



St. Vrain Valley School District



Athletic Handbook

SVVSD ATHLETIC HANDBOOK

“The Spirit, the Will to Win, and the Will to Excel
are the things that endure. These qualities are
so much more important than the events that occur.”

Vince Lambardi

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INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS

ATHLETICS ARE AN IMPORTANT PART OF THE ST. VRAIN VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT'S EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM. THE DISTRICT PROVIDES A VARIETY OF EQUITABLE SPORTS PROGRAMS THAT GIVE BOYS AND GIRLS THE OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE AND COMPETE. ATHLETICS PRESENT AN EXCELLENT SITUATION FOR EXPERIENCES AND DEVELOPMENT OF DEMOCRATIC COOPERATION. IT PROVIDES AN AVENUE FOR THE FORMATION OF LASTING FRIENDSHIPS AND OTHER PERSONAL INTERACTIONS. THESE EXPERIENCES GAINED THROUGH PARTICIPATION IN ATHLETICS SHOULD AID THE STUDENT IN MEETING THE DEMANDS AND CHALLENGES OF LIVING IN A MODERN AMERICAN SOCIETY.

THE BOARD ENCOURAGES STUDENTS, FACULTY, AND THE COMMUNITY TO RECOGNIZE THE VALUE OF ATHLETICS IN RELATION TO THE TOTAL SCHOOL PROGRAM.

PARTICIPATION IN INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS AS A PART OF THE DISTRICT'S EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM IS A PRIVILEGE AND NOT A RIGHT FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS. THE ADMINISTRATION WILL DEVELOP OPERATING PROCEDURES WHICH WILL BE CONTAINED IN THE ATHLETICS AND ACTIVITIES HANDBOOK.

THE BOARD SUBSCRIBES TO THE RULES AND REGULATIONS OF THE COLORADO HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION BECAUSE OF ITS EFFORTS TO KEEP ATHLETICS/ACTIVITIES ON A HIGH STANDARD OF EDUCATIONAL VALUES.

THE BOARD UNDERSTANDS THE MOTIVATION AND VALUES OF PLAYING TO WIN AT ATHLETIC CONTESTS AND GAMES. THE BOARD DOES NOT CONDONE "WINNING AT ANY COST" AND DISCOURAGES PRESSURES AND PRACTICES WHICH MIGHT TEND TO SUBMERGE GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP AND GOOD MENTAL HEALTH BENEATH THE DESIRE TO WIN.

INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS

Participation in interscholastic athletics as a part of the school's education program is a privilege and not a right for high school students.

HIGH SCHOOL INTERSCHOLASTIC ACTIVITIES

To be eligible for participation, students must meet the standards of the St. Vrain Valley School

District and the criteria below which have been established by the Colorado High School Activities Association for its member schools.

1. Be a good school and community citizen.
2. Be enrolled as a full time student and earn 2 1/2 Carnegie units of credit per semester.
3. Student must have been eligible at the close of the student's last semester of attendance.
4. Has not graduated from a high school or its equivalent.
5. Has a medical screening form turned into the school before being allowed to participate in a sport. A medical screening is only valid for one calendar year.
6. Has District Parent Permission, Athletic Insurance Form, and Acknowledgment and Contract forms filled out, signed and on file with school before being allowed to practice in a sport.
7. Pays any participation fees assessed by the district before being allowed to practice in a sport.

Training Rules

1. The district has establish district-wide training rules for students participating in extra-curricular activities, that define in writing, the rules of conduct, penalties for violations, academic and attendance rules, appeal procedures and a contract/acknowledgment form.
2. Training rules as contained in the District Code of Conduct as well as enforcement procedures shall be publicized to the participants and their parent or guardian.
3. Copies of the agreement (known as the "Acknowledgment and Contract") to comply with District Training Rules and Code of Conduct, signed by the participant and parent or guardian must be filed with the principal or his designee.

INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS (District Training Rules and Athletic Participation Code and Contract)

Introduction

This code of rules, regulations, and procedures shall apply to all district participants in interscholastic and intradistrict athletics. Participants include team members, team managers and cheerleaders.

The purpose of these guidelines is to provide clarity, consistency and fairness in the application of this code. Athletic training regulations are normally more stringent than standard school regulations for several reasons. The desire of the school district is to provide a standard whereby participants can minimize risk factors involving injuries and general well being. Schools and society in general look to participants to demonstrate self-discipline, leadership, moral character and good health habits. Students wishing to participate in athletic programs are required to meet standards of personal behavior and academic performance which are reasonably related to district purposes, including but not limited to insuring that the participant is representative of the

community, the district and the school's ideals in matters of academic conduct, sportsmanship and citizenship.

Recognizing the fact that participation in athletic programs is purely voluntary on the part of the student, the participant is accountable for all rules, regulations and procedures set forth in this code.

Application of Participation Code

The St. Vrain Valley School District RE-1J reserves the right to amend and revise the Code of Conduct as it is deemed necessary and proper.

