



**ATHLETIC HANDBOOK & ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS
2025-26 SCHOOL YEAR**

The following packet has been put together in an effort to clearly put forth, explain, and determine the requirements for participating in CIF-sanctioned sports while enrolled as a student at **VENTURE ACADEMY**. The following guidelines will remain consistent across the board for all sports on all grade levels. This resource is made available so that all administration, staff, teachers, coaches, and students can use it as a source of consolidated information to ensure both consistent and fair standards.

To be ELIGIBLE:

- A student-athlete must currently possess a 2.0+ GPA, or equivalent.
- A student-athlete must **NOT** have 2 or more classes with a letter grade of “**F**” or designated “**Fail**” in the current semester; otherwise, he/she will be deemed ineligible.
- A student-athlete must have all proper paperwork (*physical form, athletic packet, athletic agreement form, etc.*) signed and turned-in prior to participation.
- For **Independent Study** students, they must meet with their designated I.S. staff member/teacher for each mandatory monthly check-in and maintain at least 5.0 credits per month.

GRADE CHECKS throughout the semester:

- When obtaining grade checks, student-athletes must receive an actual letter grade from each of their teachers in all classes in the current semester by the designated due date (*with the exception being the January 8th Grade Check, as that will reflect the end of 1st semester FINAL grades*). If the class is a Pass/Fail format, then the teacher must designate whether the student receives “Credit” (Pass) or “No Credit” (Fail) in place of a letter grade.
- Each student-athlete must turn-in a completed Grade Check form to his/her respective **coach** by the designated due date, which is the first **THURSDAY** of every month. If a due date falls on a non-school day, then they will be due that following Monday.
- Each coach will then record all of his/her players’ Grade Check results on a google spreadsheet that can be viewed by both the coach and the Athletic Director.
- Any Grade Check forms not turned-in to the coach on the due date could result in that athlete or athletes being considered ineligible immediately, or until that Grade Check form is submitted.
- At Venture Academy we strive to set our students up for success; therefore, our grading procedures go above and beyond the minimum CIF standards in regards to monthly grade checks. As a result, there is an “**Academic Probation**” component in place, which is a 2-week grace period after the due date of Grade Checks for a student-athlete that is not meeting academic requirements to earn eligibility. During the 2-week “**Academic Probation**,” student-athletes have this time to work on raising their GPA and/or letter grades in classes. They can practice with their respective team, but will **NOT** be eligible to play in athletic contests during this time. If they are able to reach “eligible” status within these two weeks, they will become available to participate in athletic contests immediately. Once the 2 weeks has expired and if the student has not met academic standards, the student in question must then wait until next month’s grade check to earn eligibility status. Each athlete is only able to use this 2-week “**Academic Probation**” once during a school year. For the January grade check based off 1st semester final grades, if a student was not eligible at the end of 1st semester, all students will have the opportunity to become eligible based off 2nd semester grades at the 2-week mark into the new semester.

PROCESS =



Student picks-up blank Grade Check form at any of the designated school locations:

- **VAFS** (*Venture Main Site Bldg. 2829*) = Counselor office area.
- **CTEC** (*Bldg. 2911*) = Office reception area.
- **Excel** (*Bldg. 2720*) = Office reception area.
- **Gymnasium** (*Bldg. 2814*) = Athletic Director, Jim Sells' office.



Student receives letter grade or “pass/fail” mark from each class **Teacher** on the Grade Check form →



Student hands-in completed Grade Check to **Coach** →



GRADE CHECK important dates:

DUE Date to Coach:

September 4
October 2
November 6
December 4
***January 8 (Final grade 1st sem.)**
February 5
March 5
April 2
May 7

ELIGIBILITY Time Period:

(beginning of school year) – October 1
October 2 – November 5
November 6 – December 3
December 4 – January 7
January 8 – February 4
February 5 – March 4
March 5 – April 1
April 2 – May 6
May 7 – May 31

Attendance & Behavior notes:

Attendance:

Student-athletes must attend at least 3 full periods in the school day in order to participate in an athletic contest/match that same day (*exceptions will be considered for family emergency/medical appointments with an accompanying note*).

School Class Credits:

Student-athletes who successfully complete the entire sports season will receive 5 credits for “Team Sports” on their transcripts. The Athletic Director will work with the Head Coach to confirm all eligible student-athletes and then forward those names to Eva Espinoza in the Main Office.

Discipline:

If suspended from school, the student-athlete in question will not be allowed to participate in the team’s next contest/match at the minimum. Depending on the severity of the school suspension, the student-athlete in question could be served with a longer sit-out period from athletics, as determined by an administrator and/or coach.

Behavior Issues:

These circumstances will be handled internally on a case-by-case basis amongst administration and/or coaches. If a teacher is having behavior issues with a student-athlete there is the option to set-up a meeting with parents, student, athletic director, and/or coaches to establish an action plan. If continued behavior issues persist the end result could be suspension from athletic participation.

If there are any questions, please contact the Venture Academy Athletic Director, **Jim Sells**:

209-227-2287 (office) * 515-570-1963 (cell) * jsells@sjcoe.net (email)



Required Forms & Packet for Participation

The “*Athletic Participation Packet*” can now be found on-line at the Venture Academy website. Go to the **ATHLETICS** homepage and click on the link towards the top of the page to fill out all forms electronically. When completed it will be emailed automatically to the AD and the only other forms needed will be a current **physical** as well as the “*Athlete Agreement*” form requiring student-athlete signatures regarding expectations, concussions, heat illness, jerseys, etc. Proof of physical can be a hard copy print out from the doctor’s office stating patient name, date of exam, and doctor’s signature. Or, a school physical form can be found at the bottom of the **ATHLETICS** homepage.

