the minimum conduct requirements. Violations of the Athletic Behavior Code will be subject to discipline administered under the direction of the Superintendent or designee, which may include removal from the event, suspension of participation in some or all activities for part of a season, a season or a school year and/or referral to the local authorities. The behavior may also warrant discipline under the Vermilion Local School District's Student Code of Conduct.

In addition, each student participating in athletic activities is obligated under the direction of the coach or activity advisor to strive to meet the Competition Expectations. Conduct or behavior which fails to meet these Competition Expectations may also violate, and be disciplined, under the Student Code of Conduct and/or the Athletic Behavior Code.

The administration of the Vermilion Local School District is responsible for administering the Student Code of Conduct and the Athletic Behavior Code.

ATHLETIC BEHAVIOR CODE

Students who participate in athletic activities represent not only themselves, but also the Vermilion Local Schools and the local community. Since student participants are the direct representative of their school, they are expected to maintain a high standard of exemplary behavior.

All students who wish to participate in an athletic activity shall be willing to accept the guidelines, rules and regulations that govern the activity in which they wish to participate. Since these activities are a privilege for each participating individual, it is important that students and parents/guardians be aware of the rules and regulations which are in effect twenty-four hours per day, seven days per week, and 365 days per year. The Administration reserves the right to determine the appropriateness of penalties based on the severity of the violation.

As much as possible, this Student Athlete Guide covers most issues of athletic policy and conduct. However, because future events and circumstances cannot always be seen clearly at print time, the administration of Vermilion Local Schools reserves the right to change these policies or establish new policies as issues occur.

A. GENERAL

1. The provisions outlined in this policy shall be in effect twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, from the time of completion of Middle School, or the transfer or enrollment into Vermilion High School, and ends upon graduation. These provisions also include those athletic activities that commence before the beginning of the school year or extend beyond the conclusion of the school year.
3. Any offense that results in a student being suspended from school shall automatically become a violation of the Athletic Behavior Code.
4. Violations of the Athletic Behavior Code which occur outside of the school day, at a non-school sponsored event or activity, shall be subject to the penalties outlined herein, but may or may not be considered a violation of school rules and regulations.
5. This policy is applicable to students in any athletic activity in grades 7 through 12, in which they participate as players or members.

B. DEFINITIONS

The terms used in this policy are defined as follows:

1. Alcohol: Any liquor, wine, beer or other beverage containing alcohol.
2. Drugs: Any drug, including illegal drugs, marijuana, inhalants, legal prescription and over-the-counter drugs used or possessed or distributed for unauthorized purposes, counterfeit (look alike) substances and tobacco products.
3. Drug Paraphernalia: Equipment or apparatus designed for or used for the purpose of measuring, packaging, distributing or facilitating the use of drugs.

4. Substance Abuse: The use of drugs, alcohol or tobacco products in violation of state or federal law or in violation of school policy.
5. Out of Season: The time in which an sport is not currently active or is out of season as defined by the Ohio High School Athletic Association (the “OHSAA”) calendar.
6. In Season: The time in which a sport is active or is “in season” as defined by the OHSAA calendar.

C. FORBIDDEN CONDUCT

1. Disruption of Activity: Students participating in athletic activities shall not cause disruption or obstruction of athletic programs, by use of violence, force, coercion, threat or words.
2. Damage of Property: Students participating in athletic activities shall not willfully or recklessly cause or attempt to cause damage to property owned by the Board of Education, private individuals or other public agencies.
3. Assault and Battery: Students participating in athletic activities shall not intimidate, threaten, assault, or commit battery upon any person, nor shall a student behave in such a manner that could cause physical or emotional injury to such persons.
4. Dangerous Weapons and Instruments: Students participating in athletic activities shall not illegally use, possess, handle, transmit, or conceal dangerous weapons, substances, or instruments which include, but are not limited to, firearms, knives, mace, tear gas, firecrackers, explosives, incendiaries, or other similar devices except as expressly authorized by the Superintendent, Principal or other designees.
5. Obscenity: Students participating in athletic activities shall not use obscenity, profanity, or other patently offensive language or gestures.
6. Theft: Students participating in athletic activities shall not wrongfully take, carry away, or exercise dominion and control over property of others.
7. Insubordination: Students participating in athletic activities shall adhere to all rules established by the advisor(s)/coach(es) in which the student participates. The advisor/coach and Administration shall have the right to remove a student from immediate participation in any activities under the advisor’s/coach’s supervision if the student’s presence poses a continuing danger to persons or property or an ongoing threat of disrupting the team, competition(s), school, travel on any school-provided transportation or any school-sponsored activity held on or off school property.
8. Student Athletes: Student athletes shall comply with the rules and regulations of the governing body of the OHSAA.
9. Criminal Activity: Students participating in athletic activities shall not engage in activities which violate local, state or federal criminal laws.
10. Use of Tobacco: Students participating in athletic activities shall not use or possess any tobacco product which shall include, but are not limited to, cigarettes, cigars, snuff, chewing tobacco, or pipes.
11. Alcohol, Chemical Use and/or Abuse: Students participating in athletic activities shall not, at any time, possess, use, sell, offer to sell, deliver, conceal, consume, abuse or be under the influence of any drugs or alcohol. This includes attending parties where alcoholic beverages or drugs are openly used or consumed. Use of drugs authorized by a medical prescription from a licensed physician shall not be considered in violation of this policy. Such use shall be made known to and recorded by the Principal or school nurse. Students participating in athletic activities shall not possess, use, sell, offer to sell, deliver, or conceal any instruments or paraphernalia for use with drugs.

