

# **Sedalia School District**



## **Athletic/Activities Student Handbook**

**2021-2022**

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## INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Sedalia School District activity/athletic program. Hopefully, your decision to take advantage of extracurricular and/or co-curricular programs will be educational, rewarding and challenging. This handbook is given to you so that you might be more aware of the programs that are available and the responsibilities that come with membership. The Sedalia School District encourages you to take advantage of as many programs as your time and talent will permit. Our district does not encourage specialization in one sport or activity. Naturally, due to conflicts in seasons, practice times, schedules, etc., some choices will have to be made by you. Good luck to you as you strive to grow emotionally, mentally, socially, and physically through our programs.

## PHILOSOPHY

The Sedalia School District believes that the activity/athletic programs shall supplement our school's curricular program, and as such, become a vital part of a student's **TOTAL** educational experience. These experiences contribute to the development of learning skills and emotional patterns that enable the student to make maximum use of their education.

Student participation in any part of our activities is a **privilege** which carries with it responsibility to the school, to the activity, to the student body, to the community and to the student themselves.

## OBJECTIVES OF THE SEDALIA SCHOOL DISTRICT ATHLETIC AND ACTIVITIES PROGRAM

1. To develop good school citizens.
2. To develop positive qualities: physical, mental, and moral.
3. To develop respect for authority by abiding by the rules of the game and the decisions of the coach/sponsor and officials.
4. To teach the rules and skills of each sport/activity.
5. To help the participant develop academically, in accomplishments, and attitude.
6. To promote good sportsmanship and the appreciation of athletics/activities in general so that the student may function in society as a spectator as well as a participant.
7. To develop pride in self, school, teammates, and classmates.
8. To learn to win graciously and lose like ladies and gentlemen.

# PARTICIPATION GUIDELINES

These guidelines must be followed in all school-sponsored activities.

- Students are free to make their own selections as to sports or activities in which they wish to participate as defined by gender.
- Participation in more than one sport within a sports season will be allowed if an agreement is worked out before the season with both coaches and the Activities Director.
- It is the Sedalia School District policy that when students face a conflict between extracurricular and co-curricular activities the coach and sponsor of the activities shall meet to determine a resolution with the best interest of the student and programs in mind. In situations where an amicable agreement cannot be reached, the Activities Director and/or Principal will become involved and will make an administrative decision generally based on student preference. Students and parents will be notified of the decision and if desired, can request a meeting with all parties to discuss the situation further. Competition and performances will take precedent over practices and rehearsals unless arrangements have been made with the coaches/sponsors beforehand. District and State activities will have priority when there is a conflict between performances and competition. If a co-curricular activity is missed, an alternative assignment **may** be given in place of attendance in order to recover points missed. When an athletic competition or practice is missed, a student **may** be required to make up any skills or conditioning missed. The administration reserves the right to intervene at anytime to preserve the best interests of the student and/or programs involved.
- If a student is cut from a team, he/she may join another team or program in that sport season. If a student quits a team, that student may only join another team during that sport season if the coaches of both the old and new teams along with the Activities Director agree it is in the best interests of all involved parties.
- Attendance at practice, meetings, and competitions is required. No one is excused without prior permission from the coach or sponsor, unless it is due to a family or personal emergency.
- Coaches/sponsors will post practice times at least a week in advance. These schedules are subject to change due to extenuating circumstances. The practice sessions will not be of such length as to work hardships on the athletes and their parents.
- No practices are to be scheduled on holidays without administrative approval. Practices on Sundays must begin after 1:00 p.m. If a participant notifies the coach/sponsor **in advance** that he/she cannot make a Sunday or holiday practice for any reason, it will be excused.
- Scheduled contests on Wednesdays will be avoided when possible. However, in situations when there is a contest scheduled on a Wednesday, a student will be excused from attending in order to attend church activities provided the head coach is made aware in advance.

- During the winter months, when inclement weather forces school cancellation, all practices must be optional and will occur after 12:00 noon so that road crews may have an opportunity to improve road conditions.
- On days that school is dismissed early due to the weather, practices and contests will be cancelled unless approved by the administration.

## **COMMITMENT**

When a student chooses to participate on athletic team or to be a member of a co-curricular program, he and his parents must make a commitment to that program. This may bring about a few scheduling hardships for parents and participants. If the programs in our school are going to be competitive and successful, there must be regular practice and the student should realize that his/her time at practice is very important. Coaches and sponsors consider practices to be as important as the classroom in these situations. In the classroom when a student misses an assignment, it is to be made up. The same theory applies to athletic teams and co-curricular programs. Participants will be required to make up the practice of the skills or conditioning that they have missed in an “official” practice.

## **PHYSICALS AND INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS**

Athletic by-laws in the MSHSAA Handbook state: The school shall require of each student participating in athletics a certificate of an issued physical signed and authorized by a physician, advanced nurse practitioner in written collaborative practice with a physician, or a certified physician’s assistant in collaboration with a sponsoring physician stating that the individual is physically able to participate in athletic practices and contests of his/her school. A student shall not be permitted to practice or compete for a school until a complete, signed certificate is on file at the school. The **medical certificate is valid for two years (730 days)** from the date of issue for the purpose of this rule.

In addition, a **MSHSAA Pre-Participation Document** must be completed annually. This document is necessary to ensure insurance coverage, parental permission for participation, and other yearly signatures and requirements.

