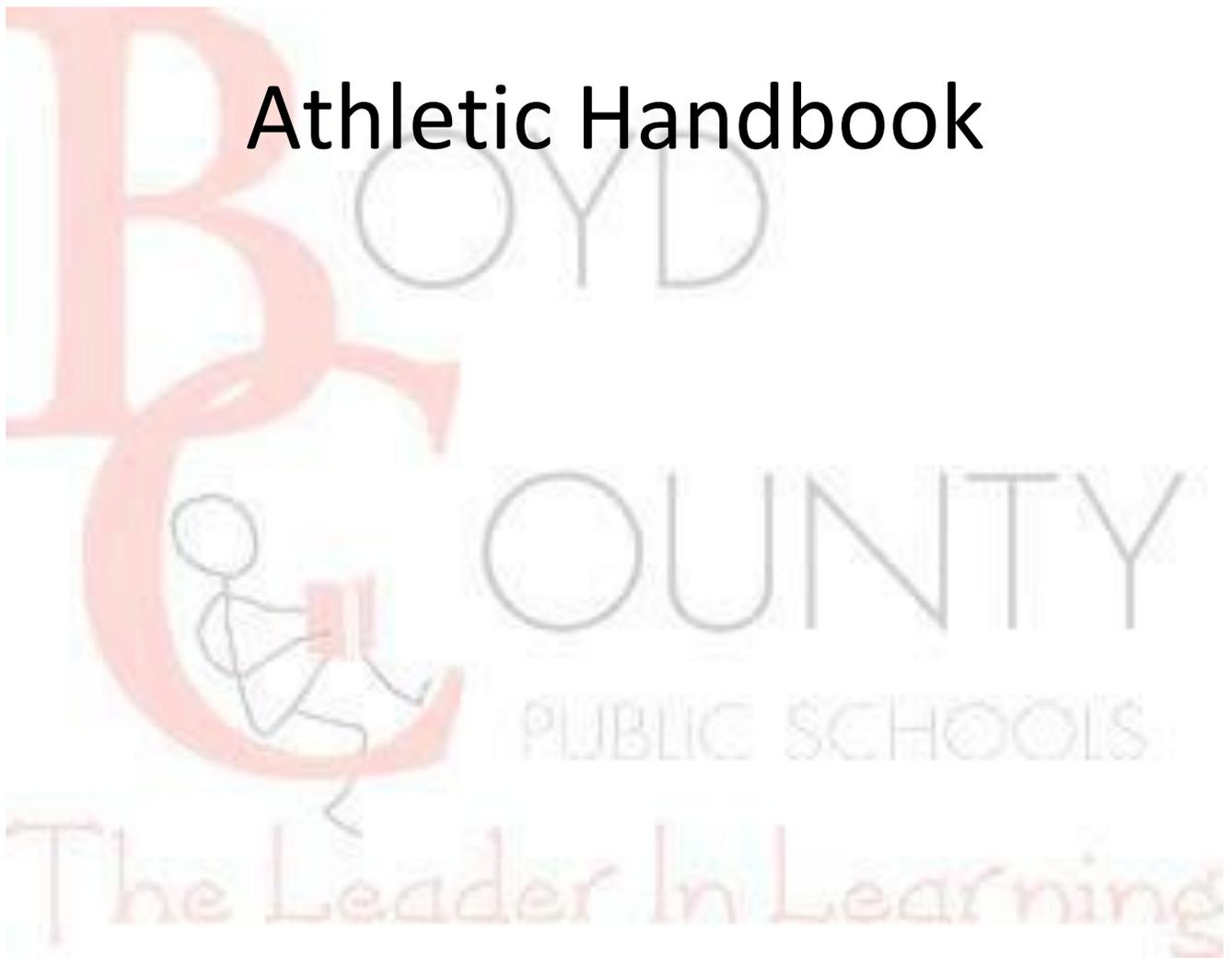


Boyd County Public Schools

Athletic Handbook



Nondiscrimination Policy: Students, their families, employees and potential employees of the Boyd County School System are hereby notified that the Boyd County School System does not discriminate on the basis of color, national origin, sex/gender, age, religion, marital status, or disability in admission to its programs, services, or activities, in access to them, in treatment of individuals, or in any aspect of their operations as set forth in compliance with federal and state statutes and regulations. Compliant forms are available at school sites and at the Boyd County Public Schools Central Office, located at 1104 Bob McCullough Drive, Ashland, KY 41102. For further information, call 606-928-4141.

