

**JOHN F. KENNEDY MIDDLE SCHOOL**  
**ATHLETIC AND ACTIVITY CODE of Conduct**



**NOTE TO PARENTS:**

It is the responsibility of parents and students to read and familiarize themselves with the terms and requirements of Athletics and Activity Code. A student or his/her parent/guardian may obtain an explanation of any part of the Code from the Principal.

The parent/guardian and student are required to sign the attached form to acknowledge that the code has been read and is understood by the student and the parent/guardian, and they agree to be bound by it.

Coaches and sponsors are not permitted to allow a student to practice, play or otherwise participate in their particular sport or activity until that student's signed acknowledgement form has been returned to the coach or sponsor.

**I. GENERAL CONDITIONS OF PARTICIPATION**

1. The development of character and proper conduct that is promoted by athletics and activities is central to the education mission of the school.
2. Students who are involved in athletics/Activities are help to a higher standard of behavior because they are representatives of their school, and serve as role models for others.
3. Participation of all athletics and activities is a privilege offered to students, and may be withdrawn on the basis of a failure to adhere to high standard of personal conduct and ethical behavior.
4. As it is impossible to have a regulation for every possible circumstance, professional judgment will be used by coaches, sponsors, and administrators in situations not covered by a specific written rule or guideline.
5. In addition to the specific standards set forth in this code, the students membership and participation, including any disciplinary action, will be determined on the basis of the student's attitude, punctuality, and attendance and on the basis of the welfare and best interest of the team or group, the school, and other school districts.
6. It is the responsibility of parents and students to familiarize themselves with the terms and requirements of the Athletics and Activity Code. A student or his/her

parent/guardian may obtain an explanation of any part of this Code from the Administration.

7. All standards, rules, and requirements in this John F. Kennedy Middle School Athletics and Activities Code are in addition to the applicable standards, rules, and requirements of the New Mexico Activities Association (NMAA). Parents or students who wish to review the NMAA Code and/or the Gallup McKinley County Schools Athletics/Activities Handbook may request an opportunity to do so from the Principal.
8. No Student shall be absent from school for school-sponsored extracurricular activities in excess of (15) fifteen days per semester and no class may be missed in excess of fifteen days per semester. More than fifteen absences may result in removal or suspension from the team.

## **II. CODE OF CONDUCT DURING ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS**

The Student Activity Conduct Guidelines designate expectations for the students who participate in extra-curricular activities and other school sponsored performances and/or competitions. The behavioral expectations detailed in the Gallup McKinley County School Board Policies, extra-curricular activity participants are expected to follow specific behavioral and eligibility guidelines included within the Student Activity Conduct Guidelines. The student activity conduct expectations set out in this code are applicable to and binding upon each student during the season a student is a member of an extra-curricular activity or an athletic team.

Disciplinary actions under this code shall be imposed on the basis of the best interests of the team or squad, and the best educational interests of the student to be disciplined.

### **A. Prohibited Conduct**

1. A student shall be removed or suspended from any sport or activity for any of the following conduct regardless of whether such conduct takes place on or off campus, and regardless of whether such conduct takes place during school hours or at any other time. Students charged with or suspected of the following conduct may be suspended from their sport or activity pending any investigation.
  - a. The use or possession of alcoholic beverages, illegal drugs, or tobacco in any form, or attendance at a party or other gathering at which any of the foregoing substances are being used.
  - b. Fighting, trespassing, vandalism, theft, or other illegal or disorderly conduct, regardless of whether such conduct results in arrest, prosecution or conviction. In addition any student who has been arrested for any reason may be suspended from all sports and activities pending his or her exoneration from charges.

- c. Hazing, which, for purposes of this code, includes, but is not limited to engaging in any offensive physical contact or restraint of another student, or requiring or encouraging a student to perform any dangerous, offensive, or demeaning physical or verbal act for any purpose, including as a condition of membership or initiation into any team or group sponsored by or permitted to operate under the auspices of a school district, provided that such contact, restraint, requirement, or encourage shall not be considered hazing when it is an officially recognized part of the particular sport or activity of the team or group.

## **B. School Attendance**

1. A student is expected to attend a minimum of one-half school day to be eligible to participate in a practice, competition, activity or performance scheduled on the same date.
2. Participation in evening activity or competitions should not affect school attendance on the following day. When performing or competing during the school day, students are expected to return to classes immediately after the event.
3. Students placed on suspension will not be allowed to practice or compete in contests during the suspension period.

## **C. Conduct on Trips**

Student-athletes are regarded as representatives of John F. Kennedy Middle School and are expected to conduct themselves as ladies and gentlemen, as well as the best examples of John F. Kennedy Middle School Students, on and off the playing fields and courts. Students on trips for activities or athletic contests remain subject to all rules and standards applicable under school and district codes and policies.