Once the acknowledgment is properly signed, the student is subject to this Code of Conduct throughout the year, **during all school years** in which he or she is eligible to participate. In addition, sanctions may be imposed for serious and substantial violations, occurring at any time during the school year, **on or off campus, in or out of season, and where deemed appropriate while school is not in session.**

To be eligible to participate in athletic programs a participant must be academically eligible, attend school on a regular basis in accordance with attendance policies, and conform to district and individual school standards of conduct and sportsmanship.

I. Rules of Conduct

1. The following conduct, regardless of whether it constitutes a single incident or a pattern of activity, shall be grounds for disciplinary action.
 - A. Use, possession, sale and/or exchange, regardless of the quantity, of alcoholic beverages, illegal controlled substances (e.g. hallucinogens, marijuana, anabolic steroids, etc.) and tobacco (in any form).
 - B. Willful disobedience or open and/or persistent defiance of authority.
 - C. Willful destruction, damage or defacing of any school property or equipment (including athletic equipment).
 - D. Behavior which is detrimental to the welfare and safety of others or behavior which could be characterized as lacking proper or good citizenship or good sportsmanship practices. For purposes of this policy, the phrase “lacking proper or good citizenship” includes, but is not limited to, behavior which is prohibited or punishable by federal, state or local criminal statutes.

2. Penalties for Rule Violations

For any of the above offenses, the following disciplinary action will be taken:

1st offense: Suspension of the participant from 30% (or major fraction thereof) of any athletic contests on the schedule of the sports/activity season. Does not include scrimmages. If a participant should be suspended late in the season and is not able to fulfill the 30 percent penalty, the remaining suspension will extend into post-season play and/or the participant's next sports/activity season.

For example, should a participant/team qualify for any post-season play, those contests will be included in the computation of the 30 percent suspension or should a student violate any training rules while not participating in a sport, the suspension will begin with and be computed according to the student's next sports season.

Participants are expected to practice during the period of suspension from contests in order to finish a season in good standing and to be eligible for any awards. Participants failing to attend practices are subject to permanent suspension from that sport/activity to the end of the school year.

Recommendation that a restorative process occur prior to reinstatement to competition.

Reduce to 10% with self admission prior to school's knowledge. Must include a minimum of 10 community service hours agreed upon by school administration, parents, coach and athlete and a written timeline for completion. Students without additional violations for one calendar year may be reinstated to "no prior" offense status. *Such reinstatement can occur only once during a student's four years of eligibility.*

Or...students may opt for 20% suspension with no community hours. Students without additional violations for one calendar year may be reinstated to "no prior" offense status. *Such reinstatement can occur only once during a student's four years of eligibility.*

With no self admission prior to school's knowledge, an athlete will serve the 30% suspension but may participate in an approved educational program with parental participation for a minimum of three one-hour sessions. If the athlete does the educational component and has no additional violations up to one calendar year, the athlete may be restored to "no prior" offense status.

Such reinstatement can occur only once during a student's four years of eligibility.

2nd offense: 60% suspension from the regular season of participation or subsequent season if unable to complete. Post season play will count toward the total suspension. Remain in practices and good standing.

Recommendation that a restorative process occur prior to reinstatement to competition. An approved **mandatory** educational program, with parental participation will be agreed upon by the administration, parents, coach and athlete. Educational program must exceed three one-hour sessions.

3rd offense: One calendar year suspension from the date of the infraction with approved educational program mandatory before reinstatement. Administration, parents, coach and athlete will determine terms for reinstatement and educational program.

Penalties for violations beyond the third offense will be at the discretion of the building principal and/or District Athletic Director and may include permanent prohibition from participating in district athletic programs.

Enforcement of any penalty will begin from the day the student is determined to have violated the Rules of Conduct. For purpose of this Code, penalties are cumulative throughout a participant's years of high school eligibility. Penalties accumulate during middle school participation, but do not carry forward to high school.

SHOULD A PARTICIPANT TRANSFER TO ANOTHER DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL, ANY ACQUIRED PENALTIES WOULD ALSO TRANSFER.

3. Any violation of the participation code may result in the revoking of any awards for which the participant might otherwise be eligible.
4. The District and administration reserve the right to bypass any or all of the levels of penalties and impose any or all of the more serious levels of penalties if the seriousness of the offense warrants such action.

II. Academic Rules

The St. Vrain Valley Schools recognize that athletics are an important part of a student's educational experience, but that academics are the primary reason for a student attending school. To be academically eligible, see Colorado High School Activities Association General Eligibility Rules, which must be followed by all athletes.

III. Attendance Rule

Because of the importance of regular attendance and academics the following rule regarding attendance will be followed:

To be eligible for practice or competition the participant must be in attendance at least one-half the school day unless arrangements are made in advance for an excused absence. Arrangements must be made at least two days prior to the activity.

IV. Miscellaneous

1. Nothing contained herein will be deemed to prohibit a coach or sponsor from establishing and enforcing with principal approval additional rules applicable to the particular activity, e.g. curfew hours and other matters relating to the functioning of the team or group.

Such rules are to be provided to participants in writing with a copy on file with the principal/designee.

Violations of such rules may be handled directly by the coach involved after conferring with the District Athletic Director and/or the appropriate building administrator.

