

## **Philosophy of Athletics**

Kankakee School District #111 is committed to the idea that interscholastic competition in athletics is an important part of a student's educational experience. Athletics play a vital role in young men and women's lives, contributing to their development of physical health and mental well-being. An outstanding athletic program is one which teaches those who participate that cooperation, as well as competition, are important parts of society. An athletic program properly administered should teach good sportsmanship in victory as well as defeat and keep both in their proper perspective. We feel that sports create a positive attitude in athletes along with developing school spirit and pride for all of the student body. We believe that athletics is a wholesome equalizer, because individuals are judged for what they are and for what they can do, not because of their social, ethnic or economic group to which their families belong. Athletes should be judged by the same standards as all other students and should exert a positive influence in the school.

In Kankakee athletic programs, athletes should be given an opportunity for participation in a wide variety of student-selected activities, because they are a vital part of the student's educational experience. Realizing that many necessary differences exist between sports and coaches, a certain degree of uniformity must be imposed so that expectations may be presented to coaches, athletes and parents of athletes while at the same time allowing latitude for freedom of choice among coaches. It is expected that all concerned will be aware of certain basic methods of operation and rules of conduct by which all must abide. We believe that the adherence to these rules and beliefs will ensure the best possible co-curricular experience for all for the Kankakee School District #111 students participating in the athletic program.

## **Athletic Code of Conduct and Responsibility**

District #111 considers athletics and activities to be very important components of the comprehensive high school program. These experiences greatly enhance a student's involvement with and enjoyment of his/her high school career and contribute to a well-rounded and multi-faceted individual. Important goals of the athletic and activity program are also to give students direction in developing healthful living habits, self-discipline, leadership, teamwork and respect for rules and regulations. It is the intent of District #111 coaches and sponsors of co-curricular activities to assist students in developing healthful habits and to facilitate access to support services when needed.

This Athletic Code of Conduct and Responsibility applies to the students of Kankakee School District #111, grades 9-12. This policy is in addition to other policies concerning student conduct, and imposes additional requirements on student athletes.

Participation in student athletics/activities is considered an extension of, although separate from, the regular school day. While the regular curricular program is a right afforded each student, participation in the co-curricular program is a privilege and as such, carries substantially increased expectations beyond those applicable in the daily classroom situation. The athletic/activity code is established for young persons taking part in these programs.

It is intended to promote health and safety of students, to encourage the development of self-discipline and self-control in student athletes which are attributes the District finds necessary to make participation in athletics successful and rewarding for individual athletes as well as for the teams in which they participate.

The District recognizes that there is a high incidence of alcohol and drug abuse by students nationwide, which is in epidemic proportion. The District also recognizes that some Kankakee students, and in particular, student athletes have used alcohol and have or will experiment with illegal drugs during their high school years. Because student athletes are especially respected and

looked up to by the student body, they are expected to be good example of conduct, sportsmanship and training, which includes abstaining from the use of drugs and alcohol. Moreover, a student athlete who uses drugs can be a danger to himself, herself or others, both on and off of the athletic field. By electing to participate in an athletic or activity program, the student is choosing to extend his/her school day, as well as the expectations for appropriate behavior and conduct. This code is considered to be in effect, at all places and times, 24 hours per day, 12 months per year.

If the rules and requirements set forth in this Athletic Code of Conduct and Responsibility are not complied with, the privilege to participate in athletics may be lost.

#### Definitions

- I. Student Athlete- A boy or girl in grades 9-12 participating in athletic practices and or contests under the control and jurisdiction of Kankakee School District
- II. Sport Season- Fall, Winter, and Spring seasons begin on the first day of practice allowed by the I.H.S.A. and end the day of the State Final in that Particular sport.
- III. Drug- Alcohol and any substance considered illegal or controlled by the FDA.
- IV. Suspension- Means the loss of the privilege to participate in athletic contests. During suspension the student athlete will be expected to practice and travel with the team but shall not be permitted to dress in uniform.
- V. Exclusion- Means the loss of the privilege to participate in practice, team travel, or participation in athletic contests. At the request of the coach with administrative approval, practice and team travel may be allowed.

