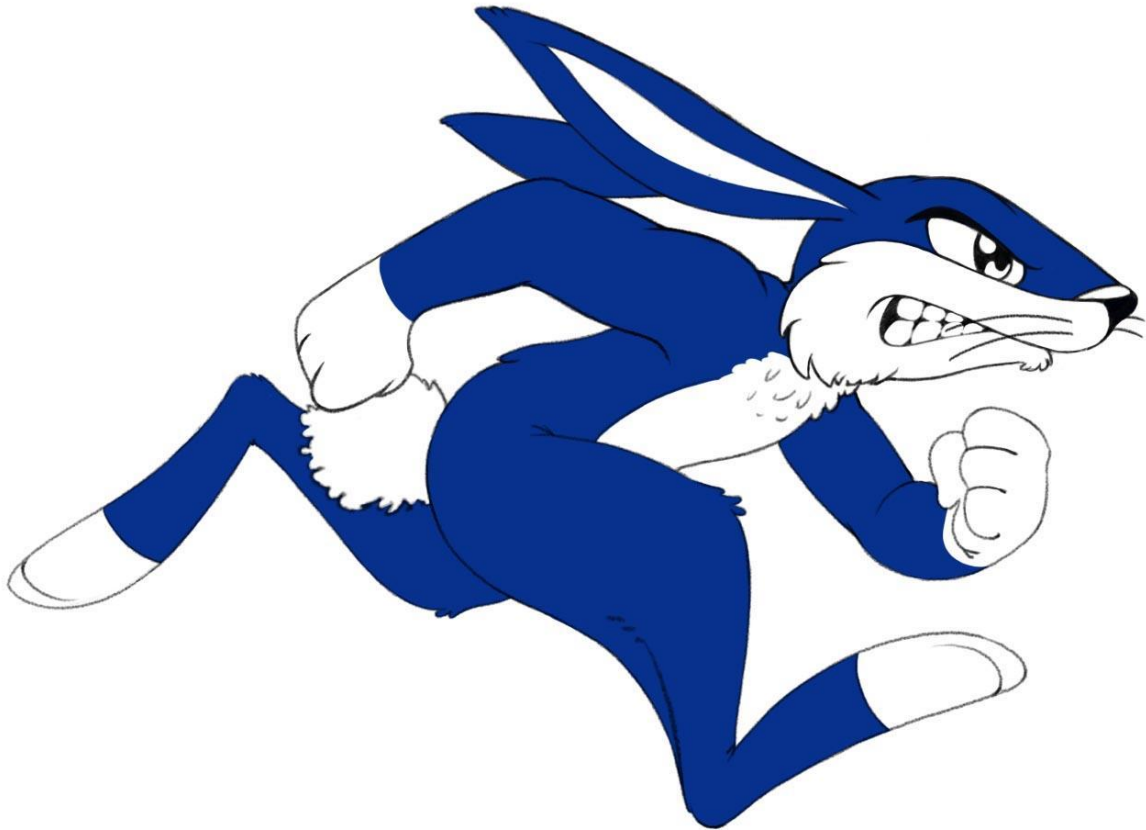


Kansas School for the Deaf
Jackrabbits



Student-Athletes and Parents Handbook
2023-2024

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PURPOSE

The purpose of this Handbook is to provide pertinent information to students and families participating in the Kansas School for the Deaf Athletic Program.

Students are expected to read and become familiar with its contents. Coaches, teachers, and administrators expect student-athletes to have knowledge of the contents of the Handbook and will refer to this Handbook whenever questions arise.

Parents are requested to discuss the contents of the Handbook with their son/daughter. Having a common understanding of the rules and regulations that govern extra-curricular activities will assist in significantly reducing concerns and unforeseen problems.

