

Tac Titooqan Article

July 2016

I would like to recognize our student athletes and Wildcat fans for a successful competitive year. I would also like to thank our Dean of Students and Athletic Director, David Kronemann, for his dedication to our athletic programs and big heart for Lapwai kids. Mr. Kronemann shared the following highlights for the coming year:

At the end of each year, administrators and staff come together to brainstorm ideas that will make our schools a better place. Some of those ideas are in need of board approval and become policy, and some are very simple changes that may only require a email or colorful sign to help with remembering. This year, after I was hired as the new Dean of Students and Athletic Director, one of the tasks I took upon myself was to revamp and develop the athletic handbook. It wasn't long after doing some research that our new athletic handbook was put in front of the school board and approved right before basketball season started this last year.

However, as with all policies and regulations, administrators and staff can never foresee all potential issues that may arise out of each season. Some of those issues can be solved through the use of policy and our handbook, and others are so new that a renewing or refreshing of the policy is needed. Are we going to prevent everything negative from happening? To say yes would be naïve. However, we can do our best to put structures in place to allow our students, coaches, and fans the ability to enjoy our athletic programs in the most positive manner possible.

Some of the changes for our Athletic Handbook next year are as follows;

Mandatory Baseline Drug Testing:

- All student athletes are required to submit in order to play. If reasonable suspicion arises during the season, then that student will need to submit in order to continue to play. If a student is found to have drugs in their system, that student athlete will miss 1/3 of the season. No legal actions will be taken unless the student athlete is obviously intoxicated.
- Student athletes have 24 hours to submit to test.
- Tests will be administered by trained Tribal Police Officers.

Other Revisions Include:

- Attendance Requirement: If a student athlete misses over 12 days, he/she becomes ineligible.
- Must maintain a C or better in every class or they will be ineligible to compete.
- Must have a 2.75 GPA to avoid an academic assistance program.
- If a student athlete is being adjudicated for a criminal or civil offense, all legal issues must be done and complete before the student athlete can resume competition.

As an institution of learning, it is our hope and goal to set our student athletes up for success. Our handbook is there as a guide to help our student athletes make the right choices and learn from the potential poor choices that we can all make from time to time. More details about the above changes and other handbook items can be found on our district website or at Lapwai Middle-High School.

GO WILDCATS!