

2024-25 Student Activities 7-12

Cedar Rapids Prairie High School

Activities Handbook, Updated June 2024



Student Activities Handbook

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Organization and Administration

Iowa High School Athletic Association - Iowa Girls' High School Athletic Union Iowa High School Speech Association - Iowa High School Music Association

Prairie High School is a member of the Iowa High School Athletic Association, the Iowa Girls High School Athletic Union, the Iowa High School Speech Association, and the Iowa High School Music Association. The purpose of these organizations is to promote, develop, direct, protect, and regulate amateur interscholastic athletic, music, and speech activity relationships between member schools and to stimulate fair play, friendly rivalry, and good sportsmanship among contestants, schools, and communities throughout the state.

Mississippi Valley Conference

Prairie High School is a member of the Mississippi Valley Conference composed of fifteen high schools and two divisions: Valley Division and Mississippi Division. These schools consist of: C.R. Jefferson, C.R. Washington, Linn-Mar, I.C. West, Waterloo West, Cedar Falls, Dubuque Hempstead, C.R. Xavier, C.R. Kennedy, I. C. High, C.R. Prairie, Dubuque Senior, Dubuque Wahlert, I.C. Liberty and Western Dubuque. (Division alignments rotate every two years)

The College Community Schools

The Board of Education, responsible directly to the people, is the educational agency for the public schools. It has ultimate jurisdiction over athletics, which are an integral part of the total educational program of the College Community School District.

Superintendent of Schools

The executive function is delegated to the Superintendent of Schools, who is charged with the responsibility for devising ways and means of executing efficiently the policies adopted by the Board of Education.

The Superintendent recommends to the Board of Education the appointment of all personnel who are given any responsibility for handling interscholastic athletics approves all policies and procedures recommended by their staff and is directly responsible to the Board of Education for the successful performance of the organization.

High School Principal

The high school principal, as the administrative head of the school, is the head of all activities in the school, including athletics. Responsibility for the day-to-day operation of the athletic program is given to the activities director.

Statement of Philosophy

The College Community School District believes that activities are an integral part of the total educational process. Activities are meant to provide Prairie students with quality educational experiences. It is a goal of Prairie activities to assist students in the development of habits, attitudes, and ideas necessary to compete and get along in today's society. Activities should provide our students with the opportunity to learn self-discipline, teamwork, sacrifice, and loyalty to their peers.

The right to participate is open to all students. However, once students make a commitment to participate in an activity, the right becomes a privilege. When the students are granted this privilege, they accept the responsibility of following

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behavior guidelines outlined in policies and rules established for the administration of co-curricular and extracurricular programs.

Because the participants represent Prairie in co-curricular and extracurricular activities, they are expected to have even more stringent and demanding behavior codes than non-participating students.

Prairie Students Involved in Multiple Activities Simultaneously

We believe that co-curricular and extracurricular activities all contribute to the total growth and development of our students, provided these activities are conducted from a balanced educational perspective. It is our intention to encourage and support our students' experiences through participation in as many activities as they are interested in and able to successfully manage.

Coaches/directors/sponsors will provide encouragement and support through communicating with each other to avoid and/or resolve conflicts that may occur in the scheduling of practices, rehearsals, games, concerts, performances, and competitions. Additionally, no student will incur a penalty or punishment of any kind due to a compromise resulting from conflicting schedules. As a general rule, Iowa high school-sponsored state events or competitions will be given priority. However, coaches, directors, and sponsors may consider other factors in their efforts to reach the best resolution for the student(s) involved.

It is also recognized that it is the responsibility of the student who chooses to be involved in multiple activities to notify each appropriate coach/director/sponsor of potential conflicts. This notification should be done by providing sufficient time and opportunity for coaches/directors/sponsors to then arrange an appropriate compromise in the best interest of the student(s) involved. This compromise should be worked out between the student, adult, sponsors, directors, or coaches involved.

Activities Governing Committee

An activities governing committee, appointed by the activities director and including a counselor, a coach, a director, a sponsor, two faculty members, and an administrator will meet as needed to deal with questions of eligibility, course credits, discipline, etc. The governing committee members will serve a minimum two-year term. The committee will convene at the request of the activities director to review appeals.