*****If competing in more than 1 sport during the school year, this on-line packet only needs to be turned in once for the first sport of the school year.**

Multi-Sport Participation & Completing a Season

Here at Venture Academy, we encourage, support, and understand the important role being a multi-sport athlete can provide not only the student, but also the school community. Participating in multiple sports within the same school year and for some in the same season, can be a challenging task that requires buy-in and communication from all stakeholders. If a student-athlete has the desire to compete in multiple sports in the same season, we ask the student-athlete is proactive with the communication piece by taking it upon themselves to speak with all coaches involved. From there the student-athletes and coaches should be communicating a weekly or season plan on how to approach practice and game obligations that meet the satisfaction of all coaches. The student-athlete and parents should keep in mind that by committing to two separate teams on campus in the same season could impact playing time. For example, while the multi-sport athlete is committing to 50% of practices with two separate teams, the other athletes on the same teams are typically committed 100% to the one team.

In addition, whether you are playing multiple sports in the same season, or just participating with one team per season, there is the requirement to commit and complete that full season before moving onto the next season of sport. Any student-athlete who fails to complete the season with a team or quits a team after reaching 50% of the current season will not be able to move onto the next season of sport until the current season has finished. For example, if a student-athlete is participating in cross country in the fall, but then decides to quit with 3 weeks left in the season because soccer pre-season workouts have started, they will not be allowed to do so. Student-athletes must wait to join the next sport (*i.e. soccer*) until the sport they started (*i.e. cross country*) has ended. Same goes for a student-athlete that has become ineligible due to grades at the end of the season – they must wait to join the next sport until the current sport is done for the season and they earn the required grades to do so.

Athletic Uniform & Jersey Consent

One of the many requirements that comes with choosing to be a member of any athletic team here at Venture Academy is the obligation of the team uniform, jerseys, etc. that are needed to compete as a Mustang. While these pieces of school-owned merchandise are in your possession from the time of receiving until returning the uniform at the end of season, the student-athlete acknowledges and agrees to take on responsibility for caring for the uniform, keeping it clean and up to standard, as well as not losing it while in your possession.

In the case any pieces of the uniform are lost, not returned, and/or damaged to the point of not being able to be worn again, the student-athlete is responsible for a fee of \$75 for jerseys and \$50 for shorts/pants (if applicable). Anyone who does not meet these requirements or fails to reimburse the school the applied fees, their records will be noted and high school graduation diploma will be withheld. If a student transfers, this will also impact their eligibility at the new school and their transfer file will be noted to prevent playing eligibility if their balance has not been taken care of with Venture Academy.

Injury and Incident Form Process

Whenever there is an injury that takes place, whether it’s at a game, practice, field trip, traveling, etc., the student-athlete and coach must work together to complete an incident report within 24 hours. It is the coach’s responsibility to gather the information, complete the form, follow-up with parent, and submit to the AD and school staff assigned to such reports.



Expectations & Acknowledgement **for Parents/Guardians & Student-Athlete**

The following form and below signatures acknowledge that the parents/guardians and guests of every student-athlete at Venture Academy athletic-sponsored events are in agreement with the expectations and policies put in place in regards to conduct at events. By signing this document, the parent/guardian and student-athlete acknowledge they are responsible for their own actions and those actions of any guests associated with them at school events (home or away). By signing this document you also acknowledge as a parent/guardian and player that you have read the Athletic Handbook either on-line at the school's website or been given a hard copy, while also agreeing to the policies described in this Handbook. It is also the responsibility of the parent/guardian and/or student-athlete to relay these expectations and policies to any of their guests attending school events.

The following is a list of general expectations and rules for anyone attending Venture Academy athletic events (games, scrimmages, practices, etc.):

- Any parent/coach disagreements or related conversations should ***NOT*** take place immediately after a game or contest. These types of discussions should be set-up for a later date & time at least 12 hours after the conclusion of the game. Also, team practices are structured as “*closed-door*” and only players and coaching staff are allowed inside the gym during such times. Parents should wait either in the gym lobby or in the parking lots for their child.
- The coach has the right to limit discussion regarding playing time, decision making/play-calling, who makes the team, etc. at his/her own discretion. Also, these types of conversations are parent-coach conversations and should be taken up with the coach before involving the Athletic Director.
- The conduct of our spectators at games is of high importance, as you not only represent yourself, but also your son/daughter, other fellow Mustang fans, and the school as a whole. Harassment, cursing, and/or taunting of officials, opponents, other fans, or players/coaches will NOT be tolerated at all! Parents, fans, and all spectators will be held to the same standard as our own players and coaches. By rule, if a coach or player is ejected from a game they must sit out the next contest at the minimum. This same rule will be applied to fans at both home and away contests. For example, if you are asked to leave by an official or school administrator during a game (home or away), then you will not be allowed to attend the next game at the minimum. A “second strike” will result in a follow-up meeting with the Athletic Director and suspension from attending games anywhere from a week to the remainder of the year.
- Absolutely no parents or spectators should be approaching the team bench area or scorer's table during the game to confront a player, coach, staff member, volunteer worker, or official. This also extends to the court or field of play, as spectators should remain in the stands at all times no matter the situation and allow the officials, coaches, administrators, and staff members to resolve any issues during the course of a game. Anyone found not adhering to this policy will be subject to severe punishment by school officials and could also affect the status of your own son/daughter on their respective team.