

# Regulation

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**Draft 2/21/24**

7300.1

STUDENTS

## ATHLETIC CODE OF CONDUCT

A firm and fair policy of enforcement is necessary to uphold the regulations and standards of the athletic department. The community, school administrators and the coaching staff feel strongly that high standards of conduct and citizenship are essential in maintaining a sound program of athletics. The health, safety and welfare of the student, is our major consideration and transcends any other consideration. All athletes shall abide by a code of conduct, which will earn them the honor and respect that participation and competition in the interscholastic program affords. Any conduct that results in dishonor to the athlete, the team or the school will not be tolerated. Acts of unacceptable conduct, such as, but not limited to theft, vandalism, disrespect, immorality or violations of law, tarnish the reputation of everyone associated with the program and will not be tolerated.

## **STATEMENT OF PHILOSOPHY**

<p>The Stockbridge Valley School District understands that interscholastic athletics are a significant part of the educational process. The combination of academics and athletics enhances the quality of students' lives and expands their options for learning and personal growth. Athletics provide an educational opportunity in which students can learn essential life lessons beyond those that can be learned in an academic classroom.</p>
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The Board recognizes the value of a program of interscholastic athletics as an integral part of the total experience to all students of the district and to the community. Therefore, the Board of Education shall provide as comprehensive as athletic program as is financially and practically possible.

It reflects our belief that the essential requirement for teamwork, the mental and physical challenges of training and competition, and the experience of winning and losing graciously and respectfully are important life lessons in every student's developmental experience. These lessons will serve students well in their future beyond.

Developing good character habits requires time and effort. Coaches, parents and other stakeholders can help students develop such habits by continually discussing, modeling and reinforcing the desired attitudes and beliefs over time.

We also understand that participating on an athletic team or teams demand a commitment that involves both dedication and sacrifice. This is required of not only student athletes, but also the coaches and parents.

ATHLETIC CODE OF CONDUCT**MISSION STATEMENT of the  
STOCKBRIDGE VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT ATHLETIC PROGRAM**

The mission of Stockbridge Valley Athletic Program is to foster the quest for excellence by creating an educational and competitive experience within an atmosphere of sportsmanship. We strive to develop and realize individual and team potential by promoting high standards of competence, character, civility and citizenship.

**STATEMENT OF PURPOSE**

*First*, it defines the positive expectations that we have for coaches, parents and athletes. The common values in our program need to reflect shared goals and a framework of principles agreed upon by the stakeholders need for active support from other stakeholders, such as the school board, school administration, other school staff and the community.

*Second*, this Athletic Code is meant to be a useable, dynamic document to guide the educational process through our school's athletic program. It defines the mission, philosophy, goals and parameters of the program, and the following priority activities:

- 1) Pre-season – Coach, athletes, and guardians discuss their expectations for the team; define ‘success’ and set goals for individuals and teams for the season ahead; communicate with parents. Create a climate of knowledge understanding and agreement with all stakeholders.
- 2) During the season – physical and character training; striving for excellence in performance and attitude; communicating with parents; encouraging parents and other stakeholders to support and model the character we are trying to instill in students ( see “parent’s code” below). Help students athletes improve in skill and performance. Strive to succeed and win.
- 3) Post-season – encouraging student athletes to maintain a high level of personal commitment to both physical and character development during their off-season. To maintain athlete lifestyle and exemplify character.
- 4) Boundaries – establishing the positive behavioral and achievement expectations, while defining the consequences for behavior that is ‘out of bounds’. Make all stakeholders realize the necessity of such boundaries and all that consequences are binding.

ATHLETIC CODE OF CONDUCT**ATHLETIC COURTESY**

It is our desire to have our programs known as class acts and to exhibit character in victory or defeat.

