

Springfield Township High School
Athletic Department

STUDENT-ATHLETE / FAMILY HANDBOOK



A reference for PIAA Interscholastic Sports
Student-Athletes and Parents/Guardians

Printed by the School District of Springfield Township Athletic
Department

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Message from our Athletic Director

Welcome to another exciting year of Springfield Township Athletics! We are thrilled that you have chosen to participate in athletics and are preparing for the challenges and rewards that the Springfield Township experience has to offer.

Springfield Township Athletics provides a great learning environment for each and every student-athlete. As a member of the PIAA and Suburban One League, we face and welcome great competition and high expectations of effort, achievement, and sportsmanship.

Athletics provides the opportunity for many positive attributes to nurture and grow within our student body and community as a whole. Participation in athletics allows us to develop: self-esteem, work ethic, teamwork, forgiveness, humility, leadership, sportsmanship, social interactions, as well as healthy lifestyle choices. Athletics provides the chance for an individual to develop physically, mentally, and socially.

We expect to challenge and develop the student-athletes by providing great competitive opportunities in both practice and game situations, coupled with an equally challenging and rewarding academic experience. We recognize that the balance of academics and athletics provides us with an opportunity for student-athletes to learn and practice skills in problem solving, advocacy, and persistence. No greatness comes without struggle and sacrifice.

Success and pride will come from competing the right way. The promise that we make to you, and we ask that you make to each other, is to do these three things every day, in and out of school and competition: (1) know and do the right thing, (2) do it with relentless effort, and (3) do it with compassion and kindness towards others.

We wish you great experiences and rewards filled with memories and relationships that will last a lifetime. Make it a great year.

Mr. Joseph Ferraro, HS Athletic Director

Mrs. Kieran Brady, MS Athletic Director

VISION STATEMENT

*To positively impact the lives of others,
we will develop and support an athletic program
built on a tradition of integrity and excellence,
while upholding high academic, social, and athletic standards.*

POSITIVE PERFORMANCE PATHWAY

*Know and do the right thing
Do it with relentless effort
Do it with compassion and care for others*

Introduction

The School District of Springfield Township Student-Athlete Handbook is designed to inform student-athletes and families of the rules, regulations, and information for participation in the SDST interscholastic athletics program. Participation in interscholastic athletics is a privilege of honor, responsibility, sacrifice, and commitment.

Participation in SDST Athletics, as a privilege and not a right, also comes with unique opportunities as well as expectations. Those who choose to participate will be expected to follow the rules and regulations and Code of Conduct established by the SDST and the SDST Athletic Department, along with additional rules and expectations of the coaches for their sport.

Students who participate in SDST interscholastic athletic programs are expected to represent the School District of Springfield Township, their team, family, and community in a positive manner. It is expected that all athletes, coaches, staff, families, and fans conduct themselves in a manner that will uphold a positive image of our program and the School District of Springfield Township at all times.

Springfield Township High School and Springfield Township Middle School are members of the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association (PIAA) and therefore bound by the rules and regulations of that governing body. In addition, Springfield Township High School's athletic teams are members of the Suburban One League and PIAA District I.

SDST Philosophy of Interscholastic Athletics

The Board of School Directors believes that the purpose of an interscholastic athletic program is to provide learning experiences that will contribute to the personal, physical, and psychological development of the individual student-athlete. These learning experiences will be consistent with the educational goals of the School District of Springfield Township and will complement the academic program of the School District. Hence, participation in interscholastic athletics can serve an important role in meeting the needs of secondary level students within the total educational process. See Board Policy No. 123 in Appendix.

Instructional Focus - Professional Practices

As practitioners, teachers, and coaches alike, we are committed to continuous improvement of SDST teaching practices, leadership practices, and organizational practices because they are the preconditions for higher levels of student achievement. The following four pillars should be the building blocks of the district's professional practices; they frame what must be done in every "classroom," and system-wide to ensure success for all students, without exception.

PILLAR #1: CULTURE OF TRUST, RELATIONSHIPS, AND COLLABORATION

Build trust and relationships with open communication that promotes effective collaboration among all partners in the teaching and learning community.

PILLAR #2: RESPONSIVE TEACHING AND LEARNING

Curriculum, instruction, and learning are shaped by a growth mindset and guided by principles of differentiation.

PILLAR #3: HIGH EXPECTATIONS FOR ALL

Beliefs and practices reflect universally held high standards and shared responsibility for continuous growth and improvement.

PILLAR #4: WELCOMING AND SAFE CLIMATE FOR LEARNING AND WORK

Learning occurs in safe environments that support the needs of all students and adults and provide a welcoming environment where positive academic and prudent personal risk-taking are encouraged.

Requirements for Participation

Consideration for participation on an athletic team requires that a student-athlete meet the following conditions:

1. Satisfy all PIAA and SDST eligibility and academic standards
2. Adhere to the codes of conduct of the School District of Springfield Township, the school building you attend, the Athletic Department, and your individual sports team
3. Submit unaltered, original, and completed PIAA physical documents and related forms to the Athletic Department before participating in tryouts, practices, or competitions.

Final Cutoff Date for PIAA Physicals to be turned into AD

Although the PIAA and the SDST maintain due dates for each sport season in regards to when forms must be turned in, late additions to teams will be allowed until the end of the second week of official practices for each season and sport. Unique cases will be considered on a case by case basis. Until the physical form is approved and a student-athlete is added to an official roster, they may not participate in any practice or scrimmage in any form. At this time, if a student-athlete has decided not to continue with the team or has not participated in that first week of practice, then all SDST equipment must be returned to the coach as soon as possible.

Eligibility Requirements

Note: All required forms and notifications are expected to be submitted by the announced deadlines. Further details and updated PIAA rules and regulations referred to in this document are available online at www.piaa.org.

Age - PIAA Constitution and By-Law: Article I

A student shall be ineligible for interscholastic athletic competition upon attaining the age of nineteen years by the date of June 30th that immediately precedes the beginning of the school year.

In sports where interscholastic competition is limited to grades 7 through 9, the student-athlete may not have reached their 16th birthday by the date of June 30th that immediately precedes the beginning of the school year.

Amateur Status and Awards - PIAA Constitution and By-Law: Article II

To be eligible to participate in a sport, a student must be an amateur in that sport. A student loses amateur status in a sport if the student, or the student's parent(s) or guardian(s), receives money or property for or related to the student's athletic ability, participation, performance, services, or training in a sport.

A student may accept awards from the student's school or the student's affiliated booster club, the sponsor of an athletic event, a non-profit service organization approved by the student's school's Principal, or the new media. Permissible awards are food as part of an interscholastic function or trip, items of apparel, a blanket, watch, ring, scroll, carry-on or warm-up bag, photograph, medal, plaque, or similar award, with appropriate institutional insignia or comparable identification, if the student participated in the athletic event and/or earned an award for an athletic event or events. The fair market value of items provided to any such student may not exceed \$1,000.

Name, Image and Likeness

Students may receive Consideration for the use of their own name, image and likeness (NIL). Such permissible activities include commercial endorsements, promotional activities, social media presence, product or service advertisements, and unique digital items/assets. NIL contracts/agreements need to come from analysis of the value an athlete brings for providing a specific service/activity, not as an incentive for enrollment decisions or membership on a team. No School or anyone employed by or affiliated with a member school, including booster clubs, coaches, collectives, administrators and alumni, may solicit, arrange, negotiate or pay for a student's, other than their own child, use of their NIL and/or the provision of Consideration to a student for the use of their NIL.

In engaging in NIL activities, students may not make any reference to PIAA or a PIAA member school ((including the school and/or team name, nicknames, terms by which a school

or team is commonly referred or identified, logo) and may not wear school uniforms or school-identifying apparel or items). Students may not endorse or promote any third-party entities, goods or services during team/school activities. Students may not wear the apparel or display the logo, insignia, or identifying mark of an NIL partner during any team/school athletic activities unless it is part of the standard school uniform for that sport. Students may not engage in any NIL activities involving, displaying or endorsing the following categories of products and services:

- Adult entertainment products and services;
- Alcohol products;
- Casinos and gambling, including sports betting, the lottery, and betting in connection with video games, on-line games and mobile devices;
- Tobacco and electronic smoking products and devices;
- Opioids and prescription pharmaceuticals;
- Controlled dangerous substances;
- Weapons, firearms and ammunition.

Within 72 hours after entering into any type of NIL contracts/agreements, a student, or the student's parents/guardians must notify the Principal or Athletic Director of the student's school of entering into that agreement.

Attendance - PIAA Constitution and By-Law: Article III

To be eligible to participate in an inter-school practice, scrimmage, or contest, a student must be regularly enrolled in a secondary school and in full-time attendance, or be home-school. A student is only eligible at the school in which they are enrolled. Home-schooled students, or students enrolled in Charter or Cyber Charter schools have to meet certain criteria in order to be eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at the School District of Springfield Township. Those criteria can be found in the PIAA By-Laws or located in the Athletics Office.

Any student that has been absent from school for a total of twenty (20) or more days in a semester shall not be eligible to participate in any athletic contest until they have attended school for a total of forty-five (45) school days following the twentieth day of absence. A PIAA District committee may consider an exception when there is an extended absence because of approved reasons.

Middle School: Student-athletes wishing to participate in extracurricular activities must be present at least ½ of the school day. Students must arrive no later than 11:10am.

High School: In order to participate in extracurricular activities, events, or athletics,

- a student must be present at least 1/2 of the school day with a valid excuse OR
- a student must not miss more than 90 minutes of the day unexcused OR
- a student must have prior absence approval from the administration in an extenuating circumstance.

Consent of Parent or Guardian - PIAA Constitution and By-Law: Article IV

A student shall be eligible for participation in each sport only when there is on file with the Principal, or the Principal's designee, a certificate of consent signed by a parent or guardian consenting to that student-athletes participation in practices, inter-school practices, scrimmages, and/or contests in the particular sport involved.

