

Diamond Activities Handbook



2026/2027

Purpose

The purpose of the Extra Curricular Activities program is to provide experiences, which is vital to the educational development of the student. Activities are an integral part of the total curriculum. These experiences contribute to the development of learning skills and emotional patterns that enable the student to make maximum use of their education. Student participation in the activities programs is a privilege that carries with it a responsibility to the school, to the activity, to the student body, to the community, and to the student athlete.

General Information

The Diamond R-IV School District is a cooperating member of the Southwest Conference, and as a member is committed to adhere to the rules and regulations of the conference. Presently there are 9 members of the Southwest Conference as follows: Diamond, Marionville, Ash Grove, Skyline, Lockwood, Miller, Pierce City, Sarcoxie, and Stockton.

Sports By Season:

FALL: Cross Country – Boys & Girls
Football
Volleyball

WINTER: Boys Basketball
Girls Basketball
Wrestling

SPRING: Baseball
Softball
Track – Boys & Girls

NON-ATHLETIC ACTIVITIES OFFERED

Academic Team, Band, Choir, Cheerleading, DECA, Drama, Career, and Community Leaders of America (FCCA), Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA), Future Farmers of America (FFA), National Honor Society, Newspaper/Journalism, Speech and Debate, Yearbook

GOLD STANDARD

Throughout the school year you'll hear coaches and administration pushing what we call "The Gold Standard". The Gold Standard is what we are trying to reach with all of our students and athletes. Individuals/Programs that attain this will be honored at the end of year. THIS IS WHO WE ARE. The criteria for the Gold Standard is listed below:

Individual Goals

1. 3.0 GPA
2. NO Discipline Referrals
3. Summer Iron Cat
4. Participation in Community Service Events
5. NO Unsportsmanlike Conduct

6. Models Positive Body Language

Program Goals

1. 3.0 Team GPA
2. Less than 3 Discipline Referrals
3. 90% of team earned Summer Iron Cat
4. 90% of Team Participates in Community Service Events
5. Less than 2 Unsportsmanlike Conducts
6. Team Overwhelmingly Shows Positive Body Language

Participation

Eligibility to participate in activity contests between schools is a privilege that is attained by meeting the standards cooperatively set for this purpose by member schools of the Missouri State High School Activities Association.

Eligibility Standards:

- Per MSHSAA policy, a student who commits an act for which charges may be or have been filed by law enforcement authorities under any municipal ordinance, misdemeanor or felony statute shall not be eligible until all proceedings with the legal system have been concluded and any penalty (i.e., jail time, fine, court costs, etc.) or special condition of probation (i.e., restitution, community service, counseling, etc.) has been satisfied. If law enforcement authorities determine that charges will not be filed, eligibility will be contingent upon Diamond R-4 High School / Middle School policy. Minor moving traffic offenses shall not affect eligibility, unless they involve drugs, alcohol, accidents or injuries. After a student has completed all court appearances and penalties and has satisfied all special conditions of probation and remains under general probation only, local school authorities shall determine eligibility.
- A student who misses half the day on the date of a contest without being excused by the athletic department shall not be considered eligible to represent his/her school on that date.
- Any student who withdraws from school because of disciplinary measures shall not be considered eligible for any interscholastic activity for one full year from the date of withdrawal.
- To be eligible for the activity/athletic season, a student in grades 9-12 must be currently enrolled in courses that offer a total of three (3) units of credit, and he/she must have earned three (3) units of credit in courses that met the preceding semester. A beginning ninth (9th) grade student that has been promoted from the eighth (8th) grade to the ninth (9th) grade shall be granted eligibility for his/her first semester regardless of the three (3) units of credit rule referring to the previous semester.
- A student may be eligible in a public school only in the district in which his/her parents, legally established guardian, or the person with whom he/she has been living for one calendar year and is designated as the school for him/her to attend by the Board of Education
- Students cannot compete in any sport for more than four seasons or in any but the first eight semesters in which they are enrolled in high school, including special education.

