

# Salem City Schools Athletic Code of Conduct

## PHILOSOPHY

The Salem Board of Education believes that interscholastic athletics can be an important aspect of a student's overall educational experience. The Board believes that the experiences gained while involved in interscholastic athletics can have a lifelong impact.

Participation in extracurricular activities is a privilege, not a right. Students volunteer to participate in the extracurricular activities offered and are expected to accept the responsibilities granted them by this privilege. In return, the Board of Education seeks to provide in this Athletic Code of Conduct a clear set of expectations and guidelines that will be fairly and uniformly enforced.

## ELIGIBILITY

### 1. OHSAA Requirements:

- a. Grades 9-12: A student athlete must be currently enrolled in a member school and have received passing grades in a minimum of five one credit courses, or the equivalent, in the immediately preceding grading period. The eligibility or ineligibility of a student begins immediately once all grades are submitted to the Principal's office.
- b. Grades 7-8: A student athlete must be currently enrolled in a member school and have received passing grades in 5 of those subjects carried the preceding grading period in which the student was enrolled.
- c. Summer school and other educational options may not be used to substitute for failure to meet academic standards during the last grading period of the school year.
- d. A student participating in Quaker Tech or that is home schooled, must take a minimum of one class in the building. The student must also adhere to either (a.) or (b.) as stated above depending on grade level.
- e. Students participating in Post-Secondary Educational Option (PSEO) must check with the Athletic Director at the beginning of each grading period to make sure enough credits are being taken.

### 2. Salem City Schools Requirements (Grades 7-12, BOE Policy 2431)

- a. A student must maintain at least a 1.75 scholastic grade point average<sup>1</sup> prior to the grading period in which he/she wishes to participate.
- b. A student who does not possess the minimum grade point average but otherwise meets the OHSAA participation and eligibility standards is a candidate for "Conditional Eligibility" with the following stipulations:
  - 1) The student athlete will be required to attend a minimum of two (2) hours per week of study assistance to a maximum of four (4) hours per week as determined by the principal or Athletic Director
  - 2) The student athlete must complete all assignments in each class to receive a passing mark for the week in each class
  - 3) The student athlete must maintain a weekly minimum grade point average of a 2.0 to be eligible for that week

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<sup>1</sup> At the start of the 2013-2014 school year, the scholastic eligibility requirement will be increased to 2.0

- c. Eligibility for all student athletes who are placed on Conditional Eligibility will be on a week to week basis. The Athletic Director shall monitor and be responsible for determining the eligibility of the student athlete and shall report to the head coach on the following Monday.

## **GENERAL REGULATIONS** (For all students Grades 7-12)

The Salem City School District believes that, due to their high visibility, student athletes have a strong influence on members of the student body as well as the community. Their conduct, while representing a team, traveling to or from an event, as well as in the community, is seen as a direct reflection upon the athletic program and the standards of the school. In addition to following this athletic code, athletes are reminded that they are responsible for strict adherence to all provisions of the Student Handbook.

1. Comply with all eligibility requirements of the Salem City Schools and any governing agency, such as the Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA) including but not exclusive to those requirements pertaining to age, scholarship, residency, and attendance. (See OHSAA.org for further information)
2. All athletic activities require a Physical Examination, Proof of Insurance form, an Emergency Medical Authorization form (EMA), OHSAA Authorization form, Concussion Information form, and a signed copy of the Code of Conduct form. All of these items must be on file in the Athletic Department prior to the first day of practice.
3. Each coach or advisor shall develop a set of rules and regulations specific to his/her activity. Compliance with these rules and their enforcement shall be handled by the coach or advisor. These rules and regulations as well as the Athletic Code of Conduct will be applied in a fair and even-handed manner. A copy of these rules shall be presented to and announced orally to each participant at or near the first day of practice and a copy will be placed in the Athletic Director's office. (Examples: curfew, failure to attend practice, personal conduct, personal appearance, etc.)
4. Any student athlete who is arrested on any charge, no matter what the offense, must report the matter to his or her coach within three (3) school days. When or if released from police custody, the student athlete shall be subject to, at the minimum, denial of participation in the next contest. When criminal misconduct occurs or is alleged to have occurred within the public domain, legal proceedings are pending, or if the alleged crime is of a severe nature (for example, theft, assault, damage to property, and possession of dangerous weapons or controlled substances), the Administration may impose disciplinary action if the charges are substantiated.
5. A student athlete whose name is reported to an administrator, directly or indirectly (through law enforcement officers, police reports, notes, other records, student and/or citizen reports, etc.), for conduct that violates this Code shall be subject to an investigation, which shall include an interview with the student athlete, and appropriate consequences. The standard applied to an investigation of this nature is whether the information provided to the Athletic Director is considered reliable.
6. Participants are required to attend school for at least ½ a day in order to practice or participate in an athletic contest. Half a day is defined as arriving to school before the end of 4<sup>th</sup> period or leaving school after the completion of 4<sup>th</sup> period, absent an emergency or an otherwise extraordinary situation. Attendance on Friday carries over to weekend events. This means that, absent an emergency or an otherwise extraordinary situation, if an athlete is not in school for the required ½ day on Friday, he/she is not eligible to participate in a Saturday contest.

