

**SOUTHERN LEHIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT  
ATHLETIC CODE OF CONDUCT  
MIDDLE SCHOOL  
2018-2019**

**I. INTRODUCTION**

- A. The Southern Lehigh School District Athletic Code of Conduct shall govern all student-athletes, on and off-campus, during the time they are participating in an athletic program of the Southern Lehigh School District.
- B. Participation in athletics at Southern Lehigh School District is a privilege, not a right. In the exercise of this privilege, all student-athletes shall comply with the Southern Lehigh School District Athletic Code of Conduct beginning with the first day of each athletic season. As a condition and precedent to a student-athlete's participation in the first practice, scrimmage or contest of each season, the student-athlete and his or her parent/guardian shall acknowledge receipt of, and agree to abide by, this Athletic Code of Conduct by signing and returning to the Athletic Department the attached Consent Form. One Code of Conduct Consent Form is required for the entire school year.
- C. The Southern Lehigh School District Athletic Code of Conduct shall serve as a supplement to the Southern Lehigh School District Student Handbook.

**II. PHILOSOPHY OF THE SOUTHERN LEHIGH ATHLETIC PROGRAM**

- A. The athletic program at Southern Lehigh is an integral part of the total educational program. The goal is to give student-athletes the opportunity to develop their athletic skills and the qualities needed to make a positive contribution to society. Everyone involved in the Athletic Program should have a sincere belief in the value of athletics and be willing to spend the time and effort necessary to influence the lives of others in a positive way. This is only possible if our main purpose is to help student-athletes understand the importance of the following:
  - 1. Accepting responsibility.
  - 2. Dedicating themselves to a set of beliefs and goals.
  - 3. Developing team unity and pride.
  - 4. Accepting discipline.
  - 5. Associating and working with others.
  - 6. Learning to deal with success and failure.
  - 7. Achieving their full potential.
  - 8. Developing good sportsmanship.

**III. ATTENDANCE IN SCHOOL**

- A. In order for a student-athlete to participate in any athletic activity, including practice, he/she must be in attendance at school before 9:00 AM on the day of the activity. Pre-

approved educational trips, funerals, religious holidays, and medical/dental appointments are exceptions to this rule. The Middle School Principal or his/her designee is the only person that may waive the 9:00 AM rule. Student-athletes must be in school at start time prior to all doctor appointments after 9:00 AM until appointment dismissal time and all student-athletes must return to school with a doctor's note. For example, school starts at 7:45 AM and the doctor's appointment is at 9:30 AM, the student-athlete must report to school on time and follow normal sign out procedures. A student-athlete who is absent from school may attend an activity as a spectator if the activity is open to the public.

- B. A student-athlete who leaves early during the school day may not participate in an athletic event unless prior permission is granted by the building Principal or his/her designee or the Director of Athletics. Upon return to the athletic event, a note verifying the appointment must be given to the Director of Athletics, Athletic Trainer or Head Coach. If the student-athlete returns to the practice/game without the doctor note they will not be permitted to participate.
- C. A student-athlete who is out of school suspended is not eligible to participate in school activities from the time the disciplinary action starts. He/she becomes eligible at 7:46 AM of the school day immediately following the last day of suspension. Therefore, a student-athlete out of school suspended on a Friday is not eligible for any weekend activities.

#### **IV. ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY**

- A. The extra-curricular programs offered in grades 7-8 at Southern Lehigh School District are an important and integral part of the total school program of each student-athlete. It is the goal of Southern Lehigh to educate each child to fully achieve his or her potential. Because of our strong commitment to scholastic excellence, and due to our philosophy of serving student-athletes, academic eligibility standards and guidelines were developed for all extra-curricular activities.
- B. The academic eligibility list is generated every Monday at 12:00 PM through Sapphire to determine the student-athletes who are failing two or more subjects. Head Coaches are notified of ineligible student-athletes on Mondays by 3:00 PM. A student-athlete who is failing two or more subjects may not participate in practices or contests. A student-athlete will remain ineligible for one week at a time (Monday to Sunday) until he/she is no longer failing more than one course. All courses taken are included in the evaluation. When a student-athlete is academically ineligible for a third time during a season, he/she may be removed from the team unless the student-athlete has not been given the opportunity to become academically eligible. The Principal or his/her designee is the only person that may approve any changes to the ineligible list.
- C. The PIAA requires all student-athletes to be passing a minimum of four credits.

#### **V. DRUG AND ALCOHOL POLICY**

- A. Possession, use, or sale of tobacco/smoking products on school property, buses, vans, and or vehicles that are owned, leased, or controlled by the school district or by students at school sponsored activities that are held off school property is strictly forbidden. (This includes a lighted or unlighted cigarette, cigar, pipe, or other smoking product or material, and smokeless tobacco in any form including electronic cigarettes or vape

device).