Information about insurance coverage called Kid Guard can be obtained through either the main office or athletic office. This program provides low cost medical insurance for those who do not have any existing insurance. Kid Guard is sufficient coverage for all activities except for football.

The Sedalia School District also has supplemental insurance through Lawrence E. Smith and Associates. In the event of an injury during practice or competition, this coverage may cover some of the expenses not covered by the athlete’s primary insurance. It is limited insurance and will not cover all expenses. For information about this coverage, please contact the Activities Director.

## ELIGIBILITY FOR EXTRA-CURRICULAR AND CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Students participating in extra-curricular and co-curricular activities at the high school must be enrolled in and attending at least six classes, in which they will receive 3.0 units of credit. High School eligibility for MSHSAA is also based on earning 3.0 credits the previous semester.

7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade academic eligibility requirements state that you must be enrolled in a normal course load for your grade level. You must have been promoted to a higher grade prior to the first day of classes for the new school year. A 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grade student cannot fail more than one class per grading period. If a student fails more than one class, they are ineligible until the next grading period.

The Missouri State High School Activities Association, of which Sedalia School District is a member, is a voluntary, nonprofit, educational association of junior and senior high schools established for the purpose of working cooperatively in adopting standards for supervising and regulating interscholastic activities and contests.

One of the primary functions of MSHSAA is to establish eligibility standards that must be met by all students to attain the privilege of representing their school in interscholastic activities.

Eligibility is a PRIVILEGE to be granted by the school to a student, which allows that student to participate in interscholastic activities. Eligibility is not a student's right by law. Precedent setting legal cases have determined that eligibility is a privilege to be granted only if the student meets all standards adopted by the school, which enables the school to grant the student such a privilege.

Listed below is some information to acquaint you with the major rules and regulations you must follow in order to protect your eligibility:

- You must be a creditable school citizen. Creditable school citizens are those students whose conduct, **both in and out of school**, will not reflect discredit upon themselves or their school.
- High School students must be enrolled in courses (6 classes) offering 3.0 units of credit.
- High School students must have earned 3.0 units of credit (6 classes) the preceding semester.
- 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade students must be enrolled in a normal course load and must not have failed more than one class the previous grading period.
- If you transfer schools and your parents do not move to your new school district, you will be ineligible for 365 days, unless you meet one of the exceptions to the transfer or promotions rules.
- You are eligible to participate in any sport for a maximum of four consecutive seasons at the high school level. Your eligibility in high school activities begins when you first enter the ninth grade and for the first eight semesters that you are

enrolled in high school. Your eighth semester must immediately follow your seventh semester.

- You must enter school within the first 11 days of the semester to be eligible.
- You may not receive cash, merchandise or gift certificates for participating in an athletic/academic contest.
- You may accept awards that are symbolic in nature, such as medals, trophies, ribbons, plaques, etc.
- You may accept awards for participating in non-school sponsored athletic/academic competition only if the awards are symbolic in nature, such as medals, trophies, ribbons, plaques, etc.
- If you reach the age of 19 prior to July 1, you will be ineligible for interscholastic competition the next school year.
- In seventh grade in order to participate on or against teams made up of only seventh graders, you must not have reached the age of 14 years prior to July 1 preceding the opening of school.
- In eighth grade in order to participate on or against teams made up of only eighth graders, you must not have reached the age of 15 years prior to July 1 preceding the opening of school.
- You may not participate in any organized non-school sponsored athletic/academic competition and your school team **IN THE SAME SPORT** during the same season.
- You may participate on a school team and a non-school team in different sports during the same season; however, you may not practice or compete in non-school organized athletic competition on **THE SAME DAY** that you practice or compete with your school team without approval of the school administration.
- You may participate in an “audition” or “try-out” for a college team only after you complete your last season of eligibility in the sport for which you wish to tryout.
- You may attend a non-school sponsored summer specialized sports camp for as long as you wish, where you do not receive instruction or coaching from a member of your school’s coaching staff.
- You may attend a camp or clinic where your school’s coaching staff instructs or coaches for a period no longer than two weeks in duration.

REMINDER: Any questions pertaining to eligibility that is not answered above should be brought to the attention of your Activities Director.

## **BOARD POLICY REGARDING INTERSCHOLASTIC ACTIVITIES AND ATHLETICS**

### Regulation 2920

Interscholastic competition for secondary school students shall be provided through a variety of activities and athletics. Students are allowed to attain the privilege of representing their school by meeting the standards of eligibility as set forth by the Missouri State High School Activities Association (MSHSAA). These standards may include academic requirements, citizenship, age maximums, passing medical

examinations, and other items that are posted in the school and discussed by the coaches and sponsors with their students as well as with the parents/guardians of all student participants at a parents meeting prior to the season.

Interscholastic competition may be withheld from any student as a condition of discipline. Furthermore, all policies that apply to the regular school day apply also to interscholastic competition. Coaches and sponsors may establish policies for their groups in addition to those stated herein.

A student must be in attendance for the full day on days of extracurricular participation. Failure to do so will eliminate the student from practice or participation that day. Exceptions may be granted in special cases.

The following criteria will be followed:

1. Students will meet the eligibility requirements set out by MSHSAA.
2. Any student failing a class may be required to attend study sessions after school.
3. Any student receiving an incomplete grade because of failure to promptly complete work will be placed on the ineligibility list. Incomplete grades resulting from illness or other special circumstances during the last week or two of a grade period may be exempted.
4. Students displaying unacceptable citizenship behaviors may be suspended from participation.
5. Each coach and sponsor will establish written guidelines for their groups. These guidelines shall be presented orally and in written format. A copy of such guidelines will be on file with the principal or Activities Director and will be given to each student participant.

