



**Eagle
County
School
District
RE50J**

**Athletic
Handbook**

"The benefits of competition
are derived not from winning
or losing, but from participation"

Superintendent – John Brendza
Assistant Superintendent – Karen Strakbein

BATTLE MOUNTAIN HIGH SCHOOL
Box 249
Minturn, CO 81645
(303) 328-2930
Principal: Brian Hester
Athletic Director: Richard Houghton

EAGLE VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL
Box 188
Gypsum, CO 81637
(303) 328-8960
Principal: Mark Strakbein
Athletic Director: Cliff Zehring

BERRY CREEK MIDDLE SCHOOL
P.O. Box 1416
Edwards, CO 81632
(303) 328-2960
Principal: Robert Cuevas
Athletics: Todd Huck

EAGLE VALLEY MIDDLE SCHOOL
P.O. Box 1019
Eagle, CO 81631
(303) 328-6224
Principal: Jerry Santoro
Athletics: Tom Dodge

GYPSUM CREEK MIDDLE SCHOOL
P.O. Box 5129
Gypsum, CO 81637
(303) 328-8980
Principal: Steve Smith
Athletics: Kevin Kottenstette

MINTURN MIDDLE SCHOOL
P.O. Box 280
Minturn, CO 81645
(303) 328-2920
Principal: Toni Boush
Athletics: Innes Isom

PHILOSOPHY

The philosophy of the Interscholastic Athletic Program of this District is an integral part of the school's program of education. The program of education is designed to provide experiences that will help boys and girls develop physically, mentally, and emotionally.

Participation in athletics, both as a player and as a student spectator, is an important part of the student's educational experience. These experiences contribute to the knowledge, skills, and emotional development of students. In the middle schools, participation is particularly important. All middle school students who are involved in athletics will participate in games. Middle School athletic teams shall emphasize basic skills and follow a "no cut" policy.

Participation at both the high school and middle school level is a privilege, not a right, that carries with it responsibilities to the school, to the team, to the student body, to the community, and to the student. In his/her play, and in his/her conduct, the student is representing all of these groups.

EAGLE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT BELIEF STATEMENTS

We believe that...

- activity programs promote leadership training, mental and physical health, self-discipline, and responsibility.
- activity programs provide a positive alternative to drug and alcohol- related activities.
- activity programs have a positive effect on the general school climate.
- activity programs encourage a significant number of students to graduate from high school.
- the number of activities offered should be of sufficient variety and number to meet the wide range of interests of students.
- all participation should be voluntary.
- there is a value in promoting healthy competition between individuals and teams.
- activity programs provide a good balance between individual efforts and team cooperation.
- activity programs are an important integral part of the total school curriculum
- activity programs should provide equal and equitable opportunities to both boys and girls

EAGLE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT ATHLETIC GOALS

The Board of Education of the Eagle County School District supports the concept that a wide variety of extra-curricular activities should be made available to all students. However, participation in such activities is a privilege and not a right. Such activities shall be conducted in accordance with the following guidelines:

1. To emphasize sportsmanship, ethical conduct, and fair play.
2. To show courtesy and establish good relationships with visiting teams and officials.
3. To respect the integrity and judgment of sports officials as well as the rights of others.
4. To develop leadership and good judgment by the players on the team.
5. To recognize that the purpose of athletics is to promote the physical, mental, moral, social, and emotional well being of the individual players.
6. To remind everyone that an athletic contest is only a game -- not a matter of life or death for a player, coach, school, official, fan, or community member.
7. To promote understanding of the rules essential to playing the game and emphasize the value of playing by the rules.
8. To improve the individual's ability to work within the framework of a team.
9. To demonstrate and appreciate the values of teamwork.

Athletes should remember that their schools and their coaches devote a considerable amount of time and money to provide them with an interscholastic athletic program. For this reason, athletes owe them and their teammates a great deal of loyalty. Athletes should relinquish their place on the team if they cannot be loyal to their school, coaches, themselves, and their team.

CODE OF ETHICS

"STATEMENT OF ETHICS FOR THE COLORADO HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION" -- In order to be of maximum effectiveness in serving and fostering the education of students so entrusted to us and in promoting and supplementing the regular curriculum, it is the duty of all concerned with our secondary athletic and activities programs to...