2. Suspensions From/ Quitting a Sport/Activity

- A. Students permanently suspended from a sport will not letter in that sport or participate in another sport during the same season. Any violations of the participation code may result in the revoking of any awards for which the participant might otherwise be eligible.
- B. An athlete who quits a sport during its season may try out for another sport that season, provided both head coaches of the sports involved give their consent. If there is disagreement among coaches, the student or coach may request a building administrator to review the case.
- C. A student may not participate in practice, scrimmages or contests during the time of any suspension from school.

V. Disciplinary and Appeal Procedures

1. The principal or designee shall be responsible for the application of penalties and sanctions for violations of the Rules of Conduct set forth in this Code.
2. Prior to the imposition of any penalty set forth in this Code, the principal or designee shall give the student and parent/guardian notice of the intended action. The notice may be oral or in writing at the discretion of the principal or designee will inform the student and parent/guardian of the nature of the alleged violation, the nature of the penalty which may be imposed, and the availability of the principal or designee to meet with the student and parent/guardian to discuss the matter.
3. At the informal hearing, the student will be given an opportunity to deny the alleged violation or to provide his version of the incident. The principal or designee may at his discretion depending upon the circumstances allow the student to present witnesses or hold a more extensive hearing in order to make a proper decision on the contemplated action.

Written notice of the penalties shall be made promptly by the building administrator to the participant and his parent/guardian.

4. The student and parent/guardian may appeal the decision of the principal by submitting in writing a request within five (5) days of the decision to the District Athletic Director.

GENERAL ELIGIBILITY

1700. STRICTER STANDARDS

1700.1 Participating school districts and schools shall have the right to impose stricter standards for eligibility than those set forth herein. The General Eligibility Requirements are not intended to restrict any school from setting local academic requirements or otherwise exercising control over its curriculum, grading practices and policies regarding the granting of class credit.

1700.11 It is recommended that schools imposing local standards of eligibility notify participating students of these standards; however, it shall be the student's duty to inform himself/herself as to such standards and to insure that he/she maintains eligibility.

1700.2 Exception to the General Eligibility Requirements shall be made only when specific eligibility rules have been established for a particular activity as a part of the By-laws of the Association. Where specific eligibility rules have been established for a particular activity, and such rules are in conflict with the General Eligibility Rules, the specific rules shall take precedence over the general rules.

1710. PARTICIPATION A PRIVILEGE

Participation in interscholastic activities as a part of a school's educational program is a privilege and not a right. Students wishing to participate are required to meet standards of personal behavior and academic performance which are related to school purposes. In this regard, the CHSAA and its member schools may exercise the fullest discretion permitted under law.

1720. GENERAL ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

A student enrolled in a high school shall be eligible to represent that school in CHSAA sanctioned interscholastic activities if the student meets the following specific requirements:

- (a) The student is a bona fide undergraduate member of the high school in which he/she is enrolled.

EXCEPTION 1: Home based and other students which meet statutory requirements shall be eligible. Statutory requirements state that a student in a home based education program must be registered with the school district of participation a minimum of 14 days prior to being considered a home schooled student. Students who do not meet statutory requirements shall be considered ineligible for interscholastic competition, but may practice (provided he/she is registered with the school district).

EXCEPTION 2: A student who registers at the beginning of the school year in a nonpublic home-based educational program may participate in the activities program at a public or private school. In the case of a private school, the student must be accepted for inclusion in the school program by the school and meet any criteria set by that private school.

(b) In the judgment of the principal of the student's school he/she is representative of the school's ideals 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 2.5 Carnegie units of credit per semester and must not be failing more than the equivalent of one-half 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.

(Schools must notify the Commissioner, in writing, by September 15 of each year if they wish to change their previously declared option.)

Academic eligibility shall be determined by a periodic check of the student's grade in progress from the beginning of the grading period for each class, as determined by the policy of the student's school, to the close of the certification day for the interscholastic activity in question. In all cases, the periods of eligibility and ineligibility must be equal and at no time may the two groups become eligible on the same day. The school must declare when periodic eligibility will be checked (weekly, bi-monthly, monthly or at the quarter).

(e) He/She must also have been eligible in accordance with paragraph "d" above at the close of his/her last prior semester of attendance.

1. During the preceding (18 week grading period) semester of attendance, the student must comply with the following:

In Plan A, the student must not have failed more than the equivalent of one-half Carnegie units of credit.

In Plan B, the student must have passed a minimum of 2.5 Carnegie units of credit during the previous semester.

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. Further, a student will be considered as in attendance if he/she has been enrolled for 15 days or has competed interscholastically at any time during that semester.

2. Regaining Eligibility -- Students who have not met the academic 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 3rd for the second semester.

Exception: Winter sport athletes who have been declared ineligible for the first semester and did not participate in a fall sport shall use the formal grading period closest to the beginning of winter practice to determine if eligibility is regained.

(f) The number of credits failed or passed during a semester shall be determined from the student's school transcripts 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 credits total more than ½ credit in Plan A (.50), or passing credits total less than 2.5 in Plan B, students will not be eligible according to Paragraphs (d) or (e) of Article 16, Rule 1620 - General Eligibility.