Any student who feels that his/her circumstances are unique as to wish to have the situation heard by the Activities Governing Committee should fill out an [appeal form](#) which may be obtained in the Activities office. This appeal shall be processed within three (3) school days of the date the appeal is filed. The student will not be allowed to participate in any contest during the appeal process but will be allowed to participate in the practice sessions.

The committee will meet in closed session prior to inviting the student to participate in the committee proceedings. If a student is not satisfied with the committee's decision, he/she has a right to due process.

Awards

Prairie High School will provide awards to student activity participants who have been recommended for appropriate recognition by their coach/sponsor/director and who have successfully completed the season or activity.

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Changing Sports

Student/athletes will be allowed to transfer from one sport to another during a given season only upon mutual agreement of both coaches and with the approval of the activities director. The following procedures should be adhered to if a student wishes to change sports:

1. Notify the coach immediately,
2. Turn in all school gear that has been issued,
3. Empty the locker and remove the padlock.

NOTE: If a student wishes to quit a sport without the permission of the coach and the activities director, they will not be eligible to participate in the next sport until the season of the sport which they quit has been completed.

Due Process

Individual rights granted by the Constitution of the United States are granted to all people regardless of age, sex, race, or creed. The essential rights involved in disciplinary procedures stem from the concept of due process. Under this concept, student/athletes are entitled to:

- know what the rules and regulations are;
- be notified of the charges and be provided the opportunity to respond to those charges;
- have counsel if the appeal;
- appeal a decision about the charges to a higher level and have the charges or penalties removed from the record if the evidence demonstrates innocence.

Throughout the procedure the student/athlete should be made to feel that only the behavior is being questioned, not the value of the student/athlete as an individual process.

Eligibility/Behavior/Attendance

Academic

All 9-12 students involved in athletics, speech, drama, vocal, and instrumental music are expected to be passing their classes. Post-secondary enrollment classes, taken either on or off campus, are given the same credit as regular classes and also apply to eligibility guidelines. Coaches/directors/sponsors are permitted to use discretion in applying participation restrictions to any student-participant if they deem the student is not demonstrating appropriate academic progress toward achieving a passing grade for the semester.

18 Week Check

Semester eligibility is based on the [Iowa Department of Education "Scholarship Rule" 36.15\(2\)](#) and will go into effect when semester grades are posted on the transcript (please see the section entitled "The Scholarship Rule"). Eligibility will be restored if students improve their grades to pass before final semester grades are posted. Students not receiving credit in at least 4 classes and/or F posted on a transcript will not be eligible for a mandatory 20 calendar days "no pass, no play" policy.

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Attendance

A student's privileges (included but not limited to participation in athletics, fine arts, and open campus) may be restricted if attendance is a concern. Regular attendance is required to receive credit for courses.

It is important that a student display regular and punctual attendance in order to be successful in school and beyond. Because of this, the school has strong expectations for your attendance and timeliness. If you know your student is going to be absent or miss any part of the school day, please contact our attendance clerk

Students who wish to participate in school-sponsored activities must attend school at least the second half of the school day on the day of the activity, unless the absence is school related or the student has been given prior approval to be deemed absent by the Truancy Officer, Principal or principal designee.

It shall be the responsibility of the parent / legal guardian to notify the student's attendance center as soon as the parent / legal guardian knows the student will not be attending school on that day. The Truancy Officer, Principal or principal designee may request evidence or written verification of the student's reasons for absence (Board Policy 501.09).

Athletic Registration

In order for student-athletes to be able to participate in athletics for the upcoming school year, they must be registered each year after July 1 and cleared through the online athletic registration system.

<https://phs.cprairie.org/athletics/athletic-registration/> **All the required forms need to be completed as a part of the registration. Required forms include a current physical form, a Concussion form, and a handbook sign-off.**

Activity Behavior Matrix

Good Conduct

Prairie Point Middle School and 9th Grade Academy and the High School activities that will be included are all athletics, speech, drama, vocal music, and instrumental music.