- Diamond High School expects all students to have passing grades. Therefore, if a student has a failing grade at the 3-week grade check, the student will be placed on academic probation. During the probationary period, the student may participate in practice and competition. If the student continues to have a failing grade at the next grade check, the student will be academically ineligible to participate in any MSHSAA-sanctioned activities or any other extra-curricular event. The student may practice during the ineligibility period in hopes of regaining eligibility. Ineligibility will last at a minimum until the next 3-week grade check if there are no failing grades at that time.
- Students who represent a school in interscholastic activities must be creditable citizens and judged so by the proper authority. Those students whose character or conduct is such as to reflect discredit upon themselves or their schools are not considered "creditable citizens." Conduct shall be satisfactory in accord with the standards of good discipline.
- Each student is responsible to notify the school of any and all situations that would affect his/her eligibility under the above standards. If the student does not notify the school of the situation prior to the school's discovery, then the student shall be ineligible for up to 365 days from discovery, pending review by the Board of Directors at MSHSAA. These rules and regulations apply 365 days a year, in school and out of school. Any violation of the Diamond Athletic Standards and/or MSHSAA standards during the entire year (365 days) will result in consequences handed down by MSHSAA and/or Diamond R-4 School District. If the violation occurs during the "off-season" for the student, then the consequences will carry over to the next season in which the student will participate

Physical Exams and Insurance Requirements

- The school shall require of each student participating in athletics a certificate of an issued physical signed and authorized by a physician, advanced nurse practitioner in written collaborative practice with a physician, or a certified physician's assistant in collaboration with a sponsoring physician stating that the individual is physically able to participate in athletic practices and contests of his/her school. A student shall not be permitted to practice or compete for a school until a complete, signed certificate is on file at the school. The medical certificate is valid for two years (730 days) from the date of issue for the purpose of this rule.
- A student shall not be permitted to practice or compete for a school until it has verification that he or she has basic athletic insurance coverage.

General Rules

- Students are free to make their own selections as to activities in which they wish to participate. It is the R-IV policy that students facing a conflict between two R-IV sponsored activities will be given the choice of which to attend. Certain school activities (to be determined by the administrators) will have priority. Students are not to be penalized by the activity not attended.
- A student who has gone out for a sport but quits of his/her own accord, will not be penalized if

competition (meets, games, matches) have not begun. He/She may participate in another sport during this time if the coach of the team approves. It will be the coach's decision.

- Should a student decide to drop from an activity during the regular playing season, the student will be required to participate in an exit interview. The interview will be conducted by the building Principal or the District Athletic Director. Failure to attend the exit interview will result in the student not being allowed to participate in another activity until completion of the exit interview. The student will not be allowed to attend open gym, or attend any practices for a following season sport until the sport that was dropped has been completed.

Participation in Multiple School Activities

There are students who may wish to participate in more than one activity during a given season, i.e., football and cross country. The Diamond R-IV School District will consent to this under the following conditions:

- Consents are given by the parents/guardians
- The student must select a primary sport or activity.
- Students must agree that, in the event there is a conflict as to competition dates for the two activities, then, and in such events, the student must participate in the event relating to the primary activity selected by the student.
- All MSHSAA requirements for participation in multiple events have been met.

Participation in School and Non School Activities

Per MSHSAA, students are not allowed to participate in the same sport in the same season. For example, you can't play school baseball and travel or club baseball at the same time. Violation of this rule can result in up to a 365 day suspension in that sport.

You are allowed to participate in a different sport during a school sports season. However, students can't miss school activities to participate in non school activities. Violation of this policy will result in:

1st Offense - Athlete must sit out of 10% of the season competitions

2nd Offense - Athlete must sit out of 25% of the season competitions

3rd Offense - Suspension for remainder of season. Could be up to 365 days in that sport.

Transfers

A student who has transferred to the Diamond R-4 School District from another school within the last 365 days must notify his/her coach and complete the transfer of eligibility form in the athletic office. If you transfer schools and your parents do not move into the district of your new school, you will be ineligible for 365 days unless you meet one of the exceptions listed by the MSHSAA hardship standards

This is only a partial list of standards, but these are the rules that generate the most questions. All standards of eligibility are listed in the MSHSAA Handbook. The principal and the activities director in conjunction with the Missouri State High School Activities Association will interpret any special cases that develop.