(g) A student who drops out of school after having been enrolled and in attendance fifteen days will not be eligible the following semester of his/her attendance. If the student attends fifteen 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.

1. If a student attends a school five days, is absent three days, attends seven additional days, and then drops out, the student is charged with a semester's attendance in that the time is counted from the first day of attendance until his/her last day of enrollment.

1730. MAKE-UP WORK

1730.1 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; and a "condition" (incomplete, unfulfilled outcome, etc.) shall, for the purpose of determining eligibility, count as a failure.

1730.11 This rule is pointed directly at the student who, through his/her own lack of effort, fails to pass sufficient work to be eligible for athletics in the succeeding semester, and then asks the opportunity to do make-up work to rectify his/her laxity.

1730.2 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 which the student was absent from school. Prior notification must be filed with CHSAA.

1730.3 Dropping out of school for work or financial reasons does not constitute manifest hardship.

1760. AGE

1760.1 AGE REQUIREMENTS -- A student is ineligible to enter interscholastic athletic competition if the date of birth is prior to August 1, 1995. The student may not participate in the upcoming school year if he/she reaches the 19th birthday prior to August 1.

1760.11 EXCEPTION: A student who is a student with a disability as defined in applicable federal and state law and who has exceeded the age requirement solely because he or she experienced a delayed start or interruption in his or her educational progression through the eighth grade due to his or her disabling condition, may be granted an exception for all or a part of a school year. The following procedures shall be applicable:

1. The principal of the school, on behalf of the student, presents a formal request for an exception to the Commissioner together with all necessary supporting records.
2. The Commissioner shall determine if the student meets the requirements for an exception stated above and, if so, upon examination of all documents and consideration of the student's individual circumstances and the purposes for this rule, may grant approval of the exception for any part of the school year. In making this decision, the Commissioner shall consider the student's age, size, and athletic ability, and whether granting the exception would be unfair to other students.

Under no condition may approval be granted for participation in more than four seasons in a specific activity or if the student requires an exception to the consecutive or total semester rule.

3. The hardship waiver provision of Article 2500.2 is not applicable to the Age Rule.

1770. SEMESTERS OF ATTENDANCE

1770.1 Any student who has attended more than eight semesters (if he/she began high school as a ninth grader) or six semesters (if he/she began high school as a tenth grader) is ineligible for high school athletics, except that a student who is otherwise eligible may complete a season's participation in a winter sport begun in his eighth semester.

1770.2 The period of eligibility for a high school athlete shall be limited to eight consecutive semesters (if he/she began high school as a ninth grader) or six consecutive semesters (if he/she began high school as a tenth grader) except that a student otherwise eligible may complete a season begun within the limits set forth above.

1770.3 EXCEPTION - Exception to By-laws 1770.1 and 1770.2 may be made by the Commissioner of CHSAA in cases involving extenuating circumstances supported by evidence acceptable to the Commissioner, the burden of proof to rest with the school requesting the exception. Exceptions are not to be granted for students who are in

attendance and have the potential to earn credits or for students who due to illness or injuries are unable to compete but are able to attend school with the potential to earn credits. A Hardship Waiver request shall be submitted to the league and the CHSAA Commissioner

TRANSFER
1800. TRANSFER

Colorado School Choice: The CHSAA supports school choice in academic pursuits and encourages its student participants to enhance their academic achievement. In concert with this attitude, the Association's philosophy addresses the establishment of a fair playing field for all student athletes.

Any additions from CHSAA Board of Control adhere to and follow.

1800.1 The transfer rule addresses athletic eligibility only as it relates to transfer between schools.

Rules related to age, semesters, academic requirements and other CHSAA by-laws may result in an eligible transfer being declared ineligible.

1800.2 A student entering high school for the first time shall be eligible for all interscholastic athletic competition.

1800.21 A student who transfers to a member school following the close of school for the summer and before the beginning of the school year, other than under the provisions stated in 1800.2, 1800.3 and 1800.44, will be ineligible for varsity competition in the first 50% of the maximum regular season contests determined by that classification in any sport in which the student was a participant during the past 12 months. The student's individual performance limits (innings, games, quarters, etc.) shall be adjusted accordingly. The student may practice with the team and participate in an interscholastic contest at the sub-varsity level during this time. If there is no sub-varsity level, the student may not participate in an interscholastic contest until the game restriction is met.

Spirit athletes who transfer without a bona fide family move will have restricted eligibility (non-participation in all games, competitions, performances, pep rallies) until the sixth Friday after the first contest date.

EXCEPTION 1: A student, regardless of past participation as noted in 1800.32, who transfers schools at the beginning of the school year but after becoming a team member in a sport in any high school will be ineligible for varsity competition in that sport for the remainder of that sports season. A student becomes a team member when he/she reports for formal practice and is actively in contention for a position on the team.

1800.22 For purposes of this rule, "the beginning of the school year" shall be defined as that period of time prior to a student's enrollment and attendance for 15 days or his/her participation in an interscholastic contest or scrimmage.