Health - PIAA Constitution and By-Law: Article V

Any student wishing to participate in practices, inter-school practices, scrimmages and contests for a PIAA-affiliated sports team for the first time during the school year must meet the following requirements:

1. Complete the PIAA physical (CIPPE) found on the school website.
2. Register for the sports team via the FamilyID Registration Pages.
3. Submit the completed CIPPE, Section 6 and upload it to Family ID no later than the posted dates
4. The PIAA CIPPE Forms are now collected digitally, Section 6 is the only form that needs to be printed and uploaded via FamilyID. *We suggest you make a copy of the original document for your own records, should the school request the original document.*

Any student who fulfills the requirements to participate in a PIAA interscholastic sport during a school year and seeks to participate in a subsequent sport(s) in the same school year, must complete and submit to the SDST Athletic Office their PIAA Recertification by Parent/Guardian form (CIPPE, Section 7) according to the schedules posted by the PIAA and SDST Department of Athletics. If after review by the SDST Athletic Training staff that it is determined that the student needs further medical evaluation, a "Re-Evaluation and Recertification by Authorized Medical Examiner" form (CIPPE, Section 8) must be completed and submitted to the Athletic Department via FamilyID.

Finally, if the student-athlete is participating in wrestling, they must have established a minimum wrestling weight class utilizing the National Wrestling Coaches' Association (NWCA) Optimal Performance Calculator as the mechanism to calculate the minimum wrestling weight. The SDST certified assessor will perform all required testing.

Period of Participation - PIAA Constitution and By-Law: Article VIII

A student-athlete is eligible for practice or participation in interscholastic athletics upon entry into seventh grade. A student-athlete loses eligibility when the student-athlete has reached the end of the student's fourth consecutive year beyond eighth grade. If the student repeats a grade after eighth, the student will be ineligible as a senior. Student-athletes are permitted to

play six seasons beyond sixth grade or four seasons beyond the eighth grade in any sport. Student-athletes also must have completed the coursework of grades 9-12.

Participation of Secondary Homeschooled Students in PIAA Athletics

Homeschooled secondary students residing within the School District of Springfield Township shall be eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at the age-group within their regular attendance area. Each student shall be required to follow the rules of the team and school, the policies of the School District of Springfield Township and the rules and regulations of the PIAA.

Transportation to and from scheduled practices and events is the responsibility of the parents/guardians of the home-schooled student(s) except where late bus transportation and team transportation are provided by the school district.

Procedures:

Parents/guardians of homeschooled students who wish to have their students participate in interscholastic athletics within the school district have the following responsibilities:

1. Submit unaltered, original, and completed PIAA physical documents and related forms to the Athletic Department before participation in tryouts, practices, or competitions.
2. Prior to participation, verify with the Office of Teaching and Learning the following conditions:
 - a. The student is officially enrolled through the district as a homeschooled student.
 - b. The student has on file an educational plan that meets state homeschool requirements.
 - c. The student's homeschool program is overseen by a licensed educator.
3. After participation has begun, notify weekly or daily as directed by the Athletic Director if the student does not meet SDST and PIAA eligibility requirements for academic or attendance reasons.
4. It is an expectation of homeschooled families to be active participants in communication with coaches and district athletic department staff.
5. The School District of Springfield Township will perform the following responsibilities:
 - a. Announce and supervise the registration process.
 - b. Announce physical exam information through the school website and weekly eBlast.
 - c. Include the names and information of any home schooled students on the appropriate official roster.
 - d. Inform registered parent(s)/guardian(s) and student(s) about orientation meetings, schedules, tryouts, practices, etc. for the upcoming season via coaches' communication.

All-Star Contests - PIAA Constitution and By-Laws: Article IX

All-Star contests are those events where high school or middle school participants are chosen by invitation or selected outright by some predetermined process for a single event. PIAA does not sponsor, sanction or approve All-Star Contests. Individual PIAA-member schools may not sponsor an All-Star Contest.

Students who have exhausted their eligibility and completed their final season of a PIAA sport, may participate in All-Star Contests in that sport on an unlimited basis. Students in grades 7-11 and students in grade 12 who have not exhausted their eligibility in a sport, may participate in All-Star Contests in that sport subject to the following:

- Participation by students is as a private citizen and not as a representative of their school;
- The school's interscholastic athletic uniform may not be used by students;
- Participation must be consistent with the requirements of Article XVI: Season and Out-of-Season Rules and Regulations, Section 2, A, B and C. All-Star Contests in the sport of football are prohibited for students in grades 7-11 and students in grade 12 who have not exhausted their eligibility subject to Section 2, C. Football of Article XVI.

Curriculum - PIAA Constitution and By-Laws: Article X

A student must pursue a curriculum defined and approved by the Principal as a full-time curriculum. This curriculum must be approved by and conform to the regulations of the State Board of Education, the Pennsylvania School Code, and any policies established by the School Board of Directors.

Academic Eligibility is determined both weekly and by marking period:

Weekly: A student-athlete must maintain a passing average, above 65%, in each course. Eligibility shall be cumulative from the beginning of a grading period, and is reported by the teaching staff on a weekly basis. Each Monday, STHS runs an Interim Progress Report (IPR) listing all students with failing grades. From this list, coaches are notified if they have any student-athletes failing a course or courses. We use the following system for student-athletes that have not maintained passing averages.

- Week 1 Student-Athlete: If a student-athlete is failing a course, or courses, for the first week they are designated as a Week 1 Student-Athlete. This week is purely a warning week to allow students to focus on their coursework and rectify their grade. Student-athletes are permitted to practice and play in competitions during this period
- Week 2 Student-Athlete: If in the subsequent week, that student-athlete is failing the same course(s), their designation changes to Week 2. Students that are failing the same course(s) may attend and participate in practice, but are not permitted to participate in competitions.

- **Week 3 Student-Athlete:** Student-athletes that are failing the same course(s) for the third consecutive week, are not permitted to attend, or participate in, practice or competitions.

The only way to re-establish eligibility is to show up on the Monday IPR as passing the course(s). Ineligible student-athletes must serve the entire week from Monday-Saturday.

Marking Period: In the event that a student-athlete receives a failing grade on a report card, Article 10, Section 3, of the PIAA By-Laws state, "... said student is ineligible to participate in interscholastic athletics for at least fifteen (15) school days of the next grading period..."

The PIAA By-Laws specifically state school days, which means that if school is closed, those dates do not count toward the ineligible period. Eligibility for the first grading period of the school year will be determined by the preceding school year's final grades.

Behavior and Citizenship

The School District of Springfield Township believes that good conduct is closely related to a positive environment for learning and an effective athletic program. As athletics is an extension of the classroom, it is expected that student-athletes follow the rules and regulations governing student conduct in school, during the time spent in travel to and from school, and while participating in school sponsored events.

Such rules shall require that students:

- Conform to standards of socially expected behavior
- Respect the rights, person, beliefs, and property of others
- Preserve the degree of order necessary to the program in which they are engaged
- Respond positively, appropriately, and promptly to those adults charged with the responsibility of monitoring students.

Student-athletes are expected to adhere to SDST behavioral and attendance policies. A team's coach may establish and publish, with the approval and consent of the Principal and/or Athletic Director, rules that complement those rules/policies that have been instituted by the School District and athletic department.

Code of Conduct

Student-athletes are expected to conform to the code of conduct for the building they attend. Student-athletes that show patterns of inappropriate behaviors will be referred to MTSS (Multi-tiered Systems of Support). Violations of that code which result in a suspension (in-school or out-of-school), will affect a student-athlete's participation. When a student-athlete has been suspended out of school, the student-athlete may not visit any district campus for the duration of the suspension, nor may the student-athlete participate in any school sponsored extracurricular activities, including athletic practices or competitions. Student-athletes may be eligible to resume participation in athletics on the day that they resume regular school attendance.

When a student-athlete is assigned to an after-school detention or is suspended in-school, participation in extracurricular activities are also restricted. The student-athlete may not participate in any extracurricular activities, including athletic practices or competitions. Student-athletes may be eligible to resume participation in athletics on the day following the completion of the after-school detention or in-school suspension. It is the responsibility of the student-athlete to communicate with the head coach of any such detention or suspension.

Attendance at Interscholastic Practices and Competitions

Students who wish to participate in an after-school event must be in attendance in accordance with our attendance policy, which is located on our school website and page 9 of this document. If there is a delayed start to the school day, the student-athlete is expected to be at school on time. Friday attendance will affect eligibility for weekend activities.

Exceptions for absences may be made when prior approval has been granted by administration. Examples of excused and unexcused absences may include, but are not limited to:

Excused Absences	Unexcused Absences
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Religious observance or instruction ● Illness of the student ● Medical or dental appointment ● Death in the family ● Quarantine ● Special Academic pursuit / Testing (i.e. College Visit, College Orientations, SAT Testing, ACT Testing, AP Testing, etc.) ● Educational or Co-curricular trips ● Absences with prior administrative approval 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Babysitting ● Hair appointments ● Shopping trips ● Fishing or hunting trips ● Gainful employment ● Community service (without prior approval) ● Absences that are personal in nature ● Any trip without prior administrative approval

Categories of Conduct Violations

Note: Administrative discretion may be used depending upon the severity of the incident and/or the student-athlete's disciplinary record/previous offenses. The following code of conduct is to be used as a baseline, coaches and teams may institute additional team rules with the approval of the Athletic Department. Any and all disciplinary actions administered within the prescribed actions below, with the exception of team dismissals, given pursuant and in accordance with this Handbook are given at the discretion of the Coach and/or Athletic Director. Due process for dismissals is outlined on page 34.

