



TDA Nighthawks Activity Handbook

2021-2022

Contents

Introduction

- SDHSAA Philosophy
- TDA
- Sportsmanship
- Mascot/colors
- Fight Song

Activity Participation

- SDHSAA/TDA Eligibility
- Standards for Participation
- Training Rules

General Policies

- Concussions
- Inclement Weather
- Jewelry
- Travel

Agreement Form

- TDA Parent Agreement Form Sign off

Introduction – SDHSAA Philosophy

According to the South Dakota High School Activities Association, “A strong activities program can and should complement a school’s academic program. Activities are an integral part of the total curriculum of South Dakota schools. A well-balanced activities program provides the opportunity for physical, social and emotional development complementing intellectual growth.

Participation in school activities encompasses all students without regard to sex, race, or creed and teaches that it is a privilege and an honor to represent one’s school. Interscholastic activities constitute a part of the right kind of “growing up” experiences for students. Participants learn to accept success and failures, gain poise and confidence, achieve tolerance and understanding of others and gain the self-satisfaction of accomplishing goals. Under a well-administered school program, students and spectators become better citizens through participation and observation of activities conducted under established rules.”

Tripp-Delmont-Armour Nighthawks

Co-curricular programs provide great opportunities for the students of our districts. The Activities Handbook is comprised of the majority of rules and procedures that affect the co-curricular activities of the TDA athletic coop and of the non-coop activities of the Tripp-Delmont School District. While the handbook explains training rules and procedures, disciplinary policies in each district may also be enforced, depending on the situation or infraction.

Sportsmanship

Good sportsmanship is viewed by the National Federation of State High School Associations as a commitment to fair play, ethical behavior and integrity. In perception and practice, sportsmanship is defined as those qualities which are characterized by generosity and genuine concern for others:

- Play fair, take loss or defeat without complaint, or victory without gloating
- Treat others as you wish to be treated
- Respect others and one's self
- Impose self-control, be courteous, and gracefully accept results of one's actions
- Display ethical behavior by being good (character) and doing right (action) • Be a good citizen.

The Five Essentials of Sportsmanship:

1. Show respect for the opponent at all times. The opponent should be treated as a guest, greeted cordially on arriving, given the best accommodations and accorded the respect, honesty and generosity which all people deserve.
2. Show respect for the officials. The officials should be recognized as impartial arbitrators who are trained to do their job and who can be expected to do it to the best of their ability. Sportsmanship implies the willingness to accept and abide by the decisions of the officials.
3. Know, understand, and appreciate the rules of the contest. A familiarity with the current rules of the game and the recognition of their necessity for a fair contest is essential. Good sportsmanship suggests the importance of conforming to the spirit as well as the letter of the rules.
4. Maintain self-control at all times. A prerequisite of sportsmanship requires one to understand his/her own bias or prejudice and the ability to prevent the desire to win from overcoming rational behavior. A proper perspective must be maintained if the potential educational values of athletic competition are to be realized. Sportsmanship is concerned with the behavior of all involved in the game.

5. Recognize and appreciate skill in performance regardless of affiliation. Applause for a good performance of an opponent is a demonstration of generosity and good will. The ability to recognize quality in performance and the willingness to acknowledge it without regard to team membership is one of the most highly commendable gestures of sportsmanship.
6. Finally, as a student involved in activities representing TDA you must accept seriously the responsibility and privilege of representing our schools and communities. You are always in the spotlight and must always display positive public actions.

TDA Mascot: Nighthawks
Colors: Carolina blue, black and silver



TDA Fight Song

“Hail to the Victors
Hail to the victors valiant,
Hail to the conquering heroes,
Hail,
Hail, to T-D-A,
The victors and the best”

REPEAT

Activity Participation/Eligibility

Student participating in co-curricular activities must meet all the eligibility requirements set forth by the South Dakota High School Activities Association:

You are NOT ELIGIBLE if:

