

## SECTION 6

### Student-Athlete Code of Conduct

#### Preamble to the Arizona Sports Accord – Pursuing Victory With Honor

At its best, athletic competition can hold intrinsic value for our society. It is a symbol of a great ideal: victory with honor. The love of sports is deeply embedded in our national consciousness. The values of millions of participants and spectators are directly and dramatically influenced by the values conveyed by organized sports. Thus, sports are a major social force that shapes the quality and character of the American culture. In the belief that the impact of sports can and should enhance the character and uplift the ethics of the nation, we seek to establish a framework of principles and a common language of values that can be adopted and practiced widely. The essential elements of character-building and ethics in sports are embodied in the concept of sportsmanship and the six core principles: trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and good citizenship.

Athletics is an important part of the total school program in the St. Johns County Schools and works in conjunction with the other educational experiences to provide students the environment and opportunity to develop the values of character and ethical decision-making. This opportunity to participate in interscholastic athletics is an extracurricular activity and privilege that carries with it responsibilities to the school, the sport, other students, the family, and the community, as well as the student-athlete.

The Student-Athlete Code of Conduct governs all student-athletes (including home school and virtual school students) in the District who participate in interscholastic athletics. These standards of conduct shall supplement, and not supplant or replace, the Code of Conduct or any additional or more stringent rules and standards of conduct that the Head Coach of each athletic team lawfully imposes as a condition of participation in such activity. Discipline imposed as a result of a violation of the Student-Athlete Code of Conduct shall not preclude additional discipline or consequences under the District's Student Code of Conduct or the rules and bylaws of the Florida High School Athletic Association (FHSAA). **It is recognized that some of the expectations for athletes exceed the expectations for the general student body. Student athletes must remain aware that being a part of interscholastic athletics is considered an honor and a privilege and not a right. Therefore, it requires observance of all aspects of the codes of conduct at school, school-related activities, off campus, or outside-the-school day activities and events. It is also the intent of the Student-Athlete Code of Conduct to provide a clearly defined course for student/athletes to follow and instill a belief that a onetime infraction need not result in a permanent pattern in life.**

#### PROHIBITED CONDUCT

Each student-athlete is expected to display good sportsmanship, win or lose. This means that student-athletes must demonstrate the "6 Pillars of Character" in both school and in the community at large during the time that the student is enrolled in the District. Student-athletes are subject to disciplinary action in accordance with the District's Code of Student Conduct and Student-Athlete Code of Conduct, as well as FHSAA rules and by-laws. Such disciplinary action may include suspension or expulsion from any or all extracurricular activities. Sanctions may apply to all practices and meetings and at all times before, during and after games or school-sponsored events, as well as to bus trips to and from games or school sponsored events. Ejection from any contest or event will result in a suspension from

subsequent contests under the rules and bylaws of FHSAA and the District's Student-Athlete Code of Conduct.

1. Disrespectful, derogatory, harassing comments and/or conduct (verbal, written, electronic), disruptive conduct, and insubordination by a student-athlete directed toward any other person or group, including but not limited to game officials, coaches, advisors, teammates, athletes or members of opposing teams or schools, fans, spectators, other students, and the general public.
2. Conduct at school, at related activities, on school transportation, or in the community which is clearly beyond the bounds of what is acceptable and tolerable
3. No student-athlete shall knowingly attend any party or other social gathering where underage drinking and drug use occurs. This rule is intended to apply to gatherings that consist primarily of students and student age individuals where underage drinking is occurring, usually without the knowledge or acquiescence of the parents, and shall not apply to events such as a wedding, family reunion, or the like. **It shall not be a defense to this rule that a gathering of students at which alcohol and drugs are consumed was sanctioned by any parent, or held with parental consent. It is the attendance at such gatherings that is prohibited by this rule. Actual consumption of alcohol or use of drugs is not a prerequisite to establish a violation of this rule. Any student-athlete who is found to have voluntarily remained in the vicinity of a gathering prohibited by this section shall be guilty of a violation of this rule whether or not he or she consumes or uses any prohibited substance.** No student-athlete will be deemed to have violated this rule if he or she can show to the satisfaction of the school Principal, Athletic Director and Head Coach that, immediately upon becoming aware that underage drinking and/or drug use is present at a party or social gathering, he/she completely removed himself/herself from the place where the party or social gathering was held, including parking areas.
4. The use, distribution, and possession of alcohol (including hosting a party where alcohol is available) and other drugs or controlled substances, the possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of prescription or non-prescription drugs, use for non-medical purposes, and the possession and/or use performance enhancing substances and tobacco products by student-athletes participating in District interscholastic or intramural athletic programs, whether on or off school grounds, consistent with definitions in the District's Student Code of Conduct.
5. Felony arrest.