### **Objectives and Outcomes of Participation**

Activities/Athletics enhance a successful program by strengthening opportunities that:

- Foster student leadership development.
- Support future academic or career options.
- Promote involvement in the school and community.

As a result of their participation in interscholastic activities/athletics, the student/athlete will be able to:

- Demonstrate good sportsmanship and ethics of competition.
- Respect the integrity and judgment of officials, coaches and school personnel.
- Develop desirable personal health habits.
- Observe strict adherence to the athletic code of conduct including academic standards, substance abuse and appropriate behavior.
- Demonstrate mastery of basic fundamentals to complex motor skills in the related activity.
- Identify and apply strategies necessary to successfully compete at their level of competition in the related sport.
- Demonstrate the ability to work with others toward common goals and objectives.
- Demonstrate high levels of skill and health related fitness appropriate to their developmental stage.
- Most importantly, enjoy the involvement and participation in interscholastic activities/athletics.

## **Minimal expectations**

1. **Daily attendance at school**, team/activity practice and contests. Athletes are expected to be role models in the school. This includes attending all classes each day. Students with unexcused absences (including out of school suspensions) on the day of the contest will not be permitted to participate. Students must be in class for at least three class periods in order to participate that day. Appeals may be made in writing to the Athletic Director for certain exceptions, including but not limited to the following: funerals, college visits, doctor's appointments, pre-arranged absences.
2. **Passing grades in 4 full credit classes**, (20 credit hours) per week per IHSA guidelines. According to the IHSA regulations, any student who wishes to participate in athletics or extra-curricular activities must be passing 20 hours of new course work a week. (New refers to the courses for which you have not previously earned credit.) This translates to four classes at Kankakee High School. In addition, the Kankakee School Board policy is more stringent, requirement all athletes to pass all classes for which they are enrolled in. If a student passes all but one class in a given grading period, he/she may retain their eligibility by successfully completing the Appeal Process.
3. Adherence to all other rules set forth by the coach or sponsor in the student/parent handbook and in the Illinois high school association by-laws.
4. Conduct becoming as a District #111 representative, including adherence to the student/parent handbook and demonstrating respect for persons and property.
5. "Hazing" or "initiation" activities are prohibited.
6. Possession, use or being under the influence of tobacco, performance enhancing substances, any illegal or controlled substance including alcohol, unlawful drugs, prescription drugs, "look-alike drugs," or any other substance not prescribed for the student and intended to be used or used to achieve a high or altered mental state or physical state are prohibited.
7. Refrain from attending gathering of students where a student knows or reasonably should know that any of the substances identified in Section F above are present, except tobacco.
8. The student athlete shall not violate any criminal law of any jurisdiction, except for petty offenses such as speeding, stop and signal light violations, and the like. Conviction of a criminal offense is conclusive evidence that the student committed the offense. Other evidence may also demonstrate that an offense occurred, but mere arrest or charge, are insufficient in and of them to show that the student athlete committed the offense.
9. The head coach of each sport (subject to approval of the Athletic Director) shall have the authority to specify additional training rules relating to health, safety, conduct, attitude, language use, and the like and may discipline student athletes for violations of those training rules. Such discipline may include exclusion for serious offenses, or when lesser penalties have failed to deter the violation.

## Consequences of violations

Tobacco use

- One (1) week suspension for each occurrence in-season

Alcohol, Drug, or Criminal Offenses BROUGHT to the Administration's Attention by the violator

The **First Offense**, the student athlete shall be given the option of:

- Option 1: At their own expense they must participate in a school approved assistance program. They will be allowed to participate in a contest when it is verified that enrollment in and continuing participation is taking place in a school-approved substance abuse program. If there was a drug violation, they must take a drug test at their own expense and provide the negative results to the school upon completion of the assistance program.
- Option 2: Suspension for no less than the equivalent of one-fourth (1/4) of the scheduled contests for their season. The student athlete and his/her parents will be required to schedule a conference with the coach and athletic director before returning to playing status.

A **Second Offense or Violation** within one calendar year will result in exclusion from participation in athletic contests for one (1) calendar year beginning the date that the violation is brought to the Administration's attention.