## **D. Returning from Out-Of-Town Contests and Events**

1. To promote team unity, student-athletes/participants will return from all out-of-town contests with their squads and by school transportation.
2. A parent or guardian seeking an exception from this rule must seek the permission of the coach, in writing, at least two days prior to the activity in order to permit a student-athlete to be transported home by the parent or guardian. The parent or guardian must provide a substantial reason for the request. Other than those who have received such permission, student-athletes will not be permitted to ride home with parents or guardian, and student-athletes who do so despite the lack of permission shall be subject to disciplinary action, including benching and dismissal.
3. Student-athletes are not permitted, under any circumstances, to return from an out of town contest other than by school transportation or with a parent or guardian upon the advance permission of the coach. Students-athletes who returns home with any other person shall be subject to discipline.

### III. INJURY REPORTS

1. Student athletes injured in a sport, or their parents, should make sure the Coach as filled out an injury report and submitted it to the Principal's office of JFK School. Injury reports are submitted to GMCS D Central Offices and are confidential.
2. Student athletes or their parents are responsible for initiating the insurance claim if an injury resulted in ambulance service, doctor's care or hospital expenses. Remember: Insurance companies have no way of knowing about an injury unless they are informed through a claim form. Claim forms can be found at GMCS central office.

### IV. OTHER RULES

1. Student-Athletes representing John F. Kennedy Middle School are to be in dress code at all times. Student-Athletes are held to a higher standard and are expected to follow all the rules and regulations of John F. Kennedy Middle School. Student-athletes not in dress code will be subject to potential loss of playing time, suspensions or removal from teams by the head coach or JFKMS administration.
2. Coaches may establish team rules that exceed the Athletic/activities code requirements upon prior approval by the school principal.
3. Coaches may establish curfews for athletes in order to enhance preparation for competitions.
4. Coaches may impose, and enforce by appropriate means, standards regarding attendance, punctuality, and attitude.
5. Students who violate team rules, curfews, or standards shall be subject to curtailment of playing time, suspensions from games, and suspension or dismissal from teams or activities.
6. Students whose conduct is detrimental to team cohesiveness or success shall be subject to curtailment playing time, suspensions from games, and suspension or dismissal from teams or activities. **The use of social media outlets (Facebook, Twitter, et.) by student athletes in a negative manner is looked upon as conduct detrimental to a team as well.**
7. John F. Kennedy Middle School is **NOT RESPONSIBLE** for items stolen out of locker rooms, whether the locker is locked or not. Students are encouraged to **NOT** have items of value (cell phones/electronic devices/money, etc.) in their possession while at JFKMS or on school sponsored trips. JFKMS and our coaches are not responsible for the theft or loss of any items.
8. Coaches may require study hall or after school tutoring for any or all of their athletes.

## **Eligibility Requirements – New Mexico Activities Association**

### **ELIGIBILITY STANDARDS FOR ATHLETICS/ACTIVITIES**

#### **Eligibility Rules**

A student must have a grade point average of 2.0 based on the previous grading quarter in order to play at the beginning of a sports season. When a grading quarter ends, if the student does not have a 2.0 GPA, they will be removed from the team at mid-season and will not be allowed back on unless a proper grade change form is filled by the teacher changing the grade within seven days of the grade being finalized by the registrar's office. Students will be eligible for tutoring if they have a grade of C or lower at the halfway point in a grading period.

### **HOW TO BE AN ALL-STAR PARENT**

By Rob Gilbert, Ph.D.

How do you define an all-star parent? Very simple, how or she is a parent who is a good sport and a great fan to become an all-star parent of an athlete, there are times when you must stop parenting. When your son and daughter change into uniform and becomes an athlete, you also have to change from a parent to a fan. Your job on the sidelines or in the stands is not to be a parent, but to be your child's greatest fan.

There's not trick here. You already know how to do this. Remember how you behaved when your baby was learning to walk? You were a fan and a supporter, weren't you? You applauded the "downs" as well as the "ups".

You never said things like, "What's taking you so long?" "How come the kid down the street is walking better than you?" "Why do you keep making the same mistakes over and over again?" You were the world's most appreciative audience.

Why should it be any different now that your child is an athlete? Your job is not to be the coach (unless you are the coach) or the expert. You are there so that you share the thrill of victory and the agony of defeat – together.

In fact, your child needs your support more in defeat than in victory. Did you ever notice that strangers fell free to come out of the stands and congratulate the winners? But defeat, sometimes the athlete's own teammates and coaches ignore her/him. As a parent you, have to be there to cushion setbacks with a positive "We'll get 'em next time!"

Three "B's" For All-star Parenting

1. Be There
2. Be Positive
3. Be Seated

**Be There** - You can never hope to be an all-star parent unless you show up at games. Regardless of the level of your child or the success of the team – go to the games. BE SUPPORTIVE. Don't be a fickle, fair-weather fan.

**Be Positive** – On the sidelines, if you can't say something positive, don't say anything at all. Nothing good comes from negative statements and nothing negative comes from positive ones. If you can't be positive, at least be silent.

**Be Seated** – Even though it's good to be positive, it's good not to overdo it. Don't stick out. Be an admirer – not a cheerleader. Players should not confuse your voice with the public address system. Once you start to become a positive, acknowledging fan, an interesting thing may happen. Your child will want you at games. When this happens, you will know that you are considered to be an important member of your child's personal all-star support team.

