

TDA Nighthawks Activity Handbook

Grades 7-12

2026-2027

Approved by Tripp-Delmont School Board and Armour School Board on August 10th, 2026

Table Of Contents

Introduction—SDHSAA Philosophy 3

Tripp-Delmont/Armour Nighthawks 3

Sportsmanship 3

The Five Essentials of Sportsmanship 3

TDA Mascot, Colors, and Fight Song 4

Activity Participation and Eligibility 5

Student Eligibility for Alternative Instruction 5

Standards for Participation 6

- Academic and Attendance Standards 6
- Conduct 6

Physicals 7

Drug Screening 7

Social Networking 8

Training Rules 8

Penalties 9

General Policies 10

- Concussions 10
- Inclement Weather 10
- Valuables 10
- Travel 10

Concussion Fact Sheet For Parents 11

TDA Parent Agreement Form 13

*****This agreement will remain in effect until a mutual agreement is reached to disband the cooperative. Amendments may be made to the agreement as necessary, and with the approval of both school boards.*****

Introduction – SDHSAA Philosophy

According to the South Dakota High School Activities Association, "A strong activities program can and should complement a school's academic program. Activities are an integral part of the total curriculum of South Dakota schools. A well-balanced activities program provides the opportunity for physical, social and emotional development complementing intellectual growth.

Participation in school activities encompasses all students without regard to sex, race, or creed and teaches that it is a privilege and an honor to represent one's school. Interscholastic activities constitute a part of the right kind of "growing up" experiences for students. Participants learn to accept success and failures, gain poise and confidence, achieve tolerance and understanding of others and gain the self-satisfaction of accomplishing goals. Under a well-administered school program, students and spectators become better citizens through participation and observation of activities conducted under established rules."

Tripp-Delmont-Armour Nighthawks

Co-curricular programs provide great opportunities for the students of our districts. The Activities Handbook is comprised of the majority of rules and procedures that affect the co-curricular activities of the TDA athletic coop and of the non-coop activities of the Tripp-Delmont School District. While the handbook explains training rules and procedures, disciplinary policies in each district may also be enforced, depending on the situation or infraction.

Sportsmanship

Good sportsmanship is viewed by the National Federation of State High School Associations as a commitment to fair play, ethical behavior and integrity. In perception and practice, sportsmanship is defined as those qualities which are characterized by generosity and genuine concern for others:

- ✓ Play fair, take loss or defeat without complaint, or victory without gloating
- ✓ Treat others as you wish to be treated
- ✓ Respect others and one's self
- ✓ Impose self-control, be courteous, and gracefully accept results of one's actions
- ✓ Display ethical behavior by being good (character) and doing right (action)
- ✓ Be a good citizen.

The Five Essentials of Sportsmanship:

1. Show respect for the opponent at all times. The opponent should be treated as a guest, greeted cordially on arriving, given the best accommodations and accorded the respect, honesty and generosity which all people deserve.

2. Show respect for the officials. The officials should be recognized as impartial arbitrators who are trained to do their job and who can be expected to do it to the best of their ability. Sportsmanship implies the willingness to accept and abide by the decisions of the officials.

3. Know, understand, and appreciate the rules of the contest. A familiarity with the current rules of the game and the recognition of their necessity for a fair contest is essential. Good sportsmanship suggests the importance of conforming to the spirit as well as the letter of the rules.

4. Maintain self-control at all times. A prerequisite of sportsmanship requires one to understand his/her own bias or prejudice and the ability to prevent the desire to win from overcoming rational behavior. A proper

perspective must be maintained if the potential educational values of athletic competition are to be realized. Sportsmanship is concerned with the behavior of all involved in the game.

5. Recognize and appreciate skill in performance regardless of affiliation. Applause for a good performance of an opponent is a demonstration of generosity and good will. The ability to recognize quality in performance and the willingness to acknowledge it without regard to team membership is one of the most highly commendable gestures of sportsmanship.

6. Finally, as a student involved in activities representing TDA you must accept seriously the responsibility and privilege of representing our schools and communities. You are always in the spotlight and must always display positive public actions.

