

Code of Conduct and Team Rules Guidelines

Co-Curricular Activities are a privilege, not a right. In addition to individual team rules, all participants are required to adhere to the Athletic Department Code of Conduct as it is outlined below. Infractions to the Code of Conduct may be subject to consequences ranging from suspension from the activity for a determined time period to termination from all school activities for the entire school year. These consequences will be determined by the Assistant Principal/Athletic Director and the building Principal.

- I. **Conduct of Athletes** - A firm and fair policy for enforcement is necessary to uphold the regulations and standards of the athletic department. The community, school administrators, and coaching staff feel strongly that high standards of conduct and citizenship are essential in maintaining a sound program of athletics. The welfare of the student athlete is our major consideration. All athletes shall abide by a code of ethics 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 in school or in the community, such as, but not limited to, theft, vandalism, disrespect, immorality, or violations of the law that tarnish the reputation of everyone associated with the athletic program will not be tolerated. Penalties for such violations could range from loss of status on the team, suspension, or dismissal.
- II. **Equipment** - School equipment checked out by a student athlete is the responsibility of the athlete. Loss of any equipment is the athlete's financial obligation.
- III. **Missing Practice** - An athlete should always consult their coach before missing practice. Missing practice or a game without good reason will be dealt with severely and could range from loss of status on the team, suspension, or dismissal.
- IV. **Travel** - All athletes must travel to and from out of town athletic contests in transportation provided by the athletic department unless previous arrangements are made by the parents for exceptional situations. Exceptional situations may be weddings, funerals, or Prom. Work is NOT an exceptional situation.
 - A. Athletes will remain with their squad and under the supervision of the coach when attending away contests.
 - B. Athletes who miss the bus will not be allowed to participate in the contest unless there are extenuating circumstances.
 - C. Athletes are not to drive their cars to or from events.
 - D. All regular bus rules will be followed.
 - E. Dress appropriately and in good taste when traveling with the team.
- V. **Attendance** - Students are to be in attendance in school in order to participate in practice or events. Exceptions to this rule would involve absenteeism for an excused reason such as college visitation, doctor's appointment, driver's test, and other situations as determined by the administration. Students must be in the high school and middle school by 8:45 a.m. to participate in games or practices that day.
- VI. **Dismissal From Class** - It is the responsibility of the athletes to see their teachers prior to early dismissal from class for an athletic event. All work shall be made up at the

convenience of the teacher.

- VII. Grooming and Dress - A member of the athletic department is expected to be well-groomed. Appearance, expression, and actions always influence people's opinion of athletes, the team, and the school. Once a student athlete has committed to being a member of a squad, they have made a choice to uphold certain standards expected of athletes.
- VIII. Vacation Policy - Vacations by athletic team members during a sports season are discouraged. Parents/athletes wishing to do so may wish to reassess their commitment to being an athlete. In the event of an absence because of a vacation, an athlete should:
- A. Contact the head coach prior to the vacation.
 - B. Practice appropriate amount of time to compensate for missed practice prior to resuming competition.
 - C. Assume the consequences related to possible loss of status on the squad as a starter, second stringer, etc.
- IX. Squad Selection - In accordance with our philosophy of athletics and our desire to see as many students as possible participate in the athletic program, we encourage coaches to keep as many students as they can without unbalancing the integrity of their sport. Time, space, facilities, equipment, and other factors will place limitations on the most effective squad size for any particular sport.
- X. Cutting Policies - Choosing members of the athletic squad is the sole responsibility of the coaches of those squads. Prior to trying out, the coach should provide the following information for all candidates for the team:
- A. Extent of try-out period.
 - B. Criteria used to select the team.
 - C. Practice commitment if they make the team.
 - D. Game commitments if they make the team.
- When it becomes necessary to make cuts in the squad, the coach should:
- A. Have given ample number of practice sessions to evaluate the athlete.
 - B. Personally inform the athlete of the cut and the reasons for the action.
- XI. Reporting of Injuries - All injuries which occur while participating in athletics should be reported to the trainer/coach. If the injury requires medical attention by a doctor or a treatment center, it will be necessary to have an injury report form completed. Once athletes are treated by a physician, the athlete must obtain the doctor's permission to return to the activity.
- XII. Locker Room Regulations - Roughhousing and throwing of objects is not allowed in the locker room.
- A. All showers must be turned off. The last person to leave the shower room is expected to check all showers.
 - B. No one except coaches and assigned players are allowed in the locker room.
 - C. No glass containers are permitted in the locker room.
 - D. All spiked or cleated shoes must be put on and taken off outside the building. No metal or hard plastic spikes or cleats are ever allowed in any other part of the

school building.

XIII. Hazing

The Pottstown School District does not condone any form of initiation or harassment known as hazing as a part of any school sponsored activity. This regulation is established that no student, coach, volunteer, or employee shall plan, direct, encourage, assist, or engage in any hazing activity. 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 of a Pottstown School District organization. Endangering the physical health shall include but is not 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. Endangering 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 other 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. If any hazing activities occur, this will result in immediate termination of the coach of responsibilities, and/or the release of any and all students involved.