ANY STUDENT, through his/her habits or conduct, who is not able to represent the ideals, principles, and standards of Prairie High School may be declared ineligible for activities by the principals or superintendent until he/she is capable of upholding the high ideals and principles of the school. The Good Conduct Rule covers twelve (12) months--during activity seasons, between activity seasons, and during the summer months. The policy begins on the first day of high school eligibility and continues through the completion of their high school eligibility.

Alcohol, Tobacco Products & Drugs:

In the event a Prairie student involved in activities admits to or is found guilty of using or being in possession of alcohol, tobacco products, or illegal drugs, the student shall immediately be declared ineligible for participation in interscholastic activities for a period as outlined.

First Offense

Will be 1/3 of the season or the next season if not currently involved. (The next season is that in which the student is involved in or was involved in the previous year and/or has attended the organizational meeting). Students may lessen their suspension to 1/5 of the contest or events by admitting or reporting the infraction to the Principal, AD, Director, Sponsor, or Coach within 24

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hours of the infraction. (Tournaments count as one contest or date). If a suspension is not fulfilled during a current season, it will carry over into the student's next season. The student/athlete must complete the season in good standing. If the student/athlete does not finish the season, then the suspension will carry over to the next activity.

Second Offense

This will result in the student being ineligible for one calendar year from the date of the second infraction. Students can lessen their period of ineligibility to $\frac{1}{3}$ of their current or next season if they are enrolled in and successfully completing a drug and/or alcohol treatment program. This program will be at the student and/or parent/guardian's expense and will be monitored by a Prairie High School guidance counselor. (Tournaments count as one contest or date). If the total suspension is not fulfilled during a current season it will carry over into the student's next activity. (The next season is that in which the student is involved in or was involved in the previous year and/or has attended the organizational meeting).

Third Offense

This will result in the student being declared ineligible for the rest of their high school career unless they complete an approved drug/alcohol treatment program within one year. If completed, the period of ineligibility will be one calendar year from the date of the third infraction for both categories one and two. This program will be at the student's or guardian's expense and will be monitored by a Prairie High School guidance counselor.

If a student is involved in multiple activities that coincide, the appropriate suspension will apply to each activity simultaneously.

Involvement with Law Enforcement Agencies:

Based on conviction and excluding minor traffic violations:

Misdemeanors

The length of the ineligibility shall be one-third of the season. If less than one-third of that season remains, ineligibility will carry over to the next sport. A student must complete that sport in good standing at the coach's discretion.

Felony and/or Delinquent Act

The length of the ineligibility shall be one calendar year from the date of the infraction subject to review by the coach and administration if it is found there are extenuating circumstances.

Theft

Treated as a misdemeanor or felony.

Any Prairie student who has been charged with a felony and/or serious delinquent act and is awaiting trial may be declared eligible by school officials. The incident underlying the charge will be investigated by school officials and the student will be given an opportunity to tell his/her account of the incident or charges. The administration will then determine if the student has violated the "Good Conduct Policy" and determine if the student will be allowed to represent Prairie High School in any public performance or activity.

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Other eligibility requirements, as set forth by the State Association

You are NOT eligible if...

- you do not have a physician's certificate of fitness issued this school year, or if you are twenty years of age or over.
- you have attended high school for more than eight semesters. (Twenty days of attendance or playing in one contest constitutes a semester).
- you changed schools this semester (except upon like change of residence of your parents).
- you were out of school last semester or if you entered school this semester later than the second week of school.
- you have ever accepted an award for your high school participation from an outside group other than an inexpensive, unframed, unmounted paper certificate of recognition, or if you have ever received any money for expenses or otherwise for your participation in any athletic contest.
- you have competed, outside school time, as a team member or as an individual while out for a sport and during that sport season without the previous written consent of your principal.
- you have ever trained with a college squad or participated in a college event.
- you are not passing 2.0 Credits or 20 hours of the semester. If a student is not passing twenty hours or 2.0 Credits for the semester, they will be ineligible for the entire next semester.
- your habits and conduct both in and out of school are such as to make you unworthy to represent the ideals, principles, and standards of your school.
- ineligible under your previous school's academic or good conduct rule and transfer to Prairie High School. Your period of ineligibility transfers with you to Prairie High School. After the period of ineligibility is completed, you will be treated as any other Prairie student who has had his/her eligibility reinstated.