KSD Athletic Department Directory

Activity Coordinator

Dean Muszynski

E-mail: dmuszynski1@kssdb.org

(913) 324-5846

Foltz Gym in the basement

Dean of Student Life

Mary Hughes

Email: mhughes@kssdb.org

(913) 324-5837

Roth Building 2nd Floor

Student Life Administrative Assistant

Sydnee Kuster

Email skuster@kssdb.org

913-324-5360

Roth Building 1st Floor

KSD Athletic Profile

Mascot: Jackrabbits

Colors: Royal Blue and White

SPORTS OFFERED:

Fall Sports

Youth Soccer
Youth Flag Football
Youth Volleyball
Middle School Football
Middle School Cheerleading
Middle School Volleyball
High School Cheerleading
High School Varsity Football
High School Varsity Volleyball
High School Junior Varsity Volleyball
Special Olympics Bowling

Winter Sports

Youth Basketball
Middle School Cheerleading
Middle School Girls Basketball
Middle School Boys Basketball
High School Cheerleading
High School Varsity Boys Basketball
High School Junior Varsity Boys Basketball
High School Varsity Girls Basketball
High School Junior Varsity Girls Basketball
Special Olympics Bowling

Spring Sports

Youth Volleyball
Youth Soccer
Middle School Girls and Boys Track and Field
High School Girls Track and Field
High School Boys Track and Field
Special Olympics Bowling

All Sports Honors Banquet - May

INTRODUCTION

1. Parent / Guardians

This information is presented to you because your son or daughter has indicated a desire to participate in interscholastic athletics and you have expressed your willingness to permit him/her to compete. Your family interest in this important component of our school program is gratifying. We believe that participation in sports provides a wealth of opportunities and experiences which assist students in personal adjustments.

We are concerned with the educational development of boys and girls through athletics and feel that a properly controlled, well-organized sports program can meet student needs for self-expression, social, mental and physical growth. It is our intent to conduct a program that is educationally sound in purpose and will enhance each student's personal growth.

A student who elects to participate in athletics is voluntarily making a choice of self-discipline and commitment. These are the reasons we place such stress on good training habits. Failure to comply with the rules of training and conduct means exclusion from the squad. This concept of self-discipline and commitment is tempered by our responsibility to recognize the rights of the individual within objectives of the team. There is no place in high school athletics for students who will not discipline their minds and bodies for rigorous competition. We are striving for excellence.

It is the role of the department of athletics to make rules that govern the spirit of competition for the school. These rules need a broad basis of community support, which is achieved only through communication to the parent. It is our hope to accomplish this objective through this athletic publication for students and parents.

2. Student - Athlete

Being a member of the KSD athletic team is a fulfillment of an early ambition for many students. The attainment of this goal carries with it certain traditions and responsibilities that must be maintained. A great athletic tradition is not built overnight; it takes the hard work of many people over many years. As a member of an interscholastic squad of Kansas School for the Deaf, you have inherited a wonderful tradition which you are challenged to uphold.

Our tradition has been to win with honor. We desire to win, but only with honor to our athletes, our schools and our community. Such a tradition is worthy of the best efforts of all concerned. Over many years our squads have achieved more than their share of tournament championships. Many individuals have set records and achieved All-American and All-State honors.

It will not be easy to contribute to such a great athlete tradition. When you wear the colors of your school, we assume that you not only understand our traditions, but are

willing to assume the responsibilities that go with them. However, the contributions you make should be a satisfying accomplishment to you and your family.

- a) Responsibilities to Yourself: the most important of these responsibilities is to broaden and develop strength of character. You owe it to yourself to derive the greatest benefit from your school experiences. Your academic studies, your participation in other extracurricular activities as well as in sports, prepare you for your life as an adult.
- b) Responsibilities to Your School: Another responsibility you assume as a team member is to your school. KSD cannot maintain its position as having an outstanding school unless you do your best in the activity in which you engage. By participating in athletics to the maximum of your ability, you are contributing to the reputation of your school.

You assume a leadership role when you are on the athletic team. The school, the community, and other communities judge our school by your conduct and attitude, both on and off the field. Because of this leadership role, you can contribute significantly to school spirit and community pride. Make KSD proud of you and your community proud of your school, by your consistent demonstration of these ideals.

- c) Responsibilities to Others: As a squad member you also bear a heavy responsibility to your team. If you never give your team anything to be ashamed of, you will have measured up to the ideal. When you know in your heart that you have lived up to all of the training rules, that you have practiced to the best of your ability every day and that you have played the game the best you can, you can keep your self-respect and your team can be justly proud of you.

The younger students are watching you. They will copy you in many ways. Do not do anything to let them down. Set good examples for them.