A student engaged in interscholastic competition must portray good citizenship in the school and community. He/she shall be required to be in conformance with all general school rules and regulations, rules established by the sponsors and coaching staff for the program in which he/she is participating, and conformance with the laws of the community.

## **ATTENDANCE**

Participants are expected to be in school all day to be eligible for contests. A student who is absent from school on the day of a contest or performance, or on a Friday before a contest or performance on a Saturday, will not be permitted to participate in said contest without a written release from the Principal or Activities Director. Exceptions to this rule are extremely rare and must be approved by the Principal or Activities Director **beforehand**.

Participants are also expected to arrive on time the day following a contest or performance. Getting home late from a game or performance does not excuse anyone from getting to school at the appropriate time.

It is the decision of each coach/sponsor to determine practice attendance if you miss part of the school day.

## **SUMMER SCHOOL**

Credit earned in summer school may count for or against the student's record for eligibility purposes as long as the classes are required for graduation from the high school. Students may count up to one (1) unit of credit from summer school toward establishing their eligibility for the fall semester. Summer school electives will not count toward eligibility.

## **DUAL ENROLLMENT**

You may earn up to 2 units of credit per semester through dual enrollment. Please see the Activities Director if you have questions about dual enrollment or off campus credit such as work study, etc.

## **DRESS/APPEARANCE**

Coaches and sponsors reserve the right to establish grooming guidelines for their programs as long as the guidelines are fair and consistently monitored. Coaches/sponsors may also require specific clothing for practices, competitions, travel, or overnight lodging. Any out of pocket expenses expected to be covered by the participant or the participant's family will be discussed as far in advance as possible.

Tattoos must be appropriate for public display. If it is deemed by the coach/sponsor or administration to be inappropriate, it must be covered. Due to safety concerns, jewelry is strictly prohibited during practices and competition.

## **LETTERING REGULATIONS**

Each coach will establish his/her own criterion for lettering. This information is expected to be given to the athletes and parents in writing before the start of the season. A copy of each lettering policy will be on file in the Activities Office prior to the start of each season. In all activities, the athlete must finish the season in order to letter in that sport. Special consideration will be given to athletes who have been injured.

With the first letter earned in any sport the athlete will receive a chenille black and gold S-C emblem and a bar. The letter has an insignia which represents the sport in which the letter was earned. When subsequent letters are earned in different activities, a pin will be awarded which represents the sport in which the letter was earned along with a bar. Whenever an athlete letters for a second, third, or fourth time in a specific sport or activity, a bar will be given.

## **SPORTS BANQUETS**

Due to the large number of sport participants, each sport will have their own end of season banquet. All coaches and players whose team is being recognized are expected to attend. At this banquet, coaches will summarize the season and present awards. Parents and family members are encouraged to attend.

Coaches will determine what team and individual awards are given. They will schedule the banquet and inform the athletes and their families of when and where the banquet will take place. In addition, coaches will inform the team of expected behaviors and attire, which is appropriate for the event.

## **SEASONAL BOARD RECOGNITION**

At the conclusion of the fall, winter and spring sport's seasons, all-conference, all-district, and all-state award winners will be recognized by the athletic department at a Sedalia School District board meeting. A letter will be sent home to the parents of these students with information regarding the time and location of the meeting. All students and parents are enthusiastically encouraged to attend.

Co-curricular participants who achieve all-conference, all-district, or all-state will be recognized after the spring season.

## **EQUIPMENT**

In order to give the student a sense of responsibility and an appreciation of their equipment, each student is responsible for the abuse or loss of any equipment. This includes uniforms. The student who was issued the equipment must pay for any lost or stolen equipment.

The following guidelines, if followed, will reduce the chances for lost or stolen equipment or uniforms.

- Do not exchange or loan any equipment checked out to you to another teammate. If it becomes necessary to do so, the coach/sponsor will see to it.
- Except for when you have visual contact, your locker should be closed and locked at all times. This includes when you are in the shower. School and personal equipment should be locked up at all times.
- Any loss of equipment should be reported immediately to the coach/sponsor. Do not wait until the end of the season.
- Any protective equipment that does not fit properly or has defective parts should be reported to the coach/sponsor immediately. Do not wear the equipment until the adjustments have been made.
- Any equipment or uniforms that you see being used away from school should be reported to the coach/sponsor or the school administration.

- Participants will not be allowed to participate in a new sport or activity until all equipment has been returned for any previous activity.

## **TRANSPORTATION POLICY**

All athletes will ride the team bus when traveling to and from a contest. When traveling, we do so as a team. When returning home, athletes are **EXPECTED** to ride the bus home, but will be allowed to go home with parents only for alleviating parental transportation problems. Students will only be allowed to ride home with a non-parent in emergencies with approval from administration.

If Form 2920.9 is on file in the athletic office, the following may be allowed:

- Students may secure permission to return from contests with their parents or legal guardian providing that the parent/guardian requests permission from Activities Director, Administrator, or Coach/Sponsor in writing.
- Coaches/Sponsors may transport students in their personal vehicles provided the proper forms are on file at the Board Office.
- Students are responsible for their own transportation to and from all home contests, performances, practices, meetings, etc.
- Students may transport another student to and from home events, practices, meetings, etc.