Welcome

Participation on an athletic team can be a rewarding and meaningful experience that enhances a child's secondary education. It is important that students realize the time demands, responsibility, dedication, and sacrifices required when making this type of commitment. The following information defines the interscholastic policies and procedures for all students participating in our high school athletic programs. The Boyd County Athletic Department hopes this document provides parents and students with a better understanding of our philosophy, goals, and policies. Please refer to the following information when a question about your child's athletic experience arises.

Philosophy of Athletics at Boyd County High School

It is the TRADITION of Boyd County High School to teach, model, and exemplify the following traits: INTEGRITY, RESPONSIBILITY, SERVICE, and RESPECT. We consider athletics an integral part of the educational experience. Athletics provides opportunities that will help students develop physically, mentally and emotionally. We view the competition of athletics as a healthy educational and physiological activity because it challenges each student to excel, to discover his or her physical limits, and to work cooperatively with team members. While winning is a natural goal in the pursuit of excellence, the principles of good sportsmanship and enjoyment of competition takes precedence at all times and enhance the educational value of contests.

Governing Bodies

Boyd County High School is a member of the Kentucky High School Athletic Association (KHSAA), whose purpose is to organize, regulate, and promote interscholastic athletics for secondary schools in Kentucky. As a KHSAA member school, Boyd County abides by the minimum standards set forth by this organization. Please note that these are minimal standards and member schools may enforce stricter standards, which Boyd County High School does in many instances. Boyd County are in the 64th District and 16th Region. Our football program participates in 4A.

I. Standards of Participation

In order to participate in organized activities, all student-athletes must have the following:

- A valid physical examination signed by a physician to be held on file in the school clinician's office. Sports physicals are valid for one calendar year.
- Satisfaction of all eligibility requirements of the Kentucky High School Athletic Association and Boyd County High School.
- The Boyd County Public Schools' Drug, Alcohol, and Tobacco Policy signed by both parent and athlete, to be held on file with Athletic Director.
- A confirmation of receipt and understanding of this handbook.

II. Program Goals

Though the unique nature of each sport dictates its specific objectives, all teams will attempt to:

- Emphasize the development of basic skills, appropriate attitudes, values, and team concepts.
- Allow as many students as possible to participate and share the experience and benefits derived from team membership.
- Compete competitively with our district, region and state opponents.

Participation at the varsity level is generally limited to the most highly skilled players with the ability to interact constructively with other players for team success. The coaching staff will determine the level of play for each student-athlete (Varsity, Junior Varsity, and Freshman) based on what would be most beneficial to the development and progress of each player and team. It should be understood that playing time could be limited.

III. Athletic Offerings and Levels of Play

Fall Sports

The fall season begins approximately the 3rd week of August and ends in late October. Varsity teams that qualify for post season play may participate into the month of November. Informational meetings are usually held in July. The following sports compete in the Fall:

- Girls/Boys Soccer (Varsity, Junior Varsity)
- Football (Varsity, Junior Varsity, Freshman)
- Boys/Girls Cross Country (Varsity)
- Girls/Boys Golf (Varsity)
- Volleyball (Varsity, Junior Varsity, Freshman)

Winter Sports

The winter season begins the Monday after Thanksgiving and ends in late February. Varsity teams that qualify for post-season play may be participating into March. Informational meetings will be held in November.

- Girls/Boys Basketball (Varsity, Junior Varsity, Freshman)
- Wrestling (Varsity, Junior Varsity)
- Swimming (Varsity)
- Archery (Varsity)

Spring Sports

The spring season begins around the 3rd week of March and ends in Mid-May. Varsity teams that qualify for the post-season may be participating into June. Informational meetings will be held in February.