TDA Mascot: Nighthawks
Colors: Carolina Blue, Black and Silver



TDA Fight Song

"Hail to the Victors
Hail to the victors valiant,
Hail to the conquering heroes,
Hail,
Hail, to T-D-A,
The victors and the best"

REPEAT

Activity Participation/Eligibility

Student participating in co-curricular activities must meet all the eligibility requirements set forth by the South Dakota High School Activities Association:

You are NOT ELIGIBLE if:

1. You have reached your 20th birthday.
2. You have attended more than four (4) first semesters and four (4) second semesters of school (any total 8) in grades 9 through 12. Enrollment in school fifteen (15) school days or participation in an inter-school contest shall constitute a semester. Once a student enrolls as a ninth grader, all semesters must be consecutive unless verified in writing by a physician that withdrawal from school is necessary due to a serious illness or injury.
3. You did not pass twenty (20) hours of high school work per week in courses approved for graduation for the preceding semester. (4 classes = 2 credits) If you are failing one or more classes during grade checks, you will be ineligible until the grade is passing.
4. You are not enrolled in and attend a minimum of twenty (20) hours of high school work per week during the current semester.
5. You have graduated from a regular four-year high school or institution of equivalent rank.
6. You have not enrolled by the sixteenth school day of the current semester. (Date of regular entry into classes if considered the date of enrollment.)
7. You have been absent from school more than 10 consecutive school days with exceptions granted to illness of the student or a death in the immediate family.
8. You have transferred from one high school to another without a corresponding change in the residence of your parent(s)/guardian(s). (Exception made for students who transfer pursuant to Open Enrollment By-Law.)
9. You do not have on file in the office the required completed physical examination, screening and parent's permission forms.
10. You have ever participated in an athletic contest under an assumed name.
11. You have participated in athletics in any institution of learning of higher rank than a standard secondary school.
12. You have violated your amateur standing.
13. During a high school sport season, you compete as an individual or a member of another team.

Student Eligibility for Alternative Instruction

The Tripp-Delmont/Armour Co-Operative will adhere to the codified laws of the state of South Dakota under 13-36-7. Participation in interscholastic activities--Eligibility. The law is referenced below.

Any student enrolling in a South Dakota district pursuant to § 13-15-21 is eligible to participate in any interscholastic activity sponsored by the South Dakota High School Activities Association.

Each public school district shall allow participation in athletics, fine arts, or activities for a child being provided alternative instruction pursuant to § 13-27-3 within the district in which the child resides. The parent, guardian, or other person in control of a child being provided alternative instruction shall submit proof of age when participating in athletics, fine arts, or activities. Any child being provided with alternative instruction and participating in South Dakota High School Activities Association activities shall be held to the same local training rules and South Dakota High School Activities Association transfer and non-academic eligibility rules as enrolled students.

Pursuant to § 13-27-3 and before the current season of the sport or activity the alternative instruction child is participating in, the parent, guardian, or other person in control of a child being provided alternative instruction shall provide the appropriate school official with a copy of a transcript of the previous semester's completed coursework that is issued by the parent, guardian, or other person in control of the child. The parent, guardian, or other person in control of a child being provided alternative instruction shall notify the appropriate school official if the child becomes ineligible under South Dakota High School Activities Association or local school rules in so far as those standards apply to § 13-27-3.

Nothing in this section confers any vested right in any student wishing to participate in any interscholastic activity to be selected for competition in such activity. However, any enrolled student who leaves an accredited program during the course of the school year and who will be provided alternative instruction is ineligible for participation in interscholastic activities for the balance of the current season of the sport or activity the student is participating in at the time of notification of alternative instruction.

Standards for Participation

Academic and Attendance Standards:

1. Grades will be checked every 2 weeks for continue participation throughout the season. If you are failing one or more classes during grade checks, you will be ineligible until the grade is passing.

2. Students must be in attendance for at least one-half of the school day to participate in an activity held that evening.

3. Exceptions are cleared by the Administration in advance.

4. Skipping practices and student participation is at the coach's discretion/policy.

Conduct:

1. Any student suspended from school will be ineligible and will not be allowed to participate in any school activity until they have attended a full day of school following the suspension.

    a. **In School Suspension**—Athlete will attend practice, but will not be able to participate in games/activity and must sit with their team during the contest

    b. **Out of School Suspension**—Athlete can not attend practice and will not be able to participate in games/activity

2. Suspensions may carry over from one school year to the next.

3. Students are required to participate in practice while ineligible. They are not allowed to dress for contests.
    a. Students that are ineligible for activities that participate in overnight contests will attend at their own cost (I.e. transportation, meal stipends, and hotel will not be with the team/school, but the responsibility of the family).

