

OKLAHOMA SCHOOL FOR THE
DEAF



HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC PROGRAM
STUDENT-ATHLETE AND PARENT HANDBOOK
2011 - 2012

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PURPOSE

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

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

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

Mission Statement

To provide excellence in Athletics programming for all interested eligible OSD students; to foster opportunities for students to develop sport skills, teamwork, self-discipline, and sportsmanship; to promote self-esteem and confidence through physical enjoyment. *Participation in Athletics is a privilege, not a right.*

Expectations of Students/Parents/Spectators:

- Being a Student-Athlete from OSD, represent it well.
- Respect school property and authority.
- OSD is a drug FREE, alcohol FREE, tobacco FREE campus
- Show respect for players who are injured.
- Stress the values derived from playing the game fairly.
- Show respect for opponents and opposing coaches and fans.
- Avoid profane language and obnoxious behavior.
- Respect the integrity and judgment of sports officials (even if you disagree).
- Respect the judgment and strategy of the coach (even if you disagree).
- Avoid applauding errors or penalties of the opponents.
- Refrain from heckling, jeering or distracting opponents.
- Refrain from being critical of players, coaches or officials for a loss.
- Avoid stomping of the bleachers or the use of artificial noisemakers.
- Refrain from using cheers that taunt or ridicule opposing players, coaches, cheerleaders or Spectators.
- Refrain from booing or showing displeasure with game officials or activities.
- Achieve a thorough understanding and acceptance of the rules of the game and the standards of eligibility.
- Encourage leadership, use of initiative, and good judgment by players on the teams.
- To recognize that the purpose of athletics is to promote the physical, mental, social, emotional, and spiritual well being of the individual players.
- To remember that an athletic contest is only a game -- not a matter of life or death for the player, coach, school, official, fan, community, state, or nation.

OSD Athletic Department Directory

Athletic Director: Tommy Varner, Jr.

Email: tvarner@osd.k12.ok.us school

Coachtv95@gmail.com mobile email

(724) 413-7236 text only

(866) 764-2119 VP

(580) 622-4950 Fax

Superintendent: KaAnn Varner 866-320 - 9174

kvarner@osd.k12.ok.us

Coaches Directory

Volleyball Head Coach: Deb Ulery

School email: dulery@osd.k12.ok.us

School phone: (580) 622-5049 voice/TDD

Head Girls Basketball/Volleyball Assistant/Track Coach: Angie Shelby

School email: ashelby@osd.k12.ok.us

School VP (866) 764-2119

Football Head Coach: Tommy Varner, Jr.

School email tvarner@osd.k12.ok.us

School VP (866) 764-2119

Assistant Football Coach: Lawson Pair

School email: lpair@osd.k12.ok.us

School VP: (866) 327-2872

Head Boys Basketball/Assistant Football Coach: Chris Reagle

School email: creagle@osd.k12.ok.us

School VP: (866)947-7155

Cheerleading Coach: Robin Sledd

School email: rsledd@osd.k12.ok.us

OSD Athletic Profiles

Mascot: Indians

Colors: Dark Green and Black

Classification: Independent (OSSAA)

Sports Offered:

Falls Sports

Cheerleading

Football

Volleyball (Varsity and Junior Varsity)

Winter Sports

Cheerleading

Varsity Girls Basketball

Varsity Boys Basketball

Spring Sports

Track and Field

All Sports Banquet – May

Introduction

The student-athletes/teams are expected to follow OSD student-athlete handbook. The goal of these rules and regulations is to encourage athletic & academic achievement and build student character.

Failure to comply with expectations outlined in the student-athlete handbook will result in reduced playing time, suspension, or dismissal from the team upon agreement of the coaching staff, Athletic Director, and school administrator(s).

Coaches may establish consequences for minor infractions, such as inattention to directions, horseplay, tardiness to practice, etc., with the approval of the Athletic Director and/or principal. Consequences pertaining to a particular sport must be explained fully by the coach to all team members at the start of the season. The coach shall administer penalties for violation of team rules.

Purpose of Oklahoma Secondary School Activities Association

The purpose of OSSAA is to organize, to stimulate, to encourage, and to promote the academic, athletic, and fine arts programs in an effort to foster a spirit of fair play, good fellowship, true sportsmanship, and wholesome competition for boys and girls.