ELIGIBILITY QUALIFICATIONS FOR COMPETITION

Age Eligibility: According to Kansas State High School Activities Association policy, any student who reaches the age of sixteen on or before September 1, shall be ineligible for any middle/junior high school competition.

A seventh or eighth grade junior high school student in a two-year junior high school, who has reached the age of 15 on or before September 1, or a ninth grade junior high school student, may participate on a senior high school team with the approval of both principals provided both schools are under the same board of education or school board. A student who moves up under the regulation shall be ineligible for further middle/junior high competition in that sport.

A student-athlete who becomes nineteen (19) before September 1st shall be ineligible for any high school interscholastic competition. A student-athlete who becomes 19 on or after September 1st shall remain eligible for the entire school year.

Playing Eligibility: To be eligible for athletics, students must be in compliance with the Kansas State High School Activities Association as follow:

- Student-athlete is a full time student.

- Student-athlete may play up to a total of eight consecutive semesters, or four years, of sports after entering the ninth grade of a four-year high school.
- Student-athletes who never entered the ninth grade, but were placed into tenth grade, may play three consecutive years from their first entry into tenth grade.

PRE-PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS

Each student-athlete team member shall have his/her parents fill out, sign, and date the Pre-Participation Physical Evaluation form. A yearly pre-participation booklet and physical examination is required. The student-athlete shall submit the pre-participation booklet and physical examination form, completely filled in and properly signed, attesting that he/she understands the risks of possible injuries while participating in sports and has been examined and found to be physically fit for athletic competition, to the athletic trainer prior to becoming a member of any athletic squad or team.

The pre-participation booklet and physical examination covers all sports for the entire school year. The pre-participation booklet is good only for the current school year. The physical examination shall not be taken earlier than May 1 preceding the school year for which it is applicable.

For children without a primary care physician or health insurance, there are walk-in clinics (or Urgent Care) available to have sports physicals. Cost ranges from \$40- \$80.

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

To be eligible to participate in athletics or club activities at KSD for each week/weekend, a student must have a passing grade of “D” or better in 6 courses or units. KSD will begin the APR weekly submission after the 3rd week at the onset of each quarter during the academic school year. This is monitored on a weekly basis thereafter with teacher submissions to the Principal’s office with an APR occurring on Thursdays no later than 2:30 p.m. for the following suspended week: Friday to Thursday. Parents and Transportation will be alerted.

Academic Monitoring means that a student has one or more D’s in class(es). Students will remain on this list until this “D” is removed. Tutoring is strongly encouraged.

Suspension means that a student has at least one F. The student athlete cannot participate in athletic games for that week/weekend from Friday through the following Thursday. Students on the list will not be allowed to participate in the dorm off-campus activities until her/his name is removed from the list. Tutoring is required.

➤ If a student receives one or more failing grade(s), this student will automatically be moved to a Suspension list.

Semester Eligibility

A student placed on the APR list during a quarter will automatically be released the following quarter with a “clean slate.” Any student that fails three or more subjects of unit weight, or its equivalent, for a semester will be ineligible to participate in athletics and/or being an officer for any organizations during the following semester

Whenever the progress report is available, the school office will send the Athletic Director a list of ineligible student-athletes/team members. The Athletic Director will then share the information with all coaches.

SCHOOL SUSPENSIONS

Students who are suspended from school (OSS) are ineligible during their suspension. Students who serve In-School Suspension (ISS) can practice with the team after school, but **cannot** participate in competition. Students on APR list and/or students who serve ISS on game day **must sit with the team, but not in uniforms**. A coach may give an athlete with habitual incidents of disciplinary problems, a consequence.

EARLY DEPARTURE FROM CLASS

Student/athlete/team members are responsible for making arrangements with teachers to make up class work and assignments. They are not to use athletic events as an excuse for not completing assignments or not doing quality work.

EQUIPMENT AND UNIFORMS

Athletic equipment and uniforms are loaned to team members and signed out at the start of the season. Athletic equipment and uniforms are to be worn only during practice sessions and interscholastic contests, or by permission of Athletics Department personnel. Varsity level teams may wear uniform tops or game jerseys during school on certain game days only if approved by the Athletic Director.