Local school rules may be more restrictive than those of the Iowa High School Athletic Association or the Iowa Girls High School Athletic Union.

Ejection

Ejection from Athletic Contest

Any student/athlete found guilty will face the State Rule:

"Any student disqualified from an interscholastic contest by game officials for flagrant, violent, or verbal misconduct will be ineligible for the next regularly scheduled game/meet at that level of competition and all other games/meets in the interim at any level in addition to any other penalties the IHSAA or the school may assess. The second violation carries a four (4) regularly scheduled game/meet ineligibility."

The student/athlete will be required to complete the [NFHS Sportsmanship video](#) and send the certificate of completion to the AD. The certificate of completion will be sent to the IHSAA. The course must be completed before the student/athlete is eligible to participate.

Equipment

Athletic & Activity Equipment

- Students will be responsible for the care of and the return of school-issued equipment.

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- All equipment will be returned at the end of the season, or on quitting the sport or activity.
- Any equipment lost or destroyed through negligence will be paid for by the student. The cost of the equipment will be determined by the activities director and will be based on the replacement cost of the equipment.
- Any equipment not returned or damaged and not reimbursed for will be added to the student's school fees. (All fees must be paid before graduation).
- School-owned equipment is to be worn only at scheduled practices or games/meets or as designated by the coach/director/advisor.
- Students found wearing school-owned equipment in public, other than practices or games/meets, may subject themselves to disciplinary action.

Health

Athletic Trainer

A part-time trainer is provided by Prairie High School. It is the student athlete's responsibility to find out from their coach what hours the trainer is available, as the trainer's availability varies from athletic season to season.

Baseline Concussion Testing

Baseline Concussion Testing is available through the Activities Office. A notice will be emailed out to 7-12 parents before the start of the year/practices to sign up for the Impact Baseline testing. Tests are good for two years.

Injury Report

It is the student-athlete's responsibility to report any suspected injury to the coach. Student-athletes receiving attention for an injury not deemed of a serious nature are responsible for sharing this information with parents. In the event an injury is determined to be of such a nature that requires further medical attention and/or monitoring by parents, the trainer or coach will make timely communication to the parents to ensure the proper chain of custody care is established to ensure the well-being of the student-athlete.

Physicals

The State Athletic Association requires all student-athletes to have a physical exam before starting athletic practices each year. **Physicals are good for one calendar year.** NOTE: Please attempt to schedule physicals on May 1st or later to be good for the upcoming school year.

Student-athletes who are unable to show proof of a valid and current physical, proper insurance coverage, or waiver of coverage, along with parental permission to participate in the athletic activity and acknowledgment of reading and understanding the student activities handbook will not be allowed to participate with the team.

Insurance

The Prairie High School policy requires all student-athletes to be covered by insurance (health and accident). This can be done in two ways:

1. By having family insurance.
2. Subscribe to insurance through the school.

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- a. Football players can get football insurance policies through the high school office. This covers only football injuries.
- b. All other sports are covered by the school time insurance, which is offered through the school each year at a nominal rate.

Proof of Insurance

All Prairie High School students must have completed and signed a district insurance waiver acknowledging that they either have adequate insurance coverage or will be purchasing insurance. Application forms are available in the high school office.

Personal Appearance

Is up to the discretion of the coach/director/sponsor to establish reasonable and appropriate guidelines for any group under their care that is representing Prairie High School.

Student-Athlete Parent Expectations

How I Can Help My Child's Athletic Experience?

