

Yuma Middle School

ACTIVITIES HANDBOOK

2024 – 2025

(Revision Adopted: August 2025)



YUMA MIDDLE SCHOOL ACTIVITY POLICY

CODE OF CONDUCT

In order for the Sports and Activities program to contribute to the function, purpose and philosophy of the District its primary objectives must relate to the teaching of wholesome attitudes and imposed disciplines. It must teach an appreciation for physical well being, loyalty, personal sacrifice, dedication and teamwork in conjunction with upholding traditions of excellence and requiring standards of proficiency.

To realize the potential of the activity programs, there are physical and mental disciplines, which must be practiced by the individual as well as members contributing to an individual and team effort.

The conduct and general behavior of all individuals associated with the YMS athletic program is very important with respect to the credit he or she brings on themselves, team, school and community. The student should avoid any questionable conduct in the community, school and classroom without hesitation. Conduct or general behavior that brings discredit or embarrassment to the community, Yuma Middle School or the athletic program may result in temporary or permanent suspension from activities.

It is a privilege, not a right, to represent Yuma Middle School in an activity. A student must approach activities and competition from the standpoint of contributing his or her utmost and giving the best he or she is capable of. Therefore, the responsibility of maintaining body and mind in the best condition possible should become a top priority. Use or abuse of tobacco, alcohol or drugs will not be tolerated.

The Head Coach/Sponsor will outline specific requirements of each activity. Each participant will be expected to adhere to the requirements made of him or her for the particular activity he or she is involved with as well as all school, district, league and state requirements.

Policies in the Athletic Handbook apply during the academic school year, which means they start on first day of CHSAA organized practices in August and end last day of school or last spring competition whichever is later.

During a suspension you will not be allowed to participate in any events/concerts/trips outside of the school day.

POINTS OF EMPHASIS AS A REPRESENTATIVE OF YUMA MIDDLE SCHOOL:

1. Treat all teachers/staff/adults with respect; you are here to get an education and you must succeed in the classroom to be able to participate in activities. School and behavior comes first, activities come second. Continued office referrals for behavior problems will result in activity consequences as well as school consequences.
2. You represent the Yuma Indians: this includes the student body, school, parents and the community. Just as importantly, you are representing yourself, so think before you do something you regret.

ACTIVITY GUIDELINES AND EXPECTATIONS:

1. Each student is encouraged to participate in as many different activities during each school year as possible. The choice of activities should be left up to the student and the parents. Coaches and staff will actively recruit students.
2. Students are expected to report for the activity at the beginning of each activity and attend and participate in all practices and events from that point on.
3. Participants in an activity are required to attend all scheduled practices and meetings. If circumstances arise whereby the student cannot attend a practice or meeting, the individual coach or sponsor will judge the validity of the reason. It would be best to call the coach/sponsor or school and leave notice with the reason you will not be at practice.
4. If a student is cut from one activity, he or she is eligible to participate in another activity during that season at the discretion of the coaches/sponsors. A student that quits or is dropped from an activity for discipline reasons may not go out for another activity until that activity season is completed. A student who drops an activity may not participate in another activity during that season until he or she obtains permission from the coach/sponsor of the activity he or she dropped.
5. Proper procedure for quitting an activity:
 - a. Any student must follow proper procedure if he/she chooses to quit an activity. First, the student must make his or her reasons known to the coach/sponsor. Secondly, he or she must return all equipment and clear all financial responsibility with the school and program.
 - b. A student who drops any activity may not participate in the second activity during the same season until he or she obtains permission from the sponsor/coach of the activity he or she dropped.
 - c. After 2 weeks no one will be allowed to join a sport/activity.
6. Students will be required to follow the additional rules and guidelines established by the Sponsor/Coach of his or her activity. Violations of these rules will be handled at the discretion of the sponsor/coach and in the case of related minor violations, insubordination or severe violations the student may be suspended from the activity.
7. Students wishing to participate in activities must use the transportation furnished by the school district. If the student wishes to ride home from an activity with his or her parents, certain conditions must be met:
 - a. A written note signed by the parents must be given to the Head Coach/Sponsor or the parent must sign out their child on the form provided by the coach and,
 - b. The coach must physically see that the student's parents are there to sign them out or see the adult that a parent has given permission for their child to ride home with.