Sportsmanship

Diamond R-IV School District is a member of the Southwest Conference and the Missouri State High School Activities Association. As members of these groups we adhere to policies established for the display of good sportsmanship by athletes, students, fans, parents, and patrons. Member schools are to enforce sportsmanship rules for our own school, players, and spectators. Violation of rules can result in the following consequences: written reprimand, probation, suspension, ejection, or permanent removal from events. Consequences are enforced for players, coaches, students, and fans.

All school discipline policies and rules apply to Diamond R-IV students at school activities whether they are held on school property or away from school, Athletes are expected to uphold these policies 365 days a year.

Diamond R-IV Sportsmanship Code

1. Maintain pride in self and school.
2. Strive to keep high standards of conduct.
3. Cheering is always encouraged for one's own team.
4. Treat everyone with respect.
5. Abide by the decisions of the officials.
6. Accept victory and defeat graciously.

Responsibilities

1. Strive to achieve sound citizenship and desirable social traits, including emotional control, honesty, cooperation, dependability, and respect for others and their abilities.
2. Maintaining academic citizenship and eligibility standards as established by the Missouri State High School Activities Association and Diamond R-IV Schools.
3. Learning the spirit of hard work and sacrifice.
4. Learning to attain physical fitness through good health habits.
5. Desiring to excel to the limits of your potential.
6. Showing respect for both authority and property.
7. Be willing to accept the leadership role that is instilled through the activities program.

You have an obligation to create a favorable image and gain the respect of your teammates, the student body, and the Diamond community.

Students who represent a school in interscholastic activities must be creditable citizens and judged so by the proper authority. Those students whose character or conduct is such as to reflect discredit upon themselves or their schools are not considered "creditable citizens." Conduct shall be satisfactory in accord with the standards of good discipline. Students who do not conduct themselves with good citizenship risk losing the privilege to represent the Diamond School District.

CONDITIONS

Transportation

All students will be transported to and from respective activities via school transportation unless approved by the Coach and School Administrator . Parents/Guardians may sign their student out at the conclusion of an event. Students can only be signed out by their respective parent/guardian. The only exception to this is when a parent completes an alternative transportation form prior to the event. Failure to sign out after an event can result in disciplinary action.

Care of Equipment and Facilities

Students are responsible for the equipment issued to them. They will pay for the abuse and destruction of any school equipment. They are financially responsible for all equipment or gear issued by the school that is not properly returned. Payment or return of gear must be made before a student progresses from that sport or activity to the next sport or activity season. Uniforms and practice gear are expected to be worn only for the purposes for which they have been issued.

Coaches and students are responsible for taking care of our facilities. We need to be proud of what we have and take care of it if we expect to ever get nicer facilities. All areas are expected to be clean and organized. This includes coaches offices, locker rooms, gyms, equipment closets, the mezzanine, and fields. If you use a facility then make sure it's cleaned up when you leave. Leave it better than you found it. Things get busy and won't always be perfect, but the expectation is we keep our facilities clean and organized at all times.

Additional Information

Athletic Lettering

It is expected that all coaches/sponsors review what their requirements are for achieving a letter in a sport/activity. All coaches will expect students to be a good citizen both in and out of school, be a viable contributor to the team on the level that the student desires to letter, and in regular attendance at both practices and competitions. Exceptions to the individual coach's requirements may involve the activities director and/or principal.

Supervision Policy

No individual student, team, or activity group shall be permitted to participate in events without being accompanied and supervised by a representative of the school faculty or administrative staff. The activity staff is responsible for supervision of groups while on the bus traveling to and from events, while at the events, and until the students' rides arrive. Activities may not occur without school representative supervision. This includes but is not exclusive to: practices, meetings, performances, contests, and bus transportation.

