

Kanawha County Schools
Student Athletic Handbook
2023-24

SUPERINTENDENTS STATEMENT

The Kanawha County School system has a rich history of athletic success and good sportsmanship. This success has been made possible due to the efforts of talented athletes, involved parents, faithful fans, and dedicated coaches, teachers and administrators. It is important for all of us who enjoy athletics to continue to support the efforts of our student athletes.

These efforts however must be tempered with the understanding that sportsmanship is the true aim of athletics.

The purpose of this document is to assist all of us who participate in our athletic programs to assist students to achieve a thorough understanding of the rewards available through good sportsmanship. The Kanawha County School system has developed a number of policies that specifically address athletics. They are listed below and are available for review on the Kanawha County Schools website at - [http://kcs.kana.k12.wv.us/Policies/](http://kcs.kana.k12.wv.us/Policies/index.html) index.html

GENDER EQUITY POLICY

The athletic department at Kanawha County Schools is committed to developing an athletic program that our community can be proud of. Part of the development is recognizing the need for programs that include all students regardless of gender.

The federal government through Title IX recognizes that inequity has existed between athletic programs offered to males and females throughout the United States. Title IX is the law of the land. At Kanawha County Schools, gender equity means putting the law into practice by providing fairness with regard to opportunity and participation for females.

KANAWHA COUNTY SCHOOLS MISSION

The mission of Kanawha County Schools is to use all available resources to become a world-class educational system with a safe and nurturing environment. Our schools will be a place where teachers can teach and students can learn academic skills, acquire appropriate social behaviors, achieve individual potential and develop positive character in order to become productive citizens and life-long learners.

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF STATE HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATIONS

The National Federation consists of the fifty individual state high school athletic and/or activities association and the association of the District of Columbia. Also affiliated are the nine interscholastic organizations for the Canadian provinces of Alberta, British Columbia, Manitoba, New Brunswick Newfoundland-Labrador, Nova Scotia, Ontario, Prince Edward Island, Saskatchewan, and Quebec, as well as the Canadian School Sports Federation and the associations of the Republic of the Philippines, Guam and Saint Thomas.

These associations have united to secure the benefits of cooperative action which eliminates unnecessary duplication of effort and increases efficiency through the pooling and coordinating of ideas of all who are engaged in the administration of high school athletic and activities programs.

STATEMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

The purpose of the National Federation is to coordinate the effort of state member associations toward the ultimate objectives of interscholastic activities. It shall provide a means for state high school associations to cooperate in order to enhance and protect their interscholastic programs. In order to accomplish this, the National Federation is guided by a philosophy consistent with the accepted purposes of secondary education. Member state associations' programs must be administered in accordance with the following basic beliefs:

Interscholastic activities shall be an integral part of the total secondary school education program which has as its purpose to provide educational experiences not otherwise provided in the curriculum, which will develop learning outcomes in the areas of knowledge, skills and emotional patterns and will contribute to the development of better citizens. Emphasis shall be placed upon teaching "through" activities in addition to teaching the 'skills' of activities.

Interschool activities shall be primarily for the benefit of the students who participate directly and vicariously in them. The interscholastic activity program shall exist mainly for the value it has for students and not for the benefit of the sponsoring institutions. The activities and contests involved shall be psychologically sound by being tailored to the physical, mental and emotional maturity levels of the youth participating in them.

Any district and/or state athletic meet competition to determine a so-called champion shall provide opportunities for schools to demonstrate and to evaluate the best taught in their programs with the best taught in other schools and in other areas of the state.

Participation in interscholastic activities is a privilege to be granted to those students who meet the minimum standards of eligibility adopted cooperatively by the schools through their state associations and those additional standards established by each school for its own students.

The state high school associations and the National Federation shall be concerned with the development of those standards, policies and regulations essential to assist their member schools in the implementation of their philosophy of interscholastic activities.

Nonschool activities sponsored primarily for the benefit of the participants in accordance with a philosophy compatible with the school philosophy of interscholastics may have values for youth. When they do not interfere with the academic and interscholastic programs and do not result in the exploitation of youth, they shall be considered as a worthwhile supplement to interschool activities.

