

**Valley View JH & HS Athletic Eligibility and  
Participation Code of Conduct  
Athletics/Extracurricular Activities**

**VALLEY VIEW JUNIOR/SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL  
ATHLETIC PHILOSOPHY**

Athletics are an important and integral part of the total school program at Valley View Local Schools. School activities should neither have precedence over educational activities, nor should they be considered unworthy of educational attention. Athletics teaches participants the value of cooperation and competition in achieving team goals. The additional time and physical requirements of these activities demand that each participant attain and maintain his/her best physical and mental condition.

Every athlete must be aware that he/she represents more than himself/herself. Because he/she represents the team, school, and community, his/her conduct must reflect this responsibility. Standards of behavior are established to enable students to meet their responsibilities, as well as to promote safety and assist participants in reaching their maximum potential. It must be remembered that participation in athletics is not a right, but a privilege that may be regulated.

Athletics are an extension of the classroom. Through athletics we are able to reach a wide range of students, and provide them with the skills which they might not be able to develop in the academic setting. Moreover, the pride and spirit developed by competing in athletics, affects not only all sports, but also overflows into the classroom, creating a positive learning environment for all.

It is with this philosophy in mind that Valley View Local Schools affirms the fact that coaches are teachers first and foremost, and that coaching is a temporary assignment that should extend sound teaching and human relations principles from the classroom into the athletic program. The implementation of this philosophy is the responsibility of the Principal, Athletic Director, and ultimately the coach.

Some activities at VVHS are extracurricular and others are co-curricular. (Organizations and their designation as co- or extra-curricular are listed after this section.) Extra-curricular activities are voluntary and thus it becomes privilege to participate in those. Co-curricular activities are linked to a class and are not considered voluntary.

Participation in athletics, extra-curricular activities, and/or obtaining a parking permit for VVHS is considered a privilege and with each privilege comes responsibilities and commitments. Students are reminded that maintaining their privileges in these areas requires that they uphold the appropriate guidelines set forth in the Student Code of Conduct, the Participant Code of Conduct, Parking Permit requirements, and any team/activity rules established by individual coaches or advisors. These students are subject to random drug testing under the VV Random Drug Testing Policy. Students are asked to sign a receipt acknowledging that they received, shared with their parents, and understand the Participant Code of Conduct and/or Parking Permit Requirements, as well as Random drug testing consent agreements. By signing these documents, students are agreeing to abide by the guidelines. Students prohibited from possessing a parking permit, or participation in all or part of any athletic or extra-curricular activity are not entitled to further notice, hearing, or appeal rights. The Participant Code of Conduct will be in affect from the beginning to the end of each OHSAA athletic season or school activity timeframe. Copies of the OHSAA handbook are available in the Athletic Office and each athlete is advised to be familiar with the rules and regulations set forth in this booklet.

## **I. Athletic Eligibility**

Eligibility for athletics includes all standards set forth by the OHSAA and those determined by the Valley View School District. Academic Eligibility for each grading period is determined by grades received the preceding grading period. Summer school grades may not be used to substitute for failing grades received during the final grading period of the regular school year or for lack of enough subjects taken the preceding grading period.

**DO NOT CHANGE YOUR COURSE SCHEDULE WITHOUT FIRST CONSULTING WITH THE PRINCIPAL, ATHLETIC DIRECTOR, OR GUIDANCE COUNSELOR TO DETERMINE WHETHER IT WILL AFFECT YOUR ELIGIBILITY.**

**Athletic Academic Eligibility** standards include:

### Grades 9-12

- 1) In the immediate preceding 9 week grading period, a student must receive a passing grade in a minimum of 5 one credit courses (or the equivalent) which count toward graduation. (Physical Education does not qualify as a one credit course.)
- 2) Those grades referenced in #1 above must, when combined, have a minimum total grade point average of 1.0 on a 4.0 scale.
- 3) The first year a student is enrolled in high school, immediately after advancement from the 8<sup>th</sup> grade, must have passed 5 subjects carried in the preceding grading period in which the student was enrolled.

### Grades 7-8

- 1) A student enrolled in the seventh grade for the first time will be eligible for the first grading period regardless of previous academic achievement. Thereafter, in order to be eligible, a student in grade 7 or 8 must have received passing grades in 4 of those subjects carried the preceding grading period in which the student was enrolled, and
- 2) Those grades referenced in #1 above must, when combined, be a total grade point average of at least one (1.0) on a four (4.0) scale.

### Weekly Eligibility

Further, all students are to maintain weekly scholastic eligibility. You will be ineligible for one week if you are failing two or more classes in a single week (Monday through Sunday). These requirements will be directed and determined by the Principal and Athletic Director.

