

# Howard School District Student Activity Handbook 2020-2021

**Howard School District 48-3**

*Home of the Tigers*



HOWARD SCHOOL DISTRICT STUDENT ACTIVITY HANDBOOK FOR ALL STUDENTS PARTICIPATING IN ANY SCHOOL SPONSORED ACTIVITY, WHICH INCLUDES: ATHLETES, CHEERLEADERS, STATISTICIANS, STUDENT MANAGERS, MUSIC, DRAMA, ETC.

**ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY POLICY**

- A student cannot be failing more than one class.
- Eligibility will begin the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of each semester. The cumulative GPA of each class will be used to determine eligibility.
- All work must be turned in by Tuesday at 3:45 p.m. Academic eligibility will be determined at 8:20 a.m. on Wednesday of each week. The list will be emailed to the staff, coaches and advisors.
- The period of ineligibility will run from Wednesday until the following Wednesday.
- If a student is ineligible, that student will be notified by an administrator and must meet with the teacher in order to improve the grade. A parent will also be notified by administration.
- The student remains ineligible to participate in or travel with his/her team or organization until passing grades are achieved at subsequent grade checks, which are performed weekly on Wednesdays. However, if the team is leaving for the event after 3:30 or the end of the school day, the student may still travel with the team. Travel will be at the discretion of the coach/advisor or parent. If either party dictates no travel, that student does not travel.
- Academic eligibility for contests that occur after the last day of school, the 4 quarter final grades will be used to determine eligibility.
- It is the coach's and activity advisor's responsibility to check the eligibility list and enforce policy.

Adopted December 2015

Amended August 2016

**ALCOHOL, TOBACCO, MARIJUANA AND CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES, CRIMES AGAINST PERSON OR PROPERTY**

The Howard School District believes that participation in school activities is a privilege and not a right. Participants are representatives of the district and should consider such participation an honor and refrain from activities which demean that honor. The school district defines the use, possession of, or attempt to purchase alcohol, tobacco, nicotine, nicotine delivery devices, vapor device, vapor products, marijuana, controlled substances, and all other illegal substances by a minor as well as committing crimes against a person or property as activities which will prevent a student from representing the district in school activities. It must be recognized that SDCL 13-31-9 defines specific penalties for marijuana and controlled drug violations which are included in these expectations. The expectations and consequences below are in force for all students participating in school activities, from the time a student becomes eligible in the seventh grade until the end of their participation as a senior. **These rules will be applied beginning with the first practice of the activity calendar of each school year and will conclude at midnight of the last school-sponsored activity of that year.**

**School Activities (Not Limited To)**

Oral Interpretation	Football	Golf	One-Act	Play	Cross-Country
Band	Choir	School Play	Wrestling	FFA	H-Club
Track	Student Co.	Basketball	Cheerleading	Volleyball	FCCLA
Newspaper	Yearbook	NHS	Quiz Bowl	Academic Contests	
Homecoming Court					

Any student participating in school activities in the Howard School District from grades seven through twelve automatically gives his/her consent for law enforcement officials to release information regarding the enforcement of this policy.

The activities director and/or principal shall investigate information pertaining to violations of this policy. Judgment as to guilt in cases involving will rest with a credible witness, arrest/citation by Law Enforcement, admission and a signed statement by the student or adjudication of the court. Credible witness is defined as parents of the violator, any Howard coach or advisor, Howard school administrator, or law enforcement officer.

### **Procedure for Suspension from Activities**

1. The student and parent will be notified of the concern.
2. A meeting will be arranged with the student, parent, activities director and principal. The coach/advisor may also be present.
3. The activities director will notify all parties of the decision rendered. Loss of privileges will begin the date the guilty decision is rendered. Written notice will be provided to the student and parent.
4. The decision may be appealed to the superintendent.

Any student newly enrolled must have no violations for one year prior to the school activity they will participate in. If he/she has a violation(s) the penalty assigned to that violation would go into effect for the activity. The newly enrolled student and parent(s) will sign a statement in regard to whether they have or have not violated the training rules of the Howard School District in the year prior to the year of attendance at the Howard School District.

### **FIRST OFFENSE (Not Inclusive of Marijuana or Controlled Substances SDCL 13-32-9)**

For a first offense violation, not inclusive of marijuana or controlled substances, participants in violation of this policy will lose privileges for the next three consecutive interscholastic events or three weeks, whichever is greater.