**Principles**

1. The rules of the game are to be regarded as mutual agreement, the spirit or letter of which no honorable person would break. The stealing of advantage in sports is theft.
2. No unethical or unsportsmanlike advantages are to be sought over others.
3. Unsportsmanlike or unfair means are not to be used.
4. Visiting teams are to be honored guests of the home team, and should be treated as such.
5. No action is to be taken nor course of conduct pursued which would seem unsportsmanlike or dishonorable.
6. Remember a student spectator represents ~~his/her~~ their school the same, as does the player.
7. Any spectator who continually evidences poor sportsmanship will be requested not to attend future contests.
8. Decisions of officials are to be abided by, even when they seem unfair.
9. Officials and opponents are to be regarded and treated as honest in intentions. In games when opponents conduct themselves in an unbecoming manner, and when officials are manifestly dishonest or incompetent, future relationships with them should be avoided.
10. Good points in others should be appreciated and suitable recognition given.
11. The practice of “booing” is regarded as discourteous and un-sportsmanlike.

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ATHLETIC CODE OF CONDUCT**ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY**

Remember that you are a Student first and an Athlete second. Your education is the highest priority. It is the intent of the Stockbridge Valley School District to insure that academic status must be maintained in a sufficient and successful level in order to compete as a member of any interscholastic athletic team as outlined in the Student Academic Policy 7301. To be eligible for interscholastic sports, a full-time student must maintain sufficient academic status, as outlined in the Stockbridge Valley School District student handbook. The academic eligibility requirements are applicable to all students in the interscholastic sports program in grades 7 through 12 in the Stockbridge Valley School District.

**SCHOOL ATTENDANCE**

A student must be signed in by 8:10 a.m. in order to attend practice and games on that day unless legally excused. Tardiness and unexcused absences from practices or events without prior permission from an administrator or the Athletic Director is unacceptable. A student is ineligible to participate in any games or practice if the student was absent from school due to truancy, suspension, or any other illegal absence on that day. Legal excuses include documented doctor's appointments, court appearances, academic activities, and college visits. If a student misses school as a result of sickness or is sent home early, they may not participate.

**TRAINING RULES AND REGULATIONS****Alcohol Tobacco & Other Drugs:**

***Our message to Student Athletes is loud and clear and should be understood by all Stakeholders "NO USE".***

Demands placed upon you as a student athlete by the school and community makes it essential that you exist in a drug-free environment. This environment does not end at the school property line. Remember that the intent of this program regarding substance abuse is not punitive; it is preventive. It is designed to ensure that you remain drug-free and, in so doing, continue as a student athlete in your chosen sport at Stockbridge Valley School District, continuing to benefit in the mental, social and physical health associated with the participation in organized athletics. We, as coaches, educators and administrators, recognize all the positive aspects of participation in athletics. But these benefits can truly only be realized in a drug-free environment. The many benefits of athletic participation would soon be diminished if we accepted the inclusion of drugs, alcohol and tobacco into our athletic programs. For this reason, the use of these substances must not be allowed. We cannot permit the use of these substances by a small minority of athletes (even though athletics may be good for them) to lessen the values of our athletic programs for the majority of athletes who are remaining drug-free and enjoying the full benefits of their

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participation. We, as well as your parents and families, are most interested in your health and welfare and to that end have developed this program.

**DRUG-FREE STATUS REQUIREMENT**

All student athletes are required to maintain an alcohol, tobacco, nicotine, e-cigarettes, and drug-free status in order to insure their continued and uninterrupted participation in their chosen sports and to insure health, safety and welfare. In order to protect our student athletes, coaches are instructed to look for and recognize any signs or symptoms of violations of this required drug-free status. When a student athlete is suspected of violating his/her drug-free status, his/her coach must follow the appropriate and departmental approved procedures, remedies and penalties for the offense.

**First Offense:**

Student Athlete shall be suspended from athletic participation for the remainder of that athletic season. Only upon completion of the BRIDGES program or a comparable program approved by school Administration, will the student be allowed to participate in the next athletic season. Proof of completion is required. If the offense occurs between athletic seasons, the student athlete will be ineligible to participate in the next athletic season. Student athlete will be required to complete BRIDGES program or a comparable program approved by Administration. Proof of completion is required.

**Second Offense:**

The Student Athlete shall be suspended from athletic participation for the next season of a sport season previously played by the Student Athlete.