- Baseball (Varsity, Junior Varsity)
- Softball (Varsity, Junior Varsity)
- Girls/Boys Track (Varsity)
- Boys/Girls Tennis (Varsity)

All Season

The following activities compete on a year-round basis during school year, with try-outs typically held in late spring:

- Cheer (Varsity, Junior Varsity)

IV. Eligibility

- The student-athlete must be at grade level of his/her graduating class to participate. Participants cannot fail and repeat a grade; they must move with their class to the next grade level. Beginning at the freshman level, high school athletes are permitted to have (8) consecutive semesters of eligibility. Two semesters shall constitute a school year.
- A student must be less than 19 years of age prior to August 1st of the current school year to participate.
- Academic Requirements

Each Monday, the student-athlete/participants grades will be submitted to the Athletic Director for review. Based on the weekly grade verification, a student-athlete must maintain a 78% cumulative average throughout the year (not just in season for a specific sport - grades accumulate throughout the year). Failure to meet this standard will result in no practice or play for the entire week. An ineligible student-athlete cannot attend practices and cannot sit on the bench during games. The student is also required to attend after school tutoring during the ineligibility period. If the student-athlete is still ineligible after three weeks, he/she can be removed from the team. Each sport may raise the minimum standard to a tougher requirement if desired.

Attendance Requirement

Student-athlete participants may not practice, attend, or compete in a game or activity unless they attend school on that particular day. The student-athlete must be in attendance for at least one-half of the school day. The ½ day absence must be approved by a school administrator.

V. Team Tryout Procedure

Every person who tries out for an athletic team is guaranteed a three session minimum tryout opportunity. These sessions are to be 1-2 hours in length and must occur on separate days. These days may or may not be consecutive based on the needs of the coaches who are conducting the tryout. Failure to attend any of these three days on the part of the prospective student-athlete is acceptable grounds for that person to be denied the opportunity to participate. NOTE: Depending upon the needs of the program/coach, the required tryout period may be longer than three days, but three days are the minimum standard that cannot be violated. Every prospective student-athlete has a right to a three session tryout period.

During the tryout period, each coach will provide an explanation of his/her expectations. It is the duty of the student to demonstrate to the coach that they can fulfill these expectations. If a student is not selected for a team, he/she may contact the coach personally for an explanation. Students who are not selected are encouraged to explore other Boyd County athletic and activity opportunities and to also try out for the team in future years.

VI. Commitment

Each member of an athletic team MUST:

- Commit to being present at all team activities, including tryouts, fundraisers, practices, meetings, and contests with other schools.
- Dedicate himself/herself to becoming an excellent team member and school citizen.
- Strive to continually improve as an athlete.
- Demonstrate pride in team performance and in himself/herself as members of a team.

Changing sports in mid-season

- Boyd County High School student-athletes who choose to quit a team after the first regular season contest will not be permitted to join another team or try-out until that particular sports season's level of play has concluded. This includes post-season play.

VII. Criteria for Athletic Honors and Awards

To be considered for a team award presented by the coach, a student must:

- Display upstanding conduct and a spirit of fair play at all times.
- Display respect for school personnel, coaches, game officials and opponents.
- Not violate the Boyd County High School Drug and Alcohol Policy
- Return all equipment at the end of season.
- Meet criteria established by the coach.
- Finish the season as a member in good standing on his/her team, which includes being academically eligible.

Boyd County High School encourages student-athletes to strive for excellence in their sport as well as their academic program. To acknowledge their achievements, letters and bars are awarded based on the following guidelines:

Letter policy

Athletic letters are awarded for varsity sports only. The head coach determines the criteria for earning a letter. Student-athletes will receive only one letter for their high school career.

Bar policy

To earn a bar, athletes must remain on the team all year. Athletes can earn one bar per sport for each year they play. The head coach determines what level of play is used to determine the bar that is awarded.

