

Kansas School for the Deaf
2026-2027
Athletic Clearance Packet

Parents/Guardians/Student-Athlete,

Prior to student/athlete's participation in KSD Athletics, these forms need to be filled out completely. Included in this packet are:

- *Informed Consent*
- *Concussion & Head Injury Information Release*
- *Substance Abuse Policy*
- *Sport Parent/Guardian Code of Conduct*
- *Pre-Participation Physical Evaluation Form*

**YOUR CHILD CANNOT PARTICIPATE IN ANY ACTIVITY UNTIL YOU
HAVE COMPLETED THE ATHLETIC CLEARANCE PACKET AND
PRE-PARTICIPATION PHYSICAL EVALUATION FORM**

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact the Athletic Department at (913) 324-5846 VP or dmuszynski1@kssdb.org.

INFORMED CONSENT
AWARENESS OF SPORT INJURY RISK
WARNING AND AGREEMENT

By its very nature, competitive athletics can put students in situations in which serious, catastrophic and perhaps fatal accidents could occur.

Students and parents/guardians must assess the risks involved in such participation and make their choice to participate in spite of those risks. No amount of instruction, precaution or supervision will totally eliminate all risk of injury. Just as driving an automobile involves choice of risk, participation in athletics is inherently dangerous. The obligation of parents and students in making this choice to participate cannot be overstated. Emergency and any type of medical services, such as an ambulance, will be used in emergency situations as determined by staff. The child's parents or guardians are responsible for the expense of these services.

By granting permission to your child to participate in athletic competition, a parent/guardian acknowledges that playing or practicing in any sport can be a dangerous activity involving MANY RISKS OF INJURY. Both the athlete and parent must understand that the dangers and risks of playing or practicing include but are not limited to: death, complete or partial paralysis, brain damage, serious injury to virtually all internal organs, bones, joints, ligaments, muscles, tendons and other aspects of the skeletal system and potential impairment to other aspects of the body, general health and well-being.

Because of the dangers of participating in sports, we (parent and player) recognize the importance of following coaches' instructions regarding playing techniques, training, equipment and other team rules, etc. both in competition and practice and agree to obey such instructions.

I understand and acknowledge that participation in these activities is completely voluntary and as such is not required by the District for course credit for completion of graduation requirements.

I understand and acknowledge that in order to participate in these activities, I and my child agree to assume liability and responsibility for any and all potential risks which may be associated with participation in such activities.

I understand, acknowledge, and agree that the District, its employees, officers, agents, or volunteers shall not be liable for any injury/illness suffered by my child which is incident to and/or associated with preparing for and/or participating in this activity.

If any of the foregoing is not completely understood and you have questions, please contact the school athletic director or school administrator for further information. This paper, with signature, will be kept on file with the athletic director. I have read and understand the information above and give my child permission to participate.

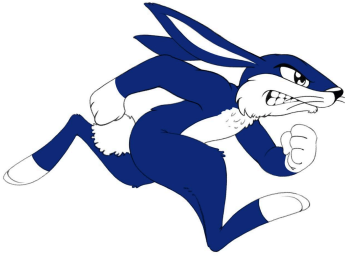
I have read and understand the information above and give my child permission to participate.

Parent Signature

Date

Student Signature

Date



Kansas School for the Deaf Athletics

SPORT PARENT/GUARDIAN

CODE OF CONDUCT

As a sports parent/guardian of a student participating in Kansas School for the Deaf Athletics (KSD). I agree to uphold the following standards of conduct and expectations for myself and my child. I will commit to promoting good sportsmanship by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches, and officials at every game, practice, and any other athletic event. I understand the importance of fostering a respectful and encouraging environment for all participants. I agree to abide by the following code of conduct:

Safety and Well-Being

1. I will prioritize the emotional and physical well-being of my child over any personal gain or ambition, emphasizing that success is measured by skill development rather than by winning or losing.
2. I will advocate and enforce a drug-free, alcohol-free, supplement-free, and tobacco-free environment for my child. Additionally, I will refrain from using such substances at all KSD-related athletic events.

