

SOUTHOLD UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

POLICY 5280

SOUTHOLD SCHOOLS INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC CODE

1.0 GENERAL PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENT

- 1.1 Opportunities for participation in the interscholastic athletic program at Southold are open to all students in grades 7 – 12. While participation is voluntary, it is considered a privilege. Therefore, participants must display desire to conform to rules and regulations which shall be named throughout the subsequent sections of this code.
- 1.2 All participants shall be bonafide students of Southold Schools, or bonafide students of other schools, which the Southold Schools Board of Education has approved for combined participation.
- 1.3 Prior to participation in any practice and/or game, each student-athlete shall have a fully completed SSIAC contract on file with the school. This contract shall be completed seasonally and signed by all appropriate parties.
- 1.4 All participants shall comply with all rules of interscholastic eligibility as defined by the New York State Public High School Athletic Association and Suffolk County Section XI guidelines.
- 1.5 Selective classification shall only be considered for the exceptional athlete (see section 7.0).
- 1.6 Violation of this code occurring out of season will result in a hearing conducted by the Athletic Advisory Committee, to determine student eligibility for participation.

2.0 MEDICAL APPROVAL PRIOR TO PARTICIPATION

- 2.1 Each student-athlete must have a complete sport physical each year that he or she plans to participate in interscholastic athletics. The sport physical shall be performed by the family or school physician. All completed physical exams shall be reviewed and approved by the school physician.
- 2.2 The Director of Athletics shall notify all prospective participants of the scheduled dates, times and location where the sports physicals will be performed. This will be done by written notification to the parent/guardian, in-school announcements, and by notification in local newspapers.
- 2.3 The parent/guardian shall complete the medical history portion of the SSIAC prior to scheduling an appointment for a sports physical. All previous injuries and medical conditions must be listed as to ensure proper screening for participation.
- 2.4 All pertinent medical information regarding the prospective participant's ability to participate will be completed by the family or school physician and recorded in the appropriate place on the SSIAC contract.
- 2.5 Any student, while participating on an athletic team, who is injured and is treated by a medical doctor or medical emergency facility, must receive written permission to return to participation by a medical doctor and/or school physician.
- 2.6 Any student-athlete that misses 5 or more consecutive days in interscholastic team participation, due to injury or illness, will need to be cleared by the school physician prior to returning to participation.

3.0 SCHOLASTIC REQUIREMENTS

- 3.1 Student-athletes are expected to be in school each day that school is in session.
- 3.2 A student-athlete must be in school a minimum of 5 consecutive periods during the day in order to be eligible to practice or play with an interscholastic team. Exceptions shall be approved in advance by the building principal.
- 3.3 Student-athletes are expected to maintain a satisfactory academic performance record. The Athletic Director will furnish members of the Jr./Sr. High School teaching staff with a list of all students participating in interscholastic athletics within ten (10) days of the start of each sports season and every week thereafter. Each staff member will circle the name of any

student-athlete failing in his or her class. The student-athlete will be placed on a probationary list and his/her parent(s), coach and counselor notified. The student-athlete, teacher and athletic director will develop a plan to achieve a passing grade. While on probation, the (continued):student-athlete will be required to furnish an academic update every Friday to the Athletic Department from his/her teachers in the failing subjects. The student-athlete is required to pick up an academic update form from the Athletic Department each week. The form will include a check-off procedure and the signature of the teacher involved. If the student-athlete does not turn in the weekly update form, he/she will be ineligible for both practice and contests the following week.

This probationary status will be week to week during which time students will be ineligible for contests but eligible to participate in practice. When the teacher determines that the student-athlete is passing, he/she is eligible to play but will be required to complete the weekly update form. If not passing, the student-athlete will be ineligible to play in any contest during the next week, but will abide by all other team rules including practice. In the case where the student-athlete ends one season on probation, the probationary status will continue into the next sports season with the exception of the end of the school year.

Any student placed on probation will remain there until passing all subjects in the next marking period or until his/her teacher, counselor and Athletic Department representative mutually agree to rescind that status. Such consideration may be given in cases where there is concrete evidence of excellent effort, such as strong class participation and timely completion of all assignments. In addition, seventh grade students who fail to meet academic eligibility in the first quarter will be issued warning letters; thereafter, they will be subject to probationary status if they fail to meet academic eligibility. For cases involving students with disabilities, the Special Education Administrator will be consulted.

The Athletic Director will notify the student-athlete's parent(s) when the student-athlete is first placed on probation and/or removed from the probationary list.

- 3.4 Scholarship has precedence over practice and games alike. Students shall seek extra help for academic reasons and they shall not be penalized for missing practice time. The student-athlete will bring a signed note from the teacher who he-she has been meeting with for extra help.

4.0 STUDENT-ATHLETE CONDUCT**

Student-athletes must understand that as a member of the school team, their conduct reflects upon themselves, their family, the team, the school, and ultimately the community. **Therefore, student-athletes should conduct themselves in such a way that their actions are a credit to themselves and a positive role model image for other students.** Students disqualified from a contest by the game official (e.g., technical foul, red card, etc) shall be ineligible to participate in the next contest. Students disqualified from a second contest by the game official shall be ineligible to participate in the next two contests.