- B. These regulations have been developed in order to strongly discourage our student-athletes from using harmful drugs and alcohol and to foster the good health and welfare of our student-athletes. These regulations apply to student participation in all interscholastic and extra-curricular teams, clubs and organizations at Southern Lehigh School District.
1. The school year shall be 1 July of a given year to 30 June of the next year. Offenses shall be recorded cumulatively throughout the year, but shall not carry over from year to year. An offense shall include a verified incident involving the illegal possession, use, transfer, or sale of drugs or alcohol or performance enhancing substances on or off school property. An offense may be verified by investigation by school officials and/or by arrest and conviction.
  2. A student-athlete with a drug or alcohol problem may voluntarily come forward without any consequence if a request is made for assistance. Confidentiality will be maintained. This action must be prior to any reported or known offences.
  3. In an effort to assist any student-athlete with a drug or alcohol problem, any self-referral or violation will be referred to the high school or middle school Student Assistance Team. This team will work with the student-athlete, family, and outside agencies to bring about private counseling, drug and alcohol assessments, hospitalization, or rehabilitation where appropriate. In addition, the Student Assistance Team will monitor the student-athlete's curricular and extra-curricular progress.
  4. A first verified offense will result in:
    - a. A recorded warning and written notification to parents.
    - b. Assignment to the Student Assistance Team.
    - c. Suspension from participation in the interscholastic team, club or organization extra-curricular activities for 20 days (practices/games).
    - d. Normal disciplinary action through the school disciplinary code when applicable.
  5. A second verified offense will result in:
    - a. Notification of parents in writing.
    - b. Continued efforts by the Student Assistance Program or use of appropriate outside agencies.
    - c. Removal from participation in all interscholastic team, club or extra-curricular activities for the remainder of the school year.
    - d. Normal disciplinary action through the school disciplinary code when applicable.

## **VI. SPORT RULES AND LETTER REQUIREMENTS**

A. All practices/contests are mandatory unless there is prior approval from the Head Coach/Director of Athletics.

- For the first unexcused absence the student-athlete will not be able to participate in the next game/contest.
- For the second unexcused absence the student-athlete may be dismissed from the team.

- Excused absences include situations such as: funerals, school field trips, family commitments, and illness/injury.
- B. If a student-athlete is not able to participate in a practice, the Head Coach has the discretion to determine if the student-athlete will be able to participate in the next game/contest.
  - C. Head Coaches have the right to schedule five to six mandatory practices per week during the regular and post seasons.
  - D. Student-athletes must follow the School District's Drug and Alcohol Policy. The use of tobacco products will follow the School District's Drug and Alcohol Policy as stated in Southern Lehigh Student Handbook.
  - E. A student-athlete may not join a team after the starting date unless there is approval from the Head Coach and Director of Athletics. They will be required to have two weeks of conditioning before they can compete unless they are changing sports during the same season.
  - F. All student-athletes are required to stay for the entire contest unless they have prior approval from the Head Coach.
  - G. All student-athletes are required to travel with the team to and from away contests unless they have a permission request from their parent to travel with them or another parent. (Athletic Transportation forms are located on the district web site under "Athletics" and must be approved by the Head Coach 24 hours in advance of the athletic event).
  - H. All student-athletes are responsible for returning school-issued equipment at the end of the sport season. The student-athlete has a financial obligation for any equipment that they do not return.
  - I. In order for a student-athlete to participate in any athletic or extra-curricular activity, including practice, he/she must be in attendance at school before 9:00 AM on the day of the activity. Pre-approved educational trips are exceptions to this rule. After the third lateness the student-athlete may be removed from the team. A student-athlete who is absent from school may attend an activity as a spectator if the activity is open to the public. If the student-athlete has a doctor's appointment first thing in the morning, he/she needs a doctor's excuse when coming into school and signing in on the tardy board. If the student-athlete has a doctor's appointment later in the day and can at least attend first period, the student-athlete should report to school on time. The student-athlete needs a note from his/her parent and must sign out on the early dismissal board upon arriving to school in the morning. When he/she returns from the appointment, he/she signs back in and must have a note from the doctor explaining he/she was there and what time he/she left the office.
  - J. A student-athlete who is out-of-school suspended, in school suspended, or in an alternative educational setting is not eligible to participate in school activities from the time the disciplinary action starts. He/she becomes eligible at 7:46 AM of the school day immediately following the last day of suspension/alternative educational setting. Therefore, a student-athlete out-of-school suspended, in-school suspended, or at an alternative educational setting on a Friday is not eligible for any weekend activities. After five missed practices/games, the student-athlete may be removed from the team.
  - K. A student-athlete who is failing two or more subjects may not participate in an athletic practice or contest. Failing student-athletes will be reported on a weekly basis through Sapphire. A student-athlete will remain ineligible for one week at a time (Monday to Sunday) until he/she is no longer failing more than one course, unless it has been determined by the building Principal or his/her designee that the student-athlete is

academically eligible. All courses taken are included in the evaluation. When a student-athlete is on the ineligible list for a third time during a season, he/she may be removed from the team unless the student-athlete has not been given the opportunity to become academically eligible.

