

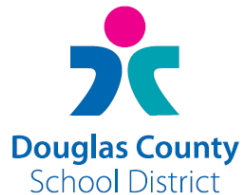
2011-2012 Student and Parent High School Handbook

 <p style="text-align: center;">Castle View</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Chaparral</p> 	 <p style="text-align: center;">Douglas County</p>
 <p style="text-align: center;">Highlands Ranch</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Legend</p> 	 <p style="text-align: center;">Mountain Vista</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">Rock Canyon</p> 	 <p style="text-align: center;">ThunderRidge</p>

Activities & Athletics

www.dcsdk12.org

Handbook may be accessed via the website>PK-12 Education>Athletics & Activities>High School Student Parent Handbook 11-12



Learn today. Lead tomorrow.

Message from the Director of Activities, Athletics and Student Leadership:

Welcome to the 2011-2012 school year! I look forward to this year and hope to have as much success this year as we did last year. It is my hope that we will have even more students participate this year and we will once again experience numerous successes both on and off the playing field. Activities and athletics play such an important role in the development of our students. In the Douglas County School District we strive to educate the whole child, and not just the student's academic core. Research shows that students who participate in extracurricular activities perform much better in school, have fewer discipline problems, and develop life-long skills that they can take with them well beyond high school. Students are given the opportunity to learn valuable lessons that cannot be taught in a classroom. The value of participating in extracurricular activities is tremendous! I am happy to see that your student has decided to extend his/her learning and experiences by participating.

This handbook should inform you about athletics and activities in Douglas County Schools. Please take some time to familiarize yourself with this information. It will give you a global perspective on our District as well as answer questions that you may have. You will be able to read about our district's core values, commitments, and priorities. Athletics and activities help to meet these goals and enrich our student's high school experience. Please use this information as a guideline to our programs. More complete information may be found at your school, on our District website, www.dcsdk12.org, and the Colorado High School Activities Association.

As we continue to promote participation, we encourage you to talk to your student(s) about the expectations that are mentioned in this handbook. We have high standards for our students and we expect them to represent themselves, their families, teams, schools and Douglas County School District in a positive manner at all times. We need your help reinforcing these important messages. We want all of our students to have positive experiences and cannot do this without your active participation and partnership with the Douglas County School District.

Thank you for your support in educating our students. I look forward to another exciting and successful year of activities and athletics!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Derek Chaney". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Derek Chaney
Director of Activities, Athletics and Student Leadership

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For further information, visit the Douglas County School District website, www.dcsdk12.org or call the Athletics, Activities and Student Leadership office at 303-387-0095.

Welcome to the Douglas County School District's activity and athletic programs. We hope this information will be beneficial to you and will help to ensure a positive experience. Please use this information as a guideline to our programs. Complete information, rules and procedures can be found from your school and the Colorado High School Activities Association.

The Case for High School Activities

Unlocking the Secret of School Success: Activities

There is a secret in America's high schools that need not be hidden any longer. The secret is that activities are not just a way to have fun or be with friends, they are a valuable educational tool. From interscholastic sports to music, drama and debate, activities enrich a student's high school experiences.

Benefits of Activities:

Activities Support the Academic Mission of Schools. They are not a diversion, but rather an extension of a good educational program. Students who participate in activities programs tend to have higher grade-point averages, better attendance records, lower dropout rates and fewer discipline problems than those who do not.

Activities are Inherently Educational. Activities programs provide valuable lessons on many practical situations -- teamwork, sportsmanship, winning and losing and hard work. Through participation in activities programs students learn self-discipline, build self-confidence and develop skills to handle competitive situations. These are qualities the public expects schools to produce in students so that they become responsible adults and productive citizens.

Activities Foster Success in Later Life. Participation in high school activities is often a predictor of later success in college, a career and becoming a contributing member of society.

--From the National Federation of State High Schools Association

Our Core Values

Our Core Values remain constant in an ever-changing world. They provide the foundation for our work and influence how we conduct ourselves and engage with others.

Educational Excellence

High expectations are the focus of everything we do. We challenge all people to acquire a foundation of knowledge and academic skills, and to achieve their highest potential.

