

SADDLEBACK VALLEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
ATHLETIC CODE

STATEMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

Saddleback Valley Unified School District athletic programs are designed to provide students with the opportunities to develop both physical and mental strength. We believe that a successful athletic program helps our athletes develop a sense of pride, self-confidence and encourages leadership skills. Our athletes learn a self-discipline which will help them through their adult life, where the ability to maintain poise and self-control in all situations is vitally important. We encourage all athletes to strive for excel, and to understand that the path to success is hard work and determination. Moral conditioning and sportsmanship is a key component in our athletic programs. Athletes are required to work diligently to achieve both individual and team goals as well as to meet the athletic standards of the District.

Interscholastic athletics is a voluntary program in which participation is a privilege and not a right. Accompanying that privilege is the responsibility of the athlete to conform to the following guidelines established for all participants in the athletic program.

Eligibility Requirements

AGE:

No student whose 19th birthday is attained prior to June 15, shall participate or practice on any team for the following school year. A student whose 19th birthday is on June 14, or before, is ineligible.

A student may not compete on a freshman (9th grade) team after he or she has reached his or her 16th birthday on or before June 15.
(CIF Southern Section Blue Book 201.1)

A student may not compete on a sophomore or frosh-soph team after he or she has reached his or her 17th birthday on or before June 15.
(CIF Southern Section Blue Book 201.2)

A student under 15 years of age may not play on a varsity football team.

SCHOLASTIC:

All athletes must have passed 20 units (four classes) of new work during the previous grade period. "New work" is classes in which a passing grade had not been previously earned. Summer school grades may be counted. (This is a CIF requirement and cannot be waived). Student athletes must maintain a 2.0 grade point average and can only have one "F" to be eligible. "Incomplete" grades that affect eligibility must be cleared prior to competition.

CITIZENSHIP:

All athletes must be students in good standing in citizenship to be eligible. Athletes are allowed only one "U" in citizenship.

WAIVER:

A one-time waiver can be used by an athlete to waive the scholastic (2.0) and citizenship requirement. The student that uses the waiver will be placed on probation and must clear the deficit by the next quarterly grading period.

RESIDENCE:

In order to be eligible, all athletes must reside in the Saddleback Valley Unified School District attendance area in a bona fide residence with their parents or legal guardian(s). Exceptions to the residence rule will be handled by the athletic director and assistant principal. Any student transferring under the provisions of our open enrollment policy will have immediate residential eligibility upon transfer from school A to School B, provided the transfer takes place prior to the 9th grade.

TRANSFER ELIGIBILITY:**(From the CIF-SS Blue Book, August 2011 - Rule 207)**

A student who participates in an interscholastic athletic contest or attends a school shall be considered "enrolled" in that school and shall be classified as a transfer student if the student subsequently enrolls at another school.

- A. A student may have transfer eligibility provided the student moves from any school to a CIF school due to:
- (1) A valid change of residence (See also Bylaw 206.B) from one school attendance area to the attendance area of the new school by the parent(s)/guardian(s)/caregiver and sibling(s)* with whom the student was living when the student established residential eligibility (Bylaw 206.A) at the prior school and the following conditions are met;
 - a. The student is not transferring as a result of a disciplinary situation (See also Bylaw 210); AND
 - b. The pre-enrollment contact affidavit is completed verifying that there no evidence of the use of undue influence (recruiting) by anyone associated with either school; OR
 - (2) A ruling by the Board of Education of a school district that has two or more high schools mandating a change of school attendance boundaries affecting an individual student or group of students provided the change of schools is not the result of a disciplinary actions: OR

- (3) A family decision to transfer the student prior to the first day of the student's third consecutive semester (typically the first semester of the sophomore year) of attendance since the initial enrollment when the following conditions are met:
 - a. This is the first transfer of this student since his/her initial enrollment in the 9th grade; AND
 - b. The student is not transferring as a result of a disciplinary situation (See also Bylaw 210); AND
 - c. The student was scholastically and otherwise eligible at the former school immediately prior to the transfer; AND
 - d. There is no evidence that the transfer, in whole or part, is athletically motivated (See also Bylaw 510.B); AND
 - e. The CIF Form 510 Pre-Enrollment Contact Affidavit is completed verifying that there is no evidence of the use of undue influence (recruiting) by anyone associated with either school; AND
 - f. The CIF Form 207 Athletic Transfer Eligibility Application and CIF Form 510 Pre-Enrollment Contact Affidavit have been approved by the Section.
 - g. No student shall be eligible to participate in the same sport at two different schools in the same school year unless the student changed schools as a result of a valid change of residence by the student and his/her parents(s)/guardian(s)/caregiver and sibling(s). In the event of a change of schools due to a valid change of residence, a student will be allowed to participate in the same sport at two different schools not to exceed, in total, the maximum number of contests in that sport as established by the Section.
- B. All 9th grade students who are transferring for a second time or any 10th, 11th or 12th grade students who transfer without a valid change of residence, will have limited eligibility for one year from the date of transfer.

