Pecos Independent School Dstrict



2026-2027
Athletic Code of Conduct

PECOS ATHLETICS INSTILLS

CHARACTER

DISCIPLINE

SPORTSMANSHIP

Through a competitive athletic program

PREFACE

The athletic program of the Pecos Independent Schools is under the direct auspices of the New Mexico Activities Association (NMAA) and the Pecos Board of Education. The NMAA is empowered by the Public Education Department to supervise and regulate all interscholastic athletic activities in the state of New Mexico.

Pecos High School provides teams for interscholastic competition in each of the following sports:

Cross Country, Basketball, Track and Field, Cheer, Wrestling, Volleyball, Softball, and Baseball

Pecos Middle School athletic programs provide teams for interscholastic competition in each of the following sports:

Cross Country, Basketball, Track and Field, Cheer, Wrestling, and Volleyball

This publication is primarily designed to assist coaches, school administrators, and advisors with the everyday implementation of the Pecos Independent Schools athletic program. The booklet contains rules, regulations, and policies that have been established by the NMAA and our own school athletic policies. Coaches and administrators are expected to be knowledgeable of these procedures/policies and to consistently apply them throughout our athletic program. Coaches are asked to review all pertinent rules, regulations, and policies with the students in their respective programs. If, after reading and studying its contents, any questions regarding any rule, policy, procedure, etc., still persist, such questions should be directed to the Athletic Director's Office.

PECOS INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS ATHLETIC PHILOSOPHY

The Athletic Program of the Pecos Independent Schools is a vital part of the student's educational and academic experience. Its primary purpose is to assist students in growing and maturing into responsible members of the school community. As participants in activities, students are, and will continue to be an important part of school life. This belief has resulted in the establishment of certain standards for students. These include standards of behavior in the area of school attendance, academic achievement and proper conduct. As athletic activities are an integral part of our school curriculum, it is the goal of the Pecos Independent School District to offer a program of extra-curricular activities that provides opportunities for students to learn skills, good sportsmanship, the importance of teamwork, and the importance of motivation and goals. These programs play an essential role in teaching our young men and women to conduct themselves with honesty and integrity, strive for excellence, persevere through adversity, make sacrifices and compete with dignity and pride while developing a commitment to teamwork and service to our school and community.

We further believe that participants must recognize the value of good physical health and conditioning and the role they play in competition/participation. As a member school of the New Mexico Activities Association, our athletic program emphasizes the teaching of morals, character and the American system of achievement in athletics and academics.

COMMUNICATION PROCEDURES:

The Athletic Department is committed to communicating the goals and objectives of the athletic program, eligibility rules, and expectations of our athletes. If more information is required or should a concern arise during an athletic season, the procedure listed below should be followed:
1. the student athlete should first speak directly with his/her coach,
2. if further clarification is required, a parent should then contact the coach (it is advised that no contact between parent and coach be made until, at least, the day after the incident/event in question – the so-called "24-hour rule")
3. if the issue remains unresolved, the parent should then communicate his/her concerns to the athletic director

24 HOUR RULE:

Parent concerns that arise after a competition will be addressed after a 24-hour period. This will allow both the coach and the parent time to cool down thus allowing for better communication. If a meeting is desired by the parent(s) of an athlete at Pecos Middle or High School to address issues with their child and members of the Coaching Staff, it should be done the following day by contacting the Athletic Director and a meeting will be set up at the school to discuss these issues. When this meeting is conducted, it will only be held to discuss issues with their child and no other student/athlete at the school. Any meeting will be conducted in a respectful manner by all parties. Both sides need to be listened to. The school employee may shut down any meeting that is not following acceptable guidelines. The issue may then be referred to the appropriate person in the chain of command.

GOALS OF THE PECOS INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT:

The goals of the athletic department are to provide and teach each participant the following:

1. A feeling of positive self-worth and self-discipline.
2. An opportunity to develop the participant's full physical, mental, and emotional potential.
3. An opportunity to compete with and against others in preparation for a competitive society.
4. A sense of responsibility to his/her coach, team, sport, athletic program, school, and community.
5. A standard of values, ethics, and morals which demonstrate sportsmanship and positive representation of self, team, school, and community.
6. The athletic department, through its athletic director, and coaches, will strive to promote good will for Pecos High School by hosting an Athletic Contest.