VIII. Sportsmanship

Boyd County High School expects all parties present at a contest to display the highest possible level of sportsmanship. Players, coaches, and spectators should treat opponents, game officials, and visiting spectators with respect at all times. Boyd County High School reserves the right to warn, censure, place on probation, and suspend any player, fan, parent, or coach determined to acting in a manner contrary to the standards of good sportsmanship. Spectators who do not adhere to standards of good sportsmanship may be asked to leave the contest and/or be prohibited from future contests. If you are not sure what details good sportsmanship, please follow this simple rule: Cheer for your own team, but do not belittle opposing teams and officials.

The KHSAA Sportsmanship Statement

The National High School Federation and The Kentucky High School Athletic Association require officials to enforce sportsmanship rules. High school athletics emphasize positive values. All of us have worked hard to create a sense of teamwork, respect, responsibility and perspective. We remind you that we expect good behavior and will quickly penalize misconduct. We encourage and appreciate your help. Let this competition reflect mutual respect among all participants and officials. Good luck and have a great contest!

The following rules set forth by the KHSAA should be noted:

- A player ejected from a game will sit out a minimum of two contests.
- A player receiving multiple ejections in the same season will likely sit out additional games and may be subject to suspension for entire season.

IX. School Athletic Equipment Policy

Students are responsible for and expected to maintain proper care of all equipment issued to them. Students are responsible for payment of any lost, stolen, or damaged items. Each item not returned will be assessed at a rate comparable to the current replacement cost. All equipment is to be returned at the completion of the season. Student-athletes who do not return or pay for lost/damaged equipment will not be allowed to participate in another sport. Student-athletes are not to wear uniforms, either practice or game, at any time other than those allowed by specific team regulations.

X. Athletic Training Room Policies

Boyd County High School is fortunate to have a highly qualified and skilled full-time trainer as a member of our staff. On school days, our trainer's hours begin at approximately 2 p.m. and last until the conclusion of the last practice or home game. During weekends and times when school is not in session, the trainer is required to be on site only for contests and some scheduled practices. The training program exists to help athletes receive the best possible care. At certain times, however, the trainer and training room facilities are extremely busy. Consequently, access to the training room and its services is limited to athletes who require care only. Training services are granted on a first come first serve basis on practice days. On game days, students will be treated in an order that will allow transportation and or game commitments to be met. In the event of an injury, the trainer is in immediate control. At away contests, if our trainer is not present, the host school's trainer is in charge. If no medical personnel are present, members of the coaching staff are instructed to take charge of the situation and if warranted, call for emergency care. All sport-related injuries must be reported to the athletic trainer and a student cannot return to competition without clearance by the trainer, which may also include written permission from a physician.

XI. Transportation

When Boyd County High School provides transportation to and from athletic events, student-athletes are required to ride that transportation. The members of the athletic staff feel it is in the best interest of team unity that everyone travel together and share the game experience. As the guardian during these trips, the athletic staff must be able to account for the whereabouts of all the student-athletes and ensure their safety. It is expected that our student-athletes will conduct themselves appropriately while on bus transportation. Any misconduct will result in a penalty including and up to dismissal, if warranted. Student-athletes will be responsible for any damages to bus property and subsequent costs to repair or replace. In the event that there are extenuating personal circumstances, parents can take responsibility for the transportation of his/her son/daughter. A parent/guardian must present themselves to a member of the coaching staff informing the coach that his/her child is leaving with him/her. Student-athletes may then ride with their parent/guardian.

Private Transportation

In some cases, properly insured private vehicles may be used to transport student-athletes. When using a privately owned vehicle, the following must apply:

- An auto insurance affidavit must be filled out by the driver, verifying required insurance coverage. This form must be notarized and on file with head coach and District office.
- While a student may transport themselves with proper parental approval, under no circumstances may a student transport any other student in connection with a school sponsored event.