ELIGIBILITY QUALIFICATIONS FOR COMPETITION

Age Eligibility: According to Oklahoma Secondary School Activities Association (OSSAA) policy, any student who reaches his/her nineteenth birthday before September 1 will not be eligible for athletic competition except for special circumstances.

Playing Eligibility: To be eligible for athletics, students must be in compliance with the Oklahoma School for the Deaf (OSD) policies concerning incorrect and illegal enrollment and the rules and regulations of the Oklahoma State Sports Association:

- Student-athlete is a full time student.
- Student-athlete may play up to a total of eight consecutive semesters, or four years, of sorts after entering the ninth grade of a four-year high school.
- Student-athletes who have never entered the ninth grade, but were placed into the tenth grade, may play three consecutive years from their first entry into tenth grade.
- If a player competes for or against a varsity team before enrolling in the ninth grade, the player's four years of eligibility begins on the date of competition for or against the varsity team.

PRE-PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS:

Each student-athlete team member shall have his/her parents fill out, sign, and date the proper paperwork. A physical examination, statement of risk, and proof of insurance is required. The student-athlete shall submit the required paperwork, 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 Director prior to becoming a member of any athletic squad or team.

The physical examination covers sports for the entire year, unless medical restrictions are placed upon the student-athlete during the course of the school year. The physical is good only for the current school year. The physical examination is good for one year from the date of the examination.

Students with cochlear implants, shunts, pacemakers, or any other types of medical devices MUST be cleared to participate in athletics from the treating physician/specialist.

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

A student-athlete/team member who receives a grade of "F" or two "D" grades on a scale of 0-100 in any course for a one week grading period may not practice and compete for the next week following the week in which the unacceptable grade was received.

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

PARENTAL CONSENT

Each student-athlete/team member and his/her parents or guardians shall complete and sign the OSD "Acknowledgement of Rules" Form. Signing the form will:

1. Permit the student-athlete to participate in all or specific sports.
2. Authorize the student-athlete/team member to accompany any school team of which he/she is a member on any of its local or out of town trips.
3. Allow the school to obtain, through a physician of its own choice, any emergency medical care that may become reasonably necessary for the student-athlete/team member in the course of such athletic activities or such travel.

MEDICAL RELEASE TO PLAY AGAIN

All injuries that occur while participating in athletics should be reported to the coach, athletic director, and Student Health Center. If a doctor sees a student-athlete, he/she must have a doctor's release before he/she can practice or compete in athletic contests.

INJURY/ILLNESS

If a student is hospitalized during an out of town trip, parents or guardians will be required to come to the hospital immediately and pick up their student-athlete. If an injury or illness is such that transportation by the OSD bus is not deemed appropriate, Parents or Guardians may be required to pick up their student-athlete as well.

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 (goatee, beard and sideburns) 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, Athletic Department personnel, other schools/team members, officials, and anyone involved in interscholastic sports. It is expected that the student-athletes/team members will conduct themselves in a manner that will be positive for the school.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE

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

The Athletic Department and coaches do not support student-athletes/team members smoking. If any team student-athletes/team members are found using tobacco, including smokeless tobacco, disciplinary action will be taken. This includes suspension from suiting up for games or suspension/dismissal from the team. Repetitive smoking shall result in expulsion from the team for the remainder of the season and all rights and privileges, including any awards or post-season recognition, will be lost.

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 Athletic 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.

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 are not returned, replaced, or paid for, the letter award shall not be awarded, nor will any gear or uniform be issued for the next sport.

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 before-hand. A student-athlete/team member who misses practice or meetings may experience less participation time. Unexcused absences will result in a loss of participation time or may lead to being terminated from the team.

All student-athlete/team members are expected to attend their scheduled classes by noon on the day of a team contest. Any student absent from class on the day of an activity will not be permitted to participate that day unless the principal grants an excuse. If a student-athlete/team member is sick and misses a half-day of classes during the day of scheduled games, he /she cannot suit up for competition.

OUT OF STATE TRIPS (WEEKEND STAY EVENTS)

Student-athletes/team members are required to have parent/guardian's permission one week in advance of the scheduled weekend event before they are allowed to participate in competition on a weekend. No out-of-state trip is granted if the permission form has not been signed by a parent/guardian.

