

SPRINGFIELD LOCAL SCHOOLS ATHLETIC CODE OF CONDUCT

The most important goal of the interscholastic athletic program is to provide every participant the opportunity to grow mentally, morally, physically, and emotionally. To assure that the program can provide these opportunities, a degree of self-discipline is required of each participant. Self-discipline involves compliance with rules and regulations concerning personal behavior. Rules promote order and safety, and assist participants in reaching maximum performance potential. Athletes have a responsibility to represent themselves, their family, school and community in a positive manner.

The Athletic Department believes that, due to their high visibility, student athletes have a strong influence on members of the student body as well as the community. Their conduct, while representing a team, traveling to or from an event, as well as in the community, is seen as a direct reflection upon the athletic program and the standard of the school.

This Athletic Code of Conduct will be in continuous effect from the date that the student athlete and his/her parent(s) guardian(s) sign it and for the remainder of their athletic career. The code is in effect during season and out of season, during school and out of school. A student may not participate in practice or a game until the student and parent(s)/guardian(s) have read, signed and returned the copy of the Code to his/her head coach.

With this belief we set the following policy as a minimum standard for the Athletic Department of the school, fitting within the rules and regulations of the Board of Education, county, athletic league, and the Ohio High School Athletic Association. **It must also be remembered that participation in athletic activities is not a right but a privilege that will be regulated.**

The Athletic Code applies to all student athletes in grades 7-12 of the school. The student athlete must adhere to it during the full duration of his/her athletic tenure at Springfield Local Schools, including conditioning and post-season tournaments. Consequences may extend beyond one season or school year and into the next season and/or year.

I. DEFINITION

- 1. Athlete:** Any student participating in an athletic sport as a contestant, manager, or cheerleader.
- 2. Sport Season:** The season begins with the first day of organized practice and terminates when the athlete is no longer eligible for State Tournament Competition as per the O.H.S.A.A. handbook.
- 3. Possession:** The custody and control of property.
- 4. Self-Referral:** Seeking help before a violation is detected.
- 5. Drug/Alcohol Rehabilitation Program:** A recognized treatment program with a history of tangible positive results. (All costs for assessment, treatment, rehabilitation, or counseling shall be the responsibility of the athlete and his/her family.)
- 6. Penalty Carry Over:** Consequences carried over into another sport season or school year.
- 7. Competition Date:** Scheduled contests, not including scrimmages.
- 8. Participation:** To take part in a contest.

II. ELIGIBILITY RULES

A. Athletes must meet all eligibility requirements of the school and any governing agency, such as the Ohio High School Athletic Association, including but not exclusive of those requirements pertaining to age, residency, attendance, and academics.

B. All athletes, accompanied by at least one parent or guardian, should attend a school-sponsored athletic meeting. The meeting, conducted by the coaches, shall review athletic policies, rules, and regulations, and give athletes and parents an opportunity to ask questions. All parents/guardians, and athletes will be asked to sign an athletic agreement at this meeting certifying that they have read the schools' athletic code and will abide by all rules and regulations. Failure to abide by the agreement may result in denial of participation from the team or all athletic programs.

III. CONDUCT RULES AND CONSEQUENCES

Offenses will be cumulative from grades 9-12. The disciplinary actions described below are cumulative and shall apply sequentially to all athletic programs that the student athlete is a participant. The following are the types of offenses prohibited and their respective disciplinary actions. Law enforcement agencies having jurisdiction thereof may be notified of the student athlete's actions.

A. Do not use and/or possess tobacco in any form (cigarettes, cigars, chewing tobacco, etc.)

1. **First violation:** Denial of participation for two (2) competition dates in all sports (one contest in football & track). Participation in practice may be allowed, at the discretion of the coach/advisor, but the athlete will travel with his/her team and sit with the team during the contest. All training rules and requirements of the sport must be followed by the participant during this time.

2. **Second violation:** Denial of participation for (4) competition dates in all sports (two contests in football & track). Participation in practice may be allowed, at the discretion of the coach/advisor, but the athlete will travel with his/her team and sit with the team during the contest. All training rules and requirements of the sport must be followed by the participant during this time.