Respect for Rules and Policies

1. I will ensure that my child understands and abides by the rules, regulations, athletics handbook and policies of the athletic program, school, and respective sports organizations. This includes attendance policies, uniform requirements, and any guidelines set forth by the coaching staff and school administration.
2. I will refrain from undermining or spreading ill will by passing on gossip, rumors, and innuendos, which could harm team morale and cohesiveness.
3. I will pick up my child on time from practices, games, or any other athletic events my child participates in.
4. I will avoid coaching my child or other players during games and practices unless I am an official coach.

Promotion of Sportsmanship

1. I will promote good sportsmanship by demonstrating respect and courtesy and by being a positive role model at every event.
2. I will contribute to making athletics and activities a positive experience for everyone involved, including participants, coaches, officials, and spectators.
3. I will make certain that my child treats other players, coaches, officials, and fans with respect and courtesy.

4. I will not engage in disparaging dialogue or taunting behavior with players, coaches, officials, parents/guardians, and other spectators before, during, or after all events. Additionally, I will refrain from any disruptive behavior, including verbal or physical misconduct, towards anyone at any school-sponsored event.
5. I will respect the decisions and authority of officials during competitions.
6. I will refrain from criticizing players, coaches, and officials from the stands during any KSD athletic events, whether home or away.

Communication

1. I will adhere to the 24-hour rule: Parents/guardians are not permitted to discuss athletic concerns with the coach for at least 24 hours after an issue arises at a game, practice, or other instance.
 - a. I will schedule an appointment with the head coach if an issue arises.
 - b. I understand that playing time in high school athletics is not a valid reason for contention.
 - c. It is never acceptable for a parent/guardian to attempt to discuss another student's playing time.
2. I will communicate respectfully and constructively with coaches regarding my child's development, performance, and any concerns I may have.
3. I will respond to any correspondence (email, text, phone call) related to my child in a respectful manner.
4. I will refrain from contacting, calling, or emailing any opponent coaches, or athletic directors. I understand that such communication is inappropriate, and it is the sole responsibility of the school's appointed representative to address any issues that may arise.

Uniform and Equipment

1. I will ensure that my child uses athletic equipment and uniforms responsibly and follows all care instructions provided by the athletic and coaching staff.
2. I will make certain that all borrowed equipment and uniforms are promptly returned in good condition at the end of each season or upon request by the school.
3. I will support the importance of team unity by ensuring that my child wears the designated uniform and equipment as instructed by the coaching staff and adheres to any uniform requirements set forth by the school.
4. I understand the importance of proper equipment for my child's safety and the integrity of the sport. I will ensure that any equipment used meets safety standards and complies with regulations set forth by the coaching staff and/or the athletic department.

Financial Responsibility

1. I will ensure that all required fees (e.g., team fees and travel fees) associated with my child's participation in athletics are paid promptly or in accordance with agreed-upon payment plans.

2. I will communicate openly and promptly with the athletic director or the head coach regarding any financial concerns or difficulties that may affect my child's participation in athletics.
3. I acknowledge that I am responsible for replacing any equipment or my child's practice and game uniforms if my child is responsible for damaging or losing them.
4. I will do my best to support fundraising efforts and contribute positively to achieving financial goals for our athletic programs.

Consequences for Non-Compliance

I understand that failure to cooperate or follow the rules and guidelines may result in being asked to leave the gym or field or losing access to future games and events.

Depending on the severity of the situation, the following consequences may apply:

First Violation: Verbal and/or written warning.

Second Violation: Immediate ejection from the game and potentially subsequent game.

Third Violation: Removal from the season.

Note: If a violation occurs at the end of the season, the penalty may carry over to the next season.

I understand that adherence to this code of conduct is essential for the success of the athletic program and the positive experience of all participants. I agree to cooperate fully with the school's policies and directives regarding athletics.