Alcohol, Drug, or Criminal Offenses NOT brought to the Administration's Attention by the violator

The **First Offense** that is not brought to the administration's attention by the violator, will result in exclusion from participation for the rest of the sport season, which shall not be less than the equivalent of one-half (1/2) of the scheduled contests for a season. If less than one-half (1/2) of the scheduled contests of the season remain, the student athlete will be suspended for no less than one-half (1/2) of the next sport season in which the student participates. The student athlete and his/her parents will be required to schedule a conference with the athletic director and coaches of the sport the student participated in at the time of the violation and the next sport in which the student intends to participate.

A **Second Offense or violation** within one (1) calendar year will result in exclusion from participation in athletic contests for one (1) calendar year beginning from the date that the violation is verified by the Administration.

When a student is involved in a general school disciplinary incident that requires action, a single decision will be made by the appropriate school authority. A violation at a particular point in time can potentially impact any/all activities or athletics for the current and/or next season. The consequences will be applied to both the athletics and activities in which the student is involved. In certain circumstances, due to time constraints, a violation of the code by a student may result in immediate action.

### Rights of Review in Case of Exclusion

If a student is excluded from participation in athletics, the student athlete and parents shall have the right to request a meeting with the coach, athletic director, and/or principal within seven (7) days of the exclusion.

If unsatisfied with the first meeting, a student athlete and parents shall have the right to request a hearing before the superintendent and the board of education, or a hearing officer, appointed by the board. The coach, athletic director and/or principal shall present information to the board that violation(s) occurred which justifies exclusion. The student and parents may present whatever

relevant information they desire concerning the alleged violation(s) or the penalty, which should be imposed. At such hearing there shall be no right of cross-examination or other formal procedures. No attorney shall be permitted to attend the hearing. The decision of the board of education shall be final.

## **Illinois High School Association Sportsmanship by-laws**

### **IHSA Sportsmanship by-law 2.042**

Member schools shall maintain proper crowd control and enforce the principles of good sportsmanship and ethics for all interscholastic activities. The Executive Director shall have authority to investigate reported incidents of unsportsmanlike conduct or conduct which adversely affects the ethics of competition in connection with interscholastic contests and shall have full authority to invoke penalties, in the context of Division 6.000 of these By-laws, against a member school which fails to fulfill its obligations as provided in this section.

### **IHSA Sportsmanship by-law 6.011**

Any player ejected from a contest for unsportsmanlike conduct shall be ineligible for the next interscholastic contest at that level of competition, and all other interscholastic contests at any level in the interim, in addition to other penalties the IHSA or the school may assess.

### **IHSA Sportsmanship by-law 6.012**

Any coach ejected from a contest for unsportsmanlike conduct shall be ineligible for the next interscholastic contest at that level of competition, and all other interscholastic contests at any level in the interim, in addition to others penalties the IHSA or the school may assess.

## **Expectations of coaches**

The coaches will maintain a role of coach as professional and will keep the role of coach in proper perspective by:

- Developing and communicating clear and specific goals for the team and individual players throughout tryouts and the season.
- Maintaining open and honest communication with students, parents and other coaches.
- Developing and demonstrating a good knowledge base of best practice specific to their coaching area.
- Supporting and collaborating with coaches in other athletic programs
- Modeling and teaching skills necessary to succeed.
- Supporting student academic expectations, responsibilities and achievements.
- Developing the knowledge and understanding of District #111 policies and procedures as it applies to athletics.
- Promoting and enforcing the student athlete code of conduct.

The coaches will be positive role models in personal management, appearance, ethics and behavior by:

- Connecting athletic experiences with life experience.
- Providing an atmosphere of teamwork and collaboration among coaches and players.
- Becoming an integral part of and developing rapport with the District #111 community including administration, coaches, parents, and students.
- Modeling good sportsmanship at all times.
- Creating and maintaining a safe and healthy environment for student athletes.
- Understanding their leadership style and its impact on student athletes.
- Considering important commitments of student athletes outside their sports.

## **Expectations of Parents**

The parents will communicate fairly and openly with coaches by:

- Communicating openly, honestly, and with respect.
- Communicating issues and concerns in an appropriate and timely manner including those of physical and emotional well being on behalf of their student.
- Following an appropriate chain of communication such as.
- Parent and coach/assistant coach.
- Parent and athletic Director.
- Parent/Principal/Superintendent.
- Attending parenting meetings and reading information disseminated by the coaches.