## **ACTIVITIES BUS**

The district will provide transportation to daily practices which are held off campus. The bus at SCJHS will meet on Massachusetts St. The SCHS bus will load on the east side of the school. Any non-licensed participants are encouraged to use this service. This bus does not transport athletes after practice.

## **CONDUCT OF ATHLETES AT ALL ATHLETIC CONTESTS**

The following are general rules of conduct that are to be followed by all athletes. Coaches reserve the right and are encouraged to stipulate additional guidelines for their athletes.

- Athletes are not to display in any way their anger, disgust, or disagreement with an official's decision by their actions.
- Athletes must be able to control their temper at all times. Coaches will remove anyone from the contest at the earliest indication that a player is losing self-control.
- Fighting and swearing will not be tolerated under any circumstances. Do not talk to opponents. If an incident does occur, **DO NOT RETALIATE**. Let the game officials handle it. Any athlete involved in a fight may be subject to suspension from the team and/or school.

- When appropriate, following a game, we will immediately shake hands with the opponents and go straight to the locker rooms or designated meeting area.
- Players will not show disrespect to their coach or to their teammate at any time.
- Pouting or apathy on the bench during a contest will not be accepted.
- Recognize great plays by your teammates. Acknowledge super efforts.
- Never bad mouth a teammate or his performance. It is the coach's job to constructively criticize players.
- Accept the coach's decisions regarding playing time. If you have questions regarding playing time, save them for after practice.
- Coaches and players will demonstrate decorum and sportsmanship above all things during athletic contests.

## **CELL PHONE POLICY**

- Coaches/Sponsors will restrict all cell phone use by coaches/sponsors and participants from locker rooms, dressing rooms, or any area where students/athletes are changing before, during, or after practice or competitions.
- All texts messages or phone conversations between a coach/sponsor and a student/athlete will be limited to school activity business only (i.e. practice time change, game change or cancellation, etc.) and restricted to reasonable business hours. Coaches are prohibited from engaging in social text messaging or phone conversations with students/athletes.

## **SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY**

Sedalia Public Schools and the Smith-Cotton Athletic/Activities Department recognize and support student rights to freedom of speech, expression, and association, including the use of social networks. In this context, however, each student must remember that playing and competing for Sedalia Public Schools is a privilege. As a student involved in extra-curricular/co-curricular activities, you represent Sedalia Public Schools and the community of Sedalia and you are expected to portray yourself, your team/group, and the School District in a positive manner at all times.

Below are the new social networking guidelines for all students involved in extra-curricular/co-curricular activities using any form of social networking:

- Everything you post is public information – any text or photo placed online is completely out of your control the moment it is placed online – even if you limit access to your site. Information (including pictures, videos, and comments) may be accessible even after you remove it. Once you post a photo or comment on a social networking site, that photo or comment becomes the property of the site and may be searchable even after you remove it.
- What you post may affect your future. Many employers and college admissions officers review social networking sites as part of their overall evaluation of an applicant. Carefully consider how you want people to perceive you before you give them a chance to misinterpret your information (including pictures, videos, comments, and posters).

• Similar to comments made in person, the Smith-Cotton Athletic/Activities Department will not tolerate disrespectful comments and behavior online. You will be held accountable and face consequences determined by the coaching staff/sponsor and/or the administration for indiscretions such as:

- Derogatory language or remarks that may harm teammates or coaches; other Smith-Cotton student athletes, teachers, coaches, or sponsors; and student-athletes, participants, coaches, sponsors, or representatives of other schools, including any comments that may disrespect opponents.
- Incriminating photos or statements depicting violence; hazing; sexual harassment; full or partial nudity; inappropriate gestures; vandalism, stalking; underage drinking, selling, possessing, or using controlled substances; or any other inappropriate behaviors.
- Creating a serious danger to the safety of another person or making a credible threat of serious physical or emotional injury to another person.
- Indicating knowledge of any unreported school or team/group violation—regardless if the violation was unintentional or intentional.

Do not have a false sense of security about your rights to freedom of speech. Understand that freedom of speech is not unlimited. On-line social network sites are NOT a place where you can say and do whatever you want without repercussions. The information you post on a social networking site is considered public information. Protect yourself by maintaining a self-image of which you can be proud of for years to come.

## **PARENT-COACH/SPONSOR COMMUNICATION**

### Parent-Coach/Sponsor Relationship

Both parenting and coaching are extremely difficult vocations. By establishing an understanding of each position, we are better able to accept the actions of the other and provide greater benefits to the student. As parents, when your student becomes involved with our program, you have a right to be informed of the expectations that are placed on your student. This begins with a clear communication from the coach of your student's program.

### Communication You Should Expect From Your Student's Coach/Sponsor

- Philosophy of the coach/sponsor.
- Expectations the coach/sponsor has for your student as well as the players on the squad.
- Locations and times of all practices and contests.
- Team requirements such as fees, special equipment, etc.
- Procedure to follow if your student is injured during participation.
- Discipline which results in the denial of playing privileges for your student.

### Communication Coaches/Sponsors Expect From Parents

- Concerns expressed directly to the coach/sponsor.
- Notification of any schedule conflicts, well in advance.
- Any illnesses or injuries.

As your student becomes involved with our programs, they will experience some of the most rewarding moments of their lives. It is important to understand that there are also going to be times when things do not go the way your student wishes. At these times, discussion with the coach/sponsor is encouraged.

