

VIKING ATHLETIC CODE OF CONDUCT

St. Laurence High School offers an extensive and diverse athletic program to provide additional learning opportunities to students. Involvement in athletics is a voluntary privilege, and students choosing to participate take on extended responsibilities as representatives of their school and community. These extended responsibilities justify holding students who choose to participate in the athletic program to a higher standard of conduct as a condition of participation. STL particularly expects student participants to meet high standards with regard to morality, honesty, school citizenship, sportsmanship, and leadership. Students who choose to participate in athletics are responsible for behaving in accordance with this code, and those whose behavior or conduct does not meet this standard will lose the privilege of participating in athletic programs. The expectations for the behavior of our student-athletes are very clear, and all violations of this Code of Conduct are detailed below.

The Viking Athletic Code of Conduct is in effect 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 12 months a year, both inside and outside of school and/or school-related activities. All student-athletes and their parents/guardians must sign the code each year of participation in athletics. The commitment that those signatures represent will remain in effect for one calendar year from the date of last participation by the student. In order for the student to participate after that date, the participant and parent must once again sign said form, which in turn will commit the participant just as stated above. Code violations and consequences do, however, carry over from one year to the next.

EXPECTATIONS OF STUDENT-ATHLETES

Students may be suspended from participation in athletic activities for misconduct including, but not limited to, the following. All student-athletes **MUST**:

- Not possess or use tobacco, nicotine, vaping or e-cigarette products, alcohol, illegal drugs, or controlled substances. (The word “possess” used in this code includes knowingly being in the presence of a product, even if it is not directly on your person.)
- Not host a party or have the participant’s parent/guardian or family member host a party at which the following are permitted for minors: illegal consumption of alcohol, use of controlled substances, steroids, or look-alike drugs.
- Practice good citizenship in all environments by respecting the physical and property and rights of others. (Poor citizenship includes actions such as theft, vandalism, and other illegal acts.)
- Display proper sportsmanship.
- Not utilize social media and other websites in an inappropriate manner.
- Not engage in hazing (bullying).
- Realize the existence of and be held accountable for the individual rules as outlined by the coach or sponsor, other than those outlined in the athletic code.

CONSEQUENCES FOR VIOLATIONS

The consequences for violating this Code of Conduct shall be based on a student’s participation in sanctioned athletics during all four years of high school. Offenses and consequences are carried over from one sport to the next and from one school year to the next until the entire penalty is served. Furthermore, the student must finish the season in good standing. A suspended student-athlete may practice with the team (as long as s/he is not suspended from school) but is not allowed to dress for contests during his/her suspension. Coaches may set a stricter policy as long as it is clearly conveyed during the pre-season parent meeting. Parents may also extend the length of their child’s suspension from contests.

Violations Related to Tobacco/Nicotine/Vaping, Alcohol, Drugs, Controlled Substances, and Citizenship

1st Offense: The student-athlete shall be suspended for 20% of the scheduled athletic contests for his/her current sport season or, if s/he is not in-season at the time of the offense or does not complete the suspension during his/her current season, for the next sport season in which s/he will participate. Suspensions will carry over into state series/playoffs if necessary. All substance abuse counseling requirements outlined in the student-handbook and ordered by the school must be met before a student-athlete may return to play, even if s/he has served his suspension.

2nd Offense: The student-athlete shall be suspended for 50% of the scheduled athletic contests for his/her current sport season or, if s/he is not in-season at the time of the offense or does not complete the suspension during his/her current season, for the next sport season in which s/he will participate. Suspensions will carry over into state series/playoffs if necessary. All substance abuse counseling requirements outlined in the student-handbook and ordered by the school must be met before a student-athlete may return to play, even if s/he has served his suspension.

3rd Offense: The student-athlete shall be permanently banned from participating in athletics at STL for the remainder of his/her high school years.

Student-athletes who are arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol or a controlled substance or who host a party where alcohol, controlled substances, steroids, or look-a-like drugs are served to minors are subject to stricter punishment than the consequences listed above. In these instances, the punishment will be determined on a case-by-case basis.

