



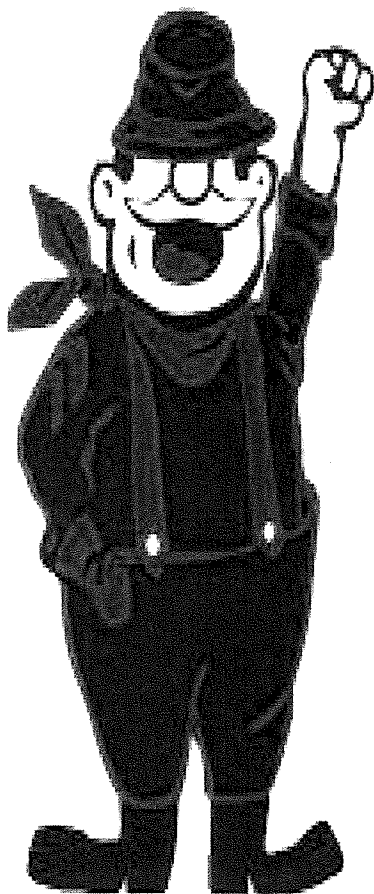
Rebels

South Spencer

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Colors: Royal Blue, White, Red



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Athletic Handbook and Code
of Conduct for
Athletes and Parents
2019-2020

Affiliation: IHSAA
Conference: Pocket Athletic
Principal: Jim Bush
Asst. Principal: Brad Feldmeier
Athletic Director: Matt Britton



South Spencer High School Mission Statement

We believe that all students can and will learn in a safe, orderly and creative environment. The professional staff, with the support of parents, is responsible for challenging students to achieve and acquire the skills necessary for success in an ever changing world.

Athletic Philosophy

South Spencer High School recognizes that interested students should have the opportunity to develop their potential as athletes in sports appropriate to their ability level. SSSH provides a program of interscholastic athletics which promotes participation for skilled students within the guidelines of the Indiana High School Athletic Association and the South Spencer School Corporation. It is the goal of the school to provide athletic opportunity as a further means of developing the intellectual, emotional and social maturity of the students who elect to participate. It is also important to teach the importance of teamwork and sportsmanship. It is recognized that athletics is a unifying influence between the high school and community. The school corporation and the high school are committed to the pursuit of excellence in athletics.

Athletic Program Profile

South Spencer High School has a rich tradition in its athletic programs. The entire school and community take pride in the accomplishments of the Rebels' athletic teams. SSSH offers nine varsity sports for girls: cross-country, volleyball, softball, basketball, tennis, track, soccer, swimming and golf. Ten varsity sports are offered for boys: cross-country, wrestling, football, basketball, tennis, soccer, golf, baseball, track and swimming

In addition, Cheerleading/ Rebel Jazz are subject to the regulations for athletes. Several sports offer junior varsity and freshmen competition to assure the proper development of each individual's level of ability.

All students with sufficient ability are eligible to participate provided they meet the scholastic standards and conduct requirements as established by the IHSAA and the school corporation.

South Spencer is a member of the Pocket Athletic Conference (PAC). Other conference members are Gibson Southern, Forest Park, Heritage Hills, North Posey, Pike Central, Southridge, Tecumseh, & Tell City High Schools.

IHSAA and SSSH Eligibility for Participation in Interscholastic Athletics

Participation in athletics is a privilege earned by meeting the rules and standards set by the IHSAA, PAC and South Spencer High School. Students who have questions concerning eligibility should contact the athletic director or principal before they endanger their athletic eligibility.

All athletes should carefully read and understand the **Athletic Code of Conduct** before engaging in any athletic practice or activity.

Academic Eligibility Standards

Each student representing their high school and competing in IHSAA contests must be certified with the IHSAA by the high school principal. This certification includes:

1. Athletes must have passed five classes the previous grading report.
2. Sixth graders entering middle school for the first time and ninth graders entering high school for the first time are eligible the first grading period.
3. Seventh graders and eighth graders retained are not eligible the first grading period of their retention year.
4. Semester grades take precedence over the fourth and eighth grading periods.
5. Students declared ineligible after the eighth grading report may regain eligibility for the first grading period of the following year by successfully completing summer school and the total number of classes passed the second semester plus summer school equals five passing grades.
6. Failure to complete academic requirements will result in suspension from participation in all athletic contests for the following 4.5 week grading report period.
7. A student declared academically ineligible may practice but will not be allowed to participate in an official contest.