- M. All student-athletes are expected to practice good sportsmanship.
- The first written referral to the Director of Athletics by a coach will result in the student-athlete not participating in the next game/contest.
  - The second written referral to the Director of Athletics by a coach will result in the student-athlete being dismissed from the team.
- N. The Superintendent, Director of Athletics and Head Coach reserve the right to make decisions that involve circumstances not addressed in this policy.
- O. If the team manager is a member of the team at the end of the season, they will receive a Varsity letter or J.V. certificate. If the team manager misses more than ten practices/games, not including injuries and illnesses, he/she will receive a participation certificate.
- P. Playing time is at the discretion of the coaching staff. The student-athlete is responsible to open the conversation with the head coach with regard to any playing time issues. If the issue is not resolved, then parents can arrange a meeting with the Director of Athletics, Head Coaches and the student-athlete.

## **VII. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS**

- A. A student-athlete must be an amateur in order to participate. A pupil shall be ineligible for interscholastic athletic competition upon attaining the age of 15 years (with the following exception: if the age of 15 is attained on or after July 1, the pupil shall be eligible, age-wise to compete through the school year).
- B. The maximum middle school (grades 7-8) participation shall be four (2) years in any one sport. According to Article XIX Section 3 (A) of the PIAA By-Laws, "No student-athlete is eligible for Practice for or participation in interscholastic athletics prior to entry into seventh grade."
- C. Each student-athlete that participates in any sport or activity must acknowledge that all school-issued equipment or supplies must be returned at the end of the season, regardless of the condition of the equipment. Any item not returned or returned in an unacceptable condition will be charged "single item" replacement price. The student-athlete is ineligible to participate in any sport or activity until the obligation is satisfied.
- D. The student-athletes shall conduct themselves at all times showing good sportsmanship, courtesy to fellow players as well as coaches, referees, and opposing team members.
- E. A student-athlete participating in a sport and/or activity must travel to and from away events via District transportation. No student-athlete may drive to or from, or travel with another student-athlete to or from any athletic event. Written exceptions to this would be extended when circumstances warrant, with advance notice via a written note from the participant's parent or guardian to the Head Coach. Student-athletes who miss the bus and arrive later to a contest may not participate in that contest unless the Head Coach has previously approved the arrangement.
- F. A student-athlete must be a team player and avoid any actions that would be detrimental to the unity of the team. Examples of this would be physical or verbal harassment of others, exclusion of a player by team members, disrespecting other team members,

purposely trying to hurt another team member. The Southern Lehigh Hazing Policy states the practice of hazing in connection with any District sport, club, or activity sponsored by or affiliated in any way with the Southern Lehigh School District is strictly forbidden. See School Board Policy 123.4.

- G. A student-athlete may be permitted to move from one sport to another, within the same sport season, with the approval of the Head Coaches involved in addition to the Director of Athletics.
- H. A student-athlete may be permitted to be involved in more than one sport during a sport season. The student-athlete must attend a meeting with the Head Coaches, Director of Athletics and one parent to discuss the parameters of being involved in two sports within the same sports season.
- I. A student-athlete will always conduct himself or herself as a gentleman or lady when representing Southern Lehigh. He/she will treat other individuals with respect and courtesy. He/she will address all adults with respect at all times, and will be responsible for appropriate actions both in and out of school.
- J. Before participating in any athletic activity, practice or contest, the student-athlete must turn in an insurance waiver and parental permission form. The student-athlete must pass a physical examination by a licensed physician.
- K. Before participating in any athletic activity (practice and/or contest), the student-athlete must pay the \$25 pay to participate fee (does not apply to Club Sports) for each sport season that she/he participates in. See the district web site under "Athletics" for pay to participate family discounts.