The parents will demonstrate good sportsmanship by displaying the following behaviors:

- Providing support for coaches and officials in order to provide a positive, enjoyable experience for all student athletes.
- Understanding the game is for students and not for the adults.
- Recognizing that student participation in athletics is a privilege.
- Using good sportsmanship as a spectator and conduct themselves in a manner that reflects well on both the team and the school.
- Promoting the team by being supportive and helpful of the school program.
- Refraining from coaching their student from the stands or sidelines.
- Expecting consistent student attendance at practices and game.

The parents will create a positive and supportive environment to promote their athletes well being by:

- Supporting good conditioning and healthy lifestyle habits.

- Placing the emotional and physical well being of their student ahead of any personal desire to win.
- Expecting their student to play in a safe and healthy environment.
- Supporting their student in planning how to meet their academic responsibilities given the demands of training and practice.
- Being a role model for other parents by remaining positive at sporting events.
- Supporting the student athlete code of conduct.

## **Expectations of student athletes**

The student athletes of Kankakee School District #111 will be committed to the school athletic program on and off-season by:

- Following the rule set by the coaches and the school.
- Participating enthusiastically.
- Making appropriate personal sacrifices for the good of the team.
- Recognizing that student's participation in athletics is a privilege.
- Setting challenging and realistic.
- Developing a positive attitude.
- Maintaining high academic standards.
- Being committed to skill development in their sport.

The student athletes of Kankakee School District #111 will communicate open and honestly with respect for coaches, teammates, parents, officials, and opponents by:

- Developing a team attitude.
- Being coachable and open to constructive feedback.
- Sharing appropriate individual and team concern with the coaching staff.

The student athletes of Kankakee School District #111 will demonstrate good citizenship and sportsmanship by:

- Behaving with integrity.
- Exhibiting pride in their team and school.
- Playing by the rules.
- Accepting responsibility as a role model for others.
- Supporting other sports, activities and school organizations.
- Playing with dignity and grace, regardless of winning or losing.

The student athletes of Kankakee School District #111 will develop and maintain mental and physical health behaviors by:

- Being alcohol and drug free.
- Practicing self discipline.
- Demonstrating good personal health habits.
- Dealing with challenges in a positive manner.
- Meeting the standards of the student athlete code 365 days per year.

## **Parent/Coach 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 benefit to student athletes. As parents, when your child becomes involved in our program, you have a right to understand what expectations are placed on your child. This begins with clear communication from the coach of your child's team.

### **Communication you should expect from your child's coach**

- Philosophy of the coach.
- Expectations the coach has for your child as well as all the players on the team.
- Location and times of all practices and contests.
- Team requirements, i.e. fees, special equipment, off-season conditioning.
- Procedures in the event your child is injured during practice or a contest.
- Discipline that results in the denial of your child's participation.

### **Communication coaches expect from parents**

- Concerns expressed directly to the coach.
- Notification of any schedule conflicts well in advance.
- Specific concern in regard to coaches' philosophy and/or expectations.

As your children become involved in the programs at District #111, they will experience some of the most rewarding moments of their lives. It is important to understand that there also may be times when things do not go the way you or your child wished. At these times, discussion with the coach is encouraged.

### **Appropriate concerns to discuss with coaches**

- The treatment of your child mentally and physically.
- Ways to help your child improve.
- Concerns about your child's behavior.

It is very difficult to accept your child's not playing as much as you may hope. Coaches are professionals. They make judgment decisions based on what they believe to be the best for all students involved. As you have seen from the list above, certain things can and should be discussed with your child's coach. Other things, such as those listed below, must be left to the discretion of the coach.

### **Issues not appropriate to discuss with coaches**

- Playing time.
- Team strategy.
- Play calling.
- Other student athletes.

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

### **If you have a concern to discuss with a coach, the procedure you should follow**

- Call the school to set up an appointment with the coach.
- If the coach cannot be reached, call the athletic director.
- Please do not attempt to confront a coach before or after a contest or practice. These can be emotional times for both the parent and the coach. Meetings of this nature usually do not promote a resolution. We respectfully ask that you wait 24 hours before contacting a coach.