Absence Due to Illness or Injury

An athlete who misses 5 consecutive days of school or athletic participation due to illness or injury must have clearance to continue participation from a physician. This permission to resume playing must be on file with the athletic director or coach. According to IHSAA guidelines, a player that misses 5 consecutive days of participation due to injury or illness must have 4 practices before returning to competition.

Academics

Students are expected to manage their time effectively so they do not have to miss practices for work, appointments or other conflicts. If this cannot be done, students should not be involved in athletics. Academics must always be a higher priority than athletics.

Age

A student whose 20th birthday occurs on or prior to the scheduled date of the IHSAA State Finals in a sport they are participating shall be ineligible for athletic competition in that sport.

Amateurism

Students shall not play under assumed names; accept remuneration directly or indirectly for athletic participation, or participate in athletic activities, tryouts, auditions, practices and games held or sponsored by professional athletic organizations, clubs or their representatives.

Attendance

Students are expected to make school attendance a priority. This includes attendance both the day of and the day after athletic contests. Students must be in attendance at least three periods, consecutively or nonconsecutively, to be eligible for athletics that day. Students are expected to be in attendance at school on time the day following any athletic competition. Exceptions are pre-arranged absences and school related functions.

Cheerleaders/ Rebel Jazz

South Spencer Cheerleaders/ Rebel Jazz participants are representatives of and ambassadors for our school. In addition to fostering spirit and good sportsmanship, they serve as positive role models for the youth of our community. All requirements for participation which apply to other athletes (such as physicals, parent/student certificate and the code of conduct) also apply to the cheerleaders / Rebel Jazz. The procedure for selection of the cheerleaders/Rebel Jazz squads is submitted for approval to the athletic director and principal by the activity sponsor.

Conduct and Character

(See the **Athletic Code of Conduct**) Pages 6-9

Conflicts in Extracurricular Activities

SSHS recognizes that every student should have the opportunity for a wide range of extracurricular experiences. Students are also urged to use caution in attempting to participate in too many activities. Interscholastic sports at the high school level require a substantial time commitment which usually extends Monday through Saturday from the first official day of practice until the end of the IHSAA tournament. A commitment to an athletic team indicates that all non-school conflicts will be resolved in favor of the high school team. Exceptions would include religious holidays, relative's wedding, family member's funeral, etc.

When a conflict arises, the student should notify the coach and/or sponsors involved and attempt to resolve the conflict as equitably as possible. If the conflict persists, the student may contact the athletic director or principal for assistance.

Multiple Sport Participation

SSHS supports the concept of participation in more than one high school sport. High school coaches should not establish expectations *out of season* which would prohibit or restrict a student's participation in another sport which is in season. A student who wishes to participate in more than one sport in the same season (fall, winter and spring) must have prior approval of the coaches and athletic director. A schedule resolving all practices and competition conflicts must be established prior to the season and approved by the coaches. If necessary, the student will be asked to designate a *primary* sport.

Athletes that drop out of a sport after that sports contest season has begun will not be allowed to enter another sport until that sports season is completed.

Enrollment

After enrollment or attending classes in the 9th grade, a student is eligible for no more than 8 consecutive semesters.

Eligibility Policy For Innovative School, Non-Public, Non-Accredited School, Virtual Education School