XII. Complaint Procedure

Student-athletes are strongly encouraged to speak to their head coach privately about any issue or concern related to the sport. The following protocol must be followed for any other issues or concerns:

- Step 1: Meet with the head coach to resolve the issue or concern.
- Step 2: If the issue is not resolved after step 1, contact the Athletic Director to set up a meeting.
- If after step 2, further assistance is needed, contact the school principal.

XIII. KHSAA Dead Period

The KHSAA mandated dead period is from June 25th thru July 9th. There will be no organized team activities of any kind during this period. Coaches are prohibited from any contact with current or prospective student-athletes.

XIV. Hazing Policy

Hazing is not permitted in any form by any student organization or team at Boyd County High School. Individual students that are found guilty of hazing, organizing, enabling, or ignoring hazing will be subject to removal from the team/organization and may face disciplinary action as stipulated in the Student Code of Conduct and Student Handbook, and in Boyd County Board of Education Policy 09.422.

By definition, hazing is considered a form of harassment and is typically an activity where a high-status member, upperclassman, team leader, or older team member orders other members to engage in, or suggests that they engage in, activities that in some way humbles or degrades a newcomer who may lack the power to resist, because he or she wishes to gain admission to the group. Hazing can be non-criminal and could happen on or off campus. It is the school's policy to prohibit any action or situation which recklessly or intentionally endangers the mental or physical health of a student. Individuals found guilty of hazing, enabling, or ignoring hazing will be subject to school disciplinary action which may include removal from the team and other penalties as stipulated in the Boyd County Public Schools District Code of Acceptable Behavior and Discipline. Student organizations which authorize or permit such conduct will be subject to disciplinary action.



Boyd County High School Drug, Alcohol, and Tobacco Policy For Student Athletics & Activities

STUDENTS

09.313

Eligibility (Athletics)

Determination of athletic eligibility shall be made in compliance with applicable policies, administrative procedures, and Kentucky High School Athletic Association requirements.

District standards for playing up from middle school (grades seven and eight [7 & 8]) to high school in sports other than football and soccer may include, but are not limited to, considerations related to safety, physical readiness, use of school space after the school day, transportation, funding, the student's disciplinary status and record, any substance testing restrictions, equitable opportunities for participation, and harmonizing any conflicting school-based decision making ("SBDM") requirements. SBDM Council policies apply to the selection of sports activities, and student participation based on academic qualifications and attendance requirements, program evaluation, and supervision.¹

To be eligible to try out and participate at the high school level, middle school students must meet all applicable KHSAA, District, and SBDM requirements. The Superintendent/Designee in cooperation with principals, SBDM councils, coaches, and athletic directors, as deemed appropriate, may develop guidelines for Board approval addressing playing up standards.

DRUG TESTING PROGRAM

The District has established a drug testing program for student athletes for the following reasons:

1. The District has reason to believe student athletes may be using illegal drugs.
2. Student athletes often serve as role models for other students.
3. Through participation in athletics, students using illegal drugs pose a threat to their own health and safety as well as to the health and safety of other students.

Each student who plans to participate in athletics at the high school or middle school level and his/her parent or legal guardian shall sign a written consent for drug testing as a prerequisite to the student's participation in an athletic program.

The Superintendent shall develop a drug testing program to reasonably ensure student privacy during the taking of samples, security of samples once obtained, and designation of laboratory services that are accurate and reliable. Appropriate measure shall be taken to protect student confidentiality throughout the testing process and in the handling of test results. Access to drug testing results shall be restricted on a need-to-know basis to those persons in positions designated by the Superintendent.

The District shall endeavor to locate free and low-cost counseling/assistance program options for the consideration of parents or legal guardians whose child tests positive. However, the District shall not pay the cost of counseling/assistance programs for those who test positive.

DEFINITIONS

Drug - Any illegal substance or substance controlled by federal regulation,

Student Athlete - Any student participating in athletic practices and/or contests under the control and jurisdiction of the District, including cheerleaders and student managers.

TESTING PROCESS

Student athletes who have been or who are taking prescription medication must provide verification prior to testing. Verification shall be in the form of a copy of the prescription or a physician's signed statement. Students who refuse to provide verification and subsequently test positive shall be subject to the consequences stated in the District's drug testing program.