## **Next Step**

What can a parent do if the meeting with the coach does not provide a satisfactory resolution?

- Call and set up an appointment with the athletic director to discuss the situation.
- At this meeting, the appropriate next step will be determined.

Research indicates a student involved in extra-curricular activities has a greater chance of successes during adulthood, therefore, these programs have been established. Many of the character traits required to be a successful participant are exactly those that will promote a successful life after high school.

## **Athletic Eligibility Appeal Process**

If a student receives one F during a grading period, that student has five school days to complete the appeal forms in the athletic office. These forms will include reasons for received the failing grade, any extenuating circumstances leading to the grade and what steps the student will take to ensure academic success in the course.

- A student will not be limited to any certain number of appeals in a given academic year; however the student is limited to one appeal per grading period.
- The student's counselor will then review these requests and may grant the student temporary eligibility under the following conditions:
- The student will become eligible upon the approval of the appeal.
- To remain eligible, the student must receive 2.5 hours per week of tutoring in the subject which he/she is failing or participate in another tutoring program approved by the school administration.
- The student receiving tutoring must complete a Documentation Form each week of the grading period.
- It is the sole responsibility of the student to turn this form in to the Athletic office each Monday to maintain eligibility for that week.
- If a student fails to complete 2.5 hours of tutoring (or does not participate in another school-approved tutoring program) or fails to turn in documentation, he/she will be ineligible for that week, Monday through Saturday.
- If a student fails to complete the 2.5 hours of tutoring (or does not participate in another school-approved tutoring program) or fails to turn in documentation for a second time during the grading period, the appeal will be terminated and the student will be declared ineligible for the remainder of the grading period.

## **Requirements for changing sports**

From time to time, students may find that their abilities are not suited for the particular sport they have chosen. The Kankakee High School Athletic Department encourages all students to make a commitment to their team and participate for the entire season. We believe sports teach students about life and sometimes life is difficult, sometimes you don't succeed, but you must not give up. Because of this, we discourage students from quitting teams for any reason. We especially do not want students to quit one sport to try another sport. However, there are a few rare instances where this may be the best option for all who are involved. If a student wants to quit a sport and tryout for another sport in the same season, the student must complete the following three steps:

- Have the coach of the team he/she quit write a recommendation for him to be allowed to join another team.
- Have the coach of the team he/she wishes to join write a recommendation for him.

- Write a one page essay on why he/she should be afforded this luxury of changing to another team and why the athletic department should not assume he/she will just quit this team as well.

The athletic director will then examine these three documents and rule case by case whether or not to allow this student to join the new team.

## **Try-outs and cut policy**

### **Notification of tryouts**

- The head coach at each level is responsible to post a schedule of tryouts at least one week in advance. The coach will also place the schedule in the school announcements one week in advance.

### **Tryouts**

- The length of tryouts will vary depending on the sport. Some spring sports have as many as 20 practices before they play, while some fall and winter have as few as 10. The length of the tryout period will be determined by the coach and will be posted. However the following athletic department guidelines must be followed.
- Tryouts will be at least two practices and not more than seven
- Tryouts will be at least two days and no more than six
- Tryouts will allow each athlete a minimum of four hours to be observed by the coaching staff
- If, because of a large number of participants, preliminary cuts must be made, two practices (four hours) must occur before each round of cuts

### **Posting of Team**

- The team will be posted in the athletic office by the coach within one days of the conclusion of the tryout period

### **Criteria for making cuts**

- Cuts are made by the coach using his/her best professional judgment. The coach may use his/her best professional judgment. The coach may use, but is not limited to the following criteria.
- Attendance at tryouts
- Dedication and commitment to improve at that sport
- Grades
- Attitude
- Willingness to put the team first and accept individual role on team
- Physical fitness
- Athletic ability
- Specific skills needed for that sport

### **Audience with coach**

Following the final posting of the team, a player who has been cut may request an audience with the coach to determine the reasons for the cut. This must be requested through the athletic department. This is done out of courtesy and WILL NOT result in a change of the player's status. A maximum of two adults, who must be the player's guardians, may attend. This meeting will only be held if professional behavior and attitudes are displayed by the player and guardian.