Any student who received a failing grade for any class or course of study for the previous grading period may be eligible to participate in interscholastic extra-curricular activities provided the student participant meets all of the academic eligibility requirements listed above.

## **II. Athletic Training/In-Season/In-Activity Conduct**

These rules concern themselves with participant in-season conduct both as a member of the team/activity and as representatives of Valley View High School. Violations of these or other rules that concern themselves with a specific activity, as determined by the head coach/advisor, may jeopardize student activity status. Violations of the Athletic Code of Conduct at school, at any school functions, or away from school, and school functions during the OHSAA season, may result in school discipline of the student participant.

### **A. Rules**

Rules found in the current Student Handbook apply to all students at all school sponsored activities. In addition, the coach/advisor, Athletic Director, or Administration may set additional penalties for unbecoming behavior which may include a verbal reprimand or denial of participation. Tobacco (including smokeless tobacco), alcohol, or other substance abuse (drugs, steroids, and the like) will carry penalties (see drug/substance abuse). Attendance at practices is mandatory unless you have secured prior permission from the coach/advisor to miss. Coaches may set reasonable curfews during their season. Participants are expected to conduct themselves in a proper manner at all times, and especially when aboard a school bus or other Board owned vehicles.

All participants will be under the direct supervision of a coach/advisor to and from all activities. Only if a travel release signed by the parent and coach/advisor is submitted to, and approved by, the coach/advisor and the Athletic Department or Administration can a participant be released after an away event, and then

only to a parent/guardian. Participants will treat Valley View property and equipment of other schools in a respectful manner, and may be held financially responsible for any damages. Participants are expected to abide by the reasonable rules of the activity as further specified by the head coach/advisor.

Exhibiting good sportsmanship, both on and off the playing areas is an expectation of all Valley View participants. No hazing or initiations will be permitted.

#### **B. Rules Violations**

Student participants who violate any of the aforementioned rules may be disciplined by the coach /advisor by such means as a verbal warning, a conference with parents, benching, and other similar measures. The Principal/Designee may discipline student participants by such measures as denial of the privilege of participation in extra-curricular activities, removal from the team or student group, loss of that season's awards, verbal and/or written notification to parent/guardian, and other measures.

#### **C. Drug/Substance Abuse**

Student use of drugs, alcohol, and nicotine containing substances, is not only a violation of the law, but also has an adverse effect on student participants and the school teams or school organizations to which they belong. Athletic participation is recognized as the merging of both mind and body to compete at one's full potential.

In an effort to provide for the safety of all students, to undermine the effects of peer pressure by providing a legitimate reason for students to refuse to use alcohol and illicit substances, to encourage students who use alcohol and/or illicit substances to participate in an appropriate treatment program, and to prevent the impact of drug and alcohol use has on learning centers of the brain allowing students to work towards their academic potential while a student with the Valley View Schools, the Board of Education has adopted a policy of Random Urine Drug Testing of students who a) participate in athletic/extracurricular activities and/or b) hold a Valley View Student Parking Permit.

#### **D. Drug/Substance Abuse Policy**

The Valley View Local Schools believe that it is important to provide students with as many resources as possible aimed at curtailing the use of illicit drugs and alcohol. Therefore, students who are involved in any extracurricular activities (athletic, and non-athletic), and/or obtain parking privileges at Valley View High School are subject to random drug testing. A student who tests positive will face consequences involving

loss of privileges, and more, as detailed in the Valley View "[Policy for Random Urine Drug Testing of Valley View Schools Parking Permit Holders and Participants in Athletic/Extracurricular Activities](#)" packet. Both parent and student will be required to sign consent agreements prior to participation in extracurricular activities and/or the purchase of a VVHS parking permit.

#### **E. Self-referral for drug/substance abuse**

Participants who have never previously had a positive ('dirty') result may self-refer for assistance. However, such a referral must be made prior to the announcement/notification to the participant of a random drug test or the self-referral shall be deemed invalid by the District. A self-referral participant will comply with the requirements set forth in "First Offense and/or positive result" (see below), except there will be no forfeiture of the activity and/or driving privileges. At the discretion of the Building Principal or Designated Official, the Substance Abuse Committee may monitor a self-referred student's progress toward rehabilitation to determine that significant efforts are being made. Failure of the participant to demonstrate on-going compliance with, or cooperation in, the rehabilitation process (including but not limited to the supplying of negative drug tests), may result in loss of participation/driving privileges as determined by the Substance Abuse Advisory Committee. Self-referrals will be considered for/as first offense only; the next positive result following a self-referral will be treated as a second positive result. A participant may only self-refer one time while a student at the Valley View Local Schools.