- Allow your child to perform and progress at a level consistent with their ability. Athletes mature at different ages and some are more gifted than others.
- Teach your child to enjoy the thrill of competition and that improving skills and attitude are important.
- Don't relive your athletic life through your child! This creates added pressure that your child does not need. This is your child's experience, let them enjoy it.
- Don't compete with the coach. Keep in mind that they are balancing the development of your child with the growth and progress of an entire athletic team. Often coaches have many considerations that are not obvious to parents.
- Remember, young athletes tend to exaggerate when being praised and/or criticized. Temper your reaction until you investigate.
- An athlete's self-confidence and self-image will be improved by support at home. Comparison to others is discouraged.
- Encourage the athlete to do their best regardless of family or friends who may have been outstanding players.
- Insist on positive behavior in school and a high level of performance in the classroom. Numerous studies indicate extracurricular involvement helps enhance academic performance.

The job of an athlete's parent is tough and takes a lot of effort to do it well. However, it is worth the effort when you hear your child say, "My parents really helped. I am lucky in this respect."

I am Ready for the Game

- Cheer for our team and players. Opponents and referees deserve respect. Realize that players and officials will make mistakes. Your support is needed when things aren't going well.

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- Concentrate on what is best for the team. Preoccupation with statistics can be very distracting.
- Attempting to communicate with coaches, players, or officials during a game only creates tension and is completely unacceptable. Be a respectful spectator.
- Conduct that draws unwanted attention to oneself usually leads to embarrassment for your child. Please keep their well-being in mind at all times. Don't jeopardize losing the opportunity to watch your child participate.

How Do I Communicate the Right Way?

Coaches have the authority over who becomes a participant in the team and when the participant plays or is removed from the team. The coaching staff determines the coaching strategy, what positions athletes play, and playing time. Acceptance of a position on the team includes acceptance of this policy. It is a privilege, not a right, to be a member of an athletic team.

Appropriate concerns to discuss with coaches:

- Situations involving your child.
- Ways to help your child improve.
- Your child's attitude, work ethic, and eligibility.
- Concerns about your child's behavior

Issues that are not appropriate to discuss with coaches or AD:

- Playing time of any student-athlete
- What position a student-athlete plays
- Team strategy, practice organization, or play calling.
- Other student-athletes

Procedures to follow if there is a concern to discuss with a coach:

1. Your child should speak to the coach about an issue before you intervene. This will help our student-athletes grow into young adults.
2. Contact the coach to set up an appointment. Give the coach a brief summary of what you want to discuss. This enables the coach to prepare to give you the best possible answers to your question(s). If the coach cannot be reached, contact the athletic director. The athletic director will assist you in arranging a meeting. Coaches will not talk to you unless you have arranged an appointment.
3. If a meeting with the coach did not provide a satisfactory resolution, call to schedule an appointment with the athletic director to discuss the situation.

The 24-hour Rule will be utilized for any in-season communication with the coaching staff. Contact with the coaching staff will not be allowed until 24 hours after an athletic event. The only exception to this rule is reporting an injury, illness, or emergency situation.

Sportsmanship Policy

The College Community School District recognizes the importance of emphasizing GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP in all aspects of school-related activities. With this in mind, the following are fundamentals of good sportsmanship in all activities that the district urges fans, spectators, participants, staff members, and parents to follow:

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- Gain an understanding and appreciation for the rules of the game.
- Exercise positive behavior at all times.
- Recognize and appreciate skilled performances regardless of affiliation.
- Exhibit respect for the opponents and officials at all times.
- Openly display pride in your actions at every opportunity.

Unacceptable behavior shall include, but not be limited to, the following types of conduct. Such conduct will result in removal from the activity:

- Insubordination to referees, coaches, or other school personnel supervising the activity.
- Fighting, intimidation of, or attempt to intimidate, or taunting of referees, coaches, players, participants, or spectators.
- Throwing debris or littering the playing field or facility.
- Verbal abuse or use of profane or obscene words or gestures before, during, or after a game or activity.
- Disruptive behavior or conduct.

The College Community School District will not tolerate any violations of the above. Good sportsmanship is expected from everyone before, during, or after any interscholastic contest or other school-related activity in our schools or any other place our students are competing/participating. During or immediately after an event is NOT the proper time to raise questions or concerns about a program. Violations of any of the above "FUNDAMENTALS OF GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP" guidelines will result in the following consequences:

- Immediate removal from the contest or activity.
- Upon investigation by the administration of the schools involved, violator(s) may be suspended from activities for a period of up to one year depending upon the severity of the infraction.