3. **Third violation:** Denial of participation for the remainder of that sport season and no local post season awards.

4. **Fourth violation:** The student athlete shall be dismissed from his/her sport season. The student athlete shall forfeit his or her eligibility to participate in any athletic program for one calendar year.

B. Do not sell, distribute, use, and/or possess alcohol.

1. **First Violation:** Denial of participation for the remainder of the season and no local post season awards.

a). If the athlete in violation agrees to go through an alcohol assessment and rehabilitation program approved by the school administration, and to follow the program recommendations. The denial of participation will be lifted upon completion of the program or at the discretion of the administration, made in conjunction with the approved rehabilitative agency. (Minimum of four (4) competition dates or 2 weeks will be denied).

b). Self-Referral Policy: If an athlete seeks assistance for dealing with an alcohol problem by self-referral to a coach/advisor and/or administrator, and agrees to participate in an alcohol rehabilitation program approved by the school administration and agrees to follow the program recommendations, there shall be **NO** denial of participation and the self-referral will be not considered a violation. Voluntary admission does not apply when there is a deliberate attempt to circumvent the 1st offense following a violation.

2. **Second Violation:** Denial of participation for 50% of that sport seasons contests; or if necessary, the next sport season that the student-athlete participates in, in order to fulfill the term of the suspension. In order to be re-instated the student-athlete must once again have an alcohol assessment and complete

an approved rehabilitation program. The student will not be eligible for any post season awards.
(Revision 07/12/10)

3. **Third Violation:** The student athlete shall be dismissed from his/her sport season. The student athlete shall forfeit his/her eligibility to participate in any athletic program for the remainder of the student athlete's career in the District.

C. Do not use and/or possess drugs (narcotics, hallucinogenic, intoxicants, steroids or counterfeit drugs), controlled substances or other intoxicants. This includes the possession or use of drug apparatus. The only exception allowed is supervised, doctor-prescribed medications.

1. **First violation:** Denial of participation for the remainder of the school year and no local post season awards.

The denial of participation will be lifted upon completion of the program or at the discretion of the administration, made in conjunction with the approved rehabilitative agency.

a. If the athlete in violation agrees to go through a drug assessment, approved by the school administration, and completes the program, the denial of participation will be for the season. If the violation occurs near the end of a season or when the athlete is not participating on an athletic squad, the minimum consequence will be enforced in the next season of participation. (Minimum of 6 competition dates or 3 weeks will be denied.)

b. Self Referral Policy: If an athlete seeks assistance for dealing with a drug problem by self-referral to a coach/advisor and/or school administrator, and agrees to participate in a drug assessment program approved by the school administration and agrees to follow the program recommendations there will be NO denial of participation and the self-referral will be not considered as a violation. Voluntary admission does not apply when there is a deliberate attempt to circumvent the 1st offense following a violation.

2. **Second violation:** The student athlete shall be dismissed from his/her sport season. The student must complete a pre-approved drug assessment and rehabilitation program. The student athlete shall forfeit his/her eligibility to participate in any athletic program for one calendar year.
3. **Third violation:** Permanent exclusion. The student shall be dismissed from his/her athletic team and shall forfeit his/her eligibility to participate in any athletic program for the remainder of the student athlete's career in the District.

D. Do not sell, manufacture, or distribute drugs (narcotics, hallucinogenic, intoxicants, or counterfeit drugs), controlled substances or other intoxicants at any time.

1. **First violation:** Permanent exclusion. The student athlete shall be dismissed from his/her athletic program. The student athlete shall forfeit his/her eligibility to participate in any athletic program for the remainder of the student athlete's career in the District.

E. Do not engage in criminal activity or violations of civil law.

Participation in any action resulting in a police arrest is subject to disciplinary action.