## **Alternate tryouts**

Alternate tryouts may be held from time to time for any of the following reasons:

- Student was participating in the state tournament of a previous seasons sport during the tryout period
- Student was ill during the tryout period and has a doctor's documentation
- Student moved in and enrolled after the normal tryout period

Alternate tryouts will be schedules for the student by the coach. These tryouts must be a minimum of two hours of practice time and a maximum of one weeks practice. These times may be during the normal practice of the team or may be individual workouts with the coaches. The student will be notified by the coach of his tryout status within two days following the conclusion of the alternate tryout period. If the player is added to the team, the athletic department must be immediately notified. No player who has made the team will be cut to make room for a player using the alternate tryout policy.

## **Procedure for handling injuries**

### **When an ambulance is present**

- Coach or trainer will examine injury to assess the seriousness of it
- At the coaches or trainers discretion, the ambulance will be summoned
- The senior member of the ambulance staff will then assume complete control of the situation
- If the injured student is being transported to a hospital, a school official or designated representative should accompany the student if the student's parent is unable to go
- If the parents are not present, they should be notified as soon as possible
- The coach should fill out the proper paperwork with the athletic director as soon as possible

### **When an ambulance is NOT present**

- Coach or trainer will examine injury to assess the seriousness of it
- At the coaches or trainers discretion, "911" will be called to dispatch an ambulance.
- Upon arrival, the senior member of the ambulance crew is in complete control of the situation
- If the injured student is being transported to a hospital, a school official or designated representative should accompany the student if the student's parent or guardian is unable to go
- If the parents are not present, they should be notified as soon as possible
- The coach should fill out the proper paperwork with the athletic director as soon as possible

### **Injuries not requiring emergency medial attention**

- Coach or trainer should administer first aid
- Contact parents and advise if a doctors consultation if deemed necessary
- The coach should fill out the proper paperwork with the athletic director as soon as possible

## **Physical examinations**

District #111's school policy and the IHSA policy concerning athletic physicals is quite clear: Students are not to try-out, practice or compete unless the school is in receipt of their physical form. Athletic physical forms may be obtained through the athletic director's office. Sports physicals are valid for one year from the date of issuance. Coaches must make every effort to enforce the district and IHSA policy concerning athletic physicals and should make sure that the expiration date of the physical does not occur during an athlete's current season. It is recommended that the coach hold an organizational meeting in advance to inform candidates of the physical exam requirements. Every summer, the district assigns a day in which sports physicals take place. Coaches should encourage their players to take advantage of this day so they will be prepared for the year.

## **Insurance waivers**

District #111's policy concerning insurance states that every athlete must have on record an insurance waiver or purchase school insurance before they are allowed to participate. Insurance waivers must be renewed every school year. A waiver may be picked up in the athletic office. The insurance waiver must be notarized for them to be valid. The athletic director, the secretary or the AD, the bookkeeper or the principal's secretary can notarize a waiver. The athlete's parent/guardian must come in to sign the waiver or it can be taken to a notary. It is recommended that the coaches encourage their athletes to take care of this waiver at registration. If the athlete is not covered under their parents insurance, school insurance must be purchased. An athlete can turn in a waiver and later on purchase school insurance.

## **IHSA Consent Form**

No student-athlete may participate in IHSA state series competition unless the student and the student's parent/guardian consent to random drug testing. Any student-athlete who ingests or otherwise uses substance from the IHSA's banned drug classes, without written permission by a licensed physician, to treat a medical condition, violates IHSA By-law 2.170 and its subsections, and is subject to IHSA penalties, including ineligibility from competition. The IHSA will test certain randomly selected individuals and teams that participate in state series competitions for banned substances. The results of all tests shall be considered confidential and shall only be disclosed to the student, his or her parents, and his or her school.

All athletes must have a signed consent form on file in the athletic office. The consent form is also included on the IHSA physical form.