I have read the extra-curricular activities & athletics handbook and understand all the rules and expectations. I agree to be responsible for following all of the rules and expectations of the school and understand the consequences for failing to follow the requirements.

Name of Child

Print Name of Parent/Guardian

Signature of Parent/Guardian

Date

Print Name of Parent/Guardian

Signature of Parent/Guardian

Date



Kansas School for the Deaf
ATHLETICS/ AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES
SUBSTANCE ABUSE AGREEMENT

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 the 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.

As a participant in after school activities at Kansas School for the Deaf, I have received, read and agree to the “Implementation Procedures and Minimum Consequences about “no use” or possession of tobacco, alcohol, illegal drugs, or substances that are harmful or dangerous to my health. I understand that I may be subject to the consequences listed on the “Implementation Procedures and Minimum Consequences,” which could result in the exclusion from any or all activities.

Student’s Name: (Please Print) _____

Student’s Signature: _____

Date: _____

I have read and support the above agreement and understand the consequences listed in the “Implementation Procedures” received by my student.

Parent / Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____

Note: Consequences for violations (in or out of season) of this policy shall carry over from sport to sport, activity to activity, and season to season. If a second offense takes place after 365 days from the first, a ‘clean slate’ is granted with first offense consequences implemented. If a third offense takes place within 365 days from the first offense, the student shall be suspended from all on his/her athletic or after school activities for 365 days.

Kansas School for the Deaf

Implementation Procedures and Minimum Consequences

Athletic/Activity Procedure Concerning Substance Abuse

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. The student may be allowed to attend practice sessions with the approval by the coach and school administration.
- For non-athletic or after school activities, the period of initial probation and severity shall be determined by the activity sponsor and school administration. The length of probation will be based upon the duration of the activity in which the student is participating and the nature and frequency of the scheduled upcoming performances or activities. An attempt will be made to assign disciplinary consequences in a timely manner.

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.

- For athletics, 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 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.
- For non-athletic or after school activities, the period of final probation and severity shall be determined by the activity sponsor and school administration. The length of probation will be based upon the duration of the activity in which the student is participating and the nature and frequency of scheduled upcoming performances or activities. In all cases, the consequences assigned shall be greater than the consequences for the first offense. An attempt will be made to assign disciplinary consequences in a timely manner. 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 program.

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 must have enrolled in a substance abuse program administered by a licensed drug/alcohol agency. The agency must verify adherence by the student to the recommended care program.

**KSHSAA RECOMMENDED CONCUSSION & HEAD INJURY INFORMATION
RELEASE FORM 2026-2027**

A sports related concussion is a traumatic brain injury, caused by a direct blow to the head, neck, or body resulting in an impulsive force being transmitted to the brain that occurs in sports and exercise related activity. Symptoms and signs may present immediately or evolve over minutes to days. Sports related concussions commonly resolve within days but may be prolonged. **All concussions are potentially serious and may result in complications including prolonged brain damage and death if not recognized and managed properly.** If a student reports any symptoms of concussion, or if you notice the symptoms or signs of concussion yourself, seek medical attention right away.

Symptoms may include one or more of the following:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Headaches/“Pressure in head” ● Nausea or vomiting ● Neck pain ● Balance problems or dizziness ● Blurred, double, or fuzzy vision ● Sensitivity to light or noise ● Feeling sluggish or slowed down ● Feeling foggy or groggy ● Drowsiness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Change in sleep patterns ● “Don’t feel right” ● Unexplained nervousness, anxiety, irritability, sadness ● Confusion ● Concentration or memory problems (forgetting sport assignments) ● Repeating the same question/comment

Signs observed by teammates, parents, and coaches include:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Actual or suspected loss of consciousness ● Seizure ● Tonic posturing ● Ataxia (clumsy voluntary movements) ● Poor balance ● Appears dazed ● Vacant facial expression ● Confusion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Forgets sport plays/assignments ● Is unsure of game, score, or opponent ● Answers questions slowly ● Slurred speech ● Shows behavior or personality changes ● Can’t recall events prior to injury ● Can’t recall events after injury