### Appropriate Concerns To Discuss With Coaches/Sponsors

- The physical and mental treatment of your student.
- Ways to help your student improve.
- Concerns about your student's behavior.

It is very difficult to accept that your student is not playing as much as you may have hoped. Coaches are professionals. They make decisions based on what they believe to be the best for the TEAM. As you can see from the above list, certain things should be discussed with a coach. Other things, such as the list to follow, should be left to the discretion of the coach.

### Issues Not Appropriate To Discuss With Coaches/Sponsors

- Playing time.
- Team strategy.
- Play calling.
- Other students.

There are situations that may require a conference between the coach and parent. These are to be encouraged. It is important that both parties involved have a clear understanding of the others' position. When these conferences are necessary, the following procedure should be followed to help promote a resolution to the issues of concern.

### Procedure To Discuss Concerns With A Coach/Sponsor

- Call the coach/sponsor **at school** to set up an appointment.
- If the coach/sponsor cannot be reached at school, do not call them at home, instead set up an appointment through the Activities Director.
- Please do not confront the coach/sponsor before or after a contest or practice. These times are usually emotional for both the parent and coach. Meetings at these times rarely establish a resolution.

The next step...

#### What To Do If The Meeting With The Coach/Sponsor Did Not Resolve Your Issues

- Call and set up a meeting with the Activities Director to discuss the situation.
- At this meeting, the appropriate next step will be determined.

## **CITIZENSHIP POLICY**

We believe that extracurricular and co-curricular activities supplement the secondary curricular program, and are a vital part of a student's total educational experience. These experiences contribute to the development of each student's intellectual, emotional, and social abilities. They provide the student with the opportunity to maximize their overall educational experience.

Student participation in any of our activities is a **privilege** which carries with it responsibility to the school, to the activity, to the student body, to the community, and to the student's themselves. Students who represent our school in one of our activities must be considered creditable citizens by the administration and the coach/sponsor. Those students, whose character or conduct is such as to reflect discredit upon themselves or their school, are not considered "creditable citizens." The student's conduct **in and out of school** shall be satisfactory in accord with the standards of good discipline.

Any behavior or action by a student that discredits themselves, their school, or their team/program will affect the student's status as a creditable citizen and the student will face punitive action as determined by the administration or the coach/sponsor. Truancy, tardiness, disrespect, or any other act that places a student in any form of suspension from school will automatically affect a student's eligibility to participate our programs. Felony or misdemeanor charges or acts by the student may justify suspension or dismissal from the program. Violations of established training rules will also result in suspension or dismissal from the program.

This citizenship policy becomes effective immediately upon completion of 8<sup>th</sup> grade and ends upon high school graduation. It is in effect 365 days a year, so infractions committed during summer months will affect a student's eligibility status.

## **PARTICIPANT CODE OF CONDUCT**

The following violations and consequences are **minimum** guidelines only; all coaches/sponsors have the right to impose additional consequences within their respective programs as they see fit.

Incidents that may occur which are not covered by these guidelines, will be reviewed on an individual basis and decisions related to penalties will be made jointly by the school administration, Activities Director, and head coach/sponsor. Final decisions of all incidents will be at the discretion of the administration.

The loss of a student's privilege to participate carries over to the next season in which a student participates if the suspension cannot be completed by the end of the current season. A season is defined as fall, winter, or spring. Therefore, it is possible that suspensions could carry over from one school year to the other.

Violations will not accumulate from year to year. For the purposes of this handbook a year is July 1 to June 30. However, in order to protect the integrity of our programs, if a student participant is in violation of this code with regularity, participation privileges can be revoked at any time by the administration.

Hearsay and/or anonymous sources will not be used to substantiate violations of this code. A violation of this policy can be substantiated either verbally and/or in writing by:

- A law enforcement official.
- A medical official.
- A faculty member.
- A school administrator.
- The parent of that student participant.
- The confession of that student participant.
- A coach or sponsor.

One of the principles to which we aspire for all of our students through program participation is honesty. Therefore, we feel it is important to encourage honesty when a student knows they are in violation of this Code of Conduct. If a student recognizes he/she may have violated this Code and they self report the violation before the end of the next school day or they admit to the violation when directly asked by the coach/sponsor or administration, it will result in a 50% reduction of their penalty if it is their first offense. However, there must remain at least a one game suspension.

**Exception:** Due to MSHSAA guidelines, matters that involve legal charges or the likelihood of charges will result in suspension of participation until the matter has been concluded through the court system. This includes any court ordered penalties (excluding probation) such as community service, fines, restitution, jail time, substance abuse counseling, etc.

#### **A. Misconduct While At School**

A student is expected to exhibit characteristics of good discipline and self-control during the school day. If it is brought to the attention of the Activities Director, Principal, or the coach/sponsor that a student participant was involved with a disciplinary problem while at school, penalties may range from a verbal reprimand to permanent restriction of participation depending on the severity of the situation and the attitude of the student.

With regard to detentions and suspensions, the following penalties are required:

*1. After school detentions:* On the day of an assigned detention, the student may not participate in any after school activities until the detention is served.

2. *In-school suspension (ISS)*: A student may not participate in any extracurricular or co-curricular contest, performance, or competition until they have completed their last day of assigned ISS. Coaches/sponsors will make decisions regarding practice.

3. *Out of school suspension (OSS)*: On any day that a student misses school due to OSS, that student may not participate in any extracurricular or co-curricular activities (practices and contests). If a student is serving OSS on a Friday or on the last day of school before a vacation he/she will not be allowed to participate until a full day of school is completed.

