

Article 9 – Extra-curricular Activities – Rights, Conduct, Rules and Regulations

Section 1 Extra-Curricular Programs

Extra-curricular programs enrich the curriculum of the school by making available a wide variety of activities in which a student can participate. Seward High School will adhere to the rules and regulations set forth in Title IX guidelines on sex discrimination as well as other pertinent rules and regulations.

Section 2 Activity Philosophy

Activities are considered an integral part of the school's program of education and provide experiences that will help boys and girls physically, mentally and emotionally. The element of competition and winning, though it exists, is controlled to the point it does not determine the nature or success of the program. This is considered to be educationally and psychologically sound because of the training it offers for living in a competitive society. Students are stimulated to want to win and excel, but the principles of good sportsmanship prevail at all times to enhance the educational values of contests. We believe that participation in activities, both as a player and as a student spectator, is an integral part of the students' educational experiences. Such participation is a privilege that carries with it responsibilities to the school, to the team, to the student body, to the community and to the students themselves. In their play and their conduct, students are representing all of these groups. Such experiences contribute to the knowledge, skill and emotional patterns that they possess, thereby making them better people and citizens.

Safety The school's philosophy is also to maintain an activities program that recognizes the importance of the safety of the participants. To ensure safety, participants are required to become fully familiar with the dangers and safety measures established for the activity in which they participate, to adhere to all safety instruction for the activity for which they participate and to exercise common-sense. In addition, the school requires that activity team members travel to and from out-of-town events as a unit. Any exceptions to this rule must be approved by both the parents and the coach/sponsor and should be done in writing prior to the departure to the event or prior to releasing the student with the parent or guardian. The note should be given to the principal, activities director or their designee. Only those people involved with the activity will be allowed to travel in the school vehicle.

Warning for Participants and Parents The purpose of this warning is to bring your attention to the existence of potential dangers associated with athletic injuries. Participation in any intramural or athletic activity may involve injury of some type. The severity of such injury can range from minor cuts, bruises, sprains and muscle strains to more serious injuries to the body's bones, joints, ligaments, tendons, or muscles, to catastrophic injuries to the head, neck and spinal cord. On rare occasions, injuries can be so severe as to result in total disability, paralysis or death. Even with appropriate coaching, appropriate safety instruction, appropriate protective equipment and strict observance of the rules, injuries are still a possibility.

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Section 3 Activity Code of Conduct

This activity code of conduct is supplemental to the Seward High School student code of conduct which is in Article 8 of this handbook and any action taken hereunder may be in addition to any action under the student code of conduct said policy.

Grounds for Extracurricular Discipline (Board Policy 6024)

The grounds for suspension from practice, participation in interscholastic competition or other participation in extra-curricular activities and competitions are set forth below. In becoming familiar with the conduct rules for extra-curricular activities, participants need to remember that they are not only representing themselves, but also, their school and community in all of their actions. Special conduct rules exist for that.

Participants in Activities Assume Responsibility for Leadership and are Representatives of our School: Participants in extra-curricular activities assume a leadership role. The student body, the community and other communities judge our school on the students' conduct and attitudes, and how they contribute to our school spirit and community image. The students' performance and devotion to high ideals make their school and community proud.

Activities are a Privilege: Extra-curricular activities have an important place in the educational program of the Seward Public School District. It is a privilege for the students who choose to participate. Students who participate and are accepted into the program are expected to demonstrate cooperation, patience, pride, character, self-respect, self-discipline, teamwork, sportsmanship and respect for authority. It is the belief that accepting responsibility for one's actions is part of that philosophy.

The conduct rules apply to conduct of the student, regardless of whether the conduct occurs on or off school grounds. (If the conduct occurs on school grounds, at a school function or event or in a school vehicle, the student may also be subject to further discipline under the general student code of conduct). The conduct rules apply to conduct which occurs at any time during the school year, and also includes the time frame which begins with the official starting day of the fall sports season established by the NSAA and extends to the last day of the spring sport season established by the NSAA, whether or not the student is a participant in an activity at the time of such conduct.

1. Willfully disobeying any reasonable written or oral request of a school staff member or the voicing of disrespect to those in authority.
2. Use of violence, force, coercion, threat, intimidation or similar conduct in a manner that constitutes a substantial interference with school purposes.
3. Sexual assault or attempting to sexually assault any person.
4. Willfully causing or attempting to cause substantial damage to property, stealing or attempting to steal property of substantial value, or repeated damage or theft involving property.