The welfare of the schools demands a united front in sports direction policies and the high school associations provide opportunity for this unity. They must be kept strong!

The National Federation maintains a website at: nfhs.org

WEST VIRGINIA SECONDARY SCHOOL ACTIVITIES COMMISSION

The Secondary School Activities Commission is the organization delegated the authority by state law to supervise and control interscholastic athletics and band activities among its member schools. More than 300 secondary high schools, junior high schools and middle schools belong to the Commission. The principal of each member school, or his delegate, represents the school in all matters before the Commission. <http://www.wvssac.org> Phone Number: 304-485-5494

BELIEFS AND OBJECTIVES

The Commission believes that a controlled activities program is a strong factor in the development of courage, personality, cooperation, and leadership. The Commission believes that representatives of a school should be good citizens of that school, hence the need for requirements and regulations governing eligibility that have been standardized.

The Commission is designed to provide means for the unbiased and amicable settlement of disputes regarding activities.

The Commission seeks to present proper ideals of sportsmanship so that coaches, players, school authorities, game officials, and spectators may combine to make any activity enjoyable and productive of physical and social benefits to both sides involved in the contest, with partisanship and prejudice eliminated as far as possible.

To accomplish these objectives the Commission asks the cooperation of its members, all lovers of clean, wholesome activities, and all fans, young and old, who believe in our American system of interscholastics.

Current information about all WVSSAC can be found at: wvssac.org.

WEST VIRGINIA SECONDARY SCHOOL ACTIVITIES COMMISSION ELIGIBILITY RULES AND REGULATIONS

This summary of the West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission eligibility rules is not meant to explain every possible scenario. Often, exceptions exist which may allow a student who appears to be ineligible to participate. Students who have questions regarding these rules, and any pertinent exceptions are encouraged to contact the principal, athletic coordinator, athletic director, or head coach for a further explanation.

To participate in interscholastic athletics at Kanawha County Schools, a student:

- Must be a bona fide student in good standing at Kanawha County schools.
- Must have formally enrolled at Kanawha County Schools not later than the eleventh day of the current school year.
- Must have earned at least two units of credit during the previous semester, which may include summer school.
- Must have attained an overall "C" (2.00) average the previous semester, which includes summer school, if applicable.
- Must not have reached his/her 19th birthday before August 1 of the current school year. Note: Participants on ninth grade teams must not have reached their 16th birthday before August 1 of the current school year. Please refer to the WVSSAC website for a complete and current listing of rules and regulations.

NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION ELIGIBILITY RULES & REGULATIONS

The NCAA has minimum academic standards required for participation by incoming college freshman. A national clearinghouse has been established to certify the eligibility of new student athletes at all NCAA institutions. See the school guidance counselors for information on the latest NCAA requirements, along with instructions for registering with the clearinghouse. Please refer to the NCAA website at ncaa.org for additional information.

OBJECTIVES OF THE KANAWHA COUNTY SCHOOLS ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT

The interscholastic program of Kanawha County Schools will:

1. Be closely coordinated with the general instructional program of the school.
2. Be such that the number of the students accommodated and the educational aims achieved justify the existence of each individual activity.
3. Be based on the spirit of non-professionalism so that participation is regarded as a privilege to be won by training and proficiency and to be valued highly enough to eliminate any need for expensive prizes or awards.
4. Confine the school activities to events, which are sponsored and supervised by the proper school authorities.
5. Be planned so as to result in opportunity for many individuals to explore a wide variety of sports and to do so in reasonable season limits for each sport.
6. Include training in conduct and game ethics.
7. Engender respect for the local, state and national rules and policies under which the school program is conducted.
8. Always put the welfare of the student-athlete first.

STUDENT GUIDELINES

I. Athletic Eligibility Requirements

In order for an athlete to be a participant at Kanawha County Schools as an athlete:

- Must meet the eligibility requirements of the West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission, regarding enrollment, age, semesters and seasons, scholarship, residence/transfer, and amateur status. Details of the West Virginia Secondary School

Activities Commission requirements are located on their webpage at WVSSAC.org.