1. You have reached your 20th birthday.
2. You have attended more than 4 first semesters and 4 second semesters of school (any total 8) in grades 9 through 12. Enrollment in school 15 school days or participation in an inter-school contest shall constitute a semester. Once a student enrolls as a ninth grader, all semesters must be consecutive unless verified in writing by a physician that withdrawal from school is necessary due to a serious illness or injury.
3. You did not pass 20 hours of high school work per week in courses approved for graduation for the preceding semester. (4 classes = 2 credits) If you are failing one or more classes during grade checks, you will be ineligible until the grade is passing.
4. You are not enrolled in and attend a minimum of 20 hours of high school work per week during the current semester.
5. You have graduated from a regular four-year high school or institution of equivalent rank.
6. You have not enrolled by the sixteenth school day of the current semester. (Date of regular entry into classes if considered the date of enrollment.)
7. You have been absent from school more than 10 consecutive school days with exceptions granted to illness of the student or a death in the immediate family.
8. You have transferred from one high school to another without a corresponding change in the residence of your parent(s)/guardian(s). (Exception made for students who transfer pursuant to Open Enrollment By-Law.)
9. You do not have on file in the office the required completed physical examination, screening and parent's permission forms.
10. You have ever participated in an athletic contest under an assumed name.
11. You have participated in athletics in any institution of learning of higher rank than a standard secondary school.
12. You have violated your amateur standing.
13. During a high school sport season, you compete as an individual or a member of another team.

Student Eligibility for Alternative Instruction

The Tripp-Delmont/Armour Co-Operative will adhere to the codified laws of the state of South Dakota under 13-36-7. Participation in interscholastic activities--Eligibility. The law is referenced below.

Any student enrolling in a South Dakota district pursuant to § 13-15-21 is eligible to participate in any interscholastic activity sponsored by the South Dakota High School Activities Association.

Each public school district shall allow participation in athletics, fine arts, or activities for a child being provided alternative instruction pursuant to § 13-27-3 within the district in which the child resides. The parent, guardian, or other person in control of a child being provided alternative instruction shall submit proof of age when participating in athletics, fine arts, or activities. Any child being provided with alternative instruction and participating in South Dakota High School Activities Association activities shall be held to the same local training rules and South Dakota High School Activities Association transfer and non-academic eligibility rules as enrolled students.

Pursuant to § 13-27-3 and before the current season of the sport or activity the alternative instruction child is participating in, the parent, guardian, or other person in control of a child being provided alternative instruction shall provide the appropriate school official with a copy of a transcript of the previous semester's completed coursework that is issued by the parent, guardian, or other person in control of the child. The parent, guardian, or other person in control of a child being provided alternative instruction shall notify the appropriate school official if the child becomes ineligible under South Dakota High School Activities Association or local school rules in so far as those standards apply to § 13-27-3.

Nothing in this section confers any vested right in any student wishing to participate in any interscholastic activity to be selected for competition in such activity. However, any enrolled student who leaves an accredited program during the course of the school year and who will be provided alternative instruction is ineligible for participation in interscholastic activities for the balance of the current season of the sport or activity the student is participating in at the time of notification of alternative instruction.

Standards for Participation

Academic and Attendance Standards:

1. Grades will be checked every 2 weeks for continue participation throughout the season. If you are failing one or more classes during grade checks, you will be ineligible until the grade is passing.
2. Students must be in attendance for at least one-half of the school day to participate in an activity held that evening.
3. Exceptions are cleared by the principal in advance.
4. Skipping practices and student participation is at the coach's discretion/policy.

Conduct:

1. Any student suspended from school will be ineligible will not be allowed to participate in any school activity until they have attended a full day of school following the suspension.
2. Suspensions may carry over from one school year to the next.
3. Students are required to participate in practice while ineligible. They are not allowed to dress for contests.
 - a. Students that are ineligible for activities that participate in overnight contests will attend at their own cost (I.e. transportation, meal stipends, and hotel will not be with the team/school, but the responsibility of the family).
4. Students must complete the season/activity for their weeks/contests to count as missed participation for a training rules violation in order to meet the requirements to become eligible.
 - a. For example: A student may not go out for track for three weeks, serve a training rules violation and then quit that sport to be eligible for football in the fall. The student needs to remain in track for the entire season or serve the penalty during the first three football games to regain eligibility.
5. Students should conduct themselves respectfully, displaying good sportsmanship. If a student receives a technical foul, an un-sportsmanlike conduct penalty, or similar infraction, the student will be removed from the contest/event immediately. The coach will determine when or if the student re-enters the contest/activity.
6. Insubordination, disrespect to coaches or players, crude language, actions or profanity will not be tolerated. If such behavior is displayed during practice, the coach may verbally reprimand the student, temporarily bench the student, or remove the student from practice.
7. If the situation is serious enough, the student may not be allowed to participate in the next contest/event. A referral may be given to the principal.
8. If the behavior continues, the student may be terminated from the team.

