

**PRINCEVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**ATHLETIC/ACTIVITY DEPARTMENT MISSION STATEMENT**

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The mission of Princeville Community School interscholastic athletic programs is to foster the quest for excellence by creating an educational and competitive experience within an atmosphere of sportsmanship. Successful programs develop individual and team potential by promoting high standards of competence, character, civility, and citizenship.

The Athletic/Activity Department of Princeville Schools, under the auspices of the Princeville Athletic/Activity Committee, makes available to junior high and high school students a wide variety of opportunities to develop skills and to become involved as members of interscholastic athletic/activity teams.

The Princeville School District and the Princeville Community take pride in the strong traditions it has established. We view interscholastic athletics/activities as a unifying force within the school community, affecting the entire student body. We invite all students to take part in as many athletic/activity programs as possible. Participation in Princeville Athletics/Activities, however, is a privilege and not a right; and that privilege is earned by each participant through his or her adherence to the rules and policies set forth in the Athletic/Activity Code that follows.

The Athletic/Activity Program is an extension of the academic program, and all athletes are urged to strive for excellence in both the classroom and on the athletic field. Good sportsmanship, commitment to team, and the development of skills and strategies necessary for interscholastic competition are essential to a successful Athletic/Activity Program.

The central goal of this athletic/activity program is to foster certain characteristics and qualities. These include respect for self and others, honesty, integrity, commitment, reliability, common sense and perseverance. The values learned through the athletic/activity experience will help individuals become more productive members of the community.

**2010-2011 PRINCEVILLE ATHLETIC/ACTIVITY CODE**

Participation in athletics and/or activities at Princeville Unit Schools is a privilege made available to each student. As with all privileges, there are responsibilities. This Athletic/Activity Code was developed to generate certain behavioral guidelines for those students who choose to take advantage of the athletics and/or activities offered by the school district. At the discretion of the Board of Education and/or administration, the terms and conditions of this Athletic/Activity Code may be modified at any time.

All parents/guardians of students involved in athletics and/or activities must take full responsibility for discussing the policy with their child/children. Furthermore, in the event a student violates the policy, the board of education and administration recommend the parent(s)/guardian(s) discuss the reasons and consequences of the violations with the student.

These sanctions apply year round, including the summer months, and to all school athletics and activities, whether or not the student is actively engaged in a sport or activity at the time of the violation. When a student signs this agreement, he/she is bound by this agreement throughout his/her high school or grade school career. If by chance a student does not participate in a sport or activity at any time, he/she is still bound by the agreement if he/she decides to participate in a subsequent year. Participants may not engage in official contests, or school athletics/activities, until a parent/guardian and the student signs a copy of the athletic/activity code agreement prior to the beginning of their first season for the year. Once a code is signed for the current school term it will remain in effect for the remainder of the school term.

The administration will require all athletic coaches and activity sponsors to discuss good decision making and the consequences of the Athletic/Activity code with the student participants at the beginning of each sport or activity.

Following the eighth grade promotion ceremony, a student is considered a freshman in high school and any violation of the Athletic/Activity Code prior to the beginning of the school year will be considered his/her first offense.

Any student who chooses to participate in athletics or activities in the Princeville Schools will be subject to disciplinary action if he/she commits any of the following actions, with the understanding that the discipline administered will be in addition to any other school discipline:

- A. Possession and/or use of tobacco in any form.
- B. Possession, use or delivery of illegal drugs, performance enhancing drugs (steroids), paraphernalia, and/or look-alike drugs.
- C. Possession, use or delivery of alcoholic beverages.
- D. Theft or vandalism on the school premises, another school's premises, or on private or public property, with a minimal personal/monetary value of \$75 or more. The personal/monetary value will be determined by the principal.
- E. Voluntarily or intentionally attending a function where alcoholic beverages, controlled substances, cannabis (marijuana), prescription drugs, or look-alike drugs are being used illegally. A reasonable amount of time may be allotted for a student to remove him/herself from a situation, once a student is aware of a violation. Students are advised to remove themselves from the situation as soon as possible.
- F. Gross misconduct, gross disobedience, gross unsportsmanlike conduct, or gross behavior, determined by an athletic coach, activity sponsor, or administration, that is not governed by the IHSA or IESA.

#### Penalty Section

Any violation of the Athletic/Activity code, as described herein, may result in a disciplinary response. The District believes in the concept of progressive discipline and will follow the guidelines below. However, the District reserves the right to impose more severe or less severe discipline as called for. Students understand that while they are encouraged to be honest and take responsibility for their misconduct, they may remain silent when questioned by District personnel concerning a possible violation of the athletic/activity code. Students understand that if they provide a statement of admission to the District, it may later be used against the students in a school disciplinary matter and/or criminal action.