Violations Related to Sportsmanship

All STL athletes must display good sportsmanship and respect for their school, coaches, teammates, opponents, officials, facilities, and equipment at all times. Any instance of poor sportsmanship will be handled by the Head Coach or Athletic Director on an individual basis, based on the expectations established in that specific sport's team rules and/or the student-athlete handbook.

Any student that is ejected from a contest will, at a minimum, be subject to the IHSA by-laws that render the athlete suspended from the next contest. There are NO EXCEPTIONS to this rule. Moreover, the Head Coach will report all such ejections to the Athletic Director. The Athletic Director will review all facts from the incident, and he has the discretion to impose a stiffer penalty than the automatic one-game suspension, including (but not limited to) a longer suspension or removal from the team.

Violations Related to Social Media

Student-athletes are responsible for their actions on social media and other websites, including but not limited to Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, SnapChat, and YouTube. Any photos, comments, or other evidence that suggests a Code violation has occurred will be investigated by the Athletic Director. Any photo that shows a student-athlete in possession of tobacco, alcohol, drugs, or controlled substances will fall under the consequences of a violation related to tobacco, alcohol, drugs, controlled substances, and citizenship as outlined above.

Any inappropriate postings to any social media or blog sites by a student-athlete will be handled on an individual basis by the Athletic Director. Inappropriate postings include but are not limited to obscene or vulgar language; graphic images or videos; sexually explicit language, imagery, or videos; threats; and unkind or inflammatory remarks about St. Laurence, its faculty, staff, and administration, coaches, and students, or other high schools and their coaches and athletes.

Violations Related to Hazing (Bullying)

Hazing will not be tolerated and will be subject to disciplinary action up to and including a permanent ban from athletics, suspension/expulsion, and police involvement if warranted. Each incident will be handled on an individual basis by the administration of STL. Any student who is witness to or is the subject of hazing should immediately report the incident to their level coach, the varsity coach, the Athletic Director, or any other school personnel.

Additional Violations

Any inappropriate action that is not specifically listed above is still subject to athletic suspension for student-athletes. For instance, disciplinary action for behavior in violation of school rules as described in the STL Student Handbook may also subject participants to disciplinary action under the Athletic Code (this includes academic dishonesty such as cheating or plagiarism, fighting, damage/neglect of school property, and reckless driving in the parking lot). Additionally, conduct resulting in the participant's arrest or conviction of an ordinance violation or crime may result in disciplinary action under the Athletic Code. The Athletic Director has sole discretion to determine any behavior or actions that fall under additional violations and in these cases will decide the consequences.

All coaches have team rules for their individual programs. Any violations of team rules that are not also covered by the Viking Code of Conduct will be dealt with by the coach of that sport.

PROCESS FOR DETERMINING VIOLATIONS AND CONSEQUENCES

Student-athletes who are alleged to have violated this Viking Athletic Code of Conduct shall meet with the Athletic Director to explain the incident prior to any consequence being applied. The Athletic Director will then decide on the consequences based on the code and the facts at hand. Student-athletes and parents/guardians who wish to appeal a consequence administered under this Code may seek a review of the Athletic Director's determination and consequence by requesting a review by the Principal within five calendar days of the determination of the consequence. The Principal or designee shall convene a meeting with the student and his or her parent/guardian to allow the student and parent/guardian to offer an explanation, and/or demonstrate that the Code was not violated. During the appeals process, the decision of the Athletic Director shall be enforced. The decision of the Principal after an appeal is requested will be final and binding.

As we value the importance of leadership, we strongly encourage any student who has a lapse in judgment and violates the Code of Conduct to self-report his violation, instead of trying to hide it from the school. A self-reported violation could result in a reduced suspension if it is the first offense.

ALL STUDENT-ATHLETES AND THEIR PARENTS/GUARDIANS MUST ELECTRONICALLY SIGN THE FORM DURING THE ONLINE REGISTRATION PROCESS ACKNOWLEDGING THAT THEY HAVE READ THE VIKING CODE OF CONDUCT AND AGREE TO THE POLICIES CONTAINED WITHIN. STUDENTS WILL NOT BE ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE IN ATHLETICS UNTIL THIS IS ON FILE WITH THE ATHLETIC OFFICE VIA ONLINE REGISTRATION.