Drug Screening:

1. **TDA conducts a drug-screening program for SDHSAA activity participants. The focus and intent of the program is as follows:**
 - a. To provide for the health and safety of all participants
 - b. To undermine the effects of peer pressure by providing a legitimate reason for activity participants to refuse to use illegal drugs/tobacco/alcohol/vaping.
 - c. To encourage students who use illegal drugs/tobacco/alcohol/vaping to be substance-free.
 - d. To encourage activity participants who use illegal drugs/tobacco/alcohol to participate in treatment programs.
2. **Students wishing to participate in any SDHSAA program are required to have legal parent/guardian consent in writing for drug screening.**
 - a. The SDHSAA consent form is included in the packet of required forms for participation and medical examination.
 - b. No student can participate in any interscholastic program without such consent.
3. **All students participating in the SDHSAA competitive program will be required to participate in drug screening prior to participation.**
 - a. Screenings will be done at the beginning of the school year.
 - b. Only one initial screening needs to be completed. Students not screened in the fall will be required to do an initial screen prior to participating in any SDHSAA sanctioned activity.
4. **Random screenings will be unannounced and conducted on a regular basis during the school year.**
 - a. Tests may be conducted to a random sampling or may consist of testing all the members of a team or organization.
 - b. Administration may choose to test all students involved in any SDHSAA sanctioned activity.
5. **The school districts will contract with a medical facility or practitioner (i.e., nurse) for sample collections.**
 - a. Samples will be collected at the assigned time the student is selected.
 - b. Students will have up to one hour to provide the facility or practitioner the sample.
 - c. Any student refusing to provide the sample will be treated as if he/she had completed the sample and failed the drug screening.
 - d. Students on prescription medication should provide the nurse or clinician either a copy of the prescription or a doctor's verification in a sealed envelope at the time a sample is collected.
 - e. Students who refuse to provide verification of prescription drugs and screen positive will be subject to sanctions for a positive screen.

SDCL 13-32-9 imposes a one calendar year suspension of extra-curricular activities for controlled substances violations from the date of adjudication, conviction, diversion, or suspended imposition of a sentence for possession, use, or distribution of a controlled drugs or substances or marijuana as defined in chapter 22-42, or for ingesting, inhaling, or otherwise taking into the body any substances as prohibited by 22-42-15.

- a. The one year suspension may be reduced to sixty calendar days if the student completes an accredited intensive prevention or treatment program.
- b. The Unified Judicial System will notify the SDHSAA and the school districts for any student participating in activities of any legal proceedings.

Social Networking:

TDA recognizes the rights of students to freedom of speech, expression and association, including the right of the use of social networks. Students involved in activities represent the TDA Nighthawks and are expected to portray themselves, their team, their coaches and their districts in a positive manner always. Social media postings will serve as evidence for training rule violation investigations.

Parents should educate students generally about posting online. A few reminders:

1. Everything that gets posted is public information.
2. Texts and photos are out of your control once they are sent.
3. Use caution when inviting or adding friends to your media.
4. Limit personal information about your location or plans.

Activity that is not tolerated:

1. Comments or photos or posts that depict unlawful or prohibited conduct.
2. Derogatory, defamatory, harassing, or discriminatory posts related to teammates, coaches, TDA staff or administration, parents or community members.
3. Comments that create a serious danger or a threat to the safety of another person or that constitute a credible threat of emotional or physical injury to another person.

Involvement in any of the above activity that defames or threatens another person, or adversely affects team unity and chemistry will result in a disciplinary meeting. Proven involvement will result in disciplinary action determined by administration with input from the coach(es)/Athletic Director.