Sponsorship includes the coach/staff advisor riding the bus, accompanying the activity and/or supervising any activity under the sponsorship of a particular department. Sponsorship may necessitate the coach/advisor procuring assistance from within his/her own department and/or activity personnel. It is the responsibility of the coach/advisor to cover his/her events.

Curricular/Co-Curricular Organizations

Some organizations fall under both academic class guidelines **as well as** activity guidelines and requirements because a class period is given to the organization as well as academic credit. Such classes have academic objectives and independent grading criteria. Students enrolled in these courses may have other required expectations. The individual staff advisors will acquaint the students with the full scope of responsibilities in these activities and classrooms.

Summer Activities

Diamond R-IV believes successful athletic programs are built through year-round development. Summer provides valuable opportunities for student-athletes to improve their skills, enhance strength and conditioning, and build positive relationships with teammates and coaches.

The Head Varsity Coach of each sport is responsible for planning and providing appropriate

instructional opportunities for incoming 7th-12th grade student-athletes during the summer. These opportunities should support the long-term development of the program while remaining in full compliance with all Missouri State High School Activities Association (MSHSAA) bylaws and regulations.

The coaching staff may work with incoming 7th through 12th grade student-athletes during the summer. Coaches are permitted a maximum of 20 contact days per sport, per gender, as defined by MSHSAA. Conditioning and strength training activities that comply with MSHSAA bylaws do not count toward the 20-contact-day limitation.

Home School

- Proof of Residency Documentation Prior to the start of any activity: The parent/guardian must provide current proof of residency within the Diamond R-4 School District. Acceptable documents include utility bills, lease agreements, or other legal documents showing the family resides within district boundaries. Documentation must be submitted before the first official practice and will be kept on file with the Athletic Department.
- Random Drug Testing Program Mandatory Participation for All Students Participating in an Activity In compliance with Missouri SB 63 and district policy: All students participating in an activity will be enrolled in the Diamond R-4 School District Random Drug Testing Program.
- Academic Eligibility Monitoring Parental Reporting Requirement To promote academic integrity and eligibility compliance: Parents are responsible for reporting their student-athlete's academic status to the Athletic Director at each scheduled grade check period (as defined by the school calendar or coach communication) Failure to report academic eligibility may lead to temporary suspension until status is verified.
- Participation in Required Classes and Activities Attendance and Enrollment Requirements In order to participate in specific school activities, students will be required to enroll in and attend any classes that are a prerequisite or directly related to the activity. These may include: Fine arts activities , Career and technical student organizations (FTA, FFA, Band, Choir)
- Eligibility Restriction After Leaving the School If a student leaves Diamond R-4 School District because they are failing academically or have been disciplined—and then switches to a homeschool, private instruction (FPE), or full-time virtual school—they will not be allowed to play sports or take part in school activities at Diamond R-4 School District for 12 months after leaving.

Parent/Sponsor Communication

Expected Communication from Parents:

- Concerns expressed directly to the coach/sponsor.
- Notification of any schedule conflicts well in advance.

- Specific concern in regard to a coach's/sponsor's philosophy and/or expectations.

- If you as a parent have a concern, take time to talk with coaches in an appropriate manner including proper time and place, being sure to follow the designated chain of command.

Appropriate Concerns to Discuss with Coach/Sponsor

- The treatment of your student mentally and physically.
- Ways to help your student improve.
- Concerns about your student's behavior.

There are situations that may require a conference between the coach/sponsor and the parents. These are encouraged only after the student has had a conversation with the coach first. It is important that both parties involved have a clear understanding of the other's position. Everyone involved is expected to be respectful, recognize and show appreciation for the other's role, and to reinforce the school's Activity/Athletic Code of Conduct and policies and procedures as outlined in this handbook. When these conferences are necessary, the following procedures should be followed to help promote a resolution to the issue of concern.