### **Parent/Guardian Code of Conduct and Expectations:**

The purpose of the Parent Code is to develop parental support and positive role models in our athletic programs. In the tradition of excellence, one purpose of our athletic program at John F. Kennedy Middle School is to promote the physical, mental, moral, social and emotional wellbeing of each student. Parents/Guardians are an integral part of this process.

#### **Expectations:**

##### **As a KMS parent/guardian of a student athlete, I agree to:**

- Be a positive role model for my child, the school and the community.
- Display a positive attitude and appropriate behavior.
- Show respect for all participants, officials, and coaches.
- Encourage my child to attend school regularly and excel academically.
- Assist in providing for student safety and welfare at all times.
- Inform my child of the dangers of using and discourage the use of any illegal drugs, alcohol or tobacco.

### **Parent/Coach Relationship**

We are very pleased that your son/daughter has chosen to participate in the KMS athletic program. We will do all we can to provide a positive experience for him/her. Possibly the most

important ingredient to achieve this outcome is to insure that lines of communication are developed to allow for open and easy resolution of questions before they become conflicts. As a parent, you have a right to know what expectations are placed on your daughter/son. This pamphlet is intended to spell out all levels of communication so that parents, coaches, and athletes are aware of the steps that they have available to resolve anything they think is an issue, or might become an issue.

Communication you should expect from your child's coach:

1. Philosophy of the coach.
2. Expectations the coach has for your child.
3. Locations and times of all practices and games.
4. Team requirements, i.e., fees, special equipment, off-season conditioning, etc.
5. Procedure to follow should your child become injured during participation.
6. Participants conduct code and discipline that result in the denial of your child's participation.
7. Insurance information.
8. Disposition of lost/outstanding equipment at the end of the season.

### **Issues not appropriate to discuss with coaches:**

1. Playing time.
2. Team strategy.
3. Play calling.
4. Matters concerning other student athletes.

These are situations that may require a conference between the coach and the parent. These are to be encouraged. It is important that both parties involved have a clear understanding of the other person's position. When these conferences are necessary, the following procedure should be followed to help promote a resolution to the issue of concern.

If you have a concern to discuss with a coach, please follow the procedure below:

1. Call to set up an appointment.
2. John F. Kennedy Middle School number in 505-721-1300.
3. If the coach cannot be reached after reasonable times, call Assistant Principal at 505-721-1300 she will arrange the appointment for you.
4. Please **DO NOT** attempt to confront a coach before or after a contest, or at practice. These can be emotional times for both the parent and the coach. Meetings of this nature do not promote resolutions and even exacerbate the issue.

### **The next step:**

What can a parent do if the meeting with the coach did not provide a satisfactory resolution?

1. Call and set up an appointment with the assistance principal to discuss the situation.
2. At this meeting the appropriate next step can be determined.

Since research indicates a student involved in extra-curricular activities has a greater chance for success during adulthood, these programs have been established and encouraged. Many of the character traits required to be a successful participant in athletics are exactly those that will promote a successful life after high school. We hope the information provided within this pamphlet will help to make the KMS athletic program less stressful and more enjoyable for both you and your child.

Gallup McKinley County School's follow the chain of commence listed below. We ask that you observe this as a means of communication effectively to resolve your concerns.

- Head Coach
- KMS Assistant Principal-505-721-1300

### **SPORTSMANSHIP**

- **PLAYER'S ROLE**

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

#### **Required Responsibilities:**

1. Accept and understand the seriousness of their responsibility and privilege of representing the school and community.
2. Learn the rules thoroughly and discuss them with parents, fans, fellow students, and elementary students. This will assist everyone in the achievement of a better understanding and appreciation of the game.
3. Cooperate with coaches and always exercise good sportsmanship by living by the rules and roles stated.
4. Only the captain may communicate with the officials of an athletic event or activity on the clarification of rules. It is his/her responsibility to communicate what was said back to his/her teammates and/or coach.



5. Always respect the official's judgment and interpretation of the rules. Never argue or make non-verbal gestures, which indicate disagreement. This type of immature activity may incite undesirable behavior in the stands and by teammates.
6. Congratulate opponents in a sincere manner following either victory or defeat. This is a true measure of character.
7. Treat opponents with the respect that accorded a guest of friend.
8. Shake hands with opponents prior to the contest and with them luck.

## **JOHN F. KENNEDY MIDDLE SCHOOL**

### **Athletics/Activities Code Acknowledgement Form**

**The undersigned parent/guardian and student sate that:**

- 1. They have read the KMS School Athletic/Activities Code.**
- 2. They understand its terms and conditions.**
- 3. Any questions they may have had, have been answered by the coach, sponsor, or athletic director; and**
- 4. They agree to be bound by the terms, conditions, rules and standards of the John F. Kennedy Middle School Athletic Activities Code.**

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**Parent/Guardian Signature**

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**Date**

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**Parent/Guardian Print Name**

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**Student Signature**

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**Date**

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**Student Print Name**