### **III. Consequences of a positive ('dirty') drug test, or possession and/or use of paraphernalia, alcohol, drugs, or prescription/nonprescription items in violation of school drug/alcohol/medicine policies**

**A. First Offense and/or Positive Result** – Athletes will forfeit twenty percent (20%) of their OHSAA season. Extracurricular participants will forfeit twenty percent (20%) of their season or year, as applicable. Parking permit holders will forfeit their permit use for the number of days equivalent to twenty percent (20%) of the school calendar year. If a student participates in multiple activities, i.e. athletics, parking permit, musical, etc., the student shall forfeit 20% of each and every activity in which he/she participates. Participants will participate in a drug/alcohol assistance program and will provide requested documentation of such participation to the Building Principal or Designated Official. Parents/guardians must pay for this expense. The participant must also submit to a follow-up drug test at the parent/guardian's expense and must submit documentation of a negative ('clean') drug test (vendor must have District approval) to be reinstated. Failure to comply will result in indefinite loss of privilege to participate in activities and/or driving until compliance is achieved.

**B. Second Offense and/or Positive Result** – Athletes will forfeit twenty percent (40%) of their OHSAA season. Extracurricular participants will forfeit twenty percent (40%) of their season or year, as applicable. Parking permit holders will forfeit their permit use for the number of days equivalent to twenty percent (40%) of the school calendar year. If a student participates in multiple activities, i.e. athletics, parking permit, musical, etc., the student shall forfeit 40% of each and every activity in which he/she participates. Participants must complete a program recommended by a certified substance abuse counselor and submit documentation of such completion to the Building Principal or Designated Official. Parents/guardians must pay for this expense. The participant must also submit to a follow-up drug test at the parent/guardian's expense and must submit documentation of a negative ('clean') drug test (vendor must have District approval) to be reinstated. Failure to comply will result in indefinite loss of privilege to participate in activities and/or driving until compliance is achieved.

**C. Third Offense and/or Positive Result** – The participant will be barred from participation in any athletic activity, extracurricular activity, and/or parking on campus for at least one calendar year. Prior to reinstatement the students must, in the discretion of the Substance Abuse Advisory Committee (selected by the District Administration), show significant progress toward rehabilitation from a certified substance abuse program. Additionally, the participant must submit documentation of a negative ('clean') drug test (vendor must have District approval) to be reinstated. Both the rehabilitation program and any follow up drug testing are at the parent/guardian's expense.

**D. Fourth Offense and/or Positive Result-** Participant will be permanently denied participation in athletic/extracurricular activities and will be permanently denied parking privileges.

#### **IV. Consequences of use or possession of any nicotine containing substances (or Related Item)**

**A. First Offense within a school year** – Athletes will forfeit the equivalent of twenty percent (20%) of their OHSAA season. Extracurricular participants will forfeit twenty percent (20%) of their season or year, as applicable. Parking permit holders will forfeit their permit use for the number of school days equivalent to 20% of the school calendar year. If a student participates in multiple activities, i.e. athletics, parking permit, musical, etc., the student shall forfeit 20% of each and every activity in which he/she participates. Denial of participation will occur immediately following the completion of the administrative investigation of this violation of the Athletic Code of Conduct.

**B. Second Offense within a school year-** Athletes will forfeit the equivalent of forty percent (40%) of their OHSAA season. Extracurricular participants will forfeit twenty percent (40%) of their season or year, as applicable. Parking permit holders will forfeit their permit use for the number of school days equivalent to forty percent (40%) of the school calendar year. If a student participates in multiple activities, i.e. athletics, parking permit, musical, etc., the student shall forfeit forty percent (40%) of each and every activity in which he/she participates. Denial of participation will occur immediately following the completion of the administrative investigation of this violation of the Athletic Code of Conduct.

**C. Third Offense within a school year-** The Participant will be denied the privilege of participation in any athletic activity, extracurricular activity, and/or parking on campus for the remainder of the school year.

## **V. Requirements for Participation**

In addition to meeting eligibility requirements, the participant must meet the following obligations:

**A) Physical Card (Athletics)** – A properly completed physical card is to be submitted to the head coach/advisor. This is an annual requirement and the form must be completed prior to conditioning, practice, and/or competition. *This is also an OHSAA requirement.*

**B) Emergency Medical Form (All students)** – A properly completed Emergency Medical Form must be submitted to the head coach/advisor. This is an annual requirement. It is the responsibility of the participant and his/her parent/guardian to ensure such information is current and released to the school. This form must be completed prior to conditioning, practice, and/or competition.

**C) Random Urine Drug Testing Consent Forms (Athletics, Extracurricular, Parking Permit Holders)** - Properly completed Random Urine Drug Testing Consent Forms by both parent and participant must be submitted to the head coach/advisor. This is an annual requirement and the forms must be completed prior to conditioning, practice, competition, and/or the purchase of a parking permit.