1800.23 Each transfer student must provide the receiving school with an official declaration certifying that:

1. The student is transferring voluntarily;
2. The student was not contacted and induced to transfer by the receiving school or any school representative (as defined in By-law 1900.2).
3. A statement from the receiving school coach(es) that the student was not induced to attend the receiving school by that coach or any member of the coach's staff. The declaration must be signed by the student and student's parents. The receiving school athletic director must also sign the form. This form must accompany the certificate of eligibility or any transfer waiver sent to the CHSAA office. Any time a potential violation has occurred the form must immediately be sent to CHSAA.

1800.3 Except as specifically provided in by-laws 1800.31 through 1800.36, 1800.4 and 1800.44, any student who transfers schools after the beginning of the school year will not have varsity eligibility at the receiving school for the remainder of that school year and is subject to the provisions of by-law 1800.21 for the following school year for up to one calendar year after the school transfer.

1800.31 SUB-VARSITY ELIGIBILITY - A student will be granted sub-varsity eligibility by the Commissioner upon submittal of a restricted waiver request signed by the principals of the sending and receiving schools.

1800.32 NON-PARTICIPATION - A student who has not participated in an interscholastic contest or scrimmage in a specific sport at any level (varsity, junior varsity, sophomore, freshman) during the 12 calendar months preceding the date of transfer shall have varsity eligibility at the receiving school in that specific sport at all levels of competition.

1800.33 RETURN TO ORIGINAL SCHOOL - A student who has not participated in an interscholastic contest or scrimmage for any team at any level while a student in the previous high school shall be varsity eligible at all levels in all sports provided he/she returns to the high school he/she attended prior to the period of nonparticipation.

1800.34 TRANSFER FROM A NON-MEMBER SCHOOL - A student who resides in Colorado and who has never previously been enrolled in a member school and who transfers to a member school from a non-member school shall have varsity eligibility at the receiving school.

1800.4 The Commissioner may grant varsity eligibility in the case of transfers after the beginning of the school year caused by "hardship", pursuant to the provisions of Article 25 of these Bylaws.

1800.41 "Hardship" means an unforeseen, unavoidable and/or uncorrectable act, condition or event that imposes a severe, non-athletic burden upon the student or his/her family. The Commissioner shall have broad discretion in applying this standard to specific cases. He/She may take into consideration not only the needs of the student and family directly involved, but also the best interest of

member schools and interscholastic athletics/activities generally as he/she understands those interests.

1800.42 All hardship waiver applications shall be processed on forms approved by the CHSAA and in accordance with the following procedures:

(a) A hardship waiver shall first be submitted to the principals at the student's sending and receiving schools. If either principal disapproves of the waiver, he/she shall state his/her reasons in writing.

(b) The waiver, with the recommendations of the principals, shall then be submitted to the receiving school's league for a vote.

(c) The recommendation of the principals and the league and all other information that the applicant wished to be considered in support of the waiver application shall be submitted in writing to the Commissioner. The burden of proof to establish a hardship shall be upon the applicant.

(d) The Commissioner or his/her designee may conduct additional investigations as he/she deems necessary. The application and any additional information gathered by the Commissioner or his/her designee shall constitute the record of the proceeding. The Commissioner will make a timely written decision based on the information in the record.

(e) The Commissioner's decision may be appealed pursuant to Article 25 of these By-laws.

(f) The decision of the Commissioner shall be upheld unless it is shown by clear and convincing evidence in the record to be arbitrary or capricious.

(g) Hardship waivers cannot be approved for a school transfer found to be substantially motivated by athletic considerations.

1800.43 No hardship waiver may be granted that would cause a student who is ineligible in the sending school to become eligible at the receiving school.

1800.44 A bona fide family move to a residence in a new school district as verified by the receiving school, will result in full transfer eligibility.

(a) A bona fide family move means a permanent change in residence by the student and his entire family which makes it necessary for the student to change his/her school of attendance to attend a new school in a new district. Evidence to help support that there has been a bona fide family move can include, but is not limited to a significant change in family circumstances, such as a change in employment, health or marital status. Under no circumstances may a school transfer found to be substantially motivated by athletic considerations be considered a bona fide family move.

1810. 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 the By-laws) shall be declared ineligible for a period of time to be determined by the Commissioner. Such period may exceed one year.

RECRUITING

1900. RECRUITING

1900.1 “Recruiting” means soliciting or encouraging a student to enroll in a school in order to secure that student’s participation in an interscholastic athletic program.

1900.2 No school representative shall recruit any student or solicit or encourage any other person To recruit any student. “School representative” includes any person who has a special interest in a school or athletic team, such as a school administrator, coach, assistant coach, other school employee or volunteer, student athlete, parent or family member of a student athlete, school alumnus or booster club member.

1900.3 In the event of a violation, the Commissioner shall impose a penalty upon the offending school and all athletic staff members participating in the violation, up to and including suspension of membership. The Commissioner may also find any student athlete involved to be ineligible to participate.

1900.4 If allegations of recruiting or undue influence are made against a school or coach, the Burden of proof in substantiated form must be borne by the accusing party. Substantiated allegations of recruiting or undue influence will be processed by imposing the penalties established in 1900.3.