Transfer

Student/athlete transfer and interscholastic competition activities:

When a student/athlete transfers to a high school in the district outside his/her attendance area, the student is ineligible to compete for ninety days in any interscholastic athletic activity at the school to which the student transfers unless the parent/legal guardian and the student affect a bona fide change of residence to the proper attendance area. This period of athletic ineligibility shall be for ninety days from the first day of attendance in the receiving school. A bona fide change of residence must result in all household goods being transferred from the previous residence to the new residence, the parents or guardians must actually reside day and night at the new address, and the change in residence has not represented an attempt to circumvent the intent of the transfer rule. A bona fide change of residence may also occur when the family unit has been disrupted as a result of divorce, separation, or other circumstances beyond the control of the student/athlete. **All eligibility rules including "The Scholarship Rule " applies to transfer students.**

In the event of a parent/legal guardian change in residence, the principal of the receiving school shall ascertain eligibility by;

1. Verifying the student's legal residence and ascertaining that the transfer is not in violation of the spirit of the provisions of this regulation;
2. Securing a written transcript of all high school credits; and
3. Securing in writing a statement indicating that the student was in good standing, conduct, citizenship, and academic progress at the time of the transfer.

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Transportation

Bus behavior

Students will act appropriately on buses and will be responsible for picking up after themselves and leaving the buses clean. Any damage caused to the bus by students will be paid for by the students and they could be suspended as a result of their inappropriate behavior.

Returning from out-of-town contests

Students will return from all out-of-town events with their organization and by school transportation. Exceptions can be made by parents calling the coach/advisor/director in advance to explain the reason for the request, and by then providing a written note to the coach/advisor/director requesting the exception.

Please do not make requests to simply ride home with parents rather than on the bus or van. The team/group concept should always be paramount. **At no time should a student-athlete request to ride home with someone other than their parent.**

Students driving to practices or contest in the local area

Whenever possible and practical, the school will attempt to furnish transportation to practices and contests. Coaches/directors/sponsors will provide information to students and their parents of their activity transportation policy. However, occasionally it is necessary for us to have students report on the site rather than furnish school transportation

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APPENDIX

What follows is a list of forms and documents that you may need during the course of your career as a student involved in Prairie Activities. A brief description of the purpose and necessity of each form has also been included for your information. If you have any questions, please stop by the activities office. This information and forms may be readily obtained either from your coach/director/sponsor or from the activities office.

Physical Form:

All students involved in Prairie Athletics are required to have a physical annually. Physicals are good for one calendar year and should be obtained after May 1st to be good for the upcoming year.

Acknowledgment Form:

All students are required to have this form completed prior to participating in activities covered under this Activities Handbook. This form acknowledges that the student and parent have read and will adhere to the rules and regulations set for in the Activities Handbook..

Student Insurance Proof of Claim Form:

Students wishing to make a claim on student insurance purchased through the school need to obtain a claim form from the Activities Office and have Part A completed by a school official.

NCAA Clearinghouse Information:

If students are planning to enroll in college as a freshman and you wish to participate in Division I or Division II athletics, students must have initial-eligibility requirements for all to be certified by the [NCAA Initial Eligibility Clearinghouse](#). The Clearinghouse was established by the NCAA member institutions in January of 1993. The Clearinghouse ensures consistent application of NCAA initial eligibility requirements for all prospective student-athletes at all member institutions. Information packets and application forms may be picked up in the Activities Office. Student/athletes who feel they may be attending a Division I or Division II school should pick up a form in the Activities Office.

Appeal Form:

Students wishing to appeal decisions based on the rules and regulations contained in this Activities Handbook will need to fill out an [Appeal Form](#). A printed copy is also accessible from the Activities Office.

Directions to Conference Schools and sites of various activities:

Locations of and directions to activities are accessible on the Bound site (<https://gobound.com/ia/schools/crprairie>). Any additional questions regarding sites and directions may be directed to the coach/director/sponsor or the Activities Office.