D. STUDENTS WHO VOLUNTARILY SEEK HELP FOR SUBSTANCE ISSUES

A student who voluntarily seeks help for alcohol or chemical problems with any situation covered by the alcohol, chemical use and/or abuse section of the Athletic Behavior Code prior to the imposition of any discipline at the discretion of the Administration, may be excused from full imposition of discipline, provided that the student voluntarily and fully participates, to the satisfaction of the Administration, in a program designed to help the student avoid such situations in the future. The provisions of this paragraph are not applicable once the offense has been committed and becomes known to the coach, advisors, and/or Administration.

E. PENALTIES

The Administration has the obligation to determine the appropriateness of any penalty, including the right to increase or reduce the penalty imposed in light of the violation.

1. Out of Season

a. First Violation

A first violation of the Athletic Behavior Code will result in discipline up to and including removal from participation. Any student athlete violating the Athletic Behavior Code sections regarding alcohol, tobacco, drugs or any criminal activities shall be required to show written proof of having an “assessment” and completing the recommendations of the assessment. Any criminal activity violations will be determined by the Administration on the severity of the violation.

b. Second Violation

A second violation of the Athletic Behavior Code will normally result in a student being removed from participation for sixty (60) days.

c. Third Violation and Subsequent Violations

A third or subsequent violation of the Athletic Behavior Code will normally result in removal from participation for a period of one hundred eighty (180) school days.

d. Removal

The student may not be allowed to practice or play during the removal.

2. In Season

a. First Violation

For activities which have a schedule of public playing dates or activities, a first violation of the Athletic Behavior Code normally will result in removal from participation for up to twenty percent (20%) of the scheduled season. Any student athlete violating the Athletic Behavior Code sections regarding alcohol, tobacco, drugs or any criminal activities shall be required to show written proof of having an “assessment” and completing the recommendations of the assessment. Any criminal activity violations will be determined by the Administration on the severity of the violation.

b. Second Violation

A second violation of the Athletic Behavior Code normally will result in a student being removed from participation for a period of sixty (60) days.

c. Third Violation and Subsequent Violations

A third or subsequent violation of the Athletic Behavior Code normally will result in removal from participation for a period of one hundred eighty (180) school days.

d. Removal

The student may not be allowed to practice or play during the period of time he/she has been removed.

F. NO RIGHT TO APPEAL

The Vermilion Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent or designee, to suspend or remove a student from participating in any or all athletic activities for violations of the Athletic Behavior Code. The decision of the Superintendent or designee is not subject to due process procedures and there are no rights of appeal.

G. CHAIN OF COMMAND TO PROCESS ISSUES

Students participating in athletic activities or their parents may have questions, complaints, recommendations, or commendations. When these arise, please raise them in the following order:

- a. First, speak directly to the coach and/or head coach of the athletic activity.
- b. If not resolved, or if the issue has to do with how the athletic activity is conducted in the district, speak with the Athletic Director.
- c. If still not resolved, speak with the Principal.

