



Valley High School

Student Athletics/Activities Handbook



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I. INTRODUCTION

A. Parent

This material is presented to you because your son or daughter has indicated a desire to participate in interscholastic athletics and you have expressed your willingness to permit him/her to compete. Your family's interest in this phase of our school program is gratifying. We believe that participation in sports and other activities provides a wealth of opportunities and experiences, which assists students in personal adjustments.

We are concerned with the educational development of our young men/women who participate in activities/athletics and feel that a properly controlled, well-organized sports/activity program meets with the student's needs for self-expression, mental alertness and physical growth. It is our hope to maintain a program that is sound in purpose and will further each student's educational maturity.

A student who elects to participate in extra-curricular activities is voluntarily making a choice of self-discipline and self-denial. These are the reasons we place such stress on good training habits. Failure to comply with the rules of training and conduct means exclusion from the activity. This concept of self-discipline and self-denial is tempered by our responsibility to recognize the rights of the individual within the objectives of the team. There is no place in high school athletics/activities for students who will not discipline their minds and bodies for rigorous competition. We are striving for excellence and do not want our students to compromise with mediocrity.

When your son/daughter joins one of our activity programs, they have committed to our staff certain responsibilities and obligations, which are:

1. To provide adequate equipment and facilities.
2. To provide well-trained coaches and sponsors.
3. To provide equalized contests with skilled officials.

Likewise, we feel that you have committed yourselves to certain responsibilities and obligations. We would like to take this opportunity to acquaint you with specific VHS policies that we feel are necessary for a well-organized program of athletics/activities. It is the role of the Athletic/Activity Department to make rules that govern the spirit of competition for the school. These rules need a broad basis of community support, which is achieved only through communication to the parent. It is our hope to accomplish this objective through this athletic/activity publication for students and parents.

B. Students

Being a member of a Valley High School athletic team or activity is the fulfillment of an early ambition for many students. The attainment of this goal carries with it certain traditions and responsibilities that must be maintained. A great athletic/activity tradition is not built over night; it takes the hard work of many people over many years. As a member of an interscholastic squad at Valley High School, you have inherited a wonderful tradition, a tradition you are challenged to uphold. Our tradition has been to win with honor and lose with dignity. Obviously, our desire is to win, but never at the expense of our honor. We owe nothing less to our athletes, our school, and our community.

Such a tradition is worthy of the best efforts of all concerned. Over many years our athletic teams and activities have achieved more than their share of league championships. Many individuals have set records and won All-State and All-Region honors.

It will not be easy to contribute to such a great athletic/activity tradition. When you wear the colors of your school, we assume that you not only understand our traditions, but also are willing to assume the responsibilities that go with them.

1. **Responsibilities to yourself:** The most important of these responsibilities is to broaden yourself and develop strength of character. You owe it to yourself to get the greatest possible good from your high school experiences. Your academic studies, your participation in other extra-curricular activities as well as in sports, prepare you for your life as an adult.
2. **Responsibilities to your school:** Another responsibility you assume as a squad member is to your school. Valley High School cannot maintain its position as an outstanding school unless you do your best in whatever activity you wish to engage. By participating in athletics or activities to the maximum of your ability, you are contributing to the reputation of your school. You assume a leadership role when you are on the athletic squad or activity. The student body and citizens of Sanders know you. You are on stage with the spotlight on you. The student body, the community and other communities judge our school by your conduct and attitudes, both on and off the field or court. Because of this leadership role, you can contribute greatly to school spirit and Pirate Pride. Make Valley High School proud of you and your community proud of your school, by your faithful exemplification of these ideals.
3. **Responsibilities to others:** As a squad member you also bear a heavy responsibility to your family. If you never give your parents anything to be ashamed of, you will have measured up to the ideal. When you know in your heart that you have lived up to all of the training rules, that you have practiced to the best of your ability everyday, and that you have played the game “all out”, you can keep your self-respect and your family can be justly proud of you.

