

Vernonia School District

Athletics/ Activities Participant Code of Conduct



Revised: 8/23/23

PARTICIPANT CODE OF CONDUCT

Preamble

Athletics and other co-curricular and extra-curricular activities, including student leadership, are an important part of the educational process. Activities are offered to students to keep them involved in educational programs and to help them become successful. In order to demonstrate the ideals of good leadership and sportsmanship, and respect for rules and authority; in order to establish team and school pride, teamwork, and team discipline; in order to eliminate disruptive influences in the locker room, on training fields, on the playing field, and on trips both on and off school grounds; and in order to provide conditions which promote health and safety for the individual unit and opponents, the following principles are adopted:

For purposes of this handbook, students involved in athletics, co-curricular activities, and extra-curricular activities, including student leadership, shall be referred to as "student" or "participant".

Participants are required to comply with this Participation Policy: (1) during the entire school year (beginning on the first day of practice of a Fall Sport or the first day of school, whichever is earliest, through the last day of school), (2) both on- and off-campus, and (3) at all times. Any participant who transfers from one school district to another school district will maintain his or her cumulative offense status regarding tobacco, alcohol, or controlled substances violations.

In addition to District policies, rules, and regulations, all participants must comply with OSAA rules and regulations.

Academic Requirements

OSAA Academic Requirements: Participants must be enrolled in, regularly attending, and passing at least five (5) semester units each semester, and must have been enrolled in and passing at least five (5) semester units in the previous semester. Further, the participant must be making satisfactory progress towards graduation. Students on an Individual Educational Program (IEP) may be deemed eligible by the IEP Team if the student is making adequate educational progress towards meeting the IEP goals and objectives.

In addition to the above requirements students must meet the School District Requirements listed on the following pages.

Eligibility

- A. To be eligible, participants must be passing all classes and maintain at least a 2.0 GPA.
- B. If a student does not meet the criteria, then he/she will be put on probation until the next grading period progress report.
- C. If a student is on probation, they must:
 - ✓ Attend study tables for a minimum of 2 hours per week with a teacher or approved staff member outside of regular class hours and in a functional learning environment. Study table sessions will not be held on the field/court.
 - ✓ Show progress in their class work and submit a weekly study table record, which will be monitored by the Athletic Director. Students are expected to have no tardies, no missing assignments, no behavioral problems, etc.
 - ✓ Remain on probation until eligible.
 - ✓ At any time, the student fails to complete the requirements set forth they will be deemed ineligible for the next week, and will not be allowed to compete.
- D. Students meeting probation requirements will be allowed to participate in practice and competitions.

E. Students on probation will become ineligible at the next grading period or progress report if they are not meeting eligibility requirements. They will remain ineligible until they pass all classes and have a 2.0 GPA, checked on a week by week basis. If a student fails to meet probation requirements for 2 consecutive weeks they will be ineligible for practice and remain ineligible until requirements are met.

Eligibility Checks

The athletic director/secretary will send complete rosters to all teachers for each season (fall, winter, spring) by the end of the first week of each season to help monitor academic progress. Teachers are encouraged to contact the athletic director/secretary or head coach if they feel a student is in academic trouble.

Conduct

Involvement in athletics, co-curricular activities, and extra-curricular activities is a *privilege*. As a member of a school team, participants are expected to conduct themselves responsibly and with sportsmanship on campus, in the community, and at other schools.

Misconduct shall result in discipline where: (a) the violation has been observed by a member of the coaching staff; (b) the offender has been cited by a law enforcement official, or (c) the violation is determined to be founded after investigation by a District official. This discipline will be in addition to any disciplinary action in the regular educational setting. Disciplinary action in the regular educational setting shall be grounds for misconduct disciplinary action under this Participation Policy.

Potentially criminal conduct, including theft, vandalism, fighting, menacing, or other activity that endangers the health, welfare, or property of others, will not be tolerated. The severity of any criminal conduct can result in a greater penalty at the discretion of the district.