7. Financial obligations resulting from equipment fees, replacement of lost or stolen equipment, and/or unpaid balances from fund raising projects, must be paid prior to participation in any present or future athletic activity. This also includes the returning of all equipment from a previous sport in which the athlete participated. If equipment and/or uniforms are not turned in at the end of an athletic season, the athlete will be charged fair replacement value.
8. In the event that school is cancelled, all Salem Junior High School activities are also cancelled. At the high school level, no practices shall be held before 1:00 p.m. and then only with the approval of the Superintendent. The Superintendent and Athletic Director shall determine if any scheduled contest will be played or rescheduled.
9. No student shall plan, encourage, or engage in any hazing/bullying. Hazing/bullying is defined as any written, verbal, graphic or physical act a student has exhibited toward another student that causes or is likely to cause mental or physical harm to the student and is sufficiently severe, persistent or pervasive, that it creates an intimidating, threatening or abusive educational/athletic environment. Hazing/bullying includes an aggressive behavior and/or inappropriate conduct that is serious enough to negatively impact a student's educational, physical, or emotional well-being. Aggressive behavior can include stalking, intimidating, menacing, coercion, name-calling, taunting or threats.

The administration will address substantiated misconduct related to hazing/bullying with consequences that are swift and severe.

10. Athletes that wish to participate in two sports during the same season shall be required to meet with the head coaches of each sport and the Athletic Director, along with the parents of the student athlete. This meeting must take place prior to the first day of official practices. The student athlete must establish his/her primary sport at the meeting and establish how scheduling conflicts will be addressed, as provided by Board Policy.

## **DRUGS, ALCOHOL, TOBACCO AND WEAPONS**

All student athletes must abide by the Code of Student Conduct and the Athletic Code of Conduct. The provisions of the Athletic code of Conduct are applicable three hundred sixty-five (365) days per year and twenty-four (24) hours per day. The provisions apply to conduct on or off school property. Infractions that occur at the Junior High School will not be carried over to or form the basis of enhanced consequences at the High School.

A student athlete who violates the Athletic Code of Conduct may be subject to consequences for a prior offense at a future date, whenever the offense is discovered by the Administration. The student athlete may also be disqualified from participation in the sport in which he/she is currently participating even if the offense occurred during a previous sport season.

As part of the District's substance abuse prevention efforts, drug testing, based upon reasonable suspicion, will be required of all students participating in after school activities, grades 7 – 12 in order to:

1. Provide for student health and safety
2. Undermine the effects of peer pressure
3. Encourage participation in treatment programs, at parent expense, for student athletes with a substance abuse problem

4. Any student athlete who refuses to submit to a drug and/or alcohol test, upon request, will be treated as though he/she failed the test and/or was in violation of Section 2, Use of Illegal Drugs and/or Alcohol, below

No student athlete will be penalized academically for testing positive for illegal or performance-enhancing drugs. Test results will not be documented in any student's educational records. Information regarding the results of drug tests will not be disclosed to criminal or juvenile authorities absent a valid and binding subpoena or other legal process, which the District will not solicit. In the event of a subpoena or other legal process, the District will notify the student's parents at least seventy-two (72) hours prior to releasing information.

The cost of student drug testing will be shared as follows:

- Parents will be responsible for the cost of a drug test if the results are positive
- The District will pay the cost of a drug test when the results are negative

Prohibited conduct under this Athletic Code of Conduct and potential consequences include but are not limited to the following:

1. **Sale/Distribution of Illegal Substances/Possession of a Dangerous Weapon (year round policy)**

First Offense: Dismissal from athletic teams(s) for one (1) calendar year from the date of the infraction concurrent with expulsion from school as is required under the Code of Student Conduct.

Second Offense: Forfeiture of eligibility to participate in all Salem City Schools athletics for the remainder of the student's school career.