Note: "CIF Bylaw 202.B. prohibits providing false information in regard to any aspect of eligibility. CIF Bylaw 510 (Undue Influence - Recruiting) prohibits any person or persons to secure, retain or influence what high school a student attends. In both cases, there are severe penalties for both the student-athlete and the school. The student-athlete penalty could include ineligibility for up to 24 months. Please report unethical behavior immediately to your school principal to help protect your student-athlete eligibility. Unethical behavior, recruiting and cheating hurts everyone".

ATTENDANCE:

Athletes may compete for 8 semesters only. Athletes may participate in practice and/or competitions on furlough days.

ATHLETIC TRANSPORTATION FEE:

1. The SVUSD suggests a transportation donation (\$75.00) for each athlete who elects to utilize District Transportation.
2. Transportation donations may not be required. All donations should be made to the school ASB office.
3. Transportation donations are not refundable once the team is set and a final roster is determined. Donations will be returned if the athlete is “cut” from the roster upon verification of the coach. However, the student must initiate the refund process through the school’s ASB office within 30 days of the date of being cut.

ASB ACTIVITY CARD:

All athletes are encouraged to purchase a current ASB Activity. However, this purchase is voluntary and will not impact a student's opportunity to participate.

ATHLETIC TRIPS:

1. Each school will provide transportation to away athletic competitions or utilize the “Notification of Extra-Curricular Events That Do Not Require School-Provided Transportation” form. No one is exempt from this policy. Transportation to tournaments outside Orange County and/or held on weekends may be limited.
2. All school and district policies will be enforced during the duration of the athletic trip.

INSURANCE:

1. All athletes participating in interscholastic competition must show evidence of having an insurance policy before the first practice session of the sport involved.
2. The district offers supplemental athletic insurance through a private carrier. Forms are available through the coach or Athletic Director.

MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS:

Each athlete must have a physical exam by a qualified physician on file prior to tryouts, practice, or competition. The physical exam is valid for one calendar year.

Standards of Athletes

Athletes are observed in many areas of school and community life. An athlete must always remember that they no longer represent just themselves, but represents their team and school. Therefore, it is important that an athlete's attitude and behavior, both at school and in the community, be above reproach so that it will bring credit and honor to their team and school.

The following are the primary responsibilities and standards of all athletes:

1. To remember that participation in athletics is a privilege and not a right; as such, the privilege may be revoked if the athlete does not abide by the athletic code and follow school and district policies.
 2. Any conduct (known to have occurred during or after school hours) by an athlete which brings discredit to himself/herself, the team, or the school is not acceptable, and may be grounds for suspension of athletic privileges. The athlete may ask the Athletic Review Board to review the case if there are extenuating circumstances. Acts that discredit the athlete, team and school are, but not limited to, the following:
 - a. misbehavior
 - b. use of alcohol/drugs/steroids/tobacco (including chewing tobacco)
 - c. student convicted of a crime
 - d. acts of violence/vandalism
 - e. school related problems of a disciplinary nature
- Note: Students on school suspension are automatically ineligible to participate in, or attend, any school co-curricular activity.
3. To always show class, be modest in victory and gracious in defeat. To maintain poise and self-control at all times. Never be profane, or cheat, or resort to illegal or unethical tactics at any time.
 4. To treat game officials with respect and courtesy at all times.
 5. To remember the main reason you are in school is to learn and maintain good grades in all classes. To have a proper attitude toward your school and show respect for all teachers and other members of your school's staff.
 6. To observe all school, district and CIF policies, knowing that serious infractions may result in an athlete's suspension or removal from a team by the coach and/or administration.
 7. Hazing of students, fighting, pranks and/or horseplay resulting in an injury or damage to property are not considered in the best interests of school spirit and will be dealt with accordingly. Violations of required locker room conduct will not be tolerated. Horseplay results in personal injuries and damages equipment, both of which hurt the team.