First Offense: A participant's first offense shall result in immediate suspension from participation; the participant may be reinstated following a conference with the Head Coach/Advisor, Building Principal, Activities/Athletic Director, and Parents, and imposition of a suspension and other appropriate conditions (counseling, community service, restitution, etc.).

Second Offense: A participant's second offense shall result in suspension for twenty school days or the balance of the season, whichever is longer.

Third Offense: A participant's third offense shall result in suspension from participation for ninety (90) school days or the balance of the school year, whichever is longer.

Other misconduct such as poor sportsmanship, disruptive behavior, or other conduct unbecoming of a school ambassador shall be subject to discipline (including suspension or removal) at the discretion of the Head Coach/Advisor, Building Principal, and Activities/Athletic Director.

Participants are expected to be positive role models, and to demonstrate sportsmanship in the following ways: (a) treat opponents and spectators with respect, (b) not use profanity, (c) exercise self-control and accept and abide by coaches' and officials' decisions, (d) accept victory and defeat with pride, dignity, and compassion, (e) accept seriously the responsibility and privilege of representing the school and community, and (f) congratulate opponents in a sincere manner following the contest.

Standards of Conduct for Athletic/Activity Participation

To be eligible to participate in practices and contests a student shall not:

- ✓ Use or possess tobacco in any form.
- ✓ Eat, drink, inhale, or smoke any type of drug (alcohol is a drug) not prescribed by a doctor.
- ✓ Demonstrate characteristics not in keeping with the accepted standards of good citizenship, i.e. flagrant swearing, lying, cheating, stealing, etc.
- ✓ Be present at any function where alcohol, drugs, or tobacco are being used in an unlawful manner. **If at a function where the student discovers the presence of alcohol, drugs, or tobacco, they must leave immediately.**

Any violation of published school rules which results in school suspension of the student will result in one week of program ineligibility after the student returns from the school suspension. A second offense, which results in school suspension of the student, shall result in program ineligibility for one month, and begins from the time of return from the school suspension. No student shall practice or participate while he/she is suspended from school.

The head coach or advisor/teacher in each program may set additional standards to be followed by members participating in his/her program, such as curfew, dress standards, etc. These standards will be published. If a head coach or advisor/teacher establishes extensive additional expectations, they must be written and prior administrative approval is required.

In any one school year, a student planning on participating in any one of the various programs available under the Vernonia Activities Program is expected to adhere to the standards of conduct at all times prior to and during his/her program or activity.

Participation

No participant will be allowed to participate in a sport or activity until all previously issued equipment in a prior sport or activity has been returned or restitution made.

A participant may voluntarily drop out of a sport or activity in season during the first two weeks of the season without eliminating him or herself from supervised conditioning, weight training, or another sport or activity. A participant who drops out of a sport or activity in season after the first two weeks of official practice will not be allowed to participate in any other supervised athletic, co-curricular, or extra-curricular activity during the regular season without the agreement of both Head Coaches/Advisors and the Activities/Athletic Director. A participant who is "cut" from a team may transfer from one sport or activity to another.

Financial Clearance

To be eligible to participate in extracurricular activities all students must pay the established athletic sports fee before participating in their first contest.

Attendance

To be eligible to practice or to compete, a student must attend the **ENTIRE** school day the date of the activity. Exceptions:

- ✓ Absence due to an approved school function.
- ✓ Prearranged absences for professional services appointment such as DMV, dentist, doctor, or optometrist.
- ✓ Emergency absence due to illness/death in the family.
- ✓ Any other absence not mentioned above **WILL NOT** be considered unless prior approval has been obtained from the administration.

In all cases of absence, excluding emergency situations described above, the student is responsible for making arrangements to get all missed work prior to absence and complete as specified by the teacher.

Discriminatory Harassment and Bullying

The student/athlete will represent Vernonia School District in a socially acceptable manner at all school sanctioned events, whether home or away. The student/athlete will treat others fairly and respectfully, as well as refrain from any forms of discrimination, harassment or bullying based on an individual's age, disability, national origin, race, color, marital status, religion, sex and sexual orientation. Failure to do so will result in a *Participant Code of Conduct* violation.