4. Students must complete the season/activity for their weeks/contests to count as missed participation for a training rules violation in order to meet the requirements to become eligible.

    a. For example: A student may not go out for track for three weeks, serve a training rules violation and then quit that sport to be eligible for football in the Fall. The student needs to remain in track for the entire season or serve the penalty during the first three football games to regain eligibility.

5. Students should conduct themselves respectfully, displaying good sportsmanship. If a student receives a technical foul, an un-sportsmanlike conduct penalty, or similar infraction, the student will be removed from the contest/event immediately. The coach will determine when or if the student re-enters the contest/activity.

6. Insubordination, disrespect to coaches or players, crude language, actions or profanity will not be tolerated. If such behavior is displayed during practice, the coach may verbally reprimand the student, temporarily bench the student, or remove the student from practice.

7. If the situation is serious enough, the student may not be allowed to participate in the next contest/event. A referral may be given to the principal.

8. If the behavior continues, the student may be terminated from the team.

Physicals:

1. Student athletes in Grades 7-12 will have an annual physical conducted by a qualified medical professional on an annual basis (Exception is 6th Grade athletes participating in 7th-12th Grade sports)

2. Student athletes must complete the forms provided by the SDHSAA on an annual basis distributed by each school. Forms are available on the SDHSAA website, district offices, district websites, and district social media.

3. Forms should be completed prior to the first practice of the season in which the athlete is participating. Forms can be turned into the administrative assistant in each office.

Drug Screening:

1. **TDA conducts a drug-screening program for SDHSAA activity participants. The focus and intent of the program is as follows:**
    a. To provide for the health and safety of all participants
    b. To undermine the effects of peer pressure by providing a legitimate reason for activity participants to refuse to use illegal drugs/tobacco/alcohol/vaping.
    c. To encourage students who use illegal drugs/tobacco/alcohol/vaping to be substance-free.
    d. To encourage activity participants who use illegal drugs/tobacco/alcohol/vaping to participate in treatment programs.

2. **Students wishing to participate in any SDHSAA program are required to have legal parent/guardian consent in writing for drug screening.**
    a. The SDHSAA consent form is included in the packet of required forms for participation and medical examination.
    b. No student can participate in any interscholastic program without such consent.

3. **All students participating in the SDHSAA competitive program will be required to participate in drug screening prior to participation.**
    a. Screenings will be done at the beginning of the school year.
    b. Only one initial screening needs to be completed. Students not screened in the fall will be required to do an initial screen prior to participating in any SDHSAA sanctioned activity.
    c. 7th and 8th grade students will not be drug tested unless participating in a high school sanctioned sport

4. **Random screenings will be unannounced and conducted on a regular basis during the school year.**
    a. Tests may be conducted to a random sampling or may consist of testing all the members of a team or organization.
    b. Administration may choose to test all students involved in any SDHSAA sanctioned activity.

5. **The school districts will contract with a medical facility or practitioner (i.e., nurse) for sample collections.**
    a. Samples will be collected at the assigned time the student is selected.
    b. Students will have up to one hour to provide the facility or practitioner the sample.
    c. Any student refusing to provide the sample will be treated as if he/she had completed the sample and failed the drug screening.
    d. Students on prescription medication should provide the nurse or clinician either a copy of the prescription or a doctor's verification in a sealed envelope at the time a sample is collected.
    e. Students who refuse to provide verification of prescription drugs and screen positive will be subject to sanctions for a positive screen.

SDCL 13-32-9 imposes a one calendar year suspension of extra-curricular activities for controlled substances violations from the date of adjudication, conviction, diversion, or suspended imposition of a sentence for possession, use, or

distribution of a controlled drugs or substances or marijuana as defined in chapter 22-42, or for ingesting, inhaling, or otherwise taking into the body any substances as prohibited by 22-42-15.

a. The one-year suspension may be reduced to sixty calendar days if the student completes an accredited intensive prevention or treatment program.

b. The Unified Judicial System will notify the SDHSAA and the school districts for any student participating in activities of any legal proceedings.