If determination is made which justifies the loss of privileges, the participant will not compete in any varsity or sub-varsity events during this time. The first day of loss of privileges will be determined by administration or notice of offense as provided by law enforcement.

Any student who plans to continue participation in an activity, following a suspension, must continue to practice and attend activities, both home and away, under the supervision of the coaching staff/advisors during the time of suspension. Under no circumstances, however, will a suspended athlete be allowed to wear a school uniform at a public contest while under supervision.

In relation to non-athletic events in which a student receives a score for participation, that student will be able to complete an alternative assignment/task to make up the grade for that school activity event. The make-up work will be arranged with the school activity advisor.

**If a student is in violation of this policy while he/she is not participating in an activity, the consequence will carry-over into the next activity season or activity school year if necessary.** The activities director will determine the penalty should the penalty not be able to be served in one activity season.

To satisfy a suspension, the student must successfully complete an activity season defined by first day of activity to last day. A student who does not satisfy the requirements of the season will be

considered as not serving any consequences. A student must complete all requirements of the activity and end the activity in good standing.

### **SECOND OFFENSE (Not Inclusive of Marijuana or Controlled Substances SDCL 13-32-9)**

The second offense and any subsequent offenses will result in the student losing eligibility to participate in all school activities for the current school activity year from the date the determination of guilt was made by administration or notice of offense as provided by law enforcement. **Should the second offense occur during the fourth quarter and the student is not currently participating in an activity, the student will lose privileges for the first three consecutive interscholastic events or three weeks at the start of the next school year, whichever is greater.**

The participant will not be recognized for post-season honors or awards promoted by the district for the activity in which he/she was participating at the time of the second offense.

In the event the student or parents/guardians believe the student's rights have been violated, they may appeal the activities director and/or principal's decision within five school days of written notice by filing a written request for appeal with the superintendent. The superintendent has five school days to respond to the appeal in writing. The student will remain ineligible during the appeal process.

### **MARIJUANA AND CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES VIOLATION (SDCL 13-32-9)**

#### **FIRST OFFENSE**

If a student is adjudicated, convicted, the subject of an informal adjustment or court-approved diversion program, or the subject of a suspended imposition of sentence or suspended adjudication of delinquency for possession, use, or distribution of controlled drugs or substances or marijuana as defined in chapter 22-42, or for ingesting, inhaling, or otherwise taking into the body any substances as prohibited by § 22-42-15, is ineligible to participate in any extracurricular activity at any secondary school accredited by the Department of Education for one calendar year from the date of adjudication, conviction, diversion, or suspended imposition of sentence. The one-year suspension may be reduced to thirty calendar days if the person participates in an assessment with a certified or licensed addiction counselor. If the assessment indicates the need for a higher level of care, the student is required to complete the prescribed program before becoming eligible to participate in extracurricular activities.

**\*The Howard School District enforces this penalty for all school activities. A reduced suspension that is not completed by the end of one activity year shall carry over to the next activity year.**

#### **SECOND OFFENSE**

Upon a second adjudication, conviction, diversion, or suspended imposition of a sentence for possession, use, or distribution of controlled drugs, substances, or marijuana as defined in chapter 22-42, or for ingesting, inhaling, or otherwise taking into the body any substance as prohibited by § 22-42-15, by a court of competent jurisdiction, that person is ineligible to participate in any extracurricular activity at any secondary school accredited by the Department of Education for one year from the date of adjudication, conviction, diversion, or suspended imposition of sentence. The one-year suspension may be reduced to sixty calendar days if the person completes an accredited intensive prevention or treatment program.

**\*The Howard School District enforces this penalty for all school activities. A reduced suspension that is not completed by the end of one activity year shall carry over to the next activity year.**

**The participant will not be recognized for post-season honors or awards promoted by the district for the activity in which he/she was participating at the time of the second offense.**

### **THIRD OFFENSE**

Upon a third or subsequent adjudication, conviction, diversion, or suspended imposition of sentence for possession, use, or distribution of controlled drugs or substances or marijuana as defined in chapter 22-42, or for ingesting, inhaling, or otherwise taking into the body any substances as prohibited by § 22-42-15, by a court of competent jurisdiction, that person is ineligible to participate in any extracurricular activity at any secondary school accredited by the Department of Education.