Harassing conduct may take many forms, including verbal acts and name-calling; graphic and written statements, which include use of cell phones or the internet; or other conduct that may be physically threatening, harmful, or humiliating. Harassment does not have to include intent to harm, be directed at a specific target, or involve repeated incidents. Harassment creates a hostile environment when the conduct is sufficiently severe, pervasive or persistent, so as to interfere with or limit a student's ability to participate in or benefit from the services, activities, or opportunities offered by a school. When such harassment is based on age, disability, national origin, race, color, marital status, religion, sex and sexual orientation, it violates civil rights laws that the Oregon Department of Education enforces.

Vernonia School District is responsible for addressing discriminatory harassment incidents about which it knows or reasonably should have known. In some situations, the obvious signs of harassment are sufficient to put a school/district on notice. These include harassment that is in plain sight, widespread, or well known to students, staff, and spectators, such as harassment occurring during extracurricular activities, at the athletic contests, on a school bus, in parking lots, through graffiti, and demonstrations in public areas.

In other situations, Vernonia School District may become aware of misconduct, triggering an investigation, which could lead to the discovery of additional incidents that, taken together, may constitute a hostile environment.

Appropriate Steps to end discriminatory harassment will include disciplinary action against the harasser. These steps should not penalize the student who was harassed. Disciplinary action in activities and athletics will follow the consequences in the *Participant Code of Conduct* (Oregon Department of Education, Gill, C.). Discriminatory Harassment and Bullying prohibition shall result in the following:

First Offense: Suspension from participation in practice or competition for ten school days or two contests, whichever is longer.

Second Offense: Suspension from participation in practice or competition for twenty school days or the balance of the season. Additionally, participant shall forfeit any individual or team awards earned during the sports season that the violation occurred.

Third Offense: Suspension from participation in practice or competition for ninety school days or the balance of the school year. Additionally, participant shall forfeit any individual or team awards earned during the sports season that the violation occurred.

Transportation Policy & Protocol

Students will follow Curl School Bus Services procedures/policy as well as requirements set forth by the school district.

1. Students backpacks will be placed together in a designated location on the bus. Students will not be allowed to have their backpacks with them in their seats.
2. Students attending overnight trips will be subject to bag inspections prior to loading the bus. Once bags have been inspected students will not be allowed to get anything from their car and then get on the bus.
3. Students may be subject to a random bag search prior to departing for any trip.

Student Drug Testing

As part of the district's substance abuse prevention efforts, mandatory drug testing will be required of all students participating in after school activities, grades 7-12 in order to:

1. Provide for the student health and safety;
2. Undermine the effects of peer pressure; and
3. Encourage participation in treatment programs, at parent expense, for student athletes with substance abuse problems.

No student athlete shall be penalized academically for testing positive for illegal or performance-enhancing drugs. Test results will not be documented in any student's education records. Information regarding the results of drug tests will not be disclosed to criminal or juvenile authorities absent a valid and binding subpoena or other legal process, which the district shall not solicit. In the event of a subpoena or other legal process, the district will notify the student's parents at least 72 hours prior to releasing information. Student athletes may be tested at the beginning of any athletic season in which he/she participates. Random testing will be conducted periodically thereafter by a method determined by the district to assure the integrity, confidentiality and random nature of the selection process. No district employee shall knowingly sell, market or distribute steroid or performance enhancing substances to any students with whom the employee has contact as part of the employee's district duties; or knowingly endorse or suggest the use of such drugs. (VSD Policy: JFCIA)

Controlled Substances

The possession, use, ingestion, or conveyance of tobacco, inhalants (e-cigarettes, vaping products etc.), alcohol, or actual or imitation restricted, controlled, or illegal substance or drug is strictly prohibited. Students are not to be at any function where alcohol, drugs or tobacco are being used in an unlawful manner. Violations of the Controlled Substance prohibition shall result in the following:

First Offense: Suspension from participation in practice or competition for ten school days or two contests, whichever is longer, and evaluation for and successful completion of a diversion/intervention program prescribed by the District. Successful completion includes continued compliance with any recommendations of the program administrator. Non-completion or non-compliance with the diversion/intervention program requirements constitutes a second offense.