Uniforms must be worn appropriately. No sagging. The rulebook states, “The waistband of the participant’s shorts shall be worn above the hips.” Failure to abide by the rule at competition will result in disqualification from the competition.

All student-athletes/team members will be required to return uniforms and gear to their coaches right after the season is finished. Theft, loss, or damage from abuse of any equipment, gear, or uniform is the student-athlete/team member’s financial obligation. If gear and/or uniform is not returned, replaced, or paid for, the letter award shall not be awarded, nor will any gear or uniform be issued for the next sport.

LOCKER ROOM AND FACILITIES

It is student-athlete/team members’ responsibility to take good care of the locker room and facilities and to respect their own and other student-athlete/team members’ belongings. Graffiti in the locker is not permitted. Horse playing and throwing towels or other objects is not allowed in the locker room. Equipment, gear, and uniforms **must be removed** from the lockers at the conclusion of each sports season. Items left behind will be disposed of.

The Athletic Department is not responsible for any missing valuables, money, or personal stuff. It is **STRONGLY** recommended that you put your valuable things, money or personal stuff in the locker with a combination lock. Student-athletes are responsible to bring their own combination lock.

OUT OF STATE TRIPS (WEEKEND STAY)

If a student-athlete/ team member misses a school day (unexcused) on the Monday after an out-of-state trip, they will not be allowed to play in the next game.

MEDICAL RELEASE TO PLAY AGAIN

All injuries that occur while participating in athletics should be reported to the Athletic Director. If any student-athlete is seen by a doctor, he/she must have a doctor's release before he/she can practice or compete in athletic contests.

MEDICATIONS/ EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES:

If your child has plans to participate in afterschool or weekend activities, parents are responsible to request medication arrangements **at least 48 hours in advance**. We must have a signed release of information form. Medication can only be released to a designated adult, or mailed to a designated adult. This includes visits to friends. Please allow time for these arrangements. Medication will not be released without prior authorization.

Emergency Medical Services, such as an ambulance, will be used in emergency situations as determined by staff. The child's parents or guardian are responsible for the expense of these services. An out of town parent or guardian will be advised of a medical emergency as soon as possible by the school nurses, the school interim superintendent or other designated person.

PRACTICE AND GAME ATTENDANCE

Daily attendance is imperative to the basic development of individual skills and fundamentals, as well as a sound foundation for team discipline, unity, spirit, commitment, and loyalty. It is the obligation and responsibility of student-athletes/team members to attend all scheduled practices, meetings, special occasions, and games regularly and punctually.

All participants will be on time for all meetings, practices, trips, and any other scheduled event, unless he/she has notified the sponsor or coach beforehand. If a student-athlete is late to practice, she/he must have an appropriate slip before participating in practice. If she/he is late without any reason, she/he will be expected to do extra work during or after practice. A student-athlete/team member who misses practice or meetings may experience less participation time. A note from a responsible adult is required if the participant is absent from practice or a game. Unexcused absences will result in a loss of participation time. Three unexcused absences will result in their removal from the team. If they cannot practice, they cannot participate. If they cannot make a commitment, they cannot be on the team.

However, we recognize that there may be extenuating circumstances where a student-athlete/team member may have a documented appointment (medical, court-ordered, etc) Any absence that is considered an excused absence from the school day means that a student-athlete/ team member may be eligible to play in an extracurricular activity (practice/game) provide that approval is obtained from both the Principal and the Athletic Director.

Students who are absent from school past 10:00 AM will be ineligible for any activity that evening unless circumstances warrant this rule being waived by the Principal and the Athletic Director.

TRANSPORTATION

The transportation **TO** away competitions is provided by the school. Student-athletes are expected to ride to and from the event on school-provided transportation. However, under special circumstances, exceptions may be made to allow student-athletes to be transported **FROM** the event

by their parents/guardians or other specified adult. If a student-athlete/team member wants to ride with another adult/parent after the game, a written note from the student-athlete's parents is required and must be turned in to the coach.(See head coach for a copy of the form) (For residential students, a note from the Dean is also needed.) If a student-athlete/team member joins his/her parent(s) right after the game, verbal communication between coach and parent is required prior to the student-athlete leaving the event.