II. ATHLETIC/ACTIVITY PHILOSOPHY

A. Statement of Philosophy

The Valley High School Athletic/Activity Program shall provide a variety of experiences to aid in the development of favorable habits and attitudes in students that will prepare them for adult life in a democratic society. The interscholastic athletic program shall be conducted in accordance with existing Governing Board policies, rules and regulations. While the Governing Board takes great pride in winning, it does not condone “**winning at any cost**”. It discourages any and all pressures, which might tend to negate good sportsmanship and good mental health. At all times the athletic program must be conducted in such a way as to justify it as an educational activity.

B. Athletic/Activity Goal and Objectives

Our Goal - The student participant shall become a more effective citizen in a democratic society and do their best.

Our Specific Objectives - The participant shall learn:

1. **To work with others** – In a democratic society a person must develop self-discipline, respect for authority, and the spirit of hard work and sacrifice. The team and its objectives must be placed higher than personal desires.
2. **To be successful** – Our society is very competitive. We do not always win, but we succeed when we continually strive to do so. You can learn to accept defeat only by striving to win with earnest dedication. Develop a desire to excel.
3. **To develop sportsmanship** – To accept any defeat like a true sportsman, knowing we have done our best. We must learn to treat others, as we would have others treat us. We need to develop desirable social traits, including emotional control, honesty, cooperation and dependability.
4. **To improve** – Continual improvement is essential to good citizenship. As a participant in an activity, you must establish a goal and you must constantly try to reach that goal. Try to better yourself in the skills involved and those characteristics set forth as being desirable.
5. **To enjoy athletics/activities** – It is necessary for students to enjoy participation, to acknowledge all of the personal rewards to be derived from athletics/activities and to give sufficiently of themselves in order to preserve and improve the program.
6. **To develop desirable personal health habits** – To be an active, contributing citizen, it is important to obtain a high degree of physical fitness. This is obtained through exercise and good health habits, thereby developing the desire to maintain this level of physical fitness after formal competition has been completed.

III. GOVERNANCIES

A. The Governing Board

The Governing Board of Education, responsible to the people, is the ruling agency for the Sanders Unified School district. The Governing Board is responsible for the following areas:

1. Interpreting the needs of the community
2. Developing policies in accordance with state statutes and mandates and in accordance with the educational needs and of the community of Sanders Unified School District.
3. Approving means by which professional staff may make these policies effective.
4. Evaluating the interscholastic athletic program in terms of its value to the community.

B. The Arizona Interscholastic Association

All schools are voluntary members of the Arizona Interscholastic Association (AIA) and compete only with member schools. As a member school, Valley High School agrees to abide by and enforce all rules and regulations promulgated by the Arizona Interscholastic Association. The primary role of the state association is to maintain rules and regulations that ensure equity in competition for the student athletes and a balance with other educational programs. The association solicits input and is responsive to requests for rule modification from member schools, appointed committees, and coaches' associations. The state association attempts to enforce such rules that assure the greatest good for the greatest number and to ensure that competition is conducted in an appropriate manner.

C. Arizona Interscholastic Association rules

To be eligible for interscholastic athletics, a high school student must meet the following state regulations regarding:

1. Enrollment
2. Age
3. Physical examinations
4. Seasons of competition
5. Semesters of enrollment (scholarship)
6. Residence requirements
7. Transfers
8. Guardianship
9. Awards
10. Amateur practices
11. Participation on independent teams
12. Undue influence (recruiting)

D. The 2A Athletic Conference

Valley High School is a member of the Arizona 2A State North Region. The 2A Division Conference was established to encourage member schools to improve their co-curricular program in athletics. The 2A Conference membership facilitates the arranging of schedules, equalizing competition, and conducting region meets and contests, and determining regional and state championships. They provide Valley High School the opportunity for competition without excessive travel and with schools of similar size and athletic philosophy. Membership implies abiding by regional schedules, rules, and regulations.

IV. ATHLETIC/ACTIVITY CODE OF CONDUCT

Valley High School Code of Conduct

The main focus of every student at Valley High School should be their academic program as well as their preparation for lifetime activities and skills. The student/athlete has the responsibility to attend classes on a regular basis, complete all classroom assignments, and conduct himself/herself in ways that are consistent with acceptable classroom performance and behavior. The student/athlete earns his/her place on the field or court in the classroom and hallways of the school.

