

# SHENENDEHOWA CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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## **SUBJECT: ATHLETIC CODE OF CONDUCT REGULATION**

The Athletic Code of Conduct consists of two integral components:

- 1) Academic Requirements
- 2) Appropriate Behavior/Conduct

Participation on any athletic team is contingent upon the student's willingness to commit to its provisions as evidenced by his/her completing and signing an official letter of commitment.

### **Academic Eligibility**

A student is eligible to try out, practice and play if he/she has achieved at least an overall 65 grade point average and has passed all courses the semester prior to the sports season. Eligible athletes must maintain at least such average and pass all courses throughout the season of play.

#### **Overall 65 Average and Passing All Courses = Eligible to Play**

A student is eligible to try out but if chosen for a team, will be immediately placed on *Academic Probation* if he/she has achieved a minimum 65 average but has failed one course the semester or quarter prior to the sports season.

A student is ineligible to try out for a team if he/she has either achieved less than a 65 average, or if he/she has achieved a 65 average but has failed more than one course in the semester or quarter prior to the sports season.

#### **Try-Outs**

**65 or greater average but failed one course the semester prior to season = Eligible to try out but on academic probation**

**Less than 65 average = Ineligible to tryout**

**65 or greater average but has failed more than one course = Ineligible to tryout**

During the season of play if a student-athlete's average drops below 65 and/or he/she is failing one or more courses, the athlete will be placed on academic probation. He/she will be dropped from the team if after two weeks he/she fails to make significant improvement in academic status toward the goal of a minimum 65 average.

#### **During season of play:**

**Average below 65 = Academic Probation**

**Failing one or more courses = Academic Probation**

## **Academic Probation**

A student on Academic Probation will:

- 1) Be allowed to practice with his/her team but may not play in competition for a minimum of two weeks.
- 2) Submit to the principal or his/her designee, the completed Athletic Probation form. The form will serve as evidence of the successful completion of course requirements necessary to achieve good academic standing. Such requirements may include daily attendance, submittal of all assignments, the absence of discipline problems, and passing grades on assignments, quizzes and tests.
- 3) Submit the Athletic Probation form at the end of each two week period throughout the season of play or no longer required by the principal, or his/her designee.
- 4) Be dropped from the team if he/she fails to show timely and appropriate academic progress or non-compliance with the stipulations of the Academic Probation process.

## **Attendance**

Daily, on-time attendance is expected. A student-athlete shall not be permitted to participate in a competitive event if absent on the day of the event. If more than 2 periods of class are missed on a school day, he/she will be allowed to play/practice only with the permission of the principal/designee.

## **Appropriate Conduct Requirements**

Student-athletes shall avoid any infractions of the Code of Conduct for the Maintenance of Order on School Property (Please see 3410-A). In addition, student-athletes shall avoid any action(s) or the participation in an activity outside of school, which might bring embarrassment or an unfavorable view on the athlete, his/her teammates, coaches, family, school or community. Such alleged violation(s) will be subject to review and possible subsequent action. Examples of some behaviors which would be considered as violations of the Athletic Code of Conduct are delineated in the attached appendix and are provided to parents and students as a part of the commitment letter that is signed by both the athlete and parent. The appendix list is not meant to be all inclusive.

## **Application of the Code**

The Code shall apply for one calendar year (including summer) from the date of the student-athlete's most recent signature and will be in effect at all times, in all locations, including non-school activities. Each coach also has the prerogative to establish and promulgate additional guidelines specific to his/her particular team, so long as such guidelines do not erode or minimize the criteria set forth herein.

## **Penalties**

Violations of the Code will result in penalties as determined formally by the building principal and the Director of Physical Education and Athletics. In determining appropriate penalties, the building principal and the Director of Physical Education and Athletics shall be guided as follows:

### **First Offense**

1. If an offense occurs that is deemed to be a violation of the code, the athlete will be allowed to practice with the team, but shall not be allowed to participate in the team's scheduled competitions according to the eligibility chart. For example, a player on a team with a 16-game schedule found guilty of smoking during the summer would be expected to practice with the team but would not be

permitted to participate in the first four scheduled contests. Scrimmages **are not** considered scheduled contests.

2. Penalties which cannot be served during the sport season in which they are imposed will be carried over for completion in the next sports season in which the athlete participates. The penalty assigned will be adjusted proportionately based on the number of regular season scheduled contests in the subsequent season.

### **Second Offense**

If a second offense occurs, the games penalty will be increased according to the eligibility chart. If the second offense occurs within the same calendar year as the first offense, the games penalty will be increased proportionally, for example for a 16 games season, a second offense would be for 8 scheduled contests, but within the same calendar year as the first offense the penalty would be 12 games. For a second offense within the same sport season, the athlete will be suspended for the remainder of the season.

### **Third Offense**

If a third offense occurs, the athlete shall be removed from participation in **all** interscholastic athletics for one calendar year beginning on the date the penalty for the third offense is imposed.