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5. Causing or attempting to cause personal injury to a school employee, to a school volunteer, to any student or to any other person.
6. Threatening or intimidating any student for the purpose of, or with the intent of, obtaining money or anything of value from such student.
7. Knowingly possessing, handling or transmitting any object or material that is ordinarily or generally considered a weapon.
8. Engaging in the selling, using, possessing, or dispensing of alcoholic beverages, tobacco, narcotics, drugs, controlled substance, inhalant or being under the influence of any of the above; or possession of drug paraphernalia. Note: The term “under the influence” for school purposes has a less strict meaning than it does under criminal law. For school purposes, the term means any level of impairment and includes even the order of alcohol on the breath or person of a student. Also, it includes being impaired by reason of the abuse of any material used as a stimulant. In addition, “possession” of alcohol or drugs may be considered to have occurred for purposes of school rules if the student is in such close proximity to alcohol or drug (for example, a student being in a car where alcohol is in the back seat and no adults are present in the car) or to others who are consuming alcohol or drugs (for example, being at a student party at which other students are drinking) that school officials may reasonably determine the student was in “possession” of the items as well. Because of the complexity of this issue, “possession” will be determined on a case-by-case basis.
9. Engaging in the selling, using, possessing or dispensing of an imitation controlled substance as defined in section 28-401, of the Nebraska statutes, or material represented to be alcoholic beverages, narcotics, drugs, controlled substance or inhalant.
10. Truancy or failure to attend assigned classes or assigned activities.
11. Tardiness to school, assigned classes or assigned activities.
12. The use of language, written or oral, or conduct, including gestures, which is profane or abusive to students or staff members. Profane or abusive language or conduct includes, but is not limited to, that which is commonly understood and intended to be derogatory toward a group or individual based upon race, gender, national origin or religion.
13. Public indecency.
14. Repeated violation of any of the rules adopted by the school district or the school.
15. Engaging in any unlawful activity as determined by the United States or the State of Nebraska.
16. Dressing in a manner wherein such dress is dangerous to the student’s health or safety or to the health and safety of others or is distracting or indecent to the extent that it interferes with the learning and educational process.
17. Willfully violating the behavioral expectations for those students riding Seward Public Schools buses.
18. The knowing and intentional possession, use or transmission of a firearm or other dangerous weapon in a place where such items are prohibited.

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19. The knowing and intentional use of force in causing, or attempting to cause, personal injury to a school employee, school volunteer or student, except if caused by accident, self-defense, or on the reasonable belief that the force used was necessary to protect some other person and the extent of force used was reasonably believed to be necessary.
20. Failure to report for the activity at the beginning of each season; reporting for one activity may count as reporting on time if there is a change in activity within the season approved by the coach or the supervisor.
21. Failure to participate in regularly scheduled classes on the day of an athletic/activity event.
22. Failure to attend all scheduled practices and meeting. If circumstances arise to prevent the participant's attendance, the coach will determine the validity of the reason. Every reasonable effort should be made to notify the coach or supervisor prior to all missed practices or meeting.
23. All other reasonable rules or regulations adopted by the coach or supervisor of an extra-curricular activity shall be followed, provided that participants shall be advised by the coach or supervisor of such rules and regulations by written handouts or posting on bulletin boards prior to the violation of the rule or regulation.
24. Failure to comply with any rule established by the Nebraska School Activities Association, including, but not limited to, the rules relating to eligibility.

Drug (including tobacco) and Alcohol Violations

Students who are found to be in violation of sub-paragraphs 8 or 9 of the above conduct rules shall be subject to the following disciplinary action.

1. First Violation – Suspension from participating in the extra-curricular program and all school activities (including all organizations and special events such as homecoming and prom) for 10 (ten) school days and a minimum of two (2) activities. The first day of the suspension will be the day of the conference with the student.
2. Second Violation – Students may select Option A or B.
Option A: Suspension from participating in the extra-curricular program and all school activities (including all organizations and special events such as homecoming and prom) for 1 (one) calendar year. The first day of the suspension will be the day of the conference with the student.

- - OR - -

Option B: Suspension from participating in the extra-curricular program and all schools activities (including all organizations and special events such as homecoming and prom) for 30 (thirty) school days. The first day of the suspension will be the day of the conference with the student.