ATHLETIC POLICIES

RULES FOR ATHLETES OR PARTICIPANTS:

1. Each coach shall develop his/her own rules for their teams, review them in a team meeting, and send a copy home with team members. The coaches are responsible for ensuring that team rules are not in conflict with NMAA rules, district board policy, and the student handbook. Coaches will turn in a copy of the rules to Athletic Director before the beginning of their respective season. Athletes will have a signed copy—parent/guardian and athlete turned in to coach prior to first contest.
2. Team discipline and good conduct shall be demonstrated at all contests and practices---home and away.

3. District school bus rules and regulations shall be in effect at all times while students are in route to and from contests.
4. Buses are to be left clean after each trip. If the bus or suburban is not cleaned after trip, it will be the responsibility of the Head Coach to clean the vehicle. The vehicle will be cleaned upon return.
5. Athletes are expected to help take care of all athletic equipment and supplies for their respective sports—this includes activity buses and suburbans.
6. Athletes shall be responsible for equipment issued to them and for payment of lost equipment (including uniforms).
7. Athletes are always expected to comply with the school drug policy. Students who violate this policy shall be suspended from participation in extra-curricular activities for the remainder of the sport or semester, whichever term is longer.
8. Athletes are expected to be well-groomed for all home and away contests. For male athletes, facial hair must be kept neat and well-trimmed.
9. Athletes who are ejected from a contest for unsportsmanlike conduct will be required to sit out the next contest (they may not suit out or sit on the bench and will be required to pay admission if they wish to attend the contest). Athletes will have to take the on-line course required by the NMAA before he/she is allowed to rejoin the team.
10. Penalties or suspensions for infractions of rules and regulations shall be at the discretion of respective coaches, except as otherwise enumerated in this handbook.
11. All rules and expectations will be covered with parents and athletes at a parent meeting at the beginning of the season.
12. Junior varsity/Varsity athletes are encouraged to sit behind the team for all contests.
13. A review of any of these rules by the athletic director and principal(s) may be granted at the request of a coach or athlete.

PHYSICAL EXAMINATIONS

The New Mexico Activities Association rules require each athlete undergo a physical examination ensuring fitness. This fitness must be based on a physical examination of the student occurring after April 1 and must be verified in writing by a licensed medical/osteopathic physician/physician's assistant or nurse practitioner to the extent authorized by their practice act and licensing authority. **The physical is valid through the following school year.** The certificate of examination must be on file in the school athletic office before the athlete can begin practice.

HEALTH/ACCIDENT INSURANCE

The Pecos Independent School District requires all athletes to be covered by insurance (health and accident. This can be done in three ways:

- By having family insurance. If this is the case, please indicate on the permission to practice form in the appropriate section.
- As an eligible recipient of Medicaid
- By subscribing to insurance offered through the school each year at a nominal rate.

MEDICAL RELEASE FORMS

A form signed by the athlete's parent/guardian authorizing the coach, team physician, or school officials to use their own judgment in administering first aid, securing medical aid and/or ambulance service in the event of a medical emergency involving their son/daughter/ward and when the parents or family doctor cannot be immediately reached must be signed and on file. This should always be easily accessible and carried on all out of town trips.

CONCUSSION IN SPORTS

All athletes are required to take the NFHS course regarding concussion in sports before he/she can participate in any sport during the year. This must be completed before the athlete can practice. The athlete will have to be certified that they have taken the course and present certificate of completion to the coach or athletic department. In addition, the parent and the athlete will need to sign the NMAA Fact Sheet verifying that both have reviewed the sheet and that there is an understanding of some of the risks associated with participating in interscholastic activities.

PARTICIPATION IN TEAM PRACTICES

A student may not practice until the following items are turned in to his or her respective coach:
- Physical Examination
- Proof of Insurance/Medicaid
- Emergency Authorization
- Athletic Conduct Code Acknowledgement

ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY

In order to participate in any middle school or high school competitive activity students shall have a 2.0 grade point average with no F's, based on a 4.0 grading scale, or its equivalent, for the semester grading period immediately preceding participation. For students not eligible at the semester, the next six- or nine-week grading period can be used to regain eligibility. Grades earned during a summer session must be placed on a student's transcript by the school registrar prior to the first day of the Fall semester for the course to be utilized for eligibility purposes.

ELIGIBILITY RULES

The following eligibility rules shall apply to every athletic contest held under the auspices of the New Mexico Activities Association. The school principal, athletic director and coaches are jointly charged with the responsibility of seeing that these rules are strictly observed in each contest in which students of Pecos Independent Schools engage. Coaches should familiarize themselves with eligibility rules and procedures and advise their athletes as to their responsibility for eligibility.