Social Networking:

TDA recognizes the rights of students to freedom of speech, expression and association, including the right of the use of social networks. Students involved in activities represent the TDA Nighthawks and are expected to portray themselves, their team, their coaches and their districts in a positive manner always. Social media postings will serve as evidence for training rule violation investigations.

Parents should educate students generally about posting online. A few reminders:

1. Everything that gets posted online is public information.
2. Texts and photos are out of your control once they are sent.
3. Use caution when inviting or adding friends to your social media accounts.
4. Limit personal information about your location or plans.

Activity that is not tolerated:

1. Comments or photos or posts that depict unlawful or prohibited conduct.
2. Derogatory, defamatory, harassing, or discriminatory posts related to teammates, coaches, TDA staff or administration, parents or community members.
3. Comments that create a serious danger or a threat to the safety of another person or that constitute a credible threat of emotional or physical injury to another person.

Involvement in any of the above activity that defames or threatens another person, or adversely affects team unity and chemistry will result in a disciplinary meeting. Proven involvement will result in disciplinary action determined by administration with input from the coach(es), Athletic Director, Sports Coordinator, and school administration.

Training Rules

Training rules will be enforced from the first SDHSAA eligible practice date until the final SDHSAA event participation in the Spring (I.e. first football practice to end of state golf). During this time, **ALL STUDENT ATHLETES** are held to training rules regardless if their SDHSAA activity is currently active. Training rules apply at all times, not just at school activities. Rules apply equally to all activities sanctioned by the SDHSAA. Penalties for training rule violations carry over from sport to sport for a maximum of one 12-month period.

Training rules are set by the coaches and administration and approved by the school boards.

Specifically, a student shall not: 1) use a beverage containing alcohol, 2) use or have paraphernalia for tobacco, in any form, or by any means including, but not limited to cigarettes, cigars, chewing tobacco, herbal, hookah pipes or individual pipes, vapes, or e-cigarettes (regardless of content), 3) or use or consume, have in possession, buy, sell or give away marijuana, or any controlled substance, any substance considered illegal by South Dakota statute, and any mood-altering chemicals.

It is not a violation for a student to be in possession of a legally defined drug specifically prescribed for the student's own use by her/his doctor.

Reporting Rules:

1.TDA promotes student athletes to report any training rule violations that they know of.

2.For evidence to be considered in a violation investigation, said evidence must be presented within two weeks of the alleged violation.

Penalties:

Athletes/Cheerleaders:

1st offense: Suspended for the number of contests established by activity.
(Football = 2 contests; Golf and Track = 3 contests; Volleyball/Basketball = 5 contests)

2nd offense: Suspended for the number of contests established by activity. (Football= 3 contests; Gold and Track = 4 contests; Volleyball/Basketball = 6 contests) The student must also participate in an administrative approved counseling program for substance/alcohol abuse.

3rd offense: Suspended for the number of contests established by activity. (Football = 4 contests; Golf and Track = 5 contests; Volleyball/Basketball = 7 contests) Must also come before the board to present a plan to prevent future offenses.

4th offense: Suspended for the remained of the school year.

The Administrative Rules of South Dakota and the policies of the SDHSAA control the procedural and due process rights regarding the enforcement of these rules.

General Policies

Concussions:

A concussion is a type of traumatic brain injury. A concussion may cause multiple symptoms. Many symptoms appear immediately after the injury, while others may develop over the next several days or weeks. The symptoms may be subtle and are often difficult to fully recognize.

a. A concussion fact sheet for parents is included in the athletic packet and required forms for parental written acknowledgment

b. A concussion fact sheet for students is included in the athletic packet and required forms for parental written acknowledgment

Inclement Weather or other school closings:

On days that school is dismissed due to inclement weather or for other reasons, no practices or games are to occur. Exceptions must be agreed upon by the administration of both schools.

Valuables:

TDA is not responsible for any lost or stolen valuables.

Travel:

The districts provide transportation to games and practices. Times that buses will depart will be announced at school and distributed to students.

Students need to ride district provided transportation to practices and games, unless one of the schools has parental written permission with verbal confirmation to the coach of the other transportation arrangements.

CONCUSSION FACT SHEET FOR PARENTS



WHAT IS A CONCUSSION?

A concussion is a type of traumatic brain injury. Concussions are caused by a bump or blow to the head. Even a "ding," "getting your bell rung," or what seems to be a mild bump or blow to the head can be serious.