Student athletes may, at the discretion of the head coach of the sport, be tested at the beginning of their first athletic season of the school year and shall be subject to random drug testing throughout the season for each sport in which they participate.

If at any time during an athletic season or preseason practice, an appropriately trained supervisor has reasonable suspicion that a student athlete is using drugs, that student shall be subject to testing even though not selected on a random basis for testing.

CONSEQUENCES/PENALTIES

If a student tests non-negative, the parent/legal guardian shall be notified and a second test shall be administered as soon as possible to confirm the results. If the second test is negative, no further action shall be taken. If the second test is positive, the parents/legal guardians shall be notified, and the Principal or designee shall provide the parent/legal guardian and the student with an opportunity to be heard before penalties are imposed. For first offenses, the student athlete shall choose one (1) of the following options:

Participate in a drug assistance program acceptable to the District (with costs to be paid by the student's family) and undergo weekly drug testing for a period of time as designated in the District's drug testing program, or

Be suspended from participation in all athletics for a period of one (1) year from the date of the first test that yielded positive results.

For a second offense, the student shall be suspended from participation in all athletics for a period of one (1) year from the date of the first test that yielded positive results.

For a third offense, the student shall be suspended from participation in all athletics for the remainder of his/her middle school and high school career.

After completing a period of suspension from an athletic program, students shall be retested before beginning the next season for which they are eligible.

Offenses shall be cumulative over a student's entire period of participation in all high school/middle school athletics and shall accumulate regardless of the sport season in which they occur.

TESTING COSTS

All costs of initial random testing and all costs of initial tests performed because of reasonable suspicion shall be paid from school funds with no costs to parent/legal guardians. Second tests and subsequent tests after a first test has yielded a non-negative result shall be entirely paid by the parent/legal guardian. In the event a second test yields a negative result, the school shall reimburse the parent/legal guardian for the cost of the second test.

Eligibility (Athletics)

REFERENCES:

¹[KRS 160.345](#)
[KRS 156.070](#)
[702 KAR 007:065](#); [OAG 15-022](#)
Kentucky High School Athletic Association (KHSAA)
Vernonia School District 47J v. Acton. ____ U.S. ____ (1995)

RELATED POLICIES:

09.126 (re requirements/exceptions for students from military families)
09.423

Adopted/Amended: 7/19/2016
Order #: .002

STUDENTS

09.423

Use of Alcohol, Drugs and Other Prohibited Substances

DRUGS, ALCOHOL AND OTHER PROHIBITED SUBSTANCES

No pupil shall purchase, possess, attempt to possess, use, be under the influence of, sell, or transfer any of the following on or about school property, at any location of a school-sponsored activity, or en route to or from school or a school-sponsored activity:

1. Alcoholic beverages;
2. Controlled substances, prohibited drugs and substances and drug paraphernalia; and
3. Substances that "look like" a controlled substance. In instances involving look-alike substances, there must be evidence of the student's intent to pass off the item as a controlled substance.

In addition, students shall not possess prescription drugs for the purpose of sale or distribution.

DEFINITIONS

Controlled substance means any substance or immediate precursor listed in Chapter 218A of the Kentucky Revised Statutes or any other substance added by regulation under [KRS 218A.010](#).

Prohibited drugs include, but are not limited to, any substance that an individual may not sell, possess, use, distribute or purchase under Federal or Kentucky law.

Prohibited substances include:

1. All prescription drugs obtained without authorization, and
2. All prohibited substances however taken or used, including but not limited to, inhaling, ingesting, and/or injecting. These include, but are not limited to, prescribed and over-the-counter drugs, prohibited volatile substances as defined in [KRS 217.900](#) or synthetic compounds/substances that are used or intended for use for an abusive and/or intoxicating purpose.

AUTHORIZED MEDICATION

Revised 09.08.2016
Approved by Gender Equity Committee

Use of a drug authorized by and administered in accordance with a prescription from a physician or dentist shall not be considered in violation of this policy.