Human Diversity

Varied beliefs and backgrounds strengthen a public education system. We respect differences which contribute to a better society for all human beings.

Individual Potential

Individuals develop within an environment that nurtures intellectual, social, emotional, physical and aesthetic growth.

Lifelong Learning

Education is a process that begins at birth and continues throughout life. We foster curiosity, motivation and the desire to learn that extends beyond school settings.

Productive Effort

The pursuit of greater knowledge and more powerful thinking demands hard work, perseverance and commitment.

Shared Responsibility

The partnerships among parents, students, staff and community members are characterized by mutual commitment and collaborative effort.

Ethical Behavior

Our actions are distinguished by the highest standards of personal behavior, including trust, honesty, fairness, integrity and mutual respect.

Continuous Improvement

Our District, its systems and processes will be subject to continual scrutiny and improvement. We will be recognized for management by fact, results focus and a long-range outlook.



Our Commitments

Our Commitments summarize our promises to our students, parents, employees, and community. They are based on our Core Values and provide a broad philosophy that filters our daily work.

Commitment to our Students. Douglas County School District is committed to the success of our students as lifelong learners and critical thinkers. We value all students as individuals with visions of their own futures and connections to the world, and we will guide them toward their full potential. DCSD will encourage our students to build meaningful relationships with their peers, teachers, administrators, and staff. DCSD is committed to providing our students with physically and emotionally safe educational environments, the necessary tools for learning, and the freedom to explore their many options in life.

Commitment to our Parents and Families. Douglas County School District is committed to welcoming, encouraging and supporting parents and family members as key partners in the education of our students. We value parents' ideas, opinions and concerns, knowing they have an understanding of how issues and events affect their students and families. DCSD will keep our parents and families engaged and informed with current information. DCSD is committed to providing our parents and families with choices to meet each student's individual learning needs.

Commitment to our Employees. Douglas County School District is committed to respecting and supporting all employees. We value the skills and experiences our colleagues possess – qualities which allow them to meet high expectations and fulfill varied responsibilities. DCSD empowers our employees to make decisions about students' successes in a collaborative environment. We encourage staff members to embrace the choices they have in career and professional development opportunities. DCSD is committed to retaining our staff through competitive compensation and by promoting an environment in which employees share their passion for their work.

Commitment to our Community. Douglas County School District is committed to engaging our community members as partners in providing a world-class education for our students. We value the support of our community to graduate well-rounded citizens who will make meaningful contributions to our society. DCSD will responsibly use the taxpayer resources provided by our community, acting as good neighbors and in the best interest of our students. DCSD is committed to being honest stewards of the property entrusted to us by our community, and will be accountable to them through transparent dealings and the academic growth of our students.

Our Vision

is to help students acquire the knowledge and abilities to be responsible citizens who contribute to our society.

Our Priorities

Our Priorities are inspired by our Core Values, our Commitments and the changing needs of our students, profession and community. They provide perspective in relation to our vision for change in Douglas County School District.



Choice

Providing each child the maximum opportunity for success

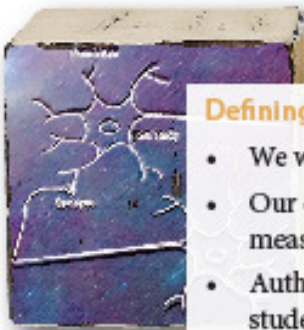
- Communicating the unique qualities of each school to our students, employees, parents, and community gives all students the highest possibility for success.
- Empowering every school to achieve their desired state provides many learning opportunities for students and synergy in our schools.



World-Class Education

Achieving sustainable learning for the 21st century

- Students must be prepared to compete on a world stage for jobs that require a high level of creativity and innovation.
- Sustainable learning is essential and requires the most important information to be taught in a way that can be retained, that stretches across content areas, and that incorporates the tools our young people will be required to use in the workforce.
- Education is more personalized, and students develop a deep understanding of self, world, career, and their own pathway to success.



System Performance

Defining and measuring what matters most

- We will define what matters most to our stakeholders.
- Our development of a cutting-edge System Performance Framework will measure student, educator, school, leader, and District performance.
- Authentic measurements will lead to continuous improvement for our students and allow our stakeholders to remain informed.