OUTSIDE COMPETITION/PRACTICE

2100. OUTSIDE COMPETITION

2100.1 DEFINITION SPORTS SEASON -- A sports season begins with the first formal practice Session as established in the CHSAA by-laws and ends with the final state championship in that sport.

2100.11 EXCEPTION: The sports 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.

2100.2 Players certified to participate as members of any high school sport team may compete On any other team, in any non-school activity or event in that sport during that sports season with the express written permission of the principal. Permission shall be granted if:

- (a) the student’s class attendance is not compromised; and
- (b) the student is in good academic standing under the school’s activities policy Applicable to all students.

2100.21 MEMBER DEFINED -- Member is defined as a student who reports out for **formal practice** and is actively in contention for a berth on the team; or a student who has been certified to another school as eligible to participate in an interscholastic activity; or a student who has been issued the necessary equipment for game competition. A student ceases to be a member when he/she is cut from the team

2110. PRACTICE WITH OUTSIDE GROUPS

Members of any high school sport team may not practice with any non-school group without prior approval of the high school principal.

NOTE: This is not to be construed to allow non-school people to participate in school practices or scrimmages.

2120. VIOLATION OUTSIDE COMPETITION RULE

Any student who does so participate in violation of By-law 2100.2 shall be ineligible to participate in a specific or all interscholastic athletic activities for a period of time to be determined by the Commissioner.

AMATEUR STANDING

2000. AMATEUR STATUS

2000.1 The amateur rule applies to those athletic activities which are recognized by the CHSAA As part of the interscholastic program. A member of a high school basketball team, for example, may accept cash awards in sports not sanctioned by the CHSAA (e.g. bowling or rodeo). Students should be aware that although accepting cash in non-sanctioned sports does not endanger their high school eligibility, it could endanger their status with other amateur groups or governing bodies.

2000.11 An amateur sportsman is one who engages in sport solely for the pleasure and the physical, mental and social benefits he/she derives there from.

2000.12 A student must be an amateur to be eligible to represent his/ her high school.

2000.13 An athlete has forfeited his/her right to compete as an amateur and has thereby become ineligible for a period of time to be determined by the Commissioner, by any of the following actions:

- (a) Having knowingly participated in competition with professionals either as a member of a team, some of whom are professionals, or against a team composed all or in part of professionals. (Note: As per NCAA and National Federation guidelines, a professional is defined as an individual who is under a professional contract at that point in time.)

- (b) Having competed for money in any athletic activity.
 - 1. It is permissible for a player to accept necessary meals, lodging, and transportation if such are accepted in service rather than in money or any other material form.
 - 2. Competing for a cash prize is interpreted as competing either as an individual or as a member of a team for cash award. It matters not whether the amount awarded as a cash prize is sufficient to cover expenses. Students who compete as members of teams in sports sanctioned by the CHSAA where cash or other prizes of intrinsic value are offered or awarded are ineligible for further high school competition.
 - 3. Students may not accept merchandise prizes given because of their athletic ability. To do so is a violation of this amateur rule.
- (c) Having competed under an assumed name in any athletic activity.
- (d) Having accepted an award in non-school athletic activities which he/she has converted into cash by sale or by pawning.
- (e) Having signed a professional athletic contract.

2000.14 If a student participates in a CHSAA approved sport, in other than CHSAA competition at any time during the calendar year, the student's amateur status is determined by the rules of the amateur governing body of that sport.

2010. AWARDS

2010.1 In any approved CHSAA interscholastic competition, athletics and activities, no awards of any kind other than awards by the school, the Association, or a group approved by the school or the Association and limited in value to \$50.00 (exclusive of engraving) shall be made to participants.

EXCEPTION: Individual, statewide awards that have been formally recognized by the CHSAA's Executive Committee are exempt from this by-law. "Individual, statewide award" is defined as any award that recognizes excellence in athletics, scholarship or citizenship and whose potential recipient is any student within the membership of the CHSAA.

2010.11 If unapproved awards are offered and accepted by the participants, such participants shall jeopardize their eligibility to represent their school in any interscholastic activity, and further, such acceptance shall jeopardize standing of the school in the Association and may result in the suspension of the school.

2010.2 It is the policy of the Executive Committee to approve the awarding of small, inexpensive emblems to be attached to the regular school letter, in lieu of awarding additional letters.

2010.3 Fund raising by booster clubs and other outside groups to be used to purchase for high school participants personal awards in excess of \$50 (exclusive of engraving) shall be regarded as a violation of this rule.

2010.4 Fund raising by the high school participants themselves to purchase personal items (letter jackets, championship rings, etc.) in excess of \$50 is permissible.

2650. INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION

2650.1 Requests to participate in international competition (i.e., a training program or competition

(1) conducted or sponsored by the United States Olympic Committee, or (2) directly funded and conducted by a national governing body for athletes having potential for future national participation) held during the school year involving eligible high school students must be submitted to the CHSAA Commissioner.

2650.11 Exceptions to the by-laws may be considered when individual athletes receive an invitation to participate in qualifying events for national teams recognized by the United States Olympic Committee.