RED FLAGS: Call an Ambulance	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Neck pain or tenderness ● Seizure, ‘fits’, or convulsion ● Loss of vision or double vision ● Loss of consciousness ● Increased confusion or deteriorating conscious state (becoming less responsive, drowsy) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Weakness or numbness/tingling in more than one arm or leg ● Repeated vomiting ● Severe or increasing headache ● Increasingly restless, agitated or combative ● Visible deformity of the skull

What can happen if my child keeps playing with a concussion or returns too soon?

Athletes with the signs and symptoms of concussion should be removed from play immediately. Continuing to play with the signs and symptoms of a concussion leaves the young athlete especially vulnerable to greater injury. There is an increased risk of significant damage from a concussion for a period of time after that concussion occurs, particularly if the athlete suffers another concussion before completely recovering from the first one (second impact syndrome). This can lead to prolonged recovery, or even to severe brain swelling with devastating and even fatal consequences. It is well known that adolescent or teenage athletes will often under report symptoms of injuries, and concussions are no

different. As a result, education of administrators, coaches, parents and students is the key for student-athlete's safety.

If you think your child has suffered a concussion

Any athlete even suspected of suffering a concussion should be removed from the game or practice immediately and an urgent referral to a health care provider should be arranged (if not already onsite). No athlete may return to activity after sustaining a concussion, regardless of how mild it seems or how quickly symptoms clear, without written medical clearance from a Medical Doctor (MD) or Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine (DO). Close observation of the athlete should continue for several hours. You should also inform your child's coach if you think that your child may have a concussion. Remember it is better to miss one game than miss the whole season. **When in doubt, the athlete sits out!**

Cognitive Rest & Return to Learn

The first step in concussion recovery is relative rest for the first 24-48 hours. During this time students may participate in activities of daily living and may perform light physical activity, such as walking, provided symptoms are not more than mildly exacerbated for only a brief (less than an hour) period of time. Reduced screen time is also recommended during the first day or two after injury. Students should be encouraged to return back to a normal routine as quickly as possible, tolerating a mild exacerbation of symptoms with mental activity.

Students may need adjustments to their academic workload for a short period of time while recovering from a concussion. Trying to meet all academic requirements too soon after sustaining a concussion may more than mildly exacerbate symptoms and delay recovery. Any academic modifications should be coordinated jointly between the student's medical providers and school personnel. To minimize academic and social disruptions, in most cases it is recommended students not be completely isolated, even for a short period of time. Rather students should continue to participate in activities of daily living that do not more than mildly exacerbate concussion symptoms.

Return to Practice and Competition

The Kansas School Sports Head Injury Prevention Act (72-7119) provides that if an athlete suffers, or is suspected of having suffered, a concussion or head injury during a competition or practice, the athlete must be immediately removed from the competition or practice and cannot return to practice or competition until a Health Care Professional has evaluated the athlete and provided a written authorization to return to practice and competition. The KSHSAA recommends that an athlete not return to practice or competition the same day the athlete suffers or is suspected of suffering a concussion. The KSHSAA also recommends that an athlete's return to practice and competition should follow a graduated protocol under the supervision of the health care provider (MD or DO).

For current and up-to-date information on concussions you can go to:

<http://www.cdc.gov/headsup/index.html>

For concussion information and educational resources collected by the KSHSAA, go to:

<http://www.kshsaa.org/Public/SportsMedicine/ConcussionGuidelines.cfm>

Student-athlete Name Printed

Student-athlete Signature

Date

Parent or Legal Guardian Printed

Parent or Legal Guardian Signature

Date

The parties to this document agree that an electronic signature is intended to make this writing effective and binding and to have the same force and effect as the use of a manual signature.