SPORTING BEHAVIOR

A student group made up of members from the Douglas County Student Advisory Group and student representatives of athletic programs at the high schools, met to discuss and work on sporting behavior with the schools in Douglas County. After discussion and feedback, two documents were developed. It is the hope of these students that their peers, as well as their supporters, work to understand and implement their ideals.

(CUT HERE AND RETURN)

Our Pledge for Sporting Behavior*

I, _____, understand the responsibilities and privileges of representing my school in competitive activities and, therefore, will maintain the high standards of sporting behavior.

I pledge to uphold the integrity of my team, my school and my community by:

- taking responsibility for all of my actions;
- demonstrating respect for everyone;
- being a positive role model;
- accepting the outcome of the event with dignity and class.

_____ (Student Signature)

*Developed and written by students representing all high schools in the Douglas County School District.



Learn today. Lead tomorrow.

Ten Things Students in Douglas County Want Spectators to Remember*

1. Be supportive of my team; don't put down their team.
2. Be proud of me—win or lose.
3. Understand that players, coaches and officials are human—we all make mistakes.
4. Provide feedback—but wait until I'm ready.
5. Don't take the game more seriously than I do.
6. Know the rules.
7. Be interested.
8. Exemplify the expected behavior.
9. Practice what you preach.
10. Remember, it's just a game.

*Developed and written by students representing all high schools in the Douglas County School District.

Interscholastic Activity and Athletic Program

Activity and athletic procedures and regulations will be governed by the Douglas County School District Board and Administrative Policies, Code of Conduct, Colorado High School Activities Association (CHSAA), the high school athletic handbook and the Continental League. This handbook is meant as an overview. Check with your school administrator, District Activity and Athletic Director, or CHSAA for further information.

High School Interscholastic Activity and Athletic Programs are within the Douglas County School District's Department of Learning Services. All high schools in the Douglas County School District are members of CHSAA and follow their bylaws and procedures. Please check their website, www.chsaa.org, for information.

For further information about Douglas County School District Activities and Athletics, please visit the Douglas County School District website, www.dcsdk12.org. Click on PK-12 Education, then select Athletics and Activities.

ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS

The purpose of athletic programs in the secondary schools of the District shall be:

1. To provide a wide basis of participation in both team and individual sports in interscholastic competition.
2. To develop a strong program of competitive sports:
 - a. By encouraging and developing talented athletes in all sports and providing sufficient opportunity, especially at the middle school level, for students to develop individual ability;
 - b. By encouraging the development of team spirit among all members of the team and their coaches;
 - c. By developing good attitudes, pride, sportsmanship and ethical behavior in students, participants and spectators;
 - d. By developing and maintaining a good relationship between athletic teams and the student body, faculty, administration and community;
 - e. By teaching fundamentals and techniques of each sport in a progressive sequence as appropriate for students at higher grade levels;
 - f. By providing student athletes with an awareness of potential opportunities as afforded them through competitive athletics.

In keeping with the above goals, the Board shall seek to fund girls' sports on an equal opportunity basis with boys' sports and shall permit and encourage coeducational teams when the particular sport is determined suitable as a coeducational activity. The Board of Education shall encourage students, faculty and the community to recognize the value of athletics in relation to the total school program.

Code of Conduct for Student Athletes

The student-athlete (the term student-athlete as used hereinafter includes athletes and student managers) shall obey training and conduct rules appropriate to his/her obligation to teammates, coaches, teachers, and school, as well as to all representatives of hosting and visiting schools.

These regulations include, but are not limited to the following:

1. The student athlete must:
 - a. Not be involved in the use, possession, distribution, give, purchase, exchange or sale of alcohol;
 - b. Not smoke or use any form of tobacco;
 - c. Not be involved in the use, possession, distribution, gift, purchase, exchange or sale of drugs, as that term is defined in District Policy JICH;
 - d. Be willing to submit to rules of conduct and appearance prescribed by the coach when representing the school;
 - e. Inform the head coach that he/she intends to drop or quit any sport;
 - f. Meet all eligibility rules of CHSAA and of the District;

2. A student athlete who violates any or all of the above rules is subject to suspension or expulsion from participation in athletic activities.