2. **Use of Illegal Drugs and/or Alcohol**

First Offense: A student athlete may be denied participation in one (1) or more athletic contests; be required to complete ten (10) or more hours of community service as assigned and/or approved by the High School Administration; and/or be required to consent to participate in and complete a drug/alcohol assessment and rehabilitation program.

Second Offense: A student athlete may be denied participation in all athletics for one (1) calendar year.

Third Offense: A student athlete may forfeit eligibility to participate in all Salem City Schools athletics for the remainder of the student's school career.

3. **Smoking/Use of Tobacco**

First Offense: A student athlete may be assigned to Saturday School, whether or not such assignment interferes with a scheduled athletic practice or contest.

Second Offense: A student athlete may be denied participation in one (1) or more athletic contests.

Third Offense: A student athlete may be denied participation in all athletics for one (1) calendar year.

The above rules are guidelines; however, the Athletic Department, Administration, and or the Salem Board of Education reserve the right to amend or deviate from the guidelines as they deem appropriate.

**PLEASE KEEP THIS PORTION FOR YOUR RECORDS**

# ATHLETIC PLEDGE

As a student athlete, I represent the Salem City Schools both in school and in the community. I understand and accept that school administrators and coaches expect me to learn to be a responsible citizen, practice good sportsmanship, respect the right of others, refrain from the use of drugs and illegal substances and be a vital part of both the school and community. I acknowledge that my participation in athletics is a privilege, not a right.

By signing this pledge, I promise that I will not possess, consume, purchase, attempt to purchase, show evidence of having consumed, transmit, distribute, offer for sale or be under the influence of any narcotic, hallucinogen, steroid, alcoholic beverage, marijuana, nicotine, intoxicant of any kind, look-a-like drugs, or drug not currently and specifically prescribed for me by a physician. I agree to submit to drug testing, upon request, based on a reasonable suspicion that I am involved in the unlawful use of controlled substances. The cost of student drug/alcohol testing will be shared as follows: 1) Parents will be responsible for the cost of a drug test if the results are positive; and 2) the District will pay the cost of a drug test when the results are negative. I understand and agree that a refusal to submit to a drug and/or alcohol test, upon request, will result in a finding that I failed a drug and/or alcohol test and that I will be subject to the penalties applicable to the Athletic Code of Conduct, Page 4, Section 2, Use of Illegal Drugs and/or Alcohol.

I will not participate in or be a party to any criminal activity or conduct that is deemed a violation of school rules, city ordinance or state and/or federal law.

I have received, read, and agree to adhere to the Salem City Schools Athletic Code of Conduct and the additional team guidelines as may be provided to all participants in the athletic program by the coach. I may or may not agree with these rules and regulations, but I agree to follow such rules, regulations and/or guidelines as a member of an athletic squad.

**Print Student's Name** \_\_\_\_\_

Grade \_\_\_\_\_

**Students Signature** \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Print Parent/Guardian's Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/Guardian Signature** \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

NOTE: This form must be signed and returned to the Head Coach or Athletic Department before any athlete is permitted to participate in conditioning, practice, or games.

⇓ TURN OVER ⇓  
(complete reverse side)

# Student and Parental Verification Form

## Acknowledgement of Risk

Risk in sports is a topic which has received great publicity recently. All human activities, including sports, have a potential for causing injury to individuals. Sports injuries can range from simple cuts and bruises to serious conditions such as fractures and severe sprains possibly requiring surgery, to catastrophic occurrences which including blinding eye injuries, neck and back injuries resulting in paralysis, and, although rare, death. Proper conditioning, correct techniques, training and well-fitted equipment can greatly reduce your child's risk of injury.

By signing this declaration, parents and students acknowledge that the risk of injuries detailed above is present in sports offered by Salem City Schools. I/We assume these risks and grant permission for my/our child to participate in competitive sports at school. I/We assume the risk of personal injury with the understanding that the Salem School coaches will take all reasonable steps to prevent, protect, reduce and treat injuries to my/our son or daughter.

**Print Student's Name** \_\_\_\_\_

Grade \_\_\_\_\_

**Students Signature** \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Print Parent/Guardian's Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/Guardian Signature** \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

NOTE: This form must be signed and returned to the Head Coach or Athletic Department before any athlete is permitted to participate in conditioning, practice, or games.

**PLEASE RETURN THIS SHEET TO THE  
HEAD COACH OR ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT**

**⇓ TURN OVER ⇓  
(complete both sides)**