You can't see a concussion. Signs and symptoms of concussion can show up right after the injury or may not appear or be noticed until days or weeks after the injury. If your child reports any symptoms of concussion, or if you notice the symptoms yourself, seek medical attention right away.

WHAT ARE THE SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS OF CONCUSSION?

If your child has experienced a bump or blow to the head during a game or practice, look for any of the following signs of a concussion:

SYMPTOMS REPORTED BY ATHLETE:

- Headache or "pressure" in head
- Nausea or vomiting
- Balance problems or dizziness
- Double or blurry vision
- Sensitivity to light
- Sensitivity to noise
- Feeling sluggish, hazy, foggy, or groggy
- Concentration or memory problems
- Confusion
- Just not "feeling right" or is "feeling down"

SIGNS OBSERVED BY PARENTS/ GUARDIANS:

- Appears dazed or stunned
- Is confused about assignment or position
- Forgets an instruction
- Is unsure of game, score, or opponent
- Moves clumsily
- Answers questions slowly
- Loses consciousness (even briefly)
- Shows mood, behavior, or personality changes





DANGER SIGNS

Be alert for symptoms that worsen over time. Your child or teen should be seen in an emergency department right away if s/he has:

- One pupil (the black part in the middle of the eye) larger than the other
- Drowsiness or cannot be awakened
- A headache that gets worse and does not go away
- Weakness, numbness, or decreased coordination
- Repeated vomiting or nausea
- Slurred speech
- Convulsions or seizures
- Difficulty recognizing people or places
- Increasing confusion, restlessness, or agitation
- Unusual behavior
- Loss of consciousness (even a brief loss of consciousness should be taken seriously)

WHAT SHOULD YOU DO IF YOU THINK YOUR CHILD HAS A CONCUSSION?

1. SEEK MEDICAL ATTENTION RIGHT AWAY
   A health care professional will be able to decide how serious the concussion is and when it is safe for your child to return to regular activities, including sports.
2. KEEP YOUR CHILD OUT OF PLAY.
   Concussions take time to heal. Don't let your child return to play the day of the injury and until a health care professional says it's OK. Children who return to play too soon - while the brain is still healing - risk a greater chance of having a second concussion. Repeat or later concussions can be very serious. They can cause permanent brain damage, affecting your child for a lifetime.
3. TELL YOUR CHILD'S COACH ABOUT ANY PREVIOUS CONCUSSION.
   Coaches should know if your child had a previous concussion. Your child's coach may not know about a concussion your child received in another sport or activity unless you tell the coach.

HEADS UP CONCUSSION

HOW CAN YOU HELP YOUR CHILD PREVENT A CONCUSSION OR OTHER SERIOUS BRAIN INJURY?

- Ensure that they follow their coach's rules for safety and the rules of the sport.
- Encourage them to practice good sportsmanship at all times.
- Make sure they wear the right protective equipment for their activity. Protective equipment should fit properly and be well maintained.
- Wearing a helmet is a must to reduce the risk of a serious brain injury or skull fracture.
  - However, helmets are not designed to prevent concussions. There is no "concussion-proof" helmet. So, even with a helmet, it is important for kids and teens to avoid hits to the head.

HOW CAN I HELP MY CHILD RETURN TO SCHOOL SAFELY AFTER A CONCUSSION?

Children and teens who return to school after a concussion may need to:

- Take rest breaks as needed
- Spend fewer hours at school
- Be given more time to take tests or complete assignments
- Receive help with schoolwork
- Reduce time spent reading, writing, or on the computer

Talk with your child's teachers, school nurse, coach, speech-language pathologist, or counselor about your child's concussion and symptoms. As your child's symptoms decrease, the extra help or support can be removed gradually.



TDA Parent Agreement Form

Student Name: _____ Grade: _____ Age: _____

Activity(ies): _____

School District: _____

Parent/Guardian Name(s): _____

Student Primary Address: _____

Please read the statements below and sign:

Student:

I have read the TDA Nighthawks Activity handbook and will abide by the rules, procedures and policies.

Student Signature _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian:

I/we have read the TDA Nighthawks Activity handbook and will support the schools in enforcing the rules, procedures and policies.

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date: _____

Office use only

Date received: _____ Staff Signature: _____