**Third Offense:**

The third offense triggers full expulsion from the Athletic program for the rest of the students' high school career or until the student writes and presents an appeal to a panel which will include Administrator(s), Athletic Director, Coach(es), counselor and Teacher(s). The student's parent will need to be present during the appeal.

**SCHOOL RELATED DISCIPLINARY OFFENSES: ISS & LUNCH DETENTION  
(Student athletes are still required to attend practices and games)**

If you are sent to ISS during one period only, discipline will be at the discretion of the Coach and Athletic Director.

Lunch detention is equal to 1 period of ISS

If you are sent to ISS during two or more periods, you will receive a 1 game suspension.

ATHLETIC CODE OF CONDUCT**SCHOOL RELATED DISCIPLINARY OFFENSES: OSS**

If you receive OSS you may not attend or participate in any athletic practices, games or events occurring on any day that the student is suspended out of school. Each day of OSS will constitute a one game suspension. Games missed during OSS do not count towards student athletes required suspensions.

**INDIVIDUAL COACHES RULES**

Coaches may establish additional rules and regulations with the approval of the athletic administrator for their respective sports. These additional rules for a particular sport must be stipulated in writing to all team members and parents and explained fully at the start of the season. Penalties for violation of team rules will also be in writing and shall be administered by the coach. Copies of all additional team rules by coaches are on file in the athletic office.

**DENIAL OF PARTICIPATION IN ATHLETICS****I. Suspension/Appeals Procedure**

The following regulations shall be observed in the administration of athletic program: General rules shall be developed that are consistent for all athletic teams. In addition to these general rules, each coach may develop additional rules for ~~his/her~~ their team. These rules must be on file in the athletic administrator's office. Students must be notified in writing of both general rules and the specific rules on the team by the coach.

The coach is responsible to administer reasonable disciplinary action for violation of all specified rules including suspension from the activity for a temporary period or removal from the sport altogether.

Violation of athletic general rules may result in immediate suspension or removal from the sport by the coach. Violation of the coach's specific rules may result in suspension from the team only. In response to violations of general rules, the coach must follow the procedures outlined below.

**II. Denial of Participation**

Temporary denial is defined as any suspension less than a permanent denial of participation.

If a student is denied participation, the coach must complete the denial of participation form.

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The student may appeal the denial of participation within 72 hours of the action to the Stockbridge Valley Central school District Athletic Appeal Committee. Such appeal deliberation must be conducted within 24 hours after the appeal is received, unless an extension in the time is granted by mutual agreement.

Procedures for conducting the appeal hearing are as follows:

- The Athletic Director shall serve as chairperson of the appeals committee along with an administrator, and coach other than the coach denying participation.
- The coach who is denying participation will present reasons for the denial.
- The student and/or parents may then present evidence or reasons why the student should not be denied participation.
- The appeal committee shall make its decision within 24 hours of the hearing to uphold, modify or repeal the denial of participation.
- During the appeal process the student shall not participate with the team.
- The decision of the appeal committee will be based upon generally accepted parliamentary procedures with the majority vote of the members of the appeal board necessary to uphold disciplinary action.
- The appeal committee is responsible for notifying the student in writing of its decision and the reasons for the decisions by using the appropriate form. A copy of the report shall go to the principal, the coach and the superintendent.
- There is no school-based provision for appeal beyond the committee in the case of temporary denial of participation in athletics.

**MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS**

No student may participate unless the student has had a physical exam by an accredited medical doctor or authorized medical practitioner and has been declared fit for the appropriate activity. Student athletes must abide by the New York State Public High School Athlete Association rules, including those regarding necessary pre-game practice sessions, and re-examination after prolonged illness or injury. If an athlete is taken to the hospital to be examined, they cannot resume practice or games until released by the doctor in writing.

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ATHLETIC CODE OF CONDUCT**TRANSPORTATION**

Student athletes are expected to travel to and from athletic contests in the vehicles provided by Stockbridge Valley Central School. The District must provide return transportation for that student to the original point of departure or to an appropriate school in the district, unless the principal or their designee authorizes such alternate transportation or the parent/legal guardian signs the student out of the athletic event. The principal shall require written application from the student's parent/legal guardian prior to approval if the transportation is being provided by someone other than the parent/legal guardian. This information will be given to the Athletic Director who will inform the coach.