It is each student's responsibility to know and comply with the Code of Conduct at Valley High School. The Code of Conduct applies to all Valley High School students that participate in interscholastic competition regulated by the Arizona Interscholastic Association. Valley High School believes that students who participate in interscholastic competition do so as a privilege provided to them. Therefore, student-athletes are expected to conduct themselves as official representatives of the school at all times. As official representatives of Valley High School student-athletes are expected to model appropriate behavior during the season and throughout the off-season, whether on or off campus.

1. Valley High Schools' primary goal is the academic education of its students. Therefore, each coach or sponsor has an obligation to encourage students to perform within reasonable academic expectations.

2. Enforcement of the rules will be consistent and immediate. When a violation of the code is sufficient to bring discredit to the organization or school, the coach/sponsor and the administration will take immediate action.
3. Each coach/sponsor may establish additional rules pertaining to the activity supervised. These rules may aid to the governance of attendance at practice, trip decorum, etc. Rules set by the individual coach/sponsor must be presented in writing, approved by the athletic director and provided to each student / athlete prior to commencement of practice.
4. Students suspended from school are not permitted to participate in athletic or school sponsored activities while serving the suspension pursuant to SUSD #18 Governing Board Policy JJJ or student handbook.
5. The administration as well as the parents shall be notified of all violations of the Code of Conduct.

Unethical conduct by student-athletes, activity participants, coaches, or sponsors shall be subject to disciplinary action as set forth by the Arizona Interscholastic Association, Valley High School and/or Sanders Unified Governing Board. Students found in violation may be subject to interscholastic competition suspension. A student or coach that continually engages in unethical practices will be removed from all Arizona Interscholastic Association competitions.

TRAINING RULES AND REGULATIONS

Medical research clearly substantiates the fact that use of tobacco, alcohol, drugs and any other type of mood modifying substance produce harmful effects on the human organism.

A student should not compromise their activity or sport with substance abuse. The student who wishes to experiment with such substances should remove himself/herself from the team. Substance abuse jeopardizes team morale, team reputation, and team success. Substance abuse by a team member increases the possibility of physical harm to all team members during practice and/or actual contests.

Valley High School is convinced that athletics and the use of illegal substance are not compatible. It is also a fact that when students have a strong interest to participate in athletics and activities, their desire to use these substances is greatly reduced.

Students have to decide if they want to be athletes or activity participants. If you do wish to be an athlete or activity participant, you must make the commitment in order to be a competitor. A big part of this price is following a simple set of training rules, which the Athletic/Activity Department believes to be fair.

Use of Tobacco – Research emphasizes that use of tobacco is physically harmful to young adults. The community follows the progress of young students, and any deviation from accepted training rules marks one as unwilling to pay the price. If one squad member breaks the rules, the whole team is branded as non-trainers. This rule means no use of tobacco, in any form, all year, in or out of season.

Use of Alcoholic Beverages – There is no way to justify students using alcoholic beverages, even though social pressure may be hard to resist. The people who would like to draw the student into their drinking sessions will be the first to criticize the student if he/she does not come through in a game or a performance. Again, this rule means no drinking all year, not just during the season.

Use of Drugs – Simply stated, drug abuse is the consumption of any chemical substance or the smoking of some plant derivatives for the purpose of mood modification. The use or misuse of drugs is a social problem. Students with a strong sense of purpose have not need for mood modifiers. The rule against substance abuse (including steroids) is in effect all year.

PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS

Valley High School
Uniform Athletic Training Rules

Substance Abuse – On or off campus

- Tobacco:** The use or possession of tobacco or snuff in any form is prohibited.
- Drinking:** This infraction includes having in possession or having consumed any intoxicating drink.
- Drugs:** This infraction includes having in possession or having consumed any illegal drugs or controlled substances.