Attendance:

LEVEL	Behavior / May Look Like	Prescribed Action
I	<p>Late to practice</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Arriving after the start of practice without a valid excuse or lack of communication ahead of time with the coaching staff ● Unexcused absence for the entire or majority of a practice 	<p>1st Offense</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Coach discusses behavior with the student-athlete and documents notes. ● Coach discusses and finds a solution strategy & issues a verbal warning ● Coach notifies the parent/guardian and Athletic Director <p>2nd Offense</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Coach revisits previous discussion with the student-athlete, documented notes, and solution strategy ● Coach issues and assigns consequence: eligible to practice, ineligible for first ½ of next game/event (or comparable consequence for sports with no halves) ● Coach notifies the parent/guardian and Athletic Director <p>3rd Offense</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Coach revisits previous discussion with the student-athlete, document notes, and solution strategy. ● Coach issues and assigns consequence: eligible to practice, ineligible for next game/event ● Coach notifies parent/guardian and Athletic Director
II	<p>Unexcused Absence from a practice/game without notice or Late the bus for an away contest without prior notification</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Unexcused absence for the entire or majority of a practice (without prior notice to coaching staff) ● Unexcused absence for the entire or majority of a game/event (with prior notice to coaching staff) ● Leaving a practice, game/event without the coach's permission ● Arriving after the identified arrival time for a bus departure ● Not attending or failing to inform the head coach of an in-school suspension or after school detention 	<p>1st Offense</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Meeting with the student-athlete, parents/guardians, coach and Athletic Director to discuss behavior, document notes, and develop a solution strategy. ● Coach and Athletic Director issues and assigns consequence: eligible for practice, ineligible for next game/competition ● <i>Note: Any subsequent offense of any level, combined with a level 2 offense, may result in a level 2, 2nd offense consequence.</i> <p>2nd Offense</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Meeting with the student-athlete, parents/guardians, coach and Athletic Director to discuss behavior, document notes, and develop a solution strategy. ● Coach and Athletic Director issues and assigns consequence: eligible for practice; ineligible for next competition; student-athletes must complete two (2) practices before resuming competition eligibility. ● <i>Note: any subsequent offense of any level, combined with a level 2 offense may result in a level 2, 3rd offense consequence.</i> <p>3rd Offense</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Meeting with the student-athlete, parents/guardians, coach and Athletic Director to discuss behavior, document notes, and develop a solution strategy. ● Coach and Athletic Director issues and assigns consequence: eligible for practice; ineligible for next competition; student-athletes must complete four (4) practices before resuming competition eligibility. ● <i>Note: any subsequent offense of any level, combined with a</i>

		<i>level 2 offense may result in a level 3, 1st offense consequence.</i>
III	<p>Unexcused Absence from a game/event without notice. Failing to arrive at the bus for an away departure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unexcused absence for the entire or majority of a game/event without prior notice to the coaching staff • Arriving after the bus departure for an away game/event • Failing to inform the head coach of an out-of-school suspension 	<p>1st Offense</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting with the student-athlete, parents/guardians, coach and Athletic Director to discuss behavior, document notes, and develop a solution strategy. • Coach and Athletic Director issues and assigns consequence: ineligible for practice; ineligible for next competition; student-athletes must complete four (4) practices before resuming competition eligibility. *(when applicable, athletic suspension will match the OSS duration determined by school administration and above consequences will begin once they return to school) • <i>Note: Any subsequent offense of any level, combined with a level 3 offense, may result in a level 3, 2nd offense consequence.</i> <p>2nd Offense</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting with the student-athlete, parents/guardians, coach and Athletic Director to discuss behavior, document notes, and develop a solution strategy. • Coach and Athletic Director issues and assigns consequence: ineligible for practice; ineligible for next competition; student-athletes must complete six (6) practices before resuming competition eligibility. *(when applicable, athletic suspension will match the OSS duration determined by school administration and above consequences will begin once they return to school) <p>3rd Offense</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting with the student-athlete, parents/guardians, coach, Athletic Director, and Principal to discuss behavior, document notes, and develop a solution strategy. • Carry out team dismissal procedures.

Program / Team Rules:

LEVEL	Behavior / May Look Like	Prescribed Action
I	<p>Inappropriate behavior that is disruptive or hinders your or other's ability to learn or perform. Uniform Violations. Any of the following behaviors - Note, this may not be an exhaustive list:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Being inattentive, disruptive, or distracting to self or others • Non-adherence to team rules or norms • Inappropriate dress / not adhering to the prescribed dress code or uniform for travel or events 	<p>1st Offense</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coach discusses behavior with the student-athlete and documents notes. • Coach discusses and finds a solution strategy & issues a verbal warning • Coach notifies the parent/guardian and Athletic Director <p>2nd Offense</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coach revisits previous discussion with the student-athlete, documented notes, and solution strategy • Coach issues and assigns consequence: eligible to practice, ineligible for first ½ of next game/event (or comparable consequence for sports with no halves) • Coach notifies the parent/guardian and Athletic Director <p>3rd Offense</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coach revisits previous discussion with the student-athlete, document notes, and solution strategy. • Coach issues and assigns consequence: eligible to practice, ineligible for next game/event • Coach notifies parent/guardian and Athletic Director
II	<p>Elevated Level I Offense. Actions that may be damaging or disruptive to the team image, culture and/or chemistry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elevated actions from the list above • Open defiance of school or team rules • Actions unbecoming of a SDST athlete that may take place on or off 	<p>1st Offense</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting with the student-athlete, parents/guardians, coach and Athletic Director to discuss behavior, document notes, and develop a solution strategy. • Coach and Athletic Director issues and assigns consequence: eligible for practice, ineligible for next game/competition • <i>Note: Any subsequent offense of any level, combined with a</i>

	<p>school property or in/outside of the school day while representing the team, including, but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Disrespectful engagement with members of the community ○ Public behavior that a reasonable person would consider offensive to standards of decency ○ Suggestive or taunting statements made to teammates, opponents, or members of the staff or community 	<p><i>level 2 offense, may result in a level 2, 2nd offense consequence.</i></p> <p>2nd Offense</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Meeting with the student-athlete, parents/guardians, coach and Athletic Director to discuss behavior, document notes, and develop a solution strategy. ● Coach and Athletic Director issues and assigns consequence: eligible for practice; ineligible for next competition; student-athletes must complete two (2) practices before resuming competition eligibility. ● <i>Note: any subsequent offense of any level, combined with a level 2 offense may result in a level 2, 3rd offense consequence.</i> <p>3rd Offense</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Meeting with the student-athlete, parents/guardians, coach and Athletic Director to discuss behavior, document notes, and develop a solution strategy. ● Coach and Athletic Director issues and assigns consequence: eligible for practice; ineligible for next competition; student-athletes must complete four (4) practices before resuming competition eligibility. ● <i>Note: any subsequent offense of any level, combined with a level 2 offense may result in a level 3, 1st offense consequence.</i>
<p>III</p>	<p>Accessing areas that are off-limits</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Accessing equipment rooms, athletic training rooms, training areas, offices, or locker rooms without permission ● Entering restricted areas 	<p>1st Offense</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Meeting with the student-athlete, parents/guardians, coach and Athletic Director to discuss behavior, document notes, and develop a solution strategy. ● Coach and Athletic Director issues and assigns consequence: ineligible for practice; ineligible for next competition; student-athletes must complete four (4) practices before resuming competition eligibility. *(when applicable, athletic suspension will match the OSS duration determined by school administration and above consequences will begin once they return to school) ● <i>Note: Any subsequent offense of any level, combined with a level 3 offense, may result in a level 3, 2nd offense consequence.</i> <p>2nd Offense</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Meeting with the student-athlete, parents/guardians, coach and Athletic Director to discuss behavior, document notes, and develop a solution strategy. ● Coach and Athletic Director issues and assigns consequence: ineligible for practice; ineligible for next competition; student-athletes must complete six (6) practices before resuming competition eligibility. *(when applicable, athletic suspension will match the OSS duration determined by school administration and above consequences will begin once they return to school) ● <i>Note: Any subsequent offense of any level, combined with a level 3, second offense, may result in a level 4, 1st offense consequence.</i> <p>3rd Offense</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Meeting with the student-athlete, parents/guardians, coach, Athletic Director, and Principal to discuss behavior, document notes, and develop a solution strategy. ● Carry out team dismissal procedures.
<p>IV</p>	<p>Participating in or initiating a severe disturbance or prank</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Malevolent school disturbance ● Any act taken with the intent to place others in unwanted fear or disorder ● Creating a disturbance that severely interrupts a practice or game/event 	<p>1st Offense</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Meeting with the student-athlete, parents/guardians, coach, Athletic Director, and Principal to discuss behavior, document notes, and develop a solution strategy. ● Coach and Athletic Director issues and assigns consequence: ineligible for practice and competition for (10) ten practice/meeting days; practices may resume after competition suspension and the student-athlete must complete (10) ten

		<p>practices before resuming competition eligibility.*(when applicable, athletic suspension will match the OSS duration determined by school administration and above consequences will begin once they return to school)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Note: Any subsequent offense of any level, combined with a level 4 offense, may result in team dismissal.</i> <p>2nd Offense</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting with the student-athlete, parents/guardians, coach, Principal and Athletic Director to discuss behavior, document notes, and develop a solution strategy. • Carry out team dismissal procedures.
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Disorderly / Disrespectful / Insubordinate Language or Conduct