### **Offenses Resulting in Arrest or the Filing of Formal Charges in Court**

**In the case of the arrest for a criminal offense or filing of charges for a criminal offense, the athlete shall be removed from the team until the matter is effectively reviewed. If the District has adequate and competent evidence that the student participated in the offense for which he or she is charged, it shall be considered as a 2<sup>nd</sup> offense at a minimum. A penalty shall be immediately imposed pursuant to the Athletic Code of Conduct regulation prior to completion of the criminal proceeding. The District reserves the right to prefer stricter disciplinary consequences, including suspension in future seasons upon the completion of the criminal proceeding.**

**ELIGIBILITY CHART**

<b># Of Regular Season Scheduled Contests</b>	<b>Contest Penalty First Offense</b>	<b>Contest Penalty Second Offense</b>
8	2	4
9	2	4
10	2	4
11	2	4
12	3	6
13	3	6
14	3	6
15	3	6
16	4	8
17	4	8
18	4	8
19	4	8
20	5	10
21	5	10
22	5	10
23	5	10

*It should be noted, notwithstanding the above chart of penalties, that the facts of an incident may warrant immediate removal from the team if the Director of Physical Education and Athletics and the building principal believe that the offense committed by the athlete warrants such action.*

**Due Process**

Prior to imposition of any penalty under the Code, the building principal and the Director of Physical Education and Athletics will notify the athlete of the nature of the infraction and the student will be given an opportunity to explain his or her side of the story.

**Appeal Procedure**

The student and/or parent/guardian have the right to appeal penalties imposed under the Code to the school principal and Director of Physical Education and Athletics. Appeals must be made in writing within three school days of assignment of a penalty for a code violation. A response to the appeal will be provided within three school days after receipt of the letter by the building principal and the Director of Physical Education and Athletics.

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**COMMITMENT LETTER**

Dear Student Athlete and Parent:

Participation on a Shenendehowa athletic team is a privilege which should elicit great pride in both the student-athlete and his/her family. It is also a responsibility which requires an extra commitment, both academic and otherwise, by those who wear our school colors and represent their teammates, coaches, school, family and community. Standards of behavior are necessarily high and a willingness to live up to them is a condition for participation. Consistent with these standards, and as a continuing condition of eligibility, student athletes are required to meet prescribed academic standards and sign this letter of commitment. The student-athlete's signature, along with that of his/her parent/guardian, indicates they both recognize and understand this responsibility and that the student-athlete agrees to adhere to the basic concepts of good citizenship, proper training regulations and those positive examples with which every athlete should be identified.

**Academic Eligibility**

All student-athletes must achieve at least an overall 65 grade average and have passed all courses the semester or quarter (for one-semester courses) prior to the sports season, and maintains at least such average throughout the season of play. Grade checks will be made throughout the season by the respective coaches under the direction and guidance of the Athletic Director. Students not meeting these requirements will be placed on Academic Probation, during which time improvement must be demonstrated in both effort and achievement

**Code of Conduct**

As a further requirement for participation on any interscholastic team, student-athletes are required to avoid any action(s) or participate in any activity within or outside of school which might bring embarrassment or any unfavorable view on the athlete, his/her teammates, coaches, family, school or community. Alleged violation(s) shall be subject to review and action under the code. Examples of some behaviors which would be considered as violations of the Athletic Code of Conduct are made part of the commitment letter to be signed by both the athlete and parent.

**Application of the Code**

The Code will apply to each student-athlete for one calendar year (including summer) from the date of his/her most recent signature and will be in effect at all times, in all locations, including non-school activities. Violations of the Code will result in penalties as determined formally by the Director of Physical Education and Athletics. Each coach also has the prerogative to establish and promulgate additional guidelines specific to his/her particular team.

Each student-athlete is required to sign and return to his/her coach, a copy of this commitment letter indicating he/she has read, understands, and will abide by the Athletic Code of Conduct and Regulation.

**Sincerely,**

**Christopher Culnan  
Director of Physical Education**



### Code of Conduct Infractions

Any infractions of the **Shenendehowa Code of Conduct for the Maintenance of Order on School Property** - Any infraction of the Code resulting in an internal or an out-of-school suspension will result in progressive levels of discipline under this Code. Infractions include but *are not limited to*:

- ✓ **Possession and/or Use of Drugs or Alcohol** - The possession or use of drugs, drug paraphernalia or alcohol or the consumption of drugs or alcohol at any time is strictly prohibited.
- ✓ **Possession and/or Use of Tobacco Products** - The possession or use of tobacco products is strictly prohibited.
- ✓ **Hosting of Drinking/Drug Parties** – Student-athletes are prohibited from hosting/attending a party that involves alcohol, drugs, marijuana or other controlled substances.
- ✓ **Absence from School** - The practice of students staying home on school days to rest for events that day or night is unacceptable. Student-athletes will need permission from the principal/designee to play or practice on a day that more than 2 periods of class were missed.
- ✓ **Hazing/Initiation Ceremony** - Shenendehowa interscholastic coaches will not permit, nor will Shenendehowa student-athletes stage, any type of “initiation ceremony” or hazing for athletes at any time and on any level. This prohibition includes any athlete giving other athletes haircuts, shaving other athletes, locker/shower pranks, etc.
- ✓ **Poor Sportsmanship** – Student-athletes, whether participants or spectators, will observe courteous behavior during all sporting events. Booing, whistling, name calling, obscene gestures, fighting or arguing with the sports official or other athletic participants.
- ✓ **Stealing** - Stealing of any kind, including athletic clothing belonging to Shenendehowa or our opponents, will not be tolerated.
- ✓ **Vandalism or Property Destruction** - Vandalism or property destruction are Level Three infractions in Shenendehowa’s **Code of Conduct**. These offenses may result in internal or external suspension and appropriate penalties for violation of the Athletic Code.

Policy 5310-A  
Regulation 5310-R

Reviewed: April 8, 2008