- Must submit the Participation/Parent Consent/Physician Form completely filled and properly signed, to the head coach prior to participation.
- Any athlete who falsifies information to gain eligibility status that causes a school to violate eligibility rules shall be declared ineligible to represent any member school for a period of one year from date the violation is discovered.
- ALL student athletes regardless of enrollment i.e. (Homeschool, HOPE Scholarship and/or virtual) will follow the guidelines set by Kanawha County Schools and are subject to all academic and financial obligations set by WVDE and state government.

II. Rules for Student Athletes

General Rules:

- Conduct yourselves as ladies and gentlemen. Set an example for rest of the student body.
- Do not use alcohol, tobacco, or illegal drugs. Violations of this rule will be addressed by the school administration based on county policy.
- Do not use profanity. Always display good sportsmanship. Attend all practices and contest unless excused by the coach.
- Complete the season. Attend school regularly.
- Respect school property. All equipment issued should be returned in the same condition, except for normal wear.
- Students, and parents, are responsible for lost or damaged uniforms and other equipment.
- No gambling of any kind.
- Always show respect for others, including the administration, faculty and staff at Kanawha County Schools, and members of the community in general.
- Disruptive behavior unbecoming a KCS student athlete via social media will not be tolerated and disciplinary action can be administered by school administration.

Specific Rules

- Any athlete who quits a team will not be permitted to practice or play on another team until the end of the season of the team he/she has quit. Exceptions may be allowed for special cases with the approval of the involved head coaches and the athletic director. If, however, an athlete had been simultaneously participating on two teams, quitting one of them will not affect his eligibility on the other.

- On days school is in session, a student must be in school to practice or play in a game, unless prior arrangements were made with the athletic director or school administrator.

- An athlete suspended out of school is automatically suspended from the team. The suspended athlete cannot practice or participate in a game until the suspension is over and he/she is reinstated to school by the school administration. This means, for example, that a student who is suspended from school on Friday will not be eligible to practice or play in any games on Friday or Saturday, because reinstatement to school can occur no earlier than Monday morning.
- An athlete may participate simultaneously on more than one team provided permission is granted by all head coaches concerned and the athletic director. It will be the duty of the coaches concerned to arrange a schedule acceptable to the athlete and the coaches to ensure that the athlete is not "caught in the middle" between the two coaches. Each coach should have an emergency treatment form for that athlete.
- Any athlete who is assigned detention by a teacher or administrator is required to report to that detention, even if it conflicts with practice or games.

STUDENT MANAGERS AND ASSISTANTS

Student managers, student trainers, and other student assistants may be appointed by head coaches when necessary. Care must be taken to select responsible students and assign them specific duties. Under no circumstances should duties be assigned to a student that should be performed by a coach. Student managers and assistants must be academically eligible to participate in extracurricular activities.

CODE OF CONDUCT

For Athletes at Kanawha County Schools

The Athlete at Kanawha County Schools shall:

1. Be courteous to visiting teams and officials.
2. Play hard and to the limit of his or her ability. The true athlete does not give up, nor does he/she quarrel, cheat, bet, or grandstand.
3. Be modest when successful and be gracious in defeat. A true sportsman does not offer excuses for failures.
4. Demonstrate loyalty to the school by maintaining a satisfactory scholastic standing and by participating in and supporting other school activities.
5. Play for the love of the game — not for some other reason.
6. Understand and observe the rules of the game and the standards of eligibility.
7. Set a high standard of personal appearance and cleanliness.
8. Respect the integrity and judgment of officials and accept their decisions without question.

9. Respect the facilities of host schools and the trust entailed in being a guest.
10. Maintain a high degree of physical fitness by observing team and training rules conscientiously.
11. While a member of an athletic team at Kanawha County Schools no athlete is permitted to use, possess, with or without the intent to deliver, transfer, or sell any of the following: alcoholic liquor, non-intoxicating beer and controlled substance.
12. While a member of an athletic team at Kanawha County Schools no athlete is permitted to use tobacco in any form (this includes smokeless tobacco.)

PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION OF CODES OF CONDUCT

SUSPENSIONS

Players may be suspended for one game by the coach for disciplinary reasons, provided that the athletic director is notified. The athletic director must be informed the day the suspension is implemented. The administration reserves the right to impose additional penalties on the student should the circumstances warrant. Longer suspensions may be implemented by the coach, with the approval of the athletic director, for serious or repeat offenses that reflect negatively on the school.

Players or coaches ejected during contests by the officials are automatically suspended pursuant to the rules of the West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission. The length of the suspension is equal to ten percent of the maximum number of contests which may be scheduled in the sport or activity. If the ejection occurs at the end of a season, the suspension is enforced the following year in the same sport; however, if the ejected player is in his/her final year of eligibility, the suspension is enforced.

in the next West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission-sanctioned sport. Repeat offenses carry much more severe penalties.

All suspensions must be documented in writing, with a copy filed with the athletic director.

DISMISSAL FROM TEAM

When the behavior of an athlete is deemed inappropriate, it may be necessary to dismiss that individual from the team. Before the dismissal of an athlete, the athletic director and coach should review the case and come to a consensus agreement that dismissal is the appropriate disciplinary action.

See the student guidelines elsewhere in this handbook to see how these disciplinary actions effect the student athlete's participation in extracurricular activities.

Kanawha County Schools reserves the right to limit or prohibit admittance to all school sponsored events. This includes all athletic, tryouts, practices, and games. Any individuals who are deemed to be a detriment or who interfere with

the conduct of such an event or contest may be removed from any event or contest, and if deemed necessary, barred from any and all future school activities. In the event an individual attending a contest or event is in violation of the law, all necessary steps will be taken to see that law enforcement officers are properly notified.

Your attention is directed to the provisions of West Virginia Code §612-15 which makes it a crime to commit an assault or battery on a school employee if motive is retaliation for an act taken in the performance of such employee's duties.

West Virginia code §61-2-15a makes it unlawful to commit an assault or battery on an individual acting as an athletic official.

**AGREEMENT TO OBEY INSTRUCTIONS, ASSUMPTION OF RISK,
AND AGREEMENT TO HOLD HARMLESS**

I am aware that playing or practicing to play/participate in any sport can be a dangerous activity involving MANY RISKS OF INJURY. I understand that the dangers and risks of playing or practicing to play/participate in athletics include, but are not limited to death, serious neck and spinal injuries which may result in complete or partial paralysis, brain damage, serious injury to virtually all internal organs, serious injury to virtually all bones, joints, ligaments, muscles, tendons, and other aspects of the skeletal system, and serious injury or impairment to other aspects of my body, general health and well-being. Understand that the dangers of playing or practicing to play/ participate in athletics may result not only in serious injury, but in serious impairment of my future abilities to earn a living, to engage in other business, social and recreational activities, and generally to enjoy life.

Because of the dangers of participating in athletics I recognize the importance of following coaches; instructions regarding playing techniques, training and other team rules, etc., and I agree to obey such instructions.

In consideration of Kanawha County Schools permitting me to try out for athletics and to engage in all activities related to athletics, including, but not limited to trying out practicing or playing/participating in sport(s), I hereby assume all the risks associated with participation and agree to hold Kanawha County Schools, West Virginia, collectively and individually, its employees, agents, representatives, medical personnel, coaches, and volunteers, including managers and trainers, harmless from any and all liability, actions, causes of actions, debts, claims or demands of any kind and nature whatsoever which may arise by or in connection with my participation in any activities related to the Kanawha athletic team(s). The terms hereof shall serve as a release and assumption of risk for my heirs, estate, executor, administrator, assignees, and for all members of my family.

Parents must provide a copy of their Health Insurance Coverage to their respective Coach before their child may practice or participate in extracurricular activities. A copy of the Parent/Guardian Health Insurance card will be sufficient to meet this requirement.

I specifically acknowledge that FOOTBALL, WRESTLING, SOCCER AND BASEBALL are VIOLENT CONTACT SPORTS involving even greater risk of injury than other sports.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date