LEVEL	Behavior / May Look Like	Prescribed Action
I	<p>Negative attitudes or actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ignoring, arguing, failing to follow directions 	<p>1st Offense</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coach discusses behavior with the student-athlete and documents notes. • Coach discusses and finds a solution strategy & issues a verbal warning • Coach notifies the parent/guardian and Athletic Director <p>2nd Offense</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coach revisits previous discussion with the student-athlete, documented notes, and solution strategy • Coach issues and assigns consequence: eligible to practice, ineligible for first ½ of next game/event (or comparable consequence for sports with no halves) • Coach notifies the parent/guardian and Athletic Director <p>3rd Offense</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coach revisits previous discussion with the student-athlete, document notes, and solution strategy. • Coach issues and assigns consequence: eligible to practice, ineligible for next game/event • Coach notifies parent/guardian and Athletic Director
II	<p>Negative attitudes or actions intended to defy a request by an adult or undermine the authority of a coach or an adult</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refusing to follow directions • Talking back • Use of profane language in a way that undermines the authority of the coach or other adult • Leaving a practice, game/event without the coach's permission 	<p>1st Offense</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting with the student-athlete, parents/guardians, coach and Athletic Director to discuss behavior, document notes, and develop a solution strategy. • Coach and Athletic Director issues and assigns consequence: eligible for practice, ineligible for next game/competition • <i>Note: Any subsequent offense of any level, combined with a level 2 offense, may result in a level 2, 2nd offense consequence.</i> <p>2nd Offense</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting with the student-athlete, parents/guardians, coach and Athletic Director to discuss behavior, document notes, and develop a solution strategy. • Coach and Athletic Director issues and assigns consequence: eligible for practice; ineligible for next competition; student-athletes must complete two (2) practices before resuming competition eligibility. • <i>Note: any subsequent offense of any level, combined with a level 2 offense may result in a level 2, 3rd offense consequence.</i> <p>3rd Offense</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting with the student-athlete, parents/guardians, coach and Athletic Director to discuss behavior, document notes, and develop a solution strategy. • Coach and Athletic Director issues and assigns consequence: eligible for practice; ineligible for next competition; student-athletes must complete four (4) practices before resuming competition eligibility.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Note: any subsequent offense of any level, combined with a level 2 offense may result in a level 3, 1st offense consequence.</i>
III	<p>Elevated Level II offense. Recurring offenses after repeated unsuccessful interventions. Forgery, Counterfeiting, or Lying. Verbal Assault of a student or staff member. Unacceptable language, gestures, or actions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Repeated backtalk, or refusal to comply with reasonable requests Open defiance of school or team rules Providing false information, documentation, or forgery (lying / forged notes) Words meant to demean or hurt another, including the misuse of social media Abusive language Using, or demonstrating, vulgar, perverse, and/or offensive language or gestures directed at others (including opponents, teammates, fans, coaches, officials, staff members, etc.) 	<p>1st Offense</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting with the student-athlete, parents/guardians, coach and Athletic Director to discuss behavior, document notes, and develop a solution strategy. Coach and Athletic Director issues and assigns consequence: ineligible for practice; ineligible for next competition; student-athletes must complete four (4) practices before resuming competition eligibility. *(when applicable, athletic suspension will match the OSS duration determined by school administration and above consequences will begin once they return to school) <i>Note: Any subsequent offense of any level, combined with a level 3 offense, may result in a level 3, 2nd offense consequence.</i> <p>2nd Offense</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting with the student-athlete, parents/guardians, coach and Athletic Director to discuss behavior, document notes, and develop a solution strategy. Coach and Athletic Director issues and assigns consequence: ineligible for practice; ineligible for next competition; student-athletes must complete six (6) practices before resuming competition eligibility. *(when applicable, athletic suspension will match the OSS duration determined by school administration and above consequences will begin once they return to school) <i>Note: Any subsequent offense of any level, combined with a level 3, second offense, may result in a level 4, 1st offense consequence.</i> <p>3rd Offense</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting with the student-athlete, parents/guardians, coach, Athletic Director, and Principal to discuss behavior, document notes, and develop a solution strategy. Carry out team dismissal procedures.
IV	<p>Elevated Level III offense</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elevated Actions from the list above. 	<p>1st Offense</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting with the student-athlete, parents/guardians, coach, Athletic Director, and Principal to discuss behavior, document notes, and develop a solution strategy. Coach and Athletic Director issues and assigns consequence: ineligible for practice and competition for (10) ten practice/meeting days; practices may resume after competition suspension and the student-athlete must complete (10) ten practices before resuming competition eligibility.*(when applicable, athletic suspension will match the OSS duration determined by school administration and above consequences will begin once they return to school) <i>Note: Any subsequent offense of any level, combined with a level 4 offense, may result in team dismissal.</i> <p>2nd Offense</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting with the student-athlete, parents/guardians, coach, Principal and Athletic Director to discuss behavior, document notes, and develop a solution strategy. Carry out team dismissal procedures.

Defacing School Property / Vandalism / Theft:

LEVEL	Behavior / May Look Like	Prescribed Action
III	Theft, attempt of theft, or receiving stolen property or selling or buying of stolen property	<p>1st Offense</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting with the student-athlete, parents/guardians, coach and

	<p>(\$150.00 and below). Damaging, vandalizing, altering, and/or taking of any school, team, or individual property that can be replaced or repaired at minimal cost (\$150.00 and below).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Theft of any property, uniforms, or school equipment • Theft of property lost or misplaced • Writing on walls, desks, floors, or other property • Altering of school owned property • Negligent damage to property or devices • Malevolent destroying or defacing of property • Reckless disregard for property, uniforms, or school equipment 	<p>Athletic Director to discuss behavior, document notes, and develop a solution strategy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coach and Athletic Director issues and assigns consequence: ineligible for practice; ineligible for next competition; student-athletes must complete four (4) practices before resuming competition eligibility. *(when applicable, athletic suspension will match the OSS duration determined by school administration and above consequences will begin once they return to school) • <i>Note: Any subsequent offense of any level, combined with a level 3 offense, may result in a level 3, 2nd offense consequence.</i> <p>2nd Offense</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting with the student-athlete, parents/guardians, coach and Athletic Director to discuss behavior, document notes, and develop a solution strategy. • Coach and Athletic Director issues and assigns consequence: ineligible for practice; ineligible for next competition; student-athletes must complete six (6) practices before resuming competition eligibility. *(when applicable, athletic suspension will match the OSS duration determined by school administration and above consequences will begin once they return to school) • <i>Note: Any subsequent offense of any level, combined with a level 3, second offense, may result in a level 4, 1st offense consequence.</i> <p>3rd Offense</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting with the student-athlete, parents/guardians, coach, Athletic Director, and Principal to discuss behavior, document notes, and develop a solution strategy. • Carry out team dismissal procedures.
<p>IV</p>	<p>2nd “Defacing School Property / Vandalism / Theft” Violation. Theft, attempt or theft, or receiving stolen property or selling or buying stolen property (\$151.00 or above). Damaging, vandalizing, altering and/or taking of any school, team, or individual property that can be replaced or repaired at costs (\$151.00 and above).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repeated violation • Theft of any property, uniforms, or school equipment • Theft of property lost or misplaced • Writing on walls, desks, floors, or other property • Altering of school owned property • Negligent damage to property or devices • Malevolent destroying or defacing of property • Reckless disregard for property, uniforms, or school equipment 	<p>1st Offense</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting with the student-athlete, parents/guardians, coach, Athletic Director, and Principal to discuss behavior, document notes, and develop a solution strategy. • Coach and Athletic Director issues and assigns consequence: ineligible for practice and competition for (10) ten practice/meeting days; practices may resume after competition suspension and the student-athlete must complete (10) ten practices before resuming competition eligibility. *(when applicable, athletic suspension will match the OSS duration determined by school administration and above consequences will begin once they return to school) • <i>Note: Any subsequent offense of any level, combined with a level 4 offense, may result in team dismissal.</i> <p>2nd Offense</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting with the student-athlete, parents/guardians, coach, Principal and Athletic Director to discuss behavior, document notes, and develop a solution strategy. • Carry out team dismissal procedures.

- **Police notification may be possible depending on the severity of the infraction**

Student Fighting / Safety / Assault:

LEVEL	Behavior / May Look Like	Prescribed Action
I	<p>Horseplay or throwing of objects.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Throwing dangerous objects ● Reckless play that can lead to injury ● Unwanted play or behavior 	<p>1st Offense</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Coach discusses behavior with the student-athlete and documents notes. ● Coach discusses and finds a solution strategy & issues a verbal warning ● Coach notifies the parent/guardian and Athletic Director <p>2nd Offense</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Coach revisits previous discussion with the student-athlete, documented notes, and solution strategy ● Coach issues and assigns consequence: eligible to practice, ineligible for first ½ of next game/event (or comparable consequence for sports with no halves) ● Coach notifies the parent/guardian and Athletic Director <p>3rd Offense</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Coach revisits previous discussion with the student-athlete, document notes, and solution strategy. ● Coach issues and assigns consequence: eligible to practice, ineligible for next game/event ● Coach notifies parent/guardian and Athletic Director
II	<p>Player fighting (inside and outside of competition).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Fighting or physical retaliation ● Player ejection from a game/event (PIAA Rule) 	<p>1st Offense</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Meeting with the student-athlete, parents/guardians, coach and Athletic Director to discuss behavior, document notes, and develop a solution strategy. ● Coach and Athletic Director issues and assigns consequence: eligible for practice, ineligible for next game/competition ● <i>Note: Any subsequent offense of any level, combined with a level 2 offense, may result in a level 2, 2nd offense consequence.</i> <p>2nd Offense</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Meeting with the student-athlete, parents/guardians, coach and Athletic Director to discuss behavior, document notes, and develop a solution strategy. ● Coach and Athletic Director issues and assigns consequence: eligible for practice; ineligible for next competition; student-athletes must complete two (2) practices before resuming competition eligibility. ● <i>Note: any subsequent offense of any level, combined with a level 2 offense may result in a level 2, 3rd offense consequence.</i> <p>3rd Offense</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Meeting with the student-athlete, parents/guardians, coach and Athletic Director to discuss behavior, document notes, and develop a solution strategy. ● Coach and Athletic Director issues and assigns consequence: eligible for practice; ineligible for next competition; student-athletes must complete four (4) practices before resuming competition eligibility. ● <i>Note: any subsequent offense of any level, combined with a level 2 offense may result in a level 3, 1st offense consequence.</i>
III	<p>Attempting to harm another.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Malicious attack on another person with the intent to harm ● Engaging in any physical behavior that has the potential to harm another 	<p>1st Offense</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Meeting with the student-athlete, parents/guardians, coach and Athletic Director to discuss behavior, document notes, and develop a solution strategy. ● Coach and Athletic Director issues and assigns consequence: ineligible for practice; ineligible for next competition; student-athletes must complete four (4) practices before resuming competition eligibility. *(when applicable, athletic suspension will match the OSS duration determined by school administration and above consequences will begin once they return to school) ● <i>Note: Any subsequent offense of any level, combined with a level 3 offense, may result in a level 3, 2nd offense consequence.</i> <p>2nd Offense</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Meeting with the student-athlete, parents/guardians, coach and