## **B. Academic Dishonesty**

Student participants are expected to lead by way of example. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Any student found to be involved in academic dishonesty will be disciplined in the following manner after the administration and coach/sponsor have been consulted. Final discipline will be determined by the administration.

*First offense*: The student will be held from participation for 10% of scheduled contests or will conduct five (5) hours of community service.

*Second offense*: The student will be held from participation for 25% of scheduled contests.

*Third offense*: The student will be held from participation for 50% of scheduled contests.

## **C. Unsportsmanlike Conduct**

Any actions that would result in ejection from a contest will cause the student to be restricted from representing the school for at least the next contest. Any student who commits an unsportsmanlike act but is not ejected may still be subject to at least a one game restriction from representing the school. Each case of this type is to be reviewed by the head coach, sponsor, Activities Director, and Principal before a final decision is reached.

## **D. Possession/Use of Tobacco Products, Electronic Cigarettes, Vapor Pens**

Student participants are not permitted to possess or use tobacco in any form on or off school property. Vapor and E-Liquids fall under this category. Therefore, the following penalties will be assessed to students who are in violation of this policy:

*First offense*: The student will be held from participation for 25% of scheduled contests.

*Second offense*: The student will be held from participation for 50% of scheduled contests.

*Third offense*: The student will be held from participation for 365 days.

#### **E. Possession, Use, or Distribution of Alcoholic Beverages**

Possession, use, or distribution of alcoholic beverages will not be permitted by student participants. Therefore, the following penalties will be assessed to students who are in violation of this policy:

*First offense:* The student will be held from participation for 25% of scheduled contests. The student will also be required to receive counseling or intervention as approved by the Principal or Activities Director before again being allowed to participate. Any expense will be covered by the participant.

*Second offense:* The student will be held from participation for 50% of scheduled contests. The student will also be required to receive counseling or intervention as approved by the Principal or Activities Director before again being allowed to participate. Any expense will be covered by the participant.

*Third offense:* The student will be held from participation from all extracurricular and co-curricular activities for 365 days.

#### **F. Possession, Use, or Distribution of Controlled Substances, Imitation Controlled Substances, Drug Paraphernalia, or Items Represented To Be Such**

Possession, use, or distribution of a controlled substance, imitation controlled substances, drug paraphernalia, or items represented to be such will not be permitted by student participants. Therefore, the following penalties will be assessed to students who are in violation of this policy:

*First offense:* The student will be held from participation for 50% of scheduled contests. The student will be required to receive counseling or intervention which must be approved by the Principal or Activities Director before again being allowed to participate. Any expense will be covered by the participant.

*Second offense:* The student will be held from participation from all extracurricular and co-curricular activities for 365 days.

#### **G. Misdemeanor Acts**

If a student is charged by law enforcement for committing a misdemeanor other than minor traffic violations, the following penalties will be assessed:

*First offense:* The student will be held from participation for 25% of scheduled contests.

*Second offense:* The student will be held from participation for 50% of scheduled contests.

*Third offense:* The student will be held from participation from all extracurricular and co-curricular activities for 365 days.

If a court assigns any sentence other than probation, the student participant will be held from activities until the sentence has been fulfilled.

## **H. Felonies**

If a student is charged by law enforcement for committing a felony, the following penalty will be assessed:

*First offense:* The student will be held from participation from all extracurricular and co-curricular activities for 365 days.

If a court assigns any sentence other than probation, the student participant will be held from participation from all extracurricular and co-curricular activities for 365 days, or until the sentence has been served, whichever is longer.

## **I. Hazing**

Hazing is defined as harassment, abuse, or humiliation by way of initiation. It can be physical, mental, or emotional. Some people think hazing is an acceptable practice that builds team unity and acceptance. It is, however, an act of violence. It is not a legitimate rite of passage and is intimidation, and, in many states, a crime. Because of the seriousness of our belief that hazing must not take place at the interscholastic level, or any other for that matter, students who commit hazing acts or rituals will be penalized.

*First Offense:* The student will be held from participation for 25% of scheduled contests. The student will also be mandated to make a public apology to the victim. Depending on the severity of the incident, the administration also reserves the right to suspend participation indefinitely.

*Second Offense:* The student will be held from participation for 365 days.

## **J. Inappropriate Physical Contact of a Sexual Nature**

All students, including student athletes and those who participate in other extracurricular activities, have the right to be protected against inappropriate physical contact of a sexual nature in connection with school activities. Therefore, student participants who engage in such conduct will receive consequences under this paragraph separate and independent from, and in addition to, consequences administered under any other provision of the Student Code of Conduct or Participant Code of Conduct that may also be applicable to the conduct. For purposes of this paragraph only, "inappropriate physical contact of a sexual nature" shall mean any "sexual conduct," "sexual contact," "sexual intercourse," or "deviate sexual intercourse," as such terms are defined in Section 566.010 of the Missouri Revised Statutes on the date this paragraph is adopted, or as the statute may later be amended- when such conduct is either (1) unwelcome or (2) otherwise inappropriate for a school activity, as determined by the coach, sponsor, administration and/or Board of Education. The definitions in Section 566.010 are available on-line under the "Missouri Revised Statutes," and are available through the athletic and administrative offices in print.

Consequences: (Nothing in the consequences specified below is intended to limit in any way consequences that may be provided under the Student Code of Conduct, or any other provision of Board Policy or Regulation or state or federal law.)