1. Cultivate an awareness that participation in athletics and activities is part of the total education process and, as such, the coach/advisor should neither seek nor expect academic privileges for the participants.
2. Emphasize the proper ideals of sportsmanship, ethical conduct and fair play as they relate to the lifetime impact on the participants.
3. Develop a working awareness and understanding of all rules and guidelines governing competition; both in letter and intent.
4. Recognize that the purpose of athletics and activities is to promote the physical, mental, moral, social and emotional well being of the individual participants.

5. Avoid any practice or technique that would endanger the present or future welfare or safety of any participant.
6. Adhere to policies that do not force or encourage students to specialize or restrict them from participation in a variety of activities.
7. Refuse to disparage an opponent, an official, an administrator, or spectator in any aspect of the activity.
8. Strongly encourage the development of proper health habits, the non-use of chemicals including alcohol, steroids, tobacco in any form and other mood-altering substances.
9. Exemplify proper self-control at all times, accepting adverse decisions without public display of emotion or display of dissatisfaction with the officials or judges.
10. Encourage all to judge the true success of the athletic and activities program on the basis of the attitude of the participants and spectators, rather than on the basis of a win or loss.

DISTRICT ATHLETIC COUNCIL

A working Athletics and Activities Council will be selected annually. The purpose of this Committee will be to discuss and make recommendations regarding issues and concerns related to the athletics and activities program. The make-up of this committee will include the athletic/activities directors from each high school and middle school, one representative from each school, and a representative of the Salary Committee of the organization selected to represent teachers. The Superintendent (or his/her designee) will be responsible for forming and facilitating this committee (typically, this person will be the Assistant Superintendent). The building representatives will be selected democratically and must be a coach/sponsor of an extra duty activity.

This school-based council will meet a minimum of three times per year -- once in the Fall, once in the Winter, and once in the Spring. Recommendations of this Council will be made to the Administrative Team on or before May 15.

STATE AND DISTRICT RULES

The Colorado High School Activities Association (CHSAA) rules have the best interest of all students in mind. These rules are published in the CHSAA handbook and selected rules are summarized here.

The Eagle County School District has established rules that cannot supersede CHSAA or Western Slope League rules. The rules of the school district govern behavior and in-house problems such as attendance at contests, use of drugs and/or alcohol, and unsportsmanlike conduct.

GENERAL ELIGIBILITY RULES

For the purpose of this handbook, a competitor/athlete is defined as a participant in a Board approved competitive activity/sport at the middle or high school level. To be eligible to represent a high school or middle school in any interscholastic activity, an athlete:

1. Must abide by all rules of the Colorado High School Athletic Association, the Western Slope League, and School District High Schools and Middle Schools.
2. Must meet the building principal's and/or athletic director's standards of conduct and sportsmanship.
3. Must be an undergraduate of the high school; and have attended no more than eight (8) consecutive semesters of high school at any high school. In middle school, the athlete must be in the seventh (7th) or eighth (8th) grade at the time of participation.
4. Must be enrolled as full-time student in a minimum of four classes (2.0 Carnegie units) per trimester. The high school athlete must not be failing, at the time of participation, more than one class. Although failure must be considered on a week-to-week basis, it should be calculated on a cumulative basis for the trimester (e.g., if a student has passing grades for the first four weeks of a trimester, but receives a failing grade during the fifth week, (s)he would still be eligible to compete if his/her average grade for the total five weeks was a passing grade).
 - A. Battle Mountain High School and Eagle Valley High School
Must be enrolled as a full-time student in a minimum of 12 of 15 classes per year and a minimum of four classes per trimester. The high school athlete must not be failing at the time of participation, more than one class. A student taking five classes will be deemed ineligible week-to-week or at trimester's end if (s)he fails two classes. This means that an athlete may not be failing more than one course if (s)he is taking four or more courses. Although failure must be considered on a week-to-week basis, it should be calculated on a cumulative basis for the trimester.
 - B. Middle School students are eligible to play if they are not failing more than one class according to the weekly eligibility list as kept by each District Middle School. Middle School athletes, to be eligible, must conform to appropriate standards of behavior as outlined in individual building student handbooks.
5. A student may regain eligibility in the following manner: except for seventh (7th), eighth (8th), and incoming ninth (9th) graders; students who failed more than the equivalent of one half Carnegie unit of credit at the close of the previous trimester may regain academic eligibility *on the 6th Thursday following Labor Day and the Friday prior to March 10*. The regain eligibility dates are six weeks after the beginning of the trimester. At this time, the student must successfully meet the general academic eligibility requirements in accordance with paragraph "4" of this section.