A complete list of the current IHSA Banned Drug Classes can be accessed at [www.ihsa.org/initiatives/sportsMedicine/files/IHSA\\_banned\\_drug\\_classes.pdf](http://www.ihsa.org/initiatives/sportsMedicine/files/IHSA_banned_drug_classes.pdf)

## **Clear Sheets**

All athletes must have a clear sheet from the athletic office prior to participation in tryouts, practices or contests. To obtain a clear sheet, the athletic office must be in possession of the student's notarized insurance waiver, a signed copy of the IHSA Drug Testing Consent Form and copy of the student's sports physical. The student must also be in good standing with regards to fees and debts owed to the school. Fee and debt information can be obtained from the bookkeeper or Athletic Office.

## **Prospective College Athletes**

Some student athletes have a goal to participate in athletics at the collegiate level. District #111 Athletics and Guidance staffs are available to assist student athletes in pursuit of this goal. Here are some things that you should keep in mind.

- Communication with your coach is imperative. Student athletes who have a strong desire to compete at the collegiate level should schedule an appointment with their coach to discuss this decision.
- The most important thing to consider in the college selection process is academic fit. Athletics are important, but they are secondary to academic opportunities.
- Coaches and student athletes should work with guidance counselors to develop a realist list of college choice.
- The student athlete should create a resume that reflects their overall high school experience and that highlights athletic accomplishments. This should be reviewed by the coach and guidance counselor.
- The student athlete should create a letter of interest to be sent, along with the resume, to the coaches at the colleges that you wish to attend. This letter should be reviewed by coaches and counselors prior to mailing.
- The student athlete should meet with their counselor to discuss the process of registering with the NCAA Clearinghouse.

## **Making sure you are eligible to participate in college sports**

The requirements for eligibility to participate at Division I are different from those required at Division II.

- If you have been “home-schooled” during all of grades 9 – 12, you will have to register with the Clearinghouse. Your certification status will be determined through an initial eligibility process. Please contact the college/university you plan to attend or the NCAA Clearinghouse for more information.
- NCAA academic committees have the authority to grant waivers of the initial eligibility requirements based on objective evidence that demonstrates circumstances in which a student’s overall academic record warrants the waiver of normal application of the legislation.
- An initial eligibility waiver must be filed by an NCAA institution on behalf of the student.
- Correspondence and independent study courses may be used to meet the core course requirements provided the following conditions are met:
  1. The course meets all of the requirements for a core course as defined in this given
  2. The instructor and student have access to one another during the duration of the course for purposes of teaching, evaluating and providing assistance to the student
  3. Evaluation of the student’s score is conducted by the appropriate academic authorities in accordance with the high schools established policies
  4. The course is acceptable for any student and is placed on the high school transcript.
- Courses taken in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade may not be used to satisfy the core-curriculum requirements, regardless of the course content or level.
- Generally, student enrolling in a division I institution may not use course taken after high school graduation to meet core-curriculum requirements. (Note: Students with NCAA approved diagnosed disabilities may use courses taken after graduation but before full-time college enrollment.)

For more information regarding NCAA policies, please visit their website at [www.ncaa.org](http://www.ncaa.org) or phone them at 319.337.1492 or toll-free at 877.262.1492.

## Division I Core GPA and Test Score Sliding Scale

Core GPA	SAT	ACT	Core GPA	SAT	ACT
3.550 & above	400	37	2.725	730	59
3.525	410	38	2.700	730	60
3.500	420	39	2.675	740-750	61
3.475	430	40	2.650	760	62
3.450	440	41	2.625	770	63
3.425	450	41	2.600	780	64
3.400	460	42	2.575	790	65
3.375	470	42	2.550	800	66
3.350	480	43	2.525	810	67
3.325	490	44	2.500	820	68
3.300	500	44	2.475	830	69
3.275	510	45	2.450	840-850	70
3.250	520	46	2.425	860	70
3.225	530	46	2.400	860	71
3.200	540	47	2.375	870	72
3.175	550	47	2.350	880	73
3.150	560	48	2.325	890	74
3.125	570	49	2.300	900	75
3.100	580	49	2.275	910	76
3.075	590	50	2.250	920	77
3.050	600	50	2.225	930	78
3.025	610	51	2.200	940	79
3.000	620	52	2.175	950	80
2.975	630	52	2.150	960	80
2.950	640	53	2.125	960	81
2.925	650	53	2.100	970	82
2.900	660	54	2.075	980	83
2.875	670	55	2.050	990	84
2.850	680	56	2.025	1000	85
2.825	690	56	2.000	1010	86
2.800	700	57			
2.775	710	58			
2.750	720	59			