STAYING IN THE DORM

It is considered a privilege for day students to stay at the dorm for various reasons. All day students are expected to be at their best behavior at all times.

Sign In/Out: All student-athletes/team members regardless if he/she is a day student or residential student are required to report to the dorm (sign in) first before going to the athletic facility(ies) after school. Day students shall be picked up at the dorm after practice/game. If a day student is to be picked up by the parent at a different location other than the dorm, communication must occur by parent or student-athlete/team member to the dorm staff about their sign-out plan.

Staying at the dorm (overnight): A day student can stay at the dorm for only two reasons: an early departure (before 8:00 am) and/or late arrival (after 10 pm). If you feel that your child needs to stay at the dorm overnight for one or both reasons aforementioned, please fill out "Day Student Permission for Student-Athletes" form, signed by the parent/guardian. It needs to be submitted to the Athletic Director or Dean of Student Life. Assistant one week in advance. You will be contacted by the Dean of Student Life once approved.

BULLYING AND HAZING

KSD will not tolerate the harassment of others, whether the harassment is physical, sexual, verbal, or through the use of electronic devices. This section prohibits bullying on or immediately adjacent to school grounds, at any school-sponsored activity, on school-provided transportation, or at any official school bus stop, through the use of the school's internet system while on or off campus, through the use of personal digital device on campus, or off-campus activities that cause or threaten to cause a substantial disruption at school. In any specific situation, administrators may decide that the harassment/bully behavior is severe enough to receive the harshest consequence.

Consequences:

- Staff process situations with students and teach acceptable replacement behavior(s).
- Administrative meeting with student and parent.
- Referral for 2 sessions of bullying prevention education (ex: watch video, write apology letter, teach another person about preventing bullying). 2nd offense will require 4 sessions with the counselor.
- Referral to mental health supports if needed
- In-school/dorm suspension
- Out-of-school/dorm suspension
- Police report
- Any offense of cyberbullying can include the device(s) will be taken and internet privileges revoked until an administrative meeting takes place.
- Other administrative consequences as deemed appropriate

PERSONAL APPEARANCE AND CONDUCT

Members of an athletic team are expected to be well-groomed and dressed appropriately at all practices and games. Any kind of head decoration, jewelry, or poorly groomed facial hair (beard) is not allowed at practices and games. Student-athletes/team members who do not dress appropriately for sport games will be required to change and return in more appropriate clothes. This applies to all athletic-related events, including pep rallies and awards programs.

Student-athletes/team members will at all times demonstrate respect for fellow team members including managers, coaches, Athletics Department personnel, other schools/team members, officials, and anyone involved in interscholastic sports. It is expected that the student-athletes/team members will conduct themselves in a manner that will be positive for the school.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE

Students participating in athletics and/or KSHSAA activities will not use or possess tobacco, alcohol, illegal drugs, or substances that are dangerous to a student's health. Because the use of alcohol, illegal drugs, and tobacco is detrimental to the health and welfare of any student and because the use of alcohol and illegal drugs and the purchase of tobacco is illegal for adolescents in the state of Kansas. Kansas School for the Deaf administrators, coaches and activity sponsors believe that the use or possession of the above substances is unacceptable.

The use, distribution or possession of tobacco (including electronic cigarettes and vaping devices), illegal drugs and alcohol, on or off school property, will be considered a violation of published policy during the time the student is a member of Kansas School for the Deaf athletic team and/or KSHSAA-sponsored activity.

Violation of this regulation may be reported by a school district administrator, a staff member from the student's school, the police, or upon verification by the parents of the accused student and/or admission of the student athlete or co-curricular student.

First Offense:

After confirmation by school officials of the first violation, the student will be placed on initial probation from his/her athletic team or after school activities.

- For athletics, the period of initial probation shall be for not less than 14 calendar days. The student will not be allowed to compete within the 14-day probation period and will be required to miss a minimum of one competition. However, the student may be allowed to attend practice sessions with the approval by the coach and school administration.

Second Offense:

After confirmation by school officials of a second violation (less than 365 days of the first offense for the student regardless of activity/season), the student will be placed on a final probation from his/her athletic team, after school activities.