- c. Permission to ride home with another parent or adult must be approved by the Athletic Director or Principal prior to the activity departure time from school. The approved individual must sign out the student with the Coach/Sponsor. All approvals are at the discretion of the Athletic Director or Principal. Approval will not be given for students to ride home with other students or minors (under age 21, unless immediate family). *It is assumed that your child will ride home with the approved individual. If coaches discover that your child will not ride home with the approved individual, they will require your child to ride the bus home.*
8. Athletic Fees:
- Boys Sports
 - Football, Basketball, Wrestling, Track
 - Girls Sports
 - Volleyball, Basketball, Wrestling, Track
- a. \$25 per sport
- There are NO family discounts
 - If a student has done 3 sports the 4th is FREE
- c. *Athletic fees must be paid before the coach will allow the athlete to compete.*
9. Athletic Fee refunds are only allowed if an athlete quits or is dismissed from the team *prior to the first contest* and/or for some reason cannot perform at all due to evaluation by the coach or extenuating circumstances as determined by the administration.
10. Activity fees for clubs and organizations must be paid before the sponsor allows participation. Certain fees may need to be paid several times for various events sponsored by an organization/club.
11. An Activity Fee refund is only possible if the student has paid the fee and for some reason cannot perform at all due to evaluation by the sponsor and/or extenuating circumstances as determined by the administration.
12. Violations of athletic/activity rules will be entered in the school's discipline database.
13. Student Athletes will be responsible for returning all equipment and clearing all financial responsibility with the school and program within one week of the end of their season. This is a requirement for eligibility for practice or competition for the next season. Coaches will submit a list of athletes who have not returned items or have not cleared financial responsibilities to the Athletic Director at the end of the week. These students will not be eligible to practice or compete until responsibilities are fulfilled.

ACTIVITY POLICY:

All students participating in an activity assume the responsibility for the discipline required to follow all rules and regulations. YMS Student Handbook rules and regulations will be used in conjunction with the Activities Policy when rules and regulations are broken. Parents should understand that they play an important part in their child's participation in extra-curricular activities and in the adherence to all rules and regulations. Activity policies, rules and regulations will be in effect from a student's first day of participation and continuing through graduation. ALL POLICIES/CONSEQUENCES ARE CUMULATIVE OVER A STUDENT'S CAREER AS A YUMA MIDDLE SCHOOL ATHLETE!

POLICIES WITH SPECIFIC CONSEQUENCES

Alcohol and Drugs Rules and Consequences

A student who is in **direct witness by a YSD-1 staff member or coach** using, possessing, consuming, being under the influence of, buying, selling, or giving away any alcohol or drug controlled substance or look-a-like product either on or off campus, will be subject to the consequences enforced by the YUMA School District Administration and Board of Education.

1. A student who is given a **citation** for drug or alcohol and or a controlled substance, by law enforcement, will be subject to the consequences enforced by the YUMA School District Administration and Board of Education.
2. **Student or parent reporting** use of alcohol and/or drugs, will be subject to the consequences enforced by the YUMA School District Administration and Board of Education.

First Violation

- A participant will be **suspended from 30% of interscholastic competitions** for which the student-athlete is otherwise eligible and in which the student-athlete is otherwise able to participate, beginning in the season when the first violation occurs (including regular season of the same or a different sport if the full suspension cannot be served during the season when the first violation occurs. During all periods of their suspension, student-athletes must participate in practices and otherwise remain in good standing with each team from which they are suspended in order to be eligible to return after their suspension.

○ NOTE: The suspension date will start with the first competition/performance date the participant would be eligible to participate in. Participants must remain “in good standing” during time of suspension.

- Students will not be allowed to circumvent a suspension by going out for a sport then quitting after their suspension ends. The following criteria will be used to judge if this is the case. The student must finish the season “in good standing”, based on coach’s discretion.
- Forfeiting the remainder of a season does not void the suspension.