*First Offense:* Up to a 365-day suspension from extra-Curricular activities, with referral to law enforcement authorities. The student will also receive consequences specified in the Student Handbook.

*Second Offense:* Long term suspension or expulsion from school, and permanent expulsion from extra curricular activities, with referral to law enforcement authorities.

#### **K. Due Process**

Student participants who are disciplined for violating any of these standards will be afforded due process. The student will be allowed to explain their position to the Coach/Sponsor and/or Activities Director before any penalties are invoked. If the disciplinary action results in the suspension of a participant in an extracurricular or co-curricular program for more than one week, the student participant may appeal to the Activities Director, then to the Building Principal, then to the Superintendent of Schools, and ultimately, to the Sedalia School District Board of Education, according to their policies and procedures.

- If a single violation occurs in two or more different categories, the most restrictive category will be used to assess the penalty.
- The accumulation of violations within a given year are category specific.
- Coaches of each program have the right to establish more restrictive consequences for violations.

## **SPORTSMANSHIP**

As a participant representing the Sedalia School District #200, you have the responsibility for exhibiting good sportsmanship at all times. The moment you agree to participate, you become a representative of your student body, your school, your community and, most importantly, yourself. You will receive the ingredients of good sportsmanship through the teaching, coaching, and examples of the coaching/sponsoring staff. Be sure to exhibit what you learn.

A very important lesson we learn through interscholastic athletics/activities is that by hard work and dedication, we can improve. In America, we recognize we can take the ability given us and through hard work and dedication become anything we want to be. No one can tell you what you must be. If you are willing to recognize the ability you possess and work hard, you can achieve success in athletics/activities.

Attitude is one of the principle requisites in becoming a champion in any sport. Your attitude is defined by your thinking, feeling, and actions. The desire to excel, to win, and to pay the price, are all positive points or attributes of attitude that contribute to a winning philosophy.

Yes, a winning philosophy is important. But likewise, realize the importance of how the game is played as well as viewed. Simple acts or gestures of respect will aid you and

your team in portraying the standards of sportsmanship expected of participants at Smith-Cotton High School. Examples of such acts are:

- Displaying good conduct.
- Cooperating with officials.
- Shaking hands with opponents before and after the contest.
- Showing self-control at all times.
- Accepting decisions and abiding by them.
- Accepting both victory and defeat with pride and compassion.
- Never being boastful or bitter.

Interscholastic athletics/activities are much like everyday life. America thrives on competition that has made the country as great as it is today. You might say it is the backbone of our great nation. Regardless of your plans in later life, whether to be in labor, management, sales, or other professions, you must realize there will be competition. There are and will be disappointments in all of life's activities. It is how you react to these disappointments that will measure what values you have learned through activity participation and athletic play on the courts, fields, and mats during your high school days.

# COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC INTEREST INFORMATION FORM

- This information form should be completed by junior and senior athletes along with their parents if they are interested in participation in intercollegiate athletics upon high school graduation.
- This form should be turned in to the **head coach** of the sport in which you are interested in playing collegiately as early as September 1 of your junior year and no later than September 1 of your senior year.
- Completion of this form is meant to initiate discussion with your coach regarding the possibilities of intercollegiate athletic participation and to provide the coach with preliminary information used to talk with college recruiters.
- Completion of this form does not guarantee college placement or athletic scholarships.

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_ **DOB:** \_\_\_\_\_

**HEIGHT:** \_\_\_\_\_ **WEIGHT:** \_\_\_\_\_ **R/L HANDED:** \_\_\_\_\_

**MAILING ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**EMAIL ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_ **PHONE #:** \_\_\_\_\_

**HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS PARTICIPATED IN:** \_\_\_\_\_

**KEY STATS/AWARDS/HONORS:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**COLLEGIATE SPORT(S) INTERESTED IN:** \_\_\_\_\_

**HAVE YOU REGISTERED WITH THE NCAA CLEARINGHOUSE?** \_\_\_\_\_

**HAVE YOU REGISTERED WITH THE NAIA CLEARINGHOUSE?** \_\_\_\_\_

**CURRENT OVERALL HS G.P.A.:** \_\_\_\_\_ **A.C.T. SCORE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**PRESUMED MAJOR(S):** \_\_\_\_\_

**LIST SCHOOLS YOU HAVE APPLIED TO AND NOTE IF YOU HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED:**  
\_\_\_\_\_

**LIST YOUR COLLEGIATE CHOICES IN ORDER OF PREFERENCE:**

- |    |       |    |       |
|----|-------|----|-------|
| 1. | _____ | 4. | _____ |
| 2. | _____ | 5. | _____ |
| 3. | _____ | 6. | _____ |

## **ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION FOR COLLEGIATE ATHLETICS**

**For information about eligibility and the NCAA Clearing house, use the appropriate link below.**

**NCAA Division I:**

**<https://www.ncaa.org/student-athletes/play-division-i-sports>**

**NCAA Division II:**

**<https://www.ncaa.org/student-athletes/play-division-ii-sports>**

**NAIA:**

**<https://www.ncsasports.org/naia-eligibility-center>**

**NJCAA:**

**<https://www.njcaa.org/eligibility/2020-21/index>**

## COLLEGE SIGNING PROCEDURE

In order to provide needed structure for photographs and news releases pertaining to students signing a National Letter of Intent or accepting a scholarship to participate in an activity (band, cheer, etc.) or for academics, we have set out the following rules:

**SIGNING DATES:** All signings are to take place in the Dr. Harriet Wolfe Media Center. Requests for a signing date should be sent in writing to Mr. Rob Davis [davisr@sedalia200.org](mailto:davisr@sedalia200.org) at least 2 weeks prior to the requested date.