Student athletes are expected to be polite and courteous to drivers and transportation aides. Student athletes who are insubordinate on the bus or treat the driver or aide with disrespect will be considered in violation of our Athletic Code and appropriate action will be taken.

School rules with regard to buses are always in effect. Since a school bus is looked upon as a mobile classroom, and since teams frequently travel in a co-ed manner, all school rules are in effect including, physical contact between students, language, proper dress, etc., and are to be considered a part of the rules of conduct for athletes while on the buses, at other schools, and wherever and whenever stops are made.

**EARLY ARRIVALS FOR PRACTICE**

Student athletes who arrive early for practice (15 minutes or less) are to remain in the gymnasium or locker room area. Do not interfere with other practices going on. Do not roam throughout the school building.

**CARE OF EQUIPMENT AND FACILITIES**

Student athletes are expected to show proper care of equipment (uniforms) and facilities provided to them. This applies equally in the home school, and when the athlete is visiting another school. Equipment and/or property that are carelessly or willfully lost or destroyed will become the responsibility of the student/parents.

Uniforms and equipment that are not returned will become the responsibility of the student/parents. Responsible parties will be billed the replacement cost of the uniform/equipment. Students will not be allowed to participate until bill is paid in full.

**SEASONAL PARTICIPATION**

Once a student has signed a letter of intent to play on a team, the student shall be expected to complete the season. After signing the letter of intent, the student may only leave a team prior to the first contest without repercussions. Any athlete who quits a team any time after the first contest



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will not be allowed to participate in interscholastic athletics for the remainder of that season and will be ineligible for the next season as it falls in the athlete's high school career. (i.e. – quit baseball – sit out soccer).

**PARTICIPATION IN ATHLETIC PROGRAMS**

The Board requires equal opportunity for every student of the district. In every way possible this policy must communicate that each student has equal access to every program of the school and that those opportunities be non exclusionary and fair for all to try out.

It is understood that elections, tryouts, and auditions are necessary for an organization whose numbers of participants must be limited. It is also understood that criteria for selection must apply to all candidates.

**CONFERENCES**

In our continuing effort to establish and maintain clear lines of communication between the Athletic Department Staff and the parents/guardians of our student-athletes, the coaching staff will be available for conferences. ***Please do not attempt to confront a coach before or after a contest or practice.*** Those can be emotional times for both the parent and the coach. Meetings of that nature, and at those times, do not promote resolution. The following guidelines will help make any conference a productive and positive experience.

**PARENT INVOLVEMENT GUIDELINES**

- \* Each head coach will be available, upon request, for conferences.
- \* Parents can use this time to ask questions and obtain information.
- \* The coach will discuss what the student-athlete needs to work on or improve in order to maintain or increase ~~his/her~~ their playing time.
- \* The coach will only talk to a parent/guardian about ~~his/her~~ their own child.
- \* If the guidelines are not adhered to, the discussion will be terminated.
- \* If satisfaction is not obtained, the parent/guardian should then follow the instructions under Parent Complaints or Concerns.
- \* Parents who verbally abuse a coach may be liable for harassment/slander/defamation of character.

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\*\* It is the intent of the Athletic Department to provide an avenue for meaningful dialogue and communication between coaches and parents. Working together we can and will accomplish great things.

**PARENT COMPLAINTS OR CONCERNS****\* TO EXPRESS A CONCERN ABOUT SCHOOL PERSONNEL:**

If you have a concern or complaint, it helps to bring it to the attention of the correct people. In general, a parent should communicate first with the school and then with the appropriate office in the district administration.

- a. Every effort should be made to resolve a complaint with the coach involved.
- b. If the concern is not resolved with the coach, it should be submitted to the athletic director in writing.
- c. If the concern is not resolved with the athletic director it should be submitted to the principal in writing.
- d. If the principal cannot resolve the problem, it will be submitted to the Superintendent.