		<p>Athletic Director to discuss behavior, document notes, and develop a solution strategy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coach and Athletic Director issues and assigns consequence: ineligible for practice; ineligible for next competition; student-athletes must complete six (6) practices before resuming competition eligibility. *(when applicable, athletic suspension will match the OSS duration determined by school administration and above consequences will begin once they return to school) <i>Note: Any subsequent offense of any level, combined with a level 3, second offense, may result in a level 4, 1st offense consequence.</i> <p>3rd Offense</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting with the student-athlete, parents/guardians, coach, Athletic Director, and Principal to discuss behavior, document notes, and develop a solution strategy. Carry out team dismissal procedures.
IV	<p>Physical Assault. Reckless endangerment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An unlawful attack by one person on another Intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly causing bodily injury Deliberately disregarding safety rules 	<p>1st Offense</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting with the student-athlete, parents/guardians, coach, Athletic Director, and Principal to discuss behavior, document notes, and develop a solution strategy. Coach and Athletic Director issues and assigns consequence: ineligible for practice and competition for (10) ten practice/meeting days; practices may resume after competition suspension and the student-athlete must complete (10) ten practices before resuming competition eligibility. *(when applicable, athletic suspension will match the OSS duration determined by school administration and above consequences will begin once they return to school) <i>Note: Any subsequent offense of any level, combined with a level 4 offense, may result in team dismissal.</i> <p>2nd Offense</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting with the student-athlete, parents/guardians, coach, Principal and Athletic Director to discuss behavior, document notes, and develop a solution strategy. Carry out team dismissal procedures.

- Police notification may be possible depending on the severity of the infraction

Harassment / Bullying / Sportsmanship

LEVEL	Behavior / May Look Like	Prescribed Action
I	N/A	
II	<p>Alarming, or annoying, unwanted behavior that shows no purpose.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engaging in conduct that knowingly annoys another with the intent to annoy or harass Unwanted contact, texting, or messaging others 	<p>1st Offense</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting with the student-athlete, parents/guardians, coach and Athletic Director to discuss behavior, document notes, and develop a solution strategy. Coach and Athletic Director issues and assigns consequence: eligible for practice, ineligible for next game/competition <i>Note: Any subsequent offense of any level, combined with a level 2 offense, may result in a level 2, 2nd offense consequence.</i> <p>2nd Offense</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting with the student-athlete, parents/guardians, coach and Athletic Director to discuss behavior, document notes, and develop a solution strategy. Coach and Athletic Director issues and assigns consequence: eligible for practice; ineligible for next competition; student-athletes must complete two (2) practices before resuming competition eligibility. <i>Note: any subsequent offense of any level, combined with a level 2 offense may result in a level 2, 3rd offense consequence.</i> <p>3rd Offense</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting with the student-athlete, parents/guardians, coach and Athletic Director to discuss behavior, document notes, and develop a solution strategy.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coach and Athletic Director issues and assigns consequence: eligible for practice; ineligible for next competition; student-athletes must complete four (4) practices before resuming competition eligibility. • <i>Note: any subsequent offense of any level, combined with a level 2 offense may result in a level 3, 1st offense consequence.</i>
<p>III</p>	<p>Unwanted electronic, verbal, written, or physical action, or series of actions, directed at a student(s) that is severe, persistent or pervasive. Harassment; sexual, racial, ethnic, and/or gender based.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slurs or insensitive remarks • Threats or bullying, including cyber-bullying • Pushing, shoving, or unwarranted physical contact 	<p>1st Offense</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting with the student-athlete, parents/guardians, coach and Athletic Director to discuss behavior, document notes, and develop a solution strategy. • Coach and Athletic Director issues and assigns consequence: ineligible for practice; ineligible for next competition; student-athletes must complete four (4) practices before resuming competition eligibility. *(when applicable, athletic suspension will match the OSS duration determined by school administration and above consequences will begin once they return to school) • <i>Note: Any subsequent offense of any level, combined with a level 3 offense, may result in a level 3, 2nd offense consequence.</i> <p>2nd Offense</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting with the student-athlete, parents/guardians, coach and Athletic Director to discuss behavior, document notes, and develop a solution strategy. • Coach and Athletic Director issues and assigns consequence: ineligible for practice; ineligible for next competition; student-athletes must complete six (6) practices before resuming competition eligibility. *(when applicable, athletic suspension will match the OSS duration determined by school administration and above consequences will begin once they return to school) • <i>Note: Any subsequent offense of any level, combined with a level 3, second offense, may result in a level 4, 1st offense consequence.</i> <p>3rd Offense</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting with the student-athlete, parents/guardians, coach, Athletic Director, and Principal to discuss behavior, document notes, and develop a solution strategy. • Carry out team dismissal procedures.
<p>IV</p>	<p>Severe harassment / bullying or sexual, racial, ethnic, and/or gender intimidation. Hazing activities, as outlined by Board Policy 247 and additionally outlined on page 27 - any activity that recklessly or intentionally endangers others.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Severe or repeated Level III infraction • A threatening strike, kick or physical contact • Creating a threatening environment • Team initiation activities • Endangering the mental health, physical health or safety of a student 	<p>1st Offense</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting with the student-athlete, parents/guardians, coach, Athletic Director, and Principal to discuss behavior, document notes, and develop a solution strategy. • Coach and Athletic Director issues and assigns consequence: ineligible for practice and competition for (10) ten practice/meeting days; practices may resume after competition suspension and the student-athlete must complete (10) ten practices before resuming competition eligibility. *(when applicable, athletic suspension will match the OSS duration determined by school administration and above consequences will begin once they return to school) • <i>Note: Any subsequent offense of any level, combined with a level 4 offense, may result in team dismissal.</i> <p>2nd Offense</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting with the student-athlete, parents/guardians, coach, Principal and Athletic Director to discuss behavior, document notes, and develop a solution strategy. • Carry out team dismissal procedures.

- *Police notification may be possible depending on the severity of the infraction*

Serious Infractions

LEVEL	Behavior / May Look Like	Prescribed Action
<p>III</p>	<p>Tobacco / e-cigarettes / look-alikes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Possession, use, sale, or distribution of tobacco products, or paraphernalia or look-alikes (including e-cigarettes, vaporizers, etc.) 	<p>1st Offense</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting with the student-athlete, parents/guardians, coach and Athletic Director to discuss behavior, document notes, and develop a solution strategy. • Coach and Athletic Director issues and assigns consequence: ineligible for practice; ineligible for next competition; student-athletes must complete four (4) practices before resuming competition eligibility. *(when applicable, athletic suspension will match the OSS duration determined by school administration and above consequences will begin once they return to school) • <i>Note: Any subsequent offense of any level, combined with a level 3 offense, may result in a level 3, 2nd offense consequence.</i> <p>2nd Offense</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting with the student-athlete, parents/guardians, coach and Athletic Director to discuss behavior, document notes, and develop a solution strategy. • Coach and Athletic Director issues and assigns consequence: ineligible for practice; ineligible for next competition; student-athletes must complete six (6) practices before resuming competition eligibility. *(when applicable, athletic suspension will match the OSS duration determined by school administration and above consequences will begin once they return to school) • <i>Note: Any subsequent offense of any level, combined with a level 3, second offense, may result in a level 4, 1st offense consequence.</i> <p>3rd Offense</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting with the student-athlete, parents/guardians, coach, Athletic Director, and Principal to discuss behavior, document notes, and develop a solution strategy. • Carry out team dismissal procedures.
<p>IV</p>	<p>Drug / Alcohol Possession</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Possessions, use, sale, or distribution of drugs, alcohol, or paraphernalia and look-alikes • Possession of steroids or paraphernalia 	<p>1st Offense</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting with the student-athlete, parents/guardians, coach, Athletic Director, and Principal to discuss behavior, document notes, and develop a solution strategy. • Coach and Athletic Director issues and assigns consequence: ineligible for practice and competition for (10) ten practice/meeting days; practices may resume after competition suspension and the student-athlete must complete (10) ten practices before resuming competition eligibility.*(when applicable, athletic suspension will match the OSS duration determined by school administration and above consequences will begin once they return to school) • <i>Note: Any subsequent offense of any level, combined with a level 4 offense, may result in team dismissal.</i> <p>2nd Offense</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting with the student-athlete, parents/guardians, coach, Principal and Athletic Director to discuss behavior, document notes, and develop a solution strategy. • Carry out team dismissal procedures.
<p>IV</p>	<p>Extortion / Severe Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Obtaining something through force or threats • Threatening someone through violence, property, or harm to reputation • Declaration of intent to commit a crime of violence against another with the intent of threatening a person, building, facility, or public or private habitat 	<p>1st Offense</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting with the student-athlete, parents/guardians, coach, Athletic Director, and Principal to discuss behavior, document notes, and develop a solution strategy. • Coach and Athletic Director issues and assigns consequence: ineligible for practice and competition for (10) ten practice/meeting days; practices may resume after competition suspension and the student-athlete must complete (10) ten practices before resuming competition eligibility.*(when applicable, athletic suspension will match the OSS duration determined by school administration and above consequences will begin once they return to school) • <i>Note: Any subsequent offense of any level, combined with a level 4</i>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Place any person or public in fear of imminent serious bodily injury Threats to commit any offense involving violence 	<p><i>offense, may result in team dismissal.</i></p> <p>2nd Offense</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting with the student-athlete, parents/guardians, coach, Principal and Athletic Director to discuss behavior, document notes, and develop a solution strategy. Carry out team dismissal procedures.
PA Act 93	Use of Steroids	<p>1st Offense</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Suspension from school athletics for the remainder of the current season. <p>2nd Offense</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Suspension from school athletics for the remainder of the current season and the following season. <p>3rd Offense</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Permanent suspension from school athletics.