- 4.1 Student-athletes shall abide by all rules and regulations listed in the Southold Jr./Sr. High Student Handbook. Penalties for violations of the student handbook, such as detention, shall not be altered, waived, or rescheduled for the benefit of games and/or practice.
- 4.2 Student-athletes will conduct themselves during games in accordance with conduct codes listed in the Section XI (Suffolk County) Handbook.
- 4.3 Student-athletes shall abide by all team rules set forth by the coach regarding individual responsibilities in the areas of attendance, conduct, and preparedness in both games and practice. These rules shall be discussed by the coach with the team on the first day of practice. A written copy of the rules will be sent home for parental review.
- 4.4 Possession or use of any illegal drugs, tobacco, alcohol, or performance enhancing products, either on or off campus, while a member of any athletic team, shall result in immediate suspension from participation on that team. The Athletic Advisory Committee shall meet and

determine the length of suspension, although in most cases the suspension shall be for the remainder of the season. In the event that section 4.4 is violated in the off-season, the Athletic Advisory Committee shall meet soon as possible after the violation. In both cases, further participation in interscholastic athletics will not be permitted until a hearing involving the student-athlete and the parent/guardian is conducted by the Athletic Advisory Committee.

- 4.5 Student-athletes are prohibited from violating any village, town, county, state or federal ordinances and/or laws. Verification of conviction of any charges will result in an eligibility hearing by the Director of Athletics.
- 4.6 Hazing, defined as an initiation rite in which students are subjected to harassment, humiliation, or physical pain, is strictly forbidden. Any incidence of hazing will be fully investigated and disciplinary action will be taken. The action may range from a warning to a suspension of the team for the season to superintendent suspension to legal action, depending upon the severity of the violation.

**** Violations of the Student Athlete Conduct Code will result in action being taken in the following manner:** (Penalties imposed under the SSIAC do not preclude further action being taken as a result of violating any rules contained in the Jr./Sr. High Handbook.)

1st Offense – A student-athlete who is suspended from school shall also be suspended from the team for a minimum of the next scheduled game. The parent or guardian shall be notified verbally by the coach within 24 hours of the suspension from school.

2nd Offense – A student-athlete who is suspended from school a second time during a sport season shall be dismissed from the team for the remainder of the season. The student-athlete's eligibility for other sports will be determined by the Director of Athletics, who shall conduct a hearing to make that determination.

5.0 FACILITIES, EQUIPMENT, AND UNIFORMS

- 5.0 All school issued uniforms and equipment shall be returned to the coach immediately upon the conclusion of the season.
- 5.1 All equipment and uniforms shall be returned to the coach in the same condition as issued allowing for normal wear and tear.
- 5.2 All school facilities shall be used in the manner and fashion in which the facilities were designed to be used, as specified by the manufacturer.
- 5.3 Acts of vandalism pertaining to any school facilities or equipment shall be referred to the proper school authorities. Student-athletes who are found to have engaged in such acts will be banned from further participation until proper restitution is made.
- 5.4 Any student-athlete who fails to return any district issued equipment and/or uniforms, or pay for damaged or lost uniform items shall not participate in any interscholastic practice or games until all items are returned to the coach.

6.0 SEPARATION FROM TEAM

- 6.1 In as much as students are encouraged to participate on interscholastic teams, so too are they encouraged to finish the season to completion. This would include both regular and post-season play.
- 6.2 Student-athletes who drop from a team on their own accord shall be ineligible to participate on any other interscholastic team for the remainder of the school year until he/she has met with the Athletic Director and explained the reason for leaving the team. If so desired, the parent/guardian may participate in the meeting. Such a meeting is required for future athletic participation.
- 6.3 Students who are released from teams are eligible to compete on other teams during the same season.
- 6.4 Students who are dismissed from teams due to disciplinary reasons are not eligible to participate on any sport team during any season until the student-athlete and parent/guardian meet with the Athletic Director and Coach of the Team.

7.0 SELECTIVE CLASSIFICATION

- 7.1 Selective classification (moving junior high school students to junior varsity or varsity teams) will be implemented as follows:
- 7.2 Students, teachers, coaches or parents/guardians may request the director of physical education/athletics to process a student through the Selection/Classification screening procedure. Students will not be exposed to the screening without a specific request. The Athletic Director will convene a committee on selective classification to perform a pre-evaluation assessment of the student to determine if the student has the potential to successfully participate at a higher level of athletic competition. If it is determined that the student has the potential, the Athletic Director is required to implement the procedural phases set forth in the New York State Selection/Classification Program for the Interscholastic Athletic Program.
- 7.3 Upon the student’s passing of the exam and test, the athletic director will certify to the superintendent that all parts of this procedure have been followed as written. If the athletic director cannot certify that all procedures have been followed, the student will not be permitted to “move up”.

8.0 STUDENT-ATHLETE RIGHTS

- 8.1 Student-athletes have the right to request a conference with their current coach and their parent/guardian to discuss any matter involving the student-athlete’s participation on that team. Coaches must grant this request within 1 week of this request.

9.0 ATHLETIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

- 9.1 The Athletic Advisory Committee shall consist of: Director of Athletics, Superintendent and an Independent Coach.

STUDENT NAME _____ **GRADE** _____ **D.O.B.** _____

SCHOOL YEAR _____ **SPORT** _____ **BOYS/GIRLS** _____ **LEVEL** _____

We have read the above Southold School Interscholastic Athletic Code and agree to abide by all sections and rules as stated. Further, we acknowledge that there is a risk of injury when participating in athletic practices, games and during any transporting of teams to away games or off-site facilities. These injuries may range from minor to catastrophic and we realize the risks at hand by participating in any interscholastic sport. By signing below we acknowledge the above-mentioned rules and risks and give our son/daughter permission to participate.

Student Signature _____ **Date** _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ **Date** _____

School Nurse Signature _____ **Date of Physical** _____

Athletic Director’s Signature _____ **Date** _____

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