### Division I

2008 and Later

If you enroll in a Division I college on or after August 1, 2008, and want to participate in athletics or receive an athletics scholarship during your first year, you must:

- Graduate from high school;
- Complete these 16 core courses:
  - 4 years of English
  - 3 years of math (algebra 1 or higher)
  - 2 years of natural or physical science (including one year of lab science if offered by your high school)
  - 1 extra year of English, math or natural or physical science
  - 2 years of social science
  - 4 years of extra core courses (from any category above, or foreign language, non-doctrinal religion or philosophy);
- Earn a minimum required grade-point average in your core courses; and
- Earn a combined SAT or ACT sum score that matches your core course grade-point average and test score sliding scale (for example, a 2.400 core-course grade-point average needs an 860 SAT)

Note: Computer science courses can be used as core courses only if your high school grants graduation credit in math or natural or physical science for them, and if the courses appear on your high school's core-course list as math or science courses.

### One Core Course after High School Graduation

Beginning in 2007 and thereafter, if you graduate from high school on schedule (in eight semesters) with your incoming ninth grade class, you may use one core course completed in the year after graduation (summer or academic year). You may complete the core course at a location other than the high school from which you graduated and may initially enroll full time at a collegiate institution at any time after completion of the core course.

## **Division II**

### 2005 and Later

If you enroll in a Division II college in 2005 or later and want to participate in athletics or receive an athletics scholarship during your first year, you must:

- Graduate from high school;
- Complete these 14 core courses:
  - 3 years of English
  - 2 years of math (algebra 1 or higher)
  - 2 years of natural or physical science (including one year of lab science if offered by your high school)
  - 2 extra years of English, math or natural or physical science
  - 2 years of social science
  - 3 years of extra core courses (from any category above, or foreign language, non-doctrinal religion or philosophy);
- Earn a 2.000 grade-point average or better in your core courses; and
- Earn a combined SAT score of 820 or an ACT sum score of 68.

There is no sliding scale in Division II.

Note: Computer science courses can be used as core courses only if your high school grants graduation credit in math or natural or physical science for them, and if the courses appear on your high school's core-course list as math or science courses.

You will be a qualifier if you meet the academic requirements listed above. As a qualifier, you:

- Can practice or compete for your college or university during your first year of college;
- Can receive an athletics scholarship during your first year of college; and
- Can play four seasons in your sport if you maintain your eligibility from year to year.

You will be a partial qualifier if you do not meet all of the academic requirements listed above, but you have graduated from high school and meet one of the following:

- The combined SAT score of 820 or ACT sum score of 68; or
- Completion of the 14 core courses with a 2.000 core-course grade-point average.

As a partial qualifier, you:

- Can practice with your team at its home facility during your first year of college;
- Can receive an athletics scholarship during your first year of college;
- Cannot compete during your first year of college; and
- Can play four seasons in your sport if you maintain your eligibility from year to year.

You will be a nonqualifier if you did not graduate from high school, or, if you graduated and are missing both the core-course grade-point average or minimum number of core courses and the required ACT or SAT scores. As a nonqualifier, you:

- Cannot practice or compete for your college or university during your first year of college;

- Cannot receive an athletics scholarship during your first year of college, although you may receive need-based financial aid; and
- Can play four seasons in your sport if you maintain your eligibility from year to year.

### **Division III**

Division III does not use the NCAA Initial-Eligibility Clearinghouse.

Contact your Division III College regarding its policies on admission, financial aid, practice and competition.

#### Core Courses

A core course must:

- Be an academic course in one or a combination of these areas: English, mathematics, natural/physical science, social science, foreign language, nondoctrinal religion or philosophy;
- Be four-year college preparatory;
- Be at or above your high school's regular academic level (no remedial, special education or compensatory courses); and
- Be completed not later than the high school graduation date of your class [as determined by the first year of enrollment in high school (ninth grade) or the international equivalent].

Not all classes you take to meet high school graduation requirements may be used as core courses.