Multiple signings will be grouped on the same day when possible.

**WHO MAY PARTICIPATE:** We will shoot photos and create news releases for Sedalia 200 district students who participate in Smith-Cotton High School athletics or activities. No exceptions.

**SUBJECTS IN PHOTO:** Only the following people will be permitted in the photograph along with the student who is signing:

Parents or guardians                      High school coaches/activity directors  
High school athletic director   High school administrator (principal or an assistant)  
College or university representative

If the student wants a photo with their sibling(s), non-custodial relatives, youth or traveling team coach or teammates included, they may use their own camera to shoot that photograph after all signings for that day are complete.

**COMMUNICATION CHAIN:** The student is to inform their coach or activity sponsor that they are signing a NLI or scholarship acceptance document. The coach/sponsor informs the athletic/activity director, who schedules the signing with the communications director. The communications director informs local media of the photo opportunity, and provides a photo and news release if local media are unable to attend. The photos also will be posted on the athletic director's page on the district website.

**INFORMATION FOR NEWS RELEASE:** The communications director will create a Google form and place a link on the athletic director's page on the district website. The coach/sponsor is responsible for filling out the form with the student's input **BEFORE** the signing date. Required information will include the names of all people who will be in the photo and their relationship to the student; name of college or university they will attend; pertinent career statistics, awards and honors; and a quote from the coach about the student.

We were fortunate to have several students sign letters and receive scholarships during the 2019-2020 school year, and we are hopeful those numbers will keep growing in the coming year. These guidelines will help us better manage a milestone day in a student's life to help keep the focus on them and their achievement.

## **OVERNIGHT SEARCH POLICY/LETTER**

Parents/Guardians,

This letter is to inform all participants of school-related functions that if their activity requires an overnight stay that they and their bags are subject to search.

This search may be conducted before departing for an event and may also take place during that event. Students' baggage and possessions may be searched in order to prevent any offense that would bring about disqualification, embarrassment, and possible legal consequences for the students and the programs of Smith-Cotton High School and Smith-Cotton Junior High School.

Coaches, sponsors, school security, and administration may check personal belongings for contraband such as tobacco, alcohol, illegal drugs, or weapons in order to ensure a safe and orderly trip.

Any student or students found in possession of these types of items may face the following consequences:

- unable to attend the event;
- be removed from an event and sent home at parent's expense;
- face school and possible legal consequences.

Smith-Cotton High School and Smith-Cotton Junior High School want to ensure that each student has the opportunity for a safe, fun, and competitive experience during such events and feels that these preventative measures help make sure our students have that opportunity.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation with this matter.

Sincerely,  
Sedalia School District #200 Administration



## **SEDALIA SCHOOL DISTRICT AGREEMENT FOR PARTICIPANT IN ATHLETIC ACTIVITIES PROGRAMS**

### **Student Agreement**

If I am selected to represent the Sedalia School District, I will sincerely endeavor to contribute my best to the success of that program. I understand that I represent my family, school, and community. I understand that my participation in the Sedalia School District Athletic/Activities program is not a right, but a privilege. It is important that I present a positive image and serve as a role model for others. Therefore, I agree to abide by the provisions of this handbook and in particular the “Code of Conduct” as approved by the Board of Education. I am also aware that if I do not live up to this agreement, I must accept the consequences for my behavior, which may include dismissal from the athletic/activities program(s).

I realize that if school policies are violated, the procedure and penalties of those policies will be enforced.

By signing this document, I acknowledge that I have read and understand the Athletic/Activities Handbook as approved by the Board of Education.

Student Name (please print or type): \_\_\_\_\_

Student’s Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade Level: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Parental/Guardian Agreement**

By signing this document, I acknowledge that I have read the Athletic/Activities Handbook, and I understand the possible consequences if my child violates this policy.

Parent’s Name (please print or type): \_\_\_\_\_

Parent’s Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Signed: \_\_\_\_\_



**SEDALIA SCHOOL DISTRICT  
PRIVATE TRANSPORTATION CONSENT FORM**

My child, \_\_\_\_\_, has my permission to travel from school property (or other location) to any activity or athletic event by private transportation, either as the driver or as a passenger in a private automobile driven by another student, parent, or other person. I understand and acknowledge that the Sedalia School District #200 will have no financial or legal responsibility for injuries arising out of such travel.

By signing this form, I hereby release the District, as well as its directors, officers, administrators, employees, and other agents from all liability for any and all injuries arising from my child's travel to any activity or athletic event via transportation. I further agree to indemnify and hold harmless the District, as well as its directors, officers, administrators, employees, and other agents, against any claims asserted by my child as a result of his or her travel to any activity or athletic event via private transportation.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent or Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent or Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

I acknowledge that the District will have no financial or legal responsibility for injuries arising out of my travel from school (or other location) to any activity or athletic event. I further acknowledge that I have a responsibility to travel directly from school (or other location) to any activity or athletic event, and that failure to report to that activity or athletic event on time may result in discipline, up to and including possible dismissal from that activity or athletic team. I further acknowledge that inappropriate conduct during travel to any activity or athletic event may result in such discipline, as well as additional discipline under Board of Education Policy, as such Policy applies to out-of-school misconduct.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date