Portions adopted: October 15, 1973 Revised: October 15, 2002

STUDENT TRAINING RULES

Students are expected to conduct themselves, at all times, in a manner that is compatible with the school's function as an educational facility, and in accordance with District policies and regulations. Refer to the Student Code of Conduct and Discipline for the behavioral expectations of all students in Douglas County and consequences when they are not met.

In addition, the Douglas County School District has established specific expectations by which the young men and women who participate in the interscholastic programs are required to abide. Students and a parent are required to sign a copy of the Training Rules & Expectations form and return it to their school indicating their understanding of these expectations and consequences. The following form will be included in the athletic registration packet:

High-School Athletics and Activities Training Rules & Expectations

As a representative of DCSD's activity and athletic programs, I understand and accept that:

- It is my privilege and honor to wear my school colors
- I am a leader in and out of uniform
- My actions are a reflection of myself, my family, my school, and community
- I'm accountable for my performance in the classroom and my conduct in the community.

In exchange for the opportunity to participate in DCSD interscholastic activities or athletics (abbreviated here as "Activities"), and in accordance with Policy JJI, I agree to the following:

Scope of Rules

From the day a student first participates in a DCSD high-school Activity until that student graduates from high school, these rules remain in effect, throughout the school year, during summer, fall, winter and spring breaks, including weekends, vacations, and holidays, and regardless if the student is on or off DCSD property.

The consequences outlined here are in addition to, not instead of, those the student may receive under the DCSD's Code of Conduct, the Colorado High School Activities Association By-laws, coaches' team rules, or other sources. They represent minimum sanctions; the Principal or designee may increase or modify these consequences in particular cases or in general as he or she deems appropriate.

Although some prohibited behaviors listed below refer to DCSD's Code of Conduct, because these training rules are in effect at times and in places when the Code of Conduct may not be, and because students who participate in Activities are held to higher behavioral expectations than other students, the Principal or designee may determine that a student's conduct constitutes grounds for imposing an Activity penalty under these rules even when that conduct does not result in suspension or expulsion under the Code of Conduct.

Prohibited Behaviors

- Violating DCSD's policies regarding drugs & alcohol (JICH) and tobacco use (JICG)
- Violating DCSD's weapons policy (JIC)
- Violating DCSD's gang-related behaviors and dress policy (JICF)
- Violating any criminal law
- Continued willful disobedience or open and persistent defiance of proper authority
- Willful destruction or defacing of school property
- Behavior detrimental to the student's, other students', or school personnel's welfare, health, or safety
- Any other conduct that would constitute grounds for suspension under DCSD policy JKD/JKE.

Consequences

The following minimum consequences will result whenever the Principal or designee concludes that a student has engaged in any of the prohibited behaviors listed above.

- First offense: For Activities with 11 or fewer regular-season contests, the student will be suspended for the next contest; for those with more than 11 regular-season contests, the student will be suspended for the next 2 contests. These suspensions will be imposed whether or not the next contest or contests are regular-season contests or are special events, tournaments, or qualifiers.
- Second offense: The student will be suspended from all Activities throughout DCSD for 1 full year from the date of the infraction.
 - If, however, a student initiates contact with school authorities to voluntarily report his or her involvement in conduct prohibited by these rules, then the student will be eligible for the following lesser second offense penalty: The student will be suspended from the remainder of the season of the Activity he or she was participating in at the time of the conduct and, upon proof that the student has successfully completed an intervention class chosen by the school athletic director, the student will only be suspended from the first 50% of the regularly scheduled contests of the next Activity that the student participates in for an entire season.
- Third offense: The student will be suspended from all Activities throughout DCSD for 1 full year from the date of the infraction, except that if a second offense suspension is still in effect, then the date of the third offense suspension will not begin on the date of the infraction, but rather will begin on the day after the second offense suspension ends.