## **VIII. THE SOUTHERN LEHIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT WILL COMPLY WITH THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTIONS OF THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE ATHLETIC DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION.**

### **Hazing Resolution**

WHEREAS P.S.A.D.A. believes that a well-rounded interscholastic athletic program is important to provide maximum opportunities to meet the needs and interests of as many students as possible; and

WHEREAS P.S.A.D.A. believes that the health, safety and general welfare of students is paramount in athletic endeavors; and

WHEREAS P.S.A.D.A. believes that interscholastic athletics should be conducted in accordance with all Board of Education policies, rules and regulations; and

WHEREAS P.S.A.D.A. encourages its members to demonstrate leadership in promoting the development of behavior in young people that demonstrates high morality, integrity, and ethics; and

WHEREAS P.S.A.D.A. believes that athletics should occur in a safe and positive environment for students; and

WHEREAS P.S.A.D.A. believes that hazing, though harmful at any age, is particularly detrimental to junior and senior high students, (for purposes of this policy **hazing** is defined as any activity that recklessly or intentionally endangers the mental health, physical health or safety of a student for the purpose of initiation or membership in or affiliation with any organization recognized by the Board. **Endanger the physical health** shall include but not be limited to any brutality of a physical nature, such as whipping; beating; branding; forced

calisthenics; exposure to the elements; forced consumption of any food, alcoholic beverage, drug or controlled substance; or other forced physical activity that could adversely affect the physical health or safety of the individual. **Endanger the mental health** shall include any activity, that would subject an individual to extreme mental stress, such as prolonged sleep deprivation, forced prolonged exclusion from social contact, forced conduct, forced conduct which could result in extreme embarrassment, or any forced activity, which could adversely affect the mental health or dignity of the individual. Any hazing activity, whether by an individual or a group, shall be presumed to be a forced activity, even if a student willingly participates.)

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that P.S.A.D.A. does not condone any form of initiation or harassment, known as hazing, as part of any school sponsored activity and P.S.A.D.A. joins more than forty states across the country that have passed laws banning hazing activities of any type; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that P.S.A.D.A. urges its membership to establish regulations so that no student, coach, volunteer, or employee shall plan, direct, encourage, assist or engage in any hazing activity.

#### **Performance Enhancing Drugs Resolution**

WHEREAS P.S.A.D.A. believes interscholastic athletics is an integral part of the total educational program; and

WHEREAS P.S.A.D.A. believes in safeguarding the health and welfare of high school student-athletes; and

WHEREAS P.S.A.D.A. believes that the use of performance enhancing drugs is unethical; and

WHEREAS there exists extensive evidence that continued use of performance enhancing drugs is a contributing factor in developing cancer, heart disease, liver disease, sterility, violent and aggressive behavior and other adverse physical reactions; and

WHEREAS the Food and Drug Administration, National Collegiate Athletic Association, the United States Olympic Committee and many other agencies have designated performance enhancing drug use as a dangerous health hazard, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED that P.S.A.D.A. joins with other groups in opposition to any use of performance enhancing drugs by high school student athletes; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that P.S.A.D.A. joins with the National Federation of State High School Association and other organizations in a concerted effort to properly educate high school student – athletes as to the dangers and harmful effects of performance enhancing drugs.

#### **Sportsmanship of Coaches and Athletes Resolution**

WHEREAS P.S.A.D.A. believes that interscholastic athletics is an integral part of the educational program; and

WHEREAS P.S.A.D.A. believes that interscholastic athletics plays a valuable role in the character development of its student – athlete; and

WHEREAS the participation on a school athletic team is a privilege which includes responsibilities to the school and community; and

WHEREAS P.S.A.D.A. believes that interscholastic athletics should be conducted at the highest level of sportsmanship by its student – athletes and coaches; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that P.S.A.D.A. encourages its members to demonstrate leadership by promoting the development of behavior by student-athletes and coaches that show high levels of morality, ethics, and good sportsmanship (for purposes of this policy the following are specific examples of expectations to be set for all spectators:

1. Show respect for their country by standing attentively and remove hats when the American flag passes and during the playing and singing of the National Anthem.
2. Show respect by standing for the Alma Maters of both schools.
3. Conduct themselves as ladies and gentleman at all times, showing respect for visiting players and injured athletes, by not booing participants on the playing area and by respecting property.
4. Show respect for the game officials and refrain from booing their decisions or interfering with their control of the contest.
5. Recognize that vulgarity and indecent gestures are unacceptable.
6. Cheer under the organized guidance of the cheerleaders. Cheers to interfere with the opponent's cheering are unacceptable. Foot stamping in the stands is to be eliminated.
7. Recognize that noisemakers and signs in any gymnasium or at any indoor contest are unacceptable.
8. Recognize that littering premises, throwing of confetti or paper and tossing objects onto the playing are unacceptable.
9. Support musical groups for indoor activities. However, such groups must be organized, school sponsored and supervised to play only before games and during half time.
10. Realize that a ticket is a privilege to observe a contest and support high school activities, not a license to verbally assault others or be generally obnoxious.); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that P.S.A.D.A. encourages state organizations, interscholastic leagues, and local boards of education to adopt guidelines promoting or insuring good sportsmanship by its member schools; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that national, state and local chapters of sports officials organizations encourage its members to demand the highest levels of sportsmanship by all participants in interscholastic athletics.