- The student schedules a conference with the coach to discuss concerns.
- If that does not provide satisfactory resolution then the parent needs to set an appointment with the coach/sponsor. Do NOT approach a coach before or after a contest. The student needs to be present at the conference with the coach/sponsor and parent.
- If the meeting with the coach/sponsor did not provide a satisfactory resolution, call and set an appointment with the Activities Director, Kelsey Parrish 417-325-5186 to discuss the situation. The appropriate next step can be determined at this meeting

Citizenship/Disciplinary Actions

Attendance

Participants are required to attend practice regularly to be a part of a team. An athlete with an excused absence will still have extra conditioning, not as punishment, but to make up for what was missed. To be excused, it must be approved by the coach **prior to** the absence. Unexcused absences will adhere to the following guidelines. Excessive unexcused absences can result in suspension or expulsion from the team.

Tardies

Unless approved by the coach, you are expected to be at practice on time everyday. Failure to do so will result in consequences.

Language/Disrespect/Unsportsmanlike Action

Cussing, foul or derogatory language, disrespect, and unsportsmanlike behavior will not be

tolerated. The disciplinary action will be determined by severity of the offense and the discretion of the coach and/or administration.

ISS/OSS

Students who receive Out of School Suspension will be suspended from participation in all extra-curricular activities during the required OSS days. Students who receive ISS will be allowed to practice during this time, however will not be allowed to participate in school events/contests for the original day they are assigned. Students serving ISS will also not be allowed to leave school early.

Tobacco, Alcohol, and Drug Use

The possession or use of alcohol, tobacco, or non-prescriptive drugs is known to be detrimental to the individual as well as the team he/she represents. **This is a year round commitment.** Therefore, disciplinary action will be taken. The disciplinary consequences are listed below. Athletics and Activities are a privilege and the administration has the authority to deviate from the tiered consequences if extenuating circumstances warrant.

Tobacco Related Offense:

1st Offense: 10% of regular season competition of current or next activity.

2nd Offense: 20% of regular season competition of current or next activity.

3rd Offense: 365 day suspension of activities-student may appeal in 6 months.

Alcohol Related Offense:

1st offense: 25% of regular season competition of current or next activity

2nd offense: 50% of regular season competition of current or next activity

3rd offense: 365-day suspension of activities-student may appeal in 6 months

Tobacco and Alcohol Violations Summary:

A season will be designated as the MSHSAA regular season and post season. If the infraction occurs with anything less than the consequence remaining in the season the percentage of games for that consequence will be applied extending into the next sport or season. The tiered consequences of a student's violation will be for one calendar year from the date of infraction. (For example a violation occurring in the winter of the sophomore year will carry through the winter of the student's junior season) The enforcement of this policy will be for 365 days a year both on and off campus. This includes when school is in and out of session. Including winter, spring and summer breaks etc. Students are expected to attend practice/competitions during their suspension. If a student decides to quit, then the suspension will carry over to the next activity they participate in. Students are not allowed to "dress out" during competition while suspended.

Drug Related Offense:

1st Offense- 40% of regular season competition of current or next activity

2nd Offense- 365 day suspension of activities-student may appeal in 6 months

3rd Offense- Permanent Removal from all extra-curricular programs

Drug Violations Summary:

Drug violations govern all years of participation. For example, a student receiving a violation during his/her freshman year, a second violation during his/her sophomore year, a third violation during his/her junior or senior year would constitute a suspension from activities the remainder of his/her years of enrollment.

If a student violates the drug policy, they must be drug tested by the school's contracted drug testing service within 30 days from the date that the consequence was given to be reinstated into the extra-curricular program. If such a test is positive, then it will be considered a subsequent offense. If he/she refuses to be retested, the student will be ineligible for the next 365 days.

If a student, at his or her own expense participates in an approved substance abuse counseling or rehabilitation program they may have the suspension reduced pending approval by the Superintendent. Counseling programs must be approved by the Missouri Department of Mental Health, Division of Alcohol and Drug Abuse. The parents/guardians must provide written verification. If a student does not attend counseling as promised, then the original consequences will be immediately implemented.

All Students who participate in activities must submit a drug testing consent form. We do random drug testing once a month through Tomo Drug Testing out of Springfield.

Theft

Theft of \$200 (or worth) or less will be treated as a Tobacco offense

Theft of more than \$200 (or worth) will be treated as an Alcohol violation.