1. Recognizing the varying degrees of severity of violations (misdemeanors vs. felonies), consequences for involvement may result from minor reprimand to the denial of participation for a calendar year depending upon the nature of the offense. Consultation between the coach, A.D., and principal will be conducted before the denial of participation is determined.

F. All athletes are expected to behave in a manner which reflects positively on the school and their team. Behavior that reflects negatively would include such offenses as:

1. Repeated truancy from school or class.
2. Hazing or sexual harassment

3. Acts of vandalism or abuse of persons or property.
 4. Repeated infractions of school rules or chronic incorrigible behavior.
 5. Abusive language, gestures, or profanity.
 6. Behavior, attitude, or unsportsmanlike conduct at or during athletic contests, practice sessions, or school sponsored events.
- The penalties violations will be determined by the coach/advisor and/or the Athletic Director and/or Principal.

G. If an athlete participating in “Sport A” either quits the team or is denied participation for a violation, he/she is not eligible to join the organized conditioning program or try out for “Sport B” until all the other members of “Sport A” are also eligible. If an athlete is “cut” from the team before the regular season begins and not because of a violation, he/she will be eligible for “Sport B”. Players who are denied participation for the remainder of the season, or who quit the team any time within the sport season are not eligible for an athletic award for that sport season (this includes varsity letters).

H. Comply with all additional training rules or other requirements set by the coach/advisor.

IV. DENIAL OF PARTICIPATION

A. An infraction must be observed by a teacher, coach, chaperone, school administrator, school board member, a member of any law enforcement agency, or the parents of the athlete in violation. A statement of admission by the athlete would also be considered an infraction. In the event of a violation of the Code of Conduct the administration will conduct an investigation prior to any disciplinary action.

***No Right to Appeal Suspension from Athletics**

Students do not have a constitutional right to participate in sports, nor do they have a statutory right to appeal a district’s decision to exclude them from participating. O.R.C. § 3313.664

B. Additional rules may be applied by each coach that he or she feels will enhance his or her activity per the approval of the Athletic Administration and OHSAA guidelines. In the event of an infraction of these rules the following procedure will take place.

1. The coach/advisor will inform the student of what the infraction is and what discipline action may take place.
2. The coach then conducts an informal hearing to allow the student to explain his/her actions.
3. If the coach denies the student the opportunity to participate, he/she shall inform the student.

C. Any student suspended from school shall be denied participation from sports of the period of the suspension. A suspension that carries over a weekend will result in a denial of participation over the weekend. Suspended students will be denied participation in practices and competitions until the student returns to regular classes. (A suspension over winter or spring break will merit consideration by the Athletic Director and/or Principal.)

STUDENT AND PARENTAL VERIFICATION FORM ATHLETIC CODE OF CONDUCT

I have received, read, and agree to adhere to the Springfield Athletic Code of Conduct and the additional team guidelines given by the coach to all participants in the athletic program. I may or may not agree with these rules and regulations, but I do agree to follow these guidelines as a member of an athletic squad. I also realize that the conditions of this Athletic Code of Conduct are continuous from the date signed below until the conclusion of the athlete's career at Springfield Local High School.

Athlete's Name Printed _____

Athlete Signature _____ Date _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

NOTE: This form must be signed, returned to the coach before the athlete is permitted to participate in a practice or a game.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RISK

Risk in sports is a topic that has received great publicity recently. All human activities, including sports, have a potential for causing injury to individuals. Sports injuries can range from simple cuts and bruises to serious conditions such as fractures and severe sprains, possibly requiring surgery, to catastrophic occurrences which include blinding eye injuries, neck and back injuries with resulting paralysis, and although rare, death. The coaches in the Springfield Local Schools will do their best to prevent, protect and treat injuries to your son or daughter.

We acknowledge the fact that the risk of injuries detailed above is present in the sports offered in the Springfield Local Schools. We grant our child permission to assume these risks while participating in these sports. We assume these risks with the understanding that the Springfield Local School coaches will do everything in their power to reduce the injury potential to my/our child.

Student Signature _____ Date _____

Parent/Guardian _____ Date _____

Revised June, 2015