Tobacco Consequence Only:

- First offense: The student receives a warning and must attend site based tobacco education or community service.
- Second offense: For Activities with 11 or fewer regular-season contests, the student will be suspended for the next contest; for those with more than 11 regular-season contests, the student will be suspended for the next 2 contests. These suspensions will be imposed whether or not the next contest or contests are regular-season contests or are special events, tournaments, or qualifiers.
- Third offense: The student will be suspended from all Activities throughout DCSD for 1 full year from the date of the infraction, except that if a second offense suspension is still in effect, then the date of the third offense suspension will not begin on the date of the infraction, but rather will begin on the day after the second offense suspension ends.

Nothing in these rules prohibits the Principal, designee, or individual coaches from establishing and enforcing additional rules applicable to Activities, such as lesser or different penalties for failing to exercise good sportsmanship at practices or competitions or for failing to demonstrate good citizenship at school or school-sponsored events.

I have read and agree to follow these rules:

Student's Name (print)

Signature

Date

Parent or Guardian's Name (print)

Signature

Date

ATHLETIC AND ACTIVITY FEES

In order to support the district activities and athletic program, Douglas County School District has a participation fee. It is not intended that financial hardship should eliminate an athlete from participation. If the fee creates a financial hardship, please contact school officials.

2011-2012 Fees for High School

- A. Athletics - \$150 will be charged per athlete for each sport in which the athlete participates. Cheers and Poms will be charged \$150 per year. For cheers, poms and CHSAA ice hockey, all additional costs will be paid by athletes/families.
- B. Marching Band - \$100 per semester
- C. Activity Card - \$25 per year
- D. Extra/Co-curricular Activities - \$30 per club
- E. Extra/Co-curricular Dues – Actual cost

1. The \$150 athletic fee for all participating athletes for each sport must be collected **PRIOR** to an athlete's participation in any sport.
2. Students qualifying for the National Free and Reduced School Lunch Program will qualify for free or reduced athletic fees. Other athletes who have a financial hardship may arrange for a payment plan by submitting a written request to officials at their school. At each district high school, the athletic director will present alternatives to the fee schedule after reviewing the individual circumstances. **Finances should not prevent a student from participating in the athletic program.**

3. REFUND POLICY

- A full refund will be made to a student who does not make the team.
- If an athlete moves from the school's attendance area or from the District, the fee will be refunded on a prorated basis.

Athletes who quit the sport, become academically ineligible or are suspended from participation for disciplinary reasons are not eligible for a refund.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES

1. General Eligibility Rules: A student shall be eligible to represent his/her school in an interscholastic activity sanctioned by CHSAA if such student meets the following specific requirements:
 - a. The student is a bona fide undergraduate member of his/her high school.
 - b. In the judgment of the principal of the student's school, he/she is representative of the school's ideal in matters of citizenship, conduct and sportsmanship.
 - c. **EXPULSIONS**—A student who would be ineligible in any school because of expulsion, denial of admission or negotiated withdrawal may not become eligible for competition at any level by transferring. The period of ineligibility is determined by the school at which the ineligibility occurred. A transfer at the beginning of the school year does not decrease or eliminate the period of ineligibility caused by the expulsion. A student may not transfer schools to avoid expulsion time periods.

- d. **PLAN A**-During the period of participation, the student must be enrolled in courses which offer, in aggregate, a minimum of 2 1/2 Carnegie units of credit per semester and must not be failing more than the equivalent of one-half (1/2) Carnegie unit of credit.

or

PLAN B-During the period of participation, the student must be enrolled in courses which offer, in aggregate, a minimum of 2.5 Carnegie units of credit per semester and must pass a minimum of the equivalent of 2.5 Carnegie units of credit.

Please check with your school to determine which plan is used.