1. Student's school of enrollment is South Spencer School Corporation.
2. Physical form, Athletic Packet Acknowledgement Form, Concussion/Sudden Cardiac Arrest forms, Fan/Athlete Code of Conduct, Emergency Form and Consent Form completed and on file in the SSHS Athletic Office. Concussion Test must be completed your Freshmen and Junior Years, or every 2 years and for all new athletes.
3. Student has the required number of IHSAA school practices completed to participate in an athletic contest.
4. Students enrolled in the non-public, non-accredited school for the previous three consecutive school years.
5. The parent/guardian agrees to contact the guidance counselor to schedule requested classes. The Student is enrolled in and passing a minimum of 5 classes and must attend a minimum of 3 classes at South Spencer High School.
6. The parent/guardian agrees to provide transportation for the student to and from all classes/courses. When the student's schedule at school is compatible with established routes and schedules of the district's bus transportation and space is available, the student may be permitted to use district transportation.
7. The student's family will have to submit grades to the guidance counselor office each grading period for proof of academic eligibility. Student will have to pass 70% of his/her classes to be academically eligible for athletics at SSHS.
8. The student will have to complete all state-wide examinations as authorized by the Indiana Department of Education.
9. In order to participate in an afterschool sport practice or contest, the student must be counted present for at least 3 class periods on the days he/she is scheduled to be in school at SSHS.
10. The student will be subject to all applicable codes of conduct pertaining to full-time students.

11. For courses requiring a prerequisite, partially enrolled students are required to provide reasonable indications that academic criteria have been met, so long as those students are required to meet the same prerequisite standards as full-time students.
12. Part-time enrollment entitles the student to participate in interscholastic athletics, provided the student also meets IHSAA Rule 12-Enrollment and district eligibility guidelines.
13. The final decision regarding admission and placement for all home education students part-time in the Corporation rests with the Superintendent.

Equipment Issue and Return

SSHS endeavors to provide each sport and team member with the safest and the highest quality equipment available. All equipment issued to an athlete is expected to be returned in the same condition as when issued (except for normal wear). When equipment is lost or damaged, the athlete will be required to compensate the athletic department for the item. Failure to return equipment or compensate the school for lost or damaged equipment will result in forfeiture of awards.

Fan/Spectator Conduct

All Spectators are required to demonstrate appropriate behavior at all athletic events. Admission to an athletic event entitles the spectator to enjoy a competitive contest in an educational setting. With this in mind, please give all student-athletes, coaches, and officials positive encouragement and support. Taunting or intimidating the officials, coaches, athletes, or spectators is unacceptable and will result in the offender being asked to leave that event and could possibly be prohibited from attending other athletic events within the South Spencer School Corporation. (See Fan Code of Conduct Appendix)

Freshman Participation and Eligibility

SSHS maintains separate teams in some sports for freshman as a member of the junior varsity or freshmen team. Freshmen are eligible to participate in all sports based on ability as determined by the head coach.

Grooming and Appearance

SSHS athletes act as representatives of the school and community and therefore are required to exhibit a well-groomed and appropriate appearance. Each coach of a sport, along with the athletic director and principal, will determine the appropriateness and styles within the context of safety and accepted social norms.

Cell Phone and Cameras

All cell phones and cameras are to be secured and unseen within any SSHS locker room. This applies to all athletic related participants including players, managers, and coaches. Those found in violation of this policy will receive immediate consequences, which could include dismissal from the team. Should an athlete receive an electronic transmission while in a locker room or need to contact someone, they should remove themselves from the locker room before receiving communication or making a call.

Insurance

SSHS administrators and coaches are safety conscious and are trained to instruct athletes in safe and proper techniques of their sport. Due to the nature of athletic activity, injuries may occur. While the school provides the opportunity for such participation, the parent retains the right of denial of such participation and must carry the responsibility for providing medical care and insurance coverage for their son or daughter. Parents are required to have an insurance policy to cover athletic injuries and the cost of treatment. *Please note that neither the IHSAA nor South Spencer High School carry any kind of first dollar medical insurance for athletic injuries.*

Parent/Coach Communication

Issues such as playing time, playing positions, coaching strategies, etc. are decisions made by coaches only. Coaches are not allowed to discuss other student-athletes. Concerns that are appropriate to discuss with coaches may include the following: the treatment of your child mentally or physically, ways to help your child improve, concerns about the behavior of your child, family concerns that may impact your child and subsequent athletic participation.

A 24 hour “cool down” period immediately after each contest will be in place during which there will be no contact or discussion with a coach or coaching staff. Parents must follow the proper chain of command pertaining to issues, concerns, questions, or meeting requests. The process begins first with the coach, followed by the Athletic Director, Principal, and Superintendent.