If the students choose option B, students and parents also agree to participate in a school-approved program for chemical dependency. Said program must be administered by a certified alcohol and drug abuse counselor and be approved by the school authorities. The student will need to successfully complete the approved chemical dependency

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program. Proof of successful completion of the program must be submitted in writing to the school's activities director. Failure to participate and successfully complete the approved chemical dependency program may cause the participating student to be suspended from extra-curricular activities for the remainder of the school year. All costs associated with the program are to be borne by the student/parent or guardian.

3. Subsequent Violations – Upon finding of a subsequent violation, the student will be suspended from participating in the extra-curricular program and all school activities (including organization and special events such as homecoming and prom) for 1 (one) calendar year. The first day of the suspension will be the day of the conference with the student.

A student who possesses, dispenses, delivers or administers anabolic steroids shall be subject to the following sanctions:

1. First Violation – The student shall be suspended from participating in the extra-curricular program and all school activities (including all organizations and special events such as homecoming and prom) for 30 (thirty) school days. The first day of the suspension will be the day of the conference with the student.
2. Second or Any Subsequent Violation – The student shall be suspended from participating in the extra-curricular program and all school activities (including organizations and special events such as homecoming and prom) for 1 (one) calendar year. The first day of the suspension will be the day of the conference with the student.

Procedures for Extra-curricular Discipline. Students may be suspended by the principal or the principal's designee from practices or participation in interscholastic competition or participation in extra-curricular activities for violation of rules and standards of behavior adopted by the Seward Public Schools Board of Education or the administrative staff of the school. The following procedures with regard to suspension:

1. The school official(s) considering the suspension will make a reasonable investigation of the facts and circumstances and determine whether the suspension will help the student or other students, further school purposes, or prevent an interference with school purpose.
2. Prior to the suspension, the student is to be given oral or written notice of the charges against the student. The student will be advised of what the student is accused of having done, an explanation of the evidence the school has, and be given the opportunity to explain the student's version of the facts.
3. If the student is not readily available to meet with the school official for this purpose before the suspension is to begin, then the suspension may be imposed at that time so long as the opportunity for the student to hear the charges and evidence and for the student to tell his or her side of the story occurs as soon as reasonably practicable. An effort to schedule a meeting for this purpose should be made by the student and the student's parent or guardian as well. Given the fact that extra-curricular activity

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suspension actions at times need to be taken outside the regular school day, a telephone conference may be used to give the student the opportunity to provide the student's position.

4. Within two (2) school days or such additional time as is reasonably necessary following the suspension, the principal or principal's designee will send a written statement to the student and the student's parents, or guardian describing the student's conduct, misconduct or violation of the rule or standard and the reason for the action taken and the right to a hearing upon request on the specified charges.
5. An opportunity will be afforded the student, parent or guardian of the student, at their request, to confer on an informal basis with regard with the school official who has imposed the suspension and to give that school official any further information in the student's defense.
6. If the student or student's parents or guardian are not satisfied with the determination of the school official, an informal hearing may be requested before the superintendent. A form to request such a hearing must be signed by the parent or guardian will either be provided with the initial notice letter or be made available in the principal's office. The request must be received by the building principal within five (5) days of receiving the initial written notice of suspension.
7. If a hearing is requested, it shall be held within ten (10) calendar days of the request. The superintendent will notify the participants of the time and place of the hearing within five (5) days of receiving the request. There will be no stay of the penalty imposed pending an appeal.
8. Upon conclusion of the hearing, a written decision will be rendered within five (5) school days. The written decision will be mailed or otherwise delivered to the participant, parents or guardian. A record of the hearing (copies of documents provided at the hearing and a tape recording or other recordation of the hearing itself) shall be kept by the school.
9. Nothing contained in this regulation shall prevent the participant, parents, guardian or representative from discussing and settling the matter with the appropriate school personnel at any stage.

Attendance and Academics: Student participants are expected to apply themselves academically by following these expectations:

1. Attend school regularly and show evidence of sincere effort towards scholastic achievement.
2. Be on time for all scheduled practices, contests and departure for contest. In the event a participant is unable to attend a practice or contests he/she should contact the coach or sponsor in advance.
3. Attendance, for the full day, the day of a contest is required to be eligible for the contest that day. Arrangements in advance for extenuating circumstances, such as doctor/dentist appointments, funerals or other activities, can be made with the building principal in writing. Every attempt should be made to be in attendance the day of a contest. Sleeping in to rest up for the game will not be considered an

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extenuating circumstance, nor will going home ill and then returning to play in the contest later that day.