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

STAYING IN THE DORMITORY

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

Sign In/Out: All athletes regardless if he/she is a day student or residential student are required to report to the dorm (sign in) first before going to the athletic facilities after school. Day students shall be picked up at the gym after practice/games. If a day student is to be picked up by the parent at a different place other than the gym, communication must occur by the parent or student to the coach about their plan.

Staying at the dorm (overnight): A day student can stay at the dorm for only two reasons: An early departure (before 7:30 a.m.) and or/late arrival (after 11 p.m.). If you feel that your child needs to stay at the dorm for one or both reasons mentioned above, please fill out the correct form for requesting permission to stay in the dorm overnight. It must be submitted to the Athletic Director and Director of Residential Life no less than one week in advance. You will be notified of approval to stay in the dorm by the Athletic Director or coaches.

Student-athletes/team members need to be picked up from the dormitory before 10 a.m. the following day (weekend only), except for some weekends when all athletes (residential students) go home early on a Saturday morning. The Athletic Director or coaches will inform you when the student-athlete needs to be picked up.

TRANSPORTATION

When 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. (For residential students, a note from the residential program is also required). If a student-athlete joins his/her parents right after the game, verbal communication between coach and parent is required prior to the student-athlete leaving the event.

No special transportation is allowed. If a student-athlete misses a road trip with the team and coaches, he/she is not allowed to play at all during that event.

COMMITMENT TO ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION

A student-athlete/team member may participate in only sport during the fall, winter, and spring seasons. He/she is expected to stay on that team until the season is finished.

Student-athletes/team members cut from one sport may try out for another sport provided they not cut from the first sport for disciplinary reasons. When a student-athlete/team member quits a team, he/she is ineligible for any sport during that season which has already begun. Additionally, he/she will lose all rights for the sport he/she quit, including qualifying for major athletic awards, letters, and post-season honors.

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 issue with your coach and get written approval before you leave the sport.
2. Report your situation to the Athletic Director
3. Coaches shall notify the student-athlete/team member's parents

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 privilege of joining any sport the following season.

LOCKER ROOM AND FACILITIES

It is the student-athlete/team member's responsibility to take good care of the locker room and facilities and to respect their own and other student-athletes/team members' belongings. Graffiti or putting some kind of tape or sticker on the locker is not permitted. Horse playing and throwing towels or other object is not allowed in the locker room. All showers must be turned off after showering and no glass containers are permitted in locker rooms. Equipment, gear, and uniforms **must be removed** from the locker at the conclusion on each sport 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. Ask your coach for a personal locker with a locker combination.

WEIGHT ROOM

We are very fortunate to have nice weight room equipment. Student-athlete/team members may train only with supervision of an instructor, coach, DCS, 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 the rules is posted on the wall, and they must be followed.

CLOSED PRACTICE POLICY

Practices, which are considered as valuable instruction time, are closed to all parties with the exception of players, coaches, 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), except during sports camp, which is closed campus.

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.

CELL PHONES/PAGERS/CAMERAS

Student-athlete/team members are not allowed to bring cell phones, pagers, and/or cameras on any athletic events. Those who are caught with a cell phone, pager, and/or camera will result in a one game suspension. They are to be left at the dorm or home. Repeated violation of this rule may result in dismissal from the team.

HAZING POLICY

The Athletics Department will not tolerate any hazing activity among the student-athletes and the teams.

Hazing is defined as any action taken or situation with or without consent, whether on or off OSD premises, which recklessly, intentionally or unintentionally, endangers the mental or physical health or safety of a student, or creates risk of injury, or serious emotional distress, or causes discomfort, embarrassment, harassment or ridicule, or which willfully destroys or removes public or private property, or violates any Federal, state, and/or local laws and regulations, or OSD policy, or causing or encouraging any person to commit an act that would be in violation of law or OSD policy. In most instances, it concerns actions taken or situations with or without consent for the purpose of initiation, promoting, fostering, or confirming any form of admission into or affiliation with, or as a condition for continued membership in a student group or organization. The expressed or implied consent of the victim will not be a defense to any action brought pursuant to this policy.

ADDITIONS, CORRECTIONS OR AMENDMENTS TO HANDBOOK

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