- Police notification may be made for these infractions with potentially legal consequences.**

Further Descriptions of Expectations:

Sportsmanship

As a PIAA member school, and a Positive Coaching Alliance partner school, we are committed to the goal that sportsmanship be recognized as an important part of interscholastic athletics. Sportsmanship is generally defined as the overt display of respect for the rules of the sport, as well as for all players, coaches, officials, and spectators at any event.

SDST student-athletes, when part of any team activity, are expected to behave in a way which demonstrates fair play, ethical behavior, and integrity. Any actions or comments which are intended to taunt, bait, anger, embarrass, ridicule, or demean others in the athletic arena will not be tolerated.

Hazing ([SDST Board Policy 247](#))

Hazing is defined as any activity that intentionally, or recklessly, endangers the mental, or physical, health or safety of a student for the intention of initiating, admitting, or affiliating a student with an organization or for the purpose of continuing or enhancing membership or status in an organization. Any hazing activity, whether by an individual or a group, shall be presumed to be a forced activity, even if the student participates willingly.

The SDST does not condone any form of initiation (i.e. hazing) as part of any school-sponsored interscholastic sports team activity regardless of whether the conduct occurs on or off school property or outside of school hours. The School District has adopted a policy prohibiting the involvement of students, volunteers, and employees in any hazing activity; no student-athlete, coach, volunteer or district employee shall plan, encourage, assist, engage in, or ignore any hazing activity.

Training Rules

Student-athletes perform best when they follow intelligent training rules. These rules include prohibitions in the use of drugs, alcohol and tobacco. The SDST has board-approved policies regarding the use of these substances by all students on SDST property and at SDST sponsored activities at all sites with the objective of providing drug, alcohol and tobacco free environments.

Furthermore, the athletic department prohibits the use of these substances by any student-athlete for the length of his/her team's sport season at any time, either on or off a school campus. Violations by district student-athletes of these policies or rules will be addressed according to district policies and athletic department procedures.

Drug and Alcohol

SDST wishes to eliminate the improper use of drugs, behavior-altering substances and performance enhancing substances in our schools, on school property, on school conveyances and at school sponsored events. In keeping with the district objective, the athletic department believes interscholastic athletics can play a vital role in promoting and maintaining a drug-free environment. Student-athletes violating team policy will first be dealt with according to the general policy. All drug, alcohol and steroid violations are Level IV, code of conduct violations.

In addition to the athletic policy, when violations occur within the school purview, the school student discipline will occur concurrently. For all incidents in which the student-athlete incurs school discipline and suspension, the student-athlete is excluded from extracurricular activity by the school discipline section of the policy and the following athletic procedures will be in effect:

- First Offense - Upon returning from the school suspension, the student-athlete will be subject to the consequences of a Level 4, 1st. Offense.
- Second Offense - The student-athlete will be subject to the consequences of a Level 4, 2nd Offense.

Steroids (PA Act 93 of 1990)

The use of steroids continues to be a problem that plagues athletics. Student-athletes must be made aware of the dangers of steroids and the consequences of their use. Student-athletes and their families may obtain specific information about steroid use from any member of our Athletic Training Staff.

The Pennsylvania legislature has passed legislation specifically prohibiting the use of steroids in athletics in the Commonwealth. The provisions of this Act and the consequences for violations supersede the SDST Board of School Directors policies on the use of drugs and alcohol.

- First Offense - Suspension from school athletics for the remainder of the current season
- Second Offense - Suspension from school athletics for the remainder of the current season and the following season.
- Third Offense - Permanent suspension from school athletics.

Tobacco

SDST wishes to provide a tobacco-free environment. All forms of tobacco are banned on school property or at school activities. In keeping with this policy the athletic department prohibits the use of tobacco products by coaches, student-athletes, and support personnel while taking part in a school sponsored activity, whether or not on school district property. Violations of this policy will be dealt with in accordance with the athletic department procedures detailed in the code of conduct chart above.

Uniform & Equipment

The school district provides all uniform and equipment necessities except shoes to student-athletes. All items remain the property of SDST. Student-athletes are held accountable for the uniform and equipment issued to them, and are responsible for using them in compliance with instructions as provided by the coaches and athletic training staff.

Items are to be returned directly to the coach in a timely manner at the end of the season. No student-athlete is permitted to try out or participate in another sport until all uniform and equipment obligations have been fulfilled from any previous season(s).

Unreturned items are subject to collection through the SDST Business Office and local magisterial procedure.

Uniforms are purchased on a rotational basis. The athletic department will replace uniforms every 5 years for teams that fall into the uniform cycle. Teams that do not fall into the uniform cycle are purchased in an alternative fashion due to the unique nature of their sport.

Teams in the Uniform Cycle	Teams NOT in the Uniform Cycle
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Baseball ● Boys Basketball ● Boys Lacrosse ● Boys Soccer ● Boys Tennis ● Cheerleading ● Field Hockey ● Football ● Girls Basketball ● Girls Lacrosse ● Girls Soccer ● Girls Tennis ● Softball ● Wrestling ● <i>*Girls Volleyball (anticipated 2024-2025)</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Cross Country ● Golf ● Indoor Track & Field ● Swimming & Diving ● Unified Bocce ● Unified Track & Field ● Varsity Track & Field ● Water Polo

Athletic Department Procedures

Squad Limits & Squad Selection

Many sports teams have no squad limits; therefore, all students who meet eligibility requirements and participate in try-out activities/practices become part of the team. However, the nature of certain sports limits the number of team members who can be effectively managed by the coaching staff and/or facilities. Coaches, as the designated professionals in charge of these sports, will make student-athletes aware of the criteria for selection prior to the evaluation process. The coaches will maintain records of tryout evaluations and will provide sufficient opportunity to fairly evaluate and rank student-athletes.

Students not selected for a squad may be permitted to try-out for another sport during the same season, provided the selection process for that team has not been completed. The student-athlete must contact and obtain approval from the coach no later than two days after receiving notification that they were not selected for the first sport they attempted to join.

Team Travel

It is expected that all student-athletes will use the transportation provided by the school district to travel TO and FROM athletic contests. There are several reasons for this procedure but foremost are safety, security, and legal liability. The school district realizes that there are

exceptions or extenuating circumstances that may be approved by the Head Coach and Athletic Director. For those circumstances, the following procedures must be followed:

- All students wishing to ride home from an event with their family, may do so, but only with their parent(s) or legal guardian.
- Parents/Guardians must notify the Head Coach and Athletic Director in writing at least 24 hours prior to the contest indicating their intent to take their child home from an event.
- Students who require another family to transport them from an event must have written permission from both the student's parent(s)/guardian and written permission from the family that intends to transport them. These permissions must be submitted to both the Head Coach and Athletic Director at least 24 hours prior to the contest.

Student-athletes that miss the bus and arrive at a contest are not permitted to participate unless the Coach and Athletic Director gave prior approval to the student-athlete's parent/guardian.

Circumstances during post-season competition may warrant overnight travel. In that case, school district/athletic department/team policies, procedures, rules and regulations are in effect. Violations of these standards will result in disciplinary action according to the appropriate student handbook and School District Code of Conduct as well as Student-athlete / Family Handbook.

Practice and Competition Attendance Requirements

A student-athlete should regard their attendance at all SDST practices and competitions as a very high priority. Practice, just like a game, is a team event that has meaning and value to all members of the team. This expectation is based upon:

- Given that the competition is extremely high among SDST students to be selected for a position on a team's roster, or to achieve a starting role on a SDST team, it is expected that students who are successful in gaining these opportunities utilize their participation to its fullest capacity.
- Missing practice or competition may hinder a student-athlete's individual skill, attitude and knowledge development; weaken their role on the team; and affect the team's performance, chemistry, and chances for success.
- PIAA Bylaws base a student-athlete's postseason eligibility upon attendance at their own school's practices and competitions: **ARTICLE IX Section 5** states: "a student who participates as an individual or as a member of a team in a sport in an athletic program other than that of the student's school, who is enrolled or otherwise eligible at a school having a team in that sport, is ineligible in the District or Inter-District Championship Contests in that sport unless the student has been in uniform and available to participate as a member of the student's school team in that sport for at least 75% of the contests occurring within the period of time beginning with that team's first Regular Season Contest and ending with its last Regular Season Contest...With regard to practices for the period of time beginning with the team's first contest and ending with its last contest

of the regular season, the principal of each school must determine whether practice in the athletic program other than that of the student's school meets the practice requirements of that school. If it does not, the student is ineligible to participate in the District or Inter-District Championship Contests in that sport."