PENALTY

Violation of this policy shall constitute reason for disciplinary action including suspension or expulsion from school and suspension or dismissal from athletic teams and/or other school-sponsored activities.

REPORTING

Employees of the District shall promptly make a report to the local police department, sheriff, or Kentucky State Police, by telephone or otherwise, if they know or have reasonable cause to believe that conduct has occurred which constitutes the use, possession, or sale of controlled substances on the school premises or within one thousand (1,000) feet of school premises, on a school bus, or at a school sponsored or sanctioned event. In addition, when they have reasonable belief that a violation has taken place, Principals shall immediately report to law enforcement officials when an act has occurred on school property or at a school-sponsored function that involves student possession of a controlled substance on school property in violation of the law.

PREVENTION PROGRAM

The Superintendent shall establish a comprehensive and on-going drug-free/alcohol-free prevention program for all students which shall include notice to students and parents of the following:

1. The dangers of drug/alcohol/substance abuse in the schools;
2. The District's policies and related procedures on drug-free/alcohol-free schools;
3. The requirement for mandatory compliance with the District's established standards of conduct, including those that prohibit use of alcohol, drugs and other controlled and prohibited substances;
4. Information about available drug/alcohol counseling programs and available rehabilitation/student assistance programs; and
5. Penalties that may be imposed upon students for violations of this policy.

REFERENCES:

[KRS 158.150](#); [KRS 158.154](#); [KRS 158.155](#)

[KRS 160.290](#); [KRS 161.180](#)

[KRS 217.900](#); [KRS 218A.020](#); [KRS 218A.1430](#); [KRS 218A.1447](#)

[OAG 82-633](#); [OAG 93-32](#)

Clark County Board of Education vs. Jones, KY. App., 625 S. W. 2d 586 (1981).

Board of Ed. of Tecumseh Public School District, Independent School Dist. No. 92 of Pottawatomie Cty. v. Earls, ___ U.S. ___, 242 F.3d 1264 (2002). Improving America's Schools Act of 1994 (IASA), Title IV: Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities

RELATED POLICY:

09.2241

Adopted/Amended: 7/23/2012

Order #: 3

Boyd County High School

Revised 09.08.2016

Approved by Gender Equity Committee

SPORTS or ACTIVITIES: _____

PARTICIPANT'S PLEDGE AND RESPONSIBILITY

As a participant in Boyd County High School athletics/activities, I have read and understand Boyd County's Eligibility for Athletics and Drug, Alcohol, and Tobacco Policy for Student Athletics and Activities. I understand that this pledge is for the entire school year, not just the current season. I also agree to abide by all rules regarding the use of alcohol, drugs, and tobacco. Chemical dependency is a progressive but treatable disease, characterized by continued drinking and substance use in spite of recurring problems resulting from that use. Therefore, I accept and pledge to abide by the rules listed on the title page of this policy and others established by my coaches/sponsors.

Student Signature & Date

PARENT'S PLEDGE AND RESPONSIBILITY

I/We have read and understand Boyd County Public Schools' Eligibility for Athletics and the Drug, Alcohol, and Tobacco Policy for Student Athletics and Activities. I/We understand that this pledge is for the entire school year, not just the current season. As a parent/guardian of a student participating in Boyd County High School athletics/activities, I/we will support our student's agreement to abide by all the school and team rules because chemical dependency is a progressive but treatable disease, characterized by continued alcohol/tobacco/drug use in spite of recurring problems resulting from that use.

With these things in mind, I/we hereby request that my/our student be allowed to participate in athletics/activities at Boyd County High School during this current school year.

Parents' Signature & Date

SUBMIT THIS PAGE TO COACH/SPONSOR

Student-Parent Confirmation Form

Please complete and return to the coach before the season begins.

I have received the Boyd County High School Student Athletic Handbook for the 2016-2017 school year. I have read and understand the information in this booklet.

Parent-Guardian Signature _____

Date _____

Student-Athlete Signature _____

Date _____