TRANSFER STUDENTS

A transfer student **MAY NOT PRACTICE** until all issues regarding his or her transfer has been clarified according to New Mexico Activities Association guidelines. It is the responsibility of the in-season coach to gather all pertinent information and consult with the athletic director to expedite the required petition procedures.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

A student is expected to attend the entire school day to be eligible to participate in a practice or competition on the same day or a day prior to an event scheduled on a non-school day.

1. Participation in evening competitions should not affect school attendance on the following day. When competing during the school day, students are expected to return to classes immediately after the event. Students should not be tardy the day after an athletic event or competition.
2. Students placed on In-School or Out-of-School suspension will not be allowed to practice or compete in contests during the suspension period. Once the suspension period has been

completed, the student may commence participation, provided that the requirements of the coach's team rules have been met.

Students who miss any part of the school day for legitimate reasons (doctor's appointment, family emergencies, funerals, etc.) will be allowed to participate provided that a parent notifies the principal's office prior to, or the same day of the absence.

ATHLETIC ATTENDANCE POLICY

Athletes who desire to attend a camp, clinic, or vacation during a sport season are to notify their respective coaches prior to the beginning of practice for that season or at their earliest convenience in order for the coach to plan accordingly. Athletes may not miss any contests without the following rule being implemented. Missing a game because of an unexcused absence can result in the athlete not playing in the next one or two contests at that level for each game missed.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE ON DAYS OF COMPETITION

An athlete must be in school attendance on the day of competition, or on the Friday before a Saturday competition, in order to play in an athletic contest unless it is a school excused absence. Only exceptions will be if a doctor's excuse is provided or prior permission is granted by Athletic Director/Coordinator.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE IN ORDER TO PRACTICE

An athlete must attend school in order to be allowed to practice for their particular sport. If an athlete must miss class, he/she must get written permission from either the principal or athletic coordinator/director before they are allowed to practice. The athlete must present the written note to the Head Coach before they can practice.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE THE DAY AFTER AN OUT OF TOWN CONTEST

All athletes must be in school the day following an out of town contest or they will not be allowed to participate in their next scheduled contest unless they bring in a legitimate doctor's excuse. Athletes cannot be tardy the day following a competition.

GENERAL RULES

Changing Sports:

Athletes will **NOT** be allowed to transfer from one sport to another during a given season unless there is mutual agreement of both coaches and with the approval of the Athletic Director.

Concurrent Participation:

Athletes can participate in more than one sport during the same season, provided they first:

- Inform both coaches they will engage in concurrent participation
- Determine allowed/agreed-upon practice times/competition dates with coaches

Injuries:

An injury will not conclude an athlete's participation in any sport; however, any athlete whose injury requires a physician's care may not participate until a written release is presented. Otherwise, an injured athlete is expected to attend every practice and any team activity.

Conduct on Trips:

Athletes will be considered as "good will ambassadors" for the Pecos Independent School district. Athletes will conduct themselves as ladies and gentlemen on and off the playing surfaces.

Personal Appearance:

Proper hygiene and grooming are essential for prevention of disease transmission, assists in the ability for students to perform in their respective sports, and maintains a professional appearance. Students are expected to maintain quality personal hygiene and grooming.

- Daily hygiene includes clean skin, hair, and teeth; use of tobacco and vapor products are prohibited.
- Makeup and cologne/perfume should not be distracting.
- Long fingernails are incompatible with many athletic skills. Artificial nails and items attached to fingernails increase infection risks and should be minimized.
- Hair should be pulled back or kept out of the face to prevent interference with ability to perform skills.
- Facial hair must be kept neat and well-trimmed.

Returning from Out-Of-Town Contests:

Athletes will return from all out-of-town contests with their squads and by school transportation. EXCEPTIONS can be made by parents calling or speaking with the coach in advance to explain the reason for the request. Athletes will only be released to their legal parent, guardian after providing proper identification, which will be recorded by the coach.

The coach will require written permission from the student's legal parent or legal guardian informing the coach that the student has permission to leave with a party other than their parent/guardian. Proper identification will be recorded by the coach.

Curfews and Tardiness:

Coaches will establish and monitor their own policies regarding curfews and habitual tardiness.

Initiations/Hazing:

Initiations and hazing of an athlete or group of athletes of any form or fashion are prohibited. Participating will result in immediate dismissal from the sports program. Law enforcement will be involved in the consequent report of this activity.