#### First Offense

- A. Voluntary admission shall consist of an admission of guilt during the initial inquiry by the principal. This voluntary admission of guilt will be rewarded by allowing the student and parents/guardians to enroll in, and complete, an approved counseling program chosen from the list of programs provided or pre-approved by the Administration. This counseling **MUST** be scheduled within seven days and be completed within a six week period of time from the time of the violation, at the expense of the individuals involved. If this cannot be accomplished, appropriate arrangements must be made with the proper administrator. If this is not completed, the violator will lose privileges for a 180-day period. An athlete or participant in an activity may not practice until counseling has been scheduled. Once counseling has been scheduled and the counselor has notified the administration of the appointment, in writing, the student will be allowed to practice, but not participate, in events or contests. The student may not participate in events until the Principal receives notification that verifiable counseling has been completed with an approved counselor. It is the responsibility of the parents/guardians to have the counselor notify the Principal that counseling has been completed. This notification must be done by written communication.
- B. If there is no voluntary admission, and the student is found in violation of the Athletic/Activity Code, he/she and parents must enroll in, and complete an approved counseling program if the student wishes to participate in the future. Counseling should be scheduled and completed within six weeks from the time of the violation. He/she may not

practice, nor participate in any activity or sport for a period of 90 days from the day the student is deemed to be guilty of a code violation. An athlete or participant may not practice any activity/sport whose event or end of season will occur prior to the end of the counseling program.

- c. Should the student and parents/guardians choose not to enroll in, or fail to complete an approved counseling program, he/she shall be suspended from all activities/sports for 180 days. The student will not practice, nor participate, in any activity/sport until the conclusion of the 180 days.

### Second Offense

- A. The student and parents/guardians must enroll in, and complete an approved counseling program chosen from the list of programs, at the expense of the individuals involved. This counseling must be scheduled within 7 days and must be completed within a SIX (6) WEEK period of time of the violation, or make appropriate arrangements with the proper administrator. The student shall also be suspended from all activities/sports for a period of 180 days. An athlete or participant may not practice any activity/sport whose event or end of season will occur prior to the end of the suspension. Once counseling is completed, the student may practice, but not participate, in any event until the conclusion of the 180-day suspension. The student may not practice any activity if the season will end prior to the end of the 180-day suspension.
- B. Should the student and parents/guardians choose not to enroll in, or fail to complete an approved counseling program, within the appropriate time, the student will be suspended from all activities/sports for a period of 365 days.

### Third Offense

A participant or athlete in violation of the Athletic/Activity Code for the third time shall be suspended from participation in all activities/sports for the remainder of his/her grade or high school career.

Determination of Athletic/Activity Code Violations: **All alleged violations that are reported to or observed by the principal will be thoroughly investigated.** If there is no voluntary admission of guilt when the student is questioned by the Principal, a committee made up of two (2) board members, one (1) administrator, one (1) athletic director, and one (1) sponsor of a different activity, shall meet as soon as possible after the reported violation. The committee shall be charged with the responsibility of determining guilt or innocence, and the consequences in regard to the Athletic/Activity Code. The student in question has the right to meet with the committee to discuss the incident and may present any additional information. If the local police and/or court system is involved in the determination of guilt, consequences may be sustained until the outcome of such investigation is final.

Examples of Determining Violations: Students who are convicted of crimes, through fines, placed on court supervision, placed on probation, reports provided by law enforcement officials, reports from the office of the State's Attorney, or information obtained from any other source, which tends to establish a violation of the activity code.

Student Admission: A participant in school sponsored activities/sports who has been found guilty of an Athletic/Activity Code violation, and meets all the requirements of the activity/sport, and finishes the season, shall receive his/her regular award for the activity/sport. If the student(s) and parents/guardians are unsure of the direction to take to arrange counseling, the administration may recommend a program. It should be understood that by recommending a program, the parents/guardians still must assume the financial responsibility for the counseling. Furthermore the counseling programs must provide its service for at least 3 contact hours which involves the student(s) and parents/guardians.

Additionally, the student may not receive the counseling during the school day or during school hours. This must be done outside the normal school day. Proper documentation of this must accompany the report sent to the building administrator after the approved counseling sessions.

Approved Counseling Programs: Proctor Hospital, White Oaks, St. Francis, Methodist Hospital, St. Mary's Hospital, Lighthouse, Hult Health Center, area physicians that are willing to provide the services, and locally approved clergy or professional counselors that have previously provided the service.

Other state certifiable counseling or other educational counseling may be approved with proof shown by the agency of their certification and with approval by the current administration of the curriculum to be covered and discussed by the student and his/her parents/guardians. This approval must be obtained on a per-individual and per incident basis.