College Signing Day Ceremonies

First let me congratulate you and your child on this achievement. We realize this can be a difficult and stressful process when determining which college or university your son/daughter will attend. Hopefully this letter will help provide some clarity in the process and outline the format and responsibilities as we prepare for signing day.

Beginning with the 2016-2017 school year, the South Spencer High School Athletic Department will recognize collegiate athletic signings in a group format for those signing an athletic scholarship.

With numerous athletes signing each year, it had become difficult to coordinate individual signings with other activities. We feel a group format will allow students, athletes, administrators, teachers, and friends, the opportunity to share in the celebration with the signing athlete. This process usually produces better attendance by local media sources, and provides a memorable atmosphere for the signee.

Athletic Department Responsibilities:

- Notify local media of date and time of the event
- Notify faculty, staff, and students
- General setup of chairs/tables for guests
- Welcome guests and introduce signees
- Provide a backdrop

Parent Responsibilities:

- Decorations – any additional decorations will be provided by the parents/guardians
 - We can usually provide access to the auditorium/multi-purpose room at 2:00 p.m. the day of the signing for parents to decorate. We recommend no balloons be placed on the head table (athlete table). We will assist in coordinating parent communication to allow parents to pool their monies for this process. Collegiate hats, shirts, etc. can be placed on the head table with the athlete.
- There will be tables available if parents chose to have food/snacks for the guests.
- Parents will be responsible for table cloths, cups, napkins, plates, forks, extra drinks, etc.
- If you are inviting guests to attend, please have them check in at the front office if they arrive prior to 3:00. It may be best for them to locate parking in the faculty parking lot or find available spots in the student parking lot near the main gym entrance.

The Ceremony:

The Athletic Director or designee will welcome all guests and introduce signees. Each athlete’s coach will have the opportunity to speak a minute on behalf of the athlete, the signees will then have the opportunity to thank parents, coaches, teammates etc. I encourage you to have your son/daughter prepare their statement ahead of time as most are a little nervous. Once the athletes/signees have spoken, we will ask them to sign their

name on the dotted line. (Doesn't have to be the official paperwork). Once all athletes have signed, parents and guests are welcome to take more pictures in front of the backdrop at the head table.

Parent/Student Certificate

The parent/student certificate must be completed and returned in order for a student to be eligible for athletic practice/participation. The signature of a parent and athlete indicates that each has read, understood, and agreed to abide by the stated policies.

Participation on Teams Outside of School Athletics

Athletes who participate as members of any similar teams in the same sport season, not under the direct supervision and management of SSHS, shall not be eligible for participation on the high school team. Participation in other sports while participating on a school team should only be done with the knowledge of the high school coach.

Physical Examinations

All students desiring to participate in interscholastic athletics must undergo a physical examination performed by a licensed medical doctor prior to the first practice of any sport. The physical form, which must be signed by the doctor, student and parent, may be obtained from the athletic office or from the coaching staff. The doctor's signature must be dated after April 1st preceding the current school year. The form must be the IHSA approved form.

Playing Time

Playing time is earned through performance and is not guaranteed to any student-athlete at South Spencer High School. Student-athletes should request a meeting with their respective coaches regarding playing time if that is an issue. Coaches will provide feedback to the athlete and identify performance areas that can be improved in order to gain additional playing time and experience. If a student has further questions, they may contact the Athletic Director.

South Spencer Athletic Department Code of Conduct

South Spencer High School encourages all students to take advantage of the school sponsored athletic programs. The School Corporation and the community take great pride in these programs in order to enhance the well-balanced educational programs offered.

Code of Conduct

All students who elect to participate in a sport are visible representatives of that sport and South Spencer High School. With this involvement, the student assumes additional responsibilities of leadership within the school and throughout the community. All these sports will provide the student with an environment where they can develop self-esteem, self-discipline, pride and teamwork. By selecting a sport, the student will be required to sacrifice personal time to be a part of a group.

Being a part of an athletic team is considered an honor and a privilege. Therefore, it requires the student to observe the student discipline policy at school and school related activities, home or away, during the school calendar year and summer vacation. The *Student Code of Conduct* is to be reviewed and signed by each student for verification. This includes all athletic activities as defined by the IHSAA and the South Spencer School Corporation.