Vacations

Vacations by athletic team members during a sport season are discouraged. While family values will always take precedence over program requirements, parents and athletes in conflict between vacations and program requirements may wish to reassess their commitment to being involved in athletics. We urge parents not to plan their vacations during times when there will be a conflict. In the event of an absence due to a vacation that is unavoidable, an athlete must: A. Contact the head coach prior to the vacation. B. Expect to do any make-up and exercise for time that they were out. C. Be willing to assume the decisions the coach has to make related to their status on the squad as a starter, 2nd string, etc… for the time missed.

Overnight Trips:

Appropriate behavior is expected at all times. No one may leave the vicinity of the team without the permission of the coach. Coaches will inspect luggage or bags to ensure that there are no contraband items. Inappropriate behavior may involve immediate disciplinary action which may include sending the student home with a parent.

Head coaches are responsible for room assignments and monitoring of the team during trip.

Cellphones:
Locker rooms and restrooms are cell phone free zone areas at all times.

Conflict in Activities

An individual student who attempts to participate in several extracurricular activities will, undoubtedly, be in a position of conflict of obligations. The Athletic Department recognizes that each student should have the opportunity for a broad range of experiences. In the area of extracurricular activities, the athletic department will attempt to schedule events in a manner to minimize conflicts. This would include being cautious about participation in too many activities where conflicts are bound to happen. It also means immediately notifying the faculty sponsors and coaches involved when a conflict does arise.
When a conflict arises among sponsors of co-curricular activities such as Band, Student Council, National Honor Society and athletic coaches, each will work out a solution to the game/event conflict, so the student does not feel caught in the middle.

If a solution cannot be found, the Athletic Director will make the decision based on the following:

1. The relative importance of each event.
2. The importance of each event to the student.
3. The relative contribution the student can make.
4. How long each event has been scheduled
5. Talk with parents.

Once a decision has been made and the student has followed the decision, he/she will not be penalized in any way by either faculty sponsor or coach.

If it becomes obvious that a student cannot fulfill the obligation of a school activity, he/she should withdraw from that activity in a timely fashion so as not to place an unreasonable burden on the team, coach, or sponsor.

PROCEDURE WHEN LEAVING A TEAM

When dropping or being dropped from a team, athletes will:

- Notify the Head Coach when dropping
- Turn in all school gear the same day and all account balances paid

EQUIPMENT ROOM/GYMNASIUM PROCEDURES

A. Athletic Equipment

- In most sports, practice and/or game equipment will be issued to athletes. Athletes will be responsible for said equipment.
- All equipment will be returned when the athlete finishes the sport either at the end of the season or upon quitting the sport. Any equipment not returned or paid for will cause the athlete to be ineligible to

compete in the next season. Once fees and fines are paid in full, the athlete will become eligible to compete again.

- Any equipment lost, destroyed or damaged (this includes theft), and due to negligence will be paid for by the athlete. Cost of equipment will be determined by the Athletic Coordinator and will be based on the replacement cost of equipment. New equipment will be issued only upon receipt of payment for lost article(s).
- School owned equipment is to be worn only at scheduled practice or games. Students may not wear any game apparel beyond the playing court or field unless deemed necessary by a coach.
- Schools are prohibited by law from selling used equipment to students. Please do not ask to buy used school-owned items.
- Any fundraising items (candy, raffle tickets, etc.) or the amount due for said items assigned to the athlete and the funds collected must be accounted for and turned in by the end of the season or at the end of the period for the fundraiser. The athlete will be responsible for any funds or items not turned in at the designated time.

B. Gymnasium Procedure

- At no time is it permissible for individuals or groups to work out in the gymnasium without authorized supervision.
- At no time will individuals or groups be working out, jogging or just "messing around" while teams or squads are having an official practice session.
- Athletes in the gymnasium for one sport practice will refrain from using equipment not specifically for their sport.
- Athletes are not to be in the weight or practice rooms without authorized adult supervision.
- Only approved gym shoes are to be allowed on gym floor. No cleats, outside shoes, etc. will be allowed on gym floor.
- Each coach is responsible for inventory and storage of equipment kept in the gymnasium.
- Athletes are expected to keep locker rooms clean, undamaged and sanitary as possible. It is the responsibility of the athlete to pick up after him/herself by throwing trash, picking up equipment and keeping the floor clean of any not needed items. All equipment and uniforms are to be hung and stored in the assigned locker.
- Athletes shall ensure that the locker rooms used during away games are kept clean. The same guidelines will apply to athletes for maintaining proper maintenance of other school's locker rooms.