A student who has been eligible, but who now become ineligible for the upcoming trimester, shall not compete in any interscholastic contest and/or scrimmage on the day following the close of the current trimester. (Note: Students who are now ineligible but will regain eligibility, and students who are now eligible but will lose eligibility, may never be eligible on the same day.)

6. Must, except for seventh (7th) and eighth (8th) graders, complete make-up work prior to the close of a trimester for the purpose of becoming eligible. A "conditional" or "incomplete" grade shall be considered the same as a failure when determining eligibility.
7. Summer school courses completed after the close of the third trimester may be used to replace any Carnegie units failed. Equivalent courses taken must be accepted by the school toward graduation. The equivalent credits must be completed by the Thursday prior to Labor Day. Credits made up through summer school must be in the same curricular area, be accepted to meet graduation requirements of classes previously failed and be recorded on the student's transcript. Written notification of a student's regaining eligibility through summer school must be included with the first semester eligibility report.

AGE AND ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS

1. A high school athlete is eligible to enter interscholastic competition if his/her date of birth is prior to August 1, 1987. The student may not participate in the upcoming school year if he/she reaches the 19th birthday prior to August 1. A middle school student is ineligible to compete after his/her 15th birthday, except if his/her 15th birthday falls on or after September 1, in which case he/she may participate in all middle school sports during that school year.
2. EXCEPTION: An undergraduate who exceeds the age limit by no more than one year may become eligible to participate in all or part of the upcoming school year under the following conditions:
 - A. The student experienced a delayed start or interruption in his/her educational progression through the eighth grade due to an identified profound handicap. For the purposes of this exception, handicapped shall be defined as follows:

Persons, who by reason of one or more of the following conditions, are unable to receive reasonable benefit from ordinary education: long-term physical impairment or illness; significant limited intellectual capacity; significant identifiable emotional disorder; identifiable perceptual or communicative disorders; or speech disorders.
 - B. The principal of the school, on behalf of the student, presents a formal request for an exception to the Commissioner.
 - C. The Commissioner, upon examination of all documents, may grant approval of the exception for any part of the school year. Under no condition may approval be granted for participation in more than four seasons (three in a 3-year high school) in a specific activity.
3. In a 4-year high school, an athlete is eligible to compete for eight (8) consecutive semesters. (Cases involving unusual circumstances must be submitted to the building principal.) A waiver cannot be approved if the reason for additional eligibility beyond eight semesters is due to an expulsion. No middle school student may compete for more than three (3) years.
4. In a 4-year high school, an athlete is eligible to compete in 4 seasons in a particular sport.

5. School Attendance Requirements

All athletes are expected to demonstrate regular and punctual attendance at school.

- A. If an athlete is truant, (s)he will not be allowed to participate in the next scheduled event. Athletes will follow school attendance policy in regard to excused and unexcused absences. *
- B. When athletes are absent from school for more than one-half of the day, due to illness, they will not be allowed to participate in sports events or practice for that day. Exceptions to this will be an appointment that cannot be scheduled at another time or an excused absence other than illness.
- C. Student athletes who lose academic credit for poor attendance could possibly lose athletic eligibility for nine weeks or a trimester period.

*Our coaches and activities directors believe that if a student has an unauthorized absence from school for a short period of time, and if (s)he is a member of a team that needs his/her presence, it would be unfair to the remaining team members for the truant student not to be able to participate. However, the student will not be allowed to participate in the first scheduled event for the following week. This procedure allows time for the coach to find a replacement for the athlete.

6. Practice Attendance Requirements

- A. All athletes must regularly attend practices (i.e. attend at least one- half of the practices between contests -- including the practice immediately prior to the next contest). At the middle school level, exceptions may be made for excused absences at the discretion of the coach, athletic director and principal.
- B. The coach must give permission before a student may miss any practice session. The athlete is responsible for notifying the coach of his/her reason for being absent from a practice session prior to the practice time. The student should notify the coach in person or via telephone and should bring a written excuse from his/her parent/guardian upon his/her return to school.
- C. If an athlete is injured and attending school, (s)he will be required to attend all practices.
- D. Practice areas are off limits to anyone other than coaches, school administrators and participants of that sport.