**\*The Howard School District enforces this penalty for all school activities. A reduced suspension that is not completed by the end of one activity year shall carry over to the next activity year.**

**The participant will not be recognized for post-season honors or awards promoted by the district for the activity in which he/she was participating at the time of the third offense.**

Adopted August 11, 2008

Amended August 10, 2020

## **ATTENDANCE POLICY FOR CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

If students are to make the most of educational opportunities offered at Howard High School and Junior High regular attendance is of prime importance. Absences due to activities should not be compounded by students missing additional classes during the week. In order to participate in a school sponsored activity (practice or performance) a student must be in attendance the last half of the school day prior to the time he/she is to be dismissed by the school for the activity. For example, if the person is to be dismissed at 1:30 pm for an event, he/she must be in attendance by 11:00 am. If the activity does not impede the school day, he/she must be in attendance by the start of 5th period. The activities director, high school or junior high school principal may grant an exception to the activities' attendance policy on an individual basis.

## **ATTITUDE**

1. A team is a team only if there is a common leader. Your coach/advisor must be the final authority when dealing with the team. Coaches/advisors expect to be called "Mr., Mrs., or Coach". If you wish to second-guess a decision, don't grumble under your breath or complain where it will do no good. Come to the coach/advisor with whom you disagree. Hopefully you and your coach/advisor can solve the problem. If not, the next step is for you and the coach/advisor to talk to the AD and/or principal.
2. Some of our sports are for individuals, but in a team situation, the team must come first. You must be more interested in team achievements than personal gain in a team sport.

3. Not everyone likes discipline. However, if you do not have the proper outlook on correction, you will not last long as a team member. You should realize that you must conform to the requirements, and if you do not, there are two alternatives; accept your punishment or leave the group. To complain, alibi, lie or lose your poise or pride over correction means you are too weak to be a good athlete. Don't waste your time with us if you think you are above being corrected.
4. You must produce 100 % effort. This is what is required of a top competitor. The coaches/advisors look for this effort and criticize you when you do not put out 100%. Not expecting to be driven is what causes most people to leave Co-Curricular Activities.
5. There is no reason for swearing in Co-Curricular Activities. Anyone who does has lost poise and has acquired a habit that should be broken. We will always correct you when you swear. Expect severe punishment if you continue to express yourself in a foul manner.

You participate in Co-Curricular Activities because you are going to school. You do not go to school to participate in Co-Curricular Activities. Please be aware of this philosophy. The following regulations are the major ones that govern your eligibility on the local and state level. There may be others that pertain to specific situations.

## **AWARDS**

1. We follow the regulations set forth by the SDHSAA that states a participant may receive a school letter for athletic participation.
2. The school provides letters for any athlete/participant who has earned them. Each sport will have its own requirements for earning a letter. The coach/advisor will award a letter to each athlete/participant who has met those requirements and has completed the season in good standing.

## **CURFEW FOR ACTIVITY PARTICIPANTS**

Hours: Participants in Co-curricular activities are to be home by:

- **10:30 p.m. Sunday through Thursday nights.**
- **1:00 a.m. Friday and Saturday nights.**

Exceptions to these hours may be made for special occasions with permission from the head coach/advisor or if accompanied by parents or legal guardian. First offense will be one-week suspension to include at least one public contest. Coaches/advisors may have other expectations the night before an event.

## **DRESS**

1. We feel what a person wears serves as a symbol of what he/she is. We expect you to represent the athletic department well. You must wear your clothes in a proper manner and with good taste. We will gladly inform you if you lose sight of the athletic image, and we expect you to comply with decisions on good dress.

2. All members of a team that will be competing will dress neatly on the day of competition. Due to the time schedule of track meets, your dress will be informal, but remember, you are representing your school and sloppy dress will not be tolerated.
3. When entering a contest, it is as a team. We do not want to play as individuals, so do not try to dress as individuals. Everyone should wear their uniform in the same manner.

