

TRI-CENTER COMMUNITY SCHOOLS STUDENT/PARENT ATHLETIC/EXTRACURRICULAR GUIDEBOOK

The purpose of Tri-Center Community School's athletic program is to promote the education and development of students through high school athletic participation. Our school is committed to high standards and the principles of athletics serve as an essential part of the total educational program offered by Tri-Center Community Schools.

STATEMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

- We encourage the development of our youth into productive citizens and strive to develop their abilities and attitudes for further learning and success in life.
- We encourage participation and strive to involve as many students as possible in a competitive, interscholastic experience.
- All team members, regardless of ability, will be afforded opportunities to develop their work ethic, sense of commitment, and social and athletic skills.
- The athletic program seeks to educate athletes about community support and encourages them to return that support both now and throughout their lives.
- Winning is the goal, but winning should be viewed as byproduct of good character, hard work, and dedication.

WEDNESDAY AND SUNDAY ACTIVITIES

The school works cooperatively with the churches in the district to see that activities are not scheduled on Wednesday evenings or on Sunday. There may be exceptions, however, in extreme cases. Practices on Wednesday will end by 6:30 p.m. Practices on Sunday will be allowed only if there is a game/performance on Monday and prior administrative approval.

TRANSPORTATION

Students are expected to ride in school-designated vehicles to away activities. Any and all exceptions must be cleared with the coach/sponsor with face-to-face communication or a phone call and a note should be presented in addition. Students are expected to ride the school-designated vehicles home from activities unless they have been signed out by parent/guardian.

ELIGIBILITY

Athletic and extracurricular activities in the Tri-Center Community School District are an integral part of the total education of students and are a privilege, not a right. Good conduct along with attendance and academic progress are expectations of all students who represent Tri-Center Community Schools in athletic and extracurricular activities. Participation in these activities is a privilege conditioned upon meeting the eligibility requirements established by the state of Iowa, the Tri-Center School Board, administration, and coaches/sponsors. All students in grades 7 through 12 who participate must refrain from activities that are illegal, unhealthy, or inappropriate. Ineligible students may practice but may not participate in any contests or performances. Please refer to Iowa Code 281-36.15 (208) for more detailed information on eligibility.

GOOD CONDUCT POLICY

If a student, through the student's habits of conduct, both in and out of school, are such as to make the student unworthy to represent the ideals, principals, and standards of Tri-Center Community Schools, it is the duty of the coach, sponsor, or administrator to exclude the student from competition or participation until the officials of the school feel that the individual has demonstrated the capability of being a good citizen and deserves the privilege of representing the school.

A student will be declared ineligible for competitions or participation if found guilty of consumption or possession of alcoholic beverages or dangerous drugs by an officer of the law, or is observed consuming or in possession by a certified school official, or upon admission to a coach, sponsor, or an administrator, or an officer of the law that he or she has consumed or was in possession of such beverages or drugs.

Self-reporting by the student by the end of the next school day or business day, reduces the penalty by 50%. Self-reporting only reduces your first offense. Students must self-report to the coach or administration. A student who violates the alcohol, tobacco, or drug provision of the good conduct policy for the second time may elect to seek an evaluation, and, if recommended, treatment from a recognized substance abuse facility at the student's or student's parent/guardian's expense. If the student seeks the evaluation and agrees to waive confidentiality to allow the facility to notify the principal regarding recommendations for treatment or follow-up care, the student's penalty for the second violation may be reduced by one contest or event per activity unless the penalty was only one contest or event; the treatment must be completed prior to the contest starting.

The penalty for the first offense is a definite number of contests or appearances (in immediate succession) for each activity for a period of twelve calendar months. Students are not to suit up for competition until the suspension has expired. Middle school students start with a clean slate at the beginning of their 9th grade year in high school. Students will not be allowed to drop down in level, i.e. varsity player plays junior varsity, to fulfill their penalty time. Students are allowed to practice during their ineligible period.

Penalty Per Activity is approximately 20% of the season:

Football: 2	Basketball: 4	Wrestling: 3	Volleyball: 3
Band/Flags: 1	Chorus: 1	Drill Team: 1	Track: 2
Softball: 5	Baseball: 5	Cross Country: 2	FFA/Astra/Speech: 1
Golf: 2	Soccer: 3	Bowling: 2	Play: 1
Cheerleaders: Same as sport in season			

Note: In sports such as wrestling and volleyball where multi-team tournaments are held, such events will count as two of the activities to be missed. In no situation will a student miss only a part of a tournament.

*The penalty for the second offense will be double the first.

*The penalty for the third offense will be suspension from all activities for a calendar year

COMMUNICATION CHAIN OF COMMAND

If there is a concern regarding the team and/or program, parents/players should follow the chain of command:

- 1st: Player with coach
- 2nd: Parent and Player with coach
- 3rd: Parent and Player with AD

ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for an activity, a student must:

- Be enrolled or dual enrolled in at least 4 credit courses
- Have earned a passing grade in all registered courses in the previous semester (9-12th grade) including all Post-Secondary course work
- If a student is not passing all courses at end of a semester, the student will be ineligible thirty calendar days from the first legal playing date of the next sport in which they participate or first thirty calendar days of next semester.
 - These rules and regulations are in accordance with the IHSAA, IGHSAU, IHSMA, and Iowa Department of Education.
- Tri-Center policy will also include requirements that a student is passing all courses at midterm and quarter grading periods. If a student is not passing all courses at midterm or quarter, the student will be ineligible for a minimum of the next 2 weeks. Students may regain ineligibility after 2 weeks if passing all courses at grade check.
- Any student who receives an Incomplete is only ineligible until they have raised their grade to passing.

OTHER ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- All students must have a completed physical examination, concussion fact sheet, and parent acknowledgement form submitted to the Athletic Director's office prior to the first day of practice.
- Must be under the age of 20 for athletics, music, or speech activities
- Students are ineligible if they have attended high school for more than 8 semesters.
- Students must have met all transfer requirements, if the student is a transfer student, or be eligible under state law and regulations if the student is an open-enrolled student.
- **Students will be ruled ineligible if they have ever trained with or competed against a college squad** or engaged in the activity professionally. Students may seek permission from the administration to participate in a one-time tryout at the collegiate level.
- Students are ineligible if they have accepted an award for high school participation from an outside group other than inexpensive and unframed paper certificates of recognition, or if they have ever received money for expenses for participation in an activity.
- During that period of time that a student is suspended, either in school or out of school, that student shall be excluded from all Tri-Center activities either as a participant or spectator.

ATTENDANCE

If a student is absent or ill for any period of time during the day, s/he is not to attend school activities or practice. In the case of a rare exception because of an extreme case, the principal must give approval. The student has to be in school all day, all periods, unless previous arrangements have been made with the principal to be absent. Exceptions the principal might consider, but may not be limited to, are doctor and dentist appointments and funerals. The coach/sponsor is responsible for checking the attendance of their participants. If a student is absent on Friday, they may compete in Saturday events.

NON-SCHOOL TEAM PARTICIPATION

A student who is participating in a sport sponsored by the District may participate in that same sport as an individual or as a member of a team in an outside school event, during the same season. The student, coach, parent/guardian will coordinate a plan for dual participation. Such outside participation shall not conflict with the school sponsored athletic activity. (Tri-Center Board Policy Code No. 504.8)