Students who violate the practice rules are subject to the following:

The first unexcused absence from a practice will result in a conference between the athlete and the coach and may result in probationary status for the athlete as a team member. The second unexcused absence from practice disqualifies the athlete from participation in the next scheduled contest. The third unexcused absence from practice will result in the athlete being dropped from the team.

7. A student will not be allowed to change to another sport (e.g. from basketball to wrestling or from wrestling to skiing) after two weeks of that activity season unless both coaches agree to the change. Athletes must come out for a sport within the first five (5) days of practice for the sport unless the coach and athletic director grant an exception.

8. When a student has been suspended from a sport, (s)he shall not be allowed to participate in another sport during that sport season.

GENERAL AWARDS RULE (High School Only)

The general awards rule applies only to those athletic and non-athletic activities sponsored by the CHSAA.

An athlete may not accept any award except those presented by his/her school, the CHSAA, or a group approved by his/her school or the CHSAA. The award may not exceed \$50 in value. Do not confuse the awards rule with the amateur rule that appears below.

ATHLETIC AMATEUR STATUS (High School Only)

The amateur rule applies only to those activities that are recognized by the CHSAA as part of the interscholastic program. In order to retain amateur status, high school athletes must not:

1. Compete with professionals as a member of the same team or against a team composed all or in part of professionals.
2. Accept money or sign a professional contract.
3. Compete under an assumed name.
4. Accept an award in a non-school activity and convert it to cash.

NOTE: Playing with, or against professionals in golf or tennis is excluded from Section 1. In these sports, the amateur rules of the United States Golf Association and the United States Tennis Association will be in effect from the closing date of the sports season to the time the individual reports for practice in the succeeding year.

TRANSFER RULE (High School Only)

RESIDENCE TRANSFER (governed by CHSAA rules and regulations)

1. When students transfer without a corresponding bona fide move*, the athlete will have sub-varsity eligibility in the first 50% of the games determined for the classification. In basketball, the athlete will have sub-varsity eligibility in the first 11 games, in football the athlete will have sub-varsity eligibility in the first 5 games.

*Bona Fide Family Move – a student from a “broken home” may transfer schools one time without requesting a waiver of the CHSAA Transfer Rule.

NOTE: A “broken home” is defined as a situation where there is a finalized and permanent dissolution of a marriage by court order. Legal separations or temporary separations are not included in this definition and would require a waiver of the Transfer Rule if full varsity eligibility is requested.

2. The residence transfer rule addresses athletic eligibility only as it relates to transfer. Rules related to age, semesters, academic requirements and other CHSAA by-laws may result in a residentially eligible student being declared ineligible.

3. A student entering high school for the first time (9th grade - 4 yr., 10th grade - 3 year) shall be eligible for all interscholastic athletic competition.

HARDSHIP CONSIDERATION

(governed by CHSAA rules and regulations)

The Commissioner, after receiving the recommendation of the school, the league and the losing school, may grant eligibility for transfer due to hardship.

HARDSHIP DEFINED -- A hardship is an unforeseeable, unavoidable and uncorrectable act, condition or event that causes the imposition of severe and non-athletic burden upon the student or his/her family.

- A. This is to include the case of orphans, children of overseas military transfers, foreign exchange students, children who are wards of the state or of a court and children from broken homes.
- B. No consideration for waiver may be granted if by doing so the action will result in a student who was ineligible in the sending school becoming eligible in the receiving school.
- C. Hardship appeals must be processed by the principal of the receiving school on the appropriate CHSAA form and in concert with the specific guidelines.
- D. Waiver approval may be obtained from the league with a documented phone or FAX poll.
Hardship waivers are voted on by the league and must receive a majority of the votes.
- E. In the event either principal declines to approve said waiver, the principal must delineate in writing the reasons for denial. The student by way of the principal of the receiving school may *appeal to the Commissioner. Each case shall be reviewed on an individual basis.*

The CHSAA Transfer Rule does not apply to middle school athletes.

UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT

PENALTY FOR PLAYER UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT/EJECTION

Any player who has been disqualified from a match or contest for committing any unsportsmanlike act shall be disqualified for the remainder of that match or contest.

In addition, the player shall be ineligible for the next match or contest of the same level (sophomore, junior varsity, or varsity). If such ejection occurs in the final match or contest of the season, then that player shall be ineligible for the first match or contest of the next season of sport that player elects to play.

Any player ejected from a second match or contest during the same season shall be ineligible for the next two matches or contests of the same level.