Excused Absences

A student-athlete's absence from a SDST practice or competition will be excused for the following reasons:

1. Missing any beginning of the season tryout or practice sessions because of family vacation only when the student-athlete provides written notice of their plans to the head coach at least two weeks prior to the first day of official practice/tryout. However, for teams that make cuts before the final squad selection has been made, the student-athlete must be in attendance for their tryout session(s).
2. Circumstances generally approved by the SDST for absence from school (illness, quarantine, family emergency including death in the family, family educational travel including tours and trips with prior approval by SDST Administration, impassable roads, recovery from an accident, required court appearance).

Considerations:

- a. Student-athletes should always communicate an upcoming absence as far in advance as possible to the head coach.
 - b. Because of the broad scope of district activities, conflicts may occur between an athletic event and another SDST-sponsored activity. When a conflict occurs, the student-athlete and coach should work out a reasonable solution that will be in the best interest of the student-athlete utilizing these criteria.
 - i. The relative importance of each event.
 - ii. The importance of each event to the student.
 - iii. The contribution the student-athlete can make to each activity.
 - iv. When the events were scheduled.
3. Participation in the practice, inter-school practice, scrimmage, or competition of another program in the same sport during the same season when these requirements have been met:
 - a. The Principal, with the agreement of the Head Coach, waives the requirement of Article IX, Section 5 because the student's failure to meet the 75% requirement results from illness, injury or the student's failure to meet the practice requirement of the school.
 - b. The Principal, with the agreement of the Head Coach, determines that practice in the athletic program other than that of the student's school meets the practice requirements of the school.

Playing Time

The interscholastic athletics philosophy of the SDST identifies the standards for participation and playing time at each level of sport activity. It is the charge of each sports

team's coaches solely to make determinations regarding playing time based upon their observation and evaluation of athletes during tryouts, practices, and competitions in accord with the principles of the SDST philosophy of interscholastic athletics.

Middle School: At the Middle School level, a student-athlete's participation and development of skills in a sport are valued above the winning of contests. It is an expectation that at a middle school competition, all student-athletes will participate presuming health, conduct, and academic eligibility are all in good standing. Playing time may not be equitable, but coaches are encouraged to pursue equity when possible. Coaches are also encouraged to award playing time for measures such as effort, good citizenship, good sportsmanship, as well as demonstrated game play.

Freshman: At the Freshman level, a student-athlete's participation and development of skills in a sport are valued above the winning of contests. It is an expectation that in a Freshman competition, all student-athletes will participate presuming health, conduct, and academic eligibility are all in good standing. Playing time may not be equitable, but coaches are also encouraged to be mindful of playing time equity, while pursuing a healthy competitive environment.

Junior Varsity: At the Junior Varsity Level, participation, instruction, and development of individual skills for all student-athletes continues to be emphasized. It is an expectation that at a Junior Varsity competition, all student-athletes will participate presuming health, conduct, and academic eligibility are all in good standing. However, team success in interscholastic competition is also valued and emphasized.

Varsity: At the varsity level, coaches have the dual responsibility of fostering individual skill development and achieving team success. To achieve this end, the most effective student-athletes, regardless of grade level, will be given the opportunity to further develop their athletic abilities and to work together to develop a strong desire to attain the highest possible levels of team success.

Multiple Sport Participation

Students are encouraged to participate on as many different sports teams as possible during their school careers. However, for a student-athlete to participate on more than one team per season is extraordinarily difficult, and may not be in the best interest of the student-athlete or the teams. Athletes wishing to pursue multiple sport participation within the same season require the approval of the Athletic Director and Head Coach of both sports teams.

Open Gym

"Open Gym" participation is discouraged during the sports season. Varsity or Junior Varsity athletes who are on an in-season roster for a PIAA team should consider avoiding participating in "open gym" activities until the PIAA season and postseason is complete. Middle School and Freshman level athletes will be permitted to participate in "open gym" activities when both PIAA coaches, Athletic Director, and family agree. Top priority will be placed on the in-season PIAA sports team.

“Playing Up”

There may be a circumstance in which the skill level of a student-athlete enrolled at a particular grade level of a sport warrants the student-athlete to ‘play up’ at a different level. E.g. a ninth grade boys’ soccer player participating at the JV/Varsity level, composed of 10th, 11th, and 12th grade students. Program coaches or student-athletes and their families may initiate the process; however, when an initiative to do so is made, PIAA By-Laws and SDST athletics department protocol must be followed.

Coaches, families, the student-athlete and administrators must be in agreement that this move is in the best interest of the student-athlete and beneficial to the team; final approval rests with the athletic administration. This option is never available to students below the entry grade level at which a particular sport is offered. E.g. an eighth grade student-athlete is never permitted to participate in any high school level program.

Injury Management

Participation in interscholastic athletics comes with inherent risks. Unfortunately, despite attention to, instruction of, and adherence to principles of safe sport play, injuries occur. Families and student-athletes must acknowledge this risk.

The SDST is committed to the belief that proper care of injuries is critical to the students in the athletics program. A Pennsylvania State licensed Athletic Trainer is provided by the school district to furnish care and rehabilitation of athletic injuries. However, given the size of the athletics program, it may be impossible to provide coverage at every scheduled event. The athletic trainer will make every effort to see that your sport receives attention based on the available personnel. Sports judged to be high injury-risk sports will receive primary coverage. In the event a certified athletic trainer is not present, the coach in charge of the activity will contact the athletic trainer to provide care. If the athletic trainer is unavailable, the coach will assume responsibility for first aid care.

If an athlete believes they need evaluation from an athletic trainer, the athlete may communicate this to their coach who will contact the athletic trainer. The athlete may also report this to their parent(s)/guardian(s) who can contact the athletic trainer directly. The athletic trainer can see the athletes during practice and game times and also before, during or after school.

If an injury has occurred during off hours or at an away event, the athletic trainer may still be contacted and will communicate evaluation options (meeting at the school on the next practice day, referring to a doctor, referring to the ER, etc.)

Families are advised to always act on the side of caution and may seek medical advice from medical professionals at any time, especially if an injury appears emergent.

Insurance Options

The School District of Springfield Township does not provide free accident insurance coverage for its student-athletes. Medical expenses incurred while participating on SDST interscholastic sports teams may be covered through the following options:

- Private insurance plan
- Voluntary SDST Student Accident Insurance Plan
- Pennsylvania's Children Health Insurance Program (CHIP)
- Pennsylvania's Medical Assistance Program (MAP)

Return to Play Criteria

Following a complete physical assessment, the certified athletic trainer may, in accordance with the appropriate medical professional as defined by the [Safety in Youth Sports Act](#), return a student-athlete to practice or competition. When the student-athlete is under the care of a licensed physician, the certified athletic trainer must comply with the treatment plan of the treating physician. The certified athletic trainer must have written documentation for consideration of return to play.

Final return to play decisions will be made in cooperation and agreement with the treating licensed physician, certified athletic trainer and in accordance with approved protocols, policies, and procedures.

Rules and Regulations of the Athletic Training Room

- The Athletic Training Room is a medical facility; act appropriately.
- Use universal precautions to protect yourself and others from infectious diseases.
- Be respectful of the Athletic Trainer's time and efforts to assist you.
- Be courteous and polite to the Athletic Training staff; anything less may be grounds for removal from the facility.
- The Athletic Training Room is a co-educational facility; dress accordingly.
- Only student-athletes receiving treatment, or waiting to see the athletic trainer, should be in the Athletic Training Room.

Quitting a Team

If a student-athlete wishes to quit a team after the start of the season, they must meet with and inform the head coach in writing.

Understand that any athlete who quits (stops participating or discontinues membership) a team after the season starts (after the first game or match is played) will not be permitted to start practicing on another team until the entire season for the first team has concluded. The Athletic Director will have final say in the determination of the student-athlete's eligibility.

A student-athlete who chooses to no longer participate in a sport shall not be subjected to ridicule or embarrassment.

Suspension from a Team

The coach of the sport, Director of Athletics, or other building administrator, may make suspensions from a team. The coach, Athletic Director and/or the building Principal will confer with one another before such action is taken. Causes for suspension include violations of team,

athletic department, and school district rules and/or policies. (See Categories of Conduct Violations chart above)

If a student-athlete is under investigation for dismissal from a team, the coach, Athletic Director, or administrator may invoke a suspension until the investigation is complete as per Due Process procedure.

A student-athlete who is suspended from a team or loses eligibility to participate in a sport shall not be subject to ridicule or embarrassment.

Dismissal from a Team

Removal of a student-athlete from a team may be made by the coach of the sport, Athletic Director, or building administrator for severe or repeated violations of team, department, school or district rules and/or policies (see Categories of Conduct Violations chart above). The coach, Athletic Director, and/or administrator will confer with each other before such action is taken.

If a student-athlete is under consideration for a dismissal from a team, they have the right to due process.

Any student-athlete dismissed from a team will not be permitted to participate on another school team during that sport's season and is not permitted to start participating or begin attending "open gyms" with another school team until the season is concluded for the first team. School board policy may further restrict a student's participation during that school year.

A student-athlete who is dismissed from a team or loses eligibility to participate in a sport shall not be subjected to ridicule or embarrassment.

Team Dismissal Procedures:

1. In-person meeting and letter detailing dismissal will be sent to parent(s)/guardian(s) as well as district administration.
2. Collection of uniform and all other district property (non-compliance will result in collection through the SDST Business office and local magisterial procedure.)