Law Enforcement

Any student who is arrested for a felony or gross misdemeanor may be denied the privilege of participation in all extra-curricular activities for a period determined by the Principal and/or Athletic Director. Students who violate the law will have consequences even if they are not arrested or no charges are filed. It is the student's obligation to report all incidents, even if not charged, to their coaches immediately. Penalty for not reporting the incident could be suspended up to 365 days.

ISS/OSS

Students who receive Out of School Suspension will be suspended from participation in all extra-curricular activities during the required OSS days. Students who receive ISS will be allowed to practice during this time, however, will not be allowed to participate in school events/contests.

Suspension or Removal from a Team

A student may be removed from the team or suspended from participation by the Diamond R-IV District if it is determined by the district administrative team, or a member thereof (including the Athletic Director) that the student:

1. Engaged in any activity that was contrary to any part of these policies, including the references in these policies to sportsmanship and citizenship;
2. Engaged in any activity detrimental to the team and/or the positive educational environment sought for the program;
3. Grossly disrespected any coach, player, fan, official, or any administrator.

Social Media

Playing, competing, and being involved in athletics and co-curricular activities is a privilege. Students representing the Diamond R-4 School District are held to the highest regard and are seen as role models in the community. Diamond R-4 School District and the Athletic Department recognize and support the student athletes' rights to freedom of speech, expression, and association, including the use of social networks. As a student-athlete, you represent the school district and you are expected to portray yourself, your team, your school, and the school district in a positive manner at all times.

Students should be aware that third parties, including the media, faculty, and future employers, could easily access your profiles and view all personal information. This includes all pictures, videos, comments, and posts. Inappropriate material found by third parties affects the perception of the student, your coach/sponsor, your school, and the district. This can also be detrimental to a student's future employment options, whether in professional or other industries.

Examples of inappropriate and offensive behaviors concerning participation in online communities may include but are not limited to depictions or presentation of the following:

- Photos, videos, comments, or posts showing the personal use of alcohol, drugs, and tobacco or that condone such activity.
- Photos, videos, and comments of a sexual nature.
- Content online that is unsportsmanlike, derogatory, demeaning or threatening toward any other individual or entity
- No posts should depict or encourage unacceptable, violent, or illegal activities such as hazing, sexual harassment/assault, gambling, discrimination, fighting, vandalism, academic dishonesty, underage drinking, full or partial nudity, inappropriate gestures, stalking, and selling,

possessing, or using controlled substances; or any other inappropriate behavior (including the use of profanity).

Consequences will be determined based on the severity of the infraction and may include suspension or dismissal from the athletic team or activities.

Any other issues that arise that are not specifically outlined in this handbook will be dealt with on a case by case basis. In any case, the severity of the infraction can result in disciplinary action skipping steps as outlined. Most infractions will be dealt with by using the policy we feel is most closely related to the incident.

Acknowledgement of Activity Rules and Guidelines

Activities Covered Under This Handbook

All MSHSAA Athletics and Activities

All School Sponsored Clubs and Organizations

1. I understand that participation in District sponsored activities and the District athletic teams is a privilege and not a legally protected right.
2. I agree that I will refrain from participating in student hazing or harassing activities as a participant or observer. I understand that violation of the District's hazing policy may result in suspension or removal from participation in all activities.
3. I acknowledge that any violation of the rules of the District or Activities Handbook may result in suspension or removal from any and all activities depending on the nature of the violation. I further agree that, subject to an opportunity to present the student's version of the alleged violation, the decision of the District concerning suspension and duration of suspension is final.
4. I acknowledge and agree that my son or daughter will participate in the random drug testing program for the duration of the school year in which they participate in any activity. Tomo Drug Testing in Springfield is the company used by the district. If a student is withdrawn from the drug testing program, they will no longer be eligible to participate in any school sponsored sport or activity.
5. I acknowledge and agree that I, the parent, will abide by the parent code of conduct and follow the six step parent protocol when needed.

Student Name _____

Student Signature _____ Date _____

Parent Name _____

Parent Signature _____ Date _____