Any player ejected from a third match or contest during the same season shall be subject to a penalty to be determined by the Commissioner.

(S)he may not take part in any other games or contests at any level during this time.

Any player leaving the bench area when a fight occurs during a match or contest will be ejected for the remainder of the match or contest. Player ejection will carry over to the next match or contest.

SOCCER –

All players who receive a second yellow card in the same game shall be disqualified from the remainder of the current game, plus the next contest of the same level regardless of whether a red card was displayed. If a player disqualification (red card) occurs, it is the responsibility of the coach and school to declare the individual ineligible for the next contest of that level. The athlete may not take part in any other games at any level during this time. Failure to do so and allowing a disqualified player to participate in the next contest of that level could result in a forfeiture and possible playoff restriction for the team. If a player receives a game disqualification (red card) in the last regular season or region contest they must miss the first game of the playoffs.

VOLLEYBALL

Yellow/Red card procedures will be followed dealing with conduct fouls.

Card system for misconduct violations:

1. **WARNING:** Yellow card, no further penalty.
2. **PENALTY:** Red card, point/side-out.
3. **DISQUALIFICATION:** Yellow and red cards held apart.
4. A forfeit declared if disqualified player continues to violate conduct rule.
5. Cards carry over from game to game.
6. For misconduct on bench when officials cannot determine specific offender(s), warning/penalty is issued to coach.

HOCKEY –

1. **5 penalties on an individual player:** Once a player receives 5 penalties of any kind (minors, Majors, Misconducts), he is removed from that game. This is not a disqualification and he is eligible to play in the next game. This is the equivalent of fouling out in basketball
2. **Post-game 10 minute Misconduct:** From the time that the game has been ended (players have separated after the final whistle), the referee or the Ars may assess a 10-minute misconduct that will be served at the beginning of the next game. This rule is to prevent post-game situations and to enforce sportsmanship even after the final whistle. These are typically for unsportsmanship issues with the other team or verbal abuse of officials and would not be severe enough to warrant a Disqualification Penalty.
3. **A “running clock”** will be used when the goal differential is a 6 goals or more. If the goal differential is reduced to 5, then a stopped clock will be used again.

Penalties that the officials are to have Zero Tolerance are:

- Slashing and aggressive stick work
- Blows to the head from sticks, hands, forearms and elbows
- Checking from behind
- Taunting and trash-talking
- Leg checking
- Potential injury fouls

Penalties that the officials are to enforce with a tight standard

- Boarding
- Interference

Rule 6-40c:

A penalty shall be assessed to any player who intentionally or recklessly contacts a player in the head, including with the stick or by an illegal body check.

PENALTY – MINOR or at the discretion of the referee a MAJOR plus GAME MISCONDUCT

ATTITUDES, APPEARANCE AND BEHAVIOR OF ATHLETES AND SPECTATORS

At School:

- A. Athletes are expected to exhibit appropriate attitudes and behaviors at all times.
- B. Athletes are encouraged to express their disapproval of the inappropriate behavior of others.
- C. Athletes must be neatly dressed and groomed.

At Practice:

- A. Participants in athletic programs are expected to approach practices as an opportunity for personal growth and achievement.
- B. Participants should take practice sessions seriously and should not behave in a manner that disrupts the practice session.
- C. Displays of temper should be controlled. An athlete who loses his/her composure may cause problems for the individual and for the team.

At Games/Contests:

- A. Athletes, coaches, and spectators should display good sportsmanship during all athletic contests.
- B. The captain of the team is the only athlete permitted to speak to an official. All other athletes must refrain from speaking to or showing negative emotion toward officials.
- C. Athletes and spectators should respect the position of the coach.
- D. High school parents will be required to sign an agreement outlining proper parental interaction with the coaching staff.
- E. Through CHSAA by-laws, schools have the responsibility to ban spectators who do not comply with the educational goals that the schools in the association have adopted for high school contests.

OUTSIDE COMPETITION/PRACTICE (High School Only)

1. Players certified to participate as members of any high school sport team may compete on any other team, in any non-school activity or event in that sport during that sports season with the express written permission of the principal.
2. Even if permission is granted for participation in an outside activity i.e. club sports, high school activities will take precedence.
3. If an athlete is asked to participate in a non-school game or tournament, (s)he should notify his/her coach. An athlete's participation in a non-school activity could jeopardize his/her eligibility as well as his/her entire team's eligibility. This includes

games and/or tournaments conducted for the benefit of charity (e.g. The Jimmy Huega Ski Competition).