Due Process

The following procedure has been developed by the SDST Athletics Department to provide due process in the event a student-athlete is under consideration for dismissal from a team:

- The coach, Athletic Director or Administrator will notify the student-athlete and the student-athlete's parent/guardian of the possibility of dismissal, its proposed date/time of effect, and the infraction that prompted the consideration of this consequence. This notification may take place in-person, by a phone call, or via email.
- The student-athlete and their parent/guardian will then be afforded the opportunity to reply to the charge and present evidence.
- If requested, such a conference will be held as soon as possible as mutually agreed upon by the school district official, the student-athlete, and their parent/guardian.

Nothing within this section denies a student-athlete or parent/guardian of their right to then appeal to the building Principal, Assistant Superintendent, Superintendent, School Board, or the courts or to be represented by counsel at any stage of the process.

Declaration of Ineligibility

When declared ineligible for competition because of inability to meet PIAA academic or attendance standards, or an inability to meet the SDST academic, daily attendance requirement, or conduct codes, a student-athlete may not participate in practice or team meetings, nor may they accompany the team to any competition (home or away events and scrimmages). (See Categories of Conduct Violations chart above)

Athletic Awards

The coaching staff of the individual sport determines the Athletic Letter Award criteria. These criteria may include, but are not limited to, playing time, points scored, dedication, cooperation, loyalty, leadership, a sense of fair play, and years of service. Certificates of recognition are awarded for each sport; however, only one chenille is awarded to a student-athlete at the varsity level, regardless of the number of sports in which a letter is earned.

Students dismissed from the team for disciplinary reasons or who elect to leave the squad prior to the completion of the season forfeit their eligibility for awards.

The basic letter criteria include (coaches may elect to impose other criteria):

- Start in at least 50% of the competitions
- Play at least 50% of the minutes available during the course of the season

Coach / Athlete / Family Relations:

An effective working relationship among the coaches, student-athletes and families benefit the quality of each person's experience and contribute significantly to the success of the entire team. Establishing this relationship requires that each of the three stakeholders understands their role in the process and communicates openly and honestly with each other.

To assure and facilitate open communication channels, the coaching staff will hold a preseason orientation meeting at which time the following topics may be addressed:

- Introduction and related background experiences of the coaching staff
- General plans for the upcoming season
- PIAA, District, school, department and team philosophies, procedures, rules and expectations as covered in the Student-Athlete Handbook and team handouts.
- Locations and times of practices and competitions
- Helpful tips on how parents/guardians can best support their child during the seasons
- How and when it is best to reach the coach via phone or email
- Identify a process of how best to reach each parent/guardian

Student-athletes and their families are responsible for asking questions to clarify their understanding of any topics discussed at the meeting or published in any other material (such as the "Student-Athlete Family Handbook"). Student-athletes and families are also responsible for confirming mailing addresses, phone numbers, email addresses and must inform coaches of any anticipated conflicts in the proposed practice/competition schedule.

Communication

In a time of question concerning an appropriate topic, the following procedures are to be followed in the attempt to resolve the problem:

- Avoid telephone and email discussions if possible. Speak in-person (at an appropriate time; see below) with the other individual(s) so that the most complete communication takes place.
- The first level of contact should always be between the student-athlete and the coach, however this contact should be made at a time other than during a practice or competition. Speaking privately with the coach or in a place away from other team members is preferred.
- If the problem is not resolved at this primary-level meeting, a conference which includes the coach, student-athlete and parent/guardian may take place. However, none of these persons should be confronted immediately before or after a practice/competition to discuss the matter.
- Always call or email to set up an appointment. If the coach cannot be reached in this manner, the parent/guardian should contact the athletic office in order to obtain assistance in reaching the coach.
- If a resolution still is not gained after this conference, contact the Athletic Director for input as to how to proceed. The Athletic Director will give due process and consideration to all of the involved parties while attempting to bring the matter to a reasonable

conclusion. SDST Board Policy 906 (“Public Complaints”) may be initiated at this point if dissatisfaction with the Athletic Director’s ruling occurs.

Order of Communication

1. Player meets with position coach and/or head coach
2. Player meets with Athletic Director
3. Parent/Guardian meets with position coach and/or head coach
4. Parent/Guardian meets with Athletic Director
5. Communication with Building Principal
6. Communication with Assistant Superintendent
7. Communication with Superintendent

Family - Coach Meetings

It is anticipated that communication between any of the parties can easily and respectfully be conducted throughout the season. However, the most critical time for the working relationship to be employed is when a concern or conflict arises about an expectation or comprehension of a policy/procedure. The meeting time should be scheduled ahead of time and must not interfere with game, practice, or meeting times.

Topics that are ACCEPTABLE as appropriate for discussion are:

1. The student-athlete’s school attendance or academic performance.
2. The student-athlete’s behavior in school, with the team, or in the general public as it pertains to the team’s reputation.
3. The student-athlete’s role on the team.
4. The application of PIAA, District, department and team philosophies, procedures, rules, and expectations for SDST student-athletes.
5. Suggestions to improve a student-athlete’s skill acquisition, knowledge and attitudes relevant to the sport.
6. Information about recruiting and recommendations about a student-athlete's suitability for play at collegiate levels.
7. Management of injuries by the student-athlete.

However, there are also topics which are not appropriate for discussion. These include certain prerogatives for which the coach alone has jurisdiction with the bounds of the school district philosophies, regulations, and policies.

Topics that are NOT ACCEPTABLE as appropriate for discussion are:

1. Other student-athlete’s roles on the team.
2. Selection, placement and determination of playing time.
3. Establishment and enforcement of all guidelines and training rules related to the activity.
4. Appointment of practice times, dates and procedures.
5. Preparation and execution of all travel arrangements for the team.

6. Creation and implementation of competition strategies.
7. Management or determination of all awards.

Permissible Practice Visitation

It is the understanding that athletics is an extension of the classroom. Thus, the head coach has the ultimate discretion determining whether or not parents, guardians, family, friends, or others may attend, or be present, at practices. For a myriad of reasons, family visitations at practices are the exception, not the rule. Player, coach and spectator safety will play an important role in this decision.

The following conditions shall be observed for all parents, guardians, family, friends, or others at team practices when a coach agrees to allow practice visitation:

- During the visit, all visitors must remain in the spectator seating area if available.
- If no spectator seating area is available, visitors must remain outside of the gym/room/field or within an area designated by the coaching staff.
- There will be no contact, either verbal or nonverbal, with any of the coaches, support staff, other personnel, and/or athletes during practice (see above communication protocol for clarification)
- There will be no coaching of student-athletes directly or indirectly.
- There will be no photos, video or audio recording of players or practices without consent of the coaching staff and student-athletes.
- Cell phones should remain on silent and any necessary phone conversations need to occur outside of the practice area to not cause an unnecessary distraction.
- The coach may terminate a visit at any time if it is determined that the visit is disruptive to the coaches, support staff, other personnel, and/or athletes.
- For reasons of safety and the smooth operation of the team practice, those who are within an unauthorized visiting area without permission and/or those who have been denied permission to visit a practice will be considered to be trespassing. Trespassers may be prosecuted.

NOTE: invited guests or requests from media, visiting coaches, alumni, or other outside entities will be granted on a case by case basis by the head coach and Athletic Director.

Spectator Game/Event Attendance

- During games/events, all spectators must remain in the spectator seating area where available.
- If no spectator seating area is available, spectators must remain outside of the field of play or within a designated area.
- For reasons of safety and the smooth operation of the team practice, those who are within an unauthorized visiting area without permission and/or those who have been denied permission to visit a practice will be considered to be trespassing and may be subject to removal from the game/event and possibly face prosecution.

The College Recruiting Process

The coach, school counselor, and the Athletic Director should be your primary sources of information and guidance regarding the collegiate recruiting process. They are willing to communicate with families and student-athletes about their interest in becoming a college student-athlete, collegiate eligibility standards, and collegiate sport particulars.

Please be aware that collegiate recruiting personnel frequently contact coaches and the athletic office seeking information about SDST student-athletes. In compliance with FERPA (Federal Educational Rights and Privacy Act), directory information about a student (name, address, phone number, honors and awards) may be disclosed to college recruiters as requested. If any student-athlete or their parent/guardian does not wish to have this information made available to recruiters, a request to that effect should be made in writing. This request should be filed with the SDST athletic office prior to the first official day of practice for the team.

The SDST Administration congratulates all students who make the choice to participate in interscholastic athletics and wishes all students a great experience!

We hope you have an enjoyable time filled with great memories and friendships highlighted by great school spirit as we support all athletes, teams, and school activities.

Appendix:

Spectator Code of Conduct:

Parents/Guardians are to be responsible for their words and actions while attending school athletic program sporting events. The parents or legal guardians of student-athletes shall be required to follow the Code of Conduct set forth as follows:

1. I will demonstrate positive behavior and not engage in unsportsmanlike conduct with any coach, parent, participant, official or any other attendee.
2. I will be supportive of our coaches and programs and not engage in any conversation or action that is detrimental to the team culture or counterproductive to district and/or team initiatives and goals.
3. I will be positive with others and not encourage my child, or any other person, any behavior which would endanger the health, safety or well-being of others not to engage in unsportsmanlike conduct with any coach, parent, player, participant, official, or any other attendee.
4. I will use appropriate language and not engage in the use of profanity nor encourage my child, or any other person to engage in the use of profanity.
5. I will treat any coach, parent, participant, official or any other attendee with respect at all times regardless of sex, creed, color, national origin, sexual orientation, or ability.
6. I will have positive interactions with others and not engage in verbal or physical threats or abuse aimed at any coach, parent, participant, official or any other attendee.
7. I will allow the coaches to coach and the players to play and will not shout instructions, coach or direct players on the field from the stands nor the sidelines.
8. I will allow the officials to officiate and not address the officials from the sidelines in any manner.

It is important to understand that any violation of this code of conduct could result in being banned from attending any SDST Athletic Program sporting event or banned from SDST Property.

Important Links

- [SDST Board Policies](#)
- [PIAA Handbook](#)