## **ELIGIBILITY UNDER SOUTH DAKOTA HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES**

### **ASSOCIATION**

1. Participants are ELIGIBLE according to the following regulations set forth by the South Dakota High School Activities Association if:
2. You are under the age of 20. Age to be determined by birth date, not hour and minute.
3. You have not attended more than 4 first semesters and 4 second semesters, or 12 trimesters, of school in grades 9 through 12. Enrollment and attendance in school or participation in one or more contests shall constitute a semester/trimester of eligibility. Once a student enrolls as a ninth grader, all semesters/trimesters must be consecutive unless waived as per Article VII, Section 3 (1), page 10 of the constitution.
4. During the preceding semester/trimester you passed a minimum equivalent of four full time subjects for which you earned at least 2.0 units of high school credit that will be used in the issuance of a diploma.
5. During the current semester/trimester you are enrolled in and attend a minimum equivalent of four full time subjects for which you will earn at least 2.0 units of high school credit that will be used in the issuance of a diploma.
6. You have enrolled by the 16th school day of the current semester/trimester. Date of regular entry into classes is considered the date of enrollment.
7. You have on file in the principal's office a signed physical examination, a parent & student consent form, consent for release of medical information form (HIPAA), and a concussion fact sheet for parents/athlete.
8. You have not transferred from one high school to another without a corresponding change in the residence of your parents. (Exception made for students who transfer pursuant to the open enrollment Bylaw.)
9. You have a copy of your transcript on file in the principal's office prior to competition.
10. You have not been absent from school more than ten (10) consecutive school days in a member school which operates a five (5) day school week or more than eight (8) consecutive days in a member school which operates a four (4) day school week. (Illness of the student or death in the immediate family excepted.)
11. During a high school sport season, you do not compete on an unattached basis as an individual or as a member of a non-school team.
12. You have not participated in an athletic contest under an assumed name.
13. You have not participated in athletics in any institution of learning of higher rank than a standard secondary school.
14. You have not violated your amateur standing.

15. You have not graduated from a regular four-year high school or institution of equivalent rank.
16. Credit recovery. Students who have been declared ineligible because of academic deficiencies from the previous semester/trimester may earn scholastic/academic eligibility by taking an academic course(s) via the options approved by the SD Department of Education. Examples include, but not limited to, on-line courses, in-district credit recovery courses, alternative education settings, digital courses, etc. The principal must monitor the successful completion of the course(s) and reinstate eligibility only after the successful completion of 2 units of credit as per Chapter I, Part IV, Section 1, Subsection D., page 14 of the Bylaws.  
<https://www.sdhsaa.com/Portals/0/PDFs/Forms/Athletics/GuardYourAthleticEligibility.pdf>

## **EQUIPMENT/LOCKER ROOM**

1. The school will issue the best equipment that our budget allows. You are expected to care for your gear in an intelligent manner. Do not write on or use tape to patch your equipment. Lost equipment must be paid for. Do not loan school gear to anyone. Do not ask to borrow equipment. Do not leave your equipment lying on the floor.
2. You are responsible for your personal materials. Any school equipment that is checked out to you must be accounted for. If it is lost it must be replaced at your expense and school records will be withheld until settlement is made. The clothing/uniform should not be worn outside of the activity.
3. There should be no horse-play in the locker room. Keep your locker room and shower room clean. You will appreciate it more and so will the staff.
4. The coaches do not want you in their dressing room. They will request that you stay out of there unless authorized to enter. If you need supplies, get permission before entering.
5. The equipment room is off limits for all students except managers. We do not want to see you in this room unless you have definite permission from a coach.

## **FAILED COURSE WORK**

Failed course work, which causes a student to be ineligible as per SDHSAA rules, must be completed and transcribed, by the governing body in all subjects in which the student is receiving credit, by the first day of practice of each sport season. If the coursework is not transcribed by the deadline the student will be ineligible to compete or practice during that sports/activity season.

## **GAME/PERFORMANCE EXPECTATIONS**

1. We expect you to arrive on time for contests and in condition to play. You must eat properly before a contest. If you are nervous, try to rest. Be prepared both physically and mentally for the contest.
2. During the contest you will be expected to maintain poise at all times. Any display of temperament may cause you to sit on the bench. Avoid the following displays:
  - a) Yelling at teammates or placing blame
  - b) Constant excuses for a poor performance.

- c) Swearing and foul signs.
  - d) Letting everyone know your feelings while under pressure.
3. An athlete who loses poise will only hurt the team. He/she must learn to overcome emotions.
  4. You must adjust to the officials as you would to a new playing area. The officials deserve your respect.

## **HOME-SCHOOLED STUDENTS**

South Dakota: A homeschool student can participate in public school sports subject to the approval of the school board. South Dakota Codified Laws § 13-36-7. A homeschool student also has a right to partial enrollment in public school. Id. § 13-28-51, as confirmed by an opinion of the South Dakota Attorney General. [http://www.hslda.org/hs/state/sd/Attorney\\_Gen\\_opinion\\_SD\\_11-20-2015.pdf](http://www.hslda.org/hs/state/sd/Attorney_Gen_opinion_SD_11-20-2015.pdf).