Training Rules

Beginning with the 2018-2019 school year, these training rules will be enforced from the first SDHSAA eligible practice date until the final SDHSAA event participation in the Spring (i.e. first football practice to end of state track). During this time, ALL STUDENT ATHLETES are held to training rules regardless if their SDHSAA activity is currently active. Training rules apply at all times, not just at school activities. Rules apply equally to all activities sanctioned by the SDHSAA. Penalties for training rule violations carry over from sport to sport for a maximum of one 12 month period.

Training rules are set by the coaches and administration and approved by the school boards.

Specifically, a student shall not: 1) use a beverage containing alcohol, 2) use or have paraphernalia for tobacco, in any form, or by any means including, but not limited to cigarettes, cigars, chewing tobacco, herbal, hookah pipes or individual pipes, vapes, or e-cigarettes (regardless of content), 3) use or consume, have in possession, buy, sell or give away marijuana, or any controlled substance, any substance considered illegal by South Dakota statute, and any mood-altering chemicals.

It is not a violation for a student to be in possession of a legally defined drug specifically prescribed for the student's own use by her/his doctor.

Reporting Rules:

1. TDA promotes student athletes to report any training rule violations that they know of.
2. For evidence to be considered in a violation investigation, said evidence must be presented within two weeks of the alleged violation.

Penalties:

Athletes/Cheerleaders:

- 1st offense: Suspended for 3 weeks or a maximum number of contests established by activity, whichever is longer. (Football = 3 contests; Golf and track = 5 contests; Volleyball/ Basketball = 6 contests.)
- 2nd offense: Suspended for 6 weeks or the next 6 contests, whichever is longer. Loss of athletic letter.
- 3rd offense: Suspended for the subsequent 12 months. If a student participates in an administrative-approved counseling program for substance/alcohol use or abuse, and the counselor/program can verify in writing that the student successfully completed the program, the suspension may be reduced to 6 months. Any costs associated with the outside counselor/program are the responsibility of the student and/or the student's family.

Fine Arts Participants:

- 1st offense: Ineligible to participate in the next SDHSAA sanctioned event.
- 2nd offense: Ineligible to participate in the next two SDHSAA sanctioned events.
- 3rd offense: Ineligible to participate for the subsequent 12 months. If a student participates in an administrative-approved counseling program for substance/alcohol use or abuse, and the counselor/program can verify in writing that the student successfully completed the program, the suspension may be reduced to 6 months. Any costs associated with the outside counselor/program are the responsibility of the student and/or the student's family.

Students are required to participate in practice while ineligible. They are not allowed to dress for contests.

- a. Students that are ineligible for activities that participate in overnight contests will attend at their own cost (I.e. transportation, meal stipends, and hotel will not be with the team/school, but the responsibility of the family).
- b. The Administrative Rules of South Dakota and the policies of the SDHSAA control the procedural and due process rights regarding the enforcement of these rules.

General Policies

Concussions:

A concussion is a type of traumatic brain injury. A concussion may cause multiple symptoms. Many symptoms appear immediately after the injury, while others may develop over the next several days or weeks. The symptoms may be subtle and are often difficult to fully recognize.

- a. A concussion fact sheet for parents is included in the athletic packet and required forms for parental written acknowledgment
- b. A concussion fact sheet for students is included in the athletic packet and required forms for parental written acknowledgment

Inclement Weather:

On days that school is dismissed due to inclement weather, no practices or games are to occur.

Jewelry:

Jewelry is not to be worn during any sports activity. TDA is not responsible for any lost or stolen valuables.

Travel:

The districts provide transportation to games and practices. Times that buses will depart will be announced at school and distributed to students.

Students need to ride district provided transportation to practices and games, unless one of the schools has parental written permission with verbal confirmation to the coach of the other transportation arrangements.

TDA Parent Agreement Form

Student Name: _____ Grade: _____ Age: _____

Activity(ies): _____

School District: _____

Parent/Guardian Name(s): _____

Student Primary Address: _____

Please read the statements below and sign:

Student:

I have read the TDA Nighthawks Activity handbook and will abide by the rules, procedures and policies.

Student Signature _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian:

I/we have read the TDA Nighthawks Activity handbook and will support the schools in enforcing the rules, procedures and policies.

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date: _____

Office use only

Date received: _____ Staff Signature: _____