4. Appearance: Participants will dress appropriately for the activity in which they are involved and will at all times maintain a neat, clean and well groomed appearance.

Section 4 Team Selection, Playing Time, Conflicts and Transportation

“Team selection” and “playing time” decisions are the responsibility of the individual coach or sponsor of the activity. Consistent, however, with the purposes of the activities program, the coaches and sponsors shall follow the following established guidelines for team selection and playing time decisions, along with such other guidelines as each individual coach and sponsor may develop which are not inconsistent with these established guidelines:

1. Student participants must demonstrate that they can and will represent themselves and their school in a manner that reflects the development of high ideals and appropriate values, which shall include good citizenship in the school and in the community.
2. Student participants must demonstrate that they can make the activity program more successful, both from a standpoint of competitive success and success in promoting a positive school spirit. Characteristics for purposes of these criteria include the student’s: (1) talent or skill, (2) desire to improve the student’s own skills or talents as well as those of others in the activity, and (3) attitude of respect towards teammates, the coach, the school and the community.
3. At the freshmen level, the emphasis will be on fundamental skill development and teamwork. At the junior varsity level, the emphasis will be on preparation for varsity competition. However, coaches will determine the amount of playing time for individual athletes.
4. When the situation arises where a student is involved in two school activities and the schedules conflict, the administration will make the final determination in regards to which event the student will participate. Some of the factors that will be considered are: the level of competition, ex. varsity versus non-varsity; importance of competition, ex. state versus districts versus conference versus regular season; the type of event, ex. academic versus athletic; student’s role on the team; coach or sponsor’s input; student’s input.
5. Students are expected to ride school transportation to and from all school-sponsored activities. Students wanting to ride home with parents should make arrangements ahead of time. Students may not drive themselves to activities unless pre-approved by the administration.

Section 5 Academic Grade Standard for Activities Participation

Participation in extra-curricular school activities is encouraged and desirable for all students. At the same time, the principal mission and responsibility for each student is to establish a firm academic foundation. A student participating in extra-curricular school activities must therefore:

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1. Maintain passing grades in all classes. Any student failing class(es) when grades are checked is ineligible to participate in extra-curricular activities. Students who are academically ineligible cannot travel with any team, suit up for any event, or participate in any special school activity (such as homecoming or prom.) Activity practice is permitted, however, teachers or coaches/sponsors may require students to stay after school to complete missing work.

Eligibility is checked every week, usually on Monday, beginning the start of the third (3rd) week of each term. If a student is ineligible, they may become eligible to participate by taking a grade sheet to all of their teachers to verify passing grades in all classes and return it to the office.

Eligibility requirements shall not apply to:

- (a) Instructional field trips, which are part of the scheduled course learning experience;
- (b) Activities or events, which are a part of the student's grade requirements.

Section 6 Student Fees Policy (Board Policy 5045)

The school district shall provide free instruction in accordance with the Nebraska State Constitution and the Nebraska statutes. The district also provides activities, programs, and services that extend beyond the minimum level of constitutionally required free instruction. Under the Public Elementary and Secondary Student Fee Authorization Act, the district is permitted to charge students fees for these activities or to require students to provide specialized equipment and attire for certain purposes. This policy is subject to further interpretation or guidance by administrative or board regulations. Students are encouraged to contact their building administration, their teachers or their coaches, and sponsors for further specifics.

A. Definitions.

1. "Students" means students, their parents, guardians or other legal representatives.
2. "Extracurricular activities" means student activities or organizations that (1) are supervised or administered by the district; (2) do not count toward graduation or advancement between grades; and (3) are not otherwise required by the district.
3. "Post-secondary education costs" means tuition and other fees associated with obtaining credit from a post-secondary educational institution.

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- Band \$10.00

5. Extracurricular Activities.

The district may charge students a fee to participate in extracurricular activities to cover the district's reasonable costs in offering such activities. The district may require students to furnish specialized equipment and clothing that is required for participation in extracurricular activities, or may charge a reasonable fee for the use of district-owned equipment or attire. Attached to this policy is a list of the fees charged for particular activities. The coach or sponsor will provide students with additional written guidelines detailing the fees charged, the equipment and/or clothing required, or the usage fee charged. The guidelines will explain the reasons that fees, equipment and/or clothing are required for the activity.