- e. He/she must have been eligible in accordance with paragraph “d” above at the close of the past prior semester of attendance.
- f. During the semester preceding the semester in which the student wished to participate in any interscholastic activity, the student must not have failed more than the equivalent of one-half (1/2) Carnegie unit of credit. (Note: For purposes of eligibility, a semester is considered to begin on the first pupil contact day, as defined by the Department of Education, following the completion of the preceding semester.)
- g. Regaining Eligibility—Students who have not met the general eligibility requirements at the close of a semester may regain academic eligibility on the sixth Thursday following Labor Day for the first semester; and on the Friday immediately prior to March 10 for the second semester. (Exception for schools that do not conduct weekly eligibility checks and/or for winter sport athletes who do not participate in the fall.)
- h. A student who has been ineligible, but now regains eligibility for the upcoming semester, shall not compete in any interscholastic contest and/or scrimmage until the day following the close of the current semester. The number of credits failed or passed during a semester shall be determined from the student’s transcript and shall include all classes taken during the semester. Fractional credits awarded or not awarded by the school shall be added at the end of each semester to determine eligibility for the succeeding semester. If, after credits are totaled and failing credit total more than 1/2 credit, (.500), students will not be eligible according to Paragraphs (d) or (e) of Article 16- General Eligibility. For the purpose of athletic eligibility, an “I” (Incomplete) is considered an “F” (Failing).
2. A student who drops out of school after having been enrolled and in attendance 15 days will not be eligible for the following semester of his/her attendance. If the student attends 15 days or more during the semester, he/she must complete the required number of credits for the whole of that semester to be considered for eligibility during the next semester.
3. No make-up work shall be permitted after the close of the semester and/or the designated periodic eligibility check for the purpose of becoming eligible. A “condition” (incomplete, unfulfilled outcome, etc.) shall, for the purpose of determining eligibility, count as a failure.

4. Summer school courses completed after the close of the second semester may be used to replace any Carnegie units failed. Equivalent courses taken must be accepted by the school toward graduation. The equivalent credits must be completed by the Thursday prior to Labor Day. Credits made up through summer school must be in the same curricular area, be accepted to meet graduation requirements of classes previously failed and be recorded on the student's transcript. A class in an area required for graduation may be taken to replace Carnegie units failed in an elective class.

MANIFEST HARDSHIP FOR INCOMPLETE--A student failing to complete work during the normal semester because of a manifest hardship (injury, illness or other circumstances beyond his/her control) may be permitted, at the discretion of his/her high school principal, to make up the work within a reasonable time following the student's recovery. A "reasonable time" in most cases would be a like number of days that the student was absent school. Notification must be filed with CHSAA.

Dropping out of school for work or financial reasons does not constitute manifest hardship.

Note: Before enrolling in summer school classes, contact the Registrar's Office to verify that the courses you are taking will be accepted by your school and are applicable to activity and athletic eligibility.

5. Age and Attendance Requirements for Athletics
 - a. A student is eligible to enter interscholastic competition if his/her 19th birthday falls on or after August 1.
 - b. In a four-year high school, a student is eligible for eight consecutive semesters of participation. Cases involving unusual circumstances should be submitted to your building athletic director. A waiver of the eight consecutive semester rule cannot be approved if the reason for additional eligibility beyond eight semesters is due to an expulsion.
 - c. Transfers and Colorado School Choice--The CHSAA supports school choice in academic pursuit and encourages its student participants to enhance their academic achievement. In concert with this attitude, the associations' philosophy addresses the establishment of a fair playing field for all student athletes. **If you are considering transferring high schools, please contact the high school athletic director in your home school for further clarification and rule updates.**
 1. A student entering high school for the first time shall be eligible for all interscholastic athletic competition.
 2. A student who transfers due to a bona fide family move will always have full transfer eligibility.
 3. A student who transfers during the summer without a bona fide family move will have varsity eligibility for the last 50 percent of those calendar months prior to the transfer.

4. A mid-year transfer without a bona fide family move will result in restricted eligibility for the remainder of that school year. Further, after a mid year transfer and for one calendar year, the student will have restricted eligibility for the first 50 percent of any season played at the new school for those sports played within 12 months of the transfer. A student declared ineligible based on a transfer, may be granted Restricted Eligibility following the approval of a Restricted Residence Waiver by the CHSAA Commissioner. The waiver must be signed by the principals of the sending and receiving schools.
5. Undue Influence-Recruited Students--A student who transfers schools because of the recruiting efforts of school athletic staff members and/or school representatives of athletic interests (as defined in Article 18 of CHSAA by-laws) shall be declared ineligible for a period of time to be determined by the commissioner. Such period may exceed one year.
6. Hardship – If questions arise or you are in doubt, consult your building athletic administrator.
7. A student in a “broken home” may transfer schools one time without requesting a waiver of the CHSAA Transfer Rule. See CHSAA definition of “broken home” (www.chsaa.org)
8. All foreign students need to check in with the athletic director before trying out for a sport. This includes foreign exchange students.