Any violation involving the use or possession of tobacco, alcohol, drugs, drug paraphernalia, or criminal offenses:

1. For the first infraction of **tobacco**, each student will enter an intervention program at their own expense and continue to be eligible for the sport they are participating in as soon as they are enrolled in an intervention program. If a student drops out of the intervention program, they will be suspended according to the Code of Conduct, at a **Level 2 Infraction**. A second infraction during the same season will result in immediate removal from the team as well as a one-week competition suspension for the following season.
2. If a student is involved in an **alcohol or drug-related** infraction, they will be suspended from competition until they have completed an intervention program at their own expense. If they fail to attend an intervention program, they will be suspended according to the Code of Conduct, at a **Level 3 Infraction**.
3. For the first infraction of **a criminal offense**, each student will be suspended from competition until they have rectified the situation with the victim and supplied the athletic director with verification that the victim has been compensated for the crime. If a student fails to rectify the situation, they will be suspended according to the Code of Conduct, at a **Level 2 Infraction**, plus a two-week competition suspension.

ACADEMIC AND NONACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

The period of ineligibility for conduct related offenses would be as follows:

LEVEL 1 INFRACTION – AUTOMATIC ONE WEEK COMPETITION SUSPENSION

- Any behavior resulting in an out of school suspension of any length of time.
- Any bus infraction deemed severe by a coach or driver as outlined in the incident report.
- Incitement of a fight.
- Any act that degrades or disgraces another student.
- Possession or use of water balloons, snowballs, water guns, shaving cream, etc.
- Discretion of the Athletic Director and Coach.

LEVEL 2 INFRACTION – AUTOMATIC 25% (of remainder of season) COMPETITION SUSPENSION

- 2nd offense resulting in an out of school suspension for any length of time.
- 2nd bus infraction.
- Use/possession of tobacco.
- Use of/or possession of any illegal substance including drugs and alcohol.
- Possession of drug paraphernalia.
- Any violation of local or state laws resulting in a criminal offense.
- Any display of nudity.
- Giving false information or identification.
- Forgery.
- Obstructing an investigation.
- Violation of a behavioral contract.
- Discretion of the Athletic Director and Coach.

LEVEL 3 INFRACTION – AUTOMATIC ONE YEAR SUSPENSION

- 3rd offense resulting in an out of school suspension for any length of time.
- 3rd bus infraction.
- Harassment, hazing, or intimidation. (Including verbal).
- Any 2nd offense of a 10-day suspension. (Drugs, Alcohol, Etc.)
- Vandalism or destruction of school property.
- Arson.
- False fire alarm.
- Any offense resulting in a long-term suspension.
- Loss of credit due to poor attendance.
- Discretion of Athletic Director and Coach.

2A NORTH REGION SPORTSMANSHIP CODE

The purpose of the following code is to encourage everyone involved in high school athletics, including spectators, to continue to support “their school” athletic teams yet not harass their opponents. Listed below are the guidelines that all 2A Administrators, Athletic Directors, coaches, team members, cheerleaders, and student bodies support in their respective school.

1. A coach's actions should be so regulated at all times so that he/she will be a credit to the profession and to the school, which he/she represents. Coaches should teach good sportsmanship and proper respect for officials.
2. Team members should demonstrate good sportsmanship and show proper respect toward opponents and officials when participating in an event.
3. All cheering should be done in a positive manner for your own team. Negative conduct will not be allowed!
4. There should be no instruments or drums played inside a gym during the time when the game is being played. The band or music may be played before the game, during timeouts and at half time. **Artificial noisemakers, signs or placards are not allowed in the gym, during Region or State Tournament games.** *Exception: School Spirit lines may use "megaphones." Violations of the code should be reported in writing to the administrator of the offending school and to the region chairperson.

AIA SPORTSMANSHIP RULE

Any player or coach who is ejected from a contest for any reason will face the following consequences:

First offense in the season:

Ineligible for the next regularly scheduled contest at that level of competition and all other contests at other levels until after the date of the next regularly scheduled contest.

Second offense in the season:

Ineligible for the next two regularly scheduled contests.

Third offense in the season:

Ineligible from **any** further participation during that season.

