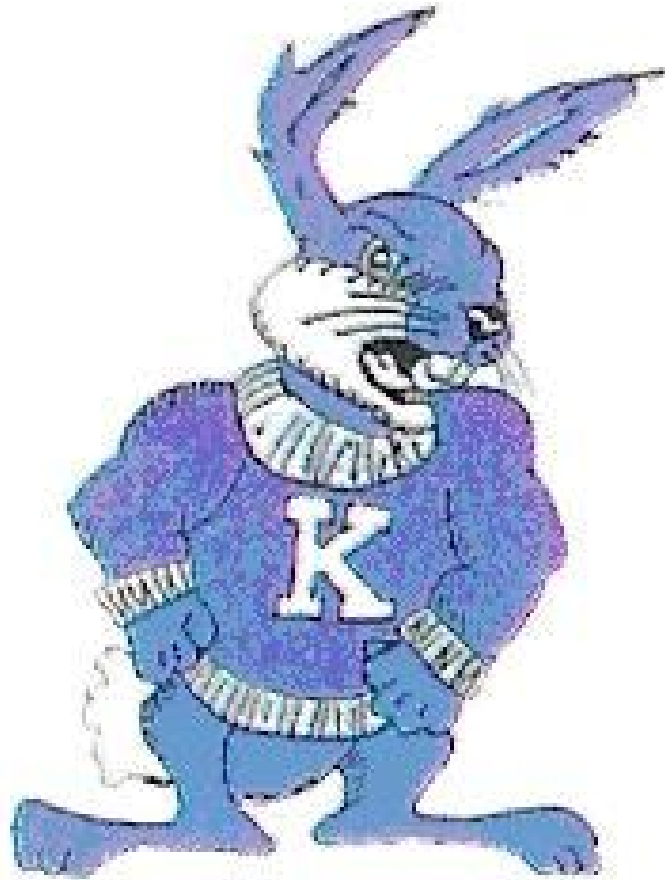


Kansas School for the Deaf Jackrabbits



High School Athletic Program

**Student-Athletes and Parents Handbook
2009 – 2010**

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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 this Handbook when they are in school. Coaches, teachers, and parents should have knowledge of the Handbook when they are interacting with students.

Parents are required to read this Handbook when their son/daughter is in school. The regulations that are in this Handbook significantly reduce the risk of injury to students.

KSD Athletic Department Directory

Athletic Director

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(866) 804-7883 VP

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Foltz Gym in the basement

Director of Student Services

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Assistant Director of Student Life

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Secondary Department

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Mascot: Jackrabbit

Colors: Royal Blue

Classification: 1A

SPORTS OFFERED:

Fall Sports

Middle School Cheerleading
Middle School Volleyball
High School Cheerleading
High School Varsity Football
High School Varsity Volleyball
High School Junior Varsity Volleyball

Winter Sports

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

Spring Sports

Middle School Girls and Boys Track and Field
High School Girls Track and Field
High School Boys Track and Field

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 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 home. If you never give your parents 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 everyday and that you have played the game the best you can, you can keep your self-respect and your family 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.

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

(See Expectations for Academic Success in KSD Parent / Student Handbook)

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 on the day of 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 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. Horseplaying 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.

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 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.

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 Director of Student Services.

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, written communication between coach and parent is required prior to the student-athlete leaving the event.

BULLYING AND HAZING

Bullying and hazing among athletes are not tolerated. Please refer to 2009 – 2010 KSD Parent/Student handbook pages 57 & 58.

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.

MEDICAL RELEASE TO PLAY AGAIN

All injuries that occur while participating in athletics should be reported to the coach. If a 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.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE

Members of an athletic team will refrain from the use of tobacco, alcoholic beverages and controlled substances (drugs) of any kind. Verification of tobacco and alcohol/substance abuse may result in dismissal from the team. Student-athletes/team members will lose all rights and privileges, including any awards or post-season recognition. Details are printed in the Parent/Student Handbook.

WEIGHT ROOM

Student-athletes/team members may train only with the supervision of an instructor, coach, or Athletic 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 gears 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 first sport's season is complete.

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

1. Notify and discuss 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.

The letter should include, but is not limited to, the following:

1. The date of dismissal
2. Reasons for dismissal
3. How the player was notified, and his/her response

Reasons that can lead to dismissal:

1. More than three unexcused absences from practice.
2. Chronic academic suspensions
3. Inconsistent with the rules
4. Consistent disrespect for coaches/athletes and/or handling of equipment

Appeals Process

In cases where the student and parent wish to appeal a decision made by a coach, the following process must be adhered to:

1. Please make sure of the facts of the situation.
2. The first level of appeal must be directly with the coach.
3. The second level of appeal would be a meeting with the Athletic Director. Hopefully, the Athletic Director, coach, parent, and student can come to a fair resolution.
4. The final level of appeal would be to the Director of Student Services.

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.