ASSIGNMENT OF STUDENTS TO SCHOOLS

The St. Vrain Valley School District RE-1J Board of Education endorses the neighborhood school concept and encourages students to attend the school located within the designated attendance area of their residence. The Board recognizes, however, that students may wish to attend a school or participate in a program (excluding extracurricular) located in an area other than that of their designated school.

The District shall require students enrolled at charter schools, nonpublic schools and home schools to participate at their school of residence unless activities in which the students wish to participate are not offered at that school. Students may participate at another district school when an activity they choose is not offered at their school of residence. Students must return to their school of residence when that school offers their chosen activity of participation.

Non district students attending charter schools or nonpublic schools must declare their school of participation. In selecting that school, they should choose the one that has the greatest number of activities in which they plan to participate.

Notwithstanding the provisions of this policy, the superintendent or designee may assign students to schools outside of their regular attendance area when the assignment is in the interest of the student's personal, social or educational development. When such an assignment is made, a written educational or behavioral plan will be developed by the receiving school staff, with input from the student and parents, to assist the student in an effective change in school environment. Expectation of responsibilities of all parties involved will be clearly delineated.

OPEN ENROLLMENT

Students and their parent/guardian shall be notified on an annual basis of the options available through open enrollment in sufficient time to apply.

Students within the designated attendance areas shall have priority in registering in that school. Students may apply for open enrollment in a school outside their attendance area and such applications shall be approved if there is space available in the requested school or program and the application has been submitted in accordance with the regulations accompanying this policy.

Except in cases of unanticipated overcrowding by attendance area students, approved applications for open enrollment shall be valid for attendance at that school throughout the grades served by the school. After leaving the elementary or middle school level, a student must reapply for open enrollment at the next level.

Assignment of Students To Schools due to Combining of District Programs

If the school district deems it necessary to combined athletic programs, because of: starting a new program, lack of participants, and /or cost effectiveness, students will be required to participate in the program at the designated school.

TRANSFERS

Parent/guardian and/or students who desire a change of school after the date set forth in the regulations accompanying this policy must submit a letter together with the required form requesting a transfer. The request shall be reviewed and acted upon in accordance with the regulations accompanying this policy.

Transfer students attending a school outside their attendance area shall be granted admission on a year-to-year basis.

CURRICULAR AND EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Students granted permission to attend a school other than the school in their designated attendance area shall have the same curricular and extracurricular status as all other students attending that school, limited only as permitted by law and in accordance with rules of the Colorado High School Activities Association, as amended from time to time.

TRANSPORTATION

Transportation for students granted permission to attend school outside their designated attendance area will be the responsibility of the parent/guardian except as provided for in district policy.

NONDISCRIMINATION

The Board, the superintendent, other administrators and teachers shall not make any distinction on account of race, color, ethnic group, gender, or religion of any student who may be in attendance or who seeks admission to any school maintained by the district in the determination or recommendation of action under this policy.

SPECIAL EDUCATION STUDENTS

Request from the parent/guardian of special education students for open enrollment or transfer to another school or program shall be considered in accordance with applicable state and federal laws.

HIGH SCHOOL VARSITY LETTERING GUIDELINES

General Guidelines

1. No awards of any kind other than awards by the school, the Association, or a group approved by the school or the Association and limited in value to \$50 shall be made **to participants** in any interschool activity (CHSAA policy).
2. If unapproved awards are offered and accepted by the participants, such participants shall jeopardize their eligibility to represent their school in any interschool activity; and, further, such acceptance shall jeopardize standing of the school in the Association and may result in the suspension of the school (CHSAA policy).
3. Only letter awards are given to the varsity athlete by the school.
4. Only one athletic letter (cloth emblem) may be given to a participant during a high school career. (Others may be purchased.)
5. An athlete must be eligible under all rules of the CHSAA.
6. An athlete must be academically eligible according to district and state requirements.
7. Service Letter Awards: A senior who has **completed three or more** seasons without earning a letter may be recommended by the coach to be awarded a varsity letter.
8. Hardship Letter Award:
 - a. Any athlete who is injured or ill, and who, in the opinion of the coach, would have earned an award had the injury or illness not occurred may be awarded a letter.
 - b. If because of illness or death in the family an athlete is forced to discontinue competition and has not earned a letter, the coach may consider this athlete for an award.
9. Manager's Letter Award: A coach may recommend a manager for exemplary service for two years in the same sport or one year in two sports. The service award also applied to managers. Their letter award will be a regular varsity letter.
10. Head coaches shall review annually their record keeping procedures with any individuals delegated such responsibilities. Accurate record keeping shall be stressed.
11. **A coach may establish lettering guidelines more stringent than the district guidelines, provided:**
 - a. **They are approved by the principal and athletic director before the season begins.**
 - b. **Acknowledgment of guidelines are signed by the parents and student and on file in the athletic director's office prior to the student being allowed to practice and compete.**

12. Lettering requirements are to be on file with the building athletic director and principal.
13. At the end of a season, an athlete must return all school equipment (e.g. uniform) before a letter will be awarded.
14. The final decision of athletes having met the lettering requirements lies with the building principal following recommendation and consultation with coaches and athletic directors.