**COACHES CODE OF CONDUCT**

We understand that the Athletic Director and Coaches are leaders, and are dedicated to more than the X's and O's of competition. As a professional educator, leader and role model for students, the high school Coach or Athletic Director will:

- Exemplify the highest moral character as a role model for young people.
- Recognize the individual worth and reinforce the self-image of each team member.
- Establish a realistic team goal or vision for each season and communicate that to the athletes and parents.
- Encourage and assist team members to set personal goals to achieve their highest academic potential.
- Create a set of training rules for athletes that reflect the positive values of abstaining from the use of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs. Strive to develop the qualities of competence, character, civility and citizenship in each team member.
- Provide a safe, challenging and encouraging environment for practice and competition.

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- Gain and awareness of the importance of prevention, care and treatment of athletic injuries.
- Respect the integrity and judgment of the game officials.
- Teach and abide by the rules of the game in letter and in spirit.
- Build and maintain ethical relationships with Coaches and administrators.
- Strive for excellence in coaching skills and techniques through professional improvement.
- Promote personal fitness and good nutrition.
- Be modest in victory and gracious in defeat.
- Reinforce our alcohol, tobacco and other drug-free policies by refraining from the use of any such substances before and during athletic contests or any event associated with student athletes including post season banquets, celebrations etc.

**PARENTS CODE OF CONDUCT**

We understand that parents play a vital role in the development of student athletes and the success of our Program. Therefore we encourage parents to:

- Be a positive role model through your own actions to make sure your child has the best athletic experience possible.
- Be a “team” fan, not a “my kid” fan.
- Show respect of all officials’ decisions.
- Praise student-athletes in their attempt to improve themselves as students, as athletes and as people.
- Gain an understanding and appreciation for the rules of the contest.
- Recognize and show appreciation for an outstanding play by either team.
- Help your child learn that success is experienced in the development of their skills and that they can feel good about themselves, win or lose.
- Take time to talk with coaches in an appropriate manner, including proper time and place, if you have a concern. Be sure to follow the designated chain of command. See parent complains or concerns section.

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- Reinforce our alcohol, tobacco and other drug-free policies by refraining from the use of any such substance before and during athletic contests or any event associated with student athletes including post season banquets, celebrations etc.
- Remember that a ticket to a school athletic event is a privilege to observe the contest.

**FAN ADULT STAKEHOLDER CODE OF CONDUCT**

We understand that the large school-community has an interest and investment in the success of our Athletic Program. These other adults in the community can play a key role in reinforcing the educational goals of our Program. Therefore we encourage these important Program supporters to:

- Remember that a ticket to a school athletic event is a privilege to observe the contest.
- Be a positive role model through their behavior at athletic contests.
- Show respect for the opposing players, coaches, spectators and support groups.
- Be respectful of all officials' decisions.
- Recognize and show appreciation for an outstanding play by either team.
- Gain and understanding and appreciation for the rules of the sport.
- Please reinforce our alcohol, tobacco and other drug-free policies by refraining from the use of any such substances before and during athletic contests or any event associated with student athletes including post season banquets, celebrations, etc.

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ATHLETIC CODE OF CONDUCTACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT OF ATHLETIC HANDBOOK**PLEASE DETACH THIS PAGE AND RETURN TO YOUR COACH**

Parent/guardians must understand and agree to the conditions for involvement for their son or daughter in order for them to participate in athletics. Parent(s) or guardian(s) shall read all of the enclosed material and acknowledge understanding of the athletic eligibility rules and policies. The parent(s) or guardian(s) shall sign and return the Responsibility Acknowledgement Agreement to the Athletic Department prior to participating in any practice or contests.

I have read the Stockbridge Valley Central School District Code of Interscholastic Athletics including the rules, regulations and policies. I fully understand its meaning and consequences and support its enforcement by persons responsible.

Please sign and return to your coach. This needs to be done only once per year at Stockbridge Valley High School. This form will be kept on file in the athletic administrator's office. Thank you for your cooperation and support. You may not participate in interscholastic athletics until this form is signed and returned to your coach.

Signature of athlete

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\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Signature of parent(s) or legal guardian(s)

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\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Received by the Athletic Department \_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)

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 Stockbridge Valley Central School District

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