6. Specialized Sports Camps

- a. Sports camps are defined as an instructional class limited to one sport involving physical participation by the individual student.
- b. No coach or school representative may directly, or by implication, direct a student to attend said camp/camps as a condition to practicing, participating or otherwise influencing a student’s opportunity to participate in any school sport/activity.
- c. Camps sponsored by Douglas County schools will be located on the school campuses (unless noted otherwise) and all registration, fees and scheduling will be coordinated through the District.
- d. Camps sponsored by other organizations or institutions are not associated with the Douglas County School District unless noted.

7. Activities and Athletics Not Offered at Home High School

When sports/activities are not offered at a particular school, but are contested at another, a student may choose to participate at a school other than their home school. The following considerations will be taken when placing a student in a program:

- a. Numbers in the program and number of levels offered;
- b. Geographic location, where is the closest venue for the athlete;
- c. The decision of the District’s Director of Activities and Athletics.

8. Use of School District Athletic Equipment

School district-owned athletic equipment is not to be issued to individuals or groups outside the date of the formal practice of each respective sport during the school year unless school-owned athletic equipment is related to the function of the Douglas County schools sponsored summer camps

Exceptions are made for athletes traveling to commercial football camps.

9. Practice Season

The season designated in each sport per CHSAA bylaws is the sports season during which formal practice sessions may be held. Practice is defined as that period of time during which FORMAL PRACTICE is authorized by CHSAA bylaws and the school administration during which an assigned coach is instructing one or more of his/her team members.

- Boys Golf 8/8/11 Other Fall Sports 08/15/11
- Winter Sports 11/12/11
- Spring Sports 02/27/12

10. Outside Competition

Sports Season Defined: A sports season begins with the first formal practice session, as established in the CHSAA bylaws, and ends with the final state championships in that sport.

EXCEPTION: The sport season ends for a member of a high school athletic team on the day following the completion of his or her school's competition at the level at which the student competes.

- a. During the sports season, members of any high school sport may not practice with any individual or non-school group without prior approval of the high school principal. Players certified to participate as members of any high school sports team may compete on any other team in any non-school activity or event in the sport during that sports season, with the express written permission granted if:

- 1) The student's class attendance is not compromised, and;
- 2) The student is in good academic standing under the school's activities policy applicable to all students. This includes team rules and other school policies that are applied and adhered, to by all students.

- b. The principal may deny permission only when the student fails to meet the requirements above.

Any student who does so participate in violation of CHSAA Bylaws 2100.2 and/or 2110, shall be ineligible to participate in interscholastic athletic activities for a period of time to be determined by the CHSAA Commissioner.

No coach or school representative may directly or by implication direct a student to participate in competition outside of the competitive season as a condition to participating or otherwise influencing a students' opportunity to participate in any school sport.

11. Conduct of School Participants

The responsibility for conduct of coaches, players and spectators at any athletic contest shall lie with the officials of the schools whose teams are participating in the contest. Any school whose coaches, players or spectators are guilty of gross misconduct may be suspended for a period of time to be determined by the CHSAA Board of Directors.

12. Hazing

Hazing refers to any activity expected of someone joining a group (or to maintain full status in a group) that humiliates, degrades or risks emotional and/or physical harm, regardless of a person's willingness to participate. Often associated with a rite of passage, such activities can include actions of a sexual nature or simulation of sex acts; activities that subject a student to extreme and unreasonable embarrassment, humiliation or shame; activities that create a hostile, abusive environment and any other activities that would violate federal, state or local law or district policy.