If the student's enrollment in public school is equal to or greater than 50%, the student is required to take the same tests as public school students as prescribed in SDCL 13-3-55. A homeschool student can obtain a loan of textbooks from the public school. South Dakota Codified Laws § 13-34-23. The Howard School District requires a student to be enrolled in 7 class periods per day, not including a study hall.

Adopted March 2018

## **INCLEMENT WEATHER/EMERGENCY CANCELLATIONS (ACTIVITY PROCEDURE)**

If school is cancelled or dismissed early due to inclement weather or other emergency, there shall be no activity practices, contests, open gym sessions or school events. If school starts late due to inclement weather, there shall be no morning activity practices, contests, or open gym sessions. In all cases, exceptions may be made at the discretion of the superintendent. Should school not be in session (i.e. Saturday, Holiday Breaks, comp days, etc.) and the weather is in question, the superintendent with input from the activities director will decide whether or not to hold contests, have practice/open gym, or hold school events. If weather and/or road conditions should deteriorate during an away event, the coach, bus driver along with the activities director will determine if travel is safe to return home.

## **LETTERING REQUIREMENTS**

### **FOOTBALL**

- The player must participate in at least 12 quarters of Varsity competition.
- A player regardless of injury during the season should if possible attend practices and games.

### **BASKETBALL (BOYS & GIRLS)**

- The player or manager must finish the season, except for reasons of injury or illness.
- The player should participate in at least 16 quarters of varsity competition.
- The player and manager must meet all subjective requirements. These requirements include attendance at practice, overall attitude, contribution to team development, etc.
- The final decision on whether or not a player or manager receives a letter is left to the discretion of the coach.

**WRESTLING** - A wrestler shall letter when:

- He/she scores 15 team points.
- He/she places 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, or 3<sup>rd</sup> in any tournament.
- He/she wrestles in half the varsity matches.
- A wrestler will also letter if he/she is certain to earn his/her letter but is injured prior to this accomplishment. (He/she should if possible attend daily practices while injured.)

**CROSS-COUNTRY (BOYS & GIRLS)**

- A participant must complete the season unless he/she is injured.
- A participant must win 2 ribbons or 2 medals or 1 ribbon and 1 medal.
- A participant may earn a letter, even though he/she has not fulfilled No. 2, if he/she qualified as a member of the State Cross-Country team.
- Final discretion of lettering is left up to the coach.

**TRACK (BOYS & GIRLS)**

- A participant must complete the season unless he/she is injured while participating in track.
- A participant must win 2 ribbons or 2 medals or 1 ribbon and 1 medal or scored points in at least 4 meets.
- Final discretion of lettering is left up to the coach.

**VOLLEYBALL**

- The player or manager must finish the season, except for reasons of injury or illness.
- The player should participate in at least 6 matches of varsity competition.
- The player and manager must meet all subjective requirements. These requirements include attendance at practice, overall attitude, contribution to team development, etc.
- The final decision on whether or not a player or manager receives a letter is left to the discretion of the coach.

**BAND**

- Participate in band for two complete semesters.
- Participate in all home concerts (absences excused by band director will require make up work).
- Participate in at least one region music contest or participate in at least one marching competition.
- Miss no more than three scheduled pep band performances.

**VOCAL**

- Participate in vocal two complete semesters (during high school).
- Participate in all home concerts (absences excused by vocal director will require make up work).

- Participate in at least one region music contest (if in choir spring semester).

**GOLF (BOYS & GIRLS)** - You must meet one of the following varsity golf lettering requirements:

Participate in a varsity level meet where:

- Boys score 95 or lower for 18 holes or 45 or lower for 9 holes. Girls – score 105 or lower for 18 holes or 50 or lower for 9 holes at a varsity level meet.
- Get a medal at a varsity meet
- Compete at regions,
- Coach's decision. You also must complete the season unless injured (this situation will be the coach's decision) and conduct yourself properly as a varsity golfer should all season.

### **PHYSICALS/CONCUSSION TEST**

The Howard School District requires all participants to have a signed physical examination, a parent & student consent form, consent for release of medical information form (HIPAA), and a concussion fact sheet for parents/athlete on a yearly basis. These forms must be on file before a student is allowed to participate. As well, all students must take the concussion test prior to participation.