#### **PENALTIES FOR PROHIBITED CONDUCT**

The following are the penalties for student-athletes who are found to have violated the Student-Athlete Code of Conduct. These penalties shall not be construed as a promise or guarantee of any particular form of discipline. The District retains the right to take disciplinary action under this policy that is deemed to be appropriate under the individual circumstances of each case. These penalties can be assessed in addition to those assessed under the District's Student Code of Conduct.

All game(s) suspensions will be served during the athlete's current-year season of participation. In the event that a penalty is assessed at the end of the current season, the penalty will be carried over into the next sport season in which the student-athlete participates. Student athletes will begin serving penalties immediately upon the imposition of the penalty. In the event a student-athlete files an appeal of a penalty imposed as a result of a code violation, the game(s) suspension will be immediately served upon imposition of the penalty and/or during the appeals process.

## CLASSIFICATION OF VIOLATIONS

- A. **Minor Violations** - A coach shall be responsible for assessing penalties for violation of team and attendance rules. Such penalties may range from a verbal warning to expulsion from the team for repeat offenses. Coaches shall generally practice progressive discipline, depending on the facts and circumstances. A coach's decision to remove a student-athlete from a team will be approved by the Athletic Director prior to the imposition of the penalty. The coach shall notify the parents of the imposition of any penalty including the nature of the offense and the reason(s) for the disciplinary action.
- B. **Level 1 Violations:** Any student-athlete found to have engaged in prohibited conduct unless otherwise indicated at another Level.
- C. **Level 2 Violation:** Any student-athlete found to have committed a second Level 1 violation while on probation or any student-athlete found to have hosted a party where alcohol is served or who participates in any form of harassment or hazing.
- D. **Level 3 Violations:** Any student-athlete found to have engaged in prohibited conduct while serving a Level 2 probation or to have committed a second Level 2 violation during his/her enrollment in the District.
- E. **Level 4 Violations:** Any student who is charged with or convicted of, a felony. Such a student-athlete will be suspended from participation (includes practices and meetings) until the case has been adjudicated after which a review will be conducted to determine eligibility. Level 4 also includes repeated violations while on probation.

**NOTE: Drug testing may be required as part of a penalty at student or parent expense.**

**Probation** is a stipulated period of time (1 calendar year) assessed to an athlete as a consequence for violations of the code of conduct. This period of time may be extended (extended probation) until the athlete has successfully fulfilled all requirements of the assessed for a violation. The **Educational Component** is a rehabilitative activity intended to reinforce the athlete's personal adherence to the policies and rules that govern the interscholastic program and is designed to educate the athlete about the violation committed and its impact on reaching personal and team goals.

## PENALTIES

Level 1 - suspension from participation, probation, and successful completion of educational component may be required.

Level 2 – suspension from participation, probation, and successful completion of educational component may be required.

Level 3 – loss of participation for 1 calendar year, probation, and successful completion of educational component may be required.

Level 4 – loss of athletic eligibility while enrolled in the District.

## Participation Penalty

Sports	Number of Games	Level 1 Participation Penalty	Level 2 Participation Penalty
Baseball, Basketball, Soccer, Softball, Volleyball and Water Polo	25	3	5
Lacrosse, Tennis and Wrestling	18	2	4
Golf	14	1	3
Swimming and Diving, Track and Field, Weightlifting and Cross Country	13	1	3
Football	10	1	2
Cheerleading	None	1	FHSAA Championship

If athlete is in season, the penalty is served concurrently with any school suspension. Otherwise, the penalty is served during the next season of athletic participation.