**D) Risk Acknowledgment & Consent to Participate (Athletics)** – A properly completed Athlete's Risk Acknowledgement and Consent to Participate form must be submitted to the head coach/advisor. This is an annual requirement and the form must be completed prior to conditioning, practice, and/or competition. The purpose of this requirement is to assure that athletes and their parents fully appreciate the risks involved in participating in the sport(s) of their choice, as well as understanding what can be done to prevent injury and the inherent limitations of these preventive measures.

**E) Concussion Form (Athletics)** - Valley View has implemented the ImPact Testing Program. ImPact is a computerized test which tracks information such as memory, reaction time, speed, and concentration. However, it is not an IQ test. Though the ImPact test is available to all students, all athletes in a contact sport must complete the ImPact test before beginning practice or competition (you will only do this once in your high school career). Once an athlete sustains a concussion or suspected concussion he/she will be required to retake the test. These results will be provided to the parent or guardian and will be used by the physician to make a return to play decision. Though all athletes with a head injury or suspected head injury must have a note from a physician to return to play, the athlete may be held out longer by the athletic trainer because of continuance of concussion symptoms or a questionable ImPact test score. Reasons athletic trainer will recommend the athlete should not participate: Still having concussion symptoms and/or having multiple scores in the red. Every athlete in a contact sport must also successfully complete a 5 day return to play protocol, as overseen by the VV adult athletic trainer.

**F) Medical Release Required After Injury (Athletics)** - If an athlete is under a doctor's care or requires medical care during the season, he/she must have a signed doctor's release before participation in any practice or contest. This release must be presented to the head coach/trainer or advisor prior to any participation. It is the responsibility of the athlete and parent/guardian to make the coach/advisor aware of doctor involvement.

**G) Attendance at School (Athletics and Extra-curricular)** – The Athlete/Participant must be in attendance at school on the day of practice or competition by no later than 30 minutes after the start of the regular school day in order to participate, unless he/she has a medical note. The athlete must remain until the end of the school day unless he/she is excused by an administrator or is attending a school related activity. If the athlete is unable to attend classes due to an illness or injury, then he/she will not be allowed to practice or participate in a contest.

**H) Attendance at All Required Practices and Competition (Athletics and Extra-curricular)** – Valley View student participants must be committed to the team's/extra-curricular activity's practice and competition schedules. Students are not guaranteed to a place on the team or student group if they miss practice or competition for any reason. This includes but is not limited to personal illness and vacations.

**I) Sportsmanlike Conduct (All students)** – All Valley View students are expected to conduct themselves in the spirit of good sportsmanship, whether they are attending as a fan or participant. Unsportsmanlike conduct may result in a denial of the privilege to participate and/or to attend events. Any student who is ejected from a contest will be subject to the OHSAA policy for unsportsmanlike conduct. The administration reserves the right to issue more severe discipline including denying the student's privilege to participate in or attend activities.

**J) Equipment (Athletics and Extra-curricular)** - All issued equipment is school property and must be returned to the coach/advisor. A participant will be charged the replacement value for unreturned or damaged items. Equipment obligations must be met prior to the awards ceremony in order to receive individual awards.

**K) Awards (Athletics and Extra-curricular)** – To receive end of the season awards the student participants must meet the following criteria:

1. Students must maintain membership on a team or organization through the end of the OHSAA season or their activity concludes.
2. Participants must attend the awards assembly/banquet unless excused by their head coach/advisor.
3. Participants must have returned all uniforms/equipment and/or have met financial obligations for lost/damaged items.

**L) Quitting an activity (Athletics)** - Any participant who quits an activity is responsible for returning all equipment to the coach/advisor and will not be eligible to receive any award for the activity. After the first scholastic contest if an athlete participating in Sport A either quits the squad or is denied further participation, he/she is not eligible to join an organized conditioning program (including weight training) or go out for Sport B until the other members of sport A are eligible to go out for Sport B. However, there may be times when unusual circumstances could affect this procedure. If, in the opinion of the Athletic Director, such circumstances are present, the Athletic Director may waive this regulation. This decision will be made only after a thorough evaluation of the circumstance by the Athletic Director and the head coaches of both sports.

# Valley View Junior High & High School Athletic Eligibility and Participation Code of Conduct

*I have read the entire Valley View High School Athletic Eligibility and Participation Code of Conduct. I understand the information in this code of conduct and realize what will be expected to fulfill my responsibilities in compliance with these rules set forth.*

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*Signature of Student*

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*Date*

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*Signature of Parent / Guardian*

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*Date*