All student participants are expected to be good citizens and abide by the rules of South Spencer High School and the activity regulating authority. These guidelines are to be followed throughout four years of participation and a violation of the code will result in disciplinary action. Violations occurring on school property or during school sponsored activities will first be handled according to the disciplinary guidelines stated in the *Student Handbook* and secondly by the activities' *Code of Conduct*.

Violations

Poor Conduct

Poor conduct is an attitude which is disruptive in the environment of the participants. A student that is disrespectful, arguing, fighting and using profanity are examples of inappropriate conduct. Any verbal or physical action that reflects negatively upon the school and community will be considered poor conduct.

Tobacco

Shall be defined as the use and/or possession of any tobacco product.

Substance Abuse

Shall be defined as the abuse, misuse, possession, consumption, distribution, or providing any other person with any substance which is or contains; alcohol, marijuana, a depressant, a stimulant, a narcotic, a hallucinogen or any other substance represented by the provider to be any of the listed substances that are prohibited. The use/or possession of drug paraphernalia is also prohibited.

Unlawful Acts

Shall include involvement in stealing, extortion, forgery, destruction of property, possession of a weapon and other acts deemed unlawful by an authorized agency.

Disciplinary Action

Notice: The season opening interschool scrimmage shall count as an event for any penalty involving the beginning of a season in which a scrimmage is played.

Poor Conduct

Poor conduct is an attitude which is disruptive in the environment of the participants. A student that is disrespectful, arguing, fighting and using profanity and examples of inappropriate behavior are displaying poor conduct. Any verbal or physical action that reflects negatively upon the school and community will be disciplined.

The student will receive a suspension for each infraction which is serious in nature.

1st infraction will result in a minimum of a one game suspension.

2nd infraction will result in a minimum of a three game suspension.

3rd infraction will be suspension for the remainder of the season or not less than five games which could carry over into the next season the athlete participates in.

Note: The coach has a right to add to the above discipline action.

Tobacco

First Violation - The student will miss the next scheduled event/contest date plus any official action by school officials.

Second Violation - The student will miss the next two scheduled event/contest dates plus any official action by school officials. The student will also be required to participate in an approved substance abuse assessment and complete any recommendations before they may be reinstated.

Third Violation – The student will be suspended for the equivalent of 100% of the season. The suspension may carry over into the next sport season until it equals 100%. The student will also be required to participate in an approved substance abuse assessment and recommendations before they may be reinstated.

Fourth Violation – Suspension from all athletic activities for one year (365 days) from the time of the fourth violation.

Substance Abuse and Unlawful Acts

First Violation - Suspension from athletic activities for 25% of all activities in which the student is engaged at the time of the violation. To receive a grade or award, the student must continue to participate, practice and complete the activity in good standing **UNLESS** more stringent action is being take by school officials. Failure to meet the criteria for reinstatement will result in suspension for 100% of the season.

Self-Report – If a student reports the violation to school officials within two school days of the offense, and agrees to participate in a substance abuse assessment by an approved program at their expense and completes the program recommendations and performs ten hours of community/school service, the penalty will be reduced by half. This opportunity is only for a first offense.

Second Violation – Suspension from all athletic activities for the equivalent of 100% of the season. The suspension may carry into the next sport season until it equals 100%. The student will also be required to complete an approved substance abuse program at their expense, and complete ten hours of community/school service before they will be reinstated. The student also forfeits the right to receive any post-season awards. The student may still earn their varsity letter, if they meet the team requirements. Failure to meet the requirements for reinstatement will result in suspension from all school activities for one calendar year (365 days) from the date of the second violation.

Third Violation – Suspension from all athletic activities for one calendar year (365 days) from the date of the third violation. The student must also complete an approved substance abuse program at their own expense and

complete twenty hours of community/school service. The student also forfeits the right to receive any post-season awards. The student may still earn their varsity letter, if they meet the team requirements. Failure to meet all of the criteria for reinstatement will result in permanent suspension from all school activities.

Fourth Violation – Permanent suspension from any athletic activity.