(If the violation occurs at the end of a season of a sport, the penalty then carries over into the next season of sport for which the player or coach participates.)

V. SCHOLASTIC ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Sanders Unified School District Academic Eligibility Requirements & Policy JJJ

The stated policy of the Sanders Governing Board regarding extracurricular programs reads in part:

It is necessary to have the extra-curricular activities function within a realistic framework of control. In order that over-enthusiastic students do not place a social or athletic function on a higher plane than the academic program, the following policy will be adhered to:

1. **First Offense** – A student who, upon having his/her work checked for a one-week period, shows that he/she is not working to his/her capacity and has a failing grade(s) of "F", **will be pending ineligibility from competition until his/her grade(s) have been raised to passing.**
2. **Second Offense and subsequent offenses** – A student who, upon having his/her work checked for a one period, shows that he/she is not working to his/her capacity and has a failing grade(s), **will be suspended from competition for one week.**

3. The eligibility criterion for extra-curricular participation shall be “a passing grade in all classes in which the student is enrolled.”

Each instructor on the basis of a cumulative grade earned throughout each semester of course work shall be determine on a one week eligibility. Notification of failure will be submitted by each instructor to the Systems Data Clerk by 9:00 a.m. every Friday, commencing with the second week of school of the current semester. The Systems Data Clerk will distribute a list of all failing students to the Athletic Director prior to Monday of the following week. The ineligibility period runs from Monday through Sunday of the next week. Each student will be given an opportunity to receive tutorial help on a daily basis as long as the student wishes to be helped.

A student upon earning an D on the first eligibility grade check will be declared Pending Ineligible. Upon subsequent weekly grade check if student is still earning an F the student will be declared Ineligible. Students will remain ineligible from Monday through Saturday of that week. See Policy JJJ

If a student is placed on the Ineligible List due to receiving an “Incomplete” in a class because of an Absence, then that student may regain eligibility as soon as the “Incomplete” has been removed. The time allowed for correction of an “Incomplete” is equal to the time missed from school during the Absence. “Incompletes” resulting from truancy and suspension from school may not be cleared to regain eligibility before the conclusion of the “one-week” ineligibility period.

VI. BASIC ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT POLICIES

A. Equipment: School equipment checked out by the student/athlete is his/her responsibility. He/she is expected to keep it clean and in good condition. Loss of any equipment is the athlete’s financial obligation. The coach or sponsor will notify the Athletic Director if the student owes the team for any equipment lost, stolen, or not replaced.

B. Missing Practice: An athlete should always consult his/her coach before missing practice. Missing practice or a game without good reason will be dealt with severely. This could include short term or even permanent suspension from the team.

C. Travel: All athletes must travel to and from out-of-town athletic contests in transportation provided by the athletic department unless the parents make previous arrangements for exceptional situations. The administration is the only one who can approve any exceptions to this rule.

1. Athletes will remain with their squad and under the supervision of the coach when attending away contests.
2. Athletics who miss the bus will not be allowed to participate in the contest unless there are extenuating circumstances.
3. All regular school bus rules will be followed.
4. Dress appropriately and in good taste.

D. College recruitment policy: In the event a college recruiter should contact an athlete personally, the athlete has an obligation to work through his/her coach and the athletic department. Inform your coach of such a contact as soon as possible. College recruitment information is available in the athletic office. NCAA standards are also available in the athletic office.

E. Conflicts in Extra-Curricular Activities: As individual student, who attempts to participate in several extra-curricular activities, will undoubtedly, be in a position of a conflict of obligations. The athletic department recognizes that each student should have the opportunity for a broad range of experiences in the area of extra-curricular activities, and to this end, will attempt to schedule events in a manner to minimize conflicts. Students have a responsibility to do everything they can to avoid continuous conflicts. This would include being cautious about belonging to activities where conflicts are bound to happen. It also means notifying the faculty sponsors/coaches involved immediately when a conflict does arise. When a conflict arises, the sponsors/coaches will work out a solution so the student does not feel caught in the middle. If a solution cannot be found, the administration 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

Once the decision has been made and the student has followed that decision, he/she will not be penalized in any way by either faculty or sponsor/coach. If it becomes obvious that a student cannot fulfill the obligation of a school activity, he/she should withdraw from that activity.