CARRYOVER SPORTS GUIDELINES

The following guidelines are to be followed when dealing with athletes that are completing one sport when another is beginning.

- A concluding sport activity has priority. Athletes are not to be discouraged from attending the practice of any upcoming sport, once they have completed the final practice or competition of the concluding sport. Conversely, athletes are not to be penalized for completing their commitment to the sport that is concluding.
- The coach of a concluding sport may request appropriate restrictions in the beginning activity for the dual sport athletes.

These guidelines are NOT intended to place the athlete in the middle of any controversy. All athletes that may be involved in two sports should be identified prior to the start of the beginning season and parameters set at that time to ensure that athletes and parents are clear on the expectations and commitment expected of the athlete.

FAILING TO RETURN EQUIPMENT

All uniforms, equipment, etc. should be returned to the coach responsible for the team. Students will not receive any athletic awards earned until this has been done. Fines will be assessed, and payment made prior to transferring to another school or graduation ceremonies.

ALCOHOL AND DRUG ABUSE BY STUDENT/ATHLETES

The Alcohol and Drug Abuse policy is in force year-round for athletes. These will include THC or tobacco vapes, e-cigarettes, THC edibles, etc. Any student-athlete that is proven to be in connection with the use of alcohol or drugs or convicted of said action on/off campus will be suspended from participating in athletics for a term of twenty school (20) days. This includes student-athletes in or out of the current athletic season. If the infraction occurs or is discovered during a break from school, the student-athlete will not be able to participate in practices or games during the break. These days are not counted as school days. A second violation will result in a forty (40) day suspension. A third infraction will result in suspension for one-hundred and eighty (180) school days. Mandatory counseling will be required before re-admittance to the athletic season. If a student-athlete is proven to be in connection with the use of alcohol or drugs or convicted of said action on/off campus, he/she will not be allowed to represent Pecos High School in any All-Star game(s). Student-athletes proven to be guilty of such behavior will not be allowed to be eligible for Pecos High School's distinguished student-athlete awards from the time of the infraction until their eligibility is exhausted at Pecos High School (to include Awards and representation at All State Games). Alcohol and drug abuse will not be tolerated by the district. Proof of connection will include but will not be limited to pictures, social media posts, verified statements, police reports, etc.

OUT OF TOWN CONTESTS

1. Any student participating on an athletic trip is the responsibility of the school district and the coach. Therefore, if the student is traveling on a school sponsored athletic trip, that student must use the school provided transportation.
2. No student, regardless of age, will be permitted to travel to or from an athletic event with any other person(s) except the coach. The only exception to this policy shall be the release of the athlete to the parent(s) or guardian(s), provided the parent/guardian gives the coach a written note, prior to leaving on the trip. The coach will not release an athlete to any other person(s) regardless of verbal or written permission of that student's parent (s)/ guardian(s).
3. Parent(s), guardian(s), and the student-athlete will assume all legal responsibility for the personal safety and actions of the athlete while the athlete is traveling to and from practices or games when transportation is not provided by the Pecos Independent Schools.

STUDENT QUITS OR IS REMOVED FROM A TEAM

1. Students will be allowed to tryout any sport. The tryout period will not exceed 10 practices. The tryout period is identified as the first 10 practices starting on the first day of official practice.
2. A student who quits a sport after 10 practices from the official start date of the season or is dismissed from the sport by a coach will not be allowed to participate in any sport until the season of the team he/she originally participated in has ended and all financial obligations have been met.
3. If a student quits the team and is involved in Battery against a member of the Coaching Staff he/she along with their parents, will be required to have a meeting with the Head Coach, and Athletic Director and/or Principal to discuss different procedures that need to be addressed before said athlete will be allowed to participate in another sport at Pecos Middle or High School.
4. If a student quits the team, that student therefore forfeits any monetary funds fundraised through that specific program. Those funds will remain with the program by which they were fundraised.

(e.g. If criminal and/or civil charges are filed as a result of any incident, the student athlete will be suspended immediately. Reinstatement will occur only if charges are dismissed or penalty served.)

NOTE: This rule may be waived under certain circumstances through mutual agreement of the athletic director and the head coaches of the two sports involved.