4. Emphasis should be put on athletes to participate in CHSAA sponsored sports.

NOTE: A student becomes a member of his/her high school team when (s)he reports out for practice and is in contention for a berth on the team; or when (s)he has been issued the necessary equipment for game competition; or when (s)he has been certified to another school as eligible to participate.

SUNDAY, CHRISTMAS PRACTICE

No practice of any nature is permitted on Sundays during the school year, or during the period from December 24 through January 1, inclusive. Practice includes any gathering of team members. Athletes are advised not to jeopardize their team's eligibility for district and state competition by practicing on Sunday or during Christmas vacation. If a school is involved in a playoff competition of any type on Monday, the team may practice on Sunday.

High school athletes may not use the high school facilities or have any organized practice and/or contact with their coach during the previously listed days.

SUMMER PARTICIPATION

It is the philosophy of the CHSAA that the summer belongs to the student. Coaches who have claimed the student's time and loyalty throughout the school year should not force him/her to continue training during the vacation period. Specialized sports camps are permissible under the provisions listed below; but **NO STUDENT SHOULD BE REQUIRED TO PARTICIPATE IN ANY CAMP, WEIGHT- TRAINING PROGRAM, OR COMPETITIVE ACTIVITY** as a condition of competing during the regular season. It is a violation of these rules for a coach to tell an athlete that (s)he must appear at any such sessions (or for the coach to imply that (s)he will not participate during the following year if (s)he does not attend.) Athletes should report any such violations to their Principal or Athletic Director.

SPECIALIZED SPORTS CAMPS

1. An athlete may not attend a specialized camp or clinic in which his/her coach or any faculty member of his/her school is involved during the period from December 24 to January 1.
2. Violations of the rules involving specialized sports camps could result in the loss of an athlete's eligibility and his/her team's disqualification from district and/or state play-offs.
3. Coaches shall not require participation in a specialized sport camp as a precondition to participation in high school or middle school athletics.

SCRIMMAGES (High School Only)

A scrimmage is the meeting of any number of individuals or teams from two or more high schools on a single date for participating under the conditions enumerated below:

A school in each sanctioned sport will be permitted two scrimmage dates.

- (a) Two additional interscholastic scrimmages will be allowed those wrestlers qualifying for the state wrestling meet the week after district tournaments.

Scrimmages may be held only on the dates between the eleventh day (not including Sundays) after the start of formal practice and the conclusion of the final championship.

PARTICIPANTS IN SCRIMMAGES -- All participants in interscholastic scrimmages must have completed nine days of practice in the sport they are representing. (See Nine-Day Practice Rule).

EXCEPTION: Golf and softball scrimmages may be conducted from the start of the competitive season until the final state championship.

Scrimmages may not be held with non-high school teams or individuals.

All participants in interscholastic scrimmages must be eligible in accordance with "General Eligibility" of the Administrative and General By-Laws, and must be eligible in all other ways.

No score may be kept as instruction is the primary reason for a scrimmage.

The scrimmage may not be advertised and no admission may be charged.

No officials may be paid.

NINE-DAY PRACTICE RULE

High School

Before competing in an interscholastic contest or scrimmage, each competitor must have a minimum of nine (9) days (excluding Sundays) of supervised practice for Fall sports and a minimum practice period of five days in a winter and spring sport before representing his/her school in an interscholastic contest or scrimmage. Practice days with double sessions are counted as one day at practice. Practice must be with the rest of the team -- not one coach and one athlete working out together.

EXCEPTION: Participants in state play-off games completed less than nine (9) days before the start of the next competitive season are exempted from this requirement.

EXCEPTION: Golf and softball scrimmages may be conducted from the start of the competitive season until the final state championship.

Middle School

Nine day practice rule, as described above, is recommended but not mandatory. Exemptions are to be determined by the coach, athletic director and principal.

PHYSICAL EXAMINATIONS/PARENT PERMISSION

In order to participate in athletics, each athlete must file with the Principal, or his/her designee, a statement signed by the athlete's parents (or legal guardian) and a practicing physician certifying that the athlete has passed an adequate physical examination within the past year, and has his/her parent's permission to participate.

If at any time during participation, a doctor removes an athlete from participation because of an illness or injury, the athlete must have a written release from a doctor before participating again. **NOTE:** The release may be satisfied if upon removal the doctor specifies the duration of the student's restriction from participation.

INSURANCE

A student must be insured through school purchased insurance, or be insured by a private insurance company, to be allowed to participate in athletics. The insurance company name and policy number must be filed with the school Athletic Director. Parents/Guardians are responsible for making certain that their child is adequately insured.

ATHLETIC FEE ASSESSMENT GUIDELINES

1. There will be a \$75.00 per sport for high school athletes and a \$20.00 annual fee for middle school athletes assessed. There will be a \$300.00 per family cap each year.
2. Fees will be collected at each school. They will be collected in the office at which time a receipt will be given to the participant.
3. The student fee is to be paid or waived prior to a participant being involved in any athletic program.
4. Students with financial need may request a waiver of the fee through the Principal or athletic director of his/her school. In order to qualify for a waiver, the student must qualify for the free or reduced lunch program. Those students on reduced lunches will pay half fee and those on free lunch program will have the fee waived.
5. This fee is non-refundable. EXCEPTION: Extenuating circumstances may be appealed to the principal, athletic director and coach (appeal committee).
6. Fees will be forwarded to the Education Services Center.
7. How is the athletic fee revenue used? It helps to partially defray the cost of the athletic budget. Basic costs are:
 - *officials
 - *transportation
 - *equipment and supplies
 - *game workers
 - *entry fees

INJURIES

An athletic trainer from Steadman Hawkins Clinic will be present at most high school practices and at most high school home games. All injuries are to be reported to the coach or the trainer regardless of how minor they may seem to be. The coach or the trainer will administer first aid and/or arrange for emergency medical care. The coach or the trainer is responsible for contacting the parents/guardians of the student when, in his/her judgment, the injury may require medical treatment.

TRANSPORTATION

A transportation consent form for each athlete must be on file in the office of the school athletic director.

Athletes must ride to and from athletic events in school-provided transportation unless the

high school authorization form is completed by parent/guardian and signed by the athletic director/principal prior to the event.

Regulations regarding trips will be established by individual coaches and will be shared with the athletes. Athletes and coaches will cooperate with bus drivers and adhere to all District transportation rules.

Parents wishing to take their own athlete after an event must sign the sign out sheet. Parents wishing to have their child ride home with another parent must have a note signed by the administration and present to the coach in charge of the sign out sheet. (Phone calls will not be accepted as a substitute to the form).

LETTERING

An athlete may letter in any varsity sport offered at either Battle Mountain High School or Eagle Valley High School. Athletes receiving letters will be given one letter that is marked to show the various sports in which the athlete participated. Each school's athletic department determines lettering criteria.

LEAGUE RULES

For District High Schools, the Western Slope League also has rules that may not supersede the rules of the Colorado High School Activities Association. The rules established by the League are intended to clearly limit and clarify CHSAA rules. They govern conference schedules and play, the number of contests, the assignment of officials, game time, admission prices, and passes.

District middle schools may belong to a league. If a District middle school chooses to belong to a league, it must subscribe to the bylaws and rules of that league; so long as such rules are not in conflict with any provision of this Handbook.

RESPONSIBILITY OF ATHLETES AND SPECTATORS

CARE OF EQUIPMENT

The student will be issued equipment to participate in the activity of the season. The student must care for the equipment and return that equipment at the conclusion of the season. **The athlete will be responsible for paying for lost or damaged equipment.** Failure to pay or return equipment will result in actions preventing students from receiving diplomas and/or transcripts. An athlete will not be allowed to compete in the next sport season until all equipment/uniforms have been returned from the previous sport.

ATHLETE CONDUCT

Athletes must remember the responsibility they have to parents, school, community, and self. Attitude is one of the principle prerequisites in becoming a champion in any sport. That is best defined by the athlete in how (s)he acts, how (s)he feels, and how (s)he thinks about himself/herself. The athlete has the responsibility of exhibiting good sportsmanship, *good attitude and good behavior* at all times. The young athlete must have an exemplary value system.

If on any road trip or overnight activity a student violates any rules or policies set forth in this handbook, parents will be notified and may be required to pick up their student from that activity.

SPECTATOR CONDUCT

In order that the school sports program continues to be an educational tool, fans need to demonstrate good sportsmanship. All fans should remember the following points:

1. Show respect and consideration for opponents at all times.
2. Show respect and consideration for officials.
3. Know, understand, and appreciate the rules of the contest.
4. Maintain self-control at all times.
5. By state statute, alcohol, drugs and tobacco are not allowed on school district property or at school events.
6. Recognize and appreciate skill in performance in both teams.
7. Obey the directions of the game supervisor/athletic director/principal or his/her designee.

DISCIPLINE

All disciplinary actions involving athletic/activities participants will be reviewed by the athletic/activity director

Tobacco, Drug, and Alcohol

Participants in all levels of interscholastic athletic competition shall not use or possess tobacco products, alcoholic beverages, or illegal drugs (including anabolic steroids) during their athletic career. Athletes who possess or use tobacco products, alcoholic beverages, or illegal drugs (including anabolic steroids), shall be penalized in the following manner:

Middle School

Middle School athletes who violate the above rule shall be punished in accordance with policy as published in the Student Handbook at each middle school.

High School

1st Offense

High school athletes who violate the above rule, shall be suspended from participation in athletic contests (not necessarily practice) for at least 20% of their next scheduled contests at all levels of their participation in their sport. Any games or scrimmages scheduled after the infraction shall not be counted in the penalty. In calculating the 20% of contests all results will be rounded up to the next highest whole game. The parent(s)/guardian(s) of the athlete will be notified of the suspension. Any disciplinary action must be in accordance with the provisions of this policy, as well as applicable state and federal statutes and/or regulations. In addition to disciplinary action, District Policy JFCH/JFCI recommends intervention strategies that the coach and/or administration should pursue. **The carry-over rule will apply.

Athletes may appeal the mandatory thirty day suspension and/or other disciplinary measures through the athletic/activity director and principal and/or *the Athletic Advisory Council (AAC)* consisting of the head coaches/sponsors of competitive athletics and activities

for which CHSAA requires eligibility lists to be submitted. Other activity sponsors or teachers may be appointed to the Review Board by the principal. The *Athletic Advisory Council (AAC)* will be chaired by the Athletic Director or his/her designee.

2nd Offense

Same as the 1st offense, but with a 50% suspension from competition and enrollment in an approved mandatory counseling/educational program with parental participation. The carry-over rule will apply.

** Carry-over Rule: A suspension will be carried over and enforced into the athlete's next sport season. (The next sports season being the next sport that the athlete participates in and is a bona fide team member). Example: An athlete misses 10% of competitions at the end of basketball season for their first infraction. The remaining 10% of contests will be served in their next season of participation.

3rd Offense

Removal from all high school athletic/activity programs for the remainder of his/her high school career.

*activity days shall be defined as days that a practice and/or a contest are held

** Carry-over Rule: A suspension will be carried over and enforced into the athlete's next sport season. (The next sports season being the next sport that the athlete participates in and is a bona fide team member. The athlete must complete the sport they are in for the suspension. If they do not complete that sport, the suspension will be carried over to the next sport season that is completed.

The athlete or his/her parent(s)/guardian(s) may request a hearing, in writing, before the *Athletic Advisory Council (AAC)* to request a modification of the suspension and/or other disciplinary measures. The written request for a hearing must detail the reason for such request, including mitigating circumstances that may exist.

If, in the opinion of the Athletic Director, or his/her designee, a valid purpose will be served by conducting a hearing, an informal hearing will be held. The student and/or his parent(s)/guardian(s) may address *the Athletic Advisory Council (AAC)* concerning the reasons why (s)he feels the suspension and/or disciplinary measures should be modified. No other persons or representatives of the student have the right to attend the informal hearing.

The *Athletic Advisory Council (AAC)* will consider and assess the reasons for modification presented by the athlete and/or his/her parent(s)/guardian(s) and make a recommendation to the Principal concerning modification of the suspension and/or disciplinary action. The Principal may accept or reject the Review board's recommendation -- or modify the penalty on his/her own initiative. The Principal's decision is final.

NCAA CLEARING HOUSE

Students wishing to compete in Division I and Division II NCAA schools next fall must be certified as eligible by the NCAA Initial Eligibility Clearing House. Contact your school counselor for necessary paperwork.

Any Eagle County School District policy on drugs and/or alcohol shall take precedence and supersede the policies in this handbook

I, the undersigned, have read and agree to follow all the rules and policies listed in the Eagle County School District RE50J Athletic Handbook.

printed name

date

signature