The following list details the maximum dollar amount of all extracurricular activities fees and the specifications for any equipment or attire required for participation in extracurricular activities:

- Student activity card \$20.00
Covers admission to most regular season athletic events
- Student participation fee \$25.00
Required of all students who participate in athletics and/or other extracurricular activities (Pay only one fee per year)

Students involved with athletics or NSAA sanctioned activities are required to purchase an activity pass and pay a participation fee. Student activity passes will be \$20 and Adult passes will be \$40.

- Football students must provide their own football shoes, and undergarments
- Golf Golf students must provide their own golf shoes, undergarments, and clubs
- Softball and Baseball students must provide their own shoes, gloves, and undergarments
- Track, Volleyball, Wrestling, Soccer, and Basketball students must provide their own shoes and undergarments

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- FFA, FCCLA, FBLA, Key Club, Skills USA Dues students pay dues of \$ 20.00 per activity

6. Post-Secondary Education Costs.

Some students enroll in postsecondary courses while still enrolled in the district's high school. As a general rule, students must pay all costs associated with such post-secondary courses. However, for a course in which students receive high school credit or a course being taken as part of an approved accelerated or differentiated curriculum program, the district shall offer the course without charge for tuition, transportation, books, or other fees. Students who chose to apply for post-secondary education credit for these courses must pay tuition and all other fees associated with obtaining credits from a post-secondary educational institution.

7. Transportation Costs.

The district will charge students reasonable fees for transportation services provided by the district to the extent permitted by federal and state statutes and regulations.

8. Copies of Student Files or Records.

The district will charge a fee for making copies of a student's files or records for the parents or guardians of such student. The Superintendent or the Superintendent's designee shall establish a schedule of student record fees. Parents of students have the right to inspect and review the students' files or records without the payment of a fee, and the district shall not charge a fee to search for or retrieve any student's files or records.

9. Participation in Before-and-After-School or Pre-Kindergarten Services.

The district will charge reasonable fees for participation in pre-kindergarten services offered by the district pursuant to statute.

The maximum dollar amount charged by the district for these services shall be \$3.00 per day.

10. Participation in Summer School or Night School.

The district will charge reasonable fees for participation in summer school or night school and may charge reasonable fees for correspondence courses.

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11. Charges for Musical Extracurricular Activities.

Students who qualify for fee waivers under this policy will be provided, at no charge, the use of a musical instrument in optional music courses that are not extracurricular activities. For musical extracurricular activities, the school district will require students to provide the following equipment and/or attire:

- Band Students must provide their own instruments and marching band shoes.

12. Contributions for Junior and Senior Class Extracurricular Activities.

Students are eligible to participate in a number of unique extracurricular activities during their last two years in high school, including prom, various senior recognitions, and graduation. In order to fund these extracurricular activities, the school district will ask each student to make a contribution to their class's fund. This contribution is completely voluntary. Students who chose not to contribute to the class fund are still eligible to participate in the extra activities. The suggested donation to the class fund will be \$10.00.

C. Waiver Policy.

Students who qualify for free or reduced-price lunches under United States Department of Agriculture child nutrition programs shall be provided a fee waiver or be provided the necessary materials or equipment without charge for (1) participation in extracurricular activities, (2) materials for course projects, and (3) the use of a musical instrument in optional music courses that are not extracurricular activities. Actual participation in the free or reduced-price lunch program is not required to qualify for the waivers provided in this section. The district is not obligated to provide any particular type or quality of equipment or other material to eligible students. Students who wish to be considered for waiver of a particular fee must submit a completed fee waiver application to their building principal.

D. Distribution of Policy.

This policy will be published in the Student Handbook or its equivalent that will be provided to students at no cost.

E. Voluntary Contributions to Defray Costs.

The district will, when appropriate, request donations of money, materials, equipment or attire from parents, guardians and other members of the community to defray the costs of providing certain services and activities to students. These requests are not requirements and staff members of the district are directed to clearly communicate that fact to students, parents and patrons.

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F. Student Fee Fund.

The school board hereby establishes a Student Fee Fund. The Student Fee Fund shall be a separate school district fund that will not be funded by tax revenue, and that will serve a depository for all monies collected from students for (1) participation in extracurricular activities, (2) post-secondary education costs, and (3) summer school or night school courses. Monies in the Student Fee Fund shall be expended only for the purposes for which they were collected from students.

G. Student Fee Hearing

Annually the Board of Education of The School District of Seward will hold a public hearing on the student fee policy. Such hearing will include a review of the amount of money collected from students and uses of said fees.

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