The head coach may, at their discretion, increase the penalty or dismiss the student from the team, if they feel it is in the best interest of the team.

General Provisions

The school principal will conduct an informal hearing with the participant and/or parent to determine the facts of the circumstances.

Summer violations of the **Code of Conduct** will commence the first day of the next school year or activity, whichever comes first.

Disciplinary action not completed by the end of the school year of activity will continue to the next year or activity.

Any failure to comply with the suspension provisions shall result in additional action by the school principal.

Review/Appeal/Reinstatement Policy

Review/Appeal Panel: There shall be a review panel comprised of the Principal, Athletic Director, and two Teacher/Coach members appointed by the principal, to review the case of any student that has violated the code of conduct. The panel may be convened to review the penalty invoked on a student. The panel must be convened before any student can be reinstated. The panel will review all information which may indicate a change in the student's attitude, conduct, and actions as well as reviewing the completion of any required counseling.

Reinstatement: A student who has been permanently dismissed from an activity may apply to a committee comprised of the activity director, the principal and two faculty members appointed by the principal. This appeal may not take place until one calendar year has elapsed since the dismissal. The committee will review all information which may indicate a change in the student's attitude, conduct and actions that display a change in the student's lifestyle. The decision of the committee must be taken to the Superintendent for final approval.

The Athletic Code of Conduct is a guideline intended to assist administration in dealing with students in a fair and consistent manner, but there may be cases that require flexibility and a deviation from the guideline due to unusual circumstances. South Spencer High School administration reserves the right to have the final say in reference to penalties.

ImPACT Testing

South Spencer High School will be using the ImPACT Test to help determine the severity of concussions and to provide information for clearing an athlete for return to action. All student athletes must take this test before they begin practicing a sport. Once the initial test is given, the test will be given to Freshmen and Juniors. Below is an overview of the ImPACT test.

Overview and Features of the ImPACT® Test

ImPACT (Immediate Post-Concussion Assessment and Cognitive Testing) is the first, most-widely used, and most scientifically validated computerized concussion evaluation system.

Developed in the early 1990's by Drs. Mark Lovell and Joseph Maroon, ImPACT is a 20-minute test that has become a standard tool used in comprehensive clinical management of concussions for athletes of all ages. ImPACT Applications, Inc. was co-founded by Mark Lovell, PhD, Joseph Maroon, MD, and Michael (Micky) Collins, PhD.

Given the inherent difficulties in concussion management, it is important to manage concussions on an individualized basis and to implement baseline testing and/or post-injury neurocognitive testing. This type of concussion assessment can help to objectively evaluate the concussed athlete's post-injury condition and track recovery for safe return to play, thus preventing the cumulative effects of concussion. In fact, neurocognitive testing has recently been called the "cornerstone" of proper concussion management by an international panel of sports medicine experts.

ImPACT can be administered by an athletic trainer, school nurse, athletic director, team doctor or psychologist, provided that they have completed training in the administration of the test. Post-concussion care and the management of concussion should only be administered by a trained medical professional. ImPACT assists doctors in making return-to-play decisions and should never be used as a stand-alone tool.

ImPACT is the most widely used computer-based testing program in the world and is implemented effectively across high school, collegiate, and professional levels of sport participation.

Test Features

- Measures player symptoms
- Measures verbal and visual memory, processing speed and reaction time
- Reaction time measured to 1/100th of second
- Assists clinicians and athletic trainers in making difficult return-to-play decisions
- Provides reliable baseline test information
- Produces comprehensive report of test results
- Results can be e-mailed or faxed for fast consultation by a neuropsychologist
- Automatically stores data from repeat testing
- Testing is administered online for individuals or groups
- Compatible with PC and MAC

The test battery consists of a near infinite number of alternate forms by randomly varying the stimulus array for each administration. This feature was built into the program to minimize the "practice effects" that have limited the usefulness of more traditional neurocognitive tests.

ImPACT takes approximately 20 minutes to complete. The program measures multiple aspects of cognitive functioning in athletes, including:

- Attention span
- Working memory
- Sustained and selective attention time
- Response variability
- Non-verbal problem solving
- Reaction time