Second Offense: Suspension from participation in practice or competition for twenty school days or the balance of the season, whichever is longer, and evaluation for and successful completion of a diversion/intervention program prescribed by the District. Additionally, participant shall forfeit any individual or team awards earned during the sports season that the violation occurred.

Successful completion of diversion/intervention includes continued compliance with any recommendations of the program administrator. Non-completion or non-compliance with the diversion/intervention program requirements constitutes a third offense.

Third Offense: Suspension from participation in practice or competition for ninety school days or the balance of the school year, whichever is longer, and evaluation for and successful completion of a diversion/intervention program prescribed by the District. Additionally, participant shall forfeit any individual or team awards earned during the sports season that the violation occurred.

Successful completion includes continued compliance with any recommendations of the program administrator. Non-completion or non-compliance with the diversion/intervention program requirements after a third offense will result in suspension of participation until the student completes or comes into compliance with the program requirements.

Suspensions shall carry over from season to season, and from year to year (including over the summer). Violations are cumulative over the student's high school career.

If a participant voluntarily requests assistance from school officials with regard to a tobacco, alcohol or controlled substance addiction, prior to being investigated or apprehended for an offense, there shall be no athletic, co-curricular activity, or extra-curricular activity participation disciplinary consequence (other than any required by law), provided that: (a) the participant obtains evaluation for and successfully completes a diversion/intervention program prescribed by the District (including continued compliance with any recommendations of the program administrator), and (b) the participant does not commit any further tobacco, alcohol or controlled substance offense.

Appeal

Disciplinary action taken under this Participation Policy may be appealed by the sanctioned participant or his or her parent by written notice to the Building Principal, copied to the Head Coach/Advisor or the Activities/Athletic Director, within seven calendar days of the first notice of discipline. The Appeals Committee will convene and consider the appeal within two school days after the written appeal is submitted.

The Appeals Committee shall be appointed by the Building Principal, and shall be comprised of an administrator, a coach/advisor, a community representative, and two licensed staff members. The Appeals Committee shall not be obligated to conduct a full evidentiary hearing, but shall render a recommendation to the Superintendent after hearing from all sides in a disputed disciplinary action. In formulating its recommendation, the Appeals Committee shall be bound to the requirements of this Participation Policy, but may include a recommendation to modify application of the Participation Policy when, in its opinion, there are mitigating circumstances beyond the control of the student or parent, or there are other circumstances whereby enforcement of the rule would work an undue hardship upon the student.

Appeal from the Appeals Committee recommendation and Superintendent action may be made to the School Board upon written notice to the Superintendent within seven calendar days of the Superintendent's action. Where practicable, the School Board shall consider the appeal at its next regular scheduled meeting.

Diversion Plan

Step 1

The student will become educated about the use and abuse of alcohol, tobacco, or other drugs by participating in an approved class/meeting conducted by a drug, alcohol, and/or tobacco counselor/professional, and view/read all materials/literature provided by the counselor/professional.

Step 2

The student will gain more knowledge concerning the social and medical implications of controlled substance use by interviewing one law enforcement officer or one medical professional. Student will keep notes of the interview.

Step 3

The student will write a narrative paper using all the information gathered from the above experiences and other sources; discussing and supporting non-use of alcohol, tobacco, or other drugs by teenagers. Minimum 300 words.

Step 4

The student will make an apology to his peers (team or squad activity). This will reinforce the commitment of the student.

Step 5

The student will meet with a select committee composed of three of the following four: administrator, teacher, coach, and school counselor. The purpose of this meeting is to give the student a chance for an evaluation of the diversion program.