The period of final probation shall be for not less than 28 calendar days. The student will not be allowed to compete within the 28-day probation period and will be required to miss a minimum of 3 competitions. The student will also be required to attend a substance abuse program. However, if the student shows proof of enrollment and attendance in an approved substance abuse program, the student may be allowed to attend practice sessions or meetings with approval by the sponsor and school administration.

Third Offense:

After confirmation of a third violation by school officials, the student shall be suspended from all of his/her athletic or after school activities for 365 days. Prior to participation in any athletic or after school activities the subsequent year, the student will also be required to enroll in an intervention program for substance abuse, which is approved by the school administration. The student will be required to show proof of participation in the substance abuse program.

WEIGHT ROOM

Student-athletes/team members may train only with the supervision of an instructor, coach, or Athletics Department personnel. All team members must wear proper attire and work with a partner. There will be no loitering, improper conduct, horseplay, and equipment abuse during the workouts. The list of rules of the Strength Room that is posted on the wall must be followed.

CLOSED PRACTICE POLICY

Practices, which are considered as valuable instructional time, are closed to all parties with the exception of coaches, players, athletic director, administrators and invited or previously approved guests. Guests must receive permission from the coach or athletic director well in advance (preferably 24 hours in advance). Guests are expected to refrain from disrupting practice (instructional) sessions in any way, including conversing with the coach or players.

COMMITMENT TO ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION

A student-athlete is expected to stay on that team until the season is finished. On occasion, however, a student-athlete/team member may find it necessary to drop a sport for a good reason. The following procedure must be followed:

1. Discuss issues with your coach and get written approval before you leave the sport.
2. Coach will report your situation to the Athletic Director.
3. Coaches shall notify the student-athlete/team member's parents.
4. Return all gear and uniforms issued to you. If the student-athlete/team member doesn't follow these steps, he/she will lose his/her privileges of joining any sport the following season.

DISMISSAL FROM THE TEAM

An athlete who has been removed from or quits a team will not be permitted to participate in any other sport until the sport season is complete.

When a student is removed from a team, the Head Coach will:

1. Notify and discuss it with the Athletic Director.

2. Contact the player's parent(s) for a meeting regarding the reason for the dismissal.
3. Athletic Director will inform the dorm and school administrators of the player's dismissal.

Reasons that can lead to dismissal:

1. More than three unexcused absences from practice.
2. Chronic academic suspensions.
3. Inconsistent with the rules
4. 3 Major Referrals that result in suspension (ISS, IDS or OSS)
5. Consistent disrespect for coaches/athletes and/or handling of equipment.

PARENT/COACH COMMUNICATION GUIDE

This guide is intended to foster good communications between parents and coaches, and to help parents understand the channels available to them to discuss athletic issues concerning their students.

Communication to expect from Coaches

- Expectations
- Location & Times (Practices)
- Requirements
- Discipline

Communication Coaches Expect from Parents

- Illness/ Injury
- Concerns
- Notification of schedule conflicts well in advance

Appropriate Concerns to Discuss with Coaches

- Treatment of your child mentally & physically
- Ways to help your child improve
- Your child's behavior

Issues Not Appropriate to Discuss with Coaches

- Playing time
- Team strategy
- Play calling and game strategy
- Other student-athletes

Procedures to Use Discussing Concerns with a Coach

When you desire to discuss a concern or question with the coach, please be sensitive to that coach's responsibilities. Follow these simple procedures to arrange a conference.

- Email to set up an appointment.
- If you cannot reach the coach, contact Athletic Director to request a meeting to be arranged.

(Please do not confront a coach before or after a contest or practice. The coach has responsibilities to the entire team at these times. In addition, these times may often be emotional

for coaches, athletes and parents, and therefore are rarely conducive to the positive resolution of concerns)

The Next Step

What can a parent do if the meeting with the coach did not provide a satisfactory resolution?

- Email and set up an appointment with the Athletic Director to discuss the situation further for yourself, your child, the coach and the Athletic Director.

At this meeting, further appropriate steps can be discussed and determined.

ADDITIONS, CORRECTIONS OR AMENDMENTS TO HANDBOOK

The **Superintendent, Director of Student Services, and Athletic Director** reserve the right to amend any portion of this handbook as deemed necessary.

Revised November 2019