### **SEVENTH AND EIGHTH GRADE CONTESTANTS**

Chapter I, Part IV, Section 3 of the SDHSAA Bylaws provides that member schools may use seventh and eighth grade students on high school teams, provided they meet scholastic standards fully equivalent to those required by the Association for high school contests. The SDHSAA allows, but does not guarantee, junior high students to compete at the varsity level. Some 7th and 8th grade students may be moved to a higher skill level only if coaches and the Activities Director, along with the junior high and high school principals agree. A conference will then be held with the student's parents to determine if the student is capable of handling the situation and contributing to the team. The practice of 7th and 8th grade students competing at the high school level will be the exception instead of the rule. Examples of when 7th and 8th grade students may be moved to the high school level are to meet scheduling obligations, team needs, and to fill rosters. <http://www.sdhsaa.com/Portals/0/PDFs/Handbook/Athletics/16-Eligibility.pdf> SDCL 13-36.

### **SIXTH GRADE CONTESTANTS**

Member schools should be advised that the interpretation of Chapter I, Part IV, Section 3 of the SDHSAA Bylaws prohibits any student from participating in high school athletic contests who might be in grade six or below. This pertains to both boys and girls Co-Curricular Activities, and there is no exception to the rule.

## **SPORTSMANSHIP**

A challenge we face annually is striving for good sportsmanship. As a high school activity participant, the positive values learned on the playing field now will last a lifetime. Therein is the educational value of high school activities. If we lose focus on that fact, then these activities are not worth sponsoring.

Each year we are engaged in a statewide sportsmanship campaign. The program is designed to reinforce the need for high levels of sportsmanship, ethics and integrity in competition, and your help as an activity participant representing our school is strongly needed to make a difference in our community. As an activity participant, you are constantly in the public eye. You are a leader of today. Many people look to your display on the field, court, etc. as a source of community pride. Many young people in our school look to you as a role model they would like to emulate. That is why good sportsmanship is so important. The example you provide sets the standard of behavior for everyone associated with our programs.

## **STUDENT HANDBOOK**

All participants/athletes will be expected to follow all policies included in the Howard School District Student Handbook.

## **TRAVEL EXPECTATIONS**

1. We take trips to represent our school district and our town. A trip is not a joy ride, so do not expect anything but strict scheduling and discipline when we leave town.
2. We furnish rides to and from events in other towns. We also insist that you come home with us unless you are released to the custody of your parents or guardian. **The parent/guardian (no one else), must sign out before the athlete/student goes with them.**
3. We will expect you to be on time for bus loading. Do not make others wait because you are late.
4. We do not want conduct problems while on a trip. Some trips are long and it is easy for one or two people to be a nuisance. Off color songs, jokes, or literature will not be allowed.

## **UNRULY AND UNACCEPTABLE SPECTATOR BEHAVIOR**

Unruly behavior includes:

1. Cursing or yelling at players, game officials, coaches, advisors or other spectators.
2. Threatening violence against players, game officials, coaches, advisors or other spectators.
3. Physical violence or fighting of any kind.
4. Throwing trash or other items onto the playing surface.
5. Entering the playing field or surface at any time during the game, except for exceptional emergency circumstances to render aid.

## **CONSEQUENCES:**

**FIRST VIOLATION** – Game administration will point out the violation and ask the spectator to stop. Game administration will also remind the spectator of further consequences if the behavior happens again.

**SECOND VIOLATION** – The spectator will be asked to leave. If necessary, the spectator will be escorted away by security personnel. If a spectator is asked to leave from an interscholastic home or away contest, they will be banned from the next home contest in the sport that they were ejected. If a spectator is ejected from two contests during a school year, they will be banned from all home games for the remainder of the school year.

Completion of ineligibility may carry over to the following sport season in the same area of competition. A sport official, school official, or law enforcement has the authority to eject individuals from an interscholastic contest. Participant ejections will be covered by the SDHSAA. <http://www.sdhsaa.com/Portals/0/PDFs/Handbook/athletics/15-Ejections.pdf>

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## **NOTE TO PARENTS/GUARDIANS:**

### **PARENT/COACH/ADVISOR/STUDENT COMMUNICATION**

We are pleased that your son or daughter has chosen to participate in one or more of the athletic programs. We will do all we can to provide a positive experience for him/her.