OVERLAPPING SPORTS

Whenever a conflict develops between coaches regarding the overlapping of sports, or other concerns, it is the responsibility of such coaches to communicate with each other over such concerns in an effort to solve the problem(s) and to avoid misunderstandings. Matters that cannot be satisfactorily resolved between coaches shall be taken to the athletic director. The Athletic Director will address the issue and at his/her discretion, may refer the matter to the Athletic Council for resolution. Any and all matters may be ultimately referred to the board, provided that the chain of command is followed. In instances where athletes wish to participate in two sports simultaneously, applicable coaches must be conscious not to create the impression on such athletes that they will not be excluded or otherwise penalized for the athlete's devotion to the other sport. Such athletes will be given an equal opportunity to compete and participate. In fact, a positive attitude towards encouraging participation in other simultaneous sports must prevail. Coaches should encourage athletes to participate in more than one sport. The young athlete will better develop his/her potential if he/she participates in more than one sport.

LETTER AWARDS

It is the policy of this district to allow the head coach in each sport to establish letter requirements for his/her particular sport. However, a student must meet all eligibility requirements and finish the season to be considered a candidate for a letter award. Letter certificates will be presented to each student who meets the criteria for such an award. In order for an athlete to earn a specific sport letter he/she must participate in accordance with the following minimums (in varsity level competition):

1. Basketball – Play in one or more quarters in 13 games and score in at least one game.
2. Track - Score at least one point in any meet, participate in 50% of all regular track meets and participate in NRG and District Meets.
3. Volleyball – Play in one or more games in ten matches and score at least five points.
4. Wrestling – Place in the District Meet and participate in 50% of the teams matches.
5. Baseball and Softball- At least 21 innings of play.
6. Cheer- Participate in entire season and State Competition.
7. Cross Country – Score in two Varsity races (top 5 in team) or run at the District Meet.

SPORTSMANSHIP

The role of the players in sportsmanship is second in importance only to the coach. Players are admired and respected by the students of all levels as well as adult spectators. They have significant influence over the actions and behavior of spectators of all ages.

Players will perform the following responsibilities:

- Accept and understand the seriousness of their responsibility and the privilege or representing their school and community.
- Learn the rules thoroughly and discuss them with parents, fans and fellow students and elementary students. This will assist everyone in the achievement of a better understanding and appreciation of the game.
- Cooperate with the coaches and always exercise good sportsmanship by living the rules and role as stated.

- Only the captain may communicate with the officials on the clarification of rules. It is his/her responsibility to communicate what was said back to his/her teammates and/or coach.
- Always respect the official's judgment and interpretation of the rules. Never argue or make non-verbal gestures, which indicate disagreement. This type of immature activity may incite undesirable behavior in the stands and by teammates.
- Congratulate opponents in a sincere manner following either victory or defeat. This is a true measure of character.
- Exercise self-control at all times, accepting all decisions, unusual occurrences, and abiding by them.
- Treat opponents with the respect that is accorded a guest or friend.

Shake hands with opponents prior to the contest and wish them luck**.**

CONDUCT OF VIOLATIONS

Possession or Use of a Weapon. As per school board policy, suspension and/or expulsion and may be dropped from participation in extra-curricular activities for one school calendar year. The Superintendent may modify the exclusion of extra-curricular activities or duration of the suspension. Any Policy violations of the Student Handbook will be handled as per progressive discipline at the discretion of the Acting Administrator.

INAPPROPRIATE BEHAVIOR, USE OF PROFANITY, INSUBORDINATION, PUBLIC DISPLAY OF AFFECTION

Any student who engages in inappropriate behavior, use of profanity, insubordination towards any school personnel, or public displays of affection during practice sessions or competitions will face the same consequences as they would during the regular school day refer to (*Student Handbook).*

STUDENT ATHLETES ON SUSPENSION

Any student receiving a full day of ISSD or out of school suspension on the day of an athletic practice or competition will not be able to participate in any event during the duration of their suspension. A student who is under school suspension (ISS or regular) may not participate in any athletic activity for the duration of his/her suspension. This includes weekend contests. However, the principal retains the right to keep an athlete from participating in practices or events regardless of the length of time spent in ISSD (based on the severity of the infraction).