COMPETITION EXPECTATIONS FOR STUDENTS
PARTICIPATING IN ATHLETIC ACTIVITIES

All students participating in athletic activities shall be expected to exhibit good citizenship/sportsmanship. These traits help build character, which includes truthfulness, fair play, honesty, self-discipline, courage, self-restraint and loyalty. A student participating in athletic activities which involve athletics or other competition should aspire to:

- A. Accept and understand the seriousness of his/her responsibility, and the privilege of representing the school, District and community.
- B. Live up to the standards of sportsmanship established by the Administration and the coaching staff.
- C. Learn the rules of the sport or competition thoroughly and discuss them with parents, fans, fellow students, and elementary students. This will assist the student and others to achieve a better understanding and appreciation of the sport or competition.
- D. Treat opponents the way the student would like to be treated, as a guest or friend.
- E. Refrain from taunting, trash talking, and making any kind of derogatory remarks to opponents during the game, especially comments of ethnic, racial or sexual nature.
- F. Refrain from intimidating behavior.
- G. Wish opponents good luck before the game or competition and congratulate them in a sincere manner following either victory or defeat.
- H. Respect the integrity and judgment of competition officials. The officials are doing their best to help promote the athletic activity. Treating them with respect, even if the student disagrees with their judgment, will only make a positive impression of the student and the athletic activity in the eyes of the officials and all the people at the event.
- I. Win with humility; lose with grace. Do both with dignity.

Conduct or behavior which fails to meet these Competition Expectations may also violate, and be disciplined, under the Student Code of Conduct and/or the Athletic Behavior Code.

ATTENDANCE AND ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY

A. ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS

Any student who arrives at school more than thirty minutes after the start of the school day will be ineligible to participate in any/all athletic activities on that day. This includes practices, as well as contests, performances and other activities. Exceptions to this requirement would include field trips, scheduled educational experiences, or other emergencies as approved by the Superintendent or designee.

Students participating in any athletic activity are expected to attend and participate in all meetings, practices, games or performances, unless physically unable to do so, or other good reason for which permission was obtained in advance from the coach or advisor.

B. ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

Students who participate in athletic activities must be enrolled in courses totaling 2-1/2 credits. In addition, students who participate in athletic activities must maintain a minimum of a 1.5 GPA with no more than one F. Eligibility is determined by grades during the preceding nine (9) week grading period as identified by the OHSAA.

A student who is ineligible to participate in a contest or program may be permitted to practice during the first nine weeks he/she is ineligible. If a student is ineligible for a second 9 weeks during a school year, he/she may not participate in any athletic practices or activities.

An incomplete grade (I) will be treated as a failing grade if not completed by the succeeding grading period. Summer school grades earned cannot be used to substitute for failing grades from the last grading period of the regular school year.

The status of the scholastically ineligible athlete

- a. A student athlete, declared scholastically ineligible because of unacceptable grades for one grading period, may be permitted to practice. If the student athlete has been scholastically ineligible for two (2) consecutive grading periods, practice will not be permitted with any team.
- b. The student shall have a parent permission card on file. This card shall also be signed by a physician and so indicate absences of physical problems that would prevent participation in the athletic program.
- c. The player shall not participate in any game at any level.
- d. If the principal or coach feels that a student should not be practicing with the team because of citizenship, attitude or scholastic work, the privilege of participation may be denied.

**VERMILION LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
WAIVER AND RELEASE OF LIABILITY
AND PARTICIPATION CONSENT FORM**

IN CONSIDERATION of the undersigned student's opportunity to participate in organized athletic activities for or at the Vermilion Local School District, subject to the discretion of the Administration, we, the undersigned parents or legal guardian of the student, do hereby waive and fully and forever release and discharge the Vermilion Board of Education, and the Vermilion Local School District, and all of their board members, teachers, supervisors, officers, agents, employees and staff from all liabilities, claims, demands, suits and causes of action of every kind in any way related to or arising out of bodily and personal injuries, property damage, pain and suffering, lost income, mental anguish, emotional distress, medical expenses, losses and other damages which the student, parents or legal guardian incur, or are obligated to pay, as a result of accidents or occurrences while the student is participating in organized athletic activities for or at Vermilion Local Schools.

PARENT / GUARDIAN CONSENT

We the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) have read and understand the Vermilion Local School District Student Athlete Guide and the Student Code of Conduct. By giving our consent for our student to participate in an athletic activity, we acknowledge that we understand these conditions.

Parent / Guardian Signature Date Parent / Guardian Signature Date

Athlete health insurance coverage with : Insurance Company _____
Policy number: _____



STUDENT CONSENT

I, being a participant in an athletic activity at the Vermilion Local School District, have read and understand the following documents:

- the Vermilion Local School District Student Athlete Guide; and
- the Student Code of Conduct

I acknowledge that I am bound by the Vermilion Local School District Student Athlete Guide and the Athletic Behavior Code and Competition Expectations contained therein, as well as the Student Code of Conduct, and agree to abide by all rules, regulations and policies contained therein.

Participant Signature: _____ Date: _____