F. Attendance: Unauthorized absences from a practice, game, or performance will be dealt with by the coach or sponsor. No students will practice or participate in an activity if they are not in attendance at all classes the day of the activity. In the case of an unavoidable absence (except personal illness), the building administration may allow participation. Any Friday absence will affect Saturday participation. In-house suspension constitutes an attendance mark therefore disqualifying the student for that day's activity. Tardies will be dealt with by the individual coaches, but any unauthorized absences, the student will not be allowed to play or to practice.

G. Release from Class: It is the responsibility of athletes to see their teacher before they miss class because of an athletic contest. All work shall be made up as directed by the teacher. Missing a class because of a school activity is not considered an absence. However, school make-up rules for missed class work are the same as for other absences.

H. Grooming and Dress Policy: A member of an athletic team is expected to be well groomed. Appearance, expression and actions always influence people's opinions of athletes, the team and the school. Once you have volunteered to be a member of a squad, you have made a choice to uphold certain standards expected of athletes in this community.

The following grooming and dress rules will be adhered to by team members:

1. Hairstyles are to be maintained in a neat and clean manner so as to present a positive image for both the team and the school.
2. An athlete shall dress presentably at all times on trips, and at assemblies or banquets.
3. Only uniforms issued by the department of athletics are permitted to be worn for all contests.

4. Athletes will not be permitted to participate until deviations of the above rule are satisfactorily corrected.

I. Reporting an Injury: All injuries, which occur while participating in athletics should be reported to the trainer/coach. If the injury requires medical attention by a doctor or treatment center, it will be necessary to have an injury report form completed. Once a physician treats athletes, the athlete **must** obtain the doctor's permission in writing to return to the activity.

J. Squad Selection: In accordance with our philosophy of athletics and our desire to see as many students as possible participate in the athletic program while at Valley High School, we encourage coaches to keep as many students at they can without jeopardizing the integrity of their sport. Time, space, facilities, equipment, personal preference and other factors will place limitations on the most effective squad size for any particular sport. Choosing the members of athletic squads is the sole responsibility of the coaches of those squads.

K. Dropping or Transferring Sports: Quitting is a bad habit to acquire. On occasion however, an athlete may find it necessary to drop a sport for a good reason. If this is the case, the following procedure must be followed.

1. Consult with your immediate coach and then the head coach.
2. Report your situation to the Athletic Director.
3. Check in all equipment issued to you.

If an athletic wishes to change sports during a season, he/she shall consult with both coaches concerned and the Athletic Director. This procedure assures a smooth transfer, which is in the best interest of the student.

VII. GENERAL INFORMATION

REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICIPATION

The Athletic Director has the responsibility for clearing all students for athletic participation. No student may practice or take part in any drill or exercise prior to obtaining a "Participation Release Form" from the Athletic Director.

To gain clearance to participate the student must submit the following items or forms to the Athletic Director:

1. Physical Examination form signed by a medical doctor after March 1st, and the health history of this same form completed and signed by the student's parent.
2. Completion of the following by the parent or guardian clearance form:
 - a. Parental permission authorization
 - b. Emergency information
 - c. Consent for emergency medical treatment
 - d. Insurance verification

ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

The following is a summary of the eligibility rules and regulations as established by the A.I.A. elaboration and interpretation of these rules is contained in the A.I.A. manual and it is strongly recommended that all coaches review these rules with student athletes prior to the season of competition.