DISCIPLINE OF ATHLETES/CODE OF CONDUCT

Occasionally, it becomes necessary to take some form of disciplinary action against an athlete as a result of unacceptable misconduct or refusal on his/her part to comply with school or athletic policy. While the student handbook identifies and "spells out" the specific disciplinary actions that will be taken for certain offenses, in athletics we have adopted our own code of conduct. The code of conduct, which is signed by the athlete, his/her parent, and the coach, explains the procedure that will be followed in disciplining an athlete for serious violations of school policy, athletic training rules, or misconduct. Coaches are expected, prior to participation, to thoroughly explain the code of conduct to the athletes in his/her charge, and to obtain the signature of each athlete and his/her parent to the document. It is essential that athletes understand that any disciplinary action imposed upon them for violating the athletic code of conduct is in addition to and not in lieu of action prescribed by the appropriate assistant principal. Suspension from athletics can be accomplished by the principal and/or athletic director and does not require a due process hearing.

ADDITIONAL GUIDELINES

There are countless other behavioral issues that could impact a student's eligibility for participation in an extra-curricular activity, which cannot be sufficiently detailed in the Athletic Code of Conduct. Consequently, the athletic director, coach, sponsor, and the administration will determine additional guidelines, expectations, consequences and student support plans. These expectations and guidelines with the Athletic Conduct Code guidelines will be shared in writing with students and parents at the beginning of the season or activity. Although the Athletic Conduct Code guidelines designate its expectations during the time a student is a member of an extra-curricular activity, the school's interest and intent is to expect and support positive student behavior at all times. Serious violations of school rules or community laws that occur during a time a student is not a participant of an extra-curricular activity will be reviewed by administration to determine the best support plan for the student. A student's eligibility status for extra-curricular activity participation is but one consequence that may be considered by the administration when such events occur.

DUE PROCESS PROCEDURES

Due process procedures are as stated in the administrative regulations regarding student discipline will be followed. Following notification of the athletic coordinator/athletic director and principal or information concerning a possible activity code violation, this process will include:

1. Oral or written notice of the allegation(s) against the student including parent notification.
2. The opportunity for the student to respond to the allegation(s).
3. A determination by the coach (first discipline level), athletic coordinator (second discipline level) and Athletic Director (third discipline level) that a violation of the activity codes did or did not occur.

APPEALS

A student may appeal the decision that an activity code violation did occur by notifying the Athletic Coordinator/Director. If this appeal occurs after the third discipline level, then the student would take his or her case to:

- The High School Principal
- The Superintendent (final appeal level)

This appeal shall be processed within three school days of the date an appeal is filed. The student will not be allowed to participate in any contest during the appeal process but may be allowed to participate in the practice sessions. The student may have representative and/or parents attend the appeal hearing to participate in the discussion.

If there are any appeals to be made regarding disciplinary measures, the District's Grievance Procedure is to be adhered to.

Appendix
Rubric for All-Around Athlete Award for Year End Banquet

Sport	Poss/Points
Wrestling	
Letter	3
Top 4 in Weight Class @ Districts	4
State Medalist	5
Volleyball	
Letter	3
All-District	4
All-State	5
Cross Country	
Letter	3
District 1st Team (Runners placing 1-7)	4
State 1st Team (Placing in Top 10 @ State)	5
Basketball	
Letter	3
All-District	4
All-State	5
Track	
Letter	3
Place in top two at District Meet	4
Medal @ State	5*
Baseball/Softball	
Letter	3
All-District	4
All-State	5
Cheer	
Letter	5
Individual Honors	
District Champ	2
District Wrestling MVP	2
Track District High Point	2
State Champion	5*
State Runner-Up	4
North/South All-Star	2
Sepulveda/Great SW Invitation	2
All-American Cheerleader	2
Team Accomplishments	
District Champions	3
State Champions	5
State Runner-Up	4

*maximum per sport

***Athlete must Letter in 3 Sports to Qualify for All-Around Athlete**

***Senior Athlete Award is an accumulation of the Athlete's entire athletic career at Pecos HS. This can include up to 10 semesters of competition. Athlete must have participated in a minimum of 2 sports during their career.**

***The Academic Athlete Award is based on the highest GPA for the current school year only and must Letter in 3 Sports.**

***The Dennis Carrillo Award is based upon head coaches' nomination with evidence of who they believe exemplifies complete dedication and commitment to the athletic programs.**

****Shadow Box recognition of an individual or team will be done when an individual or team wins the State Championship for 3 or more consecutive years in the same sport or event.**

ROLE OF THE PARENTS

Parents need to set the standard of exemplary sportsmanship while attending games/matches and when discussing athletics with others and at home. Because of the nature of athletic competition, parents can be detrimental to a student-athlete's development when they become too involved as aggressive spectators and/or when they act as self-appointed player "agents" or "bleacher coaches" who choose to publicly second-guess coaches' decisions. Also, parents can also be susceptible to the temptation to blame the coach for poor play or lack of performance by their student-athlete or the team. When these types of behaviors occur, the child of these parents may feel excused for his/her effort, or lack thereof, and poor attitudes toward the coach and the team may develop as a result.