- **NO RECOGNITION OR AWARDS OF ANY TYPE WILL BE GIVEN FOR THE CURRENT SEASON**
- **STUDENTS MUST ATTEND ALL PRACTICES BUT MAY NOT TRAVEL TO AWAY GAMES OR SUIT UP FOR HOME GAMES.**

Second Violation

- A participant will be **suspended from 50% of interscholastic competitions** for which the student-athlete is otherwise eligible and in which the student-athlete is otherwise able to participate, beginning in the season when the first violation occurs (including regular season of the same or a different sport if the full suspension cannot be served during the season when the first violation occurs. During all periods of their suspension, student-athletes must participate in practices and otherwise remain in good standing with each team from which they are suspended in order to be eligible to return after their suspension.

○ NOTE: The suspension date will start with the first competition/performance date the participant would be eligible to participate in. Participants must remain “in good standing” during time of suspension.

- **Same as in First Violation...**

Level 3 Violation

- A participant would be **immediately suspended from all extracurricular activities/athletics/public performances for one calendar year. NO recognition or awards of any type will be given for the current season. During all periods of their suspension, student-athletes may participate in practices and otherwise remain in good standing with each team from which they are suspended in order to be eligible to return after their suspension based on future eligibility.**

Tobacco Rules & Consequences

- A. A student who is in **direct witness by a YSD-1 staff member or coach** using, possessing, consuming, being under the influence of, buying, selling, or giving away any tobacco controlled substance or look-a-like product either on or off campus, will be subject to the consequences enforced by the YUMA School District Administration and Board of Education.
- B. A student who is given a **citation** for tobacco and or a controlled substance, by law enforcement, will be subject to the consequences enforced by the YUMA School District Administration and Board of Education.
- C. **Student or parent reporting** use of tobacco, will be subject to the consequences enforced by the YUMA School District Administration and Board of Education.

Scholastic Dishonesty Rules & Consequences

Students who contribute to or are involved in a scholastic dishonesty situation (cheating, plagiarism, etc.)

Acts of vandalism Rules & Consequences

Student damaging, defacing, or theft of school or private property is forbidden. Upon evidence of damage or theft, the student will be suspended from the activity and will be subject to a review by Athletic Director and YHS Leadership Team for additional consequences, if needed.

- **Level 1 Offense:** The student is suspended from the **next contest**. The student must still attend all practices and meetings, but is not allowed to travel for away games or suit up for home games.
- **Level 2 Offense:** The student is suspended from **30% of interscholastic competitions** for which the student-athlete is otherwise eligible and in which the student-athlete is otherwise able to participate, beginning in the season when the second violations occurs (including regular season and post season/playoff competitions) and continuing into any subsequent season when the second violation occurs.
- **Level 3 Offense:** Student is withheld from **50% of interscholastic competitions** for which the student-athlete is otherwise eligible and in which the student-athlete is otherwise able to participate, beginning in the season when the second violations occurs (including regular season and post season/playoff competitions) and continuing into any subsequent season when the second violation occurs.
- **Severe Offense:** Immediate suspension from all Interscholastic Competitions/Activities for one full calendar year. No recognition or awards of any type will be given for the current season.

Sportsmanship:

- **Yuma Middle School chooses to be an exceptional school in academics and athletics, as well as, Sportsmanship. Students who fail to uphold the standards as set forth will receive consequences for unacceptable behavior.**

- **First incident:** Warning, documented in student behavioral data and suspended from **current game** (home or away).
- **Second incident:** Suspended from games (home or away) for **one week and/or minimum of 2 games**.
- **Third incident:** Suspended from games (home or away) for **two weeks and/or minimum of 4 games**.

Attendance on Game Day

- ✓ A student must attend **ALL CLASSES** prior to the departure of an activity to be eligible for participation.
- ✓ Students **must meet this attendance expectation on Friday to be eligible for Saturday activities**. Extenuating circumstances will be dealt with at the discretion of administration
- ✓ Students **must attend all classes the day prior to when school is not in session with the exception of Mondays**.
- ✓ A student must attend at least **three (3) full class periods** congruent to the beginning of a practice to be eligible
- Student Athletes will be responsible for returning all equipment and clearing all financial responsibility with the school and program within one week of the end of their season. This is a requirement for eligibility for practice or competition for the next season. Coaches will submit a list of athletes who have not returned items or have not cleared financial responsibilities to the Athletic Director at the end of the week. These students will not be eligible to practice or compete until responsibilities are fulfilled.