INDIVIDUAL SPORT GUIDELINES FOR LETTERING **IN HIGH SCHOOL VARSITY SPORTS**

Baseball

1. An athlete shall play in one-half of the total innings played of the regular season varsity games.
Exception: Pitchers shall play in one-third of the total innings played of the regular season.
2. An athlete who competes in a state play-off game may be recommended for a letter.

Basketball (boys and girls)

1. An athlete shall play in one-half of the quarters of all regular season varsity games.
2. An athlete who competes in a state tournament game may be recommended for a letter.

Cross-Country (boys and girls)

1. Run in all races as a varsity runner (either as a top 5 team member or in the open division).
This would be at the discretion of the coach.
2. Place in the top half of a major race (12 teams or more).
3. An athlete who competes in the state meet may be recommended for a letter.

Football

1. An athlete shall play in one-half of the quarters of the designated number of quarters in the regular season varsity games. Quarters played in state play-off games may be counted in the foregoing minimum.
2. An athlete who competes in a state play-off game may be recommended for a letter.

Golf (boys and girls)

1. An athlete shall play in one-half of the designated number of holes in a regular season varsity matches.
2. An athlete who competes in the state tournament may be recommended for a letter.

Gymnastics

1. A gymnast must accumulate 10 points in varsity scheduled meets in order to earn a letter. An athlete receives one point for every event entered in a varsity meet. Additional letter points are accumulated by "placing" in events at meets during the season.
2. A gymnast who qualifies and competes in the state meet may be recommended for a letter.

Soccer (boys and girls)

1. An athlete shall play in one-half of the halves of all regular season varsity matches. Halves played in state play-off games may be counted in the foregoing minimum.
2. An athlete who competes in a state play-off game may be recommended for a letter.

Softball (girls)

1. An athlete shall play in one-half of the total innings played of the regular season varsity games.

Exception: Pitchers shall play in one-third of the total innings played of the regular season.

2. An athlete who competes in a state play-off game may be recommended for a letter.

Swimming (boys and girls)

1. An athlete must earn a total of 20 points by placing in varsity swim meets throughout the season; OR
2. Place in the top 6 at the conference meet in an individual event.
3. An athlete who qualifies and competes in the state meet may be recommended for a letter.

Diving

1. Participate in 85% of the scheduled practices. Note: Participation in scheduled practices means the full scheduled period for persons participating in diving only, and a minimum of 50% of the scheduled period for persons who swim and dive when the two practice periods coincide. If the two practice periods do not coincide, the individual is expected to attend the full diving period.
2. Accumulate a minimum of 10 meet points in diving.

Tennis (boys and girls)

1. An athlete shall play in one-half of all regular season varsity matches.
2. An athlete who competes in the state tournament may be recommended for a letter.

Track (boys and girls)

1. An athlete must earn an average of one (1) point per scheduled meet excluding the state meet;
OR
2. Earn one (1) full point in a major meet of 10 or more teams (2A or 3A), 7 or more teams (4A or 5A), or state qualifying meet.
3. An athlete who qualifies and competes in the state meet may be recommended for a letter.

Volleyball

1. An athlete shall play in one-half of the games of all regular season varsity matches.
2. An athlete who competes in a state tournament game may be recommended for a letter.

Wrestling

1. An athlete shall wrestle in one-half of all regular season varsity matches.
2. An athlete who competes in the state tournament may be recommended for a letter.

ADMINISTRATORS GUIDELINES FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF ATHLETIC FEE ASSESSMENT

The following represents the guidelines to be followed for the athletic/forensics fee assessments. Please contact the District Director of Athletics for any interpretation of these guidelines.

1. Participation fee for athletics will be \$150.00 for the first sport, \$150.00 for the second sport and \$120.00 for the third. Family maximum will be \$500.00 per year
2. Participation fees for forensics will be \$120.00
3. Participation for cheerleading will be \$30.00
4. Fees will be collected at each school. They will be collected in the office at which time a receipt is to be given. The participant will also be given a signed slip to be given to the coach stating the schools receipt of a current medical screening, parents' permission and the fee adequately accounted for.
5. The student fee is to be paid or waived prior to a participant being involved in the athletic program.
6. **A coach is not to allow a student to participate in any practice or game without the signed slip from the school office stating the receipt of the medical screening, the parents' permission and the fees.**
7. Students or families with financial need may request work/study information from their building athletic director.
8. Fees will be forwarded to the District Business Office no later than 30 days after the beginning of the athletic/forensics season. Fees are to be deposited in the general fund using current deposit procedures.
9. **Participants who are cut or who quit an activity up to and including the fifteenth calendar day from a participant's first day of practice will be reimbursed the full amount. Requests for the reimbursement must be no later than 25 calendar days after this beginning date. Participants who are members through 15 calendar days following this beginning date will not be reimbursed if they choose to drop out of the program.**
10. **A listing of participants is to be sent to the District Director of Athletics listing names, amount of collections, waivers, and reimbursements no later than 30 calendar days after the beginning of the athletic season.**