Parents need to trust the school and coach as partners in the education and development of their child. Coaches are certainly fallible people who will make mistakes at times. However, there must be a trust that the coach is doing everything that he/she can to help their child in their growth as athletes and as young adults. Mutual trust, respect, and encouragement among coaches, players, and parents will result in a top-quality athletic program. This is not to say that parents of a student-athlete should remain silent if a problem arises. Like relationships with teachers, parents should feel free to have open, constructive discussions with the coach on issues pertaining to their child. Parents should expect that the coach will respond with honesty, respect, and a mutual concern for the well-being of their child. Parents are advised not to discuss concerns with the coach "in the heat of the moment," but rather, should wait (at least overnight as suggested in the following "Communication Procedure") until emotions have cooled. In addition, parents should use discretion and restraint when determining whether to bring a concern forward to a coach. In all such cases, the Communication Procedure that follows should be employed.

Parents (and grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, classmates, neighbors and friends) in their roles as spectators should understand their responsibilities to be encouragers of the team, supporters of the school. Spectators should remember that school athletics are learning experiences for the students and that mistakes are sometimes made. Athletes from all sports should be praised in their attempts to improve themselves as athletes and as people. In addition, appreciation for outstanding play by either team should be shown. More specifically, spectators should be aware that it is a privilege to observe the game/match. Respect should be shown to the opposing players, coaches, spectators, and support groups. Treat them as our guests. Game officials should be treated with respect. Understand that they, like you, are fallible and are doing their best to promote the student-athlete. Admire their willingness to participate in full view of the public and be eager to accept their authority.

PARENT SUPPORT & PARTICIPATION

We value your support of Pecos Athletics and ask you to be role models, especially regarding good sportsmanship and positive behavior. Please encourage your son or daughter to meet the high expectations that are placed on our student-athletes and remind them that their athletic participation is a privilege that is earned through good grades and proper behavior.
By signing this document, we confirm that the information and rules listed are understood and will be followed.
Student Name: _____ Grade: _____

My signature below confirms my receipt of and understanding of the Athletic Handbook and Drug Policy and its contents.

1. Students must have a sports physical completed prior to beginning official season practice. Documentation of physical must be turned in to coach prior to beginning practice.
2. Students are required to have 5 practices before attending an athletic competition or event.
3. All athletes must be in school the day following a competition or they will not be allowed to participate in their next scheduled contest unless they bring in a legitimate doctor's excuse. Athletes cannot be tardy the day following a contest.
4. ALL athletes must be in school the day following an out-of-town and home event or they will not be allowed to participate in their next schedule. ATHLETES CANNOT BE TARDY THE DAY FOLLOWING AN ATHLETIC EVENT.
5. An athlete must attend school to be allowed to practice for their sport. If an athlete must miss class, he/she must get written permission from either the principal or athletic coordinator/director before they are allowed to practice. The athlete must present the written note to the Head Coach before they can practice.
6. An athlete MUST be in school attendance the day of competition, or on the Friday before a Saturday competition, to participate in an athletic contest unless it's a school excused absence.
7. An athlete must be in school attendance for at least fifty (50) percent of the school day on the day of competition, or on the Friday before a Saturday competition, to play in an athletic contest unless it is a school excused absence. Junior High requires four (4) periods of attendance. Only exceptions will be if a doctor's excuse is provided or prior permission is granted by Athletic Director.
8. Eligibility for student participation in extra-curricular activities is determined by the New Mexico Activities Association's by-laws that are developed to create a level playing field for all student athletes. Changes to enrollment, home residence, academic standing, and family status are some of the factors that determine student eligibility. Parents/ guardians are strongly encouraged to familiarize themselves with the rules and regulations associated with student eligibility *PRIOR* to making changes to their student's status. Transferring schools may impact a student's opportunity to participate in extra-curricular activities.

New Mexico Activities Association By-Laws: https://www.nmact.org/nmaa-handbook/

Parent Signature _____ Date_____

Student Signature _____ Date_____

AD/AC Signature_____ Date_____

Approved by Board of Education –