Both parenting and coaching are extremely difficult vocations. By establishing an understanding of each position, we are better able to accept the actions of the other and provide greater benefit to children. As parents, when your children become involved in our program, you have a right to understand what expectations are placed on your child. This begins with clear communication from the coach/advisor of your child's program.

### **COMMUNICATION YOU SHOULD EXPECT FROM YOUR CHILD'S COACH/ADVISOR:**

1. Philosophy of the coach/advisor.
2. Expectations the coach/advisor has for your child as well as all the players on the squad.
3. Locations and times of all practices and contests.
4. Team requirements, i.e. fees, equipment, off-season conditioning, etc.
5. Emergency procedure in case of injury.
6. Code of conduct and/or discipline that result in the denial of your child's participation.
7. Notification of lost or outstanding equipment at the end of the season
8. Changes in schedule due to weather, etc.

## **COMMUNICATION COACHES/ADVISORS EXPECT FROM PARENTS:**

1. Concerns need to be expressed directly to the coach/advisor at an appropriate time
2. Encourage the athlete/student to discuss issues with the coach/advisor first – chain of command
3. Notification of any schedule conflicts well in advance.
4. Specific concerns in regard to a coach's/advisor's philosophy and/or expectations may exist.

As your children become involved in the programs at Howard High School, they will experience some of the most rewarding moments of their lives. It is important to understand that there also may be times when things do not go the way you or your child wish. At these times discussion with the coach/advisor is encouraged and may be desirable to clean up the issue and avoid any misunderstandings.

## **APPROPRIATE CONCERNS TO DISCUSS WITH COACHES/ADVISORS:**

1. The treatment of your child, mentally and physically.
2. Ways to help your child improve.
3. Concerns about your child's behavior.

## **ISSUES NOT APPROPRIATE TO DISCUSS WITH COACHES/ADVISORS:**

1. Playing time
2. Team strategy
3. Play calling
4. Matters concerning other athletes/participants

Since research indicates a student involved in co-curricular activities has a greater chance for success during adulthood, these programs have been established and are encouraged in our school district. Many of the character traits required to be a successful participant are exactly those that will promote a successful life after high school. We hope the information provided helps make the Howard High School Athletic Program as enjoyable as possible for you and your child.

While it is very difficult to accept that your child is not playing as much as you may hope, coaches/advisors are professionals; they make judgment decisions based on what they believe to be best for all students involved. As you have seen from the list above, certain things can be and should be discussed with your child's coach/advisor. These conferences are encouraged and should be set up as soon as a problem arises. It is important that both parties involved have a clear understanding of the others' positions.

**Please do not attempt to confront a coach/advisor before or after a contest or practice. These can be emotional times for both the parent and the coach/advisor. Meetings of this nature do not promote resolution.**

## **CHAIN OF COMMAND**

Howard High School follows the chain of command listed below. We ask that you observe it if you elect to pursue any concern you may have regarding the athletic program.

1. Assistant Coach (if applicable)
2. Head Coach/Advisor
3. Athletic Director
4. Superintendent/Principal
5. Board of Education

When conferences are necessary, the following procedure should be followed to help promote a resolution to the issue of concern.

## **IF YOU HAVE A CONCERN TO DISCUSS WITH A COACH/ADVISOR, FOLLOW THIS PROCEDURE**

1. Call to set up an appointment.
2. The Howard High School telephone number is 772-5515.
3. If the coach/advisor cannot be reached, the Activities Director, will set up the meeting.

## **WHAT TO DO IF THE MEETING DID NOT PROVIDE A SATISFACTORY RESOLUTION**

Call and set up an appointment with the Activities Director to discuss the situation where appropriate next step can be determined.

## **Student Activity Handbook - Understanding of Rules and Regulations**

We (Mother, Father, Legal Guardian, and Student) hereby confirm that we have read and understand the contents of the **Howard School District Student Activity Handbook** and **Howard School District Student Handbook**, and that we promise on our honor to follow all the rules and regulations of the Athletic Department and the Board of Education of the Howard School District. The Student Activity Handbook does not supersede the bylaws of an organization such as, NHS, FFA or FCCLA, etc.

**Student Athlete Name** (Please Print) \_\_\_\_\_

**Student Athlete Signature** \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

This form must be signed and returned to the  
Howard High School Office/Athletic Director or Activity Advisor  
prior to the first practice.