Due Process and Appeal Process

Student athletes will be provided due process. Process and deadlines must be met or appeal is dismissed.

- **Step 1:** The student athlete is entitled to be informed of the charges against him/her, and an informal meeting where he/she has an opportunity to be heard before the athletic director. The athletic director shall render a written decision within one school day of the meeting.
- **Step 2:** A student athlete and his/her parent(s) may appeal the athletic director's decision to suspend to the building principal, in writing, within a school day of the athletic director's decision to appeal. The principal shall render his/her decision within four school days of the consideration of the appeal. A suspension may be deferred pending the outcome of an appeal at the discretion of the athletic director and the building principal. The principal's decision will be final in cases where the suspension is for less than 50% of the season.
- **Step 3:** In cases of more than 50%, the student athlete and his/her parents may appeal within five school days to the Superintendent of YSD-1 whose decision will be final.

○ **Note:**

- Violations of athletic/activity rules will be entered in the school's discipline database.
- All students participating in an activity assume the responsibility for the discipline required to follow all rules and regulations. YMS Student Handbook rules and regulations will be used in conjunction with the Extra-Curricular Activities/Athletic Handbook when rules and regulations are broken.
- Parents should understand that they play an important part in their child's participation in extra-curricular activities and in the adherence to all rules and regulations.
- Students will be required to follow the additional rules and guidelines established by the Sponsor/Coach of his or her activity. Violations of these rules will be handled at the discretion of the sponsor/coach and in the case of related minor violations, insubordination or severe violations the student may be suspended from the activity.
- Student Athletes will be responsible for returning all equipment and clearing all financial responsibility with the school and program within one week of the end of their season. This is a requirement for eligibility for practice or competition for the next season. Coaches will submit a list of athletes who have not returned items or have not cleared financial responsibilities to the Athletic Director at the end of the week. These students will not be eligible to practice or compete until responsibilities are fulfilled.
- Activity policies, rules and regulations will be in effect from a student's first day of participation and continuing through graduation.
- ALL POLICIES/CONSEQUENCES ARE CUMULATIVE OVER A STUDENT'S CAREER AS A YUMA MIDDLE SCHOOL ATHLETE!

WEEKLY ELIGIBILITY POLICY:

- Students will be required to meet the eligibility standards set by Yuma Middle School Failure to do so will cause the student to lose his or her privilege of participating in an activity, play, concert, contest(s) or as much as a full semester. Students who are ineligible and transfer to online or homeschool will not be eligible until after the semester that they were enrolled in YMS and ineligible in is over:

○ **YMS Eligibility Requirements:**

- Point system: 1 point for a D, 2 points for an F

***Ineligible: 4 points or more**

A student is ineligible for all contests and activities if they have accrued 4 points or more. However, they may continue to practice with the team but may not travel to away games or suit up for home games. Eligibility is Monday to Sunday, no exceptions ex: Your grades come up on Tuesday you will still be ineligible until the following Monday.

***Academic probation: 6 points or more**

If a student has accrued 6 points or more, they are ineligible and placed on Academic probation. If a student is on Academic probation for three consecutive weeks, the student will be dropped from the active roster and may not participate in practices or competition until further review by administration and the head coach/sponsor of the activity.

Student & Parent Signature Page



Yuma Middle School Athletic Handbook

I have read, and understand the Yuma Middle School Athletic Handbook. I agree to abide by all the requirements and guidelines of this handbook and will strive to become the best student-athlete I can be. I understand there are additional rules and eligibility guidelines by Yuma Middle School this document needs to be signed by the student and parent and returned to the Coach before the individual will be eligible for participation.

(Student's Name-Please Print)

(Student's Signature) (Date)

(Parent/Guardian Name-Please Print)

(Parent/Guardian Signature) (Date)