8. Conduct on the bus while traveling to and from contests is important to the morale and spirit of the team. District bus regulations will be adhered to at all times. Violation of these regulations may result in suspension.
9. Athletes are obliged to observe training rules and regulations as required by their coaches.
10. Any athlete dropped from a team for disciplinary action before the season is over may not go out for another sport until the season of the sport from which he was dropped is over.
11. When an athlete is transferred to a regular physical education period, i.e., from 7th period to 1st period, and fails to attend, the student will be considered truant and will be subject to school discipline procedures.
12. Athletes are financially responsible for uniforms and equipment issued to them and must pay for anything not turned in at the end of the season. Any athlete not returning gear will not be permitted to receive another equipment issue or go out for a new sport until the equipment is either returned or paid for. The athlete may also not receive any awards. All equipment is to be turned in to the equipment manager in accordance with established school guidelines.
13. In an effort to discourage athletes from quitting and moving to another sport, the following guidelines have been established: If you leave a sport without approval from the coaches involved, you will not be allowed to practice or participate in any other sport until the season of the sport you quit is over, and you will also forfeit any awards you may have earned in the sport you quit. The athlete may ask the Athletic Review Board to review the case if the circumstances are extenuating.

**Substance Abuse Policy and Procedure for Students
Participating in Co-curricular Activities**

In keeping with the goals of maintaining the schools of the Saddleback Valley Unified School District free from alcohol, drugs, steroids, narcotics, and look-a-likes, the following policy exists:

BOARD POLICY

The Superintendent or designee shall take appropriate action to eliminate possession, use or sale of alcohol and other drugs and related substances or paraphernalia on school grounds or at school-sponsored activities and events. Students possessing, using or selling alcohol or other drugs or related substances or paraphernalia shall be subject to disciplinary procedures including suspension or expulsion and/or referral to law enforcement in accordance with law, Board policy and administrative regulation. In addition, such students may be referred to an appropriate counseling program, transferred to an alternative placement, assigned additional community service hours, and/or be restricted from extracurricular activities, including athletics. (BP 5131.6) (see 23f)

PROCEDURE

When a student who participates in co-curricular programs violates this substance abuse policy, the following action will occur:

1. The student will be immediately suspended for a 5-day period and will be recommended for expulsion by the principal. The suspension may be extended.
2. The student will be immediately suspended from participation in all co-curricular activities pending the Expulsion Panel hearing and Board action.
3. When the student returns from the suspension, the student will be provided with “terms and conditions” for his/her continued stay at the school site pending the Expulsion Panel hearing and Board action.
4. If the Expulsion Panel finds that there are grounds for expulsion and the Board elects to expel the student but suspend the expulsion, the student may return to a school site but will be suspended from extra-curricular activities for 180 days from the date of the incident (180 days is equivalent to one school year and excludes weekends, holidays, or summer, winter, and spring vacation period).
5. A student will be allowed to participate in extra-curricular activities at the end of a specified provisional period, if he/she completes “terms and conditions” specified by Pupil Services and the school site principal and approved by the Board (90 days is equivalent to one semester and excludes weekends, holidays, and summer, spring and winter vacation periods). The “terms and conditions” continue through the full 180-day period as a condition of the student’s continuing participation in extra-curricular activities.
6. “Terms and conditions” will include items such as a grade point average improvement, hours in community service, counseling, and/or work detail, term papers on substance abuse, and other activities that could be geared towards individual needs.

For any violation of the Athletic code, the athlete may ask the Athletic Review Board to review the case if the circumstances are extenuating. He or she may appeal the decision to the principal after appealing to the Athletic Review Board. (The Athletic Review Board is composed of the coach in charge, the Athletic director, and an administrator). However, the Review Board membership may vary depending on the school.

Enrollment in Athletics

1. All requests for enrollment in athletics will be initiated with the Director of Athletics. In order to be admitted to the program, you must make a formal application through his/her office on the proper form.
2. Students must have the recommendation of the coach of the sport requested and the Athletic Director.
3. Before any student is eligible to participate on a team, they must complete all items in the eligibility package which includes: a physical exam, and insurance statement, a signed agreement to the terms of the Athletic code by both parent and student, an emergency card and have an Athletic Clearance Card on file with the Director of Athletics.
4. The athletic period is devoted exclusively to eligible athletes and their training for competitive sports. There will also be no discipline problems during the athletic period. Athletes are expected to show maturity and self-control. Any athlete violating this athletic code or the athletic period rules may be subject to removal from the team.
5. When transferring from one squad to another, athletes must obtain release from their present coach and present it to their new coach, along with his/her P.E. roll card.
6. Anyone failing physical education will be ineligible for the athletic period the following semester. The student will be eligible for transfer into the athletic period upon receiving a passing grade at the first regular grade period. Depending on scheduling constraints, students who drop 7TH period athletics may need to transfer to a 1st period physical education class or change their program.

Awards

1. Awards for athletic achievement are typically given by the Associated Student Body in keeping with League and California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) rules.
2. Booster clubs or other interested groups may wish to present awards with approval of the school administration, but the principle recognition will be the awarding of the letter or certificate of achievement, in keeping

with the philosophy that the reward should be in the participation itself and not in a symbolic prize.