Hazing will not be tolerated and appropriate disciplinary consequences will be imposed on any student who is a participant in such activities. If asked to participate in such a non-sponsored activity, the student is expected not to participate and report the circumstances to school personnel. It is the student's responsibility to confirm that an activity has been pre-approved by the sponsor and the principal or designee prior to participating. If unclear about the activity, check with the coach/sponsor. District personnel sponsor all approved teambuilding activities. Parents are requested to report any information on hazing to a teacher/coach/sponsor and/or school administrator.

13. Student/Parent Guardian Health Advisement

- a. CHSAA rules and regulations state that no student shall participate in interscholastic activities until he/she has on file with the appropriate office:
 - 1) consent to participate, and;
 - 2) statement signed by his/her parent or legal guardian that a practicing physician certifying that the student is physically fit to participate in high school interscholastic activities.

Warning: Although participation in supervised and interscholastic athletics and activities may be one of the least hazardous in which any student will engage in or out of school, BY ITS NATURE, PARTICIPATION IN INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS INCLUDES A RISK OF INJURY WHICH MAY RANGE IN SEVERITY FROM MINOR TO LONG-TERM CATASTROPHIC. Although serious injuries are not common in supervised school athletic programs, it is impossible to eliminate the risk. Participants can have the responsibility to help reduce the chance of injury. PLAYERS UNDERSTAND AND, BY THEIR PARTICIPATION, AGREE THAT THEY MUST AND WILL OBEY ALL SAFETY AND TRAINING RULES, FOLLOW DIRECTIVES OF THE COACHES, PROMPTLY REPORT ALL PHYSICAL PROBLEMS TO THEIR COACHES, FOLLOW A PROPER CONDITIONING PROGRAM AND INSPECT THEIR OWN EQUIPMENT DAILY.

14. Athletic Injuries

If at any time during participation, a doctor removes an athlete from participation because of an illness or injury, the athlete must have a written release from a doctor before participating again. The written release must be given to the coach or athletic trainer.

Note: The release may be satisfied if, upon removal, the doctor specifies the duration of the student's restriction from participation and/or competition.

Permission to return to participation will be made by the doctor, DCSD Athletic Trainer, coach and/or administration.

15. Athletic Insurance

- a. The school district is relieved of any and all liability for accidents or injuries connected in any way with the competitive athletic program.
- b. It is the responsibility of the parent or guardian to provide insurance protection for the athlete while he/she is participating in competitive athletics.
- c. The school district makes available a student accident insurance plan through an authorized agent which offers coverage for injury resulting from participation in competitive athletics. Information will be made available prior to each sport season and at fall registration.

16. Athletic Suspensions

Suspension from school will automatically result in suspension from all athletic participation for at least the duration of the school suspension. This includes practices.

Athletic Appeals can be made, in the following order:

- i. Coaches
- ii. School's Athletic Administrator
- iii. Principal
- iv. District Director of Activities/Athletics
- v. Assistant Superintendent for Learning Services
- vi. Office of the Superintendent of Douglas County School District
- vii. The Board of Education of the Douglas County School District

ATHLETES AND THE NCAA

High school students who are planning to participate at the college level need to register with the NCAA at the end of their junior year. Division I and II colleges and universities cannot award scholarships unless a student athlete is registered. The process can be started at the NCAA Eligibility Center:

www.eligibilitycenter.org/

Check with your school's athletic office for further clarification. All high schools in Douglas County now have access to register their students and help track their students' progress to ensure that they are meeting all of the requirements of the NCAA.

GENERAL ACTIVITY PROCEDURES

Activity programs in the high schools contribute to the development of leadership, talent and creativity of the individual participant in an equitable and fair manner to produce an experience in secondary education that is valuable and fair. The general eligibility rules of the CHSAA shall apply to students participating in the following:

- a. Vocal Music
- b. Marching Band
- c. All-State Orchestra
- d. All-State Choirs
- e. All-State Band
- f. Speech/Debate
- g. Student Council

Each high school may establish their own guidelines to govern their activities beyond the CHSAA Bylaws. Check with your school's activities administrator for any clarification.

Lettering

Students may earn academic, activity and athletic letters. Each high school and their programs have developed specific guidelines. Check with your school to understand the process and procedure to earn a letter.