- **Age Limit** – If a student becomes 19 years of age after September 1st, he/she is eligible to compete for the remainder of that school year, but if he/she becomes 19 years of age on or before September 1st, he/she is not eligible for any part of that school year.
- **Scholarship** – A student must have received a passing grade in all classes the preceding grade check interval in school and be enrolled in five or more subjects grades 9 – 11, and in four or more classes in grade 12.
- **Amateur Standing** – Each student representing his/her school in any interscholastic contest shall be an amateur; one who has not used, or is not using his/her athletic skill or knowledge of athletics for personal gain. He/she shall always have participated under his own name.
- **Boxing** – Interscholastic boxing among schools is strictly forbidden. Appearing on the card of any professional contest shall cause the loss of eligibility.
- **Competing Only on School Teams** – A student may represent his/her own school only in a particular sport during the season of competition for the sport. He/she may not represent any other group or non-school connected organization as a team member of the same sport during the season of competition. A student who represents another group or organization, at the same times he/she represents his/her school in a particular sport, will forfeit his/her eligibility for the balance of that season of sport.
- **Eight Semester Rule** – No student will compete in any interscholastic contest who has been enrolled in grades 9 – 12 inclusive for more than eight semesters.
- **Semester of Attendance** – If any student shall have been in attendance 15 school days or more during any semester or shall have participated in any interscholastic contest while in attendance, he/she shall be counted as having been in attendance in school.
- **Record of Birth** – Certification of birth date must be recorded and kept on file in the school for participation. This may be a birth certificate, hospital certificate of birth with a seal or appropriate signature, a Department of Commerce Certificate, Bureau of Immigration Certificate, Department of Justice Certificate, State Health Department Certificate, or verification of birth established by three reputable sources of information acceptable to the A.I.A. Executive Board.
- **Physical** – Every athlete must have had a physical and a physical form must be on file in the eligibility office before participation or issuance of practice gear in grades 9 – 12.
- **Domicile** – A student's parents or legal guardians domicile must be in the school district or attendance zone in which he/she is attending.

DUE PROCESS FOR ATHLETES

In the event that disciplinary action must be taken against any athlete the following minimum due process procedures must be followed.

All coaches shall have a set of rules and procedures for athletes participating on their team. These may include rules in the student handbook and rules in the interscholastic handbook. It may also include training rules. If an athlete is in violation of the rules, and disciplinary action is necessary, the following minimum requirements shall be followed:

- a. The coach will conduct a personal conference with the athlete of the alleged violation regarding the disciplinary action which will be taken.
- b. When it is deemed serious enough that an athlete will be removed from the team, the coach will notify the parents/guardian.
- c. When the coach feels that it is necessary to remove an athlete from the team, the Athletic Director will be informed.
- d. The appeal procedure should be reviewed with the athlete by the coach.

APPEAL PROCEDURE

- Within two school days of the coach's decision, the athlete has the right to appeal to the Valley High School Athletic Director.
- Within two school days of the Athletic Director's decision, the athlete has the right to appeal the Valley High School Athletic Director's decision to the Principal.
- Within two school days of the Principal's decision the athlete has the right to appeal the Principal's decision to Sanders Unified School Board. The governing board in accordance with the AIA is the final authority on all matters.

THE SPORTSMAN'S CREED

The Spectator:

- Never boo a player or official.
- Appreciates a good play no matter who makes it.
- Knows that the school gets the blame or the praise for his/her conduct.
- Recognizes the need for more sportsmen and fewer "SPORTS".

The Player:

- Lives clean and plays hard. Plays for the love of the game.
- Wins without boasting, loses without excuses and never quits.
- Respects officials and accepts their decisions without questions.
- Never forgets that they represent their school

The Coach:

- Inspires in his players a love for the game and the desire to win.
- Teaches them that it is better to lose fairly than to win unfairly.
- Leads players and spectators to respect officials by setting a good example.
- Is the type of person he/she wants their players to be.

The Official:

- Knows the rules.
- Is fair and firm in all decisions. Calls them as he/she sees them.
- Treats players and coaches courteously and demands the same treatment for him/herself.
- Knows the game is for the participants and lets them have the spotlight.

“GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP IS A MUST AT VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL”

**Valley High School
Code of Conduct Contract**

**Please sign this page after you have read the athletic handbook.
By signing this contract you agree to follow any and all rules and regulations applied by the Arizona Interscholastic Association, Sanders Unified School District and Valley High School.**

Print Student Name: _____

Grade: _____ **Activity:** _____

Student Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Printed Parent Name: _____

Parent Signature: _____ **Date:** _____