The Athletic/Activity Code includes, but is not limited to, the following athletics and activities: AFS Club, Art Club, Academic Challenge, Band-non-graded activities, Baseball, Basketball, Cheerleading, Chorus-non-graded activities, Cross Country, Declamation, FCCLA, FFA, Football, Golf, Homecoming Court, Athletic Team Managers, Math Team, Merit Program Activities, National Honor Society, Prom and/or Prom Court, Scholastic Bowl, School Play, Science Club, Softball, Spanish Club, Statisticians, Student Council, Track, Volleyball, and Yearbook. Class trips, not classified as strictly educational trips, are also included.

#### Other Relative Information

- A. We are members in good standing with the Lincoln Trail Conference and the West Prairie Trail (Football) Conference. We participate in invitational competitions and events for Band, Chorus, and Scholastic Bowl.
- B. All awards and certificates for "All Conference-Athletic", "All Conference-Academic" and "Honorable Mention" will be distributed according to the by-laws of the Lincoln Trail Conference and/or the West Prairie Trail Conference.
- C. Academic Eligibility Guidelines will require that each student must be passing six classes, and must have passed six classes, the previous semester to participate the following semester. Grades will be checked at the end of each week to determine eligibility for the following week (Monday through Sunday). Eligibility shall be based on the student's current semester average.
- D. Students must be in attendance for the entire day to be eligible to participate, practice, or compete that day. The only exceptions are medical or judicial appointments or a funeral. The administration is allowed to make allowances based upon circumstances beyond the control of the student. Students must return to school with either a judicial note or doctor's note to be eligible for participation/competition that day.
- E. All students participating in school sponsored activities are expected to travel to and from the event in transportation provided and/or approved by the school. If the student wishes to ride home with their parent, or another adult, they must follow the coach's procedures. If any student violates the coach's procedure he/she will have consequences from the coach and/or the administration.
- F. Students involved in athletics must have a current physical on file with the office prior to the first practice and show proof of health insurance.
- G. Each coach will have his/her own practice and participation rules and guidelines. These rules will be explained to the students at the beginning of the season.
- H. All injuries must be reported to the coach and/or office as soon as possible.
- I. If a parent has a question, comment or concern they must first attempt to solve the problem with the coach or sponsor involved. These communications are to be held at an appropriate time and in an appropriate location. During or after practice or immediately after a contest is not an appropriate time for such communications. Coaches/directors have other responsibilities at such times and there is not an opportunity for private and open communication. If the situation remains unresolved, the parent or coach should see the athletic director next, and then the principal if not resolved. If still unresolved, the superintendent would be the next individual consulted.

#### Athletic/Activity Information

1. Activity fees will be collected for all students that are members of an athletic or cheerleading squad, grades 6-12.
2. An annual athletic/activity fee will be assessed per student, per sport. Detailed information will be provided annually during registration.
3. Athletic/Activity fees will be assessed once a squad or team has been selected. No fees will be assessed for tryouts.
4. Once paid, fees will not be refunded.
5. Students or families that qualify for "free" lunches will be exempt from paying activity fees.
6. Activity fees must be paid before the 1<sup>st</sup> scheduled contest of each sport.

## SPORTSMANSHIP POLICY

The ideals of good sportsmanship, ethical behavior and integrity should permeate all interscholastic athletics/activities in our community. In perception and practice, good sportsmanship shall be defined as those qualities of behavior, which are characterized by generosity and genuine concern for others. **We expect that all athletes, coaches, parents and community members will model good sportsmanship.**

*Do What's Right: Sportsmanship Program*, published by the IHSA

The Do What's Right Program builds upon the IHSA's current efforts to promote and recognize sportsmanship within our state. The Program outlines nine expectations for all IHSA member schools, their teams, coaches, players, and communities to adopt. Creating a consistent message of behavior for participants and fans leaves little room for question as to how to create a positive atmosphere at all contests throughout the state.

### **Do What's Right! Expectations:**

1. Accept and understand the seriousness of their responsibility, and the privilege of representing their school and community.
2. Learn the rules of the game thoroughly and discuss them with parents, fans, and fellow students.
3. Treat opponents the way they would like to be treated, as a guest or friend.
4. Never direct remarks at opponents in a taunting manner.
5. Wish opponents good luck before the game and congratulate them in a sincere manner following either a victory or defeat.
6. Respect the integrity and judgment of the game officials.
7. Display great effort and hustle on the field or floor.
8. Play unselfishly in such a way as to build up their team, without drawing unnecessary attention to themselves.
9. Yield to the authority and direction of all floor officials, bench officials, school personnel and coaches.

### **Please Note:**

Game attendance at Princeville athletics/activities is a privilege, not a license to verbally assault others or to be obnoxious. Any person displaying unsportsmanlike behavior may be removed from